

November 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](mailto:info@marionumc.org)*

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

## Gratitude

In his poem “i thank You God” e.e. cummings writes:

“now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened”



As we reflect on the theme of gratitude, cummings reminds us that it is not a passive act. Gratitude is an intentional action or practice that we must take if we want to truly be thankful. We are called to live gratefully, not only because we have been given so much. But we are also given the gift of gratitude so that we can live more fully.

What does it mean to say that gratitude is a gift? As humans, we are

given the ability to open our eyes to the blessings and bounty that surround us. When things don't go the way we had planned, when our comfort has been disrupted, when we have been hurt physically or emotionally, when our hearts have been broken, we have the ability to reflect on those events and decide how we want to deal with them. And it's at this point that things get tricky.

It's pretty easy for me to get preachy and say you should just find the silver lining to that dark cloud – that even on the worst days of your life, you should find something for which to be grateful. But we all know that it isn't that easy. And even if you aren't having your worst day, you may be dealing with depression or pain or frustration. You may be facing difficult decisions, lack of direction, or loneliness. Life may feel dark and it might feel difficult to get out of bed in the morning, let alone feel grateful.

Dear reader, I hope that none of that is true for you. However, all of us have those days. And we are living on a planet that has millions of people, our fellow humans – our brothers and sisters - who suffer miseries beyond our imaginations. How do we talk about gratitude to them?

It has occurred to me that true gratitude moves us forward, changes us, transforms us. If we are truly thankful, we don't just say a prayer and then that's it. Gratefulness requires something of us. When e.e. cummings says “the eyes of my eyes are opened” it means that gratitude helps us to see more than just what **we** want or what is good for **us**. It helps us to see the abundance in our lives, but maybe it allows us to see the situations that others find themselves in as well.

Author Melody Beattie writes:

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough,

and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.

It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates

a vision for tomorrow.”

Perhaps living every day with gratitude could allow us to live more simply and to find meaning in the most ordinary of moments. Perhaps it could open our eyes to a world that doesn't have the privilege and safety that we have. Perhaps it could give us peace for the heartbreak we live with and let us help others find peace as well. And perhaps it could allow us to look beyond ourselves to those who struggle for breath and food and rest.

May gratitude fill your lives with its transformative power and might we pray with e.e. cummings:

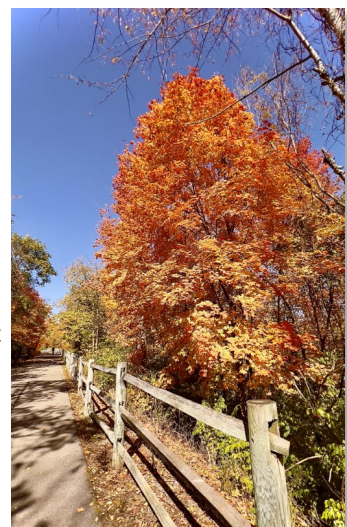
“i thank You God for most this amazing day...”


~Sarah Evans

### Front Cover Photo

Cardinal Greenway's fall leaves are so beautiful this year! The Cardinal Greenway, the longest rail-trail in Indiana, connects Marion, Muncie, Losantville, Richmond and a host of other small towns in rural northeastern Indiana. The trail takes its name from the Cardinal, the passenger train that once regularly ran the route. In 2018, the trail became an inductee into the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.

The paved pathway is open from sunrise to sunset, and it's well maintained and mostly flat for its entire length. The design elements along the path are consistent throughout, with arched steel embellishments on bridge crossings and stone mile markers every 0.5 mile.





# FOCUS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Marion, Indiana

## NOVEMBER 2023

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## Prayer Concerns

Please call the office (765) 664-5177

Ruth Ann Rust and family on the passing of Willard Rust  
 Susie Flynn's nephew Russell and niece Jana  
 Jeanne Michos  
 Ryan Howell's brother Dustin  
 Cheryl Philbert  
 Louise Webb  
 Barbara Piper  
 Carolyn James  
 Jane Hiatt  
 Betty & Jim Fletcher  
 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

## November/December Birthdays

Terry Ivey	11/02
Wesley Rediger	11/06
Shawn Swathwood	11/10
Sarah Evans	11/11
John York	11/12
Bob Philbert	11/17
Sally Varner	11/22
Martha Russell	11/26
Doris Schnar	11/26
Ann Zobrosky	12/06
Jan Michos	12/12
Sally Bancroft	12/13
Jane Scholar	12/15
Sue Bratton	12/17
Lauren Swathwood	12/18
Joe Simpson	12/21
Phylis Kepler	12/22
Jack Stace	12/24
Mary Ann Frankenfield	12/26
Ruth Ann Rust	12/26
Leland Gamson	12/30

## Anniversaries

Jack & Sidenia Stace	11/22	28 yrs.
John & Peg York	11/23	56 yrs.
Rex & Cathy Lane	12/12	46 yrs.



Hebrews 12 reminds us that these saints, a “great cloud of witnesses,” surround us and cheers us on. We remember and honor the saints in our lives as we celebrate All Saints Day on the 29th of October.

Willard Rust \*  
 Helen Campbell  
 Robert Salveter \*  
 Hubert Tucker \*  
 Michael Roorbach  
 Grace Curfman \*  
 Kenneth Puckett  
 John Boxell

Bill Harris \*  
 Jim Harris \*  
 Bette Lockhart \*  
 Marjorie Paullin \*  
 Anne Pickering Gottschalk \*

\* Member of FUMC

## Thank You to our Guest Preachers

October was a wonderful month for worship at First Church.

On October 1st, our Conference Superintendent, Saneta Maiko brought us a message of hope and courage.



On October 8th, Rev. David Byrum filled the pulpit. It was such a joy for so many to have the opportunity to visit with David and Becky.

On October 15th, we sang and sang—celebrating hymns and filling our hearts and souls with joy. Special thanks to Thad Reynolds and Susan Seacott.

On October 22nd, we heard a powerful message about God's constant presence with us from Rev. Shannon Stringer, Director of Conference Ministries. She and her husband David were welcomed by the congregation.



And then on October 29th Rev. David Schramm and his wife Joyce came home to much wonderful anticipation from long-time members to celebrate All-Saints Sunday with us.

Many thanks to all of our preachers who shared their messages with us.

~Sarah Evans

# Open Mic Night Repeat Success!



Friday, Oct 20th was our second Open Mic Night. The audience was entertained by 10 acts and even a remote video by our beatnik, Kraig Piper. 40 to 50 attended, both members and community neighbors. Cookies and coffee refreshments were served. Thanks to all the hands involved in making this outreach into our community a success!

## November Themes & Scriptures

Nov 5: "The Unhired Hand"  
Matthew 20:1-15

Nov 12: "Moses and the Fig Tree"  
Luke 13:6-9

Nov 19: "May I Sell You More?"  
Matthew 25:1-13

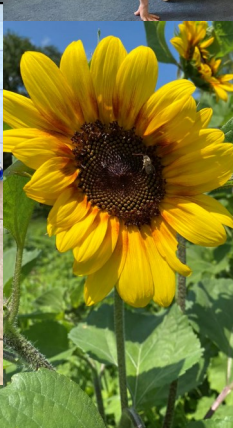
Nov 26: Thanksgiving Sunday



## 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.









## Harvest & Bounty

As we express our gratitude for the bounty in our lives, we will begin collecting non-perishable items for the Sunnycrest Community Church Food Pantry. We regularly send folks to them who are needing food. So it seems that we should help provide for their ministry.

During November, please consider bringing in items from the Food Pantry's list.



**Nov. 5th:** Canned vegetables, (green beans, corn, carrots, diced tomatoes.) Canned fruit, cream of chicken soup, noodle or tomato soup, beef stew, Spaghetti-Os.

**Nov. 12:** Chili, canned great northern beans, canned chicken, canned tuna, spaghetti sauce, gravy mix, Ramen noodles, peanut butter, jelly.

**Nov 19:** 1 or 2 lb. spaghetti noodles, rice, pancake mix, syrup, boxed pasta, mac and cheese, corn muffin mix, boxed potatoes, egg noodles.

**Nov 26:** Saltine crackers, cereal, oil, brownie, muffin or cookie mix, pudding or Jell-o, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper.

## Sacred Places Committee Update: National Register of Historic Places

Our church has embarked on the process of becoming listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One benefit of being on the National Register is that it will open doors to grant opportunities that can assist us with maintaining our church structure. As we head into our building's second hundred years, there will be continuing needs for maintenance to our roof, bricks, plaster, etc. It is our hope that we will be able to find grants to help defray those costs.

Thanks to donations from interested members and some help from the Save Our Stories (S.O.S.) group, we have enlisted the help of a consultant to prepare our submission and guide us through this process. The consultant spent several hours touring our church, reviewing historical documents gathered by Sarah Evans and talking with Sarah, Debbie Ivey and Thad Reynolds. The total process to get listed on the Register can take over a year so we are pleased to have the process underway!

~Debbie Ivey



## Tuesday Night Supper Club

Barb Salveter reported that there were 14 people in attendance for the first Tuesday night Supper Club. The December meeting will focus on holiday music.



Come out and get together with your church family and enjoy wonderful fellowship. Bring your friends!!



## Boiler Update at FUMC

Our boiler room has been a busy place over the past several weeks as our old boilers have been removed, new ones put in place and hooked up with lots of plumbing and welding going on. The primary boiler is now working, and the final touches are being done on the entire installation.

We are incurring additional costs for sump pump replacement and related plumbing as well as the potential that we may need to replace some components throughout the building to get better temperature control.

Our Fundraising campaign is in full swing, and the committee is thrilled with your generosity and excited to report that we have received \$26,850 so far! We are hopeful that, as others continue to give, we will meet or (hopefully) exceed our goal.



## Stewardship, How Are We Using our Resources?

Definition: Stewardship—the devout investment or use of money, time and ability.

We recognize as United Methodists and followers of Christ, that God is the source of all we have. As such, stewardship is a daily activity. A choice we make moment by moment. We choose not to waste, to buy a lower cost alternative, to shop for the best deal, and prioritize our spending. We choose to give. We choose to love.

The Finance team has been exemplary in the stewardship of our funds at Marion First UMC. It's a big responsibility. It's also a blessing to see your tithes and gifts in action. Our church is more beautiful now— both in spirit and appearance—thanks to the work and commitment of OUR PEOPLE!

The District Superintendent Dr. Maiko has encouraged us to narrow our focus and find simple ways to serve our

congregation and community with the gifts and talents we possess. Our theme for the coming year is “Nourishment for the Body and Soul.” I can’t think of a better way to serve our congregation, neighbors and friends .



*Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. ~ 1 Corinthians 4:1-2,*

We have overcome much. We have much to do. I'm confident that God still wants to use Marion First UMC as a force for good in Marion and Grant County. This fall, as you consider your pledge for 2024, be assured that we will use it in a loving, grace filled way to serve our congregation and community.

Pledge cards will be distributed in early November. Returning the pledge cards will be part of our Thanksgiving Sunday worship. We have much to be thankful for!

With love and gratitude,  
Denise Pearson-Harshman  
Finance Chair



## November Special Offerings

1st Sunday Coin Collection, November 5th, will go to the 8th Street Free Food Pantry.



## Kids Christmas Shoppe

December 9th from 11 to 1 pm we will have a Kid's Christmas Shop where our neighborhood children can come and shop with an escort for their parents and family members. We will need volunteers to be Elf Helpers, gift wrappers, and register "check-out" help.

This event will be by donation and each child will receive "Santa Bucks" to spend on items.

There will be a waiting area with refreshments; hot cocoa, coffee, cookies and entertainment for the parents, and children will be escorted by "elf Helpers" to the Annex to shop.

Donations needed of gift items, wrapping paper, tags and bows.

See Nancy Worthy for more information.



## Thumbs Up! Award

Kathy Boxell passed the Thumbs Up award to Rex Lane at the Council meeting on October 9th for all the hard work he has done on maintaining the building and the coordination of the boiler repair. The job of Trustee is often behind the scenes and we appreciate all the many ways Rex takes care of the building.

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.

## Rada Cutlery Fundraiser

The first Rada order has been received and distributed. Thank you so much for the sales! The total order came to: \$515, we raised \$172 from those sales!

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. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church.



We will hold another Rummage Sale on November 18th. Now accepting donations as you clean out closets, sheds and attics. Please bring items to the church and see the sign up sheet in the office for volunteer opportunities.

## 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



## Thanksgiving Dinner

We will have a Thanksgiving Church Family Dinner on Sunday November 19th after service. Volunteers are needed to provide turkeys and ham to be cooked by the 18th and prepped for the meal. Please see the signup sheet in the fellowship hall for side dishes, salads and desserts.



# NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor	Lyric Club 6 pm Music Room		Chicken Noodle Dinner 4:30-7 pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship Svc. 9:15 am <b>1st Sun Coin Offering</b> <b>8th St. Food Pantry</b> AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm	Lyric Club 6 pm Music Room		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	Mary Out  Administrative Council Mtg 6pm Parlor	Mary Out  Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	<b>December FOCUS Submissions Deadline</b> Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm	Mary Out  Lyric Club 6 pm Music Room		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship Svc. 9:15 am <b>Thanksgiving Dinner after Service</b> AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm	Lyric Club 6 pm Music Room		
26	27	28	29	30		
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	Committee Chairs Noon Parlor Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm	Lyric Club 6 pm Music Room		

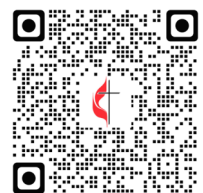
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**Nov 26:** Saltine crackers, cereal, oil, brownie, muffin or cookie mix, pudding or Jell-o, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper.



Scan the code for on-line giving.



Kraig Piper was out of town during the Open Mic Night, but sent along this remote video poetry reading.

His Beatnik style was enjoyed by all!