

February Volunteers

Greeters Deb Miller & Holly Lake

Lobby Watch 1st Ryan Arthur

8th Jim Arthur

15th Adrienne Hutson

22nd Adrienne Hutson

Nursery

1st Adrienne & Evangeline Hutson

8th Amy Cannady & Nancy Crumrin

15th Danielle & Liberty Cline

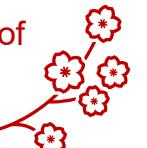
22nd Jenna Morey

Ushers Nis Lovstad, Tom & Anne Hintz

Counters Bev Smith and Deb Miller

Liturgist February 1st Kathy Brown
rest of the month Carroll Ellington

We still have plenty of
open days on our
altar flower list



Prayer List

Joys And Concerns: Diana Bailey, Daisy Bloodworth, Aaron Brush, Dave Culbertson, Rev. John Davis, Mike Delp, Gail Glick, Phil James, Darrell Kirby, Molly Macke, Tiffany Macke, Candy Painter, Joyce Smithson, Sharon Welliver, Karen & Clyde Wheat

Our Church and her leaders:

Marshall First UMC

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Our District Superintendent, Sarah Isbell

Pastor Bill

Bishop David A Bard

Connie Wieck and other Missionaries

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 Sharon Miller

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

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IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE WEATHER:

Winter weather does tend to make a mess of our church schedules from time to time. IF there would be any cancellations, we will post on Facebook and send out a mass text from the Church Office. If you do not currently receive texts from the Church, but would like to have your phone number added, please let us know!

Ash Wednesday is February 18!

Our church has had worship services with the imposition of ashes at various times of day throughout the years. Pastor Bill is trying to determine what time of day would be best for those who would like to attend. Please call the office or text Pastor Bill what time that day you would be willing to come for this special service. Possibilities are noon, 12:15pm (to allow people to come during their lunch break), 5:15pm (right after KFC), or 7:00pm. Please weigh in!



The Family Connection Newsletter

February 2026

Grace, peace, and love to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February often turns our attention toward love. Our culture expresses that love through cards, candy, and flowers, and while there is nothing wrong with those simple joys, Christians know that love is far more than sentiment. Christian love is shaped by the life of Jesus Christ, by His humility, His obedience, His compassion, and His willingness to lay down His life for others. It is a love that forms not just how we feel, but how we live.

This February arrives with a heaviness that many of us can feel. Our nation is unsettled. We see unrest, anger, and fear played out in public ways, and it is difficult not to be affected by what we see and hear. Even when events are far away, they touch our hearts, stir our emotions, and sometimes deepen the divisions that already exist among us.

Scripture reminds us that “**God is not the author of confusion, but of peace**” (**1 Corinthians 14:33**). Peace, however, is not the same thing as avoidance, nor is it achieved by pretending that conflict does not exist. Biblical peace is rooted in truth, order, and justice, and it is sustained by wisdom, restraint, and love. Order is a gift from God, meant to protect life and promote the common good. At the same time, every human being is created in the image of God and must be treated with dignity and care. Holding these truths together requires prayerful discernment and a spirit shaped by Christ.

As followers of Jesus, we must be careful not to allow the anger of the moment to form us more than the grace of God. Christian love does not excuse wrongdoing, nor does it ignore responsibility. But neither does it delight in force, harshness, or humiliation. Love seeks what restores rather than what escalates. Love remembers that the goal is not simply control, but peace that allows communities to flourish.

John Wesley often warned that zeal, even when well-intended, must be governed by love. He believed that true Christian faith is always expressed in holy tempers, humility, patience, gentleness, and self-control. These are not weaknesses. They are the marks of lives transformed by grace. When these virtues are missing, even good intentions can lose their way.

The church has a particular calling in moments like these. We are not here to amplify the noise of the world, but to bear witness to a better way. We are called to pray for those in authority, to seek the good of our communities, and to live as people whose ultimate loyalty is to Christ and His Kingdom. That calling requires wisdom, charity, and a steady commitment to love our neighbors, even when doing so is difficult or costly.

As your pastor, my prayer this month is that our congregation would be known as a people shaped more by the love of Christ than by the anxieties of the age. May we be quick to listen and slow to speak. May we resist the temptation to divide the world into enemies and allies. And may we remember that the work God calls us to is often quiet, faithful, and unseen, but never insignificant.

February reminds us that love is not merely something we feel; it is something we practice. Let us continue to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In doing so, we bear witness to the One who laid down His life, not in anger, but in redeeming love.

Seeking to walk in Christ's peace and love together with you,

Pastor Bill

A Publication of Marshall First United Methodist Church

702 Plum St, Marshall, IL 62441

Rev. Bill L. Wiggs, Jr. - Directing Pastor

Kelly Lindley - Director of Children and Youth Ministry



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'd even enjoy having others from our community join us. So invite a friend and pop in for coffee or breakfast and some good fellowship. Here's where you'll find us in February:

3 rd	9am at Marshall Family Restaurant
10 th	2pm at Holly Brook
17 th	9am at Gypsy Queen
24 th	9am at Latte Dough

If you'd like to be on our regular text reminder list, contact MaryAnn Stepp or Becky Wiggs.

Thank you for your continued support of the Food Pantry and Thrift Shop. Your assistance helps us keep the doors open for those who need us!

Our church's day to work at the Thrift Shop is Saturday 2/14 between 8:00 am and noon. Food disbursement is every Tuesday from 1:30-4:30 pm. Help out any Tuesday that you're available!



Our income for January was **\$15,617**, while expenses totaled **\$21,529**. We are deeply thankful for the strong year-end giving in 2025. Because of that generosity, we were able to cover all January expenses and still carry a small balance forward as we begin February. Looking ahead, we will need approximately **\$22,000** to meet all local church expenses for the month of February. 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.

The Nurture Team is planning a Brunch!

Let's March Forward in Faith and invite others to join our wonderful Church Family. There will be a board in the back of the sanctuary with things you can donate to help us prepare the brunch, much like we put out requests for VBS supplies and other items. Please look for this board and pick a flower or two to bring those items for Brunch on March 1st. If you have any questions, you can talk to any of the Nurture Team for clarification: Kelly Lindley, Amy Cannady, Kathy Brown, Beth Macke, and Becky Wiggs. Make sure to put it on your calendar, and plan to stay after worship on March 1st.



There will be no Sunday School that day, so we can all fellowship together.



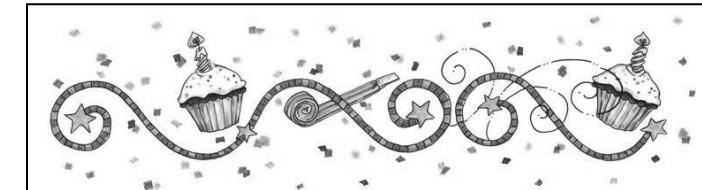
United Women in Faith

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. February's meeting dates are:

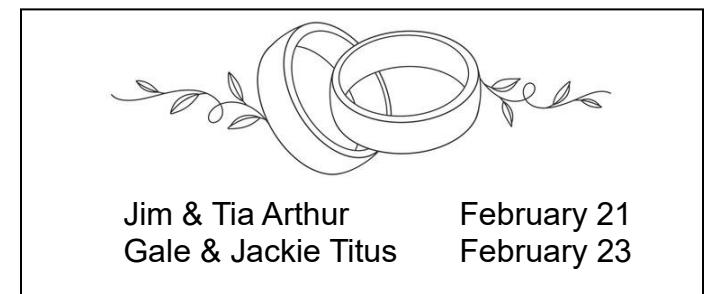
- UWF Board - Tuesday, Feb 3 @ 4:00
- Susannah Wesley - Monday, Feb 16 @ 11:30am
- Sisters In Faith - Thursday Feb 26 @ 6:00pm



February Birthdays & Anniversaries:



Jeff Mallory	February 01
Mike Sanders	February 01
Trenton Bullock	February 06
Connor Adamski	February 08
Sean McLennan	February 09
Russ Ross	February 09
Beth Macke	February 11
Alexander Schneider	February 12
Dominic Huisenga	February 13
Logan Huisenga	February 15
Sue Boyer	February 16
Rob Crumrin	February 16
Dale Ridgway	February 17
Scott Vest	February 17
Jessica Cannady	February 19
Dustin Morey	February 19
Julie Bullock	February 20
Dylan Daugherty	February 20
Jo Rich-Vadas	February 20
Alan Reed	February 23
Jo Sanders	February 25
Thomas Sanzenbacker	February 25
Tiffany Huisenga	February 28
Diane Lindgren	February 29



Jim & Tia Arthur
Gale & Jackie Titus

February 21
February 23





Kid's Korner

We are back in regular swing of things after the holiday season. We have started a new series during children's church. It will lead us into lent. Each week until lent, we'll concentrate on a New Testament story beginning with the Good Samaritan.

KFC is going strong. We have 25-30 kids every week. Thanks so much to all who help! We make good use of our playground every week that the weather allows. The kids love it!

On Sunday, Feb. 1 all kids are invited to go bowling at the Terre Haure Bowling Center on Springhill Drive. We will leave the church at 4:00. The church will pay for bowling and shoes. Please bring snack money.

I know it doesn't feel like it, but summer will be here before we know it! Why am I mentioning this on a day with a wind chill of -1? Because it is time to sign-up for Camp Illiana! To find more information, go to hello@campilliana.org or call me. You and your camper will be glad you did. We will provide transportation for groups of kids. If you let me know when your child chooses to go, I'll keep track so they will know when other kids are going. The church will pay $\frac{1}{2}$ of the fee for any child who attends our church.

Stay warm!



February Music Notes:

 Brrr... It's cold outside! Thankfully, we are blessed to have a warm place to worship and fellowship together when we all come to church. It's always nice to see everyone, especially when it's so cold no one wants to leave the house very often!

Choir took a little break for a few weeks in the cold weeks we've had. I think we've pretty much decided to shorten our summer break and take a month off in the winter. ☺

That being said, practices will resume on February 11, and the choir will be leading you in worship again on February 15. Hopefully we will begin to thaw out by then. As always, we would love to have more of you join us to make a joyful noise! If you enjoy singing, join us sometime! You don't have to read music - we can help you follow along. We have some fun together as we practice on Wednesday evenings, and it's nice to be able to see the congregation from a different perspective on Sunday mornings! Hope to see you soon.

Our February Mission of the Month:

Global Health & Mission: Healing in Eastern Congo

A Story of Connectional Giving

When we talk about **apportioned giving** in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church, we're not talking about money disappearing into a black box. We're talking about **our shared resources joining with United Methodists everywhere** to do Christ's healing work in the world. One vivid example of that work is unfolding in **Eastern Congo**, where United Methodist global health initiatives are restoring hope and health to communities devastated by years of conflict.

In eastern Congo, decades of violence weakened health infrastructure, leaving families without access to basic medical care, clean water, or disease prevention programs. Through the **Global Health & Mission Initiatives** funded in part through the **World Service Fund**, which is itself supported by our apportionments, the United Methodist Church has helped **repair hospitals and health centers, renovate maternity and pediatric wards**, and **supply essential medicines and diagnostic tools** so people can receive the care they desperately need.

This is mission in action: **clean water systems are installed, sanitation improvements are made, and public health education empowers communities to prevent disease and care for one another**, not just for a season but for the long haul. Local church leaders and health workers are trained and supported, their care bringing physical healing and spiritual hope to families who have suffered loss, displacement, and deep hardship. One woman cared for through this ministry said, *"I lost everything in the conflict ... I have regained hope to rebuild my life and that of my children. Thank you for giving me hope."*

It is important for us to connect the dots between **our apportionments here in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference** and this kind of global ministry. Each year, our Annual Conference approves a budget supported by apportionments from our local churches, roughly **11.5% of local church operational expenditures** in 2025, and that total includes **general church apportionments** that flow into the wider United Methodist connection for ministries like this one in the Congo.

While the Conference budget does not break out exactly what percentage of our apportionments goes into the World Service Fund specifically, we do know that **the World Service Fund is the primary general church fund that underwrites global outreach and health initiatives** like this one; it is the essential core of our church's global mission, supporting Christian witness, evangelism, discipleship, and compassionate ministries around the world.

What that means practically is this: when we faithfully send our apportioned giving, a portion of what we give goes to **support the World Service Fund**, and through that fund, conferences and mission partners engage in **healthcare restoration, public health education, clean water access, and long-term community wellbeing** in places like Eastern Congo. Our gifts don't just stay "out there somewhere", they are sent through trusted mission partners, trusted United Methodist agencies, and trusted local leaders who are living out the love of Christ in places of deep need.

So, when we talk about apportionments here at home, we're talking about something much bigger than a budget line item. We're talking about **connectional ministry**, the beautiful, costly, life-giving sharing of resources that makes it possible for a mother in Congo to receive care, for a clinic to reopen, for clean water to flow, and for **hope to be restored** in Jesus' name.

This year the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church, of which we are a part, is asking us to contribute \$29,580.00. Of that \$11,244.00 goes to Benevolence ministries through our Annual Conference, the Jurisdictional Conference, and the General Church. At Marshall First we cover our apportioned giving through personal donations. Please prayerfully consider giving to these important ministries. If you wish to give to Apportionments, please note how much of your giving you would like to go to this fund.

EVERY SUNDAY:

9AM Morning Worship with Family Fellowship after
10:15am Sunday School for all ages

February, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday Children & Youth Outing 4pm	2 Exercise 8:30am	3 9am – Holy Grounds at Marshall Family Restaurant <u>Trustees – 5:30pm</u> Unified Leadership – January meeting 6pm	4 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch NO KFC due to early dismissal NO Choir this evening	5	6 Exercise 8:30am	7
8 New Member Sunday Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	9 Exercise 8:30am	10 2pm – Holy Grounds at Holly Brook	11 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	12	13 Exercise 8:30am	14 <i>Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop from 8:30-12</i>
15 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	16 Exercise 8:30am Office Closed for Presidents' Day Susannah Wesley 11:30am	17 9am – Holy Grounds at Gypsy Queen 10:30 – Nurture Team Meet	18 Ash Wednesday Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Family Dinner for all at 5pm! Choir 6:00pm	19	20 Exercise 8:30am	21
22 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	23 Exercise 8:30am	24 9am - Holy Grounds at Latte Dough <i>Come volunteer @ the Food Disbursement Center from 12-4:30pm</i> Unified Leadership 6pm	25 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	26	27 Exercise 8:30am	28

**Did
You
Know?**

- ♥ There have been a dozen or more St. Valentines over the centuries, and there is some debate about which one inspired the holiday we know today. There was even a Pope Valentine, who served for just over a month in A.D. 827.
- ♥ Valentine's feast day was established on February 14 in 496 A.D. by Pope Gelasius I. The day did not then have a romantic connotation.
- ♥ Legend has it that on the day of his execution, St. Valentine wrote a note to his jailer's daughter, whom he'd healed of blindness. He is said to have signed the note, "from your Valentine," which some say led to the idea of a man appealing to a woman's heart by asking to be her valentine.

