



# THE FOCUS

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

## Lenten Reflection

Isaiah 6 is a very well known passage of Scripture. In this text, Isaiah enters the Temple and has a spectacular vision of God. Along with the vision of God, the passage is remembered primarily for the call that God gives, and Isaiah's response. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me (Isaiah 6:8)!'"

While this is the part of the text we often remember most, I want to draw our attention to what comes immediately before this. After seeing this incredible image of God, Isaiah's first response is to recognize his sinfulness. "And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts (v. 5)!'" The response in the Temple to this confession is the same as what we practice at church: he is pardoned. "The seraph touched my mouth with [the coal] and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out (v. 7).'"

As we enter the season of Lent, I think we are invited to have this same experience. Lent is a season of confession, a season when we prepare ourselves for Easter by examining ourselves, confessing our sins, and seeking to become more like Jesus in the process. I think this text from Isaiah points out that it is through our encounters with God that we come to understand our sinfulness, truly confess them, receive our true pardon, and are ultimately changed. So as we go through the season of Lent, let us draw near to God. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7)."

*Pastor Jason Stanley*

### SECURING THE DOORS—WHY?

FUMC church council recently voted to secure the Adams Street and 7th Street doors at 9:30 A.M. on Sunday. An attendant will remain at the 7th Street door throughout the church service to admit remaining late-comers.

Anyone arriving late for Sunday School should ring the doorbell at the 7th Street door. Someone from the inside may be able to "buzz you in."

We are seeking a secure situation for children in our nursery which is located very near the 7th St. door. In addition, the remote location of our sanctuary does not permit any forewarning of danger.

We ask you and thank you for your cooperation in this effort to keep our members safe.

**HIGHLIGHTS of the FEBRUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:**

1. The Annex building is almost complete except for replacing ceiling tiles and a section of the carpet. J G Bowers has been contacted to finish the work.
2. Discussion was took place about replacing the gutters at the parsonage. Repairs were done in the fall, but the guttering is old.
3. Securing the doors after the morning service has started. It was voted on passed with one no vote.
4. Change for Missions was brought up at the meeting A list of organizations and ministries were decided on. Instead of Operation Christmas Child the October mission’s offering will go for Trunk or Treat.

**CHURCH COUNCIL DID NOT MEET IN JANUARY DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

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



**2019**

**RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE DONUTS**

March — Koinonia Class  
April — J.O.Y. Class

**Church Spending Plan as of 2019**

Monthly	January	Year to Date	
Income	\$9,966.01	Income	\$9,966.01
Expense	\$15,987.05	Expense	\$15,987.05



**Preschool Postings**

It never ceases to amaze me how fast time goes by. I can’t believe that six months have passed by and it’s time to start thinking about next year. We will start enrolling for the 2019-2020 in early April. Help us out by talking about us and by liking FUMC Preschool on Facebook. The more our name gets out - the better for us.

We have had a successful Concannon’s popcorn fundraiser this month. We made around \$200 this time. We are planning on an Applebee’s Dine to Donate Fundraiser on Thursday, March 21. More information will be coming soon.

The children have enjoyed going to the Library again as in between the snow and rain showers we managed a visit. They love listening to the stories and watching a movie on the wall. They are also enjoying hearing The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe with Pastor Jason. They are really getting into the story now that it is to the exciting part where the witch and Aslan have met and know that the witch has something up her sleeve. Sometime I don’t feel like they’re listening but one of them usually makes a remark about the story that shows me they do listen. That happens a lot I don’t think they pay attention to me and the next thing I know they are repeating the same thing to one another.

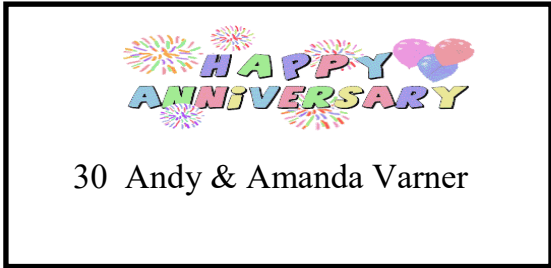
When Philip wears boots, he puts on a pair of slippers that he keeps in his cubby when he gets to school. The other day, Rhyan sat down in her cubby and said, “me brought slippers like Philip and me need to change”. They get a kick out of Philip’s dinosaur feet slippers.

Sometimes when I’m tired I think about retirement but all it takes is the little things the kids say and do to remind me why I do what I do. Things like Alice saying my name and Philip saying my name all the way down the hall in a way I can understand, Rhyan saying she misses me when she doesn’t come to school, Ameliah telling me I’m her best friend (especially when she usually says I’m not her friend to tease me) and Waylon and Landyn just have a way about them that makes you want to smile. It all makes it worth the time and effort. Thank you all for the opportunity to be a part of the preschool.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



1	Bill Harris	15	Carolyn Ellis
1	Rick Harris	15	Lauren Morrow
2	Mary Emrick	22	Matt Varner
2	Nancy Worthy	22	Donna Wiley
3	Robert Swathwood	23	Kathy Boxell
4	Linda Simpson	27	Wilma Brookshire
6	Phyllis Springer	28	Laura Kistler
9	Steve Sharon	28	Janet Brauchla
13	Natice Miller	29	Barbara Piper
14	Peg York		



### 2019 Church Council Members

Pastor Jason Stanley  
 Steve Sharon Chairman/co-lay leader  
 Sidenia Stace Co-lay leader  
 Carroll DeVries SPRT chair  
 Jim Dougherty Trustee chair  
 Kathy Boxell Financial chair  
 Sue Bratton Treasurer  
 Kraig Piper  
 Phyllis Springer  
 Sally Varner  
 Jeanne Michos  
 Shawn Swathwood  
 Terry Ivey  
 Tom Holloway\*  
 Rex Lane\*  
 Joe Simpson\*

\*We welcome our newest members to the council

**GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATIONAL MEETING** - Next Sunday, March 3 at 6 PM, we have the privilege of welcoming Daiman Mainsa, one of the delegates to General Conference from Zambia. He will be able to answer questions regarding the process and decision made at the General Conference in St. Louis. If you would like to be able to learn more about the decision that will have been made, this will be an excellent opportunity.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** - Will be at Sunnycrest UMC on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00 PM. This service will include prayer, a reflection on drawing nearer to God during the Lenten season, and the imposition of ashes. We hope that you will join us.

### Marion Philharmonic Orchestra

#### Chamber Concert Evening of Serenades

WHEN: Saturday, March 30, 2019, 7:30 PM  
 WHERE: First United Methodist Church, Marion

We will be hosting this event. Tickets are available through MPO Call—(765) 662-0012 or E-mail at [mpos.marion@gmail.com](mailto:mpos.marion@gmail.com),

**LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE** - We will be hosting a Taize prayer service every Wednesday of Lent. This will be a time to rest and meditate in God's presence. The services will be at 1PM at Christland, and 6 PM at First.



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

**March 2019**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

**THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE**  
March 20, 2019

**H O P E**

*Discovering it*  
*Living it*  
*Sharing it*

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Email: [info@marionumc.org](mailto:info@marionumc.org)

[www.marionumc.org](http://www.marionumc.org)

**SERVICE TIMES**

MORNING WORSHIP— 9:15 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL— 10:30 A.M.