

Mission News-March-2025 Church World Service Blankets and Hygiene Kits

Blanketing the world with love is a possibility when people of all faith traditions unite to provide blankets and hygiene kits to those who are homeless because of wars, fires, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters. By joining together, we can offer hope, comfort and warmth to our neighbors during their most challenging times. When someone receives a blanket or a hygiene kit in the midst of a crisis, it is a reminder that someone cares about them . It is an expression of our love for them and for God.

***10 dollars** will provide a blanket to someone in need.

***25 dollars** will provide a blanket and a hygiene kit with essential supplies.

***60 dollars** will provide a family bundle that includes blankets and hygiene kits for an entire family.

You can leave your contribution in the offering plate envelopes or in the church office. Be sure to designate CWS Blankets. Checks should be made out to FUMC, not to CWS directly. Our church treasurer will send your donations after the first of March to Church World Service.

Jesus has no hands-on earth but ours. Because he first loved us, we share that love with those in need.



As you know, as of 2/1/25 shifted to a designated giving method of providing those funds to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Our apportionment bill for 2025 is \$31,956.00, or \$2663.00 per month. The month of January was paid in full prior to this decision. To date, \$550 in designated giving has been donated to our apportionment bill. That leaves \$2113.00 for the month of February that needs to be paid, or \$31,406.00 for the year. If you would like to designate giving to apportionments, you may do so by writing in the memo section, checking the box on the envelope, or online. You may also designate to connectional ministries, if you so choose.



MARSHALL FUMC

MARCH



From the Pastor's Pen

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, I had a conversation with a member of our congregation who asked me a very important question that left me in deep thought and prayer. The question, "Pastor, what do we need?" Now, why would that question affect me in such a way? Because we are going through a painful season in our congregation. Many of our congregation have decided to leave the church due to our inability to determine our denominational affiliation. This has caused pain and hurt on all sides of the issue. Many of our number are experiencing all the stages of grief, denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

For some time, we have been in the stage of denial, thinking that everyone would just get over it and get back to the way we were. Some, like me, have been stuck in the stage of bargaining, trying to find a way for everyone to stay in our local congregation even though many are angry at the actions of the denomination we are a part of. For some, the bargains we have made are enough; but for others there is no bargain to make. I have spent significant time with members who are in the stage of depression and profound sadness for the loss of peace and relationship we have experienced and are continuing to experience. Still others are just angry, and as with other instances of grief, some of our number are choosing to lash out in anger to others, only compounding the problem we are dealing with.

Over 32 years of pastoral ministry I have cared for many people who were experiencing grief, and have worked to help them move through their grief to hope. This is not easy when you are a caregiver who is ministering from the outside of grief, but it is even harder when you are dealing with your own. So, let's just accept the fact that as a church and as a denomination, we are experiencing grief for the loss of many of our brothers and sisters in Christ from our fellowship, and seek not to simply, "get over it", but to move forward in a new reality and seek God's direction for fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

That brings us back to the question I was asked by a sad church member, "Pastor, what do we need?"

- **We need to stop treating each other as the enemy and begin to operate in Christian love for one another again.**

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Ephesians to "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, by being completely humble, gentle, and patient, bearing with one another in love."¹ For a while now I have experienced and have heard reports of members of our church family mistreating each other with disdain, carelessness, and cutting words. This has to stop! We must repent and begin to care once again and begin to treat one another with the love of Christ once again.

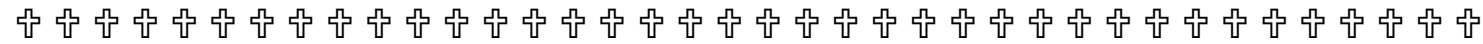
- **We need to recommit ourselves and our church to our faith through prayer, bible study, intentional relationship building, and outreach to those who need to experience the salvation Christ alone supplies.**

When Joshua was about to take over the leadership of Israel, God gave him this instruction, "Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." Our faith must be grounded in the word of God. The Bible is our guide and rule of faith; everything else will fall into place. Scriptural Christianity is attractive. If we lift up Christ and His word, then people will be drawn to a relationship with Him and His church.

- **We need to open ourselves up to a fresh move of the Holy Spirit.**



Bruce Gubbins (Laura Irwin's BIL), Doug Hosselton, The Heddell Family (friend of Heather's), The Family of Rachelle Boatright (Phyliss Boatright's Daughter), Shaun Edwards (Kathy Brown's son), Pastor John Davis, Terry Alvey, Hannah (Cousin of Pastor Bill), Dave Culberstson, Our, Church, Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Bishop David A Bard, New Orleans Victims, Gordon & Carolyn Clark, Eve (friend of Avis), Karen Wheat (friend of Kathy Brown), Gilbert Clark (Gordon Clark's Brother), Candace Painter, Frederick Shaw (friend of Linda James), Brian Winkleman (brother-in-law of Eric Murphy), Bev Smith, Molly Macke (Patty & John's daughter-in-law), Angie Broncano (Laos missionary with cancer), Eddie Gutierrez, Mike Delp (friend of John & Linda James), Unspoken, Gale 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, Julie Krietemeier (Beth Macke's sister), Israel, All Long-term Healthcare Facilities in Clark County, Natural Disaster Victims, Our Missionaries



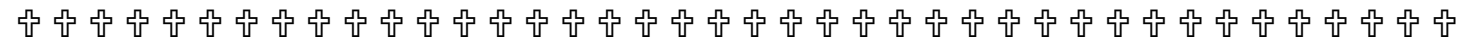
Our Military Personnel:

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	Sharon Miller
Phyllis Boatright	Dan Flowers
	Ray King
	Gordon & Carolyn Clark



Seniors



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

- 4th - Marshall Family Restaurant 9AM
- 11th - Holly Brook 2PM
- 18th - Gypsy Queen 9AM
- 25th - Gypsy Queen 9AM



Prayer Focus:

UWF is also in a period of transitioning to a new president. Please watch for updates.



We are planning a bake sale on 4/13 (Palm Sunday).

Susannah Wesley Circle is planning a retreat, RSVP to the office my March 28 and please be sure to watch for important updates.

Mark Your Calendar:

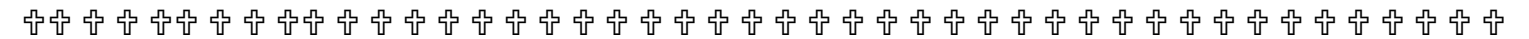
- Tues.:** 3/4 - UWF Board Mtg will be in the High School classroom 4PM.
- Saturday:** 4/5 - Resurrection Women Retreat at 9AM
- Saturday:** 5/10- Mother, Daughter, Friend Banquet

Weekly Events

Weaving - Wednesdays from 10AM-12PM

Circles:

- Esther Circle - Thurs., March 13
- Susannah Wesley – Mon., March 17 @ 11:30AM
- Faith Circle - Thurs., - March 20 @ 9AM in the chapel
- Sisters In Faith - Thurs., - March 27 @ 6PM in the chapel

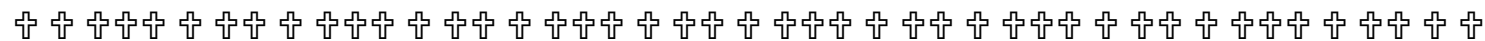


*To My Church Family,
Thank you all so much for
Making my 30th birthday the
Best birthday ever. I feel
Truly blessed.
Gratefully,
Betty Rasner*

*Church Family,
Thank you so much for the
beautiful potted plant in
memory of my mother,
Mary Ellen Koutsoumpas.
Thanks again,
Karen Koutsoumpas Naenig*

Dear Friends & Partners @ FUMC,
Words cannot express our deep gratitued for your love and generosity towards 222 Ministries. We are persuaded more than ever of the biblical mandate to "go and make dischiples".
We are now in our 30th year of full time ministry. That is onlyof full time ministry. That is only made possible because of our dear Lord and friends like you.
With much love,
Jim & Jan

**Thanks to the congregaion
for their participation in
the blood drive. We
collected 16 units.**



A Blessing is Waiting for You...

We all know that as Christians we are the hands and feet of Jesus. There is no better way to live that out right here in our community than by serving those less fortunate at our local Food Pantry and Thrift Shop. Just in the month of January, 400 Clark County residents received food from the pantry. In November, we gave over 20,000 pounds of food to 585 individuals! With grocery prices rising, we expect the need to increase. People are struggling.

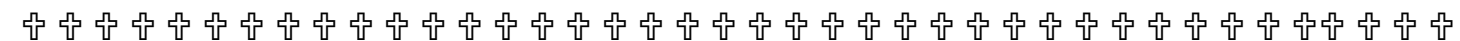
So if you have ever wondered, "What can just one person do when there is so much need?", we can tell you! Spend a few hours - however many or few you have - helping us distribute food on Tuesday afternoons. Or, drop in through the week to help restock shelves, unload deliveries, or do other types of needed assistance. And there is an endless mountain work to do in the Thrift Shop, as well. Can you place items in a bag for a customer, take money and make change, hang clothing on hangers, or place price tags on items? If you can do any of these simple tasks, we are just waiting to see how blessed you will be by helping us at the Food Pantry and/or Thrift Shop!



There have been a few volunteer positions come open. If you feel led, contact the office to see how and when you can help.

Thank you in advance.

Also, the 2025 Altar Flower Chart is available if you would like to honor a loved one or just to donate for Altar Flowers. It is located in the hallway outside the office.



The March/April Open Door is available in the lobby and in the box outside the back door.



Anniversaries

Jeff & Sally Mallory 3/15
Sean & Sheri McLennan 3/18
Rob & Jennifer Crumrin 3/22
Wayne & Karen Heighton 3/22

Birthdays

Kyle Hutson	3/02	Justin Paulsen	3/14
Beverly Smith	3/03	Jenna Morey	3/15
Susie Carey	3/04	Carolyn Clark	3/17
Logan Macke	3/05	Ridgway King	3/19
Evan Setzer	3/05	Joyce Berry-Smithson	3/21
Betty Hornbrook	3/07	Lilly Ross	3/21
Aubrey Claypool	3/08	Lydia Cannady	3/22
Joe Schroeder	3/08	Carsyn Day	3/23
Barb Sabo	3/09	Iting Green	3/23
Scott Cline	3/10	Molly Kendall	3/28
Tucker Cannady	3/13	Shaun Ramsey	3/30

March Volunteers

- Liturgist All Month – Brian Macke
- Greeters- We will need greeters all month long
- Ushers – All Month - Evadene Crumrin & Paul & Amy Cannady
- Lobby Watch – 2nd-23rd –
- Nursery - 2nd – Lindsey Welsh & Charlene Moore
9th –
16th – Ken & Nancy Claypool
23rd – Amy & Kaylee Daugherty
30th - Adrienne & Evangeline Hutson
- Counter – All Month – Doris Ellington



Altar Flowers

March 2 – Steve & Beth Macke
All other dates are open



NEW LENTEN SERMON SERIES



Wilderness Wanderings

Tracing the ways God meets us in the wilderness of life and the spiritual growth we experience when God seems distant.

CWS BLANKETS

Blanket the World in Love

Blanketing the world in love is easy when people of faith unite through the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets and Kits ministry. Together, we can offer comfort, hope and warmth to our neighbors during their most challenging times.



Imagine the impact of your compassion. Each blanket and kit serves as a tangible expression of God's love—sharing warmth on a chilly night, relief in a crisis and a reminder that someone truly cares.

Join other generous donors and share tangible expressions of love with our neighbors in need:

- \$10** Provides a CWS Blanket to someone in need.
- \$25** Provides a CWS Blanket and a CWS Hygiene Kit, offering warmth and essential supplies.
- \$60** Family Bundle! Provides blankets and hygiene kits for an entire family, ensuring that they have what they need during challenging times.



Be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. **Donate to CWS Blankets today!** Scan this QR code to get started

Scan Me!



Susannah Wesley Circle invites you to

Resurrection Women

A Women's Spiritual Growth Retreat
All women are invited.

When: Saturday, April 5

Time: 9AM – 11:30AM

Where: Fellowship Hall

Breakfast will be provided.

RSVP to the church by March 28.

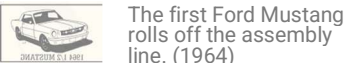


Marshall First United Methodist Church

702 Plum St

Marshall, IL 62441

217-826-8041

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1. World Compliment Day "I can live for two months on a compliment" -- Mark Twain
2. Communion Sunday -Dr. Seuss's Birthday -National Read Across America Day	3. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	4. Holy Grounds-9AM @ Marshall Family Restaurant UWF Board Meeting – 4PM In the high school classroom	5. Weave from 10AM-Noon Power Lunch KFC - 3PM Choir Practice - 5:30PM Ash Wednesday Svc 12:30PM	6.	7. Exercise- 8:30 AM	8.
9. First Sunday of Lent UMM Co-Op B'fast 7AM UMYF @ 5PM 	10. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	11. Holy Grounds-2PM @ Holly Brook	12. Weave from 10AM-Noon Choir Practice – 5:30PM	13. Esther Circle 7PM	14. Exercise- 8:30 AM <i>National Pi Day</i>	15. Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop from 8:30-12 The Ides of March
16.	17. Susannah Wesley @ 11:30 AM St. Patrick's Day 	18. Holy Grounds- 9AM @Gypsy Queen Finance @ 6PM Trustees @ 7PM	19. Weave from 10AM-Noon Power Lunch KFC - 3PM Family Dinner – 5PM Choir Practice – 6PM	20. Faith Circle 9AM <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21. Exercise- 8:30 AM	22.
23. UMYF @ 5PM	24. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	25. Holy Grounds- 9AM Gypsy Queen Come volunteer @ the Food Disbursement Center from 12-4:30PM Church Council @ 6PM	26. Weave from 10AM-Noon Power Lunch KFC - 3PM Choir Practice - 5:30PM	27. Sisters in Faith 6PM In the Chapel	28. Exercise- 8:30 AM Resurrection Women RSVP Due <i>National Black Forest Cake Day</i>	29.
30.  The Noisy Offering	31. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	April Fool's Day The story goes back to the 1500s in France when the Julian calendar (established by Julius Caesar) was replaced with the Gregorian calendar (introduced by Pope Gregory XIII and still used in most parts of the world). In the old Julian calendar, the new year began on April 1, but with the new Gregorian calendar, the new year was set to begin on January 1. News did not always travel fast in those days so not everyone got the word that the start of the New Year changed to January 1. They kept celebrating it on April 1, and they were widely mocked as April Fools. The practice of telling April Fools' jokes spread rapidly, and it has continued over the last 500 years or so. These jokes work best on people who have not been paying attention to the calendar. Playing a joke on someone, you want to get to them early in the morning before they realize what day it is.				