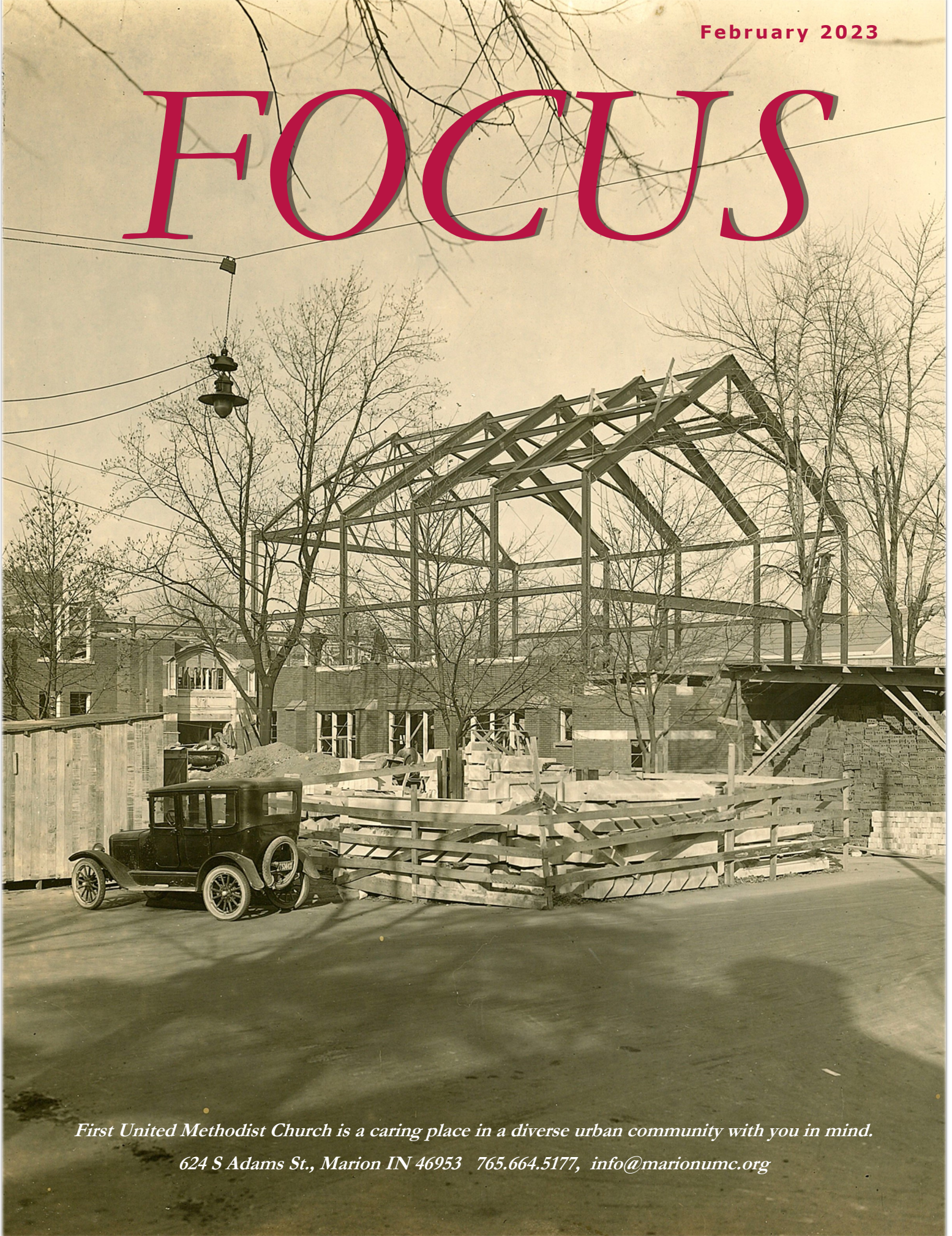


February 2023

# FOCUS



*First United Methodist Church is a caring place in a diverse urban community with you in mind.*

*624 S Adams St., Marion IN 46953 765.664.5177, [info@marionumc.org](mailto:info@marionumc.org)*



624 S Adams St  
 Marion IN 46953  
 765.664.5177

9:15 Sunday Worship  
 10:30 Sunday School



*Inside:*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**First United Methodist Church p. 1**  
     **Front Cover p. 1**  
     **Envision a New Future p. 1**  
         **Table of Contents p. 1**  
     **Birthdays & Anniversaries p. 2**  
     **Legend of St. Valentine p. 2**  
     **Sermon Themes/Scriptures p. 2**  
     **Prayer Concerns & Requests p. 2**  
     **Salvation Army Bell Ringers p. 3**  
     **Marion Walkway of Lights p. 3**  
     **Sunday School Offerings p. 4**  
         **Black History Colors p. 4**  
         **Blast From The Past p. 5-6**  
         **Lent at First Church p. 7**  
         **Centennial Celebrations p. 7**  
     **Council Retreat Follow-up p. 8**  
         **United Women in Faith p. 9**  
     **Give and it shall be Given p. 9**  
         **February Coin Offering p. 9**  
     **Meals on Wheels Drivers p. 9**  
         **February Calendar p. 10**  
         **Masthead p. 10**  
     **Thumbs Up Award p. 11**

*First United Methodist Church of Marion is a caring place in a diverse urban community with you in mind.*

Our predecessor, First Methodist Episcopal Church, was founded in Marion in 1832 and by the 1920s had become The Methodist Church.

In 1969, the Methodist denomination merged with the Evangelical United Brethren denomination and became the United Methodist Church.

“First Methodist Church” is carved in stone over the Adams Street entrance above the canopy. Today, First United Methodist Church of Marion is an affiliate of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**Understand History and Envision a New Future:  
 Centennial Celebration!**

Since 1829, Methodists of this area have been gathering to hear “The Word,” to sing and to pray. At first, four or five pioneer families came together under a giant elm tree where Boots Creek meets the Mississinewa River. The first attempt to construct a church burned to the ground before it was completed. Later, six to eight families met in a cabin and then in the schoolhouse Martin Boots had built, and still later in the county courthouse.

The cabin property belonged to Martin Boots whose family were among the first Methodists in Grant County. The number of Methodists was said to be about ten when Marion was put on the schedule of the circuit-riding ministers.

First Methodist Episcopal Church was located at the corner of Seventh and Washington Streets from 1883 to 1923. Here the membership grew to 1,600. The parsonage had been built in 1876.

The cornerstone for this church was laid July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1882, and the church was built by Philip Patton. To meet the anticipated growth and development of the church family, a new church building was planned, and a lot was purchased at the northwest corner of Adams and Seventh Streets.

Ground was broken in June 1922, and the cornerstone was laid October 22, 1922. The building was finished on December 1, 1923.

The building is intended to be militant to the extent of crying out to the people of Marion, “here is a wonderfully equipped building for your religious and social uses – take advantage of its many facilities.”

2022-2023 is the 100-year anniversary of the current building at Seventh and Adams Streets, and the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation.

Our calling is to serve the surrounding neighborhood, the city of Marion and Grant County. Our location gives us our mission. The Future of FUMC depends on its people reaching the neighborhood. We must create our unique contribution in collaboration with our neighbors in serving our community.

*Front Cover*



Building this five-floor church with a commercial kitchen, multiple classrooms, and a sanctuary to seat 700 was a massive project. It required thousands of bricks and heavy steel beams to support its height and breadth. The now vintage building was ready 100 years ago on December 1, 1923. How many workmen can you find in the photo? Read more on pg. 7.

## St. Valentine

On the 14th of February, we celebrate the feast of St. Valentine. Although this day is a popular event in the secular community, it is important to remember how and why the feast day came to be.

St. Valentine was a Roman priest who lived in the 3rd Century. The ruler at that time, was Emperor Claudius II. He was a man who valued toughness and viewed married men or men with families as weak. He believed single men made better soldiers, so he banned marriage so that he could more effectively recruit single young men into his army.

Despite the Emperor's law, many men still wanted to marry. St Valentine felt so sorry for these men that he risked his life to marry the couples in secret.

When Claudius discovered what Valentine was doing, he sentenced him to death. Legend states that while imprisoned and awaiting execution, St. Valentine even restored the sight of the daughter of his jailor – she experienced light for the very first time through his healing.

The eve before his execution, he wrote the first Valentine, signing a note to the jailer's daughter with these words, "Your Valentine"

St. Valentine died on 14 February. His compassion for young couples in love earned him the title of patron saint of lovers.



## Prayer Concerns

**Please call the office at (765) 664-5177**

- Anne Gottschalk has been transitioned to hospice care in Carmel.
- Mike Felver, friend of Susie Flynn, recovery from heart stent.
- Linda Simpson's granddaughter, Lucia Tomlinson
- Trixie, friend of Susie Flynn, broken ankle, in rehab
- Diane Fry, back injury
- Missy (Sharon) Wilkinson
- Jim and Betty Fletcher
- Susie Seacott
- Willard and Ruth Ann Rust
- Friends living in Health Care Facilities
- Government: national, state, and local elected officials and employees
- Victims of disasters and relief workers
- Unspoken concerns and needs of relatives and friends
- Other churches in Marion and Grant County

*"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." James 5:16*

*Prayer requests will be forwarded to the Pastor, who will include them in the pastoral prayer during Sunday worship, and will bring them to prayer and meditation times throughout the week.*



## February & March Birthdays

David Devine III	02/12
Bill Varner	02/14
Jane Sharon	02/20
Drew Varner	02/25
Rick Harris	03/01
Mary Emrick	03/02
Nancy Worthy	03/02
Linda Simpson	03/04
Steve Sharon	03/09
Natice Miller	03/13
Glenn Evans	03/14
Peg York	03/14
Carolyn Ellis	03/15
Lauren Morrow	03/15
Matt Varner	03/22
Donna Wiley	03/22
Kathy Boxell	03/23
Barbara Piper	03/29

## February & Lent Themes & Scriptures

Feb 5th	Humble by Choice	Isaiah 66:2
Feb 12th	Get Ready for Entirely New Thing	Luke 20:27-40
Feb 19th	Grace and Gratitude	John 1:14-17
Feb 26th	Hallowed Be Thy Name	Matthew 6:9-13
Mar 5th	Whose Will Be Done?	Isaiah 11:6-9 & Luke 22:41-42
Mar 12th	Our Daily Bread	John 6:30-31 & James 2:15-17
Mar 19th	Forgive As We Forgive	Matt 6:9-15 & Luke 23:32-34
Mar 26th	Lead Us Not Into Temptation	Psalm 23:3 & James 1:13-15
Apr 2nd	Thy Kingdom, Power, Glory	Matthew 6:9-13 & 1 Chronicles 29:11

## Anniversaries

Tom & Rita Holloway	02/05	57 yrs.
Andy & Amanda Varner	03/30	10 yrs.



## Missions & Outreach



### Bell Ringers at Needler's

Many thanks to our FUMC Bell Ringers; the Worthy Family, Susie Flynn, Barb Pack, & Kraig Piper



### MITTEN TREE!

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to take 3 coats, 15 pairs of gloves, 2 sets of mittens, 10 hats and 1 scarf to the social workers at local schools. Thanks for helping to keep our community children warm.

The Missions and Outreach committee met on January 17th to discuss and plan activities for 2023. We are excited about the upcoming year.

Some of the projects planned are to continue with the Shut-In ministry by delivering gift bags. We also plan to start mailing the Focus magazine on the months we don't take a gift bag.

Some of the old stand-bys, such as the Shoe Drive, Trunk or Treat and the Ice Cream Social are planned.

Some new ideas are, Laundry Love, wherein we would partner with a laundromat and meet every 4-6 weeks. We would pay for the people that come do their laundry and minister to them during their laundry cycles.

Also, we will be holding a Community Open Mic Night, family friendly of course, where members of the community would come in and perform. Light refreshments will be served.

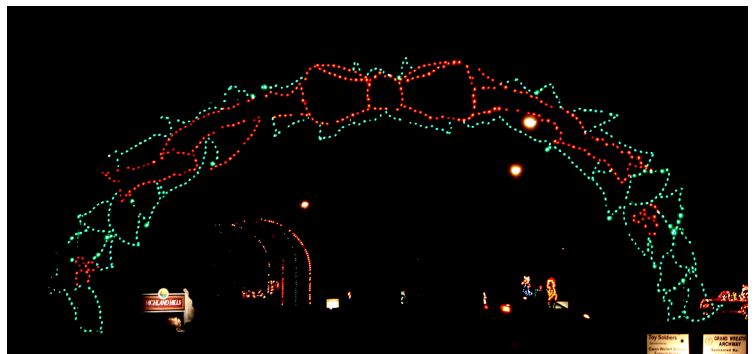
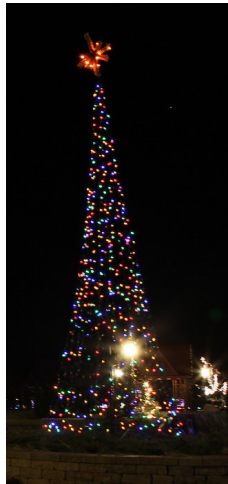
These are important outreach opportunities to our community and how we can minister and show the love of Jesus to our community.



Our next meeting is Feb. 9th at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Any suggestions are welcome. Please plan to participate in these activities as you are able.

Please contact me, Cathy Lane, at 765-661-3453 or talk to me at church with any questions.



## Walkway of Lights

For decades, Marion has been known around the world as "Christmas City, USA" for its illuminated wonderland, the Walkway of Lights. The annual Walkway of Lights boasts displays totaling over two and a half million lights that brighten the night sky for more than two miles beginning at Ballard Field, then downtown, then up River Drive, and culminating into a winter wonderland surrounding the Gardens of Matter Park. Members from First Church volunteered at the entrance. Volunteers included: Rex & Cathy Lane, Wes Rediger, Barb Pack, Sarah & Glenn Evans.

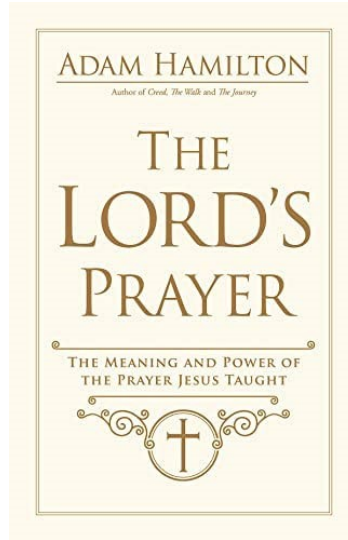


## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Eager to learn a little something on Sunday morning? You'll be welcome at one of First Church's exciting Sunday School classes each Sunday from 10:30 to 11:30.

**The Koinonia Class** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Parlor. This class is currently doing a video study.

**The Epiphanies Class** This new class will feature a variety of topics, each lasting four to six weeks. First up, "What United Methodists Believe" using Confirmation Curriculum.



**Children's Sunday School in a Bag**  
This is an at home opportunity for children through age 9 years. Pick up the bag on Sunday, Feb 19th. Stay tunes for more info!

There will also be a **Lenten Bible study** coming using the book, "The Lord's Prayer" by Adam Hamilton.

**Questions?** Talk to a member of the Education Committee or email Barbara Salveter at [bsalveter@yahoo.com](mailto:bsalveter@yahoo.com)

## Black History Month Colors and Their Meanings

February is Black History Month and it pays tribute to the achievements of African Americans throughout U.S. history. It has been celebrated since 1976, but actually started back in 1926 with Negro History Week. This is when historian, Carter G. Woodson, decided to showcase the contributions of Black history, which eventually led to Black History Month. During this month, the focus is on learning about Black culture, influential leaders and significant historical events. Learning about Black History Month's colors is one way to do this.



Black History Month uses four colors—black, red, green and yellow—to symbolize unity and pride. Each of the four colors has its own distinct meaning and significance.

The colors of Black History Month are also the colors of many African flags which have been derived from the Ethiopian flag as well as the Pan-African flag. Each set has three colors—Ethiopia uses the colors red, yellow and green which are used to represent the rainbow, and the Pan-African flag

contains the colors red, black and green.

The Pan-African flag was created in 1920 to represent the unity of African people no matter where they live, and to symbolize Black liberation in the United States. The Ethiopian flag was inspired by the rainbow and is used by several of the other 53 African countries.

Although the Pan-African flag contains the three colors of red, black and green, yellow was borrowed and added to the Black History Month colors from the Ethiopian flag. The four colors are a combination of the two sets of Pan-African colors.

**Black** - Represents the resilient people whose existence as a nation is honored and affirmed by the existence of a flag.

**Red** - Symbolizes the blood of innocent Black lives that has been shed throughout history.

**Yellow** - Stands for optimism, justice and equality for everyone.

**Green** - Symbolizes Africa's rich greenery and other natural resources.

*Reprinted from Parade.com*







How many can you identify and what was the year? Anything else you know about





this group? Please let Mary Malone know of any updates you may have. Thank you!

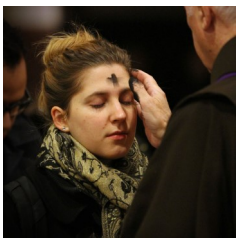


## Worship at First Church

### LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. The Lenten journey is 40 days. This does not include the 6 Sundays – which are considered “little Easters”. Lent is a time of reflection, study, and re-commitment to our faith journey. As we begin this time as a congregation, we have planned ways in which you can experience the solemnness and depth of this season as well as find growth for your own walk of faith.

**Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.** We will host a meditative time of music, scripture and the imposition of ashes in the sanctuary from 11:30 – 1:00. We will invite the wider community to come during their lunch break to receive the marking of the cross on the forehead. Following that, we will also invite them to pick up a quick



lunch in Fellowship Hall. Please see this as an opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to join you for a quiet time of prayer and meditation.

For all of the worship services on the Sundays in Lent, Pastor Wes will preach a sermon series on The Lord’s Prayer. This will be an opportunity to reflect on a prayer that is so familiar to us that we don’t give it the consideration we should. This will also be a wonderful time to introduce someone new to our congregation.

**On Sunday, April 2nd, we will celebrate Palm Sunday** and consider the passion of Jesus as we begin Holy Week

**Thursday, April 6th is Maundy Thursday:** the day we remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples in the Upper Room. We will hold a pitch-in dinner in the Fellowship Hall that evening and then follow it with communion around the table, remembering the holy meal that Jesus established for us to share with our brothers and sisters.

We will share with the congregation opportunities for participating in **Good Friday Services** throughout the community.

**Easter Sunday, April 9th,** will be a day of rejoicing as we celebrate resurrection. We are planning on having a breakfast available between 8:00 am and 9:00 in Fellowship Hall before our 9:15 am worship.

Please plan on joining us throughout Lent as we share our faith and grow in our understanding of Jesus’ call “to make of all disciples”.

### 1923-2023 CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF OUR BUILDING

First United Methodist Church has a long history in Marion, Indiana. Its roots go back to the very birth of Marion itself – 1832. And in less than a decade, we will celebrate the church’s 200th birthday. As we consider the enormity of this long, rich history, we will spend this year commemorating a shorter, but also impressive, anniversary of our church building.

Our congregation had other church buildings through its long history. The most recent sat directly west of our present building with a parsonage to its north. By the 1910’s, the church membership had grown to 1600. Even though the building that sat on Washington Street had been remodeled and enlarged, there was now a need for a new facility to house the congregation. So in 1922, ground was broken at the corner of Adams and 7th Street and a cornerstone was laid on October 22.

The year 1923 saw the construction of this impressive edifice. As you can see from the picture of the construction on the front cover of the Focus, it was a massive project with thousands of bricks and steel beams to support the height of the sanctuary. The great

building was finished and turned over to the congregation on December 1, 1923. The entire cost was about \$236,000. The sanctuary was said to seat 1,000 people and the Sunday School building was designed to care for a graded school of 800.

In the year ahead of us, we will be telling the story of this building. But, of course, it isn’t just about a building. The story is about a long line of people who were faithful and who worked at leaving a legacy that we are the recipients of today. We have the honor of worshipping in and sharing this facility with our community. But we also have the responsibility of caring for it so that it will be a legacy to the next generation. As the mothers and fathers of this church who came before us, we are called to be a beacon at the corner of Adams and 7th to our neighborhood – not only because we have a beautiful, historic building, but because we have a message of hope, love and faith that can help to transform the world.

~Sarah Dougherty Evans



Cornerstone of the church dated 1922 as seen on the 7th street entrance. Picture taken in 1977.





Mayor Alumbaugh speaks to the administrative council and others attending the January 28 Retreat at Temple Congregational Church. He outlined his hopes and aspirations for Marion and answered questions. He noted a need in the community for parenting training and family support.

## 2023 Council Retreat

Twenty-one Council members and congregants attended the Council Retreat at Temple Congregational Church to look back and to look forward, to evaluate and to plan. We first listened - to Mayor Jess Alumbaugh; to Mary Eckerle, head of Historic Marion Neighborhood Association; and to Sue Bratton, representative of SOS (Save Our Stories). After evaluating the good and the bad of the 2022 year (it was a tough year but we came out okay -



This is one of the first listening sessions where we hear from leaders in the neighborhood in our efforts to find how we fit into the mix. We want to avoid replicating services offered by other organizations and create our unique contribution in collaboration with our neighbors in serving our community.

and we give credit to God for His guidance), we divided into groups to dream about 2023. There will be so much to share in the weeks ahead. In the afternoon, Finance Chair, Denise Pearson-Harshman presented the financial report: our church ended the year in the black, and the Finance Committee has a plan for the future. Pastor Wes then led us in meditating on God's plan to "make everything new" (Revelation 21:5). We ended the retreat with communion and prayer. I just wish

each of you could have listened, could have been part of the planning, and could have been inspired.



Glenn Evans and Sue Bratton, S.O.S Representative discuss preservation of historic downtown buildings and how First Church fits into that long-range plan. Sue Bratton's substantial experience with the Indiana Landmarks Foundation Sacred Places programs, with our church's prior efforts in Sacred Places, and her strategic work with Marion's Save Our Stories initiatives represents a potent collaboration with other like-minded planners, funders, and dreamers. She welcomes our participation in the significant work in the community that is already underway. Marion has a rich history and much is to be learned from it. Please make it known if you are interested in historic preservation and education. Debbie Ivey is leading our Sacred Places work.



Chair of the Historic Marion Neighborhood Association, Mary Eckerle, added her concern for children roaming the downtown area. Mary invited us to participate in planning and expediting a block party, possibly in our parking lot, for residents and businesses in the neighborhood. This is another important opportunity to grow beyond our typical practice and emerge from the pandemic stronger by collaborating with others to have a greater influence in the community.



### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**United Methodist Women, a venerable Methodist women's mission agency for more than 150 years, announced March 3, 2022 that it has rebranded itself **United Women in Faith** in hopes of attracting new, younger members and surviving the denomination's decline and fall. (reprinted from BaptistNewsGlobal.com)**



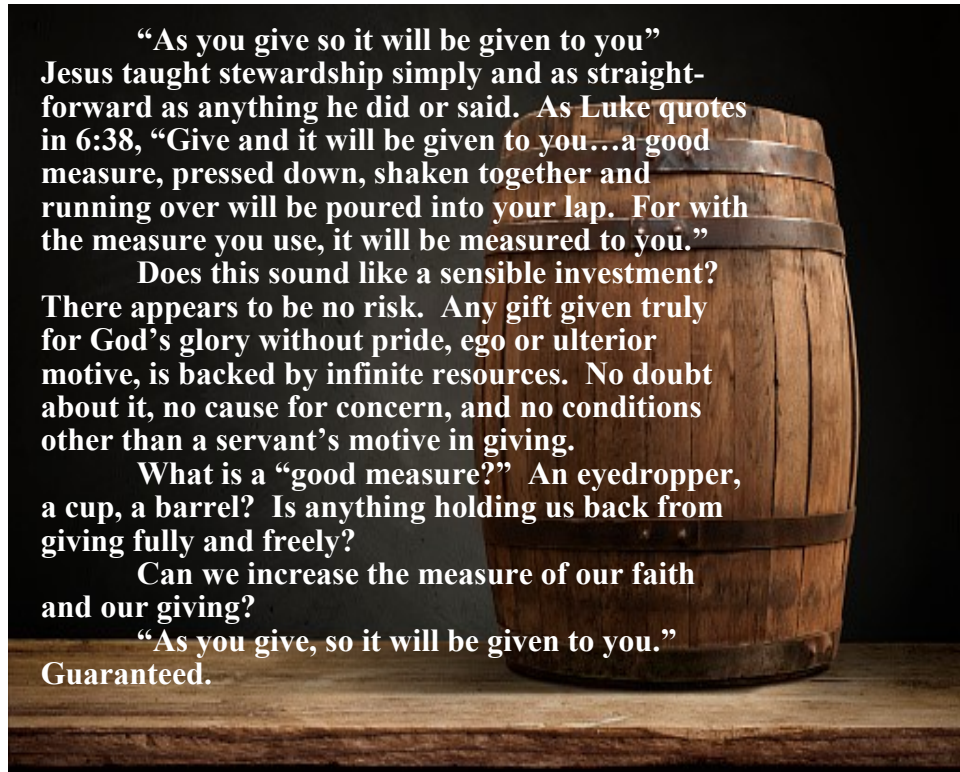
**United Women in Faith (UWF)** meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:00pm, generally in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited and encouraged to join us.

**Upcoming dates:**

**February 20:** 6:00pm, Regular meeting. Susie Flynn will be leading the program.

**March 16:** 1:00pm, Noodle making in the Kitchen.

**March 20:** 6:00pm, A White Elephant Sale, more info to come.



**“As you give so it will be given to you” Jesus taught stewardship simply and as straightforward as anything he did or said. As Luke quotes in 6:38, “Give and it will be given to you...a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”**

**Does this sound like a sensible investment? There appears to be no risk. Any gift given truly for God's glory without pride, ego or ulterior motive, is backed by infinite resources. No doubt about it, no cause for concern, and no conditions other than a servant's motive in giving.**

**What is a “good measure?” An eyedropper, a cup, a barrel? Is anything holding us back from giving fully and freely?**

**Can we increase the measure of our faith and our giving?**

**“As you give, so it will be given to you.” Guaranteed.**

**February Special Offering**

**1st Sunday Coin Collection, Feb 5th, will go to the Heart Association.**



**February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health.**

**Being a Mom means never buying the right amount of produce.**

**Either everyone suddenly loves grapes and a week's worth is eaten in one day, or fruit flies are congregating around the bananas.**

Thanks to the amazing sleuthing by Nancy Worthy, the fruit fly issue has been resolved!



Debbie Ivey and Nancy cleaned and sanitized the kitchen area and trash cans in order to eliminate the problem. Hopefully, this will take care of the fruit fly invasion. Let's work together to keep food in its proper place.

Center Photo Caption Answers:  
Church Sunday School Teachers - Officers  
Back Row: Chuck Heffey, Boyd Toney, Nila Courter, Pete Dunwoody, Jim Bumke.  
Middle Row: Anne Maudy, Homer Wilson, Nancy Heffey, Paul Dougherty, Sandy Johnson, Lowell Morrow.  
Front Row: Gerald Bauman, Steve Fisher, David Smith, Dr. George Richardson (1961-62)  
There are some people unidentified. Can you help correct this picture?



**GRANT CO. MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED**

Monday through Friday  
1 to 1 1/2 hours a day  
Deliver meals to your homebound neighbors.  
Call or text Joe Haynes  
765-660-3280



# FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1st Sunday Coin Offering - Heart Association		Endowment 7pm Parlor	AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor	Missions & Outreach, 10:30-F.H.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Administrative Council Mtg 6pm Parlor		AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor  <i>FOCUS Deadline</i>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	United Women in Faith 6pm-F.H.	M.O.W. Board Mtg. 12:30pm F.H.  Scholarship. Comm. 6pm F.H.	Ash Wednesday 11:30-1pm  AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor	Pastor & Council Chair 1:00pm		
26	27	28				
	SPRC 1pm-Parlor	PEO Linda S. & Cathy L. Hosts 6pm Parlor				

Publisher: Barbara Pack, Administrative Council Chair  
 Editor: Kraig Piper; Photographer: Kraig Piper, Mary Malone, and Cathy Lane  
 Design and Layout: Mary Malone, Kraig Piper, and Pastor Rediger



## Giving a Big Thumbs Up!



### Rex Lane Passes the THUMBS UP to Kraig Piper

THUMBS UP is the new award to be given each month for meritorious work. The first recipients were Rex and Cathy Lane for their hours and hours of labor refinishing the nursery floor. In January, Rex passed the award to Kraig Piper for his overwhelming willingness to volunteer in various ways and for taking terrific pictures at every event. Thumbs Up, Kraig!