



April 2018

THE FOCUS

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Planting the Seed

Lately, I have been hearing people talk about gardens. There is something about the warm spring days following a cold and dreary winter that urges many to dig up the earth and start planting those flowers and vegetables. We are tempted to plant them as soon as we can, sometimes even before the threat of frost is past!

As Christians, we should be just as eager to plant the seed of God's gospel. The soil must be prepared by our acts of kindness and love toward those around us. But preparing the soil is not enough. We need to plant the seed. It takes words as well as actions. It can be the simple telling of how God has blessed you, or an invitation to come worship with you on Sunday. Then the garden must be lovingly tended if the seed is to mature and produce fruit.

As you plant your gardens, or listen to others tell of their gardens, check out **Luke 8**, where Jesus tells the parable of the sower. He has called us to be his gardeners – no green thumb required!

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”

Luke 8: 15

Pastor Colleen

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Church Council extends its thanks to the members of FUMC who volunteered their time to spruce up our surroundings. On April 21, paper trash was removed, the flower beds tended and pruned, the ivy cut back, and weeds sprayed. Check out our long-neglected alley entrance. When some fourteen people volunteer two hours on a Saturday morning, the results are **AWESOME.!**

HIGHLIGHTS of the APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. The gutters and yard at the Parsonage will be cleaned soon.
2. There is a major leak at the Annex due to the water turned off by the Crossing. Sprinkler system will be looked at and insurance will be called.
3. We are getting quotes to have the trees in the back yard of the parsonage to be trimmed.
4. Pastor Colleen was very pleased with our Easter celebration.
5. Joe and Linda Simpson were received into membership and Joe was baptized.
6. We will confirm Rosaleigh and Allison Harshman on May 20.
7. We will be honoring our graduates (Lili and Bibi Puckett) on May 20 as well.
8. We are looking at having the Brass Notes from the Mississinewa Valley Band to worship with us in the future.

Full report of the March meeting is on the bulletin board in the church office hallway.



**2018 RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE DONUTS**

May—Koinonia Ckass
June—J.O.Y. Class

VERDA SMAIL SCHOLARSHIP - The United Methodist Women's Scholarship Committee is now taking applications for the **Verda Smail Scholarship** (Women only). You qualify if: you are officially on record as a member of First UMC; you are a first-time recipient and you will be attending a college or accredited school of higher learning from which you will earn a degree. **All** applicants must pick up an application form in the **church office** and return it to the **church office** no later than **May 1st**

SPRING WORK DAYS

Inside Work Day
Saturday— May 12, 2018— 10 AM—12 Noon
Calling all able bodied FUMC men!
*Air Conditioners must be installed into windows.
Bring gloves or whatever will aid in filling this task.

**THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS
TO STEP UP FOR FUMC.**

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS—JOE & LINDA SIMPSON - Joe, farmed all of his life & worked at Chrysler for 41 years before retiring. Linda was a staff accountant at a CPA firm in New Albany for 36 years. Joe has two daughters & Linda has two Sons, they have 7 grandchildren and 1 great grand child due in July.



Church Spending Plan as of 2018			
Monthly	March	Year to Date	
Income	\$18,317.00	Income	\$43,122.11
Expense	\$16,026.09	Expense	\$50,640.93

NEW OFFICE HOURS
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Closed 12 Noon-1:00 PM

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 4 | Cathy Swathwood | 12 | Belva Pickerel |
| 5 | Cathy Lane | 16 | Dee Aguilar |
| 6 | Liz Johnson | 22 | Kay Dougherty |
| 6 | Erika Devine | 23 | Mickey Bournique |
| 7 | Sue McVicker | 28 | Marjorie McClure |
| 9 | Linda Powell | | |



ANNIVERSARY

5/17 Ron & Barb Piper



WOMEN'S CELEBRATION DINNER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2017

6:00 P.M.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(624 S. Adams St., Marion)

MEAL

Baked Potato Bar
(prepared by the Koinonia Class)

PROGRAM

Linda Wilk

Women's Shelter

also

Ann Zobrosky & Friends

Adults: \$8.00

Children 5-12: \$4.00

Children Under 5: Free

Please pay at the door.



First United Methodist Church
624 S. Adams St.
Marion, IN 46953

MAY 2017

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

***Making disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the
world.***

THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE
May 16, 2018

H O P E

Discovering it
Living it
Sharing it

PASTOR—Rev. Colleen Harden

Home: 765-662-2414

Email address: colleen.harden@inumc.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT— Rita Forsythe

ORGANIST— Susan Seacott

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR— Donna Wiley

CHURCH PHONE — 765-664-5177

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SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY SCHOOL— 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP— 10:45 A.M.