



July 2019

THE FOCUS

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

“Missional”

What does it mean to be “missional”? The Indiana Conference has set a goal for all of us churches to be “missional” by 2020, but first we must ask what that means. Sometimes we point to things like food pantries, backpack programs, and other programming as being “missional.” At other times, we look at what churches spend money on, whether their own work or sending money to missionaries and organizations. When we talk about our churches being “missional,” this is often the way we use the word, whether we believe this is what it should mean or not.

The United Methodist Church’s *Book of Discipline* defines the mission of the Church as “mak[ing] disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (§120).” This comes from the Great Commission Jesus gives in Matthew 28, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Few people would disagree that this is the purpose, or mission, of the church, but we have to take the next step and ask how a church is supposed to do this. This “how” question will bring us to what it means to be “missional.”

In Acts 8, we read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. There is not a lot that happens in the story; Philip appears, comes across the eunuch reading from Isaiah, Philip and the eunuch have a conversation, and the eunuch accepts Jesus. There is no service given or action performed. What does happen is the beginning of a relationship. This is what we find in all of the works of the early church. Whether miracles were being performed or sermons were being preached, the people were invited into the Church, which was an invitation to human relationships which would strengthen and enable their relationship with God.

I believe that relationships are the key piece to finding a definition for “being missional” that we have often missed. So let me present a definition of the word “missional” to you that we can use as we pursue this goal of the conference: to be missional is to build relationships that make disciples of Jesus and transform the world.

Pastor Jason Stanley

HIGHLIGHTS of the JUNE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. We will be having a blood drive October 5th when the open-air market is held, if we have at least 35 people to donate blood.
2. The trustees are working on several projects: downspouts, leaks, organ.
3. The parsonage will be available for rent again. The renters are moving out the end of June.
4. Steve Sharon will be setting a date to meet with the Shepherds on the Shepherd Program.
5. The Adams St. awning has been repaired and will be up July 1.
6. Talk about lighting the flag pole was discussed. They will be getting estimates for the project.

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

Church Spending Plan as of 2019

Monthly	May	Year to Date	
Income	\$11,346.75	Income	\$67,529.40
Expense	\$10,857.76	Expense	\$68,164.96



2019 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE DONUTS

July — Koinonia Class

August — J.O.Y.



OPEN-AIR MARKET

ReNewed Boutique and Thrift is organizing an Open-Air Market for the First Saturday of every month. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce ourselves to more people in our community and build relationships. We would like to have one booth set up for inviting people to church. At this booth, we will also pass out free water or popcorn. We would also like to have a second booth for selling our noodles. If you would be interested in helping, please let me know.
– Pastor Jason

FCJ COMMITTEE

I think all of us can say that Fruitful Congregations has certainly been a “journey” for us at First. I am hoping to recreate our action plan based on everything that the committees submitted and the original action plan we received. While some of our action steps will need to go before the administrative board because they require money and/or extended use of the facilities, I am hoping that several of the action steps we decide on can begin immediately after the meeting. If you are at all interested in helping us begin taking action by joining the committee, please let me know. – Pastor Jason

SUMMER FUN! – Starting July 10 and 11

After my vacation, I realized the truth in the old adage, “All work and no play makes Jason a dull boy.” So, in place of our study, we are going to have a weekly board game time! Wednesday afternoons at 1 PM at Christland, and Thursday nights at 6:30 PM, we will be spending some time having fun. For those afraid that our church is, “backsliding,” don’t worry! All of this is leading up to us beginning a study by John Ortberg entitled, “When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box.” But for now, let’s enjoy a couple months of fun.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ron Piper
- 1 Grace Stanley
- 2 Jane Hiatt-Weesner
- 4 Ruth Gray
- 6 Hubert Tucker
- 6 Andy Varner
- 6 Marilyn Holland
- 9 Barbara Pack
- 10 Drew Morrow
- 12 Lili Puckett
- 12 Bibi Puckett
- 13 Kacie Devine
- 16 Emily Clark
- 17 Bob Beams
- 17 Asa Harshman
- 23 Kathy Carder
- 24 Betty Benjamin

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Scott Morrow | 16 Jim Fletcher |
| 1 Ameliah Stanley | 16 Viola Curtis |
| 2 Nicky Puckett | 18 Betty Fletcher |
| 6 Carroll DeVries | 20 John Boxell |
| 11 Ed McIlwain | 25 Mike McCarty |
| 11 Donna Worthy | 28 William Ivey |
| 12 Heidi Harshman | 29 Pastor Jason Stanley |
| 12 Becky Harris | 31 Cecelia Stanley |
| 16 Duane Johnson | |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

JULY

- 1 Scott & Wanda Overman
- 14 Rob & Donna Wiley
- 15 Terry & Debbie Ivey

AUGUST

- 18 Ralph & Barbara Pack
- 24 Leland & Bonnie Lou Gamson

THANK YOU - We wish to thank Pastor Jason for his heartfelt service and to UMW for their wonderful tasty meal following the funeral. Additionally, to the church family for your prayers, thoughts, cards, and fellowship. We were truly blessed by all. From the family of Ruth Fuller.

THANK YOU! We would like to thank everyone who volunteered to deliver meals to Dee Aguilar. Your will to serve was much appreciated.



UMW NOODLES

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

MISSION OFFERING – We are taking an offering to help the school in Peru that Terrance is working at this summer. Supports may still send or bring in a check this week. Please note in the memo “transformer”. Thank you for supporting the Latin American Children’s Fund. If you are interested in what this organization does you may check out their website: lacfperu.org.



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

July-August 2019

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE
August 21, 2019

H O P E

*Discovering it
Living it
Sharing it*

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ORGANIST— Susan Seacott

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR— Donna Wiley

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SERVICE TIMES

MORNING WORSHIP— 9:15 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL— 10:30 A.M.

YOUTH GROUP—6:00 P.M.