

February/March 2024

FOCUS

The Journey of Lent

Lessons from the Neutral Zone

I hope you recall from my sermon, “Change is Easy, Transitions are Not”, that I shared with you three stages of managing transitions: Leaving behind the past; Navigating the Neutral Zone; and Moving Forward.

This coming Sunday, Feb. 4th, I intend to launch a four-part sermon series entitled, “**Our Identity**”, designed to address one of the key Transitional Ministry tasks: “Reaffirming your identity as United Methodist Christians.”

Remember, the “Neutral Zone” is when we shift to neutral – we don’t go backward or forward – we don’t launch major new initiatives - but hold in neutral while we give attention to our transitional tasks – one of which is to reaffirm our identity as United Methodist Christians.

Following are the four preaching themes in the series:

“Our Identity #1, Inclusive Love”

“Our Identity #2, Living Faith”

“Our Identity #3, Our Transforming Framework”

“Our Identity #4, Three Simple Rules”

I hope you all will make every effort not only to be present in worship or online to hear these sermons, but also that you will discuss with your families and friends what you hear and what you’re thinking about being a United Methodist Christian. I’m hoping by the time we’re finished with the series, you’ll see why I say that the United Methodist “way” is desperately needed in our world. We have something essential for the good of our city, our state, our nation and our world.

See you Sunday in worship!

Dave Byrum

Marion First UMC

Themes Through Easter

Feb. 4 – Our Identity #1 “Inclusive Love”
Ephesians 2:8-10

Feb. 11 – Our Identity #2 “Living Faith” Matthew 5:13-16

Feb. 18 – Our Identity #3 “Our Transforming Framework” Ephesians 3:16-19

Feb. 25 – Guest Preacher

March 3 – Guest Preacher

March 10 – Our Identity #4, “Three Simple Rules”
Colossians 3:12-17 with Holy Communion

March 17 – “Eternal Life” Mark 10:17-31

March 24 – Palm Sunday

March 28 – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
“Proclaiming Death” I Cor. 11:23-26

March 31 – Easter Sunday
“He is Risen, He is Alive, He is Lord”

April 7 – “Forgiven and Restored”
John 21:1-19

Lenten Services

Christland UMC has invited us to attend **Ash Wednesday Service** with them on Feb 14th at 4 pm.

Herbst UMC has extended an invitation to their **Good Friday Service** on March 29th at 7:00 pm.

We, in turn have invited both congregations to our **Maundy Thursday Service** of Holy Communion at 7:00 pm on March 28th.

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.

Prayer Concerns

Please call the office (765) 664-5177

Tom Holloway, Sr.
 Jane Scholar
 Thad Reynolds
 Ryan Howell's brother Dustin
 Ruth Ann Rust
 Louise Webb
 Barbara Piper
 Carolyn James
 Betty & Jim Fletcher
 Linda Simpson's granddaughter, Lucia Tomlinson
 Friends living in Health Care Facilities
 Unspoken concerns of relatives and friends
 Other churches in Marion and Grant County

Feb/Mar/Apr Birthdays

David Devine III	02/12
Bill Varner	02/14
Jane Sharon	02/20
Mark Harshman	02/22
Marcia Moon	02/22
Drew Varner	02/25
Rick Harris	03/01
Mary Emrick	03/02
Nancy Worthy	03/02
Linda Simpson	03/04
Steve Sharon	03/09
Natrice Miller	03/13
Glenn Evans	03/14
Peg York	03/14
Carolyn Ellis	03/15
Lauren Morrow	03/15
Matt Varner	03/22
Donna Wiley	03/22
Kathy Boxell	03/23
Barbara Piper	03/29
Barbara Salveter	04/01
AJ Varner	04/01
Tom Weesner	04/05
Ayden Covey	04/07
Joyce Rinker	04/10
Charlotte Swisher	04/10
Rob Wiley	04/10
Marilyn Lewis	04/20
Anne Moudy	04/21
Denise Pearson-Harshman	04/24
Louise Webb	04/26
Scott Overman	04/28
Curtis Swathwood	04/28

Anniversaries

Andy & Amanda Varner 03/30 11yrs.
 Joe & Linda Simpson 04/20 7yrs.

Education

VBS

Calling all kids aged four through ten! You're invited to join us on Monday, February 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for a fun event! Spend your day off from school learning about God as our creator and enjoying some creative activities! Sign up in the church office.

Supper Club

Tuesday Night Supper Club will resume on Tuesday, February 13. It's Shrove Tuesday which means pancakes, pancakes, pancakes! Join us for a fun evening filled with good food and good friends and a taste of what's coming up in Lent.

Lenten Study

Tuesday Night Supper Club will spend Tuesday evenings during Lent in a study called "Meeting Jesus at the Table" A Lenten Study by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Fohr. Sign up in the church office or join us on February 13 to pick up your study book.

Sunday School

Looking for an opportunity for study and fellowship on Sunday mornings? Join the Koinonia Class in the Parlor at 10:15 pm Sunday mornings. The class will spend Sundays in Lent discussing the Adam Hamilton book on Forgiveness.

Trustees

The Trustees have been working hard to keep the building in tip-top shape! After the boiler was installed, there was some clean-up done in the basement, and windows all over the building have been recaulked. This should help to keep the heat in, and not escaping out the windows. They have also hung some curtains in the office work room and Pastor's office. New ceiling tiles in a few places, removing mold in the old women's restroom and new lights in the back hallway are all things that have helped to brighten up the building. These members have worked tirelessly for a few days to make sure the work was completed in an efficient manner. We appreciate their hard work and would like to thank Rex and Ray Lane, Glenn Evans, Terry and Debbie Ivey, Ryan Howell, Rob Wiley, and Tom Holloway, Jr.



Bell Choir

Bell choir will be starting up on Feb 14th at 6 pm, in preparation for special Easter music.



See Debbie or the church office for details.

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



Caring For Our Neighbors

As First Church continues to live into our focus of Nourishment for Body and Soul, we are reaching out to our neighbor, St Martin Community Center. St. Martin has a large operation helping folks in our community in multiple ways. Most folks know about Kay’s Kitchen that offers breakfasts and lunches daily, except for Sundays. This is why we have joined a couple other congregations in offering a meal once a month when Kay’s Kitchen is not operating.

In touring the facility, we also learned about their Thrift Shop and their Food Pantry. So we are focusing on a Lenten project of holding a food drive to help support their program. During the six Sundays of Lent, we invite you to see the list below and bring your donations weekly.

In addition, St. Martin also has several opportunities for those of us who have the time and passion to give some volunteer hours. There are a variety of jobs – some working with the clients, some behind the scenes. This is a way we can meet our neighbors and hear their stories.

Feb. 18 – Canned Vegetables (Green Beans, Corn, Diced Tomatoes, Canned Beans), Spaghetti Sauce

Feb. 25 – Ramen Noodles, Pasta (Elbow Macaroni, Spaghetti), Egg Noodles, Rice

Mar. 3 – Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna

Mar. 10 – Pancake Mix (one that uses only water), Syrup, Dry Cereal, Oatmeal or Hot cereal packs

Mar. 17 – Canned Soup (especially Chicken Noodle and Tomato), Canned Chili, Beef Stew, Crackers

Mar. 24 - Canned Fruit (Peaches, Pears, Applesauce), Pudding, Jello, Cake Mixes, Brownie Mixes

Anytime – Diapers, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste, Bar Soap

Bishop Lenten Study

What: Bishop's Lenten Study of the book ‘Multiplying Love’

When: Beginning March 3, each Sunday night from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (ET). Dates will include March 3, 10, 17, and 24.

How: This study will take place via Zoom; you must register via the button below to attend.

Why: What a wonderful way for us to join together in study and connection during the season of Lent. You do not have to purchase the book or attend every week. The purpose is to gather and learn with Bishop Trimble.

Go to www.inumc.org, look at Events and the calendar.



Parish Nurses

The Parish Nurses will be **checking B/Ps** the first Sunday of each month. We will be in the Fellowship Hall from 8:45-9:10.

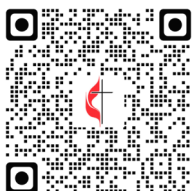
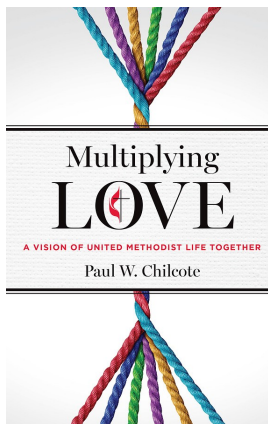
Mark the Date: We are having a congregation wide CPR and AED hands on education the evening of February 19th at 7PM.

Please help us better serve the congregation's needs. There is a Parish Nurse suggestion box in the Fellowship Hall under the bulletin board near the piano. Please add your suggestions and check out our new bulletin board. (Thanks to Rex for our new bulletin board.)

Health Tip

STAY WARM AND PREPARED

- Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in infants, older adults and the chronically ill. Prepare for cold weather.
- Check the weather report.
- Stay dry and dress appropriately in layers of loose-fitting, tightly woven clothing.
- Check on family and neighbors who are at risk from cold weather hazards.
- Learn safety precautions to follow when outdoors.
- Prepare your car for winter weather with blankets, extra clothes, jumper cables, water etc.
- Be prepared for weather related emergencies, including power outages or frozen pipes.



Scan the code for on-line giving.

Have you remembered your church in your will?



February/March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship Svc. 9:15 am Community Meal-Noon AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	Council Mtg. 6 pm, Parlor	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H. Pancake Supper	4pm Ash Wed Svc. @ Christland 6pm AA, FH Al-Anon Alateen 6pm Bell Choir			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	VBS 9 - 11:30 UWiF 6pm Nurse Training 7 pm	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	6pm AA, FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm Bell Choir			
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	6pm AA, FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm Bell Choir		Council Chair Mtg. 4 pm Parlor	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B/P 8:45 Worship Svc. 9:15 am 1st Sun Coin AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	Trustee Mtg. 1 pm, Parlor	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	6pm AA, FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm Bell Choir			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	Council Mtg. 6 pm, Parlor	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	6pm AA, FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm Bell Choir			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	UWiF 6:00 pm, F. H.	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	6pm AA, FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm Bell Choir			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	6pm AA, FH Al-Anon & Alateen 6pm Bell Choir		Council Chair Mtg. 4 pm Parlor	
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Easter Worship Svc. 9:15 am 5th Sun Offering AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	<p>First Sunday Offerings March 3rd--Easter Pageant April 7th--St. Jude</p>					<p>Fifth Sunday March 31st--Bashor Children's Home</p>