

# Children & Youth Ministry



July will be a super month for the kids at FUMC! KFC will continue on Wednesdays with the following activities:

July 3 - Children's Museum in Terre Haute -1:00-3:30

July 17- Teddy Bear Picnic for those 4-8 years old-11:00 - 12:30 at the church

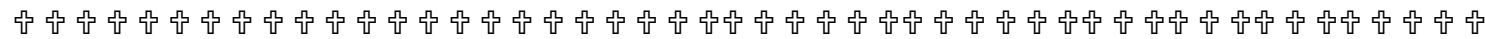
July 24- Picnic at Deming Park-11:00-1:30 (in case of rain we will picnic in the fellowship hall)

July 31-Adventure at Douglas Hart Nature Center- 10:00-2:00

Our local church camp at Mill Creek is July 8-11. South School kids will attend from 10:00AM on Monday until 9:00AM Tuesday. North School will be there from 10:00AM Tuesday until 9:00AM on Wednesday. Jr High School will go from 10:00AM on Wednesday until 9:00AM on Thursday. Anyone wishing to help out in any way, PLEASE call Kelly.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who helped with VBS. It was a wonderful week here at FUMC and we couldn't have done it without all of you!

From Kelly



We still have five Sundays available for special music! If you would be willing to share a song – either singing or playing an instrument – please let Becky know as soon as possible!

# THE MESSENGER

July 2024



## From the Pastor's Pen

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been an incredible year of ministry here at Marshall First. Although January 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of a new calendar year, July 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of a new appointment year, and it is my privilege to serve you for another year.

As I look back over the year, I see times of joy and times of sorrow. We have said goodbye to some longtime members of our church family as they have entered their heavenly home. It was a great privilege to minister to their families of origin and this church family in these times of loss.

It has been a joy to welcome and work with new staff members and to see them come into their own as they seek to serve the Lord through this church. This is one of the finest staffs I have had a privilege of working with, and I look forward to their continued work for the Kingdom of God in this place.

I am thankful for the Lay Leadership of this church who are committed to their Lord and to the work of this church. They are prayerful and thoughtful in their work and always seek the best for this congregation and the community we serve. I am thankful for the willing volunteers who give of their time and talent in service to Christ through this church. We are blessed by every event taking place in the life of the church, and by all those who work so willingly to make them happen. Sunday morning worship, children's church, Sunday school, fellowship time, Kids for Christ, Church family dinners, Youth Fellowship, Power Lunch, women's groups, chancel choir, carnival, fall festival, and many other activities throughout the year help to make Marshall First a blessing to be a part of. If I were to list the names of every volunteer who helps to make the ministries of this church happen, it would take more pages than are available here. I am also thankful for the beautiful facilities we have, and for the work the trustees do to keep the building and grounds maintained.

Marshall First is a loving community of faith that is more than an organization, it is a family. I believe that our best days are ahead, that God has much in store for us and for our work in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the coming months we will be seriously considering what our future will look like as a church, who we will be, and where our ongoing mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ will take us.

The decisions made by our General Conference have fundamentally changed the United Methodist Church, and as a result have drawn us into a conversation that will determine our future ministry. At our June meeting, the Church Council voted to form an exploratory committee to pray for God's guidance as we study to discern our options concerning our denominational and local identity. This committee is being formed now and will begin its work as soon as it is formed, with a report to the July Council meeting, and the hope that we will have more to share with you at that time. Please pray for this exploratory committee, that the Holy Spirit will guide us in all we do.

Our only goal as a church should always be to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. How we will live into that mission in the future may look a bit different than it has in the past, but I am convinced that if we place ourselves in the center of God's will and pursue His best, we will be fruitful in our ministry and further the kingdom of God in this place and to the world at large. I look forward to what He has in store for us during this next year of ministry, and am thankful for the opportunity to serve God with you!

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Bill



### How far is too far?

Our recently concluded General Conference for the United Methodist Church left me scratching my head, asking the age-old question, "How far is too far?" I'm pretty sure, at least judging from the number of emails and letters I am receiving, a few other folks are struggling with the same question, "Has the United Methodist Church gone too far?" The decisions of this General Conference, more than any General Conference of the past 40 years, were filled with sweeping changes. A few of these changes have significant theological implications for the future of The United Methodist Church.

The goals set for this General Conference were concrete, concise, and clear. These goals were anchored by a well-rehearsed and rehashed mantra that was restated throughout the two weeks and became known as the "Three R's." The three Rs were **Regionalization, Revise, and Removal**. The delegates for this General Conference walked in locked-step and marched to victory by voting overwhelmingly to move the denomination into regionalization, a revision of the Social Principles, and the removal of all restrictive language about LGBTQ people. Most of the changes were long overdue, but a few of the decisions left many, including me, wondering if the delegates went too far.

I applaud the move toward regionalization because it continues the work of tearing down an intentionally racist system that was imposed on the denomination's black members when the General Conference voted to separate the United States into jurisdictions. One jurisdiction, called the "Central Jurisdiction," was created and composed of all the black churches throughout the United States, while five other geographic areas were created for the white members. In the most recent merger, 1968, the Central Jurisdiction was dismantled but the racist framework was kept intact.

The Social Principles should always be nimble and adaptive, BUT they must also reflect who we are biblically. Our social witness must be clearly anchored and held in place by adherence to the personal life examples and the teachings given to us by Jesus Christ. Only time will tell if the decisions made by this General Conference went too far.

I applaud the removal of restrictive language from our Book of Discipline. ALL SIN is incompatible with Christian teaching. No sin should be singled out and cited as being "the sin" that is highlighted with its own hurtful citations.

The question, "How far is too far?" is raised because I believe there are some lines that we do not have the luxury of crossing, even with the goals of love, liberation, and liberty. The church of Jesus Christ should never be guilty of promoting or accepting sin of any kind. A careful reading of some of the things that were removed from our Book of Discipline left me scratching my head and wondering if we went a bit too far.

I am trying not to rush toward judgement or to make decisions that are premature. I want to see what all this restructuring will look like when the dust settles. Construction is messy and sometimes you must wait for the paving to be finished and allow the cones to be removed. My question is, will we actually reach people with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ or is all of this just a smoke screen that flings the door open wider for folks to do, with the church's blessing, whatever they want to do? Only time will tell if this General Conference went too far. My hope and prayer is that we did not violate the boundaries that please Jesus Christ.

These are days of challenge and change. A seismic shift is occurring throughout the world and within the body of Christ. There is no place that is safe from this storm, other than the arms of Jesus. Change is happening all around us. The church cannot afford to become intoxicated with its own juice and end up like Rip Van Winkle asleep, while the world around us changes.

Neither can we afford the luxury of remaining cloistered behind stained-glass windows. Jesus calls his followers to set the standards for the world and not to cave into the standards set by the world. Jesus Christ is our foundation. He alone is the standard we are called to emulate. All other ground, no matter how good it looks, is sinking sand.

I love The United Methodist Church and my prayers for more than 50 years are focused on restoration, renewal, and revival. Did this General Conference help move us toward revitalization, or did we go too far?

God Bless,  
Bishop Beard



# VBS, Adventure Week, & KFC



## Bishop Beard to go on long-term disability

By Paul Black - Director of Communication Ministries Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church



SPRINGFIELD – Bishop Frank J. Beard announced June 11 that he has been approved for long-term disability due to his ongoing battle with glaucoma.

In a letter to the North Central Jurisdictional College of Bishops Secretary, Lanette Plambeck, Bishop Beard requested to be relieved from the performance of all regular episcopal duties, effective Aug. 1. Under the Wespeth Comprehensive Protection Plan, long-term disability can span up to 34 months, at which time Bishop Beard would either return to active service or retire from the episcopacy.

“My ongoing battle with glaucoma has caused me to become legally blind,” Bishop Beard wrote, in which copies were also sent to the Dr. Barrie Tritle, chair of the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy and Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, president of the Council of Bishops. “It has been a very difficult decision for me and my family, but we believe that the Lord will continue to direct our paths and guide us through this season of challenge and change.”

As a result of Bishop Beard’s notification, the NCJ College of Bishops will share the information with the NCJ Committee of Episcopacy and after an affirmative vote, the final approval will come from the executive committee of the Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops will then assign an interim Bishop to cover the episcopal area.

The Council of Bishops could assign a retired bishop in the interim or could select an active bishop who would assume additional responsibilities in the Illinois Area as well as their episcopal area. The latter course of action was taken in July 2021 when Bishop Beard went on short-term disability for six months and Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer was assigned to the Illinois Area in addition to West Ohio.

Bishop Beard was elected to the episcopacy in 2016 and is completing his second quadrennium of service with the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. The 2024 Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 10-13 in Sioux Falls, S.D., where episcopal assignments are announced for the new quadrennium, beginning Sept. 1 by the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy.

Bishop Beard had served two quadrennia in the Illinois Area, but a disciplinary provision enables bishops to serve a third quadrennium in an episcopal area for missional reasons. Bishop Beard was scheduled to retire in 2028.



# Lift Every Voice

2024 North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference (NCJC) will meet on July 10-13, 2024. With Bishop Beard’s departure this meeting takes on extra significance for us as part of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. It is at this conference our new Bishop will be appointed. Please be in prayer for all the elected leaders of the NCJC, especially our delegation (Clergy: Jennie Edwards Bertrand, Nicole Cox, Mike Crawford, Beth Fender, Sylvester Weatherall. Alternants Jessica Baldyga, Curtis Brown, Vince Rohn; Laity: Susan Connor, Sydney Pappas, Andrea Stuby, Ann Wagle, Erik Slingerland. Alternates: Curt Franklin and Kelsey Ross).

During this time the NCJC Committee on Episcopacy will be considering who our bishop will be. The bishops available for appointment to the IGRC are Bishop David A. Bard, Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Bishop Lanette Plambeck, and Bishop Dan Schwerin ,along with the possibility of a retired Bishop coming in on an interim basis.

These are important times for the United Methodist Church, our jurisdiction, conference, and most especially our local church. Please spend time in prayer for this important conference



Beverly Malone, Molly Macke (Patty & John’s daughter-in-law), Angie Broncano (Laos Missionary with cancer), Brenna Higginbotham, Eddie Gutierrez, Allyssa Henson (great granddaughter of Bev Smith), Mike Delp (Friend of John & Linda James), Unspoken, Tim Bronkie (Pastor’s friend), Gail Glick, Diana Bailey, Tiffany Macke, Millie Swalls (Nora & Brad Swalls’ granddaughter), Kinley Nash (Lois & David Nash’s granddaughter), 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*), Israel, All Long-term Healthcare Facilities in Clark County, Natural Disaster Victims, Our Missionaries

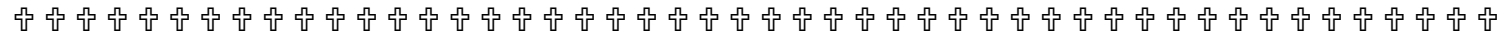
*Our Military Personnel:*

**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*

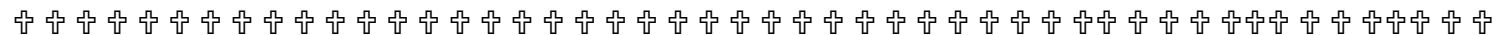
Violet Cook	JoAnn Donehue	Ray King
Mary E. Koutsoumpas	Phyllis Boatright	Dan Flowers
Ron Hicks	Sharon Miller	



**Seniors**

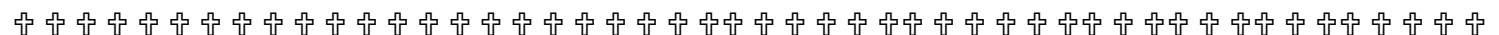


Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday. All are welcome to join!  
 2nd - Marshall Family Restaurant 9:00  
 9th - Hollybrook 2:00  
 16th - Gypsy Queen 9:00  
 23rd - Church Fellowship Hall 9:00  
 30th – Gypsy Queen at 9AM



**MISSING!**

The Memorial Committee is looking for a missing book of memorial contributions from a few years past. It is a red binder with a clear front. If you have it, have seen it, or know where it might be, please contact Karen Heighton. Thank you!



Misson for July



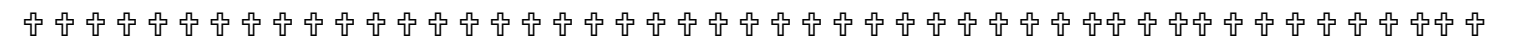
Summer Lunch is a program that helps to feed low-income kids in our community. When school is not in session, these families struggle without the help of school breakfasts and lunches. This is the twelfth summer of our program. We are feeding 93 kids from 37 families this summer.

My reason for reaching out to you is money. We are grateful to be a part of a three-year grant that funded the program in 2022 and 2023. When I requested money this summer, I learned that due to misappropriations of funds in other districts the food portion of the grant had been cut. Since I didn’t know this ahead of time, I’m in a bit of a pickle. This put the program without several thousand dollars, so I have recently reached out to local community organizations.

If you could help us out with a donation, it would be greatly appreciated. Please make donations payable to Summer Lunch. You can see Kelly in the office to make your donation if/when you are able, or feel lead to give.

Thank you,

Kelly Lindley



We are collecting store clothing hangers for the new Thrift Shop. We only need the plastic ones that have the metal hook. Please no wire or rounded plastic hangers. A collection box is in the office hallway. Thank you!



***Looking for a gift? Going out to eat?***

***Need fuel for your vehicle?***

***We have SCRIP cards for these vendors and many many more!***

***Contact Angie Setzer or see Rick Manuel after church on Sundays.***





Prayer Focus for the month:  
**Our Country**



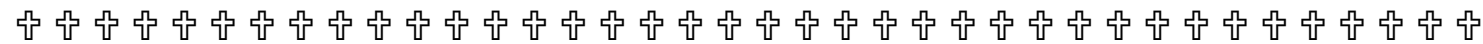
Loom Update: Please don't drop off bags, we have plenty. If you want to weave with someone, I will be there each Wednesday in July from 10 - 12 am. Hoping to complete one mat a month. Come join me!

Summer Reading Challenge has begun! If you would like to be on a team, it isn't too late. Talk to Alta. Second Book Study - Thursday, July 11, 8:30 am, in the chapel  
Susannah Wesley Circle will be hosting.

Ice Cream Social - Friday, July 19, on the courthouse lawn, from 6:30 - 9:00 pm  
Church members, please, bring pies (no cream pies), cakes, & brownies to the courthouse after 6:30. Each circle needs to provide one worker for each shift: 6:30 - 7:30 pm, 7:30 to 8:30 pm, & 8:30 - Cleanup

**Mark Your Calendar:**

- Book Study - Thursday, July 11, 8:30 am
- Esther Circle - Thursday, July 11, 7:00 pm, Adrienne's House
- Susannah Wesley Circle - Monday, July 15
- Ice Cream Social - Friday, July 19, 6:30 - 9:00 pm Courthouse
- Mission U - July 21 - 23, Springfield, IL
- Sisters In Faith - Thursday, July 25, 6:00 pm



*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. Please remember to volunteer at the clothing store on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 8:30 to 12. Help is also needed on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month for food distribution from 12:00 to 4:30 PM. There will, also, be even more of a need volunteers when the new Thrift Store opens in late Spring.*



*Anniversaries*

Scott & Danielle Cline	July 03
Ken & Nancy Claypool	July 11
Tom & Sarah Brannan	July 15
Terry & Mary Ann Stepp	July 15
Alex & Brook Bullock	July 16
Paul & Amy Cannady	July 18
Carrol & Doris Ellington	July 18
Tony & Michelle Graham	July 19
James & kourtney Southworth	July 22
Adam & Erica Crumrin	July 26
Garry & Sara Heighton	July 26
Dan & Debbie Harper	July 29
Mike & Sarah Shultz	July 30

*Birthdays*

Jordan Brown	July 01	Breck Bishop	July 14
Darlene Hildebrand	July 01	Barb Manhart	July 16
Doris Ellington	July 02	Mike Henderson	July 17
Meg Mallory	July 02	Jack Davidson	July 19
Brandon Daugherty	July 03	Kimberly Baugher	July 20
Jo Ann Donehue	July 03	Lynlee Hallett	July 21
Sydney Macke	July 03	Sharon Miller	July 22
Michael Smitley	July 05	James Southworth	July 22
Ethan Orman	July 06	Phyllis Boatright	July 27
Augy Schneider	July 06	Lucas Eitel	July 27
Fred Eitel	July 07	Malerie Mason	July 27
Kourtney Southworth	July 08	Will Crumrin	July 28
Chelsea Higginbotham	July 11	Tyler Claypool	July 31
		Daniel DeLisle	July 31

# July Volunteers

Greeters- 7<sup>th</sup> – Jennifer & Sharon Welliver  
14<sup>th</sup>- Betty Rasner & Bev Smith  
21<sup>st</sup> - Betty Rasner & Bev Smith  
28<sup>th</sup> - Jennifer & Sharon Welliver

Ushers – 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – Jack Crumrin, Nancy Crumrin, & Jack Davidson  
21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> -

Nursery- 7<sup>th</sup> - Jenna Morey & Dana Ramsey  
14<sup>th</sup> – Ken & Nancy Claypool  
21<sup>st</sup> - Fred & Janet Eitel  
28<sup>th</sup> – Amy & Kaylee Daugherty



7<sup>th</sup> - Sisters in Faith  
14<sup>th</sup> -  
21<sup>st</sup> -  
28<sup>th</sup> -

# JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	2. Holy Grounds- 9AM @ Marshall Family Restaurant	3. Summer KFC	4. 	5. Exercise – 8:30 AM	6.
7. Jr. & Sr. YF - 5PM	8. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM Church Camp Scholarship Committee 6PM	9. Holy Grounds-2PM @ Hollybrook Church Camp	10. Summer KFC Church Camp	11. Cheer up the Lonely Day Book Study- 8:30AM Esther Circle 7PM	12. Exercise – 8:30 AM	13.
14. Jr. & Sr. YF - 5PM	15. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	16. Holy Grounds-9AM @ Gypsy Queen Summer KFC Finance Committee 6PM Trustees 7PM	17.	18.	19. Exercise – 8:30 AM Ice Cream Social 6:30- 9PM @ the Courthouse	20. <b><i>Come volunteer at the Food &amp; Clothing Bank from 8:30-12</i></b>
21. Jr. & Sr. YF - 5:00PM Mission U	22. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM Mission U	23. Holy Grounds- 9AM In the Fellowship Hall Come volunteer @ the Food & Clothing Bank from 12-4:30PM Church Council 6PM Mission U	24. Summer KFC	25. Sisters in Faith 6PM	26. Exercise – 8:30 AM	27.
28. Jr. & Sr. YF - 5PM	29. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	30. Gypsy Queen at 9AM Church Council 6 PM	31. Summer KFC			



