

May 2023

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.

CircleCity

ARTS & MINDS REVIEWS, PREVIEWS, AND CRITICISMS



The Next West Thing

A local artist finds a loving fan base—in New Mexico.

Willard Rust, who hawked woodworking equipment for 26 years before retiring in 1995, never fancied himself an artist. And he never envisioned a market for the quirky, pop-eyed little animals he created from scrap wood he collected on the job. But now the Marion resident has not only established himself as an artist, he's got a following—albeit a far-flung one. “Locally, a lot of people don’t even know I do this,” he says, “but it’s a big thing in Taos.”

With the Museum of International Folk Art housed in nearby Santa Fe—and galleries full of colorful primitives—tiny Taos is known to attract folk-art aficionados.



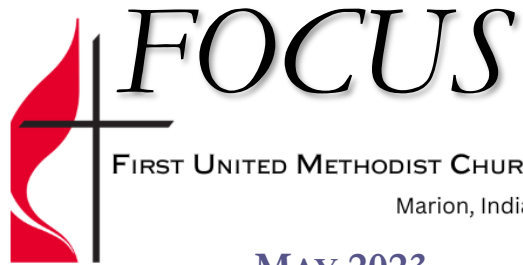
“What people in New Mexico want is something different and kind of unusual,” Rust says. Hence, “Willard Originals”: technicolored, curly-tailed pigs; wildly grinning dogs; birdhouses in the guise of wide-mouthed cats—all of which regularly

fetch up to \$250 each, and sell as quickly as Rust pounds and paints them. “He has just a wicked sense of humor that people love,” says Cam Martin, co-owner of Dwellings Revisited, the New Mexico gallery that “discovered” the Hoosier artist.

Indeed, Rust has all but come out of retirement keeping up with his orders. “I don’t have trouble with ideas,” he says. “I just have trouble with time.”

—S.M.B.





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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.

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

Prayer Concerns

Please call the office at
(765) 664-5177

Kathy Boxell, passing of husband John
Jane Hiatt Weesner
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.

May & June Birthdays

Cathy Swathwood	05/04
Cathy Lane	05/05
Erika Devine	05/06
Sue McVicker	05/07
Belva Pickerel	05/12
Dee Aguilar	05/16
Kay Dougherty	05/22
Mickey Bournique	05/23
Johnny Herriman	05/30
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

Anniversaries

Ron & Barbara Piper	05/17	67 yrs.
Bill & Sally Varner	06/21	43 yrs.

Willard Rust Folk Art

Willard and Ruth Ann's daughter, Brenda, moved to Taos, New Mexico, and asked her dad for some of the painted wood folk art he created as a hobby for family members and their friends. Willard told his grandson, Elliot, that if he could draw it, he would saw it. Cam Martin, owner of the Dwellings Revisited Art Gallery next to where Brenda worked noticed Willard's creations and knew she could sell them in her gallery. The business grew and Willard became famous for his original folk art in New Mexico.

After a few years, Brenda invited her parents to visit. They agreed and traveled to Taos not knowing what was going to happen. When they arrived they were greeted by newspaper, radio, and TV personalities at a special exhibit and reception for the artist at the gallery. Surprised and delighted, Willard and Ruth Ann enjoyed the event, especially the way people valued his original creations.

Walking through the Plaza in Taos, several people stopped them and expressed their admiration for his art and thanked them for coming and staying a few days. His hobby had become a thing of real value to art lovers in one of the most famous art centers in the Southwest.

Contributed by Ruth Ann Rust, happily married to Willard 75 years on October 13, 2023.



Laura Whittenberger in Concert

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!!

Laura Whittenberger is a NYC-based theatre and concert performer. A few favorite roles: Saavik in *KHAN!!* (Off-Bway), Maria in *The Sound of Music* (FL), Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (MD, NJ and ME), Amalia in *She Loves Me* (DE, FL), Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* (MD, PA), and Lucy in *Bright Star* (FL).

She's been nominated three times for Broadway World's "Best Performer in a Musical" awards, and was a Montpelier Arts Recital Competition winner. Favorite concert credits; Handel's *Messiah*, Orff's *Carmina Burana* and a series of French art song recitals with harp. Baltimore Style magazine listed her as a "Must-see Musician". She is also featured on an album of Irish songs set to W.B. Yeats poetry, *Words that Sing in the Night*. Laura holds degrees from Indiana University and the Peabody Conservatory.

For more information,
www.laurawhittenberger.com



Missions & Outreach

Loads of Love

On Saturday, April 22nd, five members from FUMC met at Deb's Laundromat to share the gospel and to pay for the customers' laundry loads. Thanks to your generous donations of \$170 raised, 25 people were helped and numerous lives touched! Thank you!



May Themes & Scriptures

May 7, 2023
 "Examine Ourselves"
 1 Corinthians 11:28
 Galatians 6:4

May 14, 2023
 "All Have Sinned"
 2 Samuel 12:13
 1 John 1:9
 Romans 3:23

May 21, 2023
 "Put Off the Old Man"
 Ephesians 4:22-23
 Ephesians 5:15-17

May 28, 2023
 "Ask and You Will Receive"
 Matthew 21:22
 John 16:24
 Psalm 139:23-24



On Sunday, April 16th, we gathered after worship and Sunday School for a baked potato bar lunch and a program by local historian Bill Munn. Bill helped us learn a little bit more about Marion around the time that our building was constructed in 1923. As we continue to celebrate 100 years in this building, we remember our roots, but strive to make our church a place of peace and hope for the 21st century.

Centennial Remembered with Bill Munn





When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each



...ly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where
... of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. -Acts 2:1-4 (Image by Holger Schué from Pixabay.)

Worship

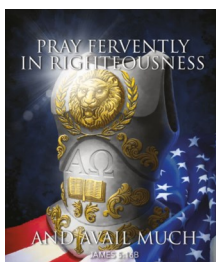
National Day of Prayer - May 4th

God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. He stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention in the affairs of men.

As we pray we want Americans to encounter the God who rules over their country. "He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the LORD God Almighty is His name."

—Amos 4:13 NIV

He is the One who gave us this promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by My name, will



humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." As we humbly and diligently seek Him, we'll be changed, and we'll see transformation in America through prayer!

Find the Prayer for our Nation at https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/2023_national_prayer

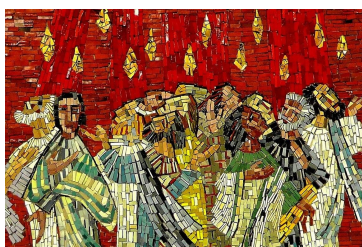
Special Music-May 14th

Gwen Eagleton & Sheila Todd

We are pleased to announce that we will have special music on May 14th, during the worship service. Gwen Eagleton, who is Tom Weesner's niece, will be accompanied by Sheila Todd and will share their talents during worship. Gwen graduated from Stanford University and studied Shakespeare in London. A member of AEA, she appeared in *The Phantom of the Opera* National Tour for over three years and appeared as Madame Giry. Among her favorite roles, she has had the joy of playing all of Shirley Jones movie musical roles: Laurey in *Oklahoma!*, Julie in *Carousel*, and Marian in *The Music Man*. Her love of church solo work began in high school and culminated in four years as Co-Soloist at The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. A lover of collaboration, she is moving from her church solo work to the recording studio to complete her first album, *Shepherd Me*.



What is Pentecost?



On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all

over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate

the commissioning of new members into ministry. Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday." The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-pentecost>

Doubting Thomas - Member Contribution

John 20:24-31

I have always been fond of the story of Thomas, missing out on seeing Jesus entering the house because he was off somewhere. How disappointed he must have been. His was sort of a sour grapes kind of reaction that lingered through the centuries, that he doubted the words of his fellow disciples and promised only to believe if he was given physical proof that it was truly Jesus and not some ghost come back to haunt them. Then a week later it was finally his turn to see and feel the proof that Jesus was Lord and God. The neatest thing about this story is what Jesus told Thomas. For me, it sounded like a prediction, for I am one of those blessed who have not seen, yet I believe and Jesus knew I would be, centuries before I was born.

Tangible Proof, Closing Doubt's Door by Judith Sears

Do you suppose that Thomas felt warmth and vitality?
some kind of electric spark or perhaps a pulsing...?
the essence of God flowing through his fingers...
Was it a brilliant thing to have experienced?
or a simple confirming wound?

the electric connection of searching fingers
examining the wounds,
the breathtaking realization of answers found,
his disbelief dissolved,
the humbling surrender, the clarity of his belief.

Forever forward Thomas would no longer be uncertain
the lesson was learned
though he would be remembered as the doubter
he will be still and forever loved for who he was.

Someday I will be at that door
I will know the affect of that precious wounded hand
indelibly impressed upon my own small hand
All the magnificence of the paradise
into which He leads me, will pale
compared to the splendor of holding His hand.

Judith A Sears (Louise Webb's daughter)



“Believe” (Doubting Thomas touches Jesus' Hands)
by Melani Pyke. Painted live during worship at Light
City Church Fort Erie, November 17, 2019

Around the Church



The Dust Bunnies, assisted this time by Dennis & Sue Paul, wipe down and dust the pews in the sanctuary. This was a big job and took the dusting crew two days to finish! We sure appreciate all of your hard work!



Cathy Lane and Donna Wiley helped the preschoolers and the Worthy kids decorate a rain barrel for Marion Utilities. Businesses throughout Marion decorated the rain barrels and they were raffled off on Earth Day, April 25th at Matter Park.

Keep your eyes open throughout town, maybe you'll spot ours!

May Special Offering

1st Sunday Coin Collection, May 7th, will go to The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army in Marion, IN serves the community of Grant County through programs and services that bring hope to people's lives. The Salvation Army is committed to Doing the Most Good in the community through meeting human needs while sharing the love of God with others.



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

THANK YOU!

Dear Pastor Wes,

It was so nice to have some of your congregation join us for our Good Friday service. We appreciate your support.

Peace,

Pastor Laura

Herbst United Methodist Church

2551 S 600 W

Marion, IN 46953



Building Ministry For Tomorrow

Did you know that Individuals can deposit \$ in the United Methodist Foundation?

The Loan & Savings Ministry welcomes deposits to fund loans to Indiana United Methodist churches and agencies.

Glenn Howell, Director of Development, United Methodist Foundation of Indiana tells us about it:

Many individuals and churches do not know that they can purchase certificates from our Loan & Savings Ministry, much as they do at the local bank. More than likely our rate of return will be higher than the bank's. You can check our rates of return at www.lsmindiana.org/deposits/. We use the money to make loans to churches. Since we began this program back in 2001, we have never failed to give a single depositor their funds when their certificate matured. I have had certificates for many years, even before I worked here. So, I would certainly vouch for the "credit" of the Loan & Savings Ministry.

Something that is "incredible," is that in over 20 years of loaning money to churches we have never had a single loan default. Surely, you say, that is impossible. A default is when the lending institution has to accept that the money they loaned is lost due to lack of payment. Defaults are so common that most lenders build a default rate into projections for their budgets. Yet, through wise lending, understanding how churches work, and knowing how to partner with churches in tough times, we have never had a default.

So if you want to earn a little more on your savings and help the United Methodist Foundation have funds to loan to churches like ours, consider this in your financial planning.

For more information visit: [www.https://www.lsmindiana.org/](https://www.lsmindiana.org/)



MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor	Scholarship Committee 5:30 pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship Svc. 9:15 am 1st Sunday Coin Offering 	Administrative Council Mtg 6pm Parlor		Summer Conversations 9-4 AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor	Dust Bunnies 10am to 1 pm		Spring Craft Fair 10-3 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day Worship Svc. 9:15 am with Gwen Eagleton/ Sheila Todd	June FOCUS Submissions Deadline		Outdoor Work Day Trustees AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship Svc. 9:15 am			Committee Chairs Noon Parlor AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor			Faith In Motion Dance Recital Marion H.S. 6 pm
28	29	30	31			
Pentecost Sunday Worship Svc. 9:15 am			AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm, 3rd Floor			

June 11th, Laura Whittenberger Concert @ 2 pm

July 4th, Bike & Pet Parade/Root Beer Floats, time TBD

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!



Ruth Ann purchased the Rod Crossman watercolor at an exhibit of several of his paintings at the Hostess House in Marion. The subject of the painting is the old administration building at Marion College, later renamed Indiana Wesleyan University, when the typical mode of transportation was horse-drawn. In the painting, Crossman depicts a rainy evening with buildings and clouded sky reflected in the water on South Washington Street. It is one of Ruth Ann's favorite pieces of the many artworks she has collected and displayed in their beautiful home.

Contributed by Willard Rust, long-time member at First United Methodist Church.