

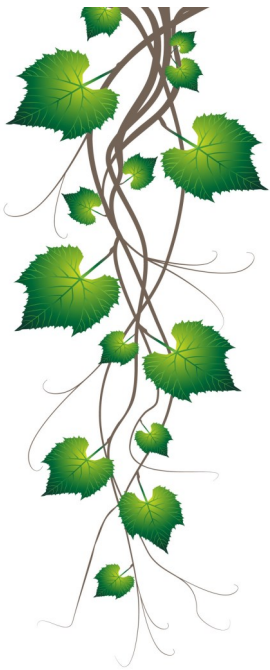
# The Arbor Vine

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

**January 2016**

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## DISTRICT NOTICES

### NEW UM SEXUAL ETHICS WEBSITE

This is a Ministry of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women of The United Methodist Church, raising awareness, preventing sexual abuse, promoting healthy boundaries, bringing about justice and healing. Learn more at <http://umsexualethics.org/>

### SAVE THE DATE

The 14th Annual "Keep Making Peace" Summit will be held April 16, 2016 at University UMC in East Lansing, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Info: Rev. Rich Peacock, [rjpeacock@wowway.com](mailto:rjpeacock@wowway.com).

### CHELSEA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY SEEKS PART-TIME CHAPLAIN

CRC is looking for a 10-hour/week chaplain (as well as someone to cover an additional 5 hours/week of chaplaincy work at our UMRC Huron Valley PACE program in Ypsilanti). This could be one or two positions depending on the circumstances. The 10-hour/week position is posted again on the UMRC website: [UMRC.com](http://UMRC.com).

### CONFERENCE OFFICE SEEKS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Detroit Conference of The United Methodist Church, located in Flint, Mich., is seeking qualified candidates for the full-time position of Administrative Assistant for supporting the congregational development and new church start teams of the Michigan Area. The position is for five days per week, for 35 hours. To view a complete job description, visit [www.michiganumc.org/classifieds](http://www.michiganumc.org/classifieds). Interested candidates may apply by sending a cover letter, resume, and a completed application for employment to the Rev. Jean Snyder at [dacumcpersonnel@gmail.com](mailto:dacumcpersonnel@gmail.com) by January 15, 2016 or until the vacancy is filled.

### CORRECTIONS FOR THE ANN ARBOR DISTRICT DIRECTORY

Art Spafford lives at 47197 Manhattan Cr, Novi MI 48374, [als47197@gmail.com](mailto:als47197@gmail.com)

Hertha Laupmanis, 805 @. Middle St (Glazier Commons)

Recent deaths: Bishop Jesse DeWitt, Jane Tennant

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

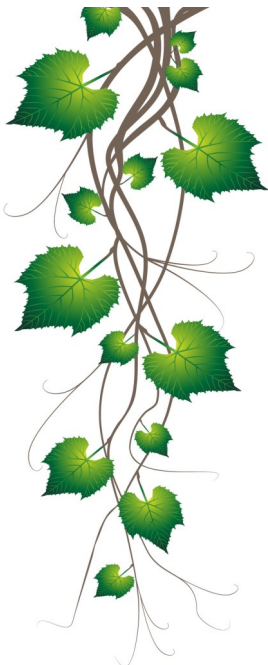
Jan 11 Barbara Beird

Jan 14 Stephen Perrine

Jan 22 Robert Selberg

Jan 22 Shawn Lewis-Lakin

Jan 23 Sarah Baek



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# Spaw's Paws

Some thoughts from your D.S., Rev. Mark E. Spaw

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## 'WHAT WE DIDN'T FIND UNDER OUR CHRISTMAS TREE' (THAT WE ALL REALLY NEED)

The New Year brings us a wonderful chance for reflection. Now, I don't know why we always wait for the new year to reflect but I thought this might be a good opening line for my January newsletter article which is due on the 15<sup>th</sup> December; today is December 9<sup>th</sup>. My January newsletter article is always a challenge. Mostly because I write it during the Advent season and my mind and heart are into the Christmas spirit. I really want to tell you about the way I feel and the hope I know because of the birth of our Savior Jesus the Christ Child. But as you read this the Christmas celebration is complete. My friends as we move into this new year of 2016, let us not forget the joy and hope and let our hearts and minds focus on what that Christ Child has done for us. Just next month we begin the Lenten Season. Let us prepare ourselves. Now, what we didn't find under our Christmas tree. . .The apostle Paul says to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. These are garments I know I didn't find under my Christmas tree, how about you! In this new and exciting year as we begin fresh, promise ourselves all kinds of things, and fulfill the new year's resolutions, why not try to clothe ourselves with compassion.... we knew about it during the Christmas season... kindness it seemed easier in December and humility, meekness and patience were part of the season.

In 2016 let me be a word of encouragement. We don't live in a perfect world. "That's why Paul tells us to, "Put on these garments". They are vital articles of clothing to wear in a world that seldom wants to cooperate. And when we wear these garments of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, we come to a better understanding what other people have to contend with when dealing with....us.

In 2016 let's get fully dressed. There is one more piece of clothing that will tie everything together and make us all real fashion plates: LOVE. Wear your love like a cloak so that you are all wrapped up in it. It will be the first thing people notice about us. Love came down at Christmas. Love goes the extra mile. It does things not expected. And it assures that compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience are worn fashionably, yet tastefully appropriate.

Get dressed for the season, and the living that lies ahead and you'll be "lookin good!".

I think in 2016 this is what we really need!

Getting Dressed for 2016,

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.

# "Welcoming the Stranger" Finding Unity through Diversity



## *Friendship Dinner and Interfaith Dialogue*

*Co-sponsored by the Niagara Foundation, the Wesley Foundation, and the Church & Society Committee of First United Methodist Church.*

*This year's gathering seeks to counter the political currents of division by uniting the community in remembering that our Abrahamic faith traditions inspire us to welcome the weak and helpless strangers who come to our door steps. During dinner, there will be three short talks followed by a time for dialogue.*

***January 13, 6:30p.m.  
Social Hall, First United Methodist Church  
120 S. State Street at Washington***

### ***Speakers this year:***

**Rabbi Robert Levy** from Temple Beth Emeth will be speaking on behalf of the Jewish tradition. **The Rev. Robert Roth** of the Wesley Foundation at UofM will represent a Christian perspective. **Professor Rudolph Ware** of the Center for Middle Eastern and North American Studies at the University of Michigan will offer a Muslim perspective.

***The meal is free, but please RSVP in the church office so we have a count.***



Ann Arbor District Office  
of the United Methodist Church

900 S. Seventh St. Suite 1

Ann Arbor MI 48103

**Return Service Requested**



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