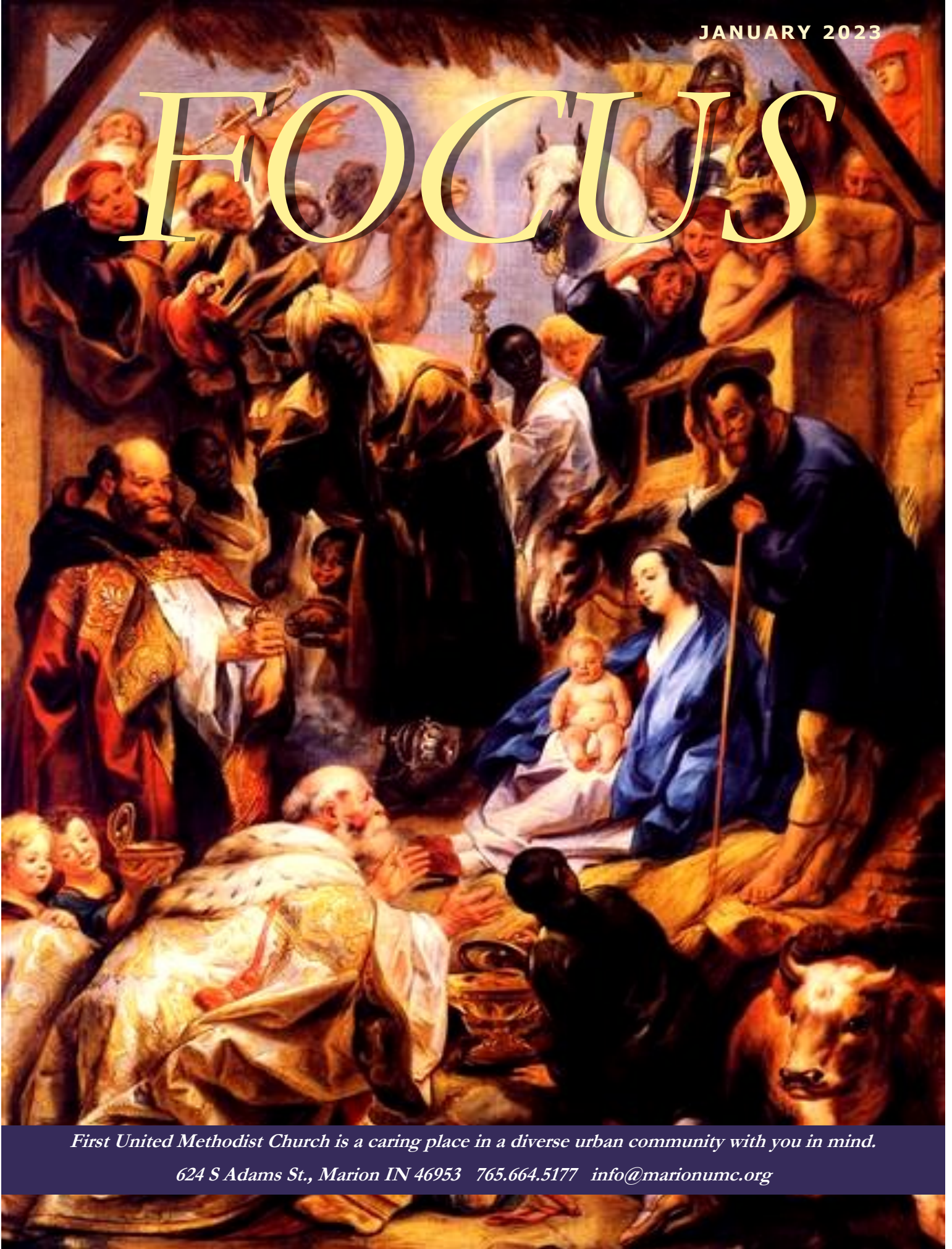


JANUARY 2023

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

624 S Adams St
 Marion IN 46953
 765.664.5177

9:15 Sunday Worship
 10:30 Sunday School



*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

As we prepare for a new year it is wise to take a look in the rear-view mirror to learn from what has been accomplished and assess areas for new approaches and creative innovation. Committee members and chairs are doing just that in preparation for the Council Retreat on January 28, (see info on page 8 for agenda).



Pastor Wes asked Mary to create a large calendar “map” focusing on committee reports of activities in 2022. This timeline of activities will be a reference point for a second calendar of projections for 2023. This effort will allow for thoughtful coordination and control of the year’s ministries, particularly in nurture, outreach, and witness.

The Map can be found in the hallway south of the kitchen. Check out the ministries and missions we have supported in the last 365 days, then think of new ways to support our community and reach the hurting with the love of Christ.

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Front Cover



“The Adoration of the Magi”

by Jacob Jordaens, Flemish painter, draftsman, printmaker and tapestry designer. (1593-1678) He lived in Antwerp, Belgium, his entire life.

“The Adoration of the Magi” is painted in the Baroque style. Many of Jordaens other works include Biblical themes surrounding the advent of our Lord including; Holy Family with Elizabeth and child, John the Baptist, Adoration of the Shepherds, and Return of the Holy Family from Egypt.

As well as being a successful painter, he was a prominent designer of tapestries. He painted many altarpieces and mythological and allegorical scenes.

January Themes & Scriptures

1/1/23	Humility and Redemption	Philippians 2:1-13
1/8/23	Jesus and Humility	Luke 22:24-34
1/15/23	Humility in Life	1 John 4:16-21
1/22/23	Faith and Humility	John 5:41-47
1/29/23	Happiness in Humility	2 Corinthians 12:6-10



January Birthdays

Sidenia Stace	01/12
Beverly Paul	01/26
Catherine Miller	01/29

Anniversaries

No anniversaries in January?
Let me know if I've missed any! ~Mary



Many Thanks!

I want to express my thanks to everyone who has stepped into the office to welcome me into the FUMC Family. It is such a pleasure to work with people who love God and strive to serve their fellowman. Your Christmas love offering was so generous and greatly appreciated by my family and me.

My hope is that in the coming months I may be able to help lighten the load and work alongside First Church in serving our community and showing the love of Jesus. ~Mary Malone



Prayer Concerns

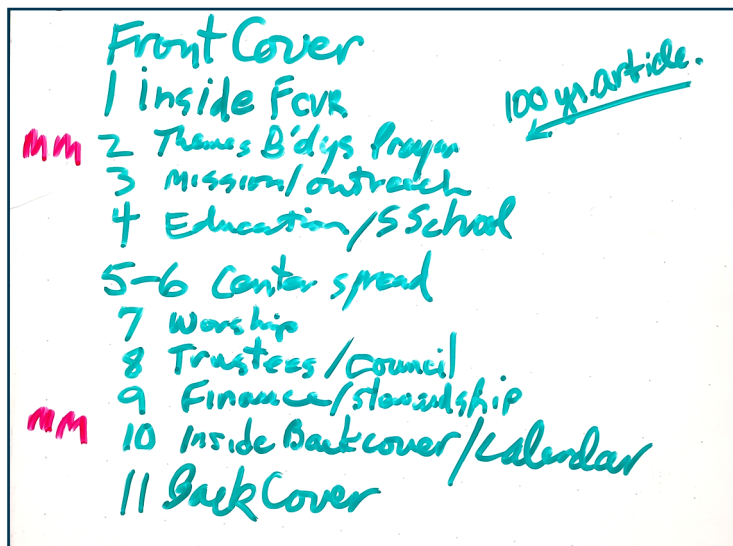
Please call the office at (765) 664-5177

- Diane Fry, back injury
- Nancy Worthy & family on the passing of her father.
- Jim and Betty Fletcher
- Nicole & Adalyn Downing
- 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.

New FOCUS Organization

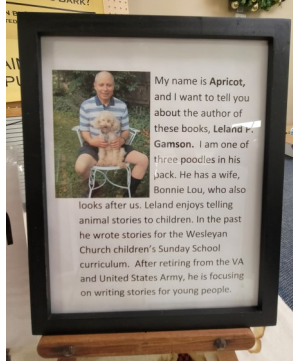


This planning list is scribbled on the white board in the work room in the church office. It presents a new format for the FOCUS in which different committees have reserved space for text and photos of past activities and future projections. Please contribute materials, ideas, articles, photos, and observations by the 14th of the prior month so that the FOCUS can be assembled, proofread, printed, and distributed on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you.

UMW Craft Fair & Decorating of our grand building



Decorations from Grandma's attic.



Leland Gamson's children's publications.



Barb Pack's vintage wares



Debbie and Susie help customers with noodles and gift cards.



Kathy Boxell & Donna Wiley are ready for customers.



Cathy Lane tends her booth of adorable Christmas decorations.



Chili & hot dog lunch was enjoyed by all.



Beautiful Christmas decorations express the Spirit of the season and are greatly appreciated by the congregation. Thank you for all the effort.

Boy Scouts partner with CSI Ministries

Ayden Covey, grandson of Debbie and Terry Ivey, pictured below, is a member of the Boy Scouts of America, his Troop 433 built over a dozen nightstands to accompany beds built by Christian Service International Ministries for children in need.

CSI Ministries is a short-term mission organization serving in Jamaica, Belize, the US and beyond for over 50 years. Since the pandemic they have only been able to serve in the US. Their director, John Key said they have developed the bed making ministry in order to continue their ministry. Since then they have distributed over 200 beds to children in need. Key and the boy scout troop build 16 end tables to match the 16 beds that were ready to distribute.

Using scraps from the wooden beds CSI Ministries builds and donates to the Indiana Department of Child Services, foster care services, churches and, occasionally, individual children, the boy scouts of Troop 433 assembled 16 nightstands to pair with the donation.

Ayden's troop 433 is the same troop that FUMC member Shawn Swathwood was in before graduation. In addition, Tom Weesner and Scott Overman have volunteered with this troop through the years. Troop 433 is currently recruiting.

Any boys interested in scouting should reach out to Scoutmaster Clark at (765) 661-1252 or visit their Facebook page @ Troop433. CSI Ministries is always looking for volunteers and donors to help with their mission of service. For more information please visit www.csiministries.net, call (765) 286-0711 or email csi@csiministries.net.



Pick up your free copy of the Jan/Feb 2023 issue of The Upper Room, short daily devotionals to help you get into God's Word. These are available in the church office and the Narthex.



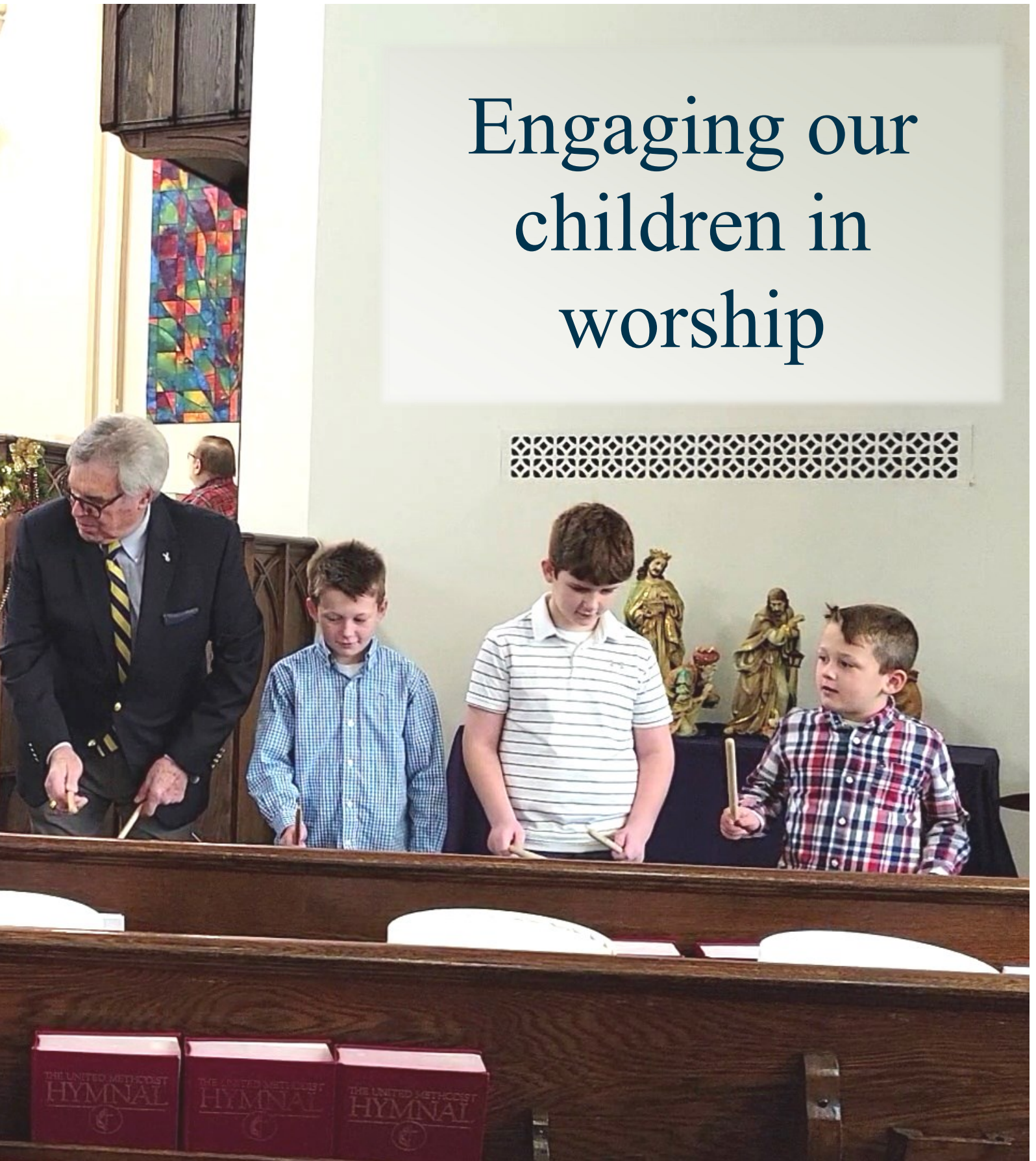
Pastor Wes and JoAnn Rediger are grateful for the many expressions of love and appreciation we often receive from First Church congregants. The Christmas Love Gift given to us from a collection from the congregation so blesses us that we say "Thank You," again and again.

Thank you. Your generosity moves us deeply and we return your appreciation many times over. Thank you, again.



IWU students, Camden Hyman and Cory Reed, lead the kids' drum corps in a rousing performance. The congregation appreciates the music and hopes

Engaging our children in worship



g rendition of “The Little Drummer Boy” on African drums they brought with them.
for more from the University’s Music Department.

I Am Surrounded By Saints ~By Leland Gamson

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the Saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Ephesians 1:1 (NIV)

To all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as Saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:7 (NASB)

I ask God to speak to me
As He did to Moses and Abraham
I ask God, for me to be visited by an angel
Like the Centurion, Cornelius was in Caesura.
So far, neither has happened.

What has happened is that
I am always running into Christ's Saints.
Saints in Walmart working as checkers
Greeting each customer, as Christ's ambassador
With love whether they be kind or grumpy.

Saints visiting those in prison
As Christ commanded us.
Saints incarcerated in prison
Striving to stay on the straight and narrow
Living with hardened fellow inmates,
While trying to show them a better way.

Saints extending their hands in love
To drug addicts, now under the Saints' care.

Saints driving cars lined up
In front of middle schools
To pick up the grandchildren
While their children work.



Lili and Bibi Puckett, granddaughters of Carolyn Ellis, serve in Radiology at Marion General Hospital.



Rex Lane and Terry Ivey show their love by ensuring all the windows in the church are sealed and ready for the winter cold. Sainly Stewardship!!

Nursing assistant Saints
Gently changing the Attends
Of the frail, elderly who are hardly aware of their caregiver.

Saints staffing Christian's missions
Who take Jesus at His word
To feed the hungry
And give water to the thirsty.

Saints driving ambulances
And without judgment
Reviving those who O.D.

Saints in church, the Body of Christ
Singing, praying, sharing each other's burdens
Studying His word, Inviting others to join
Their fellowship of Saints.

You Are Invited

To the 2023 Planning Retreat Focusing on Nurture, Outreach, and Witness

The Council is preparing a planning retreat, open to all congregants, for January 28, from 9 to 2, at Temple Congregational Church at 1006 N. Western Avenue in Marion.

The purpose is to coordinate our work around the priorities set forth in the United Methodist Discipline,* which is the publication that guides all aspects of the congregation's ministries. Those priorities are: 1) Nurture, 2) Outreach, and 3) Witness

* Part VI Organization and Administration, The Church Council, Page 182, Paragraph 252

1. Purpose—The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference. (§244).

2. Mission and Ministry—Nurture, outreach, and witness ministries and their accompanying responsibilities include:

a) The nurturing ministries of the congregation shall give attention to but not be limited to education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship. Attention must be given to the needs of individuals and families of all ages.

b) The outreach ministries of the church shall give attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy. These ministries include church and society, global ministries, higher education and campus ministry, health and welfare, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, religion and race, and the status and role of women.

c) The witness ministries of the church shall give attention to developing and strengthening evangelistic efforts of sharing of personal and congregational stories of Christian experience, faith, and service; communications; Lay Servant Ministries; and other means that give expressions of witness for Jesus Christ.

d) The leadership development and resourcing ministries shall give attention to the ongoing preparation and development of lay and clergy leaders for the ministry of the church (§258.1).

e) The nurture, outreach, and witness ministries and their accompanying responsibilities shall include consideration of (i) the election of a prayer coordinator to promote prayer and mobilize the local church to pray, (ii) establishing a prayer room or designated place for prayer and prayer resources, and (iii) encouraging intentional prayer for the pastoral

leadership of the local church.

The agenda for the planning sessions will be as follows:

Agenda

- Pastor's Meditation and Prayer
- Our City and Our Neighborhood Hearing from City Leaders
- Assessment & Projection Time Successes, Challenges, Opportunities, Nurture, Outreach, Witness
- Lunch
- Finance
- Pastor's Response
- Communion and Commitment

Please offer your observations and questions to Barb Pack, Sarah Evans, Debbie Ivey, or Pastor Rediger ahead of the scheduled meetings so they can be added to the agenda. Thank you.



Pastor Rediger reclines on a gurney as Cheryl and Lisa prepare the machine for one of thirty-nine radiation treatments for his “completely curable” prostate cancer. The machine delivers four “zaps” in about twelve minutes at 8:00 in the morning every Monday through Friday. Hospital staff are utterly professional and caring and no serious side effects have been experienced. The Redigers live only six blocks from the Cancer Center in Muncie, which makes the routine easy and convenient. The series should finish early February. Throughout the process Pastor Rediger remains available by phone at 765.661.3574.



Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It occurs on Jan. 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word *epiphania*, means appearance or manifestation.

The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as

Advent developed as a season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike look forward to Día de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration. Attending church services that include the celebration of communion is also common in many of these cultures, even for those who may not attend worship regularly.

In England and some other European cultures, Jan. 5 is known as Twelfth Night, the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas feasting and partying. On Twelfth Night, many families gather in homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing and gifts. It is at these Twelfth Night celebrations that "Chalking the Door," asking God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live there, is most often observed.

In whatever ways you decide to celebrate it, remember at the heart of your celebration are the Magi kneeling, worshipping and offering gifts to Jesus, Messiah for all people.



Handbells share beautiful music to brighten Sunday morning worship.

I HOPE THIS NEW YEAR
BRINGS YOU...

Courage to try again
Passion for doing what you love
Ambition to aim higher
Resilience in overcoming obstacles
Humility to learn from others
Kindness for yourself and others

GRANT COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday

You pick the day that works best for you.

1 to 1 1/2 hours a day

Deliver meals to your homebound neighbors.

If interested, call or text Joe Haynes

765-660-3280



JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	No MOW Delivery Today		AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor		Epiphany	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Administrative Council Mtg 6pm Parlor		AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Council/Pastor Mtg. AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor			Sacred Places Team Training— Indianapolis
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		PEO Founders Day 5-9pm FH	Committee Chairs Mtg. Noon Parlor AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor			Administrative Council Retreat 9am - 2pm Temple Cong.
29	30	31				

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



Audrey enjoys decorating the Christmas tree and the fascination of warm light filtering through the branches.