



THE FOCUS

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

The Harvest Is Plentiful

The last few months, I have been talking about becoming a more “missional” church. We defined what “missional” means as “to be missional is to build relationships that make disciples of Jesus and transform the world.” Last month, we talked about how we need to focus on “a long obedience in the same direction,” focusing on being obedient in one area for a long time rather than constantly changing our efforts before we have truly grown. Truly growing in any area doesn’t happen overnight, and God doesn’t expect us to change in an instant. What God does expect is for us to be obedient and to allow our obedience to change us over time.

This can be extremely intimidating, so I wanted to provide some encouragement for you this month. One of the most encouraging things that came from the worship night with reviveINDIANA (I’ll just call them Revive) was a brief testimony given by some of their workers. The team at Revive is composed largely of regular lay church members who have themselves been impacted by the work of Revive. They mentioned that they have been amazed at the fruit of their work in Marion. Every week, they come and walk our streets and offer to pray for people in our community. And every week, at least one person accepts Christ because of the offer for prayer.

While this is amazing, this shouldn’t be surprising. After all, in Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus told his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” “The harvest is plentiful”; people are ready to come to Jesus. This isn’t a roll of the dice, take a chance kind of work. “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” More people, more churches, are needed to bring in the harvest. And that’s what a “missional” church is, a church willing to become a laborer that the Lord sends into the harvest. It’s a big step. But it’s a step that begins with a promise. “The harvest is plentiful.” And some have found that true for Marion here and now. So let’s pray, for ourselves personally, for our churches, for our community, and most importantly, in praise of the Lord of the harvest. After all, it is the Lord of the harvest who blessed us this much. “The harvest is plentiful.” Glory to God!

Pastor Jason Stanley

2019 CHARGE CONFERENCE will be on Sunday, October 27 at Hanfield United Methodist Church from 3:30—5 PM. All are welcome to attend and Church Council members are encouraged to attend.

HIGHLIGHTS of the SEPTEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. The parsonage is getting a makeover, new siding and repairs that are needed.
2. The church is having tuck-pointing done to stop the leaks. Also, the bell tower will be re-roofed after the tuck-pointing is done.
3. The organ has been repaired.
4. A solar light has been placed on the flag pole to light it up at night.
5. The Adams St. awning is repaired and up.
6. Shoe Distribution date has been set for October 12th from 9:30-11:30 A.M.
7. Trunk or Treat was discussed and information will come later.

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

Church Spending Plan as of 2019

Monthly	August	Year to Date	
Income	\$16,780.00	Income	\$114,254.78
Expense	\$9,627.09	Expense	\$101,410.25



2019 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE DONUTS

October — J.O.Y.

November — Koinonia



TRUNK OR TREAT - We are having Trunk or Treat on Thursday October 31st from 5-7 PM. 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.

THANK YOU! We would like to thank everyone that was involved in making Rally Day a success. The meal and table decorations were wonderful.



CHICKEN NOODLE DINNER

OCTOBER 19

4:30 – 7:00 PM

Tickets are: Adults \$9.00

children 5-12 \$5.00, 4 and under free

Dessert by Donation

If you can help in any way, please talk to

Bonnie Lou Gamson.



UMW NOODLES

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

OCTOBER 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 |

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 14 | Richard & Marsha Pierce |
| 26 | Scott & Sue Morrow |



THANK YOU! Dear Family and Friends at 1st Church, I wish to thank all of you for your help when Eddie was so sick. Your love and prayers at his passing and all you have done for me, through my recent gall bladder surgery and my move. My new address is:

21 Deldin Cr. Apt. 1, Greenfield, IN 46140.

After 80 years of being in this church almost every Sunday, I will miss you each week. Even though I attend another church, my heart will be with you each Sunday and I pray for you always. With Heartfelt Love, *Dee Aguilar*



Preschool Postings

We are off and running, on a new school year, at least the kids are. We have six children enrolled so far this year. Four of those children are taking advantage of new venture of extended hours. We extended our hours to run 8:30 to 2:45. We are a little low on enrollment, as always, we could use your help with prayers and talk. Talk is the cheapest form of advertisement we can get. So tell people about the things you read about and see on Facebook.

We went on an impromptu visit to Marion Public Library a couple of weeks ago. The children found the play area and really enjoyed playing with the same toys we have but in a different setting. One of their favorites was a little stuffed dog with a collar and leash. They took turns walking the dog. Cecilia ended up playing with the dog the most.

We also visited the library on "Talk Like a Pirate" Day. The kids had a blast. We made parrots out of paper tubes and feathers. Of course, we made an eye patch to go with the pirate hats from Long John Silvers. There were a couple of games, Ring the Hook and a ball toss into a paper plate pirate. They had an inflatable pirate ship, but Cecilia was afraid of it so only Landyn and Philip had their pictures taken with it. Cecilia kept telling me the pirates were scary. Landyn and Philip did their best to talk her out of being scared, to no avail. Maybe next year. Their favorite thing to say is "Aye Matey".

We have a Wicks Pie fundraiser coming up. We will start taking orders in the next week or so. Keep an eye out for order forms.



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

October 2019

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE
October 16, 2019

H O P E

*Discovering it
Living it
Sharing it*

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ORGANIST— Susan Seacott

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR— Donna Wiley

CHURCH PHONE — 765-664-5177

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SERVICE TIMES

MORNING WORSHIP— 9:15 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL— 10:30 A.M.

YOUTH GROUP—6:00 P.M.