



THE FOCUS

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

"A Halloween Reflection"

As we enter October, most of us are preparing for Halloween. We have a Trunk or Treat coming up, and many families celebrate the holiday by giving out candy, decorating their house, or even dressing up as a family together. Much of the celebration focuses around death, causing some Christians to shun the holiday as "demonic."

For much of the Church's history, however, Christians were the ones graphically depicting scenes of death as part of their celebrations. While this has always included depictions of Jesus' crucifixion, there are many other stories that were celebrated. These stories of Christian martyrs dying for their faith were central to any Christian celebration. The reason St. Valentine's Day is February 14 and St. Patrick's Day is March 17 is because those Christian saints died on those days. Christians were so captivated by these deaths of saints that several works were written about these stories, most notably "Foxe's Christian Martyrs of the World."

While this seems strange for us Christians today, there is a significant reason Christians have long celebrated the death of saints. As Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15, "Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." As followers of Christ, we have a victory over death. This is what the stories of those Christians who give their lives teach us; death is not something to be feared by Christians, because Jesus won the victory over death.

As you celebrate Halloween this year and see all of the symbols of death around you, take the time to remember how Jesus won the victory over death for us. And, if you are desperately in need of ideas for Halloween, consider depicting a martyr story.

2018 CHARGE CONFERENCE

Charge Conference this year will be on Sunday, November 4 at Kokomo St. Luke's UMC (700 E Southway Blvd) from 6:7-30 PM

HIGHLIGHTS of the SEPTEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Charge conference is set for November 4 at Kokomo St Luke's UMC for 6:00 PM.
2. Trustees have been working on a lot of projects around the church. Trees at Washington St entrance have be cut down. Barry, owner of Busy Bee had them cut down for us. The parking lot is being re-sealed. The boiler is being inspected and cleaned for use.
3. Work Day has been set for Saturday, October 6 at 10 AM.
4. Shepherd Program is being planned. The program will be in full swing soon.
5. Trunk or Treat will be on Wednesday, October 31st from 5—8 PM.
6. Pastor Jason new office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursday from 8-11 AM.
7. Talk Back sessions will begin on Tuesdays at 10 AM (First Church) and 5:30 PM (Christland UMC). Pastor Jason will be leading these sessions and will be about the Sunday morning sermons.
8. 5th Sunday Mission Offering will go to World Communion Offering through the conference.

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



SHOE DRIVE - The FUMC Shoe Distribution will be on Saturday, October 13, in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30—11:30 AM. We will be providing shoes for the preschool thru 6th grade. This is an outreach program of our church which needs prayers, shoes/monetary donations and workers. Oh, yes and socks. Tennis shoes only! No sandals, crocs or dress shoes. If you have any questions or want to sign up to help, talk to Joyce Rinker or the church office.



2018 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE DONUTS

October—J.O.Y. Class
November—Koinonia Class



CHICKEN NOODLE DINNER

OCTOBER 20

4:00 – 7:00 PM

Tickets are: Adults \$8.00

Children 5-12 \$4.00, 4 and under free

Dessert by Donation

If you can help in any way, please talk to

Bonnie Lou Gamson.



TRUNK OR TREAT - We are thinking about having Trunk or Treat this year. If you would like to participate in Trunk or Treat by having a car and/or provide candy. Please let the church office know. Thank you for helping us to reach out to our neighborhood.

Church Spending Plan as of 2018

Monthly	August		Year to Date
Income	\$21,062.00	Income	\$117,137.48
Expense	\$9,830.36	Expense	\$123,872.96

OCTOBER'S BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 4 | Becky Beams | 19 | Rex Lane |
| 4 | Tom Holloway, Jr. | 23 | Allison Harshman |
| 4 | Kraig Piper | 23 | Rosaleigh Harshman |
| 6 | Betty Guy | 23 | Rita Forsythe |
| 13 | Rita Holloway | 25 | Jeanne Michos |
| 15 | Susann Flynn | 27 | Sue Wagaman |
| 16 | Tom Holloway | 28 | Philip Worthy |
| 18 | Nancy Conelley | 29 | Pierre Fisher |



ANNIVERSARIES

14 Richard & Marsha Pierce

26 Scott & Sue Morrow

THANK YOU! The Sunday school department wishes to thank the many who helped make Rally Day a success – our pastor, our teachers, our parents and our willing helpers who decorated, set up and cleaned up for our luncheon. Each of you has new jewels in your crown. Thank you.



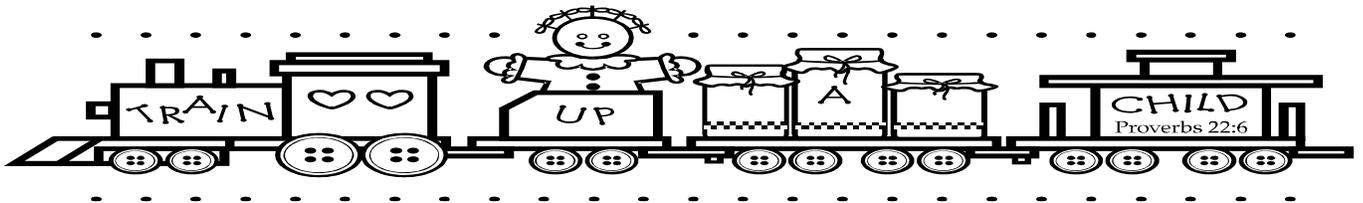
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2018

The Time is near to make us cheer!

Dates to remember:

- Now to November 4—pack a shoebox or donate items for children to pack (boxes are available in the Fellowship Hall)
- November 4—All donations are due. Children will pack shoeboxes during Sunday School.
- November 7—Last day to bring in filled shoeboxes.
- November 11—Blessing of the shoeboxes during the Children's time.

Thank you for making some child's day a little brighter!



Preschool Postings

We're off to a good start, this year. We have six children enrolled and they are not all boys. It is split in half three girls and three boys that hasn't happened in quite a while. Two of the children attend all five days, two come for three days, one comes for two days and for now one comes one day. We had a few upsets the first couple of days but nothing big just a few tears for mom's benefit. If you haven't already, check out the first day of preschool pictures I posted on Facebook. Megan and I made a cute sign for the children so it isn't quite the first day but the pictures are really cute. If you aren't a friend of mine (Donna Wiley) search me out and then look at the preschool page. Like it and you can see the pictures and video of the children throughout the year. My goal is to post pictures more often. The more you like and share pictures, the more we get out the preschool's name.

Three-year-old Waylon seems to be having a little trouble with my name. Last year he managed Miss Donna but this year it seems to have changed to "Miss Donald." At least he doesn't call me teacher or hey you.

I often put a Mr. or Miss in front on the children's name just to show them they are important to me. Landyn, 4 years old, and Ameliah, 3 years old, have taken it to a new level. Landyn is calling everyone Mr. or Miss especially the girls, his favorite friends. Ameliah went home and told her dad, Pastor Jason, that she had a new teacher, "Mr. Landyn." Pastor Jason said he had to think about it and remembered Landyn as a student and asked if she didn't mean a friend. Of course Ameliah insisted that Landyn was a teacher, although he is four, he is very helpful and likes to help the other children with learning games.



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

October 2018

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE
October 17, 2018

H O P E

*Discovering it
Living it
Sharing it*

PASTOR—Jason Stanley
503 E Stephenson St.
Marion, IN 46952
(765) 438-8107

Email address: jason.stanley@inumc.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT— Rita Forsythe

ORGANIST— Susan Seacott

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR— Donna Wiley

CHURCH PHONE — 765-664-5177

Email: info@marionumc.org

www.marionumc.org

SERVICE TIMES

MORNING WORSHIP— 9:15 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL— 10:30 A.M.