



# THE FOCUS

## FROM THE PASTOR

### A Note from the Pastor about Reopening

Before I begin discussing reopening, I want to apologize. I know that many of you have been waiting for a few weeks for news about when the church would reopen, and I am sorry that I did not communicate with everyone earlier. I was hoping to get a clearer, more definitive word from Governor Holcombe and Bishop Trimble. After hearing from both of them and our local government, the administrative board realized that we needed to meet, look at the facts and guidelines, and decide for ourselves what we needed to do. All of this delayed our response. While there was nothing definitive to say before now, I am sorry for the lack of communication.

We had a lengthy discussion at our administrative board meeting on Monday, May 11. On the one hand, many of us are wanting to get back together again as soon as possible, and so we were all excited to hear the Governor's words allowing churches to reopen. On the other hand, a number of us were extremely concerned about the safety of meeting together. After much discussion, our board decided that church **WILL NOT MEET IN PERSON AT THIS TIME**. If the situation moves forward the way that the Governor has predicted, we have set a tentative **REOPENING DATE OF JUNE 14** for our first in-person worship service after quarantine. Among the reasons for this decision are guidelines stating that those over 65 or with underlying health conditions are advised to remain at home until June 14; cleaning protocols for meeting together are prohibitively difficult; social distancing protocols would prevent church from happening like normal, and are prohibitively difficult to follow.

With that said, there are some things that we will be doing moving forward to continue connecting and worshipping together. We will be continuing to livestream worship on Sunday at 9:15 AM on our Facebook page. We will also have our prayer conference call on Sunday at 2:15 PM so that we can share prayer concerns in ways that we are unable to do over Facebook. I will also be posting a poll on Facebook, asking for other suggestions to help us better connect through a Facebook or Zoom Bible study. We know that this has been difficult, and so we are trying to find more and better ways to stay connected during this time.

Finally, from the entire board, we would like to thank you for your continued support. We have all been overwhelmed at the positive response our livestream worship services have received. A number of you have continued reaching out to each other in a number of ways, and that has been extremely helpful. We are also grateful for your continued giving during this time. While there has been a decrease in giving, the board is extremely grateful for your dedication in keeping your pledges. Thank you so much for all of your efforts continuing to support God's work through our church during this time. We will continue to do our best to support all of you as well.

God bless you!

*Pastor Jason Stanley*

## HIGHLIGHTS of the APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. The council has canceled all services for April as the request of Bishop Trimble.
2. Trustees are working on getting the leak fixed in the organ pipe chamber. Several ideas are being pursued.
3. We are working on getting the northwest corner of the parking lot cleaned up and the sign redone.

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

### Church Spending Plan as of April 2020

Monthly	April	Year to Date	
Income	\$9,440	Income	\$44,138.40
Expense	\$16,139.47	Expense	\$56,494.20

**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 of shirts in the church office, but we will be ordering again.

### PASTOR JASON'S NEW ADDRESS

Pastor Jason and his family want to let everyone know that they have closed on a house and will be moving at the end of May.

Their new address is 410 N. Washington St., Swayzee, IN 46986.

Pastor Jason wants to emphasize that he IS NOT LEAVING; just moving to a new house."



### 2020 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE DONUTS

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

### SYMPATHY CARDS

If you would like to send sympathy cards to the families who have recently lost loved ones, addresses are below:

Marilyn Holland's Family: C/0 Kathy Boxell, 704 S Lenfesty Ave., Marion, IN 46952

Phyllis Springer's Family: 1009 E Grant St., Marion, IN 46952

Bob Swathwood's Family: 414 N Indiana St., Marion, IN 46952

## 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    |    |                  |



### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                   |    |                 |
|----|-------------------|----|-----------------|
| 3  | Dillon Hamilton   | 12 | June Meyer      |
| 3  | Jim Harris        | 16 | Carolyn Baldwin |
| 6  | Amanda Varner     | 18 | Anne Gottschalk |
| 6  | Chuck McNeely     | 20 | Harrison Varner |
| 7  | Gene McNeely      | 21 | Susan Morrow    |
| 10 | Bonnie Lou Gamson | 22 | Susan Seacott   |
|    |                   | 25 | Carolyn James   |

### JUNE ANNIVERSARY!

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 12 | Jim & Deronda Harris   |
| 18 | Frank & Cheryl Gulley  |
| 21 | Bill & Sally Varner    |
| 22 | Matt & Jennifer Varner |
| 23 | Chuck & Gene McNeely   |
| 30 | Ron & Rita Forsythe    |

Happy  
Father's  
Day! 🧣🧣🧣

**RETIRING** - Rev. Ed Fritz retirement will be celebrated at Annual Conference. Retiring clergy are recognized annually for their years of service. Rev. Ed Fritz is among the clergy retiring this year. In order to let the clergy know how appreciated their service has been, the Conference is collecting pictures, cards, thank you notes, letters, etc. If you would like to show Rev. Fritz your appreciation for his years here, bring these items into the office, and we will get them sent to the Conference.

Happy   
Mother's  
Day



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

May/June 2020

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

**THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE**  
June 17, 2020

**H O P E**

*Receiving Hope*  
*Living Hope*  
*Sharing Hope*

PASTOR—Jason Stanley  
503 E Stephenson St.  
Marion, IN 46952  
(765) 438-8107

Email address: [jason.stanley@inumc.org](mailto:jason.stanley@inumc.org)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT— Rita Forsythe

ORGANIST— Susan Seacott

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR— Donna Wiley

CHURCH PHONE — 765-664-5177

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.

YOUTH GROUP— 6:00 P.M.