

September Volunteers

Greeters September 6th through September 27th:

Charlie & Diane Moore

Counters: Bev Smith and Alta Youngdahl

Lobby Watch: 6th Brian Macke
13th Tia Arthur
20th Rick Manuell
27th Jim Arthur

Nursery: 6th Jenna Morey
13th Nancy & Ken Claypool
20th Amy C & Nancy Crumrin
27th Amy & Kaylee Daugherty

Ushers for September: Jill Strohm, Tia & Jim Arthur

Liturgist: Russ Ross

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.



From the Pastor's Desk:

September 2026: “A New Thing”

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” — Isaiah 43:19, NRSV

School is beginning again, and with it comes one of those unmistakable changes of season. Backpacks are packed, classrooms are prepared, schedules are rearranged, and students, teachers, and families begin settling into new routines. For some, the beginning of school is exciting. For others, it brings a little anxiety. There are new teachers, new classmates, new expectations, and sometimes entirely new stages of life to navigate.

There is something both exciting and unsettling about beginning something new. I think that is true for churches, too. As I continue settling into this new appointment, I have been learning names, hearing stories, discovering traditions, and beginning to understand what makes this congregation who it is. At the same time, you have been getting to know me. That is part of the gift of a new pastoral appointment: we begin walking together before any of us knows exactly where the road will lead.

The words of Isaiah have been on my mind: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” What I appreciate about this passage is that God does not promise that the wilderness simply disappears. God promises to make a way through the wilderness. God does not pretend the desert was never dry. God promises rivers in the desert. Sometimes that is how grace works.

Every person, every family, and every congregation goes through seasons when the road is difficult. We do not have to ignore those seasons to believe that God is still at work. Scripture reminds us repeatedly that God brings new life in places where we may least expect it. That is one of the invitations before us now.

Just as students begin a new school year without knowing exactly what every day will hold, we begin this new chapter of ministry without knowing every place God will lead us. We do not need to have the whole road mapped out. Instead, we can pay attention together.

Where are relationships beginning to grow? Where are people discovering that they belong? Where are there new opportunities to serve our neighbors? Where might God be breathing new life into something familiar. Where might the Holy Spirit be inviting us to try something new?

I do not come into this appointment with a predetermined map of everything this church should become. I want us to discover that together—to listen to one another, celebrate the gifts already here, learn from the past, and discern where God may be leading next.

So as school begins and our community settles into new rhythms, I invite you to keep Isaiah's question in mind: “Do you not perceive it?” Look closely. God may already be doing something new among us. As we pray for our students, teachers, school staff, and families beginning a new year, may we also pray for our church as we begin this new season together. I am grateful to be walking this part of the journey with you, and I look forward to seeing what God causes to spring forth.

In Christ,
Pastor Jon

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

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, Joyce Smithson

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.

Kids Corner

School has started, fall is approaching. We hosted 59 kids and teachers at our first Power Lunch of the year. If anyone wants to help in the kitchen on Wed., you are more than welcome.

The KFC registration was great! It was a beautiful evening of bounce houses, food, and fun! It was a fun evening of kids, food, and bounce houses!
All kids are invited to be in the Autumn Fest parade with us. Pastor Jon will drive the church van and we will follow handing out candy and info cards. More information will come out closer to the time.

A huge shout out to Cris Fitzjarrald and the jr. high/high school class! If you are of that age, please join them. You will be glad you do did!

Kelly



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Ryan Arthur	September 1	Brady Bullock	September 25
Adam Schneider	September 6	Sadie Claypool	September 25
Dustin Bishop	September 7	Vicki Kinyon	September 26
Charlie Moore	September 8	Ken Claypool	September 27
Terry Welsh	September 9	Marcia Reed	September 27
Erica Crumrin	September 11	Peggy Zoll	September 27
Rick Manuell	September 13	Zaylee Macke	September 27
Tom Brannan	September 16		
Logan Cannady	September 20		
		Troy & Candace Sanzenbaker	September 24
		Scott & Melissa Vest	September 27



Financial Report

Our income so far this year is \$137,936, while expenses totaled \$165,313. 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 \$7,940 of the \$29,580 the Conference asks us to send throughout the year.



Marshall First United Methodist Church unveiled their new playground this summer! Pastor Jon provided a blessing of the playground during our KFC Carnival & Church Potluck on Sunday, August 30th. A huge thank you to the Trustees and to those individuals who donated their time and money to make this possible! It is truly an amazing addition to our church and community!

August Mission News:

BRIDGE

Since 1993 the Marshall Service League has been BRINGING RELIEF, INSTILLING DIGNITY and GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT to children and families in our community. The Service League is no longer active. A newly formed committee made up of members from area churches is continuing the annual fall shopping tradition with the cooperation of our local Walmart.

This fall, children in need will continue to receive the opportunity to shop for new warm winter clothing and essential toiletries through the BRIDGE program. Children from preschool through 12th grade are identified through the cooperation of the Marshall School System.

The new BRIDGE Committee is asking for funds to help continue this program. You can contribute to BRIDGE through our church by writing a check and placing it in the Sunday offering plate or leaving your contribution in the church office. Be sure to designate BRIDGE. Please do not delay your contribution because the shopping trip will be held in September.

FAITH PROMISE FUND

The accumulated Faith Promise Fund is also contributing to BRIDGE and will be added to the amount given from our church members. Please don't delay Act NOW! Remember, we are the hands of Christ on earth. What we give we do so in His name.



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

From Connie on her Summer Itineration Journeys

"You're Hired!" Another 3 years of Service in Southeast Asia

The Zoom call on August 24 was scheduled at 7:45 Central time as my itineration time (visiting supporting churches) came to an end. Protocol within the General Board of Global Ministries is for missionaries who wish to continue with another 3 years of service have a formal interview of sorts with our supervisors and leaders before commitments of service are signed and authorized for the books.

Yes, I passed, and I'll be leaving to continue onward in Southeast Asia on September 10.

It has been a joyful time for me to share these past 2 months with so many but somewhat sad that I couldn't visit everyone. I have 58 churches, UWF units and individuals who have given to my salary support in 2025-2026 through the Advance. Another 23 have given directly to the language Center's Advance, which has allowed me the funds to run the Center efficiently and with generosity, such as paying for my caretaker's salary, snack items, Center sponsored events, gift baskets to local leaders and so forth. That of course includes Marshall First UMC, which started support from Day 1 of my missionary service, way back to my Mission Intern days in Japan and Washington, DC, 1988-1991.

For all I have met and been in contact with, including zipping in and out of our Marshall First UMC to copy needed hand-outs, I am deeply moved by the faith you have placed in me to continue this work God has tasked me with. It has not been an easy, move from my many years in China to a new culture, language, position, climate and overwhelming challenge to run a language center. Looking back, I can't believe so much has been accomplished in just 3 years. I credit this strength not only to the Lord, but the prayers and financial giving from others, as well as the Mission Initiative staff (Santi, Suher, Thamnong, Nyai, Khambang, missionaries David and Sora).

All have guided and encouraged me, leading to a new excitement for continued service through our United Methodist Church. Thank you, thank you, thank you for this incredible gift. How can I possibly fail!

Isaiah 41:10: A promise that God will strengthen, help, and uphold you, removing the need for fear.

Connie Wieck
UMC GBGM missionary to Southeast Asia





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 Circle will meet on September 24th at 6:00 pm in the Chapel to plan for Food Box Donations/Delivery and more.

- Sisters in Faith will be Volunteering at Choices Pregnancy & Health in Casey September 12th from 10:00 AM to noon; meeting at the church at 9:30am.

-UWF Board Meeting will be September 3rd at 4:00

UWF Fall meeting Love Gifts:

Cunningham Childrens Home

Men's White T-Shirts S-XL

Bath Towels

XL Sheet Sets

Hand Soap Pumps

Lessie Bates Neighborhood House

Gift Cards (any amount) from

- Walmart - Dollar General

- Dollar Tree - Subway

- McDonalds

The Advance

The advance assures 100% of your gift for the designated ministry. Solar Oven Partners/Solar Oven Project is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization, an international missions project of the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This summer, two mission trips have taken place: in June to the Dominican Republic and in July to the Navajo Nation. Team members work with local participants building ovens and sun-cooking local recipes. Ovens are then distributed to struggling families who participate. Thank you for your compassionate giving.

Peace and blessings,
Randy Hardwood, Director, Solar Partners

Solar ovens are life-giving. Thank you for partnering with us.

Stories from South Africa

Christ Church – Quad Cities is hosting Joel and Hollie Pick from www.PickFreedom.org for an evening of inspiring stories from their ministry in Cape Town, South Africa on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall.

Lives are being transformed through compassionate, Christ-centered care for those facing trauma, addiction, and mental health challenges.

The ministry attacks the crises of trauma and addiction in Cape Town by providing compassionate, trauma-informed care and education. Individuals are empowered to heal from depression, addiction and the deep impacts of violence, poverty and historical legacies, guiding them on a journey from trauma to wholeness and true freedom.

Through evidence-based mental health support and the transformative hope of Christ, we build pathways of hope in underserved communities, helping South Africans choose recovery, build resiliency, and live lives of purpose and healing.



Joel and Hollie Pick



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 August:

1st 9am at Crossroads Cafe

8th 2pm at Holly Brook

15th 9am at Gypsy Queen

22nd 9am at Latte Dough

29th TBD

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.

Beacon of Hope resource empowers churches to engage with community

The IGRC Office of Congregational Development is excited to bring a great resource to help our local churches engage with the people in their communities. It's Ken Willard's book *Beacon of Hope: Your Guide to Reaching, Witnessing, and Welcoming New People*.

Ken Willard's *Beacon of Hope* looks at the two actions of reaching new people through personal invitation and welcoming new people through congregational hospitality. From the book cover:

Beacon of Hope: Reaching and Welcoming New People is an inspiring and practical guidebook for pastors, church leaders, and congregations eager to revitalize their ministries by embracing the call to reach out, invite, and warmly welcome new people into the life of the church. With decades of experience as a church consultant and coach, Ken Willard provides a deeply personal, biblically grounded, and highly accessible resource tailored for today's unique challenges and opportunities in ministry.

Rooted in the Wesleyan tradition and drawing from the wisdom of John and Susanna Wesley, Willard recaptures the heart of evangelism—not as an outdated term or uncomfortable obligation, but as a living, relational discipline that invites people into the transforming love of Christ. He reframes evangelism and witness in language that is grace-filled, relational, and grounded in authentic Christian community. Whether you're a seasoned pastor or a lay leader new to outreach, this book speaks directly to the practical realities of leading churches in a post-pandemic, often divided culture."

You and your church leaders can get involved in three different ways:

- **Beacon of Hope Workshops** with author Ken Willard. Lay and clergy leaders and local church teams can learn directly from Ken about practical insights and strategies for helping congregations learn to share their faith, engage with their neighbors, and provide welcoming hospitality to new people who come to our churches. Identical workshops will be held on Oct. 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Springfield Douglas Avenue UMC and Oct. 11, from 2 to 5 p.m., at O'Fallon First UMC, so that you can pick one that is more convenient. The cost is \$10 per person and \$20 if you'd like to receive a print copy of the book at the event. Register below.
- **Beacon of Hope Book Discussion.** Join Sara Isbell and Curtis Brown in reading and discussing *Beacon of Hope: Your Guide to Reaching, Witnessing, and Welcoming New People* by Ken Willard. Sara and Curtis will invite participants into a lively online conversation as they draw on their different experiences as pastors and church leaders. Pastors, church staff, and lay congregational leaders are all invited to join in the online discussion of this month's book Thursdays at 4 p.m. starting Sept. 3 and concluding Sept. 24. Register below.
- **Read the book with your church's leaders.** You and your leaders can purchase the book and read it together in your own leadership book study. You can purchase the book and learn more about it here: <https://www.cokesbury.com/9781950899920-Beacon-of-Hope>

A special Thank You from Spero Family Services



Hello! Sending an extra thank you for your support this year! Wanted you to have this print so it made by a Spero youth! We are happy to serve you & your surrounding community!

With Joy, Lindy from Spero

Church On-Boarding: Sep. 15th

What Is On-Boarding?

As part of beginning a new pastoral appointment, our church will be participating in an On-Boarding process designed to help pastors and congregations begin their ministry together with greater clarity, trust, and understanding.

Transitions naturally bring questions. Congregations wonder about a new pastor's leadership style, priorities, and hopes, while a new pastor is trying to learn the history, character, concerns, and dreams of the congregation. On-Boarding creates a structured opportunity for those conversations instead of allowing assumptions or incomplete information to shape the relationship.

A trained facilitator guides the process. Lay leaders are invited to share their perspectives and respond anonymously to questions about the congregation, including its identity, hopes, dreams, and what it can offer its new pastor. The pastor then has an opportunity to hear those responses and engage the group in conversation. The goal is not simply to exchange information. It is to build mutual trust, discover shared values, and begin identifying our shared hopes for the future of the church.

Onboarding will be held on September 15th at 5:00OPM with dinner provided!

Marshall FUMC is feeding the MHS Football Team

FUMC is hosting the Marshall High School Football team and Cheerleaders for supper on September 17th! We are anticipating anywhere from 50-75 kids and coaches to join us. Look for a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center Board for how to help!



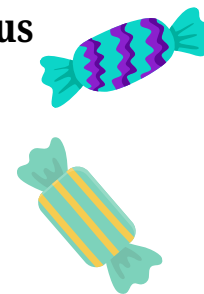
Come see us in the Parade!

We will be in the Marshall Autumn Fest Parade September 19th! If you or your child would like to participate, please contact the office at (217) 826-8041.

Fall Candy Collection



Kelly is collecting candy in the office for various Fall activities! We will be having a float in the Marshall Autumn Festival Parade, and we will also be participating in Marshall's Trunk or Treat! Any donations are appreciated!



KFC Carnival!

KFC Kicked off the 2026-2027 school year in **STYLE!** Bounce houses, games, and food made for a great evening! We wanted to extend a huge *thank you* to all of you who helped. We are looking forard to a fun year ahead!



Books of the New Testament



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

Camp Cornerstone

This year was our biggest turn out yet! Our Campers celebrated the end of summer in **STYLE** at Camp Cornerstone! It was three days packed full of fun, crafts, and Jesus.

We want to give a huge shoutout to all of those who helped us during camp and all of those who helped us prepare! We truly couldn't have done it without you.

Word list:

- ACTS
COLOSSIANS
CORINTHIANS
EPHESIANS
GALATIANS
HEBREWS
JAMES
JOHN
JUDE
LUKE
- MARK
MATTHEW
PETER
PHILEMON
PHILIPPIANS
REVELATION
ROMANS
THESSALONIANS
TIMOTHY
TITUS



Services EVERY Sunday at 9:00am with Family Fellowship after.
Sunday School for all ages held at 10:15am.

SEPTEMBER 2026

If you would like to have something added to the November Newsletter, please get it to the office no later than Tuesday, Sep. 21th. Thank you!

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Holy Grounds @ Crossroads Cafe @ 9:00AM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 Power Lunch KFC 3:30-4:30 PM Childrens Choir Practice 4:30-5:00 PM	UWF Meeting @ 4:00PM	Exercise 8:30AM	
Communion Sunday Youth Fellowship 5:00PM	Exercise 8:30AM Office is Closed for Labor Day	Holy Grounds @ Hollybrook 2:00PM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 Power Lunch KFC 3:30-4:30 PM Childrens Choir Practice 4:30-5:00 PM		Exercise 8:30AM	
Youth Fellowship 5:00PM	Exercise 8:30AM	Holy Grounds @ Gypsy Queen 9:00AM Onboarding at 5:00PM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 No Power Lunch & No KFC	MFUMC is Feeding the MHS Football Team	Exercise 8:30AM	Thrift Shop closed for Marshall Autumn Fest UWF Fall Distric Meeting
Golden Cross Sunday Youth Fellowship 5:00PM	Exercise 8:30AM Susanna Wesley 11:30	Holy Grounds @ Latte Dough 9:00AM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 Power Lunch KFC 3:30-4:30 PM Childrens Choir Practice 4:30-5:00 PM		Exercise 8:30AM	
Youth Fellowship 5:00PM	Exercise 8:30AM	Holy Grounds TBD ULC Meething 6:00PM Come help at the Food Pantry from 2:00 – 4:00pm	Mat Weaving 10:00-12:00 Power Lunch KFC Church Family Dinner @5:00PM			