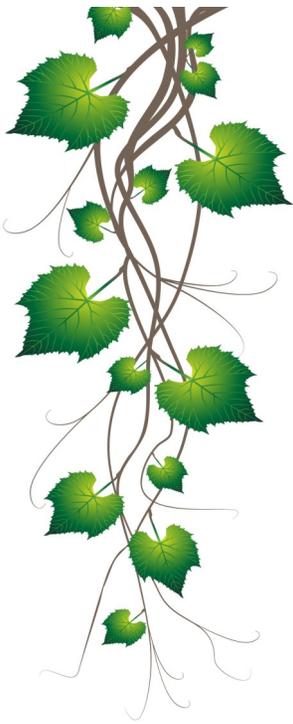


The Arbor Vine

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



September 2017

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 16 @ Novi UMC 41671 W. TEN MILE RD., NOVI

Evening Schedule
6:00 pm — Gather
6:30 pm — Meal
7:15 pm — Meeting

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 is not able to attend.

REGISTRATION: It is required that all attending the meal register and send payment by October 10 using the form below.

1/4 Baked Chicken Dinner _____ @ \$12.00 each Total _____

Vegetable Lasagna Dinner _____ @ \$12.00 each Total _____

Total Amount of Check _____

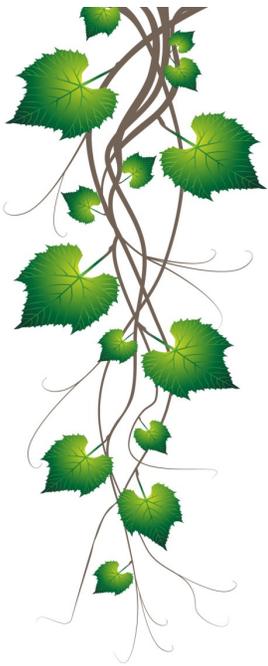
Additional Meal Items: Salad, Rosemary Garlic Redskins, Green Bean/
Carrot Blend, Roll, Sheet Cake, Coffee, Hot/Iced Tea, Water

Number attending meeting only (no meal, no cost) _____

Mail check and this form payable to:
Novi UMC
41671 W. Ten Mile Rd
Novi, MI, 48375
memo line: District Annual Meeting

**Child Care Available
Upon Request**

**Contact:
Deanna Gaffney
248-349-2652**



Spaw's Paws

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

WHERE DOES OUR TREASURE LIE?

A man consulted with his Physician . . . "I have a terrible problem," he said. "Lately I've been carousing and misbehaving. It's been happening more and more frequently and my conscience is beginning to trouble me very deeply. Can you give me something that will help?" The doctor replied, "Oh, I see. You want me to give you something to strengthen your will power." "No," the patient protested, "That's not it. I don't want to strengthen my will power. I want you to give me something to weaken my conscience."

Day-after-day we conduct our life's treasure hunt in one direction or another. And we are responsible for the direction it takes. The question, therefore, is this: Are we more interested in strengthening our will power to walk in God's ways or in weakening our consciences by doing things our way? It is a question of intention and doing both.



Where does our treasure lie? That question is on little Lucy's mind in a Charlie Brown comic strip. She says to Charlie, "I have a lot of questions about life, and I'm not getting any answers. I want some real, honest-to-goodness answers. I don't want opinions. I want answers." To which Charlie Brown replies, "Would true or false be right?"

Where does your treasure lie? Don't intellectualize your answer. True-or-false would not be all right. So, let us try to come up with some honest-to-goodness, straight-from-the-heart answers.

Who or what have you designated as the first priority in your life? What is your pearl of great price? In other words, "What makes your life tick...What keeps you going...What is your life all about?"



Well, church is a great place to figure it all out, or at least be with others who have questions and are seeking honest-to-goodness answers. In God we will find answers and strength, patience, and endurance to keep searching. And in our holy search for God's answers to our life's questions we will find just where our treasure lies. So, GO TO CHURCH!

Go and seek God's guidance in sorting out where your treasure lies. In this new season, let us make church attendance, participation and seeking God's direction a real treasure in our lives.

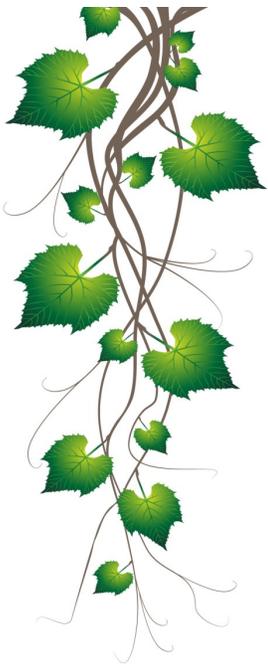
To paraphrase Jesus, "Where our treasure is, there will be your heart also."

Seeking God's Direction Always,

mark

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.





CHURCH CONFERENCES

The Church Conference season begins this month. Please note that information and documents are available on the Ann Arbor District web site found at: aadistrict.org.

Using the information page as a guideline, please send all completed forms to the Ann Arbor District office 10 days prior to your church conference as this will ensure that the presiding elders have the paperwork in an appropriate amount of time for review.

If you have questions, please contact Dar McGee in the district office at 734-663-3939.

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CONNECTION 17 www.c17.michiganumc.org CONNECTION 17



Calling all Youth Groups!

Join us...

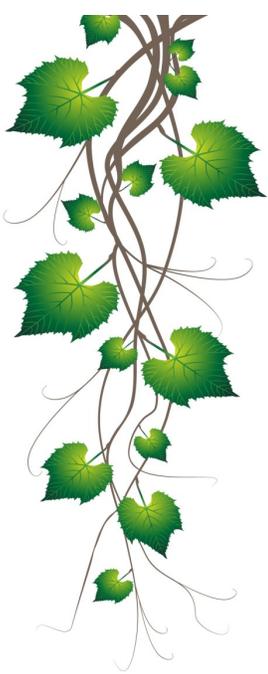
CONNECTION 17

**November 10-11, 2017
Mt. Pleasant First UMC**

**Speakers, Worship,
Workshops, Fellowship,
Food, Fun!**

**Get all the information you need and
register your group**

c17.michiganumc.org



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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2 Jim & Charlotte Simmons
2 Bri Desotell
3 Drew Hart
4 Mary Hoff
4 Ardith Stewardson
4 Lawson & Bev Crane
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9 Doug & Sandy Olsen
9 Marc & Diane Vale
9 Drew & Caroline Hart
10 Edward Weiss Jr
10 David & Susan Hurst
14 Don Weatherup
14 Ed Willobee
14 Brad & Aimee Luck
20 Tonya Arnesen
20 Nate Starkey
21 Bob & Rochelle Miller
22 Julius Nagy
23 Pauline Hart
23 Brian & Monica William
24 Jim Walker
25 Susan Walker
25 Nancy Lynn
27 Tom & Gloria Tarpley
28 Ian & Jessica Boley

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES—BROCHURES MAILED THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5.

Upcoming fall classes will be Saturday, October 21 and Saturday, November 4 at Chelsea: First United Methodist Church.

Classes being offered: Basic, Called to Preach (new class on preaching), Conflict Resolution, and Spiritual Gifts.

Contact your church office for a brochure to register for Lay Servant Classes.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Ann Arbor District UMW members and anyone else that would like to be more informed about the missions of United Methodist Women! The following opportunities are now available :

September 30 UMW District Mtg/Ldrship Training ~ Adrian First UMC

Register: Prior to September 15, \$15. After September 15, \$18.

Ingathering project for the meeting is collection of supplies for Fishes and Loaves. If you are a local unit officer, please take advantage of this training opportunity to help you know more about your responsibilities.

October 16-17 Mission U of the North ~ Gaylord UMC

Registrar: Tiffany Crawford fourdogsofhope@yahoo.com.

October 28 UMW Conference Annual Celebration ~ Brighton First UMC

Registration forms for all events are on the UMW website:

<http://www.detroitconferenceumw.org/>

We would love to have you join us and bring a friend, too.

Questions: Vicky Engelbert, Ann Arbor District UMW President

734-483-4660 greemabert@comcast.net

2017-2020 UMC HANDBOOK AVAILABLE NOW

The 2017-2020 UMC handbook is available, providing detailed overview of United Methodist beliefs, mission, structure and history. This free, go-to resource is helpful for church leaders and new members. Consider adding copies to your church library and gathering spaces, providing them in new member packets and giving them to confirmands. This is a free resource available at this link:

<https://shop.umc.org/product/2441/2017-2020-connection-giving-handbook>

FLASHLIGHT FAITH GOES ON THE ROAD (FROM MI AREA NEWS)

You don't have to go to "Flashlight Faith", it will come to you with the good news about camping.

A free special camping program called "Flashlight Faith" is ready to go on the road thanks to Michigan Area United Methodist Camping. All they need is an invitation and they will come to any congregation bringing activities, stories and campout-inspired food (either a meal or snack depending on the situation). There's something for everyone at camp – from the very young to those in their "golden years." Congregations are asked to find a time where everyone can gather ... a weeknight dinner, a Sunday afternoon picnic, Sunday School or worship time ... that can host a Flashlight Faith presentation.

What's the core message of Flashlight Faith? Camp Changes Lives! It's not just a slogan, it's at the very core of outdoor Christian ministry. Something special takes place when God's people spend time in nature, engaged in Christian fellowship and extending the love of Christ to those around them. Children learn that God loves them and that takes on deeper meaning when living in God's creation. Teens are lifted up and buoyed during turbulent times. They are empowered to live their faith through a strength found by living in close-knit communities with Jesus Christ at the center. Adults find respite, encouragement and peace in the quiet of Michigan's United Methodist camps, campgrounds and retreats. Schedule by emailing info@umcamping.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
