

The Arbor Vine

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



JUNE 2016



Would you like to show GRACE to our Clergy and Lay delegates at Annual Conference in Lansing? How about having a day of fun by carpooling with other friends from your church? Lansing is not too far away.

If just 3 people from each church in our district attended to help complete a 5 hour shift, then the Ann Arbor District would have about 180 people on the Grace Patrol. What a great way to serve others!

Mark Doyal, Director of Communications for the Detroit Conference, along with Leslee Fritz are in desperate need of putting together a Grace Patrol team to help during Annual Conference in Lansing.

Please go to bit.ly/graceteam2016 or email Leslee Fritz at fritz-leslee@yahoo.com for additional information.

Ann Arbor
District
Picnic



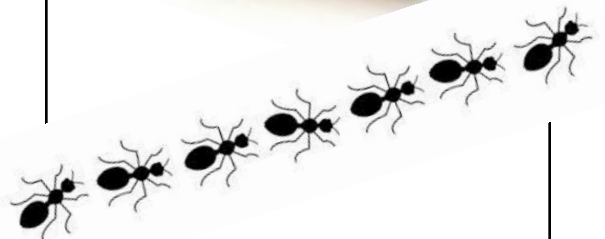
Saturday

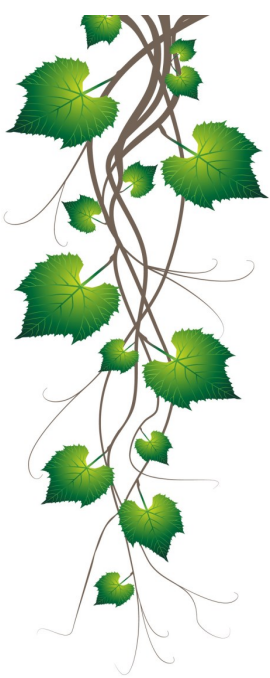
August 13

12:00 pm—3:00 pm

Tecumseh UMC

(details in July Vine)





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DISTRICT NOTICES

CHURCH CONFERENCE DATES ANNOUNCED IN JULY

The church conference season begins in September. The church conference schedule will go out the at the beginning of July. Once you receive the schedule please add that date and time to your church calendar.

NORTH LAKE UMC RUMMAGE SALE

The annual rummage sale will be held at North Lake United Methodist Church on Thursday, June 16 from 9 am to 6 pm, Friday, June 17 from 9 am to 6 pm, and on Saturday, June 18 from 9 am to 2 pm. The church is located at 14111 North Territorial Rd. in Chelsea, MI. The proceeds of the sale will go to missions, ministries, and building fund. For information call 734-475-7569.

HOME REPAIR MINISTRY

Cods Country Cooperative Parish has 3 openings for VIM teams this summer. The cost per person is \$225.00 person. This is home repair ministry in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The dates are June 19 - 25, June 26 - July 1 and August 1 - 6. Please feel free to call Randy Hildebrandt at cell (906) 235 - 3553.

HISPANIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

June 22-25 at Adrian College. HYL A is committed to assisting Hispanic/Latino youth discover their relationship with God while encouraging their education and leadership skills. Contact Sonya Luna at sluna@detroitconference.org.

ENCOUNTERING THE GOD WHO HEALS

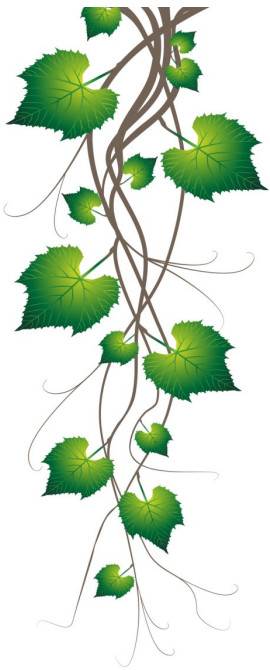
June 21-25 at Manistee UMC. The healing school is a 4.5 day event which combines cognitive, spiritual, and experiential components to help participants learn about healing and experience the Healing Christ. \$225. Info at mumc@t-one.net

THRIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

HighSchool youth finishing 9th, 10th and 11th grade can attend Lake Louise Methodist Camp and Retreat Center for the THRIVE Youth Leadership Academy to learn about themselves as followers of Christ and church leaders. Session is July 19—July 23. Contact Bridget Nelson at bnelson@detroitnconference.org to nominate a student to attend. Churches will be asked to help students with the cost of \$260.00.

COFFEE, TEA, OR HOT WATER?

The district office has a 12 cup Krups coffee maker and a single cup Hamilton Beach Flexbrew available for free. The Krups coffee maker will need a filter. The Hamilton Beach Flexbrew will provide a single cup of hot water and has an insert that will brew the 'pods' for a single cup of coffee, tea, hot chocolate, etc. Please contact Dar in the district office to pick up one/both items. aadisumc@sbcglobal.net



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Spaw's Paws

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

HERE'S TO DEEP ROOTS

It's time to start planting. So...what will we plant? What is the soil like? Will it need fertilizer, water, protection? I always get those hanging plants, pull the price tags off and my gardening for the season is done! I told you that to tell you this...

In one episode of the old Seinfeld TV show George is thinking about saying "I love you" to a woman he has been going out with. Jerry cautions him that that's a big step — because if you say "I love you" and don't get an "I love you" in return, what then? "That's a big matzo ball hanging out there," George's friend reminds him. If you know anything about that series, you know that as funny as it could be, you didn't usually get profound theological insights from it. But, in this case, that exchange really does tell us something important: Words are real and words do things. If you say, "I love you" — or for that matter, "I hate you" — those words are out there and can't be called back. Words that have been spoken aren't just passively "out there." They are active and change things.

The primary reason we come to church is to hear the word of God regularly, the word that calls us to repentance and promises absolution the word of life in Jesus Christ. That is the seed that is sown, the word that comes into our hearing. What kind of soil is that? Will the word just lie dormant and in our memories for a little while and then be forgotten? Will it provoke some brief enthusiasm, only to be drowned out by the other interests and concerns in life? Or will it take root and grow and bring forth the fruit of service to God and our neighbors?

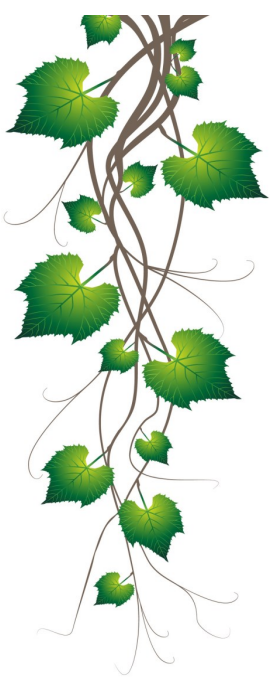
The word is God's, and it is God who gives it growth. But to those who believe, God gives the ability to prepare them to hear the word rightly. This summer, be where the word is sown! Remove the rocks and thorns that keep the seed from growing and avoid the things that distract us from the word. And as you share the word, sow seeds of kindness, caring, patience, tolerance, understanding and love.

Our church lawn signs should read, "HEY YOU, COME TO CHURCH". This is for all of us. Take an active interest in the word and reflect prayerfully on it so that it can take deep roots.

See You In Worship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MARK". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with a casual, personal feel.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw



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Annual Conference Information

The Michigan Area Annual Conference is Wednesday, June 8 through Monday, June 13. This will be the first time that both the Detroit Annual Conference (DAC) and the West Michigan Conference (WMC) will spend some time at conference together.

The Detroit Annual Conference will meet on June 8 through June 12. The West Michigan Conference will meet June 9 through June 13.

The theme for this year's conference is appropriately titled:

Disciples Made in Michigan

Two conferences, one mission:

Send disciples into the world.

In your time of prayer, please pray for safe travels for all. Pray for the clergy and laity that will be in attendance. Pray for the support staff and the Grace Patrol. Pray for God to be present in the conversations and decisions.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Fred Hatfield
- 4 Megan & Joel Walther
- 6 Bob Miller
- 6 Amy Triebwasser
- 8 Tom Hart
- 9 Judith & Alan DeGraw
- 10 Bri & Mike Desotell
- 11 Eric Hammar
- 11 Winona & David Church
- 14 Sondra Willobee
- 14 Devin & Brittany Smith
- 15 Naylo & Dori Hopkins
- 18 Bill & Cindy Kreichbaum
- 18 Sandra & Walter Miller
- 18 Pamela & James Kummer
- 19 Gloria Tarpley
- 21 Julie & Tom Zimmerman
- 21 Sue & Skip Rice
- 21 Ardith & Jerry Stewardson
- 21 Beverly Crane
- 23 Shelley & Don Weatherup
- 24 Tommy Burdette
- 25 Earl Downing
- 25 Karen Bamsey
- 25 Janet & William Smith
- 26 Rhonda Hawkins
- 27 Evans Bentley
- 27 David Hurst
- 29 Marianne McMunn
- 30 Jamie Kim
- 30 Eric Triebwasser

Informational Meeting

~ Vital Church Initiative (VCI)

On June 16 from 7:00— 8:30 pm at Ann Arbor West Side Church, Gary Step, Director of Congregational Excellence, will host a meeting about the Vital Church Initiative. VCI is a process for transforming existing congregations in exciting ways. VCI includes a developmental process for both larger and smaller congregations. Phase I is a voluntary, nine-month, small-group, continuous learning community of peers, in-depth reading, and mutual support for pastors and laity teams together. Our goal is to leave no one out who wants to be a part of this. I also know that God's timing is perfect and that there is a "season" for each of us. We are seeing the Holy Spirit beginning to move in churches that have been open to taking risks and trying new things all for the sake of the Mission for Jesus Christ. All churches are welcome to attend. I hope to see you there! If interested please contact:

Rev. Gary Step

Director of Congregational Excellence and New Church Development

Michigan Area

office 888-217-1905 ext. 1224; cell 231-420-2676; garys@wmcumc.org

An Opportunity to Lead Worship

Haas Lake Park RV Campground has a unique summer ministry opportunity for lay speakers, students, and anyone else willing to share their faith & talents. We are a family-oriented recreational vehicle campground in New Hudson, east of Brighton & just barely west of Novi, along the I-96 corridor.

This summer we'd like to offer our campers a worship service every Sunday morning. To do that we need a lot of volunteers.

Whether or not you're used to casual worship, be prepared to go super casual, because you'll be at a campground. Flip-flops are fine!

For more information or to sign up please contact Gary Grace, Haas Lake Park Activities Coordinator, at 248-437-0900 or by email at events@haaslakepark.com.

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
