

The Arbor Vine

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

October 2015

Come for good fellowship and a good meal

ANNUAL MEETING

of the Ann Arbor District

Monday, October 19 at Brighton UMC

6:00 p.m. gathering; 6:30 supper

400 E. Grand River, Brighton MI, 810-229-8561

A note from the District Superintendent to Clergy:

Each church should be represented at this meeting.

Each pastor must contact the District Office if she/he cannot attend.

Your participation is appreciated. Your attendance is expected.

REGISTRATION: Please reserve your space for the district annual meeting.

Name _____ Email _____

Please reserve _____ persons at \$12.00 each = _____

Do you wish a vegetarian meal? (Please mention the vegetarian meal at the door) Yes No

Meeting only (no meal, no cost) _____

Reserve by October 15. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women

Mail your check and this form to:

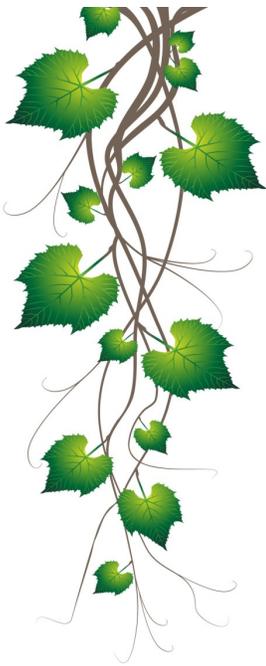
United Methodist Women, 400 E. Grand River, Brighton MI 48116 ATTN: Barb Terry

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Church _____



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DISTRICT NOTICES

TENTH ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE:

“Green & grow your congregation” is the topic of this conference hosted by Michigan Interfaith Power & Light. Held on Friday, Oct 9, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Peoples Church in East Lansing. Speakers include Sr. Simone Campbell, Rev. George Heartwell, and Valerie Brader. Visit <http://www.miipl.org/greenandgrow-2/>. Also position open for Executive Director.

MISSIONARIES WHO ARE ITINERATING TO THE DETROIT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

David Paye Guinkpa, Missionary to Central Africa, October 5-9
Emmanuel and Florence Mefor, Missionaries to Zimbabwe, November 22-24
Contact Roberta King to schedule these missionaries to speak at your church. You can reach her at 734-662-8020 or garyandroberta@sbcglobal.net.

“THE LOVE YOU TAKE” - SONGS OF THE BEATLES

This delightful taste of the past is a concert fundraiser for the Wesley Foundation. Oct 9 at 7:30 pm at Ann Arbor First UMC. \$20 for adults, \$5 for youth and children.

ADULT RETREATS AT LAKE LOUISE

Harvesting Seeds of True Self, Oct 12-14
Clergywomen’s Retreat with Bishop Kieseey Nov 15-17
Visit www.lakelouisecommunity.org

FELLOWSHIP OF UNITED METHODISTS IN MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

Presenting two workshops on Oct 10 and 17. “Designing Thematic worship” and “Banner Making.” Contact Buff Coe at 269-649-2343.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 42ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, Oct 24 at Ferndale First UMC, 22331 Woodward Ave in Ferndale, 10:00 to 3:00. Speaker: Rev. Faith Green Timmons of Flint Bethel UMC. The contact for information is 248-545-4467.

LEARN, CONTRIBUTE, AND ENJOY WITH YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN MI-AIM

Several positions are available with Michigan Assistants in Ministry (MI-AIM). This organization is for church secretaries, administrative assistants, and other church staff, paid and unpaid. Visit www.mi-aim.org

SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE

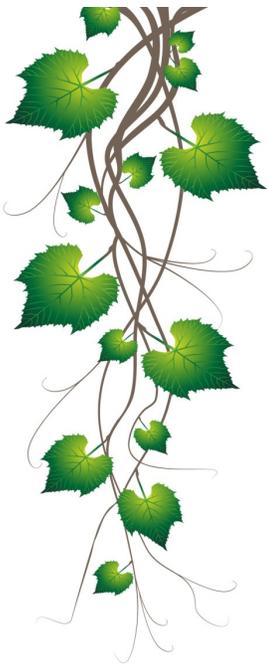
The United Methodist Church has resources available to churches who wish to create a Safe Sanctuaries Policy for children and vulnerable adults. This is the Safe Sanctuary policy referred to on the Profile of the Church form. Go to the Discipleship Ministries website for a wealth of resources: <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/safe-sanctuaries>

FREE POLICE CHAPLAIN TRAINING

The Novi Police Department is offering chaplain training through the International Conference of Police Chaplains on Oct 10. Call Sargent Panning at 248-348-7100

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->



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Spaw's Paws

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

“SHARING THE JOY AND LOVE OF CHRIST!”

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by a parishioner to her pastor:

“In church last Sunday I was intent on a small child who was turning around smiling at everyone. He wasn't gurgling, spitting, humming, tearing the hymn books or rummaging through his mother's handbag. He was just smiling. Suddenly his mother jerked him around, and in a stage whisper that everyone could hear, said, 'Stop grinning, You're in Church!' With that she gave him a belt on his hindside and as the tears rolled down his cheeks she added, 'That's better,' and returned to her prayers. What must they think, these children of ours? We sing, we make a joyful noise unto the Lord but our faces reflect the sadness of a Charlie Brown at his pessimistic worst. Suddenly, I was angry. It occurred to me that the entire world is in tears. I wanted to hold this child with the tear-stained face and tell him about God, about the happy God, about the smiling God, the God who had to have a sense of humor to have created the likes of us. I wanted to *tell* him that He's an understanding God, One who understands when little children are bored in Church. He even understands the man in the parking lot who reads the comics while his wife is in Church. He even understands my shallow prayers that implore, 'If You can't make me thin, Oh God, then make my friends look fat,' I wanted to tell him I've taken a few lumps in my time for daring to smile at religion. What a fool, I thought, this mother sitting next to the only life left in our civilization, the only hope, our only miracle, our only promise of infinity. If he couldn't smile in Church, where was there left to go?”

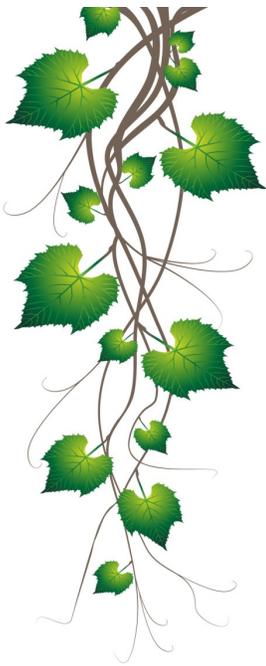
My prayer is that the Ann Arbor District be a smiling community of faith. What a joy it is to meet, greet, share, and worship with a joy-filled Christian community. Let's share our joy and the love of God. Let's remember that God isn't through with any of us. We are all works in progress. As we progress, grow, and learn together, let's “Start grinning, we're in church.”

Looking forward to seeing you at our Annual District Conference on Monday, October 19th at 6:00 at Brighton UMC. There will be a sign-in sheet for every church's representative.

Joyfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MARK". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with a casual, personal feel.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.



Come to Lay Servant School in Milan - Oct 24 and Nov 7
Brochures are available at your church.

Corrections for the 2015-2016 District Directory

Rev. Tom Snyder (Beth)

is a Deacon at Dexter UMC 734-426-8480

8650 Huron River Dr., Dexter MI 48130

Home: 734-426-5112, xxx

Linda Polter is a Certified Lay Servant at Blissfield First UMC

lpolter1@emich.edu, 517-486-2947

Rachael Dunlap is a Certified Lay Servant at Blissfield Emmanuel UMC

Marie Cottrell is a Certified Lay Servant at Morenci UMC

517-458-6021

The website for the Manchester UMC is Manchesterumchurch.org

The parsonage phone is 734-428-4780.

The home phone for Rev. Julius Nagy in Springville is 989-293-1228.

Job Openings at Local Churches

NORTHVILLE UMC

Custodian, part-time. Submit a resume and letter of interest to jhopkins@fumcnorthville.org or call Jim @ 1-248-349-1144.

FIRST UMC OF YPSILANTI - visit <http://www.fumcypsi.org/#!/job-openings>

Children's Choir Director - resume to Kevin Miller, kmiller@emich.edu

Director of Christian Education - resume to fumcypsijobs@gmail.com.

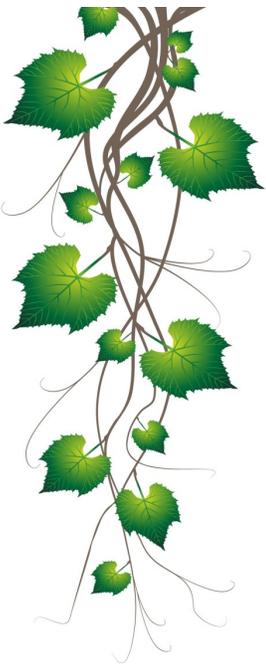
Church Administrator - resume to fumcypsijobs@gmail.com.

BRIGHTON FIRST UMC

Director of Christian Education, part-time - contact Rev. Sherry Parker-Lewis at 810-229-8561

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Bonnie Frey | 10 Bob Roth | 21 Loretta & Larry Job |
| 1 Mark & Sharon Miller | 12 James Cochran | 22 Pamela Kummer |
| 2 Deane Wyllys | 12 Robin Freysinger | 22 Mary Ellen Chapman |
| 2 Doris White | 12 Tyler Kleeberger | 22 Vanessa Kleeberger |
| 3 Hyun-jun Cho | 13 Robert Long & Joy Barrett | 25 Karla Paterson |
| 4 Allen Lewis | 14 Tonya & David Arnesen | 25 Maria & Aaron Kesson |
| 6 King Hanna | 16 John Beedle-Gee | 26 Joyce & Edward Weiss |
| 10 John & Shelley Grenfell | 20 Karla & Doug Paterson | 28 Susan Hurst |



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Church Conferences 2015

At the Oak Grove Conference on Sept 19, the Oak Grove SPRC chair gave this response to the first question on the agenda:

Question #1: How have you seen or experienced God's presence within your congregation?

“The evidence and proof of God's presence within our congregation is demonstrated in many ways. It can be seen and felt when we pray together, when we sing together, when we worship together, when we work together, when we play together, when we help each other, and when we eat together. God shines from our faces on each other! When we share our joys and sorrows God is in us and gives us strength. God is in the congregation at each birth, each death, and when each need is met together by God's grace. We are blessed by God's presence inside our hearts when we come together.

At every major milestone of our lives, good and bad, this congregation lets God have the glory and credit. We are blessed by God's forgiveness for our shortcomings and this congregation lets God shine through when we forgive each other. Each hug, smile and kiss, every grin, laugh and joyous moment of our time together IS GOD within the congregation. “

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

www.AADistrict.org

Ann Arbor District is Helping in Haiti

Please join us for the next Haiti School Project VIM Trip to
Cap Haitien and Tovar

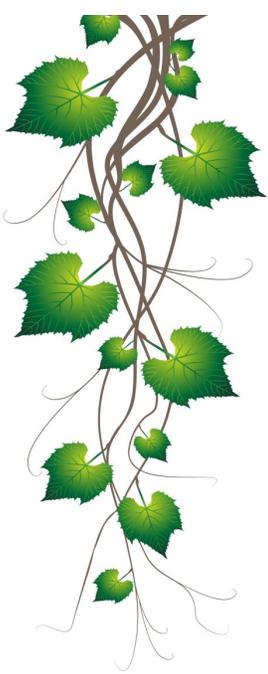
OCTOBER 9-16, 2015

Keith Thomas and Rev. Rod Green, Co-Leaders
(517)-336-7815

We are also seeking donations for workable musical instruments and laptop computers for the schools in these two locations.

FOR APPLICATION AND INFORMATION, CONTACT: the team leader Keith Thomas
kthomas2741@yahoo.com or Curtis Bartz, 313-278-4849 jbartz1006@comcast.net.

If you are unable to join the team we invite you to tell others about the trip, help with needed funding for a VIM member from your church, or pray for the project.



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From the Liberia Task Force

Dear Friends in Mission,

One of our long-time Covenant Partners in Liberia, Rev. Roosevelt Goah, District Superintendent from St John River District, is coming to the US to itinerate this fall. He will first stop for 1 week in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, and then on to the East Ohio Conference for 2 weeks (where he knows many people due to the many VIM trips they have conducted to the Camphor Mission Station). He will be leaving East Ohio to come our way on or about Wednesday, Nov 4. On Friday, Nov 13 and Sat, Nov 14 he will be attending the Liberia Partners Summit at Nardin Park UMC in Farmington Hills. He departs for Liberia from Metro on Nov 17 in the afternoon.

It now looks like Rev Goah's two Sunday mornings with us will be spent at Macon UMC in Clinton (Nov 8), and South Lyon First (Nov 15).

Jim and Nancy Nagle of Marble Memorial UMC have graciously indicated that they are willing and able to be the main hosts for Rev Goah's visit, providing a place to stay and driving him around as needed. I hope not to impose on them for the entire visit (ours is a large District!); I know others of you may be able to help with driving and housing as well. Please let me know if so.

Also please let me know if you are interested in having Rev. Goah visit your church or related group! He is a true servant of Christ, and has committed himself to tilling the Lord's field. He serves an area with rapid church growth amid rural poverty, and has valuable experience and insights to share. He is also the DS overseeing John Dean Town, so has direct experience of our District's project work.

News on a VIM to John Dean Town:

The East Ohio Conference has extensive experience in traveling to Liberia, specifically to the Camphor Mission Station which is a few hours from John Dean Town. They are planning VIMs for late March, 2016. They invite a group from Ann Arbor to accompany them! This is a great opportunity for us. The Ann Arbor group would travel with them to Camphor and then do a separate side trip for a few days to JDT. Possible dates are:

Camphor Mission

March 25 - April 7, 2016 OR

March 30 - April 10, 2016 .

We'd pick one date that works best for the most; a Traditional Birth Attendant training session would be scheduled during our visit. LET ME KNOW IF INTERESTED, and if so, which date works best for you.

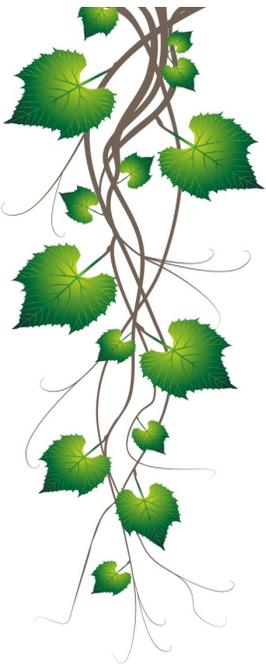
In Christ,

Edie Wiarda

ewiarda@mmtc.org

734-475-9121 (home)

734-223-0316 (cell)



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Here are further updates on the Ann Arbor District's work in Liberia:

1. We have been invited to travel to Liberia with a group from the East Ohio Conference. This trip departs on Good Friday, March 25, arriving at the Camphor Mission Station in time to worship on Easter Sunday! Those of us from the Ann Arbor District would then separate off, and travel to John Dean Town. Cost of the trip estimated at \$3000. Leader is Rev Kathy Dickreide of East Ohio, a very experienced Liberia worker. Kathy provides some details on payment and on team meetings she has planned:

- First payment is due November 1, 2015 \$500
- Next payment is due January 1, 2016 \$500
- Tickets will likely be purchased on personal credit cards when instructed by Kathy in early January unless a great price comes along sooner, \$1500-\$2000 likely.
- Balance of the \$3000 total will be due on March 1, 2015.

Our next meeting will be at 3:00 on October 25th at 129 East Oakmont Way Northfield Ohio 44067. So far we have 6 people planning to travel; We could probably take 5-8 people in addition to our team. I expect to go.

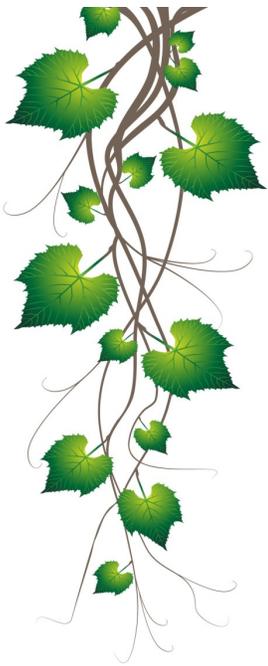
2. Rev Roosevelt Goah, District Superintendent of our Partner St Johns River District, will be in our area from Nov 4 – Nov 17, 2015. We have some speaking obligations lined up, but he is still available for the following dates:

- Thursday, Nov 4
- Saturday, Nov 7
- Sunday, Nov 8 – PREACHING AT MACON UMC; Afternoon or evening at Milan UMC
- Monday, Nov 9
- Tues, Nov 10
- Wed, Nov 11
- Thurs, Nov 12
- Friday, Nov 13 and Sat, Nov 14 – attending Liberia Partners Summit
- Sunday, Nov 15 – PREACHING AT SOUTH LYON FIRST UMC
- Monday, Nov 16
- Morning of Tues, Nov 17.

Please let me know if you know of a group that would be interested in having Rev Goah visit and/or speak.

Edith Wiarda

Chair, Ann Arbor District Liberia Task Force



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National Liberia Partners Summit

This national summit, Nov 13-14, 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 or Kayte Aspray at summitregistrar@detroitconference.org. Registration is at: <http://events.michiganumc.org/event/liberia-partner-summit-mission-education-event/>

A Note from the District Superintendent

HAS YOUR CHURCH PLEDGED OR GIVEN TO
THE JOHN DEAN PROJECT
PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW YOU WILL RESPOND

Dear Friends,

Please, prayerfully consider your giving. My hope is that you will listen closely and once again seek God's guidance in your response. The John Dean Project is an important missional project. Each Church on the Ann Arbor District is being asked to either give to or pledge to this mission project.

We need your involvement. We need your active presence. We need your help in fulfilling the church's teaching, healing, witnessing, missional and evangelizing ministries. We need your help in enriching the church's worship, outreach and life changing ministries. And we also need your financial gifts, in order to carry it all out. We need you to say, "To do our part in fulfilling our church's ministries, we will offer our direct presence, and we will offer our money." In other words, we encourage you to move toward full commitment in your prayers, your presence, your gifts and service.

We are a blest District with faithful people, young and old alike. I know that the financial challenges of our parishes will be in your thoughts and actions. In 2015-2016 we ask you to once again meet this challenge. One way of doing just that is by your Church giving or pledging. When you give or pledge to this project the District can plan and with God's help, accomplish our mission to bring others to Christ. The time for thinking is over; it's time to prayerfully consider how your church will respond. I hope to be greeting you at our Annual District Conference on October 19th in Brighton, as we celebrate this year's missional campaign for The Ann Arbor District John Dean Project in Liberia. Come celebrate our ministries together and may God bless us as we seek to do HIS WILL!

In HIS Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Mark E. Spaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint horizontal line.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw
Acts 20:35

P.S. At each Church Conference I'll be asking about your church's response to this missional project.

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
