

June 2023

Our 100th
Year
Here

FOCUS



First United Methodist Church is a caring place in a diverse urban community for all people.

624 S Adams St., Marion IN 46953 - 765.664.5177 - info@marionumc.org

9:15 Sunday Worship, 10:30 Sunday School for all ages.

A Brief History of Kids' Morning Out & Step Two Weekday Ministries

In 1992, Carolyn Brown began what was called **Parent's Morning Out** with the vision of providing an opportunity for parents to shop and run errands while their children were provided the opportunity to play with other children and learn about God in a supervised setting.



The second year of PMO, 1993, began with a name change. **Kids' Morning Out**. The emphasis became more on a preschool and less like a play group. KMO began using **Weekday Programs for Children**, a United Methodist resource as the curriculum. Lesia Anderson, the director of Christian Education at the church taught two mornings a week, and Carolyn Brown taught the other three.



In January of 1994, Becky Schwartzkopf joined KMO as a teacher in training, in connection with her educational pursuits at Ivy Tech.



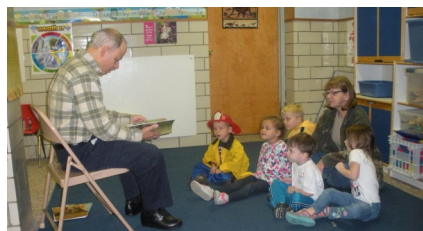
In the fall of 1994, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons were added for ages 4 & 5 only. This program was called **Step Two** and was intended to provide a more in-depth kindergarten prep.



The fourth year began with the addition of Wednesday afternoons. Becky Schwartzkopf taught all the classes and two helpers divided their time during the year. The KMO advisory board was formed, consisting of members of the church.



In 1996, Carolyn Brown decided to step down as director of KMO and Step Two. Becky and the two other helpers also left to pursue other opportunities. Jeni Higginbotham was hired in August as a part time director after she completed



her Christian Education degree at IWU. Jeni was also hired to teach two KMO morning classes and all three Step Two afternoon classes. Donna Wiley was hired to teach the other three KMO classes. Becky Mark was hired as an assistant for all KMO classes and all Step Two classes.



In 1997, Jeni, Donna and Becky continued as staff of KMO and Step Two. The staff adapted **Weekday Programs for Children** to meet the needs of the individual classes.



In 1998, Jeni devised three curriculum outlines based upon **Weekday Programs for Children** resource to be used on a rotating basis in the classroom; God & Me, God's Creation, and Family & Friends. These plans were saved to be used and rotated.



Jeni stepped down in 2000 as teacher of the two KMO classes and the three Step Two classes in order to accept the position of Director of Christian Education at FUMC. Donna Accepted the invitation to teach all of the classes.

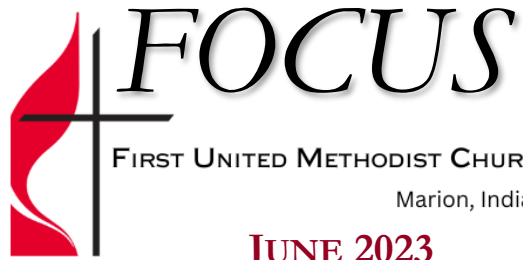


Becky Mark continued as assistant for all the classes. Donna created the curriculum plans as the year progressed and retained them to be utilized in the future.



The mission of the KMO, Step Two and the current Preschool has always been to provide a high-quality flexible educational experience for children; through a development approach stressing Christian principles, to enable children to practice

those principles and to meet the challenges of the world around them.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Marion, Indiana

JUNE 2023

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Contact the church office to obtain more copies and be added to the current mailing list.
765-664-5177 or info@marionumc.org

Prayer Concerns

Please call the office at
(765) 664-5177

Carolyn James
Kathy Boxell
Jane Hiatt
Bob Salveter
Lauren Swathwood, recovery from surgery
Linda Simpson's granddaughter, Lucia Tomlinson
Diane Fry, back injury
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 of relatives and friends
Other churches in Marion and Grant County

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.

June & July Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Dillon Hamilton | 06/03 |
| Amanda Varner | 06/06 |
| Bonnie Lou Gamson | 06/10 |
| Harrison Varner | 06/20 |
| Susan Morrow | 06/21 |
| Susan Seacott | 06/22 |
| Carolyn James | 06/25 |
| | |
| Ron Piper | 07/01 |
| Grace Stanley | 07/01 |
| Jane Hiatt | 07/02 |
| Hubert Tucker | 07/06 |
| Andy Varner | 07/06 |
| Barbara Pack | 07/09 |
| Drew Morrow | 07/10 |
| Kacie Devine | 07/13 |
| Bob Beams | 07/17 |
| Asa Harshman | 07/17 |

Anniversaries

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|
| Bill & Sally Varner | 06/21 | 43 yrs. |
| Scott & Wanda Overman | 07/01 | 7 yrs. |
| Rob & Donna Wiley | 07/14 | 39 yrs. |
| Terry & Debbie Ivey | 07/15 | 45 yrs. |
| Wesley & Joann Rediger | 07/22 | 51 yrs. |
| Glenn & Sarah Evans | 07/27 | 20 yrs. |

Worship

Make a Joyful Noise



We are going to be doubly blessed beginning in June. Susan Seacott will be returning to the organ bench and she and Thad Reynolds will be sharing the duties of organist. We are

so fortunate to have two long-time members of our congregation who love this church and its heritage of music as our chief musicians. Much gratitude and many thanks to Susie and Thad who are willing to give of their time and talents to enrich our worship services.



The Liturgical Year

In May, we left the Easter season and celebrated Pentecost. We are now in the time of the Christian year called Ordinary Time, which will last until we begin Advent on December 3rd. As United Methodists, we might also

remember this half of the year being called Kingdomtide. In this very lengthy season we aren't focusing on the life of Jesus as we did in Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter. Now the focus is on Jesus' teaching ministry – what he said about the kingdom and reign of God. While nothing about Jesus is "ordinary", what this season reminds us, is that the teachings of Jesus are for our everyday lives. We are challenged to live out our faith in the day to day work and play, the joys and challenges.

Summer Hymn Requests

Beginning in June, in the weekly bulletin, you will find a form that you may use to submit a hymn request. We will be turning these over to our organists and will work them into Sunday worship services. We are also planning on one Sunday a month to sing some of these requests at 9:00, prior to worship beginning. Watch for more details in the weekly bulletin and begin thinking about your favorite hymns.



Indy-Mini--A Sure Sign of Spring



On May 6, 2023, Pastor Wes ran the 13.1-mile Indy Half Marathon with his son, James, who ran a respectable time of 2:11, while Wes stopped often to "recuperate." Here a family duet becomes a happy trio with, "This Land is Your Land." Seeing their names on the runners' wall was poignant for both men.

Missions & Outreach

The First Sunday Coin Offering for the month of June will go to the Boys and Girls Club of Grant County. Find out what they are about and how they impact the youth of our neighborhood below.

The Boys & Girls Club of Grant County offers a variety of programs that build skills, support educational achievement, and build strong, positive relationships with caring adult mentors. Our members participate in impactful programs focused on academic success, character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles such as Power Hour, Smart Decisions, Smart Girls, Passport to Manhood, athletic programs, and more.

Under the guidance of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, our programs are tested and proved to be successful.

We are continuing into our 54th year of service with a caring and supportive staff

and a safe and positive environment.

Whether you volunteer with tutoring, coaching, mentoring, or administrative tasks, you'll have the opportunity to build healthy relationships with young people eager for adult guidance, and have a positive impact on their lives. In turn, you will find that spending time with these young people has a positive impact on you as well.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF GRANT COUNTY

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ronald Morrell Jr., director of Boys and Girls Club of Grant County at rmorrell@bgcgeo.org or (765) 664-6141 about your particular interest or area of expertise!

Alcoholics Anonymous Outreach

When Pastor Wes asked me to write this short story, I was thrilled. Then my thought was, I'm not the brightest banana in the bunch, what do I have to share? I graduated from Madison-Grant in 1987, I will not tell you my GPA, (it is embarrassing.) That is as far as my education has gone.

In 2005, I decided to change the course of my life. I committed to a spiritual journey in Alcoholics Anonymous. I have not had a mind-altering substance since that day in July. When I was introduced to the God of my understanding, he started putting people on my path; to be my teachers, my educators and my friends. Over the years I've met people who have spent time with me sharing their life experiences. I believe the most important thing to know is not to compare my life with another's but to identify with it. In turn I can do the same for the people God continues to put in my life, using the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. This process has filled my heart with gratitude and has changed my attitude towards life. Life doesn't happen **to** me; it happens **for** me, if I'm willing to open my heart to God's grace and guidance. The faith that I have today is given to me. Through the ability of

watching other people make the same decision I made, I've seen miracles happen. In the depths of their despair, lost, broken, shattered and hopeless, individuals become whole again.

In AA we are able to stand on the shoulders of giants until we learn how to stand on our own—to be educated about this thing called life, through their patience, love and tolerance, to be given a set of spiritual tools to work with, through life-on-life terms. Naming just a few with the utmost respect; Kathleen, Johnny O, Shorty, Vinny, Indiana Bill, Sydney, Ashley, Allison, Sam and countless others. They have taught me to know what I just didn't know until I knew it—you see, alcohol and drugs robbed me of the life I had no idea was possible, one day at a time. Through the power of the God of my understanding, acceptance and gratitude; I have life beyond my wildest dreams. I'm not a highly educated woman, but I do live a fulfilled life today. Tina Wallen.



June Themes & Scriptures

June 4, 2023
"The Golden Rule"
Luke 6:31

June 11, 2023
"Confess, One To Another"
Matthew 5:23-24
Matthew 18:15

June 18, 2023
"Confession, a Way of Life"
Colossians 3:12-13
Matthew 22:39

June 25, 2023
"Strength in the Spirit"
Psalm 105:1-4
Philippians 2:13



Who We Are:

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.





Members of First United Methodist Church met to comm

Not the first time they all got on the same side of

It's a meal, Communion and great fellow

Christians often partake in a simple meal of bread and wine, comm

Thursday worship services. Other traditions include a Sed



Commemorate the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

the table for the picture - Leonardo did it in 1498.
ship at First United Methodist in Marion.
only known as the Lord's Supper or Communion, during Maundy
er Supper, a Tenebrae service, and stripping the sanctuary.

Education

As the academic year 2022-23 closes and the pre-school program here at First UMC Marion comes to an end, we reflect on education and the importance of teaching and learning.

While today, we commit our children to the learning process from their toddler years through their teens and into their twenties, that hasn't been true until relatively recently. Formal education was for the wealthy – and of course, mostly for males. The vast majority of humanity throughout all of history never entered a classroom or opened a book. They learned domestic skills from their mothers or grandmothers. They worked alongside their fathers or grandfathers in the fields or hunted or fished in the forests and waters where they lived. It was the necessary education of survival. It also taught people the connection they had with their world and with each other.

But as we now know, the invention of the printing press in the mid-15th century changed that world. The only thing that is quite as dramatic as that invention was the arrival of computers. The printing press didn't have as fast a result on history as computers have had, but within a couple of centuries, the world was transformed. The first Gutenberg Bible was printed in 1455 and in 1457, a Psalter was printed. Of course, these were printed in Latin. So only the well-educated could read them. But this opened up many possibilities. In less than one hundred years, mass printings became very popular and affordable. Then in 1521, Martin Luther translated the New Testament from Latin to German. The printing of this book in a language that the common person could read created the best-seller of the time. Accessible and inexpensive books made education and reading much more important and attainable.



Even then, all people weren't given the opportunities of learning. As Europe headed into the Industrial Revolution,

there was a need for workers in factories. Men, women and children were laborers in dangerous workplaces. Very young children were forced to spend 12 hours a day, six days a week in these horrible factories.



During the mid-18th century, people of faith and those concerned with society's issues, began establishing "Sunday Schools". These weren't what we would label Sunday School. Instead, these schools were a way to keep young people off of the streets and out of trouble on Sundays, their only day off of work. So they taught reading and gave a rudimentary education. They also used the Bible to help with the reading.

It was also during this time in the mid-1700's, that John Wesley was setting up the "Class Meeting" as a way of building an individual's faith. Class meetings were formed and the members held one another accountable. But over time, this also moved to the development of studying together. It's hard for us to remember that religious education for the ordinary person was memorization of a catechism for church membership. What people knew about their faith was from a priest or minister in a worship service and likely in Latin. So the Sunday School that we know and consider an important part of the ministry of the church is really a very recent development in faith development.

We encourage the process of thinking and learning. And we give thanks for the ability to use our minds to share ideas and create new possibilities. We must remain alert and counter efforts to limit access to literature and the truth of history. We are fortunate to live at a time when education is important, when books are plentiful and when it's considered an important part of our faith to ask questions and dig into topics that help us grow in our relationship with God.

See back cover for a book study on John Wesley's Class Meetings.



Stewardship

The United Methodist Foundation is committed to supporting United Methodist

churches to make disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world. We share our expertise in the financial arena with churches and their members to improve the financial strength of Indiana United Methodist churches and provide transformational leadership.

Pastor Wes, Kraig Piper, Debbie & Terry Ivey recently had the opportunity to attend the 2023 Stewardship Conference in Nashville, Indiana. They brought back numerous resources and new knowledge about building church budgets, stewardship and giving. I have included some of their notes and observances from that conference. If you have any other questions or you'd like to see more of what they learned, get in touch with me in the office and I can show you the materials. ~Mary Malone

From Wes:

Jesus talked more about money than anything else. Money and stewardship are at the height of discipleship. Jesus noticed the widow's mite offering--not the amount, but valued the heart with which she gave.

Breakout #1 Glenn Howell "Planning Your Stewardship Year" A Stewardship initiative is more than just a letter. A Stewardship sub-committee should include a strong giver, spiritually sensitive person, finance committee member and community influencer. Stewardship should not only be to make the budget, but to grow disciples in the congregation. Glenn quoted, "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the second best time is now." Givers want to know how their **giving** makes a difference more than how the **organization** makes a difference.

From Terry Ivey:

Lunch Session by Monte Chamberlin

Information on getting an audit done on your utility rate charges. There are many rates, and yours is probably wrong. His company (pro bono) will look at usage history and available rates for your location. He also touched on COVID money that is still available. Similar to the PPP money we got early on...but much bigger amounts.

Numbers to Narratives

Everyone went to this class. Assign your numeric budget items to various categories so you can print a pie-chart of where the donations are going. Some items will be mostly one category. Utilities and building upkeep would be split between any category that happens in the church building. Should have 3-5 categories. IE: Worship, Outreach, and Hospitality. Ken Sloane has an online course that Kraig wants to take. Offered through UMC Discipleship Ministries.

From Debbie:

The two-day conference, spanning two half-days and one full

day, provided many opportunities for increasing our knowledge of stewardship. We were presented with information covering many aspects of stewardship including helping our members improve their money management skills, building their knowledge and understanding of the various elements of stewardship (prayers, presence, time, talents, gifts, service), and reminding the church to cultivate good stewards and regularly express gratitude for their gifts. There were 11 unique educational sessions. Additionally, there were five joint sessions with speakers covering various topics, ranging from tips for saving money on utility bills, to examples and advice on how to help people grow in their stewardship and discipleship.

Additionally, I will be following through on a couple of quick-action items that could provide positive returns. ~Debbie

From Kraig:

Tuesday (4/25) The morning's joint session was addressed by Gretchen Colon. She learned about giving by watching her grandfather and mother who were both ministers. She witnessed the hard work put into helping others not only addressed people's needs, it also raised awareness and a need to raise funds. While her focus is fundraising, she emphasizes that people can also give by sharing other gifts. These include providing food, donating their time, witnessing to others and utilizing their skills. Favorite quote: "Fundraising is not about money; it's about relationships." She urges us to plant the seeds and don't give up, noting; "it is not our timeline." We need to discover, nurture, invite and show our gratitude to potential donors. "Turn up your listening ears".

In the first breakout session, I attended Saving Grace which was led by Bonnie Marden. Before most people can give, whether it is to the church or a local charity, they have to be comfortable with their current money situation. "Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being" is a series of texts that educates people on saving, earning, giving, spending and debt. The goal is to provide people with a sustainable financial life. This training helps answer the question "does this further my well-being or does it impede it?"

The second breakout session I attended was "From Numbers to Narrative" led by Ken Sloane. This was my favorite session of the conference. People are put off by the words obligation and duty but they are often the words used in Stewardship campaigns by churches around the world. "To move and inspire people to grow into generosity, we need to do more than tell them how much we need to make the budget. We need to show that there are not 'mission dollars' and 'overhead dollars'; every dollar given to the church supports our mission and ministry." I describe this as a line-item budget being the 1000 words and the narrative is the picture. The picture brings peace and understanding to the congregation.

I want to thank First Church for supporting this trip. There is so much more to share but I have already written more than my "paragraph". I look forward to sharing more with you and implementing into the church what I learned at the conference.

May God continue to bless you and yours, Kraig Piper

(More detailed notes can be found in the office.)

Pastoral Changes

As of June 11th, Pastor Wes will no longer be pastoring Christland United Methodist Church. And then on July 2, he will become the interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Hartford City. He served there as interim pastor previously in 2014-15. Wes will continue on as pastor at Marion First United Methodist Church.

June Special Offering

1st Sunday Coin Collection, June 4th, will go to The Boys and Girls Club of Grant County, whose mission is to inspire all young people, especially those that need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.



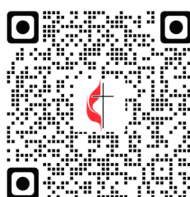
Thumbs Up! Award

Sally Bancroft passes the Thumbs Up award to Denise Harshman at the May 2023 Council Meeting, for her hard work on the FUMC financial team.



Online Giving Option

We are pleased to announce that FUMC now provides online giving as an option – a convenient and secure way to make a one-time or recurring donation. When you choose to give online, your donation will transfer directly to our bank account. It also helps us as recurring donations provide consistency and efficiency, easing the work for our back office administration. Scan the QR code to get started.



Presnall Endowment Concert Series



Sunday, June 11th, 2:00 PM will be a special treat for our congregation and the larger community. Laura Whittenberger, daughter of Ellen Knost Whittenberger and niece of Cathy Lane, will be presenting a concert that afternoon. This will be a wonderful time of great music by an accomplished musician. Plan on attending, and bring your friends!!

For more information, www.laurawhittenberger.com



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Preschool Reception

On Sunday, June 4th, we celebrate the 27 years of service that Donna Wiley shared with our Pre-school program. Immediately following worship that day, we will host a reception recognizing the love, labor and dedication that Donna has given to this church and program. We urge you to join us to share in the wonderful ministry that has touched more lives than we can begin to count.



JUNE 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | | Sacred Places South Bend, Olivet AME 10 am-12:30 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Worship Svc. 9:15 am 1st Sun Coin Offering Boys & Girls Club --- Donna Wiley Reception | | | AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor | Dust Bunnies 10 am to 1 pm | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Worship Svc. 9:15 am Laura Whittenberger Concert 2 pm | Administrative Council Mtg 6pm Parlor | MOW Board Mtg. Parlor 12:30 | Finance Mtg Parlor 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor | <i>July FOCUS Submissions Deadline</i> |  "Behind Closed Doors" Restoration Tour of Marion Downtown 4-7 pm | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Father's Day Worship Svc. 9:15 am | | | AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| Worship Svc. 9:15 am | | Endowment Mtg. Parlor 7 pm | Committee Chairs Noon Parlor AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm, 3rd Floor | | | |

June 11th, Laura Whittenberger Concert @ 2 pm

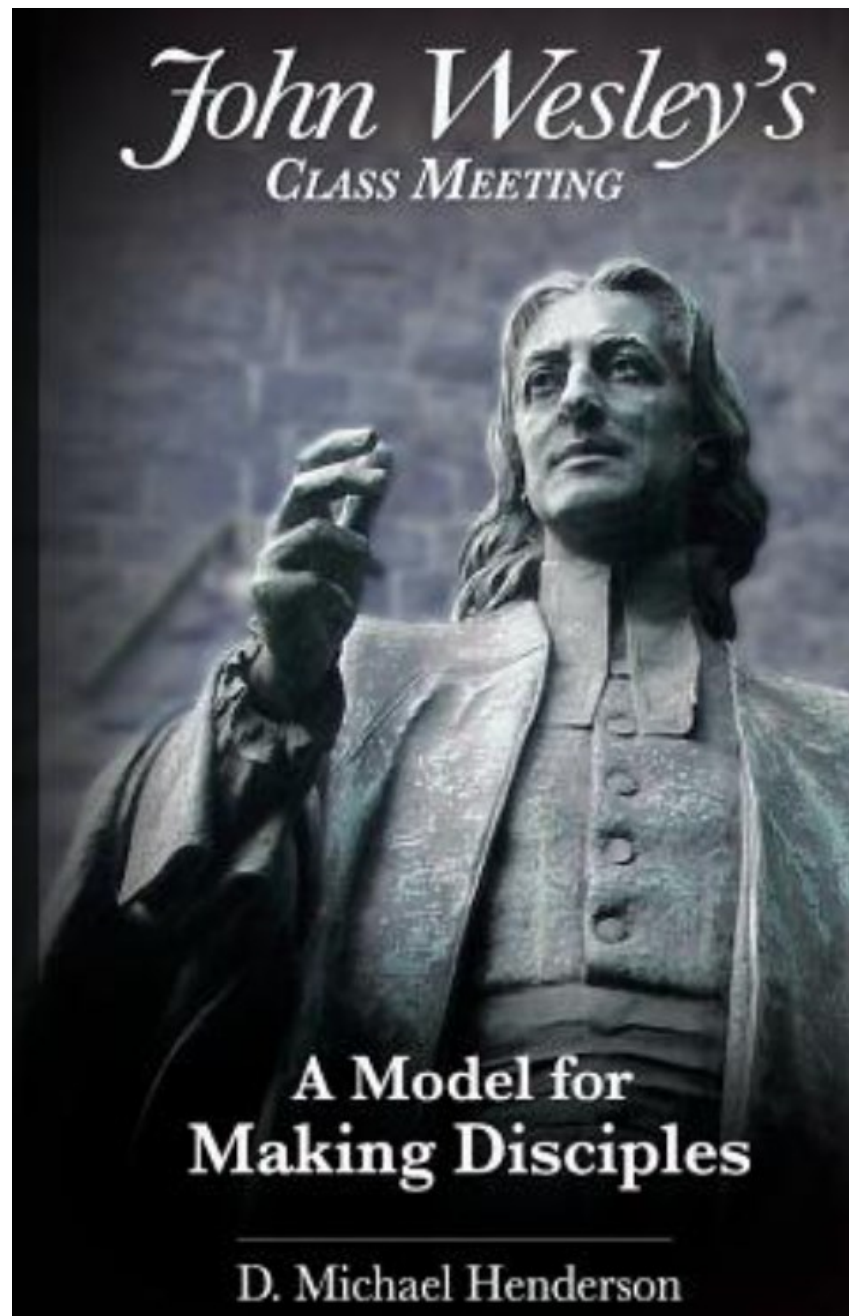
July 4th, Gas City Parade Float, details to follow.

Future Events!

July 22nd, Block Party @ 5 pm, This is in conjunction with "Discover Marion Downtown" Event

August 13th, Church in the Park @ Matter Park

Save the dates, more info coming!



John Wesley was an eighteenth-century Anglican priest and Oxford tutor. He and George Whitefield were the primary leaders of the Evangelical Awakening which had a profound effect on the spiritual, social, and political life of both England and colonial America. Wesley gathered converts into a network of small groups for personal accountability, behavioral change, leadership training, and the transformation of their communities. Central to his system was the “class meeting,” which proved to be one of the most effective tools for making disciples ever developed. This study examines the historical development, the theological foundation, and the social outcomes of John Wesley’s class meeting.