

The Arbor Vine



Ann Arbor District of The United Methodist Church
Rev. Mark E. Spaw, District Superintendent

December 2017

EXCITING AND GREAT MERRY CHRISTMAS! LUKE 1:2C-38

Season's Greetings, My Friends!

Wouldn't it be great if, beginning this Christmas Day, you were able to be present to and sensitive to the members of your family in a way that enables you to know them as they really are?

Wouldn't it be right if, beginning this Christmas Day, you were able to be fully attentive to each family member's needs and hopes and aspirations?

Christmas also is a special time for being concerned for the needs of people outside the family circle. And isn't it interesting how the thaw sets in at Christmas? (Even Scrooge warms up at Christmas). But the hard fact that this attitude of concern comes only on Christmas (and maybe on a couple of other special days) is sad evidence that nothing really comes out of it to make much of a difference.

Wouldn't it be exciting, this Christmas, if each of us in this world would choose just one area of concern, and instead of the annual Christmas charity gesture that fizzles into nothing, you resolve to put yourself into it throughout the coming year? Each one of us can't solve all the problems: the hospitals, and the mental institutions, and the prisons, and the half way houses, and the homeless on the streets, and the problems of the aged, and the freaked out kids; not one of us can cope with all of that, but each one of us can get seriously involved in one of these areas of concern. And wouldn't it be exciting if we did just that because this Christmas, perhaps for the first time ever, we really do let Jesus come in?

A Christmas Prayer

It's Christmas, Lord. The season to be jolly and all that. But some of us aren't so jolly. It's time for families to be together, to sing "I'll be Home for Christmas,"

but Lord, some of our loved ones won't be home this year, or ever!

Some of us find our minds so occupied with a desperately ill child, or a tired worn-out body, that we can't cope with crowds or carols.

It's a temptation, Lord, to just skip it.

To refuse to decorate a tree, or purchase a single present.

It takes tremendous strength for some of us to say "Merry Christmas" this year.

More strength than some of us even possess.

And that's exactly why you came, isn't it, Lord?

Now that's exciting!

Have a wonder-filled Christmas and a breath-taking New Year.

God Bless You!

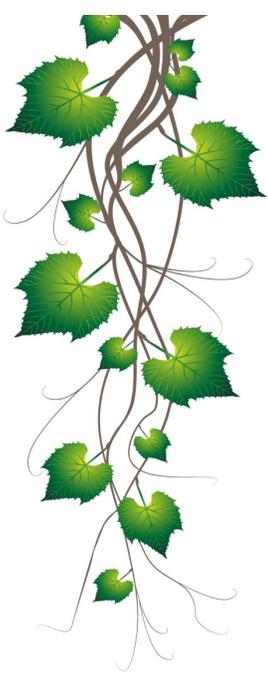
MARK

Rev. Mark E. Spaw



Ann Arbor District of the
United Methodist Church
900 S 7th St., Ste. 1
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Email: aadisumc@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.aadistrict.org
Phone: 734-663-3939
Fax: 734-663-1990
Administrator: Dar McGee

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MITTEN



Page 2



ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH ~ THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

My back is doing much better and more quality healing is taking place.

Thank you for the many cards, quilts, prayers and understanding during this, my most challenging time in 35 years of ministry!

I want to thank these pastors who have done such an outstanding job in filling in as leaders at church conferences. I really do not know what our district or I would have done without these “angels” who volunteered to help out in this important task of the District Superintendent.

Thank you. Thanks. Greatly appreciated, you’re the best!

Tom Anderson, Evans Bentley, Bri Desotell, Pat England, Drew Hart, Taek Kim, Andy Lee, George Lewis, Brad Luck, Doug McMunn, Bob Miller, Sherry Parker-Lewis, Paula Timm, Deane Wyllys, Tim Ziegler, Tom Zimmerman and Jim Tuttle (Jim led 32 church conferences). I THANK GOD FOR EACH OF YOU! *Mark*

CELEBRATION AND INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT 8—APRIL 27 @ 6:30 PM

Please plan to attend a Friday night celebration of the coming together of the Albion and Ann Arbor districts. The event will be led by Rev. Dale Miller (current Albion District DS) and Rev. Mark Spaw. We will fellowship with others, choose the name of our new district (see article below) and discuss and choose our district officers and leaders and set the 2019 budget. The evening will be hosted by Jackson First UMC located at 275 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson.

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT-ALBION DISTRICT-DISTRICT 8. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As we transition into what was the Albion District and the Ann Arbor District we will be referred to as District 8. District 8 is not the name we will stay with and we’re looking for some ideas of what the name of our district will be and are asking for your creative input. Take a look at the boundary lines, counties, the shape of the mitten (or hand) and offer a suggestion. Go to aadistrict.org and click on District Boundaries Report. Send suggestions to Dar McGee at aadisumc@sbcglobal.net.

SPRING LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES—DATES HAVE CHANGED

In 2018, Spring Lay Servant classes will now be Saturday, April 7 and Saturday, April 21 at yet to be determined site.

UPDATE ON 2017 JOURNALS

The Detroit Annual Conference Journal has been posted on the Michigan Conference web site in the Journal Archive area. You can use this link to access the complete journal. An email will be sent out when hard bound journals are available to order. <http://resources.michiganumc.org/resources/detroit-conference-journals/>

CHRISTIAN FAMILY NOVEL ~ KEWEENAW HOPE NOW AVAILABLE

Brian K. Holmes, a retired autoworker, poet, award winning short story writer, Christian music composer, playwright, and author of two Christian family novels, *Keweenaw Grace*, and *Keweenaw Hope* is currently working on *Keweenaw Faith* to complete the trilogy. He and his wife Judy have three grown children, and four grandchildren. They reside in Southeastern Michigan and spend summers in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Johnny Hendricks has begun building a youth mission in the historic district of Hancock in Michigan’s beautiful Upper Peninsula. Along with all of the characters in *Keweenaw Grace*, Holmes’ first book in this series, Johnny is joined by a banjo picker from Eastern Kentucky; a beautiful fiddler from Northern Ireland; a ninety eight and a half year old retired school teacher with a secret, and a quiet track coach with a past. Thrown together in this quaint Finnish/American community, this group seeks to help Johnny to fulfill his vision along with some exciting twists and turns.

Keweenaw Hope is available through Amazon or Westbow Publishers in Kindle, E-Book, or book form.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Doug McMunn
- 2 Brian William
- 3 Marion Damberg
- 4 Gail Burdette
- 5 Steve & Connie Perrine
- 12 Mark & Aurora Huff
- 16 Connie Perrine
- 17 Michael & Mary Barrett
- 17 Mike & Susan Norton
- 18 Russell Smith
- 21 Kenny & Michelle Walkup
- 22 Aurora Huff
- 25 Mike & Susan Clemmer
- 26 David Church
- 27 Christopher Momany
- 27 Tom Anderson
- 28 Leigh & Matt Hook

Ann Arbor District Office
of the United Methodist Church
900 S. Seventh St. Suite 1
Ann Arbor MI 48103

Return Service Requested



The Arbor Vine
