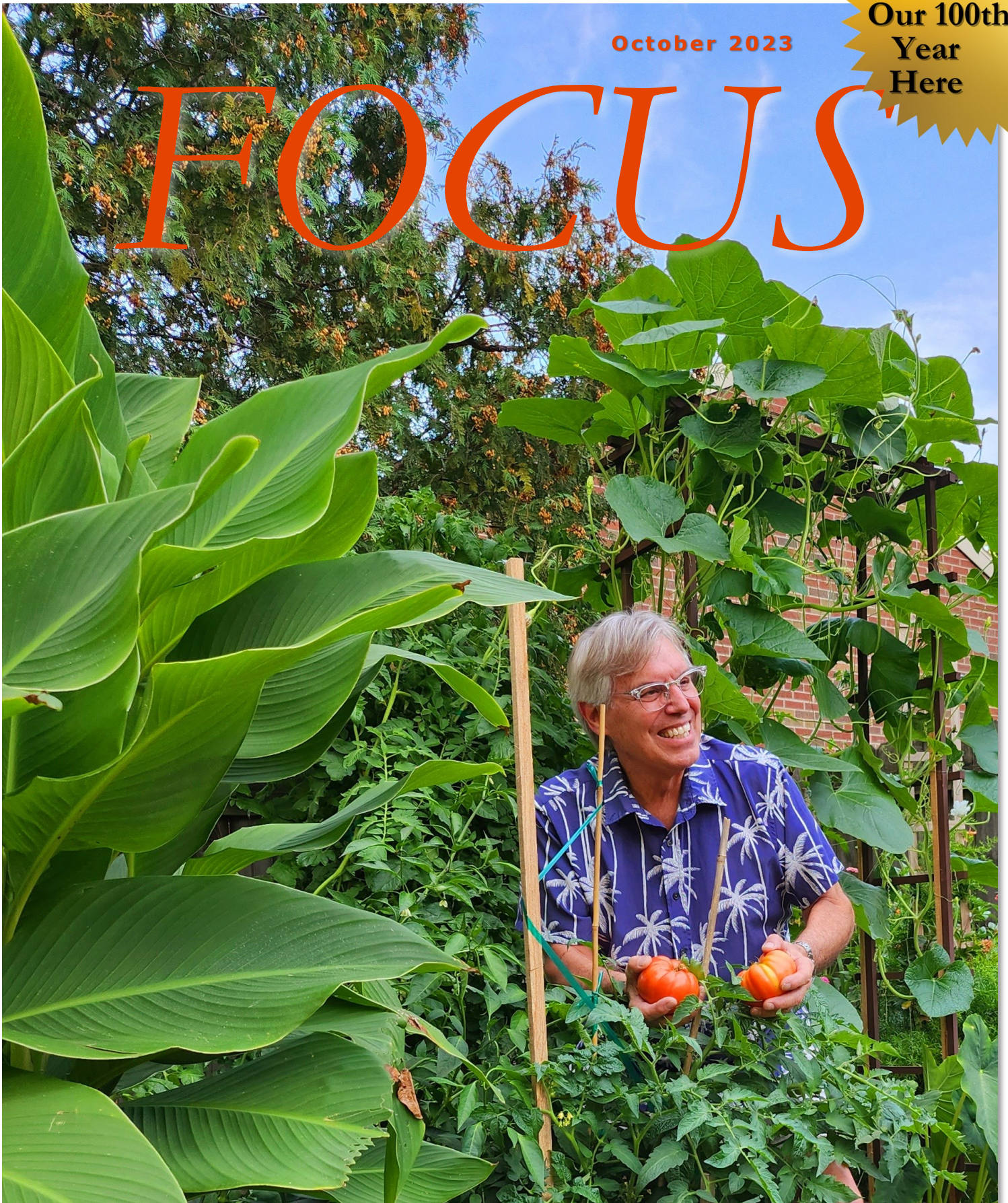


October 2023

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.

Stewardship For Tomorrow

Our greatest opportunity and moral responsibility are to operate our ministries with the future in mind. We steward our resources to prepare for future generations to serve, worship, and take the reins. Our greatest accomplishment is to build operations and outreaches that influence neighbors and young families who will worship and serve after our tenures are over.

If we live and operate “for just us” (those who attend now) we lose vitality, relevance, credibility, engagement, and adventure. The most effective ministry we can have with our aging generation is to involve ourselves in serving others, particularly young families in the Historic Marion Association, from the Mississinewa River to Tenth Street and from McClure to Nebraska Streets. Our neighborhood association includes government, retail, professional organizations, churches, and a variety of residential areas. We are close to new downtown apartments and restaurants, established law offices, banks, and realtors, and older housing for low-and middle-income families. This is where we have been planted for the last 100 years and this is where we are staying for the next 100 years. So, this is where we invest our energies, resources, and innovative outreach. These are our people, and the Spirit calls us to serve here.



But none of us live here. Only a few of us live close to our neighborhood. What are our options? Can people who live outside the neighborhood decide to serve here? Can we build a congregation that can walk to church? Can we decide to invest our resources and ministries in this historic neighborhood? Are we going to orient our ministries to the suburbs and beyond? How do we determine where and how we will invest our resources?

First and foremost, we will invest in nurture, outreach and witness, according to our Book of Discipline and the intentions of our Administrative Council. And so, our work on the facility can never be an end in itself. We fix the roof to stay dry and we replace the boilers to provide heat for worship, Sunday school, AA, Meals on Wheels, women’s ministries, and efforts in neighborhood outreach.

We care for each other by engaging our community together. We invest our money and time in serving our neighbors together. People who live outside our neighborhood association are invited to come downtown and serve this community together. The potential is limited only by the limits of our vision.

We give tithes and offerings to express our cheerful intent to share our abundant blessings. Obligatory tithing may pay a few bills, but it gains the giver nothing. We give out of love because we live in the love and grace and overflowing generosity of the Creator. We share the bounty we enjoy because the greatest joy is in giving. Giving is more blessed

than receiving, but it takes maturity to understand it. As fall approaches, let’s pray and think and discuss our stewardship. Now is the time to give cheerfully for the operation of our ministries, and for the special current need for new boilers.

God is good to us. Let’s pass it on through the ministries of our beloved First Church. Thank you. ~Pastor Rediger

Pastor Time Off

Why Is Pastor Rediger Taking October Off?

Unlike most other vocations, a pastor can deal with death, spiritual issues, petty criticisms, affirming encouragement, a variety of leadership styles, family tragedies, illnesses, celebrations of birth, administrative and management issues, and all this day after day.

A pastor is on call around the clock and can be interrupted day and night. The demanding pace and open schedule can be exhausting. There needs to be some slowdown to recharge the batteries, and care for the soul.

A pastor can block out hours for sermon preparation, but there is always the need or crisis of the moment. Members and attendees expect sermons that reflect serious prayer and study. Pastors need uninterrupted time for meditation and preparation.

Pastors who take breaks of several days, weeks, or even months, are more likely to stay at a church longer because they interpret the time away as the congregation’s affirmation and care.

Personal burnout results more from boredom, stagnant programs, or lost vitality, than from a demanding work schedule. A pastor who perceives the work as an exciting adventure will likely be energized by the pastorate. Uninterrupted time away in meditation, study, reflection, prayer and writing, can turn that energy into innovative visioning— into new ways to lead change.

As societies change, churches must adapt and change, or die as society moves past them. Thousands of local congregations in the United States are in decline due to an unwillingness to adapt to the world around them. A pastor’s time off can help reassess the pastor’s role in leading change and will be most effective when the congregation reassesses its role in adapting to their community.

~Wes Rediger

Front Cover Photo



Pastor Rediger harvests tomatoes between cannas and long stem gourd vines in their back yard garden. We all harvest vegetables from plants, values from relationships, and progress from working together. October brings cool crisp air and bountiful gardens. Blessings to share abound.



OCTOBER 2023

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Prayer Concerns

Please call the office (765) 664-5177

Jeanne Michos
 Carolyn Ellis' son, Ken Puckett, passed away recently.
 Ray and Carolyn Lane's daughter, Stacey Grosh
 Bonnie Gamson's mother, Helen Campbell, passed away recently.
 Susie Flynn, now at home recovering.
 Barb Pack's daughter, Katherine Mitchell
 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

October/November Birthdays

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
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

Anniversaries

Willard & Ruth Ann Rust	10/13	75 yrs.
Jack & Sidenia Stace	11/22	28 yrs.
John & Peg York	11/23	56 yrs.

Worship in October

All Saints Sunday

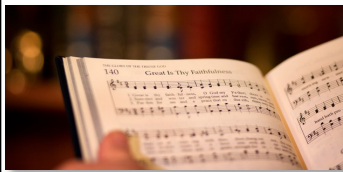
If you have lost those dear to you in the past year (Nov. 2022 to the present) and would like for their names to be listed as part of the All Saints Day service on Oct. 29th, please inform the Church Office by Monday, October 23rd.



Celebration of Hymns

On October 15th, our worship service will be a musical service with hymns that will help us see the way that music strengthens us on our spiritual journey. Our Christian heritage has given us thousands of years of hymns. These represent different theological perspectives, languages, and cultures. The hymnal that we generally use for worship, The United Methodist Hymnal, is just a small part of the massive hymnody (collection of hymns) that is ours as 21st century Christians.

The memories that are evoked by hymns can help us feel grounded and can refresh our spirits and our souls. Susan Seacott and Thad Reynolds will help lead us through a time of singing and reflecting on the words and music that can calm our emotions, fill us with joy, express our grief, and lead us to God. Please join us on Sunday, October 15th as we sing our faith. I was told last week that music is the voice of God. Come and hear what God has to say to you.



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Education

You're invited to bring yourself or your family and join your church family for our new Tuesday Night Supper Club beginning on October 3 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Enjoy a light supper followed by a Bible study. Activities will also be provided for kids, and there will be a quiet corner for students who really need to work on homework.

Our October study will be "Faith and the Movies.". We'll be watching excerpts from recent Pixar movies and discussing how they relate to a faithful life. Popcorn is optional! Join us!

Supper Club is in the plans of the Education Committee. It will be a time for individuals and families to come together to share a simple meal and then to join in age-appropriate devotions or games or crafts. Watch for more details about Supper Club and about our chicken noodle dinner - and help us plan other ways to provide nourishment from our grand kitchen.



Trunk or Treat Event



Trunk or Treat will be on October 31st from 430 to 700 in the Annex parking lot. We are trying to

partner with the neighborhood association and have partnered with Downtown Marion and we will be on the map they pass out.

Sign up to bring your car and be ready to hand out goodies to the little ones coming through.

If you are unable to attend, candy donations are being requested. Please drop them off at the church office.

Chicken Noodle Dinner

We will be holding a Chicken Noodle Dinner fundraiser on November 4th starting at 4:30 pm. Please mark your calendars.

Taylor University Chorale, in conjunction with the Presnall Concert Series, will be performing in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm that evening.



October Themes & Scriptures

Oct 1: Celebrating World Wide Communion Sunday

Supt. Rev. Dr. Saneta Maiko
Phil. 4:4-7 – “Be Courageous”

Oct 8: **Rev. David Byrum**
Genesis 28:10-19a; Matthew 13:24-30 – “This Place”

Oct 15: **Celebration of Hymns**
– Led by Susie Seacott and Thad Reynolds

Oct 22: TBD

Oct 29: All Saints Sunday
Rev. David Schramm
Acts 15:36-40; 2nd Tim. 4:11
“Unlikely Saints”

Successful Rummage

Saturday, September 16th was our rummage sale. Many hands were involved and made this event such a success! We thank the movers, sorters, donators and those who manned the checkout table. There were even several sales after the event which brought our total to over \$700 toward the boiler replacement fund. Thanks to one and all!



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.





Barb Pack, Mary Eckerle and Kayla Johnson, Neighborhood Association Coordinators, were at the event on
September 23rd. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we appreciate



tor discuss clean up routes with volunteers at the Neighborhood Clean-up event on all those who came and helped to make our neighborhood shine!

Harvest

He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2)

I tell you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth, and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24)

Farming and gardening is an annual cycle of planting,

nurturing and harvesting. But it truly is a yearlong effort. It starts with the loosening of the soil so that the seed can be planted. But this is just the beginning. Once the seed is planted the crop must be watched for invasive plants, weeds, fungus, insects and animals that can damage the field. Watering the crop may be needed. Additional

cultivating may happen to break up hard ground around plants. All of this is months of waiting before the crop is ready to harvest. But even after harvest, the process is not complete. Sometimes fields are tilled after harvest. But all fields must rest before a new cycle begins. Harvest is the goal, the point for which all of the work is directed. However, the process of growth, and ultimately a bountiful yield, requires the complete cycle to reach that goal.

As we consider harvest in light of our faith we could use the same cycle.

About our Endowment Fund

Our First United Methodist Church Endowment Fund was established in November of 1990. Our funds are invested in the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana. Interest from these investments benefits our congregation and is used to support Education (20%), Mission (20%) and the church building (60%). If you would like to help increase our endowment fund please contact Glenn Evans (Chairman of the Endowment committee) or any member of the committee. Glenn.f.evans.09@gmail.com



Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10b)

We would like to live that abundant life, for the harvest to be plentiful. But it is a cycle of planting, nurturing and harvesting. Our spiritual life needs that flow of looking critically at our lives and recognizing that we may need to break up the soil so that new seeds, new ideas, new understandings can be planted. And then we need to nurture those seedlings so that they get strong roots and become

established. It may be that we need to pull some weeds out that are choking our seedlings. We need to water and fertilize with scripture, reading, prayer, community, and reflection. Will the harvest be guaranteed? No, of course not. We may not get the yield we were hoping for. The soil may not have been what was needed or the seed may have

been bad. We might have needed more prayer or more guidance to fertilize our field. But the cycle begins again. We rest and consider and plan and hope and pray.

In this season of harvest all around us, it is a good time to reflect on the abundance of our own lives. We can be hopeful about what our lives will yield. And then with the true character of farmers and gardeners world-wide, rest a bit and then hope and dream that next year will be even better.

~Sarah Dougherty Evans

Charge Conference

Charge Conference is an annual meeting intended to conduct the business of the church. This includes approving the pastor's compensation package and electing the leadership for our church for the coming year. All members of the Administrative Council must be in attendance as they are members of the charge conference, but anyone is permitted to attend.

Our Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, October 21st at 10am - Noon at Anderson New Horizons UMC in Anderson.

Boiler Impact on FUMC

God has blessed us this year with perfect weather and a bountiful harvest. I'm a gardener, and have enjoyed a bumper crop of tomatoes, peppers, beets, cantaloupe, and apples- far exceeding any past gardens! I could choose to look at this bumper crop as a burden- what am I going to do with all this stuff? Instead, I have enjoyed looking for new recipes to can and preserve and enjoy throughout the year.

We are similarly blessed with a church in a prime location to be of service to those who need it most in Marion. We have more than we can use. As a small congregation, this is a huge responsibility. I have fallen into the trap, as finance chair, to look at our church as a burden. The recent boiler replacement issue being foremost on my mind. The building has certainly presented some large



challenges to our congregation. It has taken some prayer and reflection to change my attitude. We can choose to look at our church as a blessing- a resource that can be used in a missional way to help our community. I hope we can all look forward to and participate in this mission. Consider the ways that you can help!

I'm pleased that our leadership has been forward thinking and has done the hard work to participate in the Sacred Places program. We received valuable training and as a result we were able to secure a matching grant to help with the \$90,000 cost of the new boilers. This will require us to raise \$30,000 to meet the match. Those boilers are indeed a blessing. The entire country is depleted of boilers because of manufacturing issues. Yet somehow God provided.

The Finance team will continue to look for more grant opportunities as we plan for other needed repairs and

upgrades to our heating and cooling systems. In the meantime, we need community and congregational assistance to reach our \$30,000 matching grant requirement.



If you can help us in this effort, please do one of the following:

1. Send your gift to First United Methodist Church, 624 S Adams St., Marion, IN 46953. Please indicate the word "Boiler" or "Heat" in the memo of your gift.
2. Donate through our online giving option: <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/4VJQ9V/> and select "Boiler Heating Repair & Replacement" as the fund.
3. Or contact the church office at 765-664-5177 to discuss other options.

Any funds raised over the \$30,000 immediate need will be held and put toward the costly repair or replacement of 100 year old rusted radiator pipes that sprout leaks (to the tune of \$30,000 in the past two years.) as well as toward the building fund for future HVAC upgrades and electrical and bathroom improvements identified in our Sacred Places master plan.

We are motivated to weather this storm and our District leadership is committed to helping us succeed. Look forward to receiving updates from the fundraising committee on our progress and your future opportunities to make this project a success!

With Gratitude,
Denise Pearson-Harshman
Finance Chair

Scrip Fundraising

Gift card fundraising is a great 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!

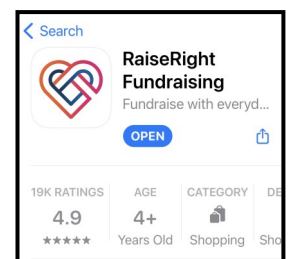
The app is free to download on your phone and takes just minutes to set up. Here's how you do it:

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.



October Special Offerings

1st Sunday Coin Collection, October 3rd, will go to the Marion-Grant County Senior Center. The Marion-Grant County Senior Center is a place focused on enhancing the quality of life of those 50 and over through social, educational, recreational, nutritional, and health services.



Many Thanks!

Thank you all so much for your expressions of support following my father Robert Salveter's passing. Dad certainly loved this church, and it is gratifying to know that people loved him in return.

And thank you, Pastor Wes, for planning and officiating over such a meaningful memorial service.

Barbara Salveter

Joan Brown wishes to say thank you to the Missions & Outreach



committee for the lovely fall basket which included the latest copy of the Focus.



Dear Friends,

I appreciate so much having a Church family during times of loss. Knowing I will see my Mother (Helen Campbell) again in Heaven makes the loss bitter sweet. Thank you so much for all your prayers, visits, and food.

Bonnie Lou Gamson

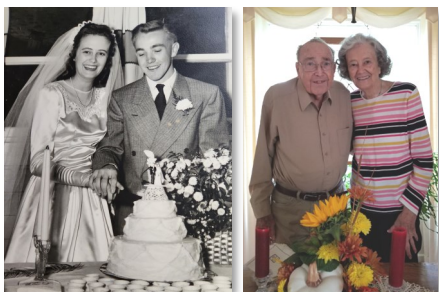


Thumbs Up! Award

Nancy Worthy passed the Thumbs Up award to Kathy Boxell at the Council meeting on September 11th for her hard work coordinating the making of noodles for the Chicken Noodle Dinner. 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.

75 Year Celebration!

Willard and Ruth Ann Rust will celebrate 75 years of marriage on October 13th. Congratulations!!



Open Mic Night

The Next Open Mic Night is being held on October 20, 2023 in Fellowship Hall. This will be family friendly, so bring your family and friends to this event.



We are still looking for performers, so call the church office and sign up to perform. All levels of performance are welcome.

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. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church.

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



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.

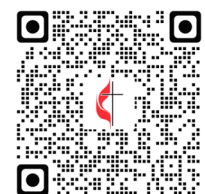


OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship Svc. 9:15 am 1st Sun Coin Offering Sr. Center AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	Mary Off	Mary Off Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	Mary Off Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm 3rd Floor		Mary will be in Office	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	Administrative Council Mtg 6pm Parlor	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm	Noodle Making 1 pm Kitchen, F.H.	Noodle Bagging 11 am Kitchen, F. H.	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	UWF 6 pm, F. H.	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	November FOCUS Submissions Deadline Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm		Discover Marion Downtown Open Mic Night 7 - 9 pm	Charge Conference 10-12 pm Anderson New Horizon UMC
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		PEO 6 pm Parlor Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	Committee Chairs Noon Parlor Bell Choir 6 pm AA 6pm FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm			
29	30	31	<p><i>"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:10-11</i></p>			
Worship Svc. 9:15 am 5th Sunday Offering-Boiler Fund AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Trunk or Treat 4:30 - 7 pm				

Future Events!

November 4th, Chicken Noodle Dinner Fundraiser
Save the dates, more info coming!



Scan the code for on-line giving.

Find more information at Marionumc.org and follow us on Facebook.



We see bountiful harvests all around us this time of year. The Dougherty Orchard is no different. Grapes abound from their vines, waiting to be made into something delicious!