

March Volunteers



March 2026

Greeters Jim & Tia Arthur

Ushers Charlie & Diane Moore and Sue Boyer

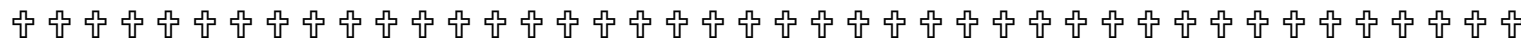
Lobby Watch 1st Rick Manuell
8th Nis Lovstad
15th Jim Arthur
22nd Ryan Arthur
29th

Counters Bev Smith and Jan Ridgeway

Liturgist Jill Strohm

Nursery 1st Nancy & Ken Claypool
8th
15th Amy Daugherty & Kaylee
22nd Erica & Caroline Crumrin
29th Adrienne & Evangeline Hutson

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



Prayer List



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

Our Church and her leaders:

Marshall First UMC Pastor Bill
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 Sharon Miller

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.



Our typical 5th Sunday Noisy Offering is being skipped in March, because it's Palm Sunday and we typically have a lot going on during worship that day. Keep saving all your change, and bring it with you when we have another 5th Sunday in May. Thanks!

NOISY OFFERING

Grace, peace, and hope to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the month of March, we find ourselves already in the season of Lent, beginning with the Second Sunday. Lent has a way of meeting us not at the starting line, but in the middle of the journey. The ashes have been placed, the call to repentance has been heard, and now we are invited to continue walking the path that leads us closer to the cross.

There is something important about this point in the journey. The beginning often carries a sense of resolve and intention. But as we move forward, the question becomes not simply how we start, but how we continue. Lent is not a moment; it is a movement of the heart toward God.

Scripture calls us, "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13). That call does not fade after the first week. It continues day by day, inviting us to deeper repentance, deeper trust, and deeper surrender.

By the Second Sunday of Lent, we begin to realize that this journey is not about outward appearance, but inward transformation. It is not about what others can see, but about what God is doing within us. And often, that work is quiet, steady, and sometimes even uncomfortable as the Lord gently reveals the places in our lives that need His grace.

Lent has always been shaped by simple, faithful practices: prayer, fasting, and giving. These are not meant to be grand gestures, but steady rhythms that draw us closer to Christ.

Prayer anchors us, reminding us that we walk this road with the Lord, not alone. Fasting teaches us to hunger for God above all else. Giving forms our hearts in generosity, reflecting the grace we have received.

If you began this season with intention, I encourage you to remain faithful. If you have stumbled or found it difficult to keep those commitments, do not be discouraged. Lent is not about perfection; it is about returning, again and again, to the mercy of God.

As a church, we walk this journey together. We encourage one another, pray for one another, and bear witness to the grace of Christ in one another's lives. Even in a season marked by repentance, we are never without hope, for the cross toward which we journey is also the place where mercy is fully revealed.

My prayer for us this month is that we would continue not just in discipline, but in devotion. That we would not grow weary, but would press on, allowing the Holy Spirit to shape us more fully into the likeness of Christ.

May this Lenten journey deepen our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and prepare our hearts for the work God desires to do in us and through us.

Walking with you on the road to the cross,
Your brother and fellow servant in Christ,

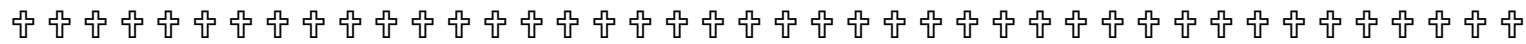
Pastor Bill

HOLY GROUNDS

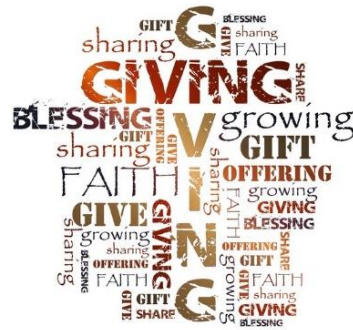
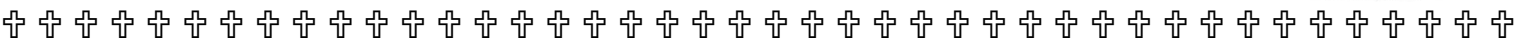
Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday! It is mostly Seniors, but you don't have to be over a certain age to join us! We even enjoy having others from our community join us. So invite a friend and pop in for coffee or breakfast and some good fellowship. Here's where you'll find us in February:

3rd 9am at Marshall Family Restaurant
 10th 2pm at Holly Brook
 17th 9am at Gypsy Queen
 24th 9am at Latte Dough
 31st TBA

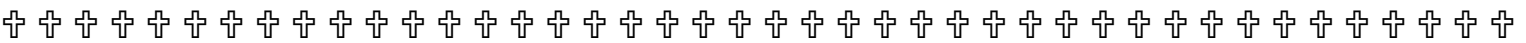
We like to take trips on the 5th Tuesday of the month. Do you have any suggestions for us? Maybe we can go to Betty Jane's? If you have any ideas of a nice place for us to go eat, please mention it to Mary Ann Stepp. Also, if you'd like to be on our regular text reminder list, let us know that too.



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 3/14 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 so far this year is **\$45,743**, while expenses totaled **\$40,303**. Looking ahead, we will need approximately **\$22,000** to meet all local church expenses for the month of March. 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.



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, March 3 @ 4:00
- Susannah Wesley – Monday, March 16 @ 11:30am
- Sisters In Faith – Thursday March 26 @ 6:00pm



United Women in Faith

- Thanks to everyone who purchased "Tom's" mayonnaise, and to Russ Haenig for his guidance. Our time working together to make the mayo was lots of fun.
- We will be taking well-filled boxes of groceries to 10 needy families in March.

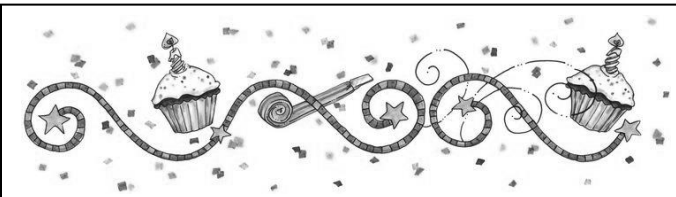


TAKE NOTE: United Women in Faith are planning a Rummage Sale! It will take place Saturday May 30 from 8-noon in the fellowship hall. We appreciate your support by providing gently used items. We will not be taking clothing. Talk to Jo Sanders to know where to bring your donations.

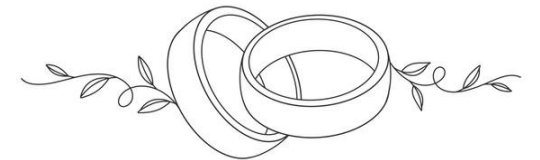
Choir Notes: We'd love to have you join us as we work on some special music for this Lenten season! You don't have to read music – we can teach you! Scripture tells us to "Make a joyful noise!" And EVERYONE can do that! Talk to Becky if you have any questions.



March Birthdays & Anniversaries:

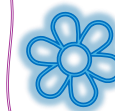


Kyle Hutson	March 02
Nancy Crumrin	March 03
Beverly Smith	March 03
Susie Carey	March 04
Logan Macke	March 05
Bettyle Hornbrook	March 07
Aubrey Claypool	March 08
Barb Sabo	March 09
Scott Cline	March 10
Tucker Cannady	March 13
Justin Paulsen	March 14
Jenna Morey	March 15
Carolyn Clark	March 17
Ridgway King	March 19
Joyce Berry-Smithson	March 21
Lydia Cannady	March 22
Rob & Jen Crumrin	March 22
Carsyn Day	March 23
Molly Kendall	March 28

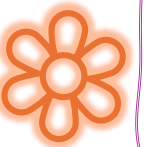


Sean & Sheri McLennan March 18
 Rob & Jen Crumrin March 22

Join us for worship and brunch as we **March Forward in Faith!**



Sunday, March 1, 2026



Worship begins at 9:00am with Brunch immediately following!

The Kids For Christ group will be singing during worship, as well. Come support them and encourage their love for Jesus!

Welcome to our Church Family

The Vest Family joined our church in February! Here's a great big welcome to Scott, Melissa, Ben, Hannah, and Jackson! Make sure to greet them next time you see them, especially if you haven't had the chance to introduce yourself.





Kid's Korner

February was a good 'kid' month here at FUMC. Our YF + group went bowling and plan to do that again. YF kids helped clean up the furnace room and sent off another box of medicine bottles to Matthew 25 mission.



Wednesdays are always delightfully busy. Thanks to the Power Lunch bunch and all of you who donate, we served approximately 300 meals to the high school kids. KFC is going strong -25 to 30 kids each week. A couple of Wednesdays have been nice enough for the kids to play outside. Thanks SO much to everyone who made our playground possible. It's getting good use! The KFC lessons this semester have focused on Jesus' teachings. I think the kids have soaked up some valuable stories.

Thanks to Tom Hintz for cooking pasta sauce for both Power Lunch and KFC family dinner! We so appreciate his talent in the kitchen!

Onto March: YF+ will stage a lock-in on March 15 here at the church. Wish us luck!!!

Our last day for winter KFC will be March 25. We'll also have a KFC/Church family dinner that evening. Spring KFC will begin on April 8 - watch next months' newsletter for more information.

Kelly



Are you ready for an Easter Egg Hunt??? Let's have one on Palm Sunday, March 29th!

It's sure to be lots of fun! Bring your kids and grandkids to worship that day, and plan to stay for Sunday School. The egg hunt will be during the Sunday School timeframe.

We need to start collecting candy to fill our plastic eggs. There will be a collection box in the office or you can give donations to Kelly anytime.



March Mission News:

For several years our congregation has supported the Solar Oven Ministry, based in South Dakota. The ovens are made by volunteers in that state. It is approved as an Advance Special by the United Methodist Board of Missions. Contributions from United Methodists support this ministry by providing funds for materials and shipping costs. It was recently reported that this past year 11,000 solar ovens were constructed and delivered by dedicated volunteers to the Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone and the Navajo Nations. These volunteers often accompany the ovens to instruct new recipients how to use them. The use of solar ovens gives families a reliable source of heat for purifying water and cooking meals and breads. It also prevents them from depleting whatever wooded areas remain and from the dangers of open wood fires, and helps with pollution problems.

Solar Oven Mission is a comparatively small mission but a vital one. Its success and continuance depends on a small number of dedicated volunteers and a relatively small number of supporters from congregations such as ours. Please consider supporting this mission. You can leave your contribution in the church office or in the offering plate. Be sure to indicate "solar ovens" on your contribution.



Mark your calendars for UMCOR Sunday, March 15th!

This Special Sunday is an opportunity to strengthen our connection to global ministries that provide disaster relief, aid for refugees, sustainable agriculture, and more. Every gift makes a life-changing impact. Your gifts cover UMCOR's operational costs, ensuring 100% of other donations go directly to relief efforts. Together, we can bring hope to those in need worldwide.

Connectional Giving / Apportionments: Making an Impact Together

One of the questions I hear from time to time is simple and important: "Where does our connectional giving go?" Each year, our Illinois Great Rivers Conference prayerfully develops a plan to fund shared ministry across our region. Through our connectional giving, we support:



* Higher Education Ministries: Reaching Students in a Formative Season

Through Wesley Foundations and campus ministries, we are present on college campuses at a critical time in young people's lives. These ministries provide Christian community, discipleship, leadership development, and a place to wrestle honestly with faith. At a time when many drift away, we are walking with students toward a stronger, more resilient faith.

* Health & Welfare Agencies: Extending Christ's Compassion

Our conference partners with trusted agencies that embody Christ's love in practical ways. These ministries serve children and families in crisis, individuals facing hardship, and those in need of care and support. Together, we are able to provide deeper, more sustainable help than any one church could offer alone.

* Conference Benevolences: Responding, Resourcing, and Reaching Out

Connectional giving also supports disaster response, emerging ministries, and mission partnerships. These funds allow the conference to respond quickly in times of crisis and to invest where God is already at work.

We Are Better Together

When we give through our connectional system, we are not simply funding programs—we are participating in a shared mission. No single church could sustain these ministries alone. But together, we can. Connectional giving turns local faithfulness into broader impact. What begins as a gift from one congregation becomes hope for a student, care for a family, and a witness to Christ beyond what we can see.

This year, our conference has asked our church to contribute **\$29,580.00**. So far, you have graciously given **\$1,100.00** toward that goal. Thank you for your faithful generosity and commitment to this Kingdom work.

We do more together than we ever could alone.

EVERY SUNDAY:

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

March, 2026

If you would like to have something added to the April Newsletter, please get it to the office no later than Tuesday, March 24. Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday Forward In Faith Brunch Following Worship today! No Youth Fellowship	2 Exercise 8:30am	3 9am – Holy Grounds at Marshall Family Restaurant UWF Board 4:00pm	4 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	5	6 Exercise 8:30am	7
8 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	9 Exercise 8:30am Staff Meeting @ noon	10 2pm – Holy Grounds at Holly Brook SPRC meeting 6:00pm	11 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	12	13 Exercise 8:30am	14
15 Children & Youth Lock-In 6:00pm	16 Exercise 8:30am Susannah Wesley 11:30am	17 9am – Holy Grounds at Gypsy Queen	18 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	19	20 Exercise 8:30am	21 <i>Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop 8:00-noon</i>
22 NO Youth Fellowship tonight	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 Family Dinner for all at 5pm! Choir 6:00pm	26 Sisters in Faith 6:00pm	27 Exercise 8:30am	28
29 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	30	31 Holy Grounds Time and place TBD	<p>Mark your calendars now for special events during Holy Week!</p> <p>✠ Thursday April 2 will be our Love Feast. This is a special worship service surrounding a meal, just as Jesus had a meal with his disciples before going to the cross. More information will be coming in your bulletins. Plan to join us!</p> <p>✠ Friday April 3 we will meet at the Courthouse at noon to Carry the Cross through town. Come walk with us!</p> <p>✠ Also Friday April 3 we will have a special Good Friday service at 7:00pm. Come worship with us as we remember Christ's ultimate sacrifice for our sin.</p> <p>✠ Sunday April 5 is Easter! SonRise Service will be at 7:00am, followed by breakfast and our regular 9:00am worship service.</p>			

