

October Volunteers

Greeters October 4th through October 25th:
Sue Boyer & Mary Ann Stepp

Ushers for October: Ken Macke, Henry Arthur, & Nancy Crumrin

Counters: Bev Smith and Diane Moore

Liturgist: Rick Manuell

Lobby Watch: 4th Brian Macke
11th Jill Strohm
18th
25th Jim Arthur

We still have volunteer positions to fill for the rest of the year!

Please check the sing-up sheets in the Welcome Center to find ways you can serve.

Nursery: 4th Adrienne & Evangeline Hutson
11th Erica & Caroline Crumrin
18th Amy Cannady & Nancy Crumrin
25th Danielle & Liberty Cline



Prayer List



Kathy Brown, Gordon & Carolyn Clark,
Dave Culbertson, Rev. John Davis, Mike Delp, Larry Gardner, Phil James,
Darrell Kirby, Molly Macke, JR Newton, Jennie O'Rourke, Candy Painter,
Donna Sens

Our Church and her leaders:

Marshall First UMC	Pastor Jon
Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai	Bishop David A Bard
Our District Superintendent, Sarah Isbell	Connie Wieck and other Missionaries

Our Military Personnel:

Chris Bradford	John Flowers	Daniel Gard	Michael Holmes	John Kuhn	Shelby Sanborn
	Lewis Sanborn	Jake Hoalt	Chaplain Jonathon Maloney		
Our Nation, Our Nation's Leaders, and our Armed Forces					

Our Homebound & Health Care Facility Residents

Phyllis Boatright	Gordon & Carolyn Clark	Violet Cook
	Dan Flowers	

If you know of any changes in the status of these individuals, or have more who should be added to our Military Personnel or the Homebound/Healthcare Facility lists, please contact the office. Thank you.

A Publication of:
Marshall First United Methodist Church

702 Plum St, Marshall, IL 62441
Rev. Jon Brashear - Directing Pastor
Kelly Lindley - Director of Children and Youth Ministry



From the Pastor's Desk: October 2026

Ah, fall! It really is my favorite time of the year, and not just because my birthday is in October! The leaves are beginning to change, the evenings are getting cooler, and before long there will be pumpkins sitting on porches all over town. School has been underway long enough that the excitement of the first few weeks has settled into the regular rhythm of classes, homework, practices, games, and activities. Around us, the fields are changing too. Harvest means combines moving through the fields, trucks traveling down country roads, and long days for many of our farmers and their families. Fall is a season when we can almost watch the world changing around us.

Perhaps that is part of what makes this time of year so beautiful. The changing leaves remind us that change does not always mean that something is being lost. Sometimes change simply means that one season is giving way to another and something new is beginning.

I have been thinking about that quite a bit as we enter October together at Marshall First. It has now been about three months since my family and I arrived in Marshall, and I began serving as your pastor. During these first few months, much of my time has been spent getting to know you: learning names and stories, discovering traditions, listening to hopes, worshiping together, sharing meals, and beginning to learn what makes Marshall First the church that it is.

Yet as we become more familiar with one another, I find myself thinking less about simply getting settled and more about where God might be leading us together. That does not mean that we need to have everything figured out. It does not mean creating a new program simply because we think we ought to be doing something new. Instead, perhaps our first task is much simpler: pay attention. Where is grace already at work?

Every October, I am reminded of It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown. Linus spends Halloween night sitting in the pumpkin patch, waiting for the Great Pumpkin to arrive. He is so certain that something extraordinary is going to happen that he keeps watching and waiting, even as everyone else goes on with the evening around him. I wonder if sometimes we approach the work of God in much the same way. We wait for something big enough, obvious enough, or extraordinary enough that we can point to it and say, "There! God is doing something!" Meanwhile, grace may already be at work all around us.

Grace can look remarkably ordinary. It can be found in a child discovering that church is a place where they are known and loved. It can appear in a meal shared with someone who needs companionship, a conversation with a neighbor, a person finding community after feeling alone, or someone quietly realizing that they belong. God's grace does not always arrive with fanfare. Often, it has been at work long before we recognize it.

John Wesley called this prevenient grace. The grace of God that goes before us. We do not have to bring God into Marshall or convince God to start working here. God is already here, already loving, already reaching, already planting seeds. Our task is to learn to recognize that grace and ask how we might participate in what God is already doing.

Perhaps that is good spiritual practice for this fall. As the fields change, the leaves turn, and another season begins, take some time to look around. Pay attention to the people around you. Pay attention to your neighborhood. Pay attention to the places you already go each week. You might just discover that God has been at work there all along.

Kids Corner



October is going to be a full month for the kids here at FUMC. We are going to try something new on the first Sunday of each month. After children's moment, the kids will choose whether to sit with their parents during church or sit back by the rocking chairs. I will have quiet activities available to keep them occupied until communion is served. The hope is that by staying in the sanctuary during the service, kids will become familiar with our order of worship, the hymns we sing, and the meaning behind some of our traditions.

On Oct. 11 all kids from kindergarten through high school are invited to a lock-in. We will begin at 6:00 pm on Sunday and end at 8:00 am Monday morning. There is no school on Monday due to Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day. If kids aren't comfortable staying all night, they may come for the evening and go home at 9:00. All they need is a sleeping bag, pillow, and toothbrush. It will be a fun evening of food, activities, and friends! Please call the church, 217-826-8041, or text me, 217-264-4760, to sign up.

The KFC kids will sing during worship on Oct. 18.

All kids from 6th grade through high school are invited to a Halloween party on Oct. 25. Grab a costume, bring a friend and join us for a fun evening. FYI: if the weather is decent, you will also need a lawn chair and a blanket!

Oct. 28 is our KFC/church family dinner at 5:00.

Join us for Trunk or Treat on the square on Oct. 31 from 3:30-5:00.



Financial Report

Our income so far this year is \$152,962, while expenses totaled \$189,967. These amounts exclude Apportionments, Faith Promise, Memorial, and Scholarship. Looking ahead, we need approximately \$22,000 monthly in order to meet all local church expenses. We are grateful for your continued faithfulness and partnership in the work God is doing through our church. Please prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you give this month toward our local church general fund. Any undesignated giving will go to cover our monthly local church expenses and ministry activities. Separate donations to cover Conference Apportionments are also still being collected regularly. To date, we have received \$10,065 of the \$29,580 the Conference asks us to send throughout the year.

August Mission News:

BRIDGE

Again it is time to replenish the Faith Promise Mission Fund. Monies from that fund were used as part of our church's contribution to BRIDGE. If you haven't yet contributed to the BRIDGE Fund, established to provide school supplies and clothing for needy families, you can still do so. Kelly is on the board of BRIDGE so she can deliver your contribution if you leave it in the church office.

UMCOR

UMCOR is always in need of funds to help complete their disaster recovery efforts. Many of these projects are in areas where the weather will be worsening. Recovery efforts for floods and fires and tornados and wars are ongoing and need support.

GOLDEN CROSS

Your contributions to Golden Cross Ministries help support 10 agencies in our Illinois Great Rivers Conference. These ministries include older adult ministries such as nursing homes, Pastoral Care support for chaplains in hospitals, and children and family services such as Lessie Bates Neighborhood House and Cunningham Children's Home.

You can contribute to any of these missions through our church in the offering plate or in the church office. Be sure to put a designation on your check

Our caring for God's people never ends. We are called to do all we can for as long as we can. Keep them in prayer and support them with gratitude.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Alta Youngdahl	October 02	Jayseigh Veach	October 18
Callum Sanders	October 03	Melissa Vest	October 18
Kathy Brown	October 04	Lindsay Welsh	October 21
Maximus Schneider	October 04	Steven Macke	October 23
Dawn Youngdahl	October 05	Janice Ridgway	October 23
Isabel Arthur	October 07	Chase Paulsen	October 24
Chelsey Trudeau	October 09	Jon Brashear	October 25
Ty Bullock	October 10	Layton Sanders	October 25
Carole Henderson	October 11	Nis Lovstad	October 29
Carrigan Crumrin	October 13	Daisy Bloodworth	October 31
Bryce Adamski	October 17		

Jeff & Vicki Kinyon October 01
Diane & Keith Lindgren October 07
Jackie & Lisa Davidson October 12



In other news!

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai and David Bard, along with newly-ordained pastors in the IGRC, Iowa and Michigan conferences (including Pastor Jon) are inviting persons to join them on a Wesley Heritage Tour Nov. 11-19.

The Heritage Tour takes one where it all began with an exploration of sites important in the lives of the Wesleys and of the people called Methodists.

All-inclusive packages start at \$4,498 from Chicago, \$4,598 from St. Louis and and \$4,698 from Indianapolis.

To register, visit: www.EO.travel/mytrip Enter HE26 as the Tour number, Enter 11126 as date; Code G and ID of 61729.

For more information, contact Pastor Jon, Kristin Franklin, kfranklin@igrc.org or Rev. Dr. Charliam Renner, crenner@igrc.org

A Farewell to Connie!

We were blessed to get the chance to see Connie prior to her returning to her missions work overseas. While here, she was able to visit 85 churches to spread the word about the work she has been doing in Southeast Asia, as well as how we can help her continue her mission. She was renewed for another three years of service in Southeast Asia. As always, keep Connie in your thoughts and prayers!



Connie’s farwell from Marshall First United Methodist Church



Stewardship workshop for local churches

The United Methodist Foundation will be hosting a Twelve-Month Plan for Stewardship workshop on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the Conference Center from noon to 2 p.m.

The workshop, open to laity and clergy, is free and includes lunch. Contact Carol Sims, (217) 529-3215 or by email by Thursday, Oct. 8 to reserve your seat. Limited seating available.

Topics to be covered including preaching, teaching, testimonials, letter writing, campaigns, budgeting, planned giving and endowments. Participants will be provided a ready-to-use, month-by-month stewardship calendar and a framework you can start adapting for your own congregation for immediate use.

In addition, the West Ohio Conference has recently developed some stewardship resources that IGRC congregations may find helpful as you plan your stewardship campaign. Click on the button below to learn more.



United
Women
in Faith

We have two different women’s circles who meet every month. All the ladies of the church are invited to join either circle at any time.

- Sisters in Faith for October is meeting on Thursday, October 22, at 6:00 PM in the chapel.
- Susanna Wesley will meet on Oct 19th , place to be determined!
- UWF Board Meeting will be to its original meeting time on Tuesday October 6th at 4:00
- UWF Sunday October 18th , with Rvw. Kaitlyn Mathews from Cunningham Childrens home speaking



Sisters in Faith Circle volunteering at Choices Pregnancy & Health in Casey!



We Delivered food boxes to 9 needy families last Sunday Sep. 13th!



Online Giving

We have two ways that you can give online. You can go to our website and give online, or you can log in into Breeze. If you login into Breeze, you can track your giving and adjust what has been scheduled. If you would like to get a login for Breeze, please speak with the office.

Save the Date: Chili Day

Chili Day is Fast Approaching! It will be held on Tuesday, November 3. We appreciate any support you are able to provide; it takes many hands to make this happen! Monies from Chili Day are shared locally and around the world. Thank you for your support!

Lunch will be Served 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Supper will be Served 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Take-out meals will also be available!



Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday! It is mostly Seniors, but you don't have to be over a certain age to join us! We even enjoy having others from our community join us. Invite a friend and pop in for coffee or breakfast and some good fellowship.

Here's where you'll find us in October:

- 6th 9am at Crossroads Cafe
- 13th 2pm at Holly Brook
- 20th 9am at Gypsy Queen
- 27th 9am at Latte Dough



How small congregations can flourish

Small churches are an asset for The United Methodist Church, argues a new report from Wesleyan Impact Partners. The report profiles nine U.S. congregations that are outsized in their community impact.

Wesleyan Impact Partners, a Texas-based nonprofit that invests in ministries nationwide, sees hope for the future of The United Methodist Church in small congregations. The nonprofit — with funding from the Texas Methodist Foundation — profiled nine United Methodist congregations across the U.S. in its new, 36-page report “Flourishing Small Churches.”

Most of the nine churches featured have an average worship attendance under 50. Nevertheless, the report establishes that they all have an outsized impact in representing the Kingdom of God — like the wee mustard seed Jesus described in his parable.

Miracle Sunday campaign surpasses \$2.1 million, 1GRC top donor U.S. conference at \$225,000

Across the globe, United Methodists are answering a vital call to support the next generation of spiritual leaders. The Miracle Sunday Initiative (MSI) has officially passed \$2,123,420 in gifts and pledges, marking an extraordinary step forward to permanently support theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

What began with a vision in September 2025 and an official kickoff with Miracle Sunday in April 2026 has quickly blossomed into a vibrant movement, inspired by the spirit of joyful, collective generosity found in 1 Chronicles 29. The initiative is driven by a shared dream: to ensure that courageous, compassionate leaders are equipped to shepherd congregations for generations to come.

Already, 50 annual conferences and hundreds of passionate supporters have reported back to us, resulting in 322 distinct contributions from local churches, conferences, and individual donors. Generosity is shining in every corner of the connection—from the South Congo and Zambia Episcopal Area, which leads with over \$340,000 raised and pledged, to remarkable 100% church participation in regions like North Macedonia and Denmark.

IGRC recipient of food insecurity grant

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference has received a \$20,000 grant which will be distributed to 10 feeding ministries of \$2,000 each. The conference was one of 10 annual conferences to receive Feeding Our Neighbors grant in a second round of grant awards.

The grants will be used for buying food and awarded to IGRC churches that run a food pantry or feeding ministry out of its own facilities. The goal is to support both rural and urban communities across the IGRC.

To apply, your ministry needs to be:

- Part of a United Methodist church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference
- Housed in your church's facilities (a community pantry that your church only supports is not eligible)
- Established and currently operating

There is one application per church. The short online form asks for your contact information, church address, the name of your ministry, how long it has been operating, about how many individuals you serve each month, and a current photo of your ministry in action.

Applications are due Oct, 19 and grants will be announced Oct. 21.

When the Federal Government delayed approval of the 2025 budget, causing a government shutdown, Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) benefit distribution was also delayed and food pantries around the country began to see a dramatic increase in customers. Global Ministries launched an emergency Feeding Our Neighbors program to help local churches in the U.S. continue and increase their feeding ministries.

The overwhelming response to that program has resulted in a second round of grants that are headed to conferences in the U.S. to assist local churches responding to food insecurity in their communities. In fact, United Methodist congregations with established food ministries have reported that after the government reopened, their customer base continued to increase. Currently, food prices have also increased, stretching feeding ministries beyond their capacity to meet the growing needs.

These grants are intended to inspire acts of compassion, in answer to Jesus' call in Matthew 25:35: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."

Charge Conference

Marshall First United Methodist Church is hosting the Annual Charge Conference on October 11th at 2:00 PM. Members of the Church are welcome to attend and cast their vote should they feel inclined.

Marshall FUMC feeds the MHS Football Team

FUMC hosted the Marshall High School football team and Coaching Staff! We served pulled pork BBQ prepared by Pastor Jon, potato casserole, green beans, and cake made and donated by church members!

It was a wonderful opportunity to support our local athletics program, and we are thankful for the opportunity!

We couldn't have done it without your support, time, and energy. What a blessing!



We were in the Parade!

We were in the parade! It was a hot Saturday that was full of fun, candy, and smiling faces!

It wouldn't have been possible without the help of volunteers, candy donors, and especially the kids who walked along with us!

We also used this time to remind our community of our KFC program and invite local children to attend on Wednesdays!





Church Lock In

October 11th is our church lock in! Your kids can be registered in the Welcome Center or you can call the office (217) 826-8041.

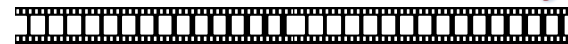


Fall Candy Collection

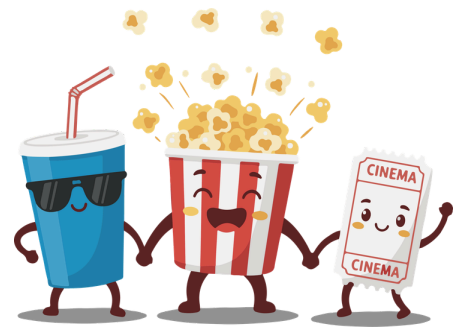
Kelly is collecting candy in the office for Trunk or Treat and Fall Frolic on Saturday, Oct 31! Any donations are appreciated!



United Methodist Youth Fellowship Halloween Party



Teens & Tweens are invited to join us Sunday October 25th at 5:00 PM to enjoy snacks, games, and a showing of *Scary Movie* in celebration of the spookiest time of the year! Sign up your kids, ages 6th grade and up, by calling the office!



KFC & Church Family Dinner

We will be hosting a KFC and Church family dinner on October 28th at 5:00 PM!



HALLOWEEN CANDY

— Word Search —

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

Y	R	E	E	S	E	S	P	I	E	C	E	S	K	S	O	E
J	A	Z	O	J	O	L	L	Y	R	A	N	C	H	E	R	S
R	Y	W	J	U	N	I	O	R	M	I	N	T	S	L	A	E
S	D	A	Y	I	T	S	R	U	B	R	A	T	S	T	X	L
D	O	Z	D	K	R	T	F	N	W	A	U	W	E	T	V	A
U	Y	H	H	Y	L	E	G	T	K	F	B	T	W	I	X	M
D	Y	E	F	Y	A	I	R	S	V	E	K	Y	V	K	W	A
K	A	H	A	O	C	P	M	O	Y	T	X	I	R	S	F	T
L	T	W	I	Z	Z	L	E	R	S	M	B	Y	T	U	A	T
I	Q	W	X	L	N	R	O	C	Y	D	N	A	C	K	T	O
M	V	S	M	A	R	T	I	E	S	W	X	F	V	Z	A	H
W	H	O	P	P	E	R	S	B	L	O	W	P	O	P	S	T
J	O	C	X	Q	R	L	L	H	H	M	R	X	U	G	M	M
H	P	P	X	F	Z	P	C	E	N	E	R	D	S	O	E	&
H	S	D	I	K	H	C	T	A	P	R	U	O	S	S	S	M
Q	V	C	U	H	T	O	O	T	I	S	E	R	O	L	L	S
O	L	M	R	A	B	Y	E	H	S	R	E	H	H	Z	Z	A



WORD LIST

BABY RUTH
BLOW POPS
CANDY CORN
HEATH
HERSHEY BAR
HOT TAMALES
JOLLY RANCHERS
JUNIOR MINTS

KIT KAT
M&MS
MILK DUDS
MILKY WAY
NERDS
PAYDAY
REESE'S PIECES
RUNTS

SKITTLES
SMARTIES
SOUR PATCH KIDS
STARBURST
TOOTISE ROLL
TWIX
TWIZZLERS
WHOPPERS

October 2026

If you would like to have something added to the November Newsletter, please get it to the office no later than Monday, October 26th. Thank you!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Exercise 8:30AM	3
4 World Communion Offering Youth Fellowship 5:00PM	5 Exercise 8:30AM	6 Holy Grounds @ Crossroads Cafe @ 9:00AM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	7 Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 Power Lunch KFC 3:30-4:30 PM Childrens Choir Practice 4:30-5:00 PM	8	9 Exercise 8:30AM	10
11 Charge Conference @ 2:00 Church Lock in	12 Office is Closed	13 Holy Grounds @ Hollybrook 2:00PM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	14 Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 Power Lunch KFC 3:30-4:30 PM Childrens Choir Practice 4:30-5:00 PM	15	16 Exercise 8:30AM	17 Come Volunteer @ The Trift Shop 8:30am-Noon
18 KFC Kids Choir will sing Youth Fellowship 5:00PM	19 Exercise 8:30AM Susanna Wesley City Wide Cleanup	20 Holy Grounds @ Gypsy Queen 9:00AM Trustee Meeting @ 5:30 PM ULC Meeting 6:00PM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	21 Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 Power Lunch KFC 3:30-4:30 PM Childrens Choir Practice 4:30-5:00 PM	22 Sisters in Faith Meeting @ 6:00PM in the Chapel Fellowship Carptes are being cleaned.	23 Exercise 8:30AM	24
25 Youth Fellowship Halloween party 5:00PM	26 Exercise 8:30AM	27 Holy Grounds @ Latte Dough 9:00AM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	28 Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 Power Lunch KFC & Church Family Dinner @ 5:00 PM	29	30 Exercise 8:30AM	31 Trunk or Treat & Fall Frolic 3:00PM - 7:00PM