



June 2018

THE FOCUS

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Our God is Faithful

One of the many things I love about the Body of Christ is that every member has a purpose and all are important. It takes all of us working together to be healthy, whole and functioning at our best. It is also key to remember that Christ is the head – not the pastor, not the trustees, not the worship leader, not the finance chair, nor any of the other church positions *even though they are each vital to the ministry of the church*. Christ, only and always, is the head of the Church. No matter how the body changes, its identity and mission remain constant. During times of transition, that is an essential truth to claim.

For a body to remain healthy, change is often necessary. Life is not static and when there is no change, death occurs. In the three years I have been blessed to be pastor here at Marion First UMC, I have changed. My life has been enriched with your love. You have nurtured my growth as a pastor. We have shared precious life moments together: celebrations of birth, baptisms, anniversaries, birthdays, community events, sickness and death. We have worked side by side in reaching out with the gospel and marveled at the Lord's grace. Those laughter, tears and memories are ours to keep even though God has called me to another congregation.

Thank you for your care of me these past three years and for your continued prayers and best wishes as I go to Logansport Main Street UMC. It has been a privilege to be your pastor. I know that Pastor Jason, his wife Christine, and their daughters Grace, Amelia and Cecelia Stanley will be equally blessed by your love.

God's Richest Blessings on You!

Pastor Colleen

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6

MEET OUR NEW PASTOR AND HIS FAMILY – As of July 8, 2018 Jason and Christine Stanley and three girls (ages 5, 3 and 10 months) will become our new pastoral family. Jason will be half time. He will be splitting his time with another church in our area. He is a graduate of IWU and Wesley Seminary. He just earned a Masters of Divinity from Duke University. He has pastored several United Methodist Churches. We will be having a carry-in on Sunday, July 8 after the morning service to welcome Pastor Jason and his family to our congregation.

HIGHLIGHTS of the MAY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Pastor Colleen's moving date is June 25th. She will moving to Logansport Main St. UMC.
2. The Neighborhood Association will be meeting on Wednesday, May 16th at the Library.
3. Annual Conference will be June 7-9 in Indianapolis.
4. We are looking into having the holes in the parking filled.
5. The Annex is in need of repairs due to water damage. We are working with the insurance company on getting it repaired. We have a \$1,000 deductible.
6. We will be having Peer's Tree Trimming to trim the trees at the parsonage.
7. The council is looking into getting the window at the parsonage repaired.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to our graduates, Liliana and Bibiana Puckett who graduated Marion High School. We would like congratulate our confirmands, Allison and Rosaleigh Harshman and welcoming them as our newest members. A carry-in dinner was held for both our graduates and confirmands after the morning service of Sunday, May 20th.

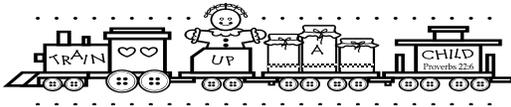


2018 RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE DONUTS

June—J.O.Y. Class

July—Koinonia Ckass



Preschool Postings

This year ended on the 17th with a Graduation program. We had a nice group show up to encourage the preschoolers on. There was between 20 and 30 people there to enjoy the children singing and the photos of them through out the year. The children did a great job. Pictures will be posted on the web-site and Facebook later on. One of the parents put some up and they were great. I enjoyed this year even though the boys did push my buttons and they started asking me at the end of the year if they were. Jeremiah is quick to figure those things out, he looked up at me one day and asked if Eli was pushing my buttons. Of course he was not. There were days that seemed like there were 20 kids down there but in the end we had a blast.

The last week we had Circus days and camping days. With the help of my family, I made a little circus big top and a tent for them to play in. The children enjoyed playing in the tents. Miss Arrington, my aide for the end of the year, even crawled in the tent and they made shadow puppets. We also took a hike down a couple of blocks to 4th street and back up Washington street. We stopped and talked to Dawn Darga who was out planting some flowers in front of her business. Dawn told the kids that her little boy used to come to preschool. That's been a few years ago.

We are starting to enroll for the upcoming school year. Please keep us in your prayers and talk us up.

NEW SERVICE TIMES STARTING July 8

9:15 AM Morning Worship Service

10:30 AM Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS

RECEPTION - There will be a reception for Rev. Michelle Cobb, North Central District Conference Superintendent, on Sun., June 10 from 3-5 p.m. at St. Luke's UMC, 700 E. Southway Blvd., Kokomo, to thank her for her ministry to the District as she starts a new ministry on July 1. All persons are welcome to attend.

INFORMATION – Angel Rea will become an ordained elder this year at Annual Conference. Please congratulate Angel in her achievement in pursuing God's call. (1195 Johnson Fork Rd, West Harrison, IN 47060)

FAREWELL RECEPTION – There will be a Farewell Reception for Pastor Colleen after the morning worship service on Sunday, June 10th. We will have a box available for cards and gifts. Come and wish her well as she moves to Logansport, Indiana and becomes the pastor of Main Street United Methodist Church.

Church Spending Plan as of 2018

Monthly	April	Year to Date	
Income	\$15,000.15	Income	\$58,122.26
Expense	\$17,399.54	Expense	\$67,908.66

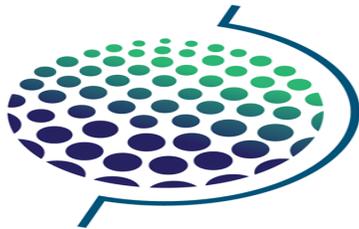
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3	Dillon Hamilton	16	Carolyn Baldwin
3	Jim Harris	18	Anne Gottschalk
6	Amanda Varner	20	Harrison Varner
6	Chuck McNeely	21	Susan Morrow
7	Gene McNeely	22	Shirley Thomas Garlati
10	Bonnie Lou Gamson	22	Susan Seacott
12	June Meyer	25	Carolyn James
13	Mike Worthy		



JUNE ANNIVERSARY

18	Frank & Cheryl Gulley
21	Bill & Sally Varner
22	Matt & Jennifer Varner
23	Chuck & Gene McNeely
26	Bob & Cathy Swathwood
30	Ron & Rita Forsythe



See All The People

Matthew 9:35-38

2018 Indiana Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church



The 2018 Annual Conference of the United Methodist Churches of Indiana will be in session Thursday, June 7 to Saturday, June 9 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. This year's theme is **See All the People** based on the scripture passage:

Jesus traveled among all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest." (Matthew 9:35-39 - Common English Bible)

When: Thursday, June 7, 2018 to Saturday, June 9, 2018

Where: Indiana Convention Center, 100 S Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, IN

Steve Sharon will be our delegate to Annual Conference this year.

RETIREMENT- Rev. David Byrum will be retiring at the end of the conference year. If you would like to acknowledge his retirement. You may send a card to Rev. David Byrum, P.O. Box 2464, Muncie, IN 47307.



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

JUNE 2017

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE
June 20, 2018

H O P E

Discovering it
Living it
Sharing it

PASTOR—Rev. Colleen Harden

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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.