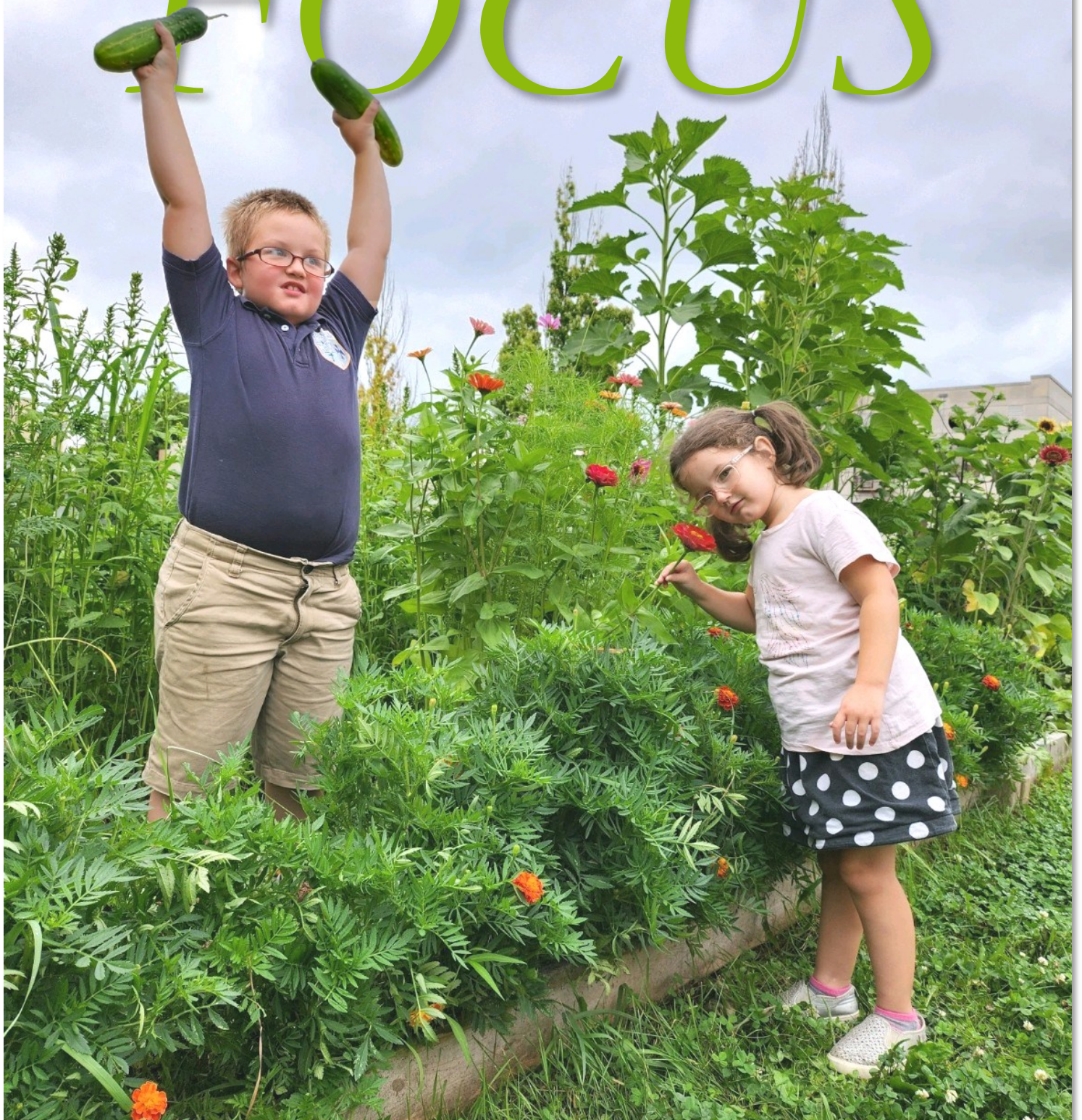


September 2023

Our 100th
Year
Here

FOCUS

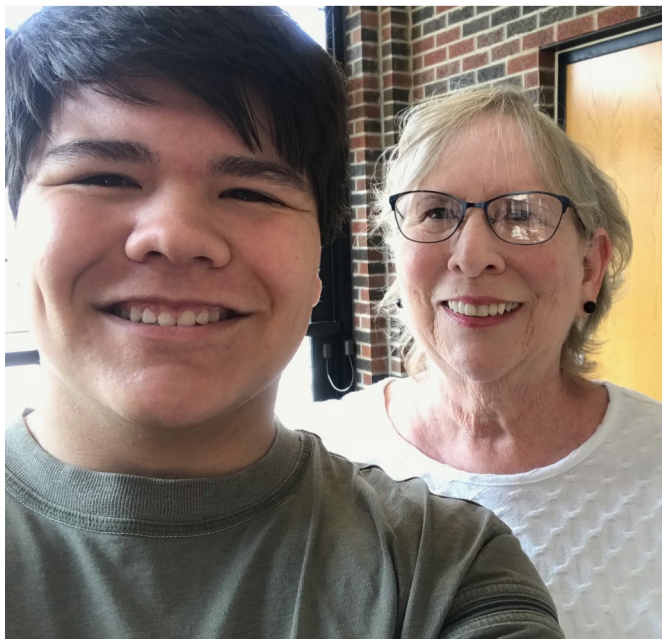


First United Methodist Church is a caring place in a diverse urban community for all people.

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

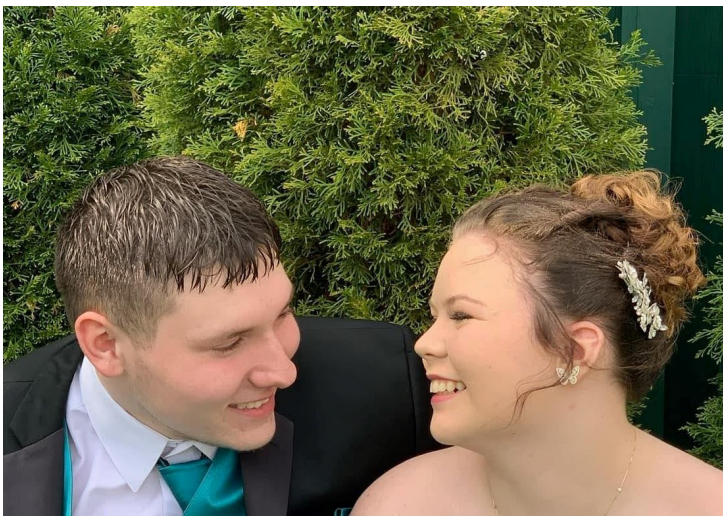
9:15 Sunday Worship, 10:30 Sunday School for all ages.

Celebrating Our Graduates



Nicky Provst, a Marion high school graduate, is part of the extended family of Carolyn Ellis - and a favorite of his Sunday school teachers, not because it was easy to keep his attention, but he was like a sponge, soaking up the lesson of the day - even when it appeared as though he was paying zero attention. Soon Nicky will be leaving for the Air Force. We thank him for his service.

Eleanor Curtis, Nancy Worthy's niece, also graduated from Marion High School. Eleanor has overcome many challenges in her daily life. She met a wonderful man named Alex who helped her persevere through high school and graduate with honors. Eleanor is still sorting through her opportunities in life and is learning what it means to be an adult.




*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14
As our kids walk the halls of their schools, let's pray that the light they shine for Jesus would be bright. As others interact with them, may our children draw people to Christ through their words and actions.*



Drew Morrow is the son of Susan and the late Scott Morrow and the grandson of Jane Scholar. He graduated from Purdue University Fort Wayne as a mechanical engineer. Drew is now working for Vintage Arconics in Ft. Wayne. During high school, Drew often volunteered to help with church dinners. What was unique about Drew's service was he didn't stand around hoping no one would notice him. Instead, he pitched in anywhere he was needed.

Front Cover Photo

Donna and Philip Worthy helped Pastor Wes harvest some beautiful veggies from our neighborhood garden plot on Boots Street. Donna enjoyed the zinnia's and marigold's fragrances on this beautiful, albeit cloudy day.



FOCUS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Marion, Indiana

SEPTEMBER 2023

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<i>Wes Rediger</i>		Front Cover Photo Story
		GOINGS ON ABOUT FUMC
	3	Prayer Concerns
		Birthdays & Anniversaries
		WORSHIP
<i>Cathy Lane</i>		Worship In The Park
		OVERSEEING WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US
<i>Debbie Ivey</i>	4	Sacred Places Report
<i>Mary Malone</i>		Scrip RaiseRight Fundraising
		LOOKING FORWARD/LOOKING BACK
		September Themes and Scriptures
		Who We Are at FUMC
		CENTER SPREAD
<i>Tom Holloway Jr.</i>	5-6	Red Gold Tomato Harvest
		EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP
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	9	September Coin Offering
<i>Wes Rediger</i>		Carroll DeVries Bountiful Birthday
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		Rummage Sale Information
		Meals on Wheels Drivers
		Chicken Noodle Dinner
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		Wick's Pie Fundraiser
		THE CALENDAR
<i>Mary Malone</i>	10	September 2023
<i>Mary Eckerle</i>		Thank-You from MPL Staff
		Future Events at FUMC
		Online Giving QR Code
		BACK PAGE SPOTLIGHT
<i>Kraig Piper & Sarah Evans</i>	11	God's Bounty Poem & Dougherty Apple Orchard
		COVER PHOTO
<i>Wes Rediger</i>		Philip & Donna Worthy at Boots Street Garden

Prayer Concerns

Please call the office (765) 664-5177

Barb and family on the passing of her father, Bob Salveter.
 Barb Pack's daughter, Katherine Mitchell
 Sidenia Stace
 Cheryl Philbert
 Louise Webb
 Barbara Piper
 Carolyn James
 Jane Hiatt
 Betty & Jim Fletcher
 Willard and Ruth Ann Rust
 Linda Simpson's granddaughter, Lucia Tomlinson
 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

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

September & October Birthdays

Charles Herriman	09/15
Pat Wickham	09/15
Debbie Ivey	09/16
Manuel Aguilar	09/20
Mary Malone	09/20
Willard Rust	09/20
Joan Brown	09/23
Tom Roop	09/26
John Wood	09/26
Becky Beams	10/04
Tom Holloway Jr.	10/04
Kraig Piper	10/04
Rita Holloway	10/13
Susie Flynn	10/15
Tom Holloway	10/16
Rex Lane	10/19
Ray Lane	10/19
Allison Harshman	10/23
Rosaleigh Harshman	10/23
Jeanne Michos	10/25
Philip Worthy	10/28
Pierre Fisher	10/29

Anniversaries

Jim & Betty Fletcher	09/25	68 yrs.
Willard & Ruth Ann Rust	10/13	75 yrs.

Worship in the Park



August 13th was a beautiful day to worship outside in God's creation. First United Methodist met at Matter Park Meadow pavilion at 10 am and participated in outdoor worship. Sarah Evans led the congregation in worship with Dillon Hamilton supplying guitar accompaniment to the hymns that were sung.

Those in attendance joined their voices to many favorites, including: "This is the Day That the Lord Has Made", "Morning Has Broken" and "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love".

After worship service everyone enjoyed a "carry-in" with ham, Tom Holloway Jr.'s corn on the cob, macaroni and potato salads and delicious desserts of brownies and cupcakes.

Make sure you are following us on Facebook to see updates like these.





INDIANA LANDMARKS

Sacred Places Indiana is a program of Indiana Landmarks which is designed to train and equip congregations to maintain their historic buildings and leverage them for outreach and growth. A small team from our church has recently completed the training program offered by Sacred Places Indiana. That team, along with other members of our Sacred Places committee, have been hard at work to create and update documents that share the history of our church and tell others who we are, what we have, what we do, and identify ways that we can share our physical and human resources with the community.

Through this program we engaged with a local architectural firm to conduct a building conditions assessment and to produce a master planning document outlining recommended repairs and upgrades to our church building. We are now ready for the next phase of the program which enables us to apply for grant monies to supplement our own fundraising in order to address some of the needs outlined in the master plan. It is our hope that the Sacred Places Indiana program will continue to be a help to us going forward so that we can be God’s hands and heart in our community.

~Debbie Ivey

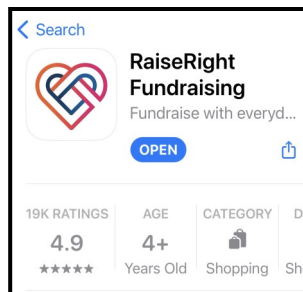
Scrip Fundraising

Gift card fundraising is the best way to fundraise, simply by changing the way you pay for your purchases. Let’s say you are planning on going out to eat at Texas Roadhouse and your bill comes to \$62. If you have a RaiseRight account you can buy a \$60 gift card, pay for your bill and the church gets \$4.80 instantly.

There are hundreds of stores and brands to choose from. We just need to always think about how we can get more power behind our giving!

The app is free to download on your phone and takes just minutes to set up. Here’s how you do it:

Go to App store or Google Play and search RaiseRight. Download the app and create an account. This connects YOU with the FUMC fundraising account. The church’s enrollment code is: **8BLFCF7826121**



Once you are logged in, you can use the “shop” button to find restaurants, gas stations, home improvement stores, clothing brands, travel and more! You can “favorite” stores by tapping the heart button next to the name. You can even use it to set budget limits if you spend in specific categories. Now that I know how easy this is, I’ll be using RaiseRight gift cards for all my budgeted spending!

~Mary Malone

With endless earning potential, there's no limit to how much money you can raise.

September Themes & Scriptures

September 3, 2023
 “Good Samaritan, Bad News”
 Luke 10:25-37

September 10, 2023
 “Nobody Came to the Party”
 Luke 15:1-24

September 17, 2023
 “Timid Soul”
 Matthew 25:14-30

September 24, 2023
 “Seasons and Soil”
 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



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.



The life of a Red Gold tomato plant; it is planted, matures in about 110 days, and is ready for harvest. As the machine hums along at about three miles per hour, it uproots two rows of vines. The vines are sucked through a shredder and blown back onto the field as the tomatoes are collected. Anything not red or green. Dirt clods, last year's squash and the errant toad are also blown back. In 10 minutes, the machine gathers more than 22,000 pounds of Roma-type processing tomatoes. The time from the trailer to the can is only about 10 minutes. The products are ready for you. Next time you open a can of Red Gold tomatoes, you'll know where they came from.



is then machine-harvested and transported in bulk containers to a processing facility. The tomatoes are laid on a belt that conveys them to the top of the harvester, where the tomatoes cascade onto other belts. Electronic eyes send signals to plastic fingers that pop out and the tomatoes tumble to the ground. The ripe fruit is funneled into a tandem trailer. In ten minutes, a harvester can harvest 100,000 tomatoes. When the tomatoes are received at the selected processing plant, the tomatoes are cooked in the can for about 20 minutes and then cooled, stacked and warehoused. You'll appreciate the road it has traveled to get to your home.



Scholarship Opportunities

The past few months the Scholarship Committee has been meeting to update scholarship information. The committee found the scholarships were established by bequests, by sale of camp property, and by UWF and UMM. The list of scholarships with eligibility requirements and deadlines is below for your information.

The deadline for post-secondary scholarships is February 1st. The deadline for all camp scholarships is May 15th. Email the church office to request detailed eligibility requirements and an application.



- Hazel Hewitt Education Scholarship
 Recipient must be a member of the First United Methodist Church in Marion
 Recipient must be entering a teacher training or education program
- V. Smail/M.M. Howard Fund
 Recipient must be a female
 Recipient must be a member of the First United Methodist Church in Marion or the daughter of a member
 This scholarship is awarded one time per recipient
- Camp Scholarship
 The purpose of this scholarship is to fund children, youth, and families attending UMC camps.
 This fund may also be used for retreats and other trips as designated by the Scholarship Committee.
- School of Christian Mission Scholarship
 Recipient is a woman attending the School of Christian Mission for the first time
 This scholarship is awarded one time per person
 Applicant should contact the United Women in Faith or church office at 765-664-5177 for details
- United Methodist Men Seminary Scholarship
 Recipient must be a member of the First United Methodist Church in Marion, or an individual in a leadership position at the church
 Recipient must be enrolled as a student in a church ministry program.
 Recipient may receive the scholarship more than once.

Other Financial Assistance Opportunities

- Arthur and Netti Nye Scholarship
 Recipient must be enrolled in a nursing program through the University of Indianapolis.
 Applicant applies through the University of Indianapolis
- University Matching Scholarship
 Recipient(s) must be enrolled in a university that offers matching scholarships to quality. Locally, Indiana Wesleyan University, Taylor University, and Manchester University, have offered matching scholarships. If applicant has received a scholarship through FUMC and is enrolled in a university that offers matching scholarships, inquire with the university for more information about the scholarship matching program.

The Scholarship Committee will prioritize scholarship funds for members of FUMC, Marion. The monetary amount of each scholarship will be determined by the Scholarship Committee and may vary from year to year, based on available funding sources.

Questions regarding these scholarships may be directed to the church office at 765-664-5177.

Boiler Impact on FUMC

Dear friends, your trustees and council have been hard at work this week - faced with a dire situation, the loss of our boiler - and heat. I know, heat isn't exactly a need at the moment - but it will be in the single digits of November, December, January, February. The loss of our boiler is very much a brick-and-mortar issue, a dollar and cents issue - but it is so much more than that!



I cannot imagine losing the moments with Philip and Donna, learning about Jesus and

God's Word, playing games, the enthusiasm, smiles, and hugs. I wish you could be up here during Children's Time, watching the Varner boys react to the message - sometimes with giggles, always with enthusiasm - I know the answer. My heart does a little flip when I see Gwen and Lauren and the graduates joining us in worship and hearing about the dreams and achievements of so many more who have come through our Sunday school. The warmth of the environment - including the warmth of the air - makes raising our children possible.

Let your minds wander - think about all the moments serving Christ here in this building: feeding a multitude with chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes and green beans and chatting with our neighbors who come to be fed. Think

about the children and families we serve, kneeling before them to fit those little feet with socks and shoes - and the smiles as they leave with their new kickers. Think about our shut-ins we visit with gift bags and the Focus, gift bags assembled here in Fellowship Hall. Hear the music of the organ and melodies of choirs. We remember laying to rest a loved one, the sorrow for ourselves and the joy for the loved one to be in Christ's presence—remember weddings and confirmations and baptisms.

These are what the building and the boiler are all about: serving as Jesus served, being His heart, hands, feet, and His love.

You can rest assured that the Trustees and Council will have heat in our building before winter. We have thoroughly researched options, received multiple quotes, and selected what we believe is the best option, given all the circumstances. This unexpected expense is significant, and we are still reviewing options to cover the cost. We will be updating you as the project unfolds and will share opportunities of how you can assist in the financing of this project. The Trustees and Council as always, covet your prayers.



~Barb Pack, Council Chair

Every organization experiences a life-threatening challenge sometime in its existence. This is our time. The loss of our heating source challenges everything we do and everything we envision doing in the future. So yes, this is our time.

Please review your resources, particularly your assets, not just your daily living funds, and carefully/prayerfully consider what you will invest in the future ministries of this congregation.

The boiler(s) make everything possible. Everything depends on having heat in the building. Our children, our senior adults and all who worship and serve here do so because the building provides a secure environment. It's not about the heaters, it's about the people and ministries who need the heat to operate.

Alcoholics Anonymous (50+ people in four groups on Sundays and Wednesdays), the Meals on Wheels Office and volunteer deliverers, Worship Services, Sunday School Classes, and loving fellowship all depend on us giving financially, not only to replace the old, deteriorated equipment but also to assure our future.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this financial challenge. Information about the ways to act will soon be forthcoming.

~Pastor Wes Rediger

September Special Offerings

1st Sunday Coin Collection, September 3rd, will go toward our annual Shoe Drive.

This is a great opportunity to bless the school aged children of our neighborhoods with good shoes for school.



Thumbs Up! Award

Cathy Lane passed the Thumbs Up award to Nancy Worthy at the Council meeting on August 14th for her outstanding efforts in cleaning the church building's carpets and floors over the past months. Her untiring efforts have blessed us all. Do you know someone who needs an encouraging Thumbs Up? Let Barb Pack know or send a note to the office. We will make sure this person is recognized.

Bountiful Years!



Carroll DeVries celebrates a bountiful milestone birthday, 29 years and counting!



We will be holding a Rummage Sale in the Annex on Saturday, September 16th from 8 am to 2 pm. We are collecting donations from your closets, garages and storage buildings! Contact Nancy Worthy or drop off at the church during business hours. All proceeds will go toward replacing our building's outdated boiler.

GRANT CO. MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

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



MEALS ON WHEELS

Chicken Noodle Dinner

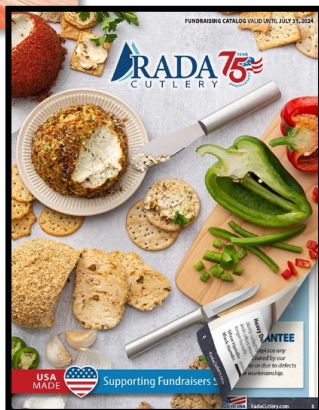
We will be holding a Chicken Noodle Dinner fundraiser on November 4th. Please mark your calendars.

We will also be making noodles to sell and all hands are appreciated! Noodle making dates will be: Aug. 31st and Sep 1st for making and bagging, and then again on Sep 21st for making the noodles and bagging them the next day on Sep 22nd.



Rada Cutlery Fundraiser

FUMC will be taking over the Preschool's former fundraiser of Rada Cutlery. This catalog is full of terrific gifts for teachers, back to school, housewarming gifts, weddings, and the holidays! Please check out the catalogs around the church and in the office. It's so easy to order. Fill out the order form in the center of the catalog.



Wick's Pie Fundraiser

It's getting to be Pie time again! The United Women in Faith will be sponsoring the Wick's Pie fundraiser this year. The pies are \$9 each and flavors available are: sugar cream, pecan, peanut butter, German chocolate, pumpkin, pumpkin spice and coconut sugar cream. All pie orders need to be turned in with payment no later than Monday, October 9th. Make checks payable to: United Methodist Women.

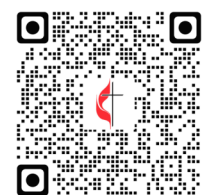


SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thanks!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Pastor Wes and the FUMC Church, Thank you for allowing MPL's staff and patrons to use your lot during our parking lot project. We appreciate your kindness. Sincerely, Mary Eckerle, Library Director</p>					1	2
					Noodle Bagging 11 am Kitchen, F. H.	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship Svc. 9:15 am 1st Sun Coin Offering AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY		Finance Mtg. 6 pm Parlor AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor		Mary will be in the office.	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	Administrative Council Mtg 6pm Parlor		October FOCUS Submissions Deadline AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor	United Way Day of Caring 	Discover Marion Downtown	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	UWF 6 pm, Picnic at Simpson's		AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor	Noodle Making 1 pm Kitchen, F. H.	Noodle Bagging 11 am Kitchen, F. H.	Neighborhood Clean up
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		PEO Mtg. 5:30 - 8:30pm, F.H. Endowment Mtg. 7 pm, Parlor	Committee Chairs Noon Parlor AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm, 3rd Floor			100 Year Celebration at Epworth Forest, North Webster, IN

Future Events!

September (Date TBD,) Mississinewa Valley Band
 September 16th, Rummage Sale
 November 4th, Chicken Noodle Dinner Fundraiser
 Save the dates, more info coming!



Scan the code for on-line giving.

God's Bounty

The eyes of all look up
In hope, O God, to Thee;
Their platter and their cup
They set for Thee to see
Upon their empty board;
And wait upon thee still,
Their Father and their Lord,
Their emptiness to fill.

Where'er the needy stand
And watch the season's round
Thou openest Thy hand
And blessings all abound.
Where ever fledgelings call
Or human children cry
Thy bounty feedeth all,
And unto all is nigh.

~*John Gray*

