



Detours

Well, spring is here, and you know what that means ... road construction! I've been doing quite a bit of driving lately, back and forth to Yorktown; back and forth from Yorktown to Indianapolis; back and forth hauling our yard waste to the dump as Becky and I are hard at it with our spring cleanup. I find myself wishing I owned stock in the company that makes those orange barrels we see on the highways this time of year!

I've pretty much decided that life is basically one detour after another. We have our way that we want to go – sometimes we have a good plan put together so that in our mind's eye we can visualize ourselves moving deliberately through to our goal. But then life happens and we're forced onto an alternate route.

If you've ever had children or grandchildren you know that family life is one detour after another. When we have children we all have a preconceived idea of what it will be like to have a family, but then once the baby arrives, that's when the adjustments begin and you find out what the word "flexible" is all about – "flexible", the ability to flex, to bend without breaking, and to eventually return to a shape somewhat like the original.

The men's basketball coach at Ball State is right now navigating his way through an unexpected and very frustrating detour ... it's called the "Transfer Portal". All five of his starters have announced that they are transferring to play for another school. This after the coach had worked so hard, pouring himself into those players, and now he's got to start all over – finding new players who will agree to come to Muncie, IN and play at a Mid-Major school.

I remember sitting with a devastated basketball player who just a couple years before was in our church's youth group – it was Purdue's Robbie Hummel – who would be having knee surgery the next morning. It was an injury which basically ended his plans – yes he still played a little the next year but he wasn't the same. He tried to play professionally, but he just couldn't do it. His detour was awfully painful on several levels. However now, Robbie is

a very successful basketball broadcaster and commentator.

My mother was forced to take a life-detour none of us anticipated. At 52 years old, while my parents were living in Ireland for business, mom had a major heart attack; she suffered oxygen deprivation which caused significant brain damage along with some spinal cord damage as well.

Actually mom's heart attack took all of us on an alternate route for our lives. It truly did change all of us for the better. Certainly not physically – Mom was never the same physically or mentally; but she was better in a number of ways, and so were all of us – indeed, so are all of us better for having taken that life-detour with my mom.

Check out Acts 16:9-15. St. Paul and his colleagues were forced to take a detour on their way to preach the Gospel in Asia, but they were directed by the Holy Spirit to instead go to Macedonia Now, does that mean they never went to Asia to preach the Gospel? No, St. Paul still developed very close ties with the church in Antioch of ancient Assyria.

But for a time, Paul had to take an alternate route on which some amazing things happened – most of them were difficult – but God showed up and did some amazing things. Yes, Paul made it back to Asia, but temporarily, he had to take an alternate route.

Remember Jesus in the Upper Room with his disciples – he knows that he's going to be leaving them, which will be a huge paradigm shift for them. See John 14:18-29.

This is such an important lesson for each of us – that no matter what detours life brings, Jesus promises that he will always be with us – come what may. And so, we have a choice as to how we will receive the detour ... we either go with it and experience it with Jesus showing us new insights all along the alternate route, or we let frustration and anxiety control us so we basically mess up our lives.

May God bless you all with some beautiful discoveries along your detours!

Dave Byrum

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

Kay Dougherty
 Jane Scholar
 Thad Reynolds
 Ruth Ann Rust
 Louise Webb
 Barbara Piper
 Carolyn James
 Betty & Jim Fletcher
 Friends living in Health Care Facilities
 Unspoken concerns of relatives and friends
 Other churches in Marion and Grant County

Circles of Grant County

We have a unique opportunity to reach out and help our community by supporting this local group who seeks to Empower families and our community to move from poverty to thriving through resources and support. Scan the QR code to reserve your seat at the event. April 30th, from 6 to 8 pm at FUMC. Dinner will be catered.



May/June/July 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
Ron Piper	07/01
Andy Varner	07/06
Barbara Pack	07/09
Drew Morrow	07/10
Kacie Devine	07/13
Bob Beams	07/17
Asa Harshman	07/17

Anniversaries

Ron & Barbara Piper	05/17	68 yrs.
Bill & Sally Varner	06/21	44 yrs.
Scott & Wanda Overman	07/01	8 yrs.
Rob & Donna Wiley	07/14	40 yrs.
Terry & Debbie Ivey	07/15	46 yrs.
Glenn & Sarah Evans	07/27	21 yrs.

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



Kay Dougherty enjoys her bunny ears from the Missions and Outreach committee.



Kraig Piper practices on a CPR Dummy while Carolyn Lane looks on.

Jack and Sidenia Stace enjoy pancakes prepared for our Shrove Tuesday meal.



Care Team – We Care About You!

Our church has developed a committee to show our friends in our congregation that we all care about each other. We have implemented the following procedure to carry this out:

- If you have an illness or a hospitalization, please call Sally Varner at 765-618-9237.
- We have a group of seven members, one of whom will contact you and then keep in touch with you during your time of need.
- Pastor Byrum will be doing hospital visits on Sunday and Monday when he is in town. Visits by the other Care Team members are an extension of him since he is not able to always be here.

We are also going to have everyone fill out an information form so we can have contact with family and friends if needed. This information will be kept confidential.

This is all a wonderful way to show the love of Christ to each other. If you have any questions, please call me!

Sally Varner, Care Team Coordinator
 765-618-9237



*Please come help us celebrate
Shawn Swathwood
graduating from
Purdue University*

Open House

Place: First United Methodist Church
624 S. Adams Street
Marion, IN 46953
Date: Saturday, May 11, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



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: Please save the date and join the parish nurses and the Tuesday night supper club on May 21 from 6 to 7:30. Special guest speaker, Kim Jeffries, RN, a certified diabetes, care and education specialist, will address the topics of prediabetes and diabetes. Hope you can join us for this important event.

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.

Our Endowment Fund at Work

Be on the lookout for some much-needed patching and sealing work to be done in our parking lot! Thanks to the generosity of many donors throughout the years, the Trustees Committee has designated parking lot repairs as the project to use their portion of the Endowment earnings distributed last year and this year. The Trustees receive 60% of the annual Endowment Fund distribution to use for repairs and improvements to our buildings and grounds. The remaining 40% is available for projects and programs in the areas of education and missions (20% each).



Many thanks to our Trustees for the care they give to our facility so that it is available for continued worship and outreach to our community

Have you remembered your church in your will?

Health Tip

Spend Smart: Eat smart Plan

- Make a list
- Set aside 30 minutes to plan meals each week
- List the main dish and side dishes you will serve

Shop

- Buy in season fruits and vegetables
- Fill your cart with basics first
- Pay for food not convenience
- Stick to the list
- Choose a new fruit or vegetable.

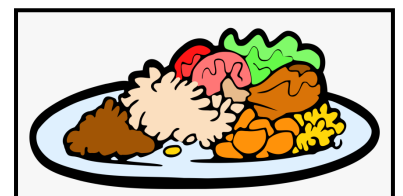
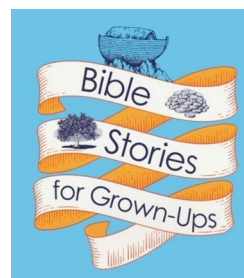
Education

TUESDAY NIGHT SUPPER CLUB

Where does our denomination stand on many of the issues of our day? We'll be discussing the Book of Discipline during Tuesday Night Supper Club using a book called "Social Principles of UMC" on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Come for supper, and stay for what promises to be a lively conversation.

SUNDAY SHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may think you know all the classic Bible stories from your childhood Bible storybook. Join the Koinonia Class and develop a more mature understanding with a new series "Bible Stories for Grown-Ups" You'll never think of Noah's ark as a cute story about a big boat and some animals again.



April/May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BP 8:45 F.H. Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	Office Closed Eclipse	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm	6pm AA, F.H. Al-Anon Alateen		7-9 pm, Open Mic Night	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship Svc. 9:15 am Noon Community Meal AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor	UWiF 6:00 F.H.	Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	6pm AA, F.H. Al-Anon & Alateen			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		PEO 6:00 pm F.H.	6pm AA, F.H. Al-Anon & Alateen	 1 pm Noodle Making	11 am Noodle Bagging	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Circles of Gr. County 6 - 8:00 pm	5:30 pm Endowment 6pm, Finance 6pm AA, F.H. Al-Anon & Alateen	First Sunday Offering May 5th--Diabetes Assoc.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
B/P 8:45 Parish Nurse Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H.	6pm AA, F.H. Al-Anon & Alateen			Shawn Swathwood Open House 2 - 5 pm F.H.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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, F.H. Al-Anon & Alateen			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm Diabetes Speaker F.H.	6pm AA, F.H. Al-Anon & Alateen	 1 pm Noodle Making	11 am Noodle Bagging	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship Svc. 9:15 am AA-Women's Mtg. 5:30 Parlor		Supper Club 6 - 7:30 pm F.H. PEO Parlor 6:00 pm	6pm AA, F.H. Al-Anon & Alateen		Scan the code for on-line giving.	