

The Arbor Vine



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

January 2017



**Ann Arbor District
Leadership Training Day
February 25, 2017
Northville UMC
High Five Results Revealed
Keynote Speaker:
Bishop David Bard**

Building Relationships that Build Churches...

...is the title of the Ann Arbor District 2017 Leadership Training Day, hosted by Northville First UMC, located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road in Northville on February 25.

6 workshops offered

- Essential Skills for Building Relationships
- Making the Welcome Real
- Connecting with the Unchurched and De-churched
- Bridges out of Poverty
- Built for Groups
- Building Relationships Across Cultural Boundaries

January—Register

- *brochure is on district web site for easy registration.
- *brochures will be mailed to district churches prior to January 19.

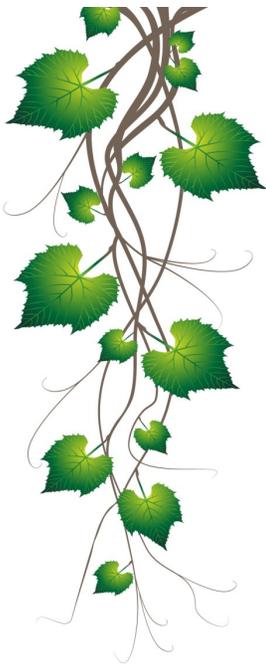


8:30 am
gathering
refreshments

9:00 am—10:30 am
Worship
Keynote
Bishop David Bard

10:45 am
breakout workshops

12:00 pm—12:15 pm
workshop Q & A
evaluations



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Spaw's Paws

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

Save the Best for Last

JOY TO THE WORLD! This sounds like it should have been last month's article. Is it just me or do we forget about JOY in January and perhaps all the other months except December? Joy is something that seems so easy in December but not as easy in the cold, darkness of January. So . . . in this New Year I have convinced myself that, "I shall seek JOY in 2017!" and I will enjoy it!

Now, my friends, I'm not talking about seeking pleasure, but JOY. There is a difference between pleasure and JOY. C.S. Lewis states it very clearly in one of his books when he writes, "JOY is never within our power, but pleasure often is." The very definition of JOY, according to Lewis, is that it's unexpected.

In 2017 let JOY surprise you. The Christ child will lead us on our faith journey away from aimless pleasure seeking and toward real JOY! In this New Year, it will be for all of us a matter of letting go—letting go of our fear that pleasure is all there is, learning to trust God to give those gifts of JOY that come to us so unexpectedly, beyond our deserving.

How many parents have pulled a certain innocent prank when it comes to an intensely desired but very expensive gift? A child looks for a new bike. When all the packages are opened and the realization begins to dawn that perhaps this is not the year, Mom or Dad says, "Why don't you look out on the porch?" And there, covered by an old blanket, is a shiny, new bike. The best is saved for last!

JOY surprises. That's its very nature. We can't capture real JOY anymore than we can capture the wind—yet, there are plenty of people trying to bottle it and sell it to us. JOY, real JOY, comes to us as an unexpected gift. All we can do is be attentive to the wonderful, winsome ways God has of giving it to us—and trust that in our case, God continues to save the best for last.

As John the Baptist saw the young man coming, there at the Jordan River, he knew. John looked into Jesus's eyes, that seemed somehow to hold all human pain and tears and even JOY, and he knew. John knew, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God is in control, and that God continues to save the best for last.

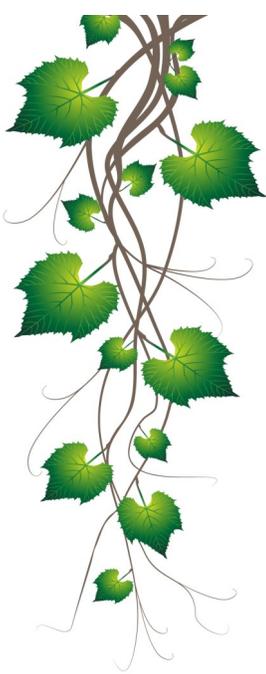
Joy filled in 2017,

MARK

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.

P.S. Have a JOY-filled New Year!





Newsorthy Information

UPDATES HIGH FIVE YEAR END DUE JANUARY 15

The 2016 High Five Year End reports are due in the district office by January 30, 2017. This is a strict deadline as it allows time to process the information that will be announced at the Leadership Training Day on February 25. Complete the form then email the document to the district office as a scanned file or as an e-file attached to your email. The Year end and the 3rd Quarter High Five documents are available on the District Website. www.aadistrictumc.org.

PLEASE UPDATE EZRA

By now many of you have accessed Ezra to complete the Annual Reports as required by the United Methodist Church. Please take time to update the 2017 leadership information for your church as this information is vital to the district and conference over the course of the year.

LIBERIA TASK FORCE MEETING

The Liberia Task Force meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 18 at Belleville First UMC from 10:00 am—12:00 pm.

POSTING YOUR CHURCH SPECIAL EVENTS

To post Special Events happening in your local church, please go to the Ann Arbor District web site at www.aadistrict.org and click on Community Events. Complete the required information and then click on submit.

AN INVITATION TO SPONSOR DR. KING'S GREAT SPEECH ON WAR & PEACE

On April 4, 1967, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his dramatic, comprehensive, and controversial speech: "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" at Riverside Church, NYC.

Fifty years later, the Four Initiating Organizations of "A Time to Break the Silence" Peace Action of Michigan, Rev. Rich Peacock and Linda Darga, Co-Chairs; Detroit Central United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel, Pastor; Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery, Clara Lawrence, Director; Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, President; urge you to become a sponsor by:

1. Publicize a Reading of King's speech at Detroit Central United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 2 at 4:00 pm. Sixteen dedicated civil rights leaders will anchor our signature event from the pulpit where Rev. King preached during several Lenten seasons. A reception will follow at Swords into Plowshares.

2. Hold your own event! We will provide a Sponsor's Packet with guidelines for organizing your event including the speech in 16 parts, a program, publicity ideas, suggestions for discussions and actions, links to the speech, and a copy of Tavis Smiley's Death of a King about King's final year. We believe we will provide you access to a three minute You Tube and DVD of our 2016 Reading for you to use to promote your event and/or at your event.

Begin this transformational journey and become a sponsor today

For information contact: Rev. Rich Peacock
rjpeacock@wowway.com
248-321-7480

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 14 Steve Perrine
- 23 Sarah Back
- 28 Jessica Boley



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Return Service Requested



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