

The Arbor Vine

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

March 2015

CATCH ON FIRE WITH ENTHUSIASM
AND PEOPLE WILL COME FOR MILES
TO WATCH YOU BURN

- JOHN WESLEY



2015 Annual Conference

Thursday - Sunday, May 14-19

We invite you to the 47th annual session of the Detroit Annual Conference on the campus of Adrian College in Adrian, Michigan. Join the Clergy and Laity from more than 400 local churches and other leaders as we come together for worship, learning and discussion on how to GROW disciples.

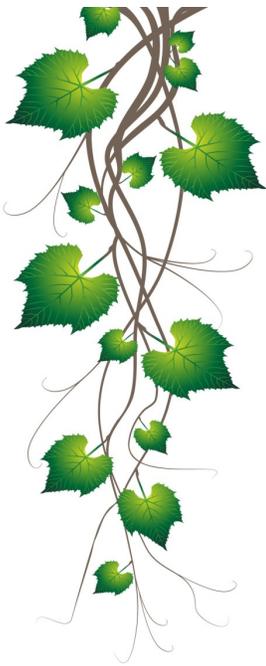
Registration is at <https://detroit-reg.brtapp.com/DACAnnualConferenceSession201454>.

Registration begins on March 3, continuing until April 10. After this you will pay a late fee of \$30, (special meal tickets will not be available) until April 24.

After April 24 you can only register in person at the site.

Legislation and preconference materials will be available April 1 at www.DetroitConference.org.

Each local church appoints voting representatives, but all others are welcome to register as visitors to the Conference.



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DISTRICT NOTICES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CHURCH SECRETARIES & STAFF

Consider the Certificate Institute of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries in Nashville on July 19-24. The five-day PAUMCS Institute is designed to stimulate professional growth and development of the individual. Participants are introduced to business concepts required for understanding the financial operations of the church as well as relationships with the pastor, church employees and members of the congregation. Studying such concepts with professors selected from a strong business school faculty and other experts encourages secretaries to become better informed and more effective church administrators. Contact PAUMCS.org for more information.

CLERGY SPOUSE RETREAT

March 13, 14, & 15 at the Lake Huron Retreat Center. There will be talks, workshops, and team activities on the topic "Serving as a (W)Holy Well Encourager." The leader is Laurie DelPino. For more info call the Conference at 800-334-0544.

WESLEY FESTIVAL - SING TO FIGHT MALARIA

Methodist choirs from across the United States are being invited to Washington to join a festival chorus in a gala benefit concert to aid Imagine No Malaria at the Kennedy Center on May 23. Visit www.wesleyfestival.org.

ONE-EIGHTY CONFERENCE - THE TURNAROUND CONFERENCE

The goal of this conference is to help Pastors and Church Leaders to start and continue change in their church. Held at Redeemer UMC in Dewitt MI. Contact Redeemer at 517-669-3430.

CALLING CHURCH HISTORIANS

Keith Radak at Ann Arbor First UMC is interested in talking with other church historians and sharing resources. Please call Keith at 734-546-2730.

DO YOU NEED A COPIER FOR YOUR OFFICE?

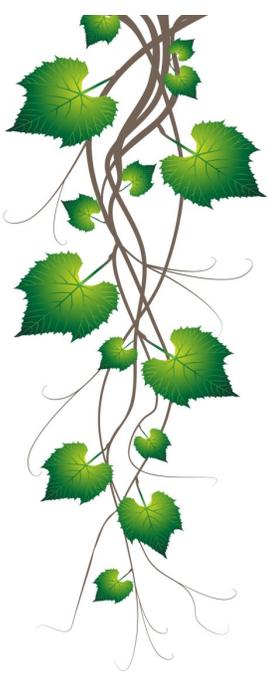
With the help of Diane Hatfield from Whitmore Lake Wesley, Konica Minolta has offered a 15-20% discount to our churches for their wide range of copiers and integrated software services. They will help you to analyze your needs and see what services and products will work for you. If you are interested, contact Carl Spaleny at 734-452-4249.

DONATED CHAIRS

The Denton Faith UMC is are looking to find a home for some gently but very used stackable but padded straight back chairs. The padding is red I think. These are free to a good home but the taker would need to pick them up. If interested please call the Denton Faith United Methodist Church at 734-483-2276

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH FRY AT THE SHARON UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come for Friday fish supper on March 6, 12, 20, and 27. All proceeds go back to kids in Manchester. \$11 per adult, \$9 for take-out and seniors, \$5 for children. To learn more call 734-428-0996.



Spaw's Paws

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

LENTEN PERSPECTIVE

I'VE HEARD IT SAID, "Perspective is everything". I suppose that's true. But it depends on what you're looking through, at, and how you gage what you've seen. Faithful perspective is something I see a great deal of on the Ann Arbor District, WOW! The glass is always half full, it's always partly sunny, and encouragement is a gift freely given. I share this writing as a way of encouragement to keep a faithful perspective. During this wonder-filled Lenten season:

JUST FOR LENT: I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle my whole life's problems at once.

JUST FOR LENT: I will be happy. I will assume to be true what Abraham Lincoln said, "Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be."

JUST FOR LENT: I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

JUST FOR LENT: I will adjust myself to what is, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires.

JUST FOR LENT: I will exercise my soul in three ways: I will do somebody a good turn, and not get found out. I will do at least two things I don't want to do—just for exercise. I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt; they may be hurt, but today I will not show it.

JUST FOR LENT: I will be agreeable. I will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, talk Low, act courteously, criticize not one bit, not find fault with anything, and not try to improve or regulate anybody but myself.

JUST FOR LENT: I will have a program. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two pests—hurry and indecision.

JUST FOR LENT: I will have a quiet half hour all by myself. During this half hour, I will try to get a better perspective of my life.

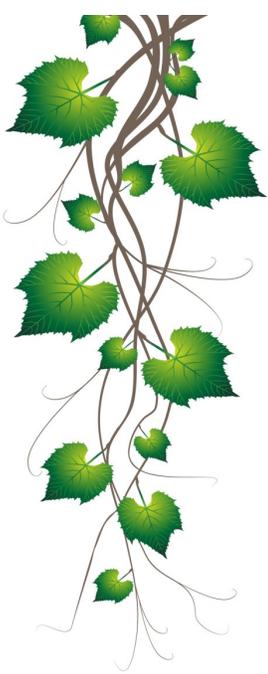
JUST FOR LENT: I will be unafraid. Especially I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful, and to believe that as I give to the world, so the world will give back to me.

JUST FOR LENT: I will recognize God as my Heavenly Father, and that I am His child; and think, act and feel accordingly.

JUST FOR LENT: I will begin the day upon awakening by praying, "This is the day which the Lord hath made: I will rejoice and be glad in it!"
(Psalm 118.24)

JUST FOR LENT: I will pray at noon for the world's great need: "Grant peace, O God in our time. Amen."

(continued)



JUST FOR LENT: I will give back to God this day before going to sleep in this covering prayer:

O Lord, Thou knowest how I live;
All I've done amiss, forgive;
All of good I've tried to do,
Strength, bless and carry through;
All I love in safety keep—
While in Thee, I fell asleep.
Amen.

Good perspectives!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "mark". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Jinah Choi Chun
- 7 David Arnesen
- 8 John Grenfell III
- 8 Susan Sharai
- 9 Drew Hart
- 10 Doug & Marianne
McMunn
- 12 Chris Butson
- 14 David McKinstry
- 16 Maria Kesson
- 17 Matthew Hook
- 18 Carolyn Harris
- 18 Joyce Weiss
- 21 Lynét Gruenberg
- 21 Gwen Nagy

Plan to Power Up in 2015!

What does United Methodist Camping have to offer to children and youth in your church? Plan to have a Camp Promotion Sunday at your church. We'll arrange for camp staff to come and talk with your congregation about our programs during Sunday School, the Children's message and/or during fellowship time. Let us answer your congregation's camping questions and teach you some camping songs along the way. See what all the excitement is about. Schedule your Camp Promo Sunday for Spring by calling Judson Collins Center at (517) 467-7711. Dates are filling fast, so schedule your Camp Promo today!

Spiritual Growth Retreat

The Ann Arbor District United Methodist Women are hosting their Spiritual Growth Retreat on Friday and Saturday, April 17 & 18 at Judson Collins Retreat Center. The theme for the Retreat is "Soulful Living" and will be led by Deb Mantel. All women in the District are invited to attend. The Retreat will open at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and close around 3:00 p.m. Saturday. The cost for both days with overnight is \$50.00. To attend just Saturday's session or both sessions without staying overnight is \$30.00. This will be a great time to relax, be spiritually renewed, fellowship and have fun. Please join us. For any questions, please contact Vicky Engelbert, District President. E-mail address is greemabert@comcast.net; phone is 734-483-4660.

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT REPORT

John Wharton, Ann Arbor District Lay Leader

The ministries of the congregations of the Ann Arbor District continue to thrive and grow; there is a strong partnership of the clergy and laity in making disciples for Jesus Christ. A continued emphasis is on equipping both laity and clergy by offering training programs and opportunities to work together on missions and ministries.

A few key facts: The Ann Arbor District has 85 clergy, 73 churches with 17,443 members. The average Sunday morning attendance for the District is over 9000 people. The largest church has 1455 members and the smallest 17. Over \$1,432,000 were paid by our district churches in apportionments last year and \$800,000 was given to missions by the Ann Arbor District churches. We have over 2,600 involved in Sunday school, 2,130 in UMW, 589 in UMM and over 800 in UMYF

AA DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY was held on March 8 at Ypsilanti First UMC with a theme of *Change*; over 250 people attended. This event is used to provide training workshops for both clergy and laity. In addition to six great workshops, we were privileged to have Bishop Deb Kiesey as the keynote speaker. The 2015 Leadership Training Day will be held on Feb 28 at Saline FUMC. The theme is *Creating An Atmosphere for Hope*. Rev Jeff Nelson of Redford Aldersgate UMC will be the Keynote Speaker. Six workshops will be held:

Leading Revitalization by Example

Welcoming Visitors, Engaging Newcomers

Multiple Site Ministry

Youth Ministry in the Church and at Home

Worship

Hope in the Legal Landscape

The Ann Arbor District continues to have a strong **LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES** program (formerly called **LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES**) with courses offered twice a year. The Spring 2014 School was held at Adrian First UMC on March 29 and April 12. In addition to the Basic Course, two advanced courses were offered: (1) *Story Telling* and (2) *Leading Prayer*. The Fall 2014 School was held at Dexter UMC on Oct 18 and Nov 1. Over 55 attended. In addition to the Basic Course, three advanced courses were offered: (1) *Leading Worship*, (2) *Learning with Adults* and (3) *Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service*. The Spring 2015 School will be held Mar 14 and Mar 28 at South Lyon FUMC. In addition to the basic and refresher classes, two advanced courses will be offered: (1) *Life Together in the United Methodist Connection* and (2) *Reaching Out Through Spiritual Friendship*.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN are very active in the Ann Arbor District, furthering the mission work of UMW and supporting their local congregations and communities. The District Annual Celebration and Leadership Training was held on October 4th at Commerce UMC. It was well attended and provided updates on our Church's Liberian Task Force given by Edie Wiarda, the Task Force chairperson; a mission study on Haiti, led by Christina Rockwell from the Milford UMC; and a presentation on Poverty, given by Joy Coyle, our UMW Conference Social Action Coordinator.

UNITED METHODIST MEN: UMM continues to grow in the Ann Arbor District. A Men's Breakfast and Devotions was held on March 22 at Oak Grove UMC; Rev. Mark Spaw was the guest speaker. The 2nd Annual Ann Arbor District **United Methodist Men's Hall of Fame Breakfast** was held September 20 at Howell First UMC. The guest speaker was NBA Hall of Famer **David Thompson**.

LIBERIA TASK FORCE: The Ann Arbor District Liberia Task Force continues to be very active; our partnership includes four partner districts. A Liberia Partners Summit was held on November 13 and 14 at the Nardin Park UMC in Farmington Hills. This provided the opportunity to hear updates about bringing partners together for joint trips and projects. In addition to financial support for districts, there are a number of mission projects. Of note for the Liberia Task Force is the **John Dean Town Initiative**. This includes training for local midwives, new wells for clean drinking water, mosquito netting, new latrines, and other public health support. For more information, check out the district web site AADistrict.org

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT PICNIC was held at the Hudson Mills Metropark on August 2. Everyone brought a dish to share and our own District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Spaw, cooked hot dogs.

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING was held on Oct 13 at Dexter UMC. Over 140 participants enjoyed a great meal and good Christian fellowship. The evening concluded with reports on mission activities and the awarding of church grants.

Churches within the Ann Arbor district are creative and outgoing in reaching disciples for Jesus Christ in their area. To learn more about the ministries occurring in the Ann Arbor District, check the monthly newsletter at the district website: AADistrict.org

"Facing Violence: Domestic, Guns, and Human Trafficking"

Register for "Keep Making Peace" at msuwesley.org/kmp2015

"Facing Violence: Domestic, Guns, and Human Trafficking" is the program for Saturday, April 11 at University United Methodist Church in East Lansing from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Featured speakers are Bill Mefford - General Board of Church and Society, Yvonne Zimmerman - Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Linda Brundage - Michigan's Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, and Chris Momany - Adrian College.

The fee is \$15 per person or \$30 per carload of three or more persons. Students are FREE. Pay at the event with cash or check. Lunch is included. Indicate if you want vegetarian.

Everyone is also invited to the 6:00 p.m. free Friday Night gathering with a Soup Supper at 6:30 and a 7:30 showing of "Not My Life, a documentary showing human trafficking on five continents.

Ann Arbor District Office
of the United Methodist Church

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Ann Arbor MI 48103

Return Service Requested



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