

Dear Marshall First UMC Members: ຍິນດີຕ້ອນຮັບສະຫວາດ!

Evading collisions. Dodging potholes. Plowing through dust clouds.

Early Sunday morning, I zip along the city and countryside roads on my way to church. The 35-minute journey on my midnight blue motor scooter is a long and challenging one but the 2-hour worship service and lunch afterwards with my newfound brothers and sisters in Christ is the reward. And what a joyful reward it is.

If you’ve been checking my website, connieinchina.org, you’ll be updated on all my activities. If not, as a reminder, I accepted a new position through our United Methodist Global Ministries which places me as director of the Suntisouk Language and Vocational Center (SLVC), located in Vientian City in Southeast Asia. The Center was created 7 years ago as a UM Global Ministries mission initiative outreach to others in this country.

There is a staff of 7 local people and 3 full-time Methodist missionaries. It has numerous free and fee-paying courses for all ages to help with the low educational level of the people. It also helps pastors’ and lay-leaders’ children with their educational needs. School uniforms, fees, books, and supplies run \$35 to \$50 per child per year. Church leaders are usually farmers or village shopkeepers. Giving by church members is low or nothing at all, meaning there is no regular salary for the vital task these faithful individuals have taken on to bring the Good News to others. When the Center can relieve such burdens, it’s a great blessing.

Center Funding Greatly Needed.

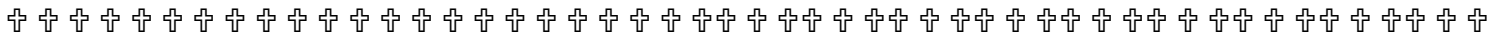
When I landed in December, I was told the Center’s annual budget is \$12,000 but for 2023, the Center’s overseas church giving was not enough. It is currently \$4,000 in the red. My goal as director is to get us out of debt and off to a strong 2024 start by the summer. This will not only allow continuation of programs already established but, will enable new project ideas (of which I have many!) to be implemented.

In December, our Marshall UWF gave generously to the Center's Advance #3021548, which added greatly to diminishing that \$4,000 debt. If anyone else is interested with financial giving, ask my mom, Priscilla Wieck, and she'll steer you in the right direction.

As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support. Here's hoping your potholes are few and your spirits are high as you journey to worship every Sunday.



In Christ,
Connie Wieck, Director of the Suntisouk Language and Vocational Center



My sister, Karen Torbeck and I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and concern. Karen is doing very well and is cancer free at this time.

God bless all of you,
Diana Bailey

Dear Friends at First UMC,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. It was very thoughtful, and we are grateful for you and your generous support of 222 Ministries. We count it such a privilege to serve our Lord Jesus as we go forth with His words in our hearts, “Go forth and make disciples.” May the joy of the Lord fill your hearts.

Jim & Jan Harper

The Messenger

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



February 2024



From the Pastor's Pen

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

January has passed, and although Walmart has had Valentine items in the store since two days before Christmas, we have finally arrived in the month when love is in the air. Both Christians and non-Christians alike celebrate February 14 as a day of love. For most, it is the love of men and women for one another. The card companies have made a lot of money promoting this holiday, and it got me to wondering what it is all about. Who is (or who was) this Saint Valentine?

St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D. during the days of Claudius the Cruel.” Marriage was forbidden, as men were unwilling to go to war leaving their wives, families, or fiancées.

Valentine believed that God’s, plan was for men and women to marry, rather than live in the immoral ways of the people of his day. Thus, Valentine honored God by marrying Christian couples in secret, which enraged the emperor, who ordered his arrest. During his interrogation, he was asked what he thought of the roman gods. Saint Valentine said that they were false gods, and that the only true God was the God who is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. This being his answer, he was put in prison.

While in prison, Valentine continued to minister. He witnessed to the guards. One of the guards was a good man who had adopted a blind girl. He asked Valentine if his God could help the man’s daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl was given her sight. The guard and his whole family of 46 people believed in Jesus and were baptized.

Because these people had come to know Jesus, Valentine praised God right there in his prison cell. When the emperor heard about this, he was furious that Valentine was still making converts even in prison, so he had Valentine beheaded on February 14th, Valentine gave his life for the cause of Christ heeding our Lords example and words, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13 NKJV) St. Valentine laid down his life that others might honor God with their lives, and that many more might come to know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Valentine knew what it meant to live out the great commandment which Jesus said fulfilled all of the teaching of the Law and the Prophets, ... You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” ... (and) “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39 NKJV) This is the kind of love we are to have: a love that surpasses all others; it is the essence of Christianity. This is what Valentine’s Day is truly all about.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day, and the two somehow don’t seem to go together. Why? Because our modern-day celebration of Valentine’s Day seems to be marked by overindulgence while Ash Wednesday begins a season of self-denial. How do we reconcile the two? As I think about it, Valentine’s Day is about human love, the love of a man and a woman, seen most fully in the God-ordained bond of Christian marriage. Ash Wednesday is also about love, our love for God and God’s love for us. We deny ourselves as an act of love toward God, and thus build our love relationship with God. What a beautiful picture Ash Wednesday on Valentine’s Day truly is. Valentine, a priest of the one true God, out of love for Christ and others was willing to sacrifice even his freedom for the sake of his love for God and the people God called him to serve.

This Ash Wednesday/Valentine’s Day may your love for God and the people He has placed in your life lead you to greater devotion to God and those He has called you to love.

Therefore, **“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”** (1 John 4:7 NKJV)

Seeking the perfect love of God together with you,

Paster Bill

P.S. It has been said that when Saint Valentine wrote his farewell letter to the daughter of the prison guard, he signed the letter “love your Valentine,” thus the origin of the Valentine card.

Children & Youth Ministry



Wednesdays
KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm
Power Lunch for teens
Sunday's
UMYF Jr. High - 4PM
UMYF Sr. High - 5PM

Despite the freezing weather, Jan. has been busy here at FUMC. Power Lunch, Youth Groups, and KFC reconvened after our Christmas break. The theme for KFC this session is Solid Rock Construction Company. Check out the backdrop and bulletin board in the chapel.

The Kid's Council met on the 16th and discussed upcoming events. Some for your calendar are:

- Christian Skate Night at Twin Lakes-February 12th- We'll take the van!
- Easter Egg Hunt – March 23
- Camp Illiana – June 2-6 for elementary, June 20-23 for high school, and June 23-27 for middle school. I have reserved a block of 10 reservations for our kids. Take a look at their website and let me know if your kiddos are interested. I guarantee they will be glad they attended.
- VBS will be the week of June 17. We are planning to use a jungle theme. I can't wait to get started-such a fun week for both kids and helpers!
- Local camp at Mill Creek-July 8-10

The Youth Group is going to do a fundraiser (you will love it!). We are going to sell T shirts and sweatshirts. It's been years since we had a new 'church shirt' around here. The profits will go to offset camp costs and mission projects.

From Kelly

Figure 1 - Parker Morey & Carrigan Crumrin



Figure 2 - Jayseigh Veach & Arielle Eitel



Figure 3 - Cooper Morey & Chase Paulsen



Figure 4 - Owen Ramsey & Greyson Trudeau



Larry & Betty Rasner 2/12
Joe & Alice Schroeder 2/19
Gale & Jackie Titus 2/23

February's Volunteers

Ushers - 4th & 11th- Paul & Amy Cannady
Fred & Janet Eitel
21st & 28th - Ken & Nancy Claypool
Fred & Janet Eitel
Sharon Welliver

Liturgist-
Diane Moore

Counters-
We still need counters for much of 2024.

Nursery
4th – Erica & Caroline Crumrin
11th – Amy Cannady & Nancy Crumrin
18th – Tara & Sadie Claypool
25th – Jody Green & Charlene Moore

Lobby Watch 4th- Rick Manuell
11th – Tony Graham
25th- Paul Cannady
We still need volunteers for February Lobby Watch

Greeters- 4th-25th Robin & Holly Lake



Mike Sanders	2/1	Rob Crumrin	2/16
Jeff Mallory	2/1	Alex Mason	2/16
Grace Thompson	2/1	Dale Ridgway	2/17
Charlee Payne	2/4	Jessica Cannady	2/19
Kyle Benefiel	2/5	Dustin Morey	2/19
Trenton Bullock	2/6	Julie Bullock	2/20
Russ Ross	2/9	Riley Jordan	2/20
Sean McLennan	2/9	Dylan Daugherty	2/20
Tara Setzer	2/10	Jody Green	2/23
Emlilie Engerski	2/10	Jo Sanders	2/25
Beth Macke	2/11	Thomas Sanzenbacker	2/25
Karen Heighton	2/12	Marlee Heighton	2/27
Noah Cooper	2/12	Vance Snedeker	2/28
Alex Schneider	2/12	Tiffany Huisinga	2/28
Dominic Huisinga	2/13	Victoria Hopkins	2/28
Logan Huisinga	2/15	Ben Sheehy	2/28
Sue Boyer	2/16	Diane Lindgren	2/29



February 4th- Family of Searoba Mascher
And from Jan Ridgway & Carolyn
In Memory of Our Sisters
Lois Setzer & Ann Williams
We need volunteers for the weeks of
February 11th, 18th, & 25th, and all dates
in March are still open.



Starting February 4th, the children and youth Sunday School will have a new set up. If you have a student from Nursery through Sr. High, take note of their new class.

Nursery through 4 years in nursery with Barb Allen.

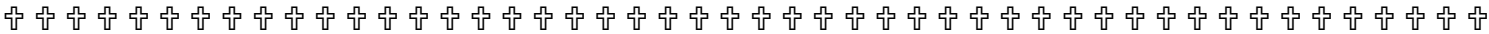
Kindergarten through second grade with Peggy Zoll.

Third through Fifth grades with Kelly Lindley.

Sixth through Eighth grades with Michelle Graham in youth Sunday School room.

High school with Pastor Bill in Connie's old office across from the Choir Room.

Come and join us as we learn about God and become more like Jesus!





Polly Logan, Family of Searoba Mascher, Flossie, Allyssa Henson(great granddaughter of Bev Smith), Mike Delp (Friend of John & Linda James), Unspoken (Beth Macke) Unspoken, Tim Bronkie (Pastor's friend), Marianne Wrone, Gail Glick, Israel, Diana Bailey, Tiffany Macke, Millie Swalls (Nora & Brad Swalls' granddaughter), Kinley Nash (Lois & David Nash's granddaughter), Molly Macke (Patty & John's daughter-in-law), Rev. Ron Martz (Praise also, recently been told he is cancer free), Family of Bill Hutson, Bishop Frank Beard, D.S. Angie Lee, Chase Brady [*Joyce Gwyn's great-grandson*], Peg Hintz [*Tom Hintz's mother*], Julie Krietemeier [*Beth Macke's sister*], Angie Broncano [*Missionary in Laos*], Unspoken Request, All Long-term Healthcare Facilities in Clark County, Natural Disaster Victims, Our Missionaries

Our Military Personnel:

Our Nation, Our Nation's Leaders, and Armed Forces

Chris Bradford	John Flowers	Daniel Gard
Michael Holmes	John Kuhn	Shelby Sanborn
Lewis Sanborn	Jake Hoalt	Chaplain Jonathon Maloney

Our Homebound & Health Care Facility Residents

Violet Cook	JoAnn Donehue	Polly Logan
Mary E. Koutsoumpas	Phyllis Boatright	Ray King
Fremont Schoeck	Sharon Miller	Dan Flowers
Ron Hicks	Ray King	

Prayer Focus for the month: **Love Your Neighbor**

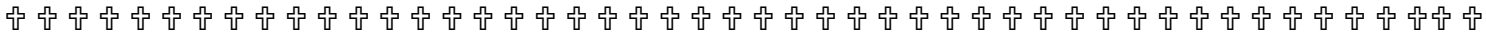
If you aren't already a member of one of our circles, this would be a great time to get involved with UWF! We have 4 circles, and I would love to share with you all the things we do to share God's love with others. Karen Heighton

IGRC Spiritual Growth Retreat - Saturday, February 24th, Chatham UMC

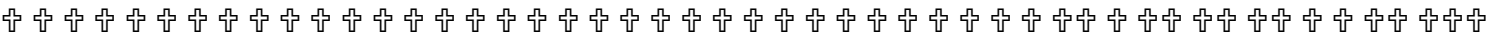
"Speaking Spiritual Growth Retreat" Flyers are on the bulletin board outside the office.

Sisters in Faith

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 13, Sisters In Faith is planning a retreat. More details will be in the March newsletter. Registration must be completed by March 31st. The cost will be \$20 per person. Signup sheet is in the Welcome Center. Payments can be made in the office or see Karen Heighton. All FUMC women, teens, and their guests will be invited.



All known group schedules are posted at present date. Keep an eye on announcements in the bulletin, newsletters, and slides for changes or upcoming events!



Happy February to you! The weather may be frightful, but the choir is delightful! We're still practicing in the Chapel at 4:00 on Tuesdays and would love to have you join us. Ash Wednesday is February 14, so it's getting close to time to work on some Lenten and Easter music. We will be doing a Cantata this year, so if you may be interested in just a short-term commitment to the choir, now is a great chance! **We will perform the Cantata on Good Friday, March 29.** If you know of someone within the community who would like to join us for the Cantata, I'd love to have their names!

***Cantata practice will be right after our regular weekly rehearsal time, so those who would like to join us just for the Cantata can be here at 5:00 on Tuesdays, beginning February 6.

On a different note, a suggestion was made to me that some people may have certain songs they would like to either sing as a hymn, or have the choir sing as an anthem to honor someone's special day. If you have a certain song you would like for me to look for to include in worship, feel free to talk to me! I can't guarantee we can fit them all in, but we welcome suggestions.

Again, you are always invited to join us for choir practice any time, and if you would like to do any special music, let me know.

Blessings to you as we work together in Christ's Service,
Becky

Seniors



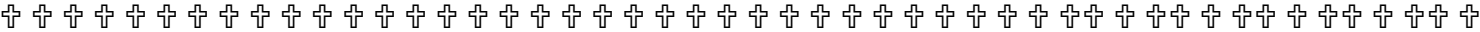
Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday. All are welcome to join!

2/6 9:00am breakfast at Marshall Family Restaurant.

2/13 2:00pm at the Villas of Holly Brook

2/20 9:00am at the Gypsy Queen

2/29 *Thursday, the 29th*, Restaurant @ Lincoln Trail Park



Marshall Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution and Clothing Store needs your help!

A large number of Clark County residents receive free food at our local food pantry each month.

This can only be provided if the community supports Marshall Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution and Clothing Store with both monetary donations, donations to the clothing store, & especially volunteer time.

This organization has two components-the food pantry & the clothing store. Both are entirely volunteer run and are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The board president is always one of Marshall's ministers, currently Pastor John Cross. Gil Wright is the Executive Director.

Funding for the pantry's operations comes from monetary donations, donations of items, and clothing store income. Most of the food is purchased at a substantial discount from Eastern Illinois Food Bank. Clients may receive food one time per month, and food is distributed each Tuesday afternoon. The fourth Tuesday of each month is the "big food day" at which most clients come for their food.

Revenue from the clothing store is the main funding source for food purchases. Donated clothing, accessories, toys, household items, and much more are sold in the store at affordable prices. Items that are not sellable are either taken to the Good Will or discarded. The clothing store is open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 to 11:45 AM.

The organization fills other local needs as well, such as when a home burns, a child comes to school ill-clothed, families become homeless, and more. Assistance is also given to the local backpack food programs. Due the Burnside's Nursing Home board's very large donation, a much larger building is now being erected in the south end of Marshall. This will provide much-needed space that will allow the food distribution and clothing store to have separate working spaces and storage. The move to the new building will require many hands and strong backs.

Volunteers are needed:

- in the clothing store from 8:30 AM to Noon on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. Volunteers sort, hang, and price donations, arrange shelves and racks, man the sales desk, advertise items online, and haul. Our church is responsible for manning the store every third Saturday morning.

- for food distribution each Tuesday afternoon. Volunteers set up the room, bag the food, check clients in, push shopping carts, and then clean up. Fourth Tuesday hours are 12 noon to 4:30 PM; other Tuesdays are 1:30 to 4:00 PM.

There are a variety of jobs that anyone can do, and a person is welcome to come at any of the above times. If you are interested in being the hands of Christ, please join us, or contact Nancy Claypool or Jo Sanders for more information.



In 2012 the United Methodist General Conference voted to add a paragraph to our Book of Discipline. The paragraph encourages pastors to select and train laypersons to take Communion to those who are unable to be present for the congregation's sharing of the bread and cup. This is part of the congregational care of members and friends who while unable to attend the public worship of God, are still in need of the sacramental grace offered in the fellowship of the body of Christ around His table.

Before COVID, Marshall First had a group of dedicated Lay people who assisted the pastor in delivering communion to those who were unwillingly absent from congregational worship due to illness, disability, or advanced age. This was stopped during COVID and never restarted.

As your Pastor and with the encouragement of the Book of Discipline and with the need and desire of some of our members, I believe this vital ministry needs to be restarted in order to offer the best congregational care to our most vulnerable members.

What would this ministry entail?

The elements from the congregation's celebration of the Lord's Supper would be gathered by those willing servants and delivered to those who are prevented from regularly attending public worship.

A short liturgy will be shared between the Eucharistic Lay Minister and those they visit, taking into consideration the health and abilities of the communicants who are to receive the elements.

Since the bread and wine have already been blessed by a United Methodist Elder, that part of the liturgy is omitted. The service should be long enough not to feel rushed but short enough to not over-tax the capacity of the ones who are being ministered to. What is crucial is that in every instance the service with the unwillingly absent be seen as an extension of the congregation's fellowship around the Lord's Table, not as something independent of it.

If the Lord is calling you to be a part of this vital ministry, please contact me and I will provide the needed training.

I look forward to working with you to extend the worship of Christ to those who are unwillingly absent from our worship services.

Your Brother and fellow servant of Christ,

Pastor Bill

* The term "Eucharist" originates from the Greek word eucharistia, meaning thanksgiving. It is a term used for the sacrament of Holy Communion.

"The Life and Times of Jesus Our Savior"

Our sermon series based on the life of Jesus and the impact His life has on us continues this month. These sermons are tracing some of the important events in the earthly life of Jesus, the significance of those events, and what we can learn about our salvation and the life we are called to live as believers in Jesus Christ as a result of His actions and teachings.



2/4 Sermon 4 - "The Baptism of Jesus"

Matthew 3:13-17

2/11 Sermon 5 - "The Temptation of Christ"

Matthew 4:1-11

2/18 Sermon 6 - "The Calling" Matthew 4:12-24

2/25 Sermon 7 - "Teaching About Anger"

Matthew 5:21-26, 43-48

Lenten Special Services and Activities



Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

A Call to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Noon - Ash Wednesday Service

5:15 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

Each Wednesday during Lent beginning on Feb 14th

7:00 a.m. The 7 last words of Jesus - Video Presentation

Posted On Facebook and YouTube with Pastor Bill

Saturday, March 23rd Easter Egg Hunt for the children

for more information see Kelly Lindley.

Thursday, March 28th Love Feast 6 p.m.

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with His disciples during His earthly ministry and expressing the fellowship enjoyed by the family of Christ. Since this Love feast is being celebrated during Holy Week, when our Lord had His last supper with His disciples before His passion, in remembrance that after supper was over, our Lord instituted His feast (communion), we too will share in the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday, March 29th

Noon - The Carrying of the Cross

6 p.m. Choir Cantata - "The Seven Last Days: A Tenebrae Service"

Easter Sunday, March 31st

7:00 a.m. Easter SONrise Service

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Celebration Service

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Exercise – 8:30 AM	3
4 UMYF 3:30-5:30 PM Meet at the Bowling Alley	5 Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	6 Holy Grounds- 9AM @ Marshall Family Restaurant Choir Practice 4PM SPRC 6PM	7 Power Lunch KFC-3PM UWF Board Meeting 4PM	8 Esther Circle - 7:00 pm	9 Exercise – 8:30 AM	10
11 KFC singing during morning worship. UMYF Jr-4PM UMYF Sr- 5PM	12 Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM UMYF Skate Night 6:00-8:00 PM Meet at church @ 5:30 PM	13 Holy Grounds-2PM @ Hollybrook Choir Practice 4PM	14 7AM -Last 7 Words of Jesus Posted -Facebook & Youtube Ash Wednesday Svc 12PM & 5:15 PM Power Lunch KFC-3PM	15 Faith Circle-9AM	16 Exercise – 8:30 AM	17
18 UMYF Jr-4PM UMYF Sr- 5PM	19 President’s Day Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	20 Holy Grounds-9AM @ Gypsy Queen Choir Practice 4PM	21 7AM -Last 7 Words of Jesus Posted -Facebook & Youtube Power Lunch KFC-3PM Church family dinner 5pm	22 Sisters in Faith 6PM	23 Exercise – 8:30 AM March Newsletter Articles Due	24
25 UMYF Jr-4PM UMYF Sr- 5PM	26 Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	27 Check for Holy Grounds Updates Choir Practice 4PM	28 7AM -Last 7 Words of Jesus Posted -Facebook & Youtube Power Lunch KFC-3PM	29 Holy Grounds-11:30AM @ Lincoln Trail Restaurant		