



THE FOCUS

We are sorry for the lateness of the Newsletter. We had technical difficulties with our program, but it is up and running.

JESUS SETS THE STANDARD FOR FELLOWSHIP

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death even death on a cross! Philippians 2: 5-8 (NIV)

When Jesus picked His twelve disciples, He didn't select the best and brightest. In some situations, He seemed to pick the opposite. Remember the time the disciples left the boat untied, and it drifted away? These were career fishermen, for Christ's sake, (pun intended) and they let the boat escape. That's like truckers leaving a truck in gear with the motor running. Then they going in a truck stop for a break.

How about the time Jesus tried to convey an important point, through a simple parable, and they wouldn't get it? He would have to dumb it down. Take the parable of the weeds. He had to explain that the wheat are the righteous people and the weeds are the wicked people.

Or take the time when Jesus was arrested after the Last Supper. He had antagonized the entire Temple Authorities, by denying their status as God's representatives. The Roman Government thought Jesus was trying to formant revolution. A large crown armed with swords and clubs comes to arrest Him. The Temple guards are with them. Backing up the crowd are Roman Legions trained to kill. What does Peter do? He waves his sword around swinging it at High Priest servant's ear. How dumb do you get? If Jesus hadn't restored the ear, and calmed everyone, the disciples would have been slaughtered right then.

Yes, relative to Himself, Jesus was surrounded by impulsive incompetents. How smart was Jesus? Let's say He had His earthly ministry today, and He was invited to compete on "Jeopardy." How would Ken Jennings hold up against Him? Who would ring in first with the answer? The answer to that question, is as easy as Jesus answering any question on Jeopardy. Yet, this same, all-knowing, Son of Man, chose close fellowship with common people.

What if Jesus chose to play basket ball today? He could choose as his team mates four shih Tzu dogs. His team would easily skunk a team of NBA all-stars. Still this same, all powerful Jesus, chose close fellowship with common folk.

In our fellowship, are there persons who set the bar too low? Do their gaps in Bible knowledge get on our nerves? Does their pathetic efforts at singing grate on our nerves? Does their unwillingness to venture out of their comfort zone, grate on us? When our Sunday School teacher does not know Hebrew and Aramaic, are we disappointed?

Sometimes I find myself feeling that my brothers and sisters in Christ don't meet an ideal. I must keep reminding myself that Jesus is all knowing and all powerful. He had fellowship with us fallen people.

Jesus did it without complaining. Therefore, following His example, so must we.

PRAYER: Lord, thank you for setting Yourself as an example for fellowship with others. May we focus on Your mission; not on each other's short comings. Amen

HIGHLIGHTS of the JULY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. There will be a zoom conference about 'Fresh Expression'. More information is below.
2. The Annex exterior has been painted,
3. The parsonage is empty. Our renter was transferred out of state.
4. We still have a leak, which maybe in at the cupola by the bell tower. We are in contact with a masonry company to look into the problem.
5. The second air conditioner in the sanctuary is still in good shape. There will be some work done to the air handler to help with cooling the sanctuary more efficiently.
6. We are looking into signing on with PayPal for online giving through our website.
7. Terrance Volden will be leaving us at the end of July to attend graduate school.
8. The letter on the sign at 7th and Washington Streets needs to be painted.
9. Morning Worship Service will move back to the sanctuary on Sunday, July 19.
10. Church Office hours are back to 8:00 Am –3:00 PM as of July 14.

'FRESH EXPRESSION'

A Fresh Expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of those who are not yet part of any church..

There will be a zoom conference on Tuesday, July 21st from 9:00 AM to Noon at Christland UMC. For more information , please contact Pastor Jason.

Church Spending Plan as of June 2020

Monthly	June	Year to Date	
Income	\$10,769.00	Income	\$83,214.18
Expense	\$11,623.75	Expense	\$78,675.28

SHIRTS!! If you are interested in a FUMC T-shirt, we have some available. They are \$10 each and come in various sizes. Please see Carroll DeVries if you are interested in purchasing a shirt. There are a limited number in the church office, but we will be ordering again.



**There will no Coffee Hour
before the Morning
Service.**

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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



ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

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 | | |



Cathy and Rex Lane delivered plaques to 30 families during our Covid 19 shut down. Cathy made each one of the plaques. Here are a few of the thanks that were sent to the church:

Thank you Cathy and Rex Lane and church family. You brought sunshine to our house in time of uncertainty. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness. God bless you, *Jim and Betty Fletcher*

Dear FUMC Friends, Thank you so much for Scott's plaque—I'll deliver it to him on my next delivery date. It is so sweet of you all to remember him. Also, thank you all for the continuous prayers and good thoughts and wishes - all are greatly appreciated. Thanks again for everything. Love, *Sue and Scott Morrow*

To our Church Family and Cathy and Rex Lane for the nice visit and the note. It made our day.

Willard and Ruth Ann Rust.



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

July/August 2020

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE
August 19, 2020

PASTOR—Jason Stanley
410 N Washington St
Swayzee, IN 46986
(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

H O P E

Receiving Hope

Living Hope

Sharing Hope

SERVICE TIMES

MORNING WORSHIP— 9:15 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL— 10:30 A.M.

YOUTH GROUP— 6:00 P.M.