

The Arbor Vine



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

June 2018

BACK TO THE FUTURE ~ IT'S BEEN WONDER-FILLED

Instead of writing a final "Spaw's Paws" filled with kind words of deep appreciation for the privilege of working with the faith-filled folks of the Ann Arbor District, District 8 and Heritage District, I thought I'd share a back to the future moment. Do you remember seeing the article below in the 2010 February Issue of the Michigan Christian Advocate? Yea, I thought instead of sharing my humble thoughts of the past 8 years...the ministry...work...joy...fun...mission...the coming and going and most of all the expressions of love and service ...to and for one another. So, I hope you'll enjoy the 2010 introduction of your new District Superintendent.

Michigan Area Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton announced today (Tuesday, January 19) that he has appointed the Rev. Mark E. Spaw as the superintendent of the Ann Arbor District. Spaw, who currently serves as the senior pastor at Trenton: Faith United Methodist Church, will begin his appointment on July 1, 2010. Spaw is replacing the Rev. Thomas P. Macaulay, who has been the Ann Arbor District Superintendent since 2004.

"Mark Spaw brings energy, passion, knowledge, experience, a dash of humor and a servant's commitment to the work of superintending," said Bishop Keaton. "In both pastoral appointments of 16 and 12 years respectively, Mark has met the needs of God's people, both church and unchurched."

Ordained an elder in 1985, Spaw has led two congregations during his 28 year ministry. Spaw served Hartland UMC for 16 years from 1983-99, during which time the church grew from 33 to over 300 members. Spaw is currently in his 12th year at Trenton: Faith UMC and has received over 300 new members into the church during his time as senior pastor.

"After almost 28 years of pastoral ministry, worshiping, growing, sharing, encouraging, loving and being loved, what an honor and privilege it will be to share these gifts and graces as a District Superintendent with the faithful people of the Ann Arbor District," Spaw said. "I am excited about all that God has in store for us and am ready to celebrate the wonderfully current ministries of the Ann Arbor District."

"After 16 years within this district I am aware of the spirit, dedication, diversity and faithfulness of the laity and clergy within our district. I look forward with great joy and anticipation to serving God as a District Superintendent. We know not what the future holds, but we surely know who holds the future."

Spaw has been deeply involved in community activities during his career in ministry. Spaw is the chaplain for the Trenton City Fire Department and the Trenton High School football team, and has aided other community organizations such as the Hartland Volunteer Fire Department, Livingston County United Way, Hartland and Trenton Community Schools, jail ministries and the Boy Scouts of America. Spaw also helped to coach the Hartland High School football team.

Active in district and conference leadership, Spaw is the chairperson of the Detroit West District Leadership Team and also a member of the Detroit West District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Young Leaders Initiative Board. Spaw was a member of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry from 1997-2008 and currently serves as a member of the Conference Leadership Team.

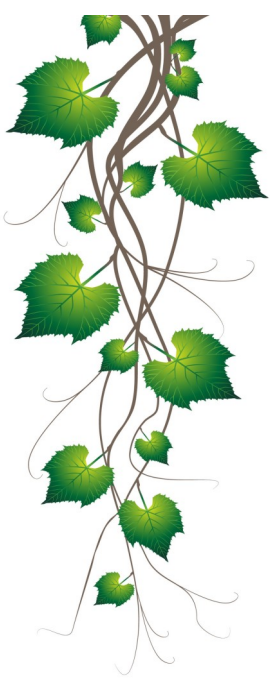
A native of Detroit, MI, Spaw received his Bachelor's degree in Criminology from Wayne State University in 1980 and his Masters of Divinity degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1983. While completing his graduate studies at Garrett, Spaw served as the associate pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Western Springs in Western Springs, IL. Spaw is a 1997 recipient of the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism and at the time was the youngest clergy member in Detroit Conference history to receive the honor.

The Ann Arbor District consists of 66 churches and has the largest membership of the seven districts in the Detroit Conference.

My hope is that the important work of our Heritage District will continue and flourish. God bless you for ALL you have done for our universal ministries and for me as your DS. I will miss your encouragement, vision, expressions of faith, your dedication and very selfishly, your friendship. God bless and remember, "God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it!"

Your Friend,

MARK



JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

NEWSWORTHY AND IMPORTANT

CELEBRATION OF REV. SPAW'S MINISTRY

Rev. Mark Spaw has served 8 years as the District Superintendent of the Ann Arbor District. A celebration will be held on June 10 at 3 pm at Saline First United Methodist Church (1200 N. Ann Arbor Street, Saline). Please plan on attending this special celebration of the ministry of Rev. Spaw.

CHANGES IN MI DISTRICTS TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2018

As we begin the transition into our new districts, many changes are happening around the state. We'll begin answering the phones using our new district names, our letterhead will change, our district web site will change, our newsletter format will change, our conference forms will change, etc. Many of the changes are meant to help the churches of the MI Conference of the United Methodist Church become more unified in the way things are done.

During this time of transition there will be many opportunities for all of us to remain flexible as we grow into this change. Please ask if you do not understand. Church Conference forms will be different (they will be fillable pdf's), Many items will be submitted electronically. Please know that changes were made to help all of us.

We will have Heritage District events, such as Lay Servant Classes (October 20 and November 3 at Adrian: First UMC) and the Heritage District Conference (November 10 at Manchester: Sharon UMC). As additional information becomes available you will be notified.

In the meantime, pray for our Bishop, District Superintendents, Executive Assistants, Conference Staff and each other as we all find ways to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It's an exciting time to be a United Methodist!

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 Heritage District Phone: 734-663-3939
 Heritage District Email: dmcgee@michiganumc.org
 Executive Assistant: Dar McGee
 Lay Leader: Max Waagner

DISTRICTS OF THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE NAMED

The Michigan districts have held Organizational Conferences to chose leadership teams and select district names. The districts will be fully functioning by July 1, 2018. The new districts are:



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| District 1 — Northern Skies District | Superintendent Scott Harmon |
| District 2 — Northern Waters District | Superintendent Anita Hahn |
| District 3 — Central Bay District | Superintendent David Kim |
| District 4 — Midwest District | Superintendent Margie Crawford |
| District 5 — Mid-Michigan District | Superintendent Jerome DeVine |
| District 6 — East Winds District | Superintendent John Hice |
| District 7 — Greater Southwest | Superintendent Dwayne Bagley |
| District 8 — Heritage District | Superintendent Elizabeth Hill |
| District 9 — Greater Detroit District | Superintendent Charles Boayue |

EZRA DATABASE

Ezra Database will be down from June 15 through August 1. This allows a merging of the two databases of what was the Detroit Annual Conference and the West Michigan Conference into the Michigan Conference.

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Return Service Requested



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