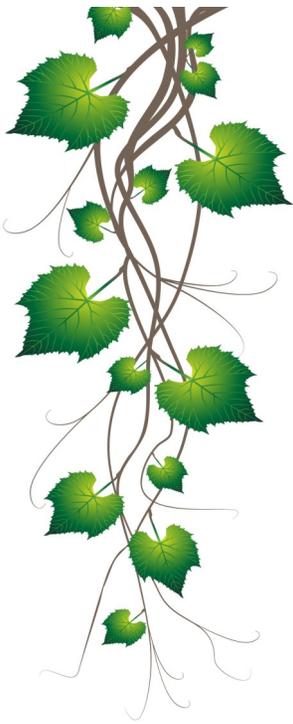


The Arbor Vine

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



November 2017

BISHOP DAVID BARD HOSTS LISTENING DIALOGS ON HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE UMC

LANSING — Bishop David Bard has hosted two dialogs this fall on the subject of human sexuality and The United Methodist Church. Two more such dialogs are planned before year-end. “Weaving the Future: connectional conversations” is an opportunity for individuals across the state to share their hopes, dreams and concerns about the official position of The United Methodist Church as it relates to individuals who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, or Queer.

At the 2016 General Conference, delegates approved a proposal from the Council of Bishops to form a commission to explore how the church might live with grace with one another in light of significant differences on LGBTQ inclusion. In November 2016, each bishop was asked by the Council to organize conversations in his or her area parallel to the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. “I invite Michigan United Methodists to gather with hearts and minds open to each other and to God’s Spirit as together we discuss our differences and also our hopes and dreams for The United Methodist Church,” Bishop Bard said.



He added, “It is my expectation that as followers of Jesus we will gather to listen deeply to each other and take from these conversations not only a more profound understanding of both shared values and differences, but also a renewed commitment to compassionate and intelligent conversation even when the topics are difficult.”

Here are the next opportunities for dialog:

Dialog 3: **November 20**
7:00 pm

Southfield: Hope UMC
26275 Northwestern Hwy
Southfield MI 48076
248-356-1020

Dialog 4: **December 7**
7:00 pm

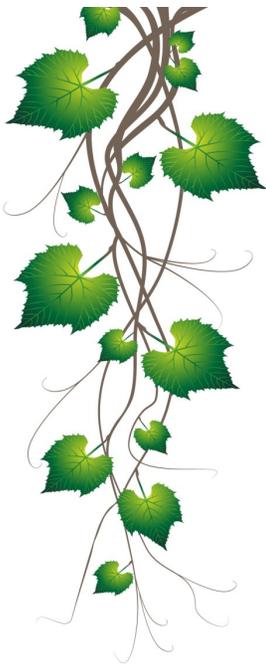
Area Ministry Center
1011 Northcrest
Lansing MI 48906
517-347-4030

Ann Arbor District of the
United Methodist Church
900 S 7th St., Ste. 1
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Email: aadisumc@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.aadistrict.org
Phone: 734-663-3939
Fax: 734-663-1990
Administrator: Dar McGee

Those interested in learning more about the official position of The United Methodist Church on human sexuality can visit:

<http://www.umc.org/topics/topic-human-sexuality-homosexuality>.



Spaw's Paws

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

GOD'S MIRACULOUS WORK THANK YOU!

The Sunday school teacher asked an especially bright student what her favorite Bible story was. The young girl replied, "The one where everyone loafs and fishes."

Summer is now officially over and I wish I had taken more time to loaf and fish. However, what I want is not always what I need. It is good to count on God to know the difference and provide what I need. Our God is an abundant provider and does provide what we need. The miracle of the loaves and fishes is demonstrated every time we are called upon to help others through financial giving, as well as the giving of our prayers, presence and service. God takes what we give and multiplies it. That is one of the real joys of being your District Superintendent; I want to be a part of and help others to participate in God's miraculous work.



A personal word: Over the past four months you folks have been praying for my back...just a part of God's miraculous work. As a result of your prayers, your help, and others taking on some of my responsibilities, my back is much better. Because of some shot and physical therapy, surgery may not be needed, we will know by Thanksgiving. Your gift of prayers, presence and service have been a blessing. Your cards and letters are thoughtful and encouraging gifts.

Thank you, I feel loved, encouraged and cared for...

My God supplies

ALL MY NEEDS ACCORDING
TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY

by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

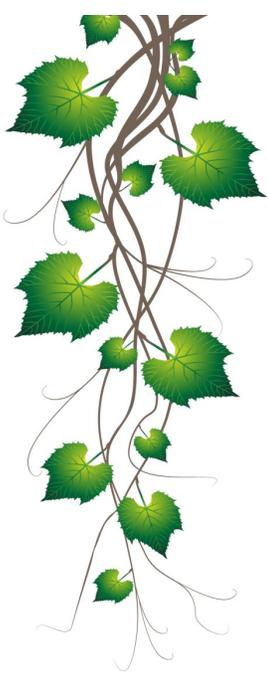
We will nurture the faithful and proclaim the love of God for ourselves and all other persons by promoting harmony among God's people, sustaining those who worship and communicating God's grace to the church, the community and throughout the world. This is what we all want and this is what we all need.

The season for loafing and fishing is over (this is not easy for me to admit). Now is the season for giving thanks for all the opportunities and challenges God has given. My hope is that you will find a way of being part of "The Ann Arbor District" and help your community of faith continue to do God's miraculous work.

Thanking God for ALL of you,

MARK

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.



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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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SPRING LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

In 2018, Spring Lay Servant classes will be Saturday, April 14 and Saturday, April 28 at yet to be determined site.

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION ~ BRIGHTON FIRST UMC

Brighton First United Methodist is seeking a person who loves God and passionately desires that youth know and follow Jesus Christ to be Director of Youth Ministries. Oversee youth ministries at First United Methodist Church of Brighton for grades 5 - 12, including: youth groups, faith formation and mission. Degree in youth ministries or equivalent and experience as a youth director preferred.

Accepting resumes via email only at: youthdirector@brightonfumc.org.

Please send inquiries about this 20 hour position to Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker-Lewis, Senior Pastor at Brighton First (sherry@brightonfumc.org)

Apply by: November 30, 2017.

MICHIGAN AREA UM CAMPING

“It only takes a spark to get a fire going...” begins a favorite camp song of a certain generation. United Methodist camps are reaching today’s youth with that same message: the power of love through Jesus Christ. Extend this message by encouraging the young people in your congregation to go to camp and to invite others to go with them. There are resources and promotional materials available on the United Methodist Camping website. Learn more about the campgrounds and retreat centers where you can refresh and revive your relationship with God at www.umc Camping.org

NOVEMBER 26 SPECIAL UNITED METHODIST OFFERING

On United Methodist Student Day, November 26, churches will come together to support students as they prepare for a life that unites faith and knowledge.

Gifts on this Special Sunday go to scholarships that empower the dreams of United Methodist students in local congregations just like yours. Many of these young people plan to return to their churches after graduation to share their gifts, including a pastor’s son who is studying to be a church pianist, a religious studies major focused on interfaith relations, and a speech pathology student who hopes to run her church’s youth program one day. Offering envelopes and free promotional materials are available at www.umc giving.org

COKESBURY—COMPETITIVE PRICING ON BOOKS

Cokesbury is now offering competitive pricing on books that might currently be available through other online agencies. Mike Morley is the Cokesbury Community Resource Consultant for Michigan. He can help with placing orders, price matching, and shipping costs. Mike will provide guidance when you are searching for resources for a Bible study (adult, young adult, singles, youth, etc.), confirmation class, children’s ministries, or congregational study.

Email Mike at mmorley@cokesbury.com.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT NORTHVILLE FUMC

Extra copies of The Way Lenten study from Adam Hamilton and gently used DVDs are available from Northville FUMC. (items do have Northville sticker on them). Available items include: 3 hard-cover books, 2 paperback books, 2 large print paperback books, 5 DVDs – 4 with leader guides, 2 leader guides, 4 youth study guides, 1 children’s leader guide.

In addition, there are 5 copies of the LifeWay Bible Study, Connected: My Life in the Church, a 6 week study on Ephesians.

If anyone is interested, please contact Monice William at 248-672-7431 or via email at mwilliam@fumcnorthville.org.

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
