

# August Volunteers

**Liturgist**      3<sup>rd</sup>      Carrol Ellington  
                          10<sup>th</sup>      Becky Wiggs  
                          17<sup>th</sup>      Carrol Ellington  
                          24<sup>th</sup>      Becky Wiggs  
                          31<sup>st</sup>      Carrol Ellington

**Ushers** Peggy Zoll  
Jim and Tia Arthur

<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Robin Lake and Meghan Arthur
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Robin Lake and Meghan Arthur
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa and Jack Davidson
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa and Jack Davidson
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Lisa and Jack Davidson

**Counters**    Bev Smith & Jan Ridgeway

**Lobby Watch** 3<sup>rd</sup> Ryan Arthur  
10<sup>th</sup>  
17<sup>th</sup> Dustin Bishop  
24<sup>th</sup> Dustin Bishop  
31<sup>st</sup>



3<sup>rd</sup> Beverly Smith  
10<sup>th</sup> Lewis Goekler  
17<sup>th</sup> Charlie & Diane Moore  
24<sup>th</sup> Alta Youngdahl  
31<sup>st</sup> Shannon Snedeker



## Altar Flowers

We are in need of more volunteers! The clipboards are in the welcome center, and we do have a few volunteers through the rest of the year, but we have empty spots. We need Lobby Watch, Greeters, and Ushers. Please sign up in the Welcome Center.

[illegible]

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."



Psalm 100:1-5

Summer is coming to a close, and you know what that means! Becky's going to start pestering you to join the choir again!! 😊

We have special music taking us through Labor Day, and the Choir will once again be in the loft helping lead worship beginning the first Sunday of September. I'd like for us to start practice on August 27, so we have a couple Wednesdays before we actually sing in worship. Mark your calendars, so you don't forget!

The choir is open to everyone who likes to sing! You don't even have to read music - we can help you find your notes! If you enjoy making a joyful noise, would like a bit of time away from the house, and might like to fellowship with some friends, Choir is for you! Come check it out. You won't regret it!

Becky

# THE MESSENGER

MARSHALL FUMC  
AUGUST 2025

*From the Pastor's Pen*

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, who makes us lie down in green pastures and leads us beside still waters.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

August stands at the threshold between seasons. The summer heat lingers, yet we begin to sense the nearness of fall—the return of school, shifting schedules, and the gentle tug of routine reasserting itself. Some of us are still holding onto vacation plans or time with family, while others are already gearing up for what comes next. But before we rush forward, I want to offer an invitation: take a breath, slow your steps, and let the Lord lead you beside still waters.

Psalm 23 reminds us that it is our Shepherd who leads us to rest. Not the world. Not our calendars. Not our own attempts to earn peace. The still waters are not a luxury we chase but a gift God gives. And I don't know about you, but it seems that in our world—no matter the season—rest is in short supply. Even in summer, when things are supposed to slow down, we often fill our lives with so much activity that we never quite feel rested.

There's a weariness that goes beyond the body—a soul-deep tiredness that can settle in when we carry burdens too long or run on empty too often. Jesus speaks directly to that in Matthew 11:28–30: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest... you will find rest for your souls.”

This isn't rest like the world gives. It's not just a day off or a nap in the shade (though both are good). It's the kind of rest that renews the inner person, quiets anxious thoughts, and reminds us that we are held in the hands of a faithful God. It's the kind of rest that comes when we trust the Shepherd more than we trust ourselves.

This kind of rest doesn't mean passivity—it means trusting that God is God and we are not. It means letting go of the burdens we were never meant to carry alone. It means sitting quietly in prayer, letting Scripture speak to your soul, taking time to breathe deeply of God's grace, and remembering that you are His beloved child.

As we prepare for the new season ahead—back-to-school, harvest time, and the return to many of our regular ministries—I encourage you to allow this month to be a holy pause. Let God restore your soul. Take intentional time to dwell in His presence, to seek Him not for what He can do, but simply because of who He is.

The world demands urgency. God invites us into peace. The enemy whispers “you must do more.” But the Spirit says, “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Let us be a people who know what it means to rest in Him. Let us be a church marked not by weariness but by quiet strength, drawn from the still waters of grace. And when we rise again to work for His Kingdom, let it be from a place of wholeness and joy.

**In the peace and rest of Christ Jesus, may it be so,**

Your brother and fellow servant of Christ.

Pastor Bill

Happy Anniversary!

[illegible]

*Our Church and her leaders:*

### Our Military Personnel:

### Our Homebound & Health Care Facility Residents



United  
Women  
in Faith

PRAY  
without ceasing  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

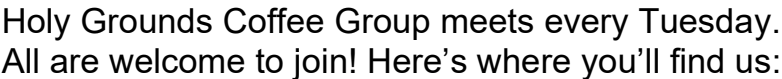
August 5<sup>th</sup> No UWF board meeting this month  
 August 7<sup>th</sup> UWF Book Study 8:30 AM in the Chapel.  
 Sisters in Faith hosting.  
 August 14<sup>th</sup> Esther Circle-7:00 PM  
 August 19<sup>th</sup> Susanah Wesley Circle is not meeting this month  
 August 28<sup>th</sup> Sisters in Faith Circle 6:00 PM in the Chapel



We are collecting items for Student Kits to take to the Midwest Mission. Our UWF District gathering will be in September, and we will be assembling the kits there. If you can donate supplies, it would be very much appreciated! There will be a collection box in the hallway outside the office for you to leave your donations.

[illegible]





5<sup>th</sup> - Marshall Family Restaurant 9AM  
12<sup>th</sup> - Holly Brook 2PM  
19<sup>th</sup> - Gypsy Queen 9AM  
26<sup>th</sup> - Gypsy Queen 9AM



At Marshall First, we believe in clear communication and faithful stewardship. That's why the Unified Leadership Council shares a monthly giving report—to help you see how your generosity supports the life and mission of our church. In addition to funding our local ministries, we are asked each year to contribute \$31,956 to the

broader work of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. These apportioned gifts, given only through designated giving, help support leadership and ministry across our region. **It's important to note that your regular, undesignated tithes and offerings are what keep our local ministry moving—from worship and children's programs to pastoral care, outreach, and daily operations.** Right now, we're facing a shortfall in our general fund, and your consistent, prayerful support is more vital now than ever. Let's continue working together to fuel the mission God has given Marshall First.

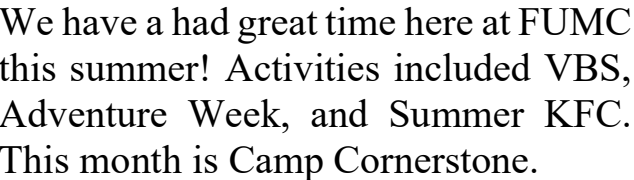
	2025 Local Church Budget	Conference Apportionments	Faith Promise & Missions
<b>Budget</b>	\$344,662.00	\$31,956.00	Faith Promise, Missions, Scholarships & Memorial are supported by designated giving.
Needed Monthly	\$28,721.84	\$2,663.00	
Needed Weekly	\$6,628.12	\$614.54	
Given Year to Date	\$144,431.99	\$12,380.57	\$7,812.98
Given July 2025	\$14,018.97	\$2,050.00	\$1,650.00



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.



**We need someone to take the lead to organize our Mother/Baby tent. If God is moving you toward this wonderful outreach ministry, PLEASE call or stop by the Church office sometime to let us know. A sign-up sheet will be coming in the next few weeks.**



Kids ages kindergarten on up are encouraged to attend. The camp will be held at Mill Creek. The address of the cabin is 18997 Hammer Rd.

Following is the arrival schedule:

6th grade on up: 4:00 Tuesday, Aug. 5  
3rd, 4th, 5th grades: 9:00 am Wednesday, August 6  
K through 2nd grade: 9:00 am Thursday, August 7

Once you arrive at camp you are welcome to stay as long as you wish. Pick up time for everyone is 9:00 on Friday, August 8. Please let me know if your children plan to attend. It will help with meal planning.

## Camp list:

Sleeping bag, pillow, water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, swimsuit, towel, change of clothes, toiletries.

Please call me (217-264-4760) or the church office (217-826-8041) to sign up or ask questions. Grab a friend and join us!

Kelly



Sabaidi (Hello!) from Laos via Marshall!

My mom, Priscilla Wieck, has been emailing me all summer with this reminder: "Did you tell our MarshallUMC you were coming back in August for a visit?"

Here it is now!

Missionaries receive 1 month yearly vacations, however we want to take them, if approved by our regionalarea secretary. I was approved for July 29 - August 29 so you'll be seeing me around Marshall and, ofcourse, in church.

Closing ceremonies for our students took place last Thursday. If you follow my Facebook page (ConnieWieck) or my website ([connieinchina.org](http://connieinchina.org)), you'll see all the pictures and stories. My

Facebook page andwebsite announce the country I am in but I never refer to myself as a missionary, only a teacher. This isquite an interesting placement, one of the few we United Methodists have that are deemed a "sensitivearea". Our denomination is not recognized by the government so we are very careful at worship centerswith our local United Methodist Christians to be just "community centers", not advertised as churches.

I am in charge of the business end, running the Suntisouk Language and Vocational Center in the city withEnglish language courses offered in the evenings. This is how we get fulltime missionaries into the country. Officially, we are hired on work visas to be teachers at the Center but some actually are not here nor teachEnglish. I do as I'm the director and teaching English as a second language is my profession. However, ournew country director, David, works with churches which have been established under our denomination,does pastoral training, oversees all the workings of our planted churches here and is also in charge of all thefinances. His wife, Sora, is creating and putting into practice the Sunday School program for children. That's a huge project. She has also been training the teachers taking on this task. This is a mini-pilotprogram at first and will later be perfected, then materials compiled, workshops for teachers in outerlyingareas and hopefully, it will be offthe ground for young kids by next year.

We also have our Global Mission Fellow (GMF) here, a 2-year position. The GMF program is for youngChristians, ages 20 - 30, who want to serve the world's people in some specialty way. Our GMF is Shaloomand he's from Pakistan. I am his supervisor and mentor, which is a true blessing. He has fit so nicely intoour community. He gives amazing prayers during our weekly meetings.

He also has settled into his teachingrole very well. I have him only for another year and then offhe goes. If anyone is interested, I can talk toyou more about this amazing program sponsored by our United Methodist Global Ministries.

### In Closing

I have gone on long enough. I have so many stories to share and many, many joys in serving here. Catch meat church for more opportunities to hear how your generous support of me over these many years has trulymade a difference in bringing others an understanding of God's love and what it means to be a follower ofJesus.

God's Love and Peace,  
Global Ministries Missionary to Southeast Asia,  
and a member of Marshall First UMC,  
Connie Wieck



### Update From UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief)

Often, to facilitate relief procedures, UMCOR partners with existing relief organizations in the area of need, for logistical reasons. Currently UMCOR is partnering with the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) to bring much needed food and water to Palestinian families in a refugee and displacement camp where they are living in tents.

IOCC also partners with a local youth group organization who contracts a local commercial kitchen to cook and package hot meals for the camp. A food distribution coordinator and chefs are recruited to oversee the operation which serves almost 4,000 displaced people daily who come to the food site.

Food aid is also provided from food boxes generally containing flour, legumes and cooking oil. However, often displaced families have no way to cook food and they lack clean water. By using a commercial kitchen, families can come to an organized, safe place in their displacement camp to eat or pick up food.

This method also provides work and income for local host country workers. The partnership has proved so successful that UMCOR has pledged to double its support . UMCOR is in need of funds so that the feeding program can continue to serve even more displaced families.

You can make your check out to Marshall UMC and all monies given will be sent directly to Global Ministries for this purpose. Advance #982550.

### Local Needs


Here in Marshall, the Food Pantry needs condiments, such as ketchup, mustard and mayo for the distribution boxes. You can take these items to them directly whenever you visit there. The Food and Clothing Distribution Center is always in need of funds. This winter is going to be a difficult one for many families. Federal funds are gradually being reduced .We who have so much are called upon to help those who are in need.

### Pool Passes

Thanks to your generosity, \$1,000 was donated to the Marshall Pool from our church to provide pool passes for needy families.



**AUGUST 2025**

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
<div><div><div>DID YOU KNOW?</div><div></div></div><div><div>82 percent</div><div>of people are likely to attend church if invited by a friend or relative.</div></div></div>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>20% of Americans attend church every week (<a href="#">Gallup</a>)</li><li>41% of Americans are in monthly church attendance or more (<a href="#">Gallup</a>)</li><li>57% of Americans are seldom or never in religious service attendance (<a href="#">Gallup</a>)</li><li>Regular church attendance has steadily declined since the turn of the century (<a href="#">Gallup</a> and <a href="#">Pew Research Center</a>)</li></ul>				1. Exercise- 8:30am		2.			
3.		4. Exercise- 8:30am  Pickleball 6:30pm		5. Holy Grounds-9am @ Marshall Family Restaurant		6. Weave from 10am-Noon		7. Pickleball 8:30am  UWF Book Study 8:30am		8. Exercise- 8:30am		9.	
10.  Communion Sunday  Youth Fellowship 5pm		11. Exercise- 8:30 am  Pickleball 6:30pm		12.  Holy Grounds-2pm @ Holly Brook		13. Weave from 10am-Noon		14. Pickleball 8:30am Nurture Committee 9am YF @ Marshall Rehab 2pm Esther Circle 7pm		15. Exercise- 8:30am		16.  Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop from 8:30-12	
17.		18. Exercise- 8:30am  Pickleball 6:30pm		19. Holy Grounds- 9am @ Gypsy Queen  Come volunteer @ the Food Disbursement Center from 12-4:30pm		20. Weave from 10am-Noon		21. Pickleball 8:30am		22. Exercise- 8:30am		23.	
24.  Youth Fellowship 5pm		25. Exercise- 8:30 am		26. Holy Grounds- 9am @ Gypsy Queen		27. Weave from 10am-Noon		28. Pickleball 8:30am		29. Exercise- 8:30am		30.	
31. Noisy Offering!		Pickleball 6:30pm		Unified Leadership Team Meeting at 6pm		Choir Practice Resumes! 5:30pm in the Chapel		Sisters in Faith 6pm					