

# The Arbor Vine

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

**November 2015**

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## ***National Liberia Partners Summit***

The national summit, Nov 13-14, is being held right here in Michigan.

It is open to all local churches wishing to transform their outreach ministries. It will take place at Nardin Park UMC in Farmington Hills. Participants will learn more about how to move from short-term, needs-based charity to long-term, asset-based development.

For more information contact Duane Miller at [duane@ddmiller.net](mailto:duane@ddmiller.net) or Kayte Aspray at [summitregistrar@detroitconference.org](mailto:summitregistrar@detroitconference.org).

Registration is at: <http://events.michiganumc.org/event/liberia-partner-summit-mission-education-event/>

The Macon UMC in the Ann Arbor District is hosting a visit by Rev. G. Roosevelt Goah, Sr on November 8 for 9:15 Sunday School and 10:30 Sunday morning worship. There will be a potluck following worship. Everyone is welcome.

Macon has partnered with the Deputy Church for over eight years. Rev. Goah has been instrumental in overseeing the work at the Deputy Church. He is the District Superintendent of the St. John's River District of the Liberian Annual Conference.

Contact Rev. Lance Ness at 517-423-8270 with any questions.

***The District Annual Meeting on October 19 was a great success.***

*Thanks to:*

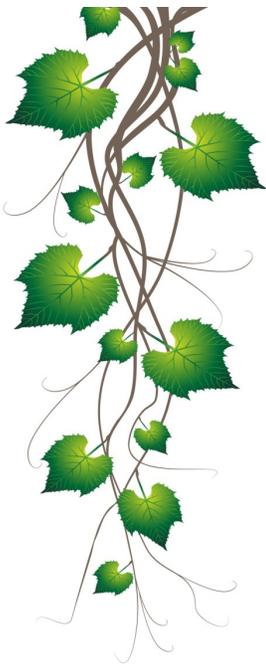
*Agnes Hoshal, Chair of the Board of Missions and Church Extension, for presiding over the meeting*

*The Special Events Team for planning the activities and the spirit of fun*

*The Brighton First Church for hosting and hospitality*

*and the Brighton United Methodist Women for serving the fine supper.*

*150 people attended, sharing, learning, and enjoying fellowship together.*



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## DISTRICT NOTICES

### **CORRECTION FOR THE ANN ARBOR DISTRICT DIRECTORY**

Rev. Mary Hagley's home address is 320 E. Arkona Rd, Milan MI 48160  
Her phone is 734-652-5389.

Rev. Douglas Olsen, recently retired from Dundee UMC, now lives at 557 McBride St, Dundee MI 48131, phone 734-549-5389.

### **NEW UM SEXUAL ETHICS WEBSITE**

This is a Ministry of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women of The United Methodist Church, raising awareness, preventing sexual abuse, promoting healthy boundaries, bringing about justice and healing. Learn more at <http://umsexualethics.org/>

### **SMALL CHURCHES ARE VITAL - NOV 2-4 IN WEST BRANCH**

The Town and Country Circuit Rider Retreat celebrates and supports the smaller churches. Visit:  
<http://events.michiganumc.org/event/town-and-country-circuit-rider-retreat/>

### **CARLETON UMC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Come to this annual event at 11435 Grafton Rd in Carleton. On Dec 5, 10:00 - 2:00. Cookies, bake sale, fresh greens, crafts, etc. Luncheon available for purchase. For more information call 734-654-2833.

The flint water crisis

The Crossroads District Office is collecting donations for JSF graded water faucet filters for Flint area homes.

### **TWO ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CHICKEN DINNERS AT STONY CREEK**

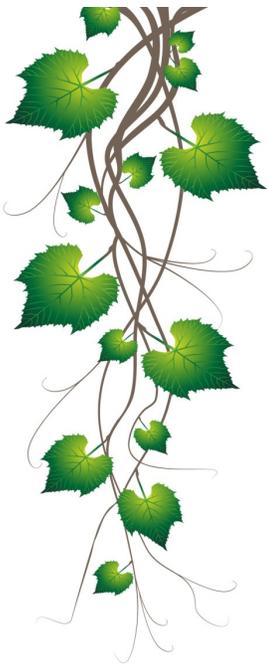
Saturday, Nov 7 - 5:00-7:00 Bring gloves or a warm hat to donate  
Saturday, Dec 12 - 5:00-7:00 Bring a new toy for Toys for Tots  
Adults \$10, Children 6-10 \$4, younger children free  
[www.stonycreekumc.org](http://www.stonycreekumc.org)

### **JOB OPENING AT HOWELL FIRST—CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR**

This position will work with children birth through fifth grade to develop an exciting, creative, safe, and dynamic children's ministry program through worship services, evening programs, Sunday School, and special events. 30 hours per week. Full description is at [www.HowellFumc.com](http://www.HowellFumc.com). Submit resumes by Nov 20.

### **UNITED METHODIST BLACK COLLEGE FUND**

Go to their website at [umcgiving.org](http://umcgiving.org) website to find videos, articles, a photo gallery and a plethora of resources — all free.



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# Spaw's Paws

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

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## “THANKS—LIVING”

We will soon be in the season of Thanksgiving. What better time, what greater opportunity do we have to give God thanks and begin to truly trust in Him than right now? That's Thanks-Living! Let's not allow the forces of this world to dictate, through fear, our faith, morals or how we will carry out God's plan to share the Good News of a loving, compassionate, and understanding God in our lives. If we carry out God's plan, that's Thanks-Living!

When the Israelites faced the giant Goliath, the onlookers said, "He is too big. We can't possibly defeat him." The boy David looked at the giant and said, "He's so big I can't miss him." If we can begin to see all of the challenges, and fears that we face, and will face in the coming days as no longer giants that will overwhelm us but rather huge targets which we can't miss, that's Thanks-living! Will the giants in your life get you, or will you get them?

As I look back over my own life, I see a few that whipped me. But I also see many which God and I defeated. There are some that we all are facing right now. In fact some are so large that we can't possibly walk away from them to a place where we can't see them. They loom over the horizon as we look in all directions. They are always there. But now I am reminded of David, I know that because of their size we can't miss them. That's Thanks-Living.

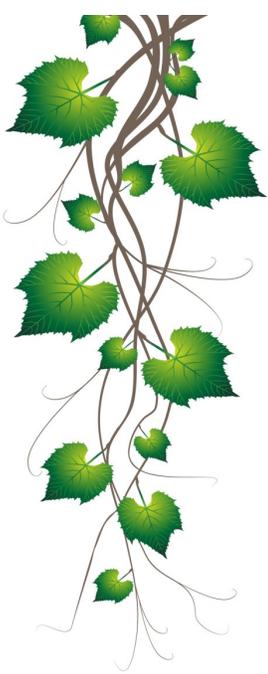
I may not run as fast as I did in my youth, but my solution will be dead center. Life is too rich to be threatened by giants. So the next time one comes my way, I'm going to reach for the proverbial slingshot and let him have it.

In this season of thanksgiving, give God thanks for the grace and wisdom that will allow you to deal with the giants in your life. Then you'll be Thanks-Living!

Giving thanks,

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.

PS. I give God thanks for each of you engaged in the ministry of Jesus Christ. . . Those filled with the spirit, quick to forgive, and ready to serve! Thank you!



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## ***Creative Contributions***

Good morning, Mark,

At the charge conference at Chelsea First this past Sunday, I told you about the support of the church renovation project by my Granddaughter, Caley Plank. I know that this is just one story among many that illustrate the enthusiasm with which congregants responded to the capital campaign. I am not lifting her up as special to the campaign, but as special to me, her Grandmother, in the way she lives out her faith.

Max and I were co-chairs of the capital campaign initially mounted in 2013. On a day in which the Leadership Team met, I happened to be caring for my Grandchildren. Naturally, they accompanied me.

Before we left my home, Caley asked what the meeting was about. I explained to her how the sanctuary was going to be renovated and that Grandpa and I were a part of the team that was going to raise the money for the project. Without missing a beat, Caley said, "Oh, I can help with that. I can bake cookies and sell them around the neighborhood!"

By the end of that day, with Mom's and Dad's permission, Caley had prepared to take orders on a yellow Post-it pad, honed her "spiel", and had come home with orders for 13 dozen chocolate chip cookies @ \$5.00 per dozen from the kind folks in her neighborhood. Caley was 9 years old.

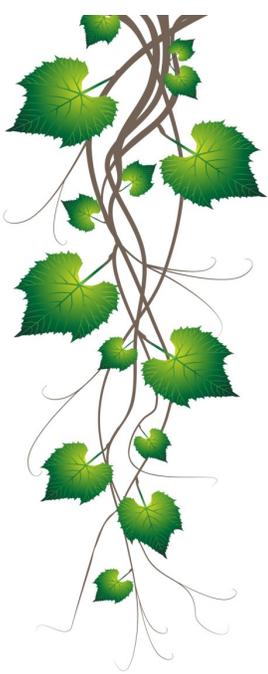
That was the beginning of "Caley's Cookies", the sole purpose being the raising of funds to donate to Chelsea First Capital Campaign. Caley is now 11 years old, has donated \$2100.00 and is still going strong.

Mom and Dad support by furnishing the ingredients. She offers chocolate chip and lemon white chocolate chip cookies.

Caley's website address is [www.caley'scookies.com](http://www.caley'scookies.com). When I asked her for Christmas gift ideas last year, a website was her *only* idea.

Thank you,

Sherri Plank



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## ***A message from a Church Conference***

given by one of our newest Local Pastors, Amy Triebwasser,  
at Salem Grove UMC

During church conference season, we gather with our congregations to celebrate the way that God has worked through the United Methodist Church over the past year and to think about the things that we need to improve upon as a community of faith. To look ahead to what God is calling us to do as his church in the year to come.

As we work through this process, it is helpful to remember that one of the most important factors is how we, as individuals, treat our relationship with God. Our mission is to create disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. To reach out to people and bring them to know God. Our ability to accomplish this mission is directly tied to how well we are growing as disciples ourselves.

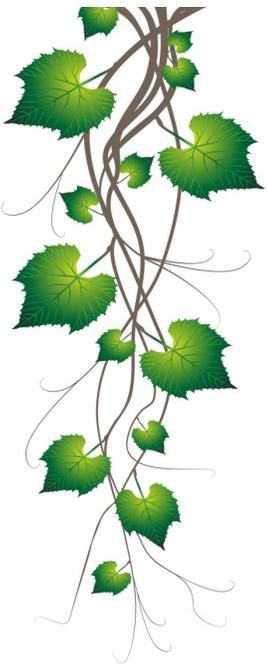
In the Message version of Romans 12 verses 1-2, Paul says, “So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

I love how Paul words this, “Your everyday, ordinary life.” Everything that we do, can be done with God in mind. We can have a recognition that he created the world in which we live. We can have gratitude for the everyday things that we experience. We can be ever mindful of the choices he would have us make.

Embrace what God does for you. You have life. You have breath. You are never alone. Offer all of this up to the Lord. And don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without thinking. See your life through God’s eyes and not the eyes of your neighbor. What is the media doing to shift your views on the immigration crisis? How are advertisers convincing you to use your money on the buying of even more stuff? How are the television shows that you are watching skewing your views on kindness, love, and responsibility?

Paul says that we need to readily recognize what God wants from us and quickly respond to it. The only way that this is possible is to be in relationship with God. To have an active prayer life where we listen to the voice of God.

To be in Bible study so that we understand what pleases God. To watch for opportunities to be his hands and feet. To be willing to step out in faith and try something that we have never done before. To recognize that God wants us to do something and then to do it quickly. To not let the culture around us tell us that something



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can't be done. To ignore our friends when they tell us that we should just stay home and relax. To be bold in our commitment to tell others about Christ.

You see, effective ministry flows from God bringing out our best. Only by actively pursuing God ourselves, can we ever hope to bring his light into this world. Only by letting God transform us from the inside out can we hope to change the world in his name.

So let's do it! Let's be in relationship with God. Pay attention to what he wants us to do to reach out to his children. And change the world in Jesus name!  
Amen

***Church Conference agenda and forms  
are available on the District Website:***

**[www.AADistrict.org](http://www.AADistrict.org)**

### **November Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Nov 4 Susan Clemmer

Nov 6 Faye McKinstry

Nov 6 Monica William

Nov 7 Caroline Hart

Nov 8 Mike Norton

Nov 10 Charlotte Simmons

Nov 11 Aaron Kesson

Nov 12 William Smith

Nov 12 Sandra Olsen

Nov 13 Katie Wagonner

Nov 13 Florence Hammar

Nov 14 Sherry Parker-Lewis

Nov 21 Barbra Franks

Nov 24 Judith DeGraw

Nov 24 Sam Pooley

Nov 26 Chuck Woolley

Nov 28 Karen & Al Bamsey

Nov 28 Sang Chun

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of the United Methodist Church

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## **Return Service Requested**



**The Arbor Vine**

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