

The Arbor Vine

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

MAY 2016

The week of June 8-13, 2016, over 2500 clergy and lay leaders from across Michigan will gather on the campus of Michigan State University for a historic gathering of the West Michigan and Detroit Annual Conferences. This will be the first time Members to Annual Conference have gathered on MSU's campus and we need the help of 100s of welcoming volunteers to make this week both productive and pleasant for all attending.

We invite you to be an integral part of this celebration by joining us as a member of the Michigan Area GRACE PATROL. The GRACE PATROL is the essential hospitality ministry of the Annual Conference Program Committee. Most of those attending will be visiting MSU for the very first time and we want to make their first visit a positive experience. Many of those attending will also be outside of their traditional comfort zones and we know that warm, smiling faces, words of assurance, God's giving grace and immediate access to knowledgeable hosts and guides will be the single most important factor in assuring that this historic event is a successful one. We need to fill 65 morning, afternoon and evening shifts each and every day at Michigan State. That means we need up to 200 volunteers a day to fill the 1200 shifts during the week of Annual Conference!

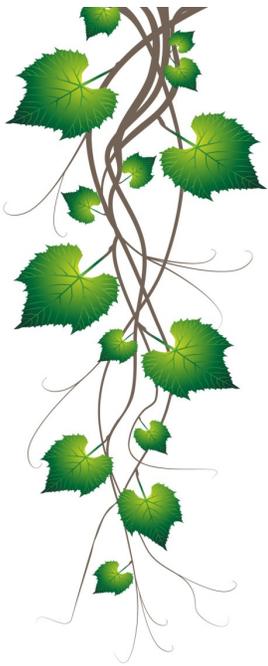
Each shift is 5.5 hours in length, which includes a 30 minute arrival, check-in and update time. As our way of saying "thank you," we invite you to enjoy a meal at Brody Commons before or after your shift as our guest. Brody Commons is the nation's #1 campus food program and a real treat. Will you help us make this a reality? Please consider sharing this with your congregations and encourage those with the gift of hospitality to join us in this important ministry during Annual Conference.

We invite you to sign up for as many shifts as you would like, on one day, or every day. Please follow this link <http://bitly.com/2016GracePatrol> to register by **May 20 and choose the shifts that work for you and the host position that most interests you.**

Peace,

Mark A. Doyal
Director of Communications





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We Welcome Darlene McGee to the District Office

Darlene (Dar) McGee is the new Administrative Assistant for the Ann Arbor District, working with Jane since April 18. Dar will start working on her own on May 2. She was previously the Administrative Secretary for Big Beaver United Methodist Church in Troy, Michigan. Before that she served as Administrative Assistant at the Saline United Methodist Church. Dar brings excellent skills, a depth of knowledge about the United Methodist connection, and a delightful personality. Her husband, Rev. Ray McGee, begins service as Senior Pastor at Gross Point UMC on July 1.



A note from Jane Pollock: “I am leaving the Administrative Assistant position to start my retirement. People always say that they enjoyed their work and they appreciate their colleagues, but in my case it is profoundly true. No one could wish for a better boss and better people to work with. Many thanks and best wishes to everyone.”

An Opportunity to Lead Worship

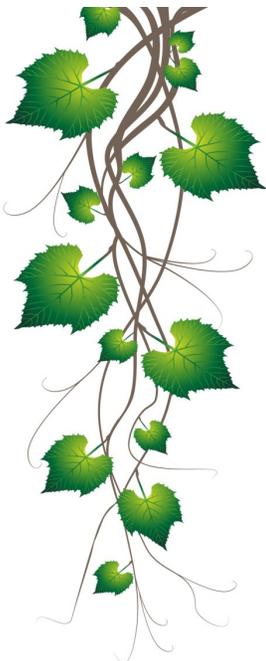
Haas Lake Park RV Campground has a unique summer ministry opportunity for lay speakers, students, and anyone else willing to share their faith & talents. They are a family-oriented recreational vehicle campground in New Hudson, east of Brighton & just barely west of Novi, along the I-96 corridor. As close as they are to metro Detroit they're quite large, with 494 campsites, 8 miles of roads, and 4 lakes.

From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, they would like to offer their campers a worship service every Sunday morning. To do that volunteers are needed to lead worship.

Can you put together a team of two or three people and create a 45-minute long service that includes both music and a message? Can you commit to two or three Sundays anytime between Memorial Day & Labor Day?

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. To learn more about the park, please visit www.haaslakepark.com.



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Spaw's Paws

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

COME HOLY SPIRIT COME

The new young pastor was standing at the door shaking hands and greeting people following the worship service. Among the worshipers that day was a retired minister well known for his preaching ability. The young pastor was anxious to hear what the experienced man would say about his sermon. As he grabbed his hand, the old preacher said, "Son, that was a mighty fine sermon you preached." Trying not to show his exuberant satisfaction with his own work, the young pastor humbly replied, "Oh, it wasn't me, it was the Holy Spirit." The old preacher looked him in the eye and said, "It wasn't that good."

Do you have it in you? It being, the Holy Spirit. Anyone who has ever faced the great joys of life, the heart breaks and profound sorrows, the feelings of uncertainty and the grand assurances of security, they know. Anyone who has ever run a race, climbed a mountain, raised a child, loved a parent or faced life's challenges, they know. Life is full of obstacles. No one gets through life without climbing a few mountains. Some mountains are higher than others are, and most of what we face from day-to-day may be nothing more than hills, but we all have peaks to cross.

The Holy Spirit is our "second wind." When we have "maxed out" our credit line of giving and caring, the Holy Spirit empowers us to go that second mile. When we feel like our tank is running on empty, the Holy Spirit gives us enough fuel to not only keep going but to complete the race. This summer I hope you will find peace, energy, renewal, wholeness and fun. In this very uncertain time in history I hope you will find security and know the presence of the Holy Spirit.

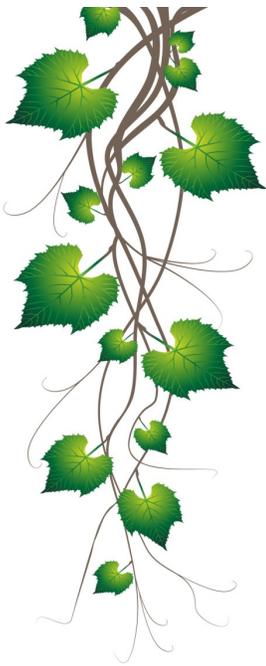


We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, if only we will recognize its abiding presence with us ALWAYS and EVERYWHERE! This summer be at worship. The disciples understood how powerful it was to be together in one place. They drew strength from one another. They had also learned to prepare for life through the study of scripture and prayer.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live our lives, not to live in fear; to live life to the fullest, not merely to survive; and to do marvelous things in the process. We don't control the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that guides us, if only we believe. Do you have it in you? If you do . . . Let it show in the way you live, share, hear, love, play and enjoy this thing called life! I truly look forward to hearing of your summer fun, adventures and challenges. Share the Spirit that is within you, I know you've got it!!!

Seeking the Spirit's Guidance,

MARK



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DISTRICT NOTICES

BAMSEY'S 80TH BIRTHDAY BASH

A special celebration honoring Al Bamsey is May 22 at Ann Arbor First UMC from 1:00—4:00 pm. No gifts please.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION LEADER TRAINING

Saturday May 7 from 9:00 am to noon. John Wells will lead. Contact Chuck Woolley at cbwoolley@gmail.com.

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 906-235-3553.

PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Mission interns get eight weeks of in-depth training for \$2500. The start date is May 25. Visit www.missionintern.org.

HISPANIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

June 22-25 at Adrian College. HYLEA 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

High School 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@detroitconference.org to nominate a student to attend. Churches will be asked to help students with the cost of \$260.00.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: SALINE FIRST UMC ~ TEMPORARY CUSTODIAN

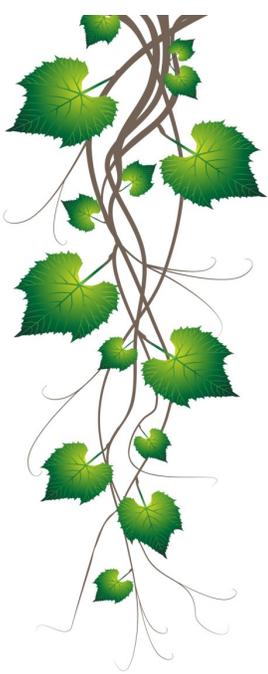
We have a need to hire temporary weekend custodial help as soon as possible. Duties include cleaning and setup and teardown for church events. Please contact Jill Trokey at the church office if you can help, 429-4730 or jill@fumc-saline.org.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: CHELSEA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY ~ PART TIME MUSICIAN

A part-time staff musician is needed at Chelsea Retirement Community. The complete job description and place to apply can be found at umrc.com under the employment tab.

SAFE SANCTUARIES COURSE

Rev. Kristen Parks will teach the "Safe Sanctuaries Course" from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 14 at Monroe First UMC. This course is designed for all churchgoers who work with vulnerable persons - youth, disabled, elderly, etc. You will receive certification through Detroit Annual Conference. Light refreshments during breaks will be provided. Child care is also available, but you need to contact Robyn Meyer prior to the class. Call Robyn Meyer at (734) 243-2017 to register.



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Ministry with the Elderly - A Questionnaire for You

Based on the workshop at Leadership Training Day, we have developed a questionnaire to gather further information about people's interests and wishes regarding services to older adults. Do you want to connect with other caregivers? Do you wish you had more training? Let us know what would be helpful to you.

This survey is open to all persons, clergy and laity, including multiple people from the same church. The goal is to find out what matters to you in these areas.

We invite you to respond as you wish, and to leave your contact information if you would like to share it.

Follow this link to begin the 5 question survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/796VZJ3>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jane Pollock at jpoll@umich.edu for more information.

Connectional Grant Applications are Available

Connectional grants are small to medium sized grants that are given to churches to help with projects they could not otherwise do. The application form is on the District website www.AADistrict.org.

For more information contact Dennis Just at 48ajdj@gmail.com

Leadership Simulcast

Dear Ann Arbor District Pastors & Leaders,

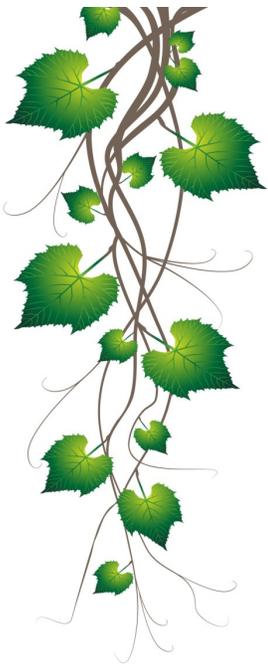
For the 11th year, Dexter United Methodist is hosting Leadercast, a one-day leadership simulcast on Friday, May 6. The theme this year is "Architects of Tomorrow".

This year's lineup includes: **Andy Stanley** (Leadership Author, Pastor, Communicator). **Dr. Henry Cloud** (Leadership Expert, Clinical Psychologist, Author of Boundaries). **Nick Saban** (Head Football Coach at U of Alabama). **Steve Wozniak** (Co-Founder of Apple Inc). **Kat Cole** (Group President of FOCUS brands – Auntie Annie's, Cinnabun, and more). **James Brown** (Network Broadcaster). **CMDR Rorke Denver** (Navy SEAL & Author). **Chris Barez-Brown** (Author & Creativity Guru). Host **Tripp Crosby** (Comedian & Director).

Come to the Dexter campus for a great day of equipping & training! Invite your Ad Council members or anyone you think would join you from your church. Early bird pricing ends this Sunday night.

Questions? Email Dr. Matt Hook at Matt@dexterumc.org.

You can register at: <http://event.leadercast.com/location/dexter>



Knitted Together in Love: A Prayer Shawl Retreat

Friday, May 6 at 6:00 pm to Sat, May 7 at 6:30 pm.

Come to Judson Collins Camp for a weekend of knitting, tatting, quilting, crocheting, and crafting! Beginners as well as veterans are welcome. Share your ideas for prayer shawl ministry, or learn how to get one started. Come for the whole event or just a part. \$60 per person (1 night/3 meals/snacks). \$45 for Saturday only.

Contact them at Judson.collins.center@gmail.com.

Annual Conference 2016

The General Conference schedule for this year has necessitated a change in the dates for the Annual Conferences in Michigan. Annual Conference will be held from Wednesday, June 8 to Sunday, June 12, 2016. It will be held on the Michigan State Campus in East Lansing. Registration is now open and all information is available at <http://2016.michiganumc.org>.

Easy Transportation to Annual Conference

The Michigan Flyer is a bus service that runs between East Lansing and Ann Arbor. One of the routes runs from the Ann Arbor bus station (across from the Library) to the Lansing Marriott Hotel, one block north of the East Lansing campus. It also picks up passengers at the Kensington Hotel by Briarwood. Tickets are about \$15 each way. The website for more information is <http://www.michiganflyer.com/>

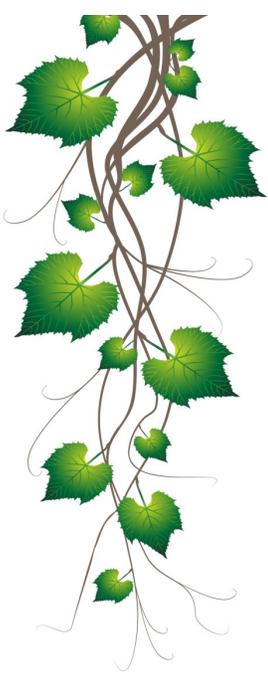
Informational Meeting

~ 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!

Working with People with Disabilities

People with disabilities constitute our nation's largest minority group. It's also the most inclusive: all ages, genders, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic levels are represented. And this group is one that anyone can join, at any time: at birth, in a split second through an accident or illness, or during the aging process. Please join us for a workshop at West Side UMC, 700 S. Seventh St., Ann Arbor. Contact: 734-663-4164, westside-umc.org. on Saturday, May 14, 9:00 am—1:00 pm. Our workshop leader, Mary McCully, has a Master's Degree from EMU in disabilities and almost 40 years of experience working with people with various types of disabilities. All are welcome. Suggested donation: \$10. A light lunch will be served. Cohosted by West Side & Ann Arbor First United Methodist Women.



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MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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16 Devin Smith
18 Al Bamsey
18 Anne Hanna
19 Diane Griffin
19 Barbara & Gary Dawes
20 Janet Smith
20 Jim Chapman
22 Sandra Miller
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23 Jan & Pete Harris
24 Mark Spaw
24 Doug Olsen
25 Kevin Griffin
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30 Aimee Luck
30 Jim Braid
30 Tina Zimmerman & Gregg Sucha
31 Gwen & Julius Nagy

Peace with Justice Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday is May 22, 2016. This Special Sunday of The United Methodist Church makes possible our ongoing ministries of peace and reconciliation.

Peace with Justice grant applicants must strive to achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- Assist United Methodists in understanding and responding to violence and militarism;
- Involve United Methodists in efforts to end global conflicts and violent aggression;
- Promote just national and international policies and actions seeking to restore communities and respond to the disproportionate effect of injustices on racial and ethnic people; and
- Support policies that promote systematic economic justice and the self-development of peoples.

Support Peace with Justice Sunday and lead your congregation to stand with us.

Blessings!

Peter Plum Hired as Emergency Water Crisis Coordinator

The Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church would like to announce the hiring of Peter J. Plum as the Emergency Water Crisis Coordinator. With the recent issuance of a new UMCOR grant, beginning April 1, 2016, Peter will continue UMC Relief coordination in a full time capacity. This project continues to develop and grow with new tasks and objectives to serve the citizens of Flint who have been affected by the water crisis. Please continue to pray for Peter and this ministry as we all strive together to serve God by helping our brothers and sisters in Flint for His glory.

Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries

The General Council on Finance and Administration is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2016 class of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries. The course cost is \$300.00 and will begin on June 1.

For more information on the course and for scholarships please contact:

Natalie Schuette at nschuette@gcfa.org or 615-368-2320.



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
