



May 2019

THE FOCUS

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

The Life-Saving Station

I have heard this illustration of the church given many different times by many different people. I pray that we can find God's message for those of us who worship in Marion, Indiana.

On the coast near a lighthouse was what used to be called a Life-Saving Station. The coast was a dangerous place for boats to pass, with many rocks hidden underwater. While the lighthouse would provide a warning, many boats still found the rocks. This was when the Life-Saving Station came to action. The members would go out into the water and rescue those whose ship was caught by the rocks. Many lives were saved by the work of the Life-Saving Station.

Because of the incredible work done by these groups, many people were excited to join their organizations. While some were inspired to continue in the work, others were just interested in helping around the station. They figured, if these people did such important work, they should have a building that let everyone know how great they were. They should have the comforts they would earn. Soon, the Life-Saving Station looked more like a club than a group dedicated to saving lives, but few noticed the change. After all, there were still those who were saving lives, and the group was becoming more and more popular.

Eventually, however, some problems immersed. The people saved by the Life-Saving Station would cause a mess in the newer, nicer building. And the people doing the work weren't all that clean themselves. Money and time was moved away from saving lives, and focused on fun activities for those fans of the Life-Saving Station. After all, the work was hard and dangerous, and everything seemed just fine. Conflicts began occurring, some about the nature of the group itself, but most about the events and the building. Eventually, those concerned in the original work of the Life-Saving Station moved a bit down the coast and started another station. This repeated itself time and time again.

Today, if you find that coast, you will see many of these Life-Saving Stations. Some have already closed their doors, and all would argue that they are really what a Life-Saving Station is supposed to be. Few, however, are still continuing in the original work of saving lives at sea. Few even recognize the need, although the need has not changed. Ships still crash onto the rocks of the coast. Now, however, there are few people who will try to save them.

Pastor Jason Stanley

HIGHLIGHTS of the APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Several Trustees items have been taken care of: Church yard mowing for this year, gutters to be repaired at the parsonage, water fountain on third floor fixed, the ladies restroom and small restroom by the kitchen toilet repaired, lights to be changed to LED bulbs in the sanctuary.
2. Organ has some water damage due to a leak. New motors for opening and closing panels need replaced.
3. A new CD player has been ordered for the sanctuary that will allow us to play cd's easier.
4. A thank was given to all volunteers that helped out at the MPO concert on March 30th.
5. The AA Group that meets in the church on Wednesdays have asked if they could hold a meeting on Friday nights, also.

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

Church Spending Plan as of 2019

Monthly	March	Year to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$13,337.10	Income	\$40,115.25
Expense	\$11,312.22	Expense	\$42,922.44



**2019
RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE DONUTS**

May — Koinonia Class
June — J.O.Y. Class



Preschool Postings

Once again, the year has disappeared. We have only four weeks left in the school year. So, we are starting the enrollment process for next year. Please keep us in your prayers as we start planning for next year. If you know of a family looking for a preschool, please let them know about us. We could also use some talk. People listen to the little stories that you can repeat after reading about them in the Focus and sometimes they enjoy them. Like the Art Linkletter show said, "Kids say the Darndest Things" and most of the time they are funny.

To celebrate Easter in a fun way, Miss Arrington made "Peeps" play dough with the kids. They were so excited until it came time to knead the dough. Philp got some on his hands and that was the end of that. He wouldn't even eat the marshmallow off his hands. He made the funniest face. The rest of them at least ate the dough. Ameliah even asked for more. Our table and the kids were a little messy with cornstarch residue afterwards. They certainly enjoyed making the dough and then eating it. For once they were allowed to eat the play dough.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Applebee's Dine to Donate in March. We made \$49 on it. Not too bad for a delicious dinner out. The popcorn fundraiser we did in February earned us \$186.

We also want to thank Dee Aguilar for all the stickers she gives us. Dee cuts off the pictures from some return address labels and brings them into me. The children love the stickers. Thank you Dee.

Thank you for all the support you have given us with our fundraisers and for the prayers for us through out the year. Please continue to help FUMC Preschool in any way you can.

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 | | |
| 9 | Linda Powell | | |



MISSING CLIPBOARDS - Have you seen our missing clipboards? We started last July with 10 clipboards designed for use by young children during the worship service. Now we're down to four! Each clip-

board holds drawing paper, colored pencils in a pencil bag, stickers, and sometimes a special coloring sheet or puzzle, so its cost about \$5 to put together. If you've seen a clipboard rattling around the church or Sunday School rooms, please bring it back to the back of the sanctuary. Thanks!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 17 | Ron & Barbara Piper |
| 19 | Pastor Jason & Christine Stanley |

Happy
Mother's
Day!

BAKE
SALE

It's the Greatest Youth Fellowship Bake Sale Ever! Sunday, April 28th in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 AM - Noon. Everybody needs dessert, right? Come enjoy some sweet treats expertly prepared by our own youth fellowship members and the people that love them. All proceeds will be used to support youth programming.



UMW NOODLES

We have noodles for sale!
Just stop by the church office.
They are \$3.50 a bag.



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

May 2019

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE
May 15, 2019

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.

YOUTH GROUP—6:00 P.M.