#### May 2025 Stewardship Report

The Unified Leadership Council is working toward greater transparency with our local church finances. We feel that it is important for the congregation to have an understanding of our financial stewardship. Each month we are providing this giving report so that you will be informed as to how we are doing.

As you may be aware as of 2/1/2025 we have shifted our conference apportionments out of the budget making it a designated giving. The budgeted amount the conference is asking for in support for 2025 from our congregation is \$31,956.00. We paid January's amount (\$2,366.00) out of our regular giving but from February on all money submitted to the conference is giving designated for this purpose from individual congregation members.

All undesignated tithes and offerings given will go to pay our local church budget. We are thankful for the many faithful members who provide for the wonderful ministries of Marshall First. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to give so that we can fund the ministries of Marshall First.

	2025 Local Church Budget	Conference Apportionments	Faith Promise & Missons
Budget	\$344,662.00	\$31,956.00	$\smallsetminus$
Needed Monthly	\$28,721.84	\$2663.00	$\sim$
Needed Weekly	\$6,628.12	\$614.54	
Given Year to Date	\$75178.00	\$5,733.00	\$3,925.00
Given April 2025	\$22,188.00	\$920.00	\$475.00

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- We still have cookbooks available for \$5 each.

- Scholarship applications are now available in the office. May 13 is the deadline.

- There are worship service cards available in the back of the sanctuary, on the welcome center, and in the office. Please feel free to take one, or several, and hand them out to your friends, coworkers, or even strangers!

#### Aldersgate Day

It was on May 24, 1738 that John Wesley went with reluctance to a prayer meeting on Aldersgate Street in London that profoundly changed his life. Listening to a reading from Martin Luther describing the new birth, Wesley's heart was "strangely warmed." As he described it, "I felt I did trust Christ, Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even, mine, and saved me https://www.moumethodist.org/newsdetail/the-meaning-of-the-aldersgate-experiencedeath."1 the law of sin and from 11412869#:~:text=Wesley%20had%20made%20a%20decision,a%20reaching%20of%20a%20goal



Greetings to you in the name of our God who reached out to us before we could even call on His name. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

There are so many things I could write about in this May newsletter. During the month of May, the church is busy with many things. We engage in a National Day of Prayer (May 1, 2025) remembering that it is God who founded us as a nation, and it is God who will sustain us. We celebrate our mothers, remembering and honoring the many ways they make or have made our lives better (May 12, 2025). We remember our fallen soldiers in a day of memorial (May 26, 2025) for all who have given their lives to make and keep America free. And we remember our Lord's Ascension into Heaven (May 29, 2025) and look forward to His coming again to take those who believe to be with Him and to judge those who have rejected His offer of grace. And with all of this going on, it is hard to decide what to focus on. In all of this I am reminded of sacrifice.

The sacrifice of the first Christian Brothers and Sisters who came to this land for a new life, one where they would be free to worship as they pleased and saw fit, without the interference of the government into the affairs of the church. Many of those who made up the early body of Christ in our country were people of deep faith who experienced persecution in their homeland and sacrificed comfort for the sake of Christ. Thus, we come together in prayer as a nation asking God to bless our nation, to call the people of this land back to the faith, or perhaps to the faith for the first time, to protect our leaders and call our leaders to Godly wisdom, compassion, and self-sacrifice for the sake of the nation and people they serve. The sacrifice of Mothers who give of themselves daily for the sake of their children under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, as they commit themselves daily not only to their children but to their God. This sacrifice is seen in the sleepless nights, the busy days, and going without so that their children might have what they need. They are caregivers, cooks, housekeepers, therapists, teachers, spiritual guides, and so much more. The sacrifices of a mother are many, but the rewards and blessings are of far more importance than anything else I might mention in this letter. We must pray for mothers and grandmothers who give of themselves daily that the next generation of children might grow healthy and strong, become thriving members of their communities, and most importantly become faithful followers of Christ and active members of the church.

The sacrifice of the many soldiers who have given their lives for the sake of our nation and the people who call the United States of America home. Men and women who left their homes and family for what they saw as a higher calling to serve our nation. These individuals—soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen-qave their lives in the defense of the principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution: liberty, justice, democratically elected representative government, and the right to worship God as we see fit. Their sacrifice often meant enduring extreme hardship, facing overwhelming odds, and ultimately giving up their own futures so that others might live in freedom.



The sacrifice of Christ who gave His life for us on the cross, dying for our sins and rising that we might have eternal life. The church in the days between the ascension of our Lord and His soon and coming return to bring in the Kingdom of God to its fullest have been full of sacrifices for those who belong to Christ, some even giving their lives for the sake of the Gospel. But the sacrifice that matters most is the "living sacrifice" for God, as referenced in Romans 12:1, meaning dedicating one's entire life and being to God, rather than living for self or worldly desires. It involves surrendering one's body, mind, and actions to God's purposes, actively choosing to live in a way that pleases Christ.

These sacrifices are all a part of the fabric of our lives, this country, and most importantly the church and the faith displayed through the people gathered for worship and scattered for the work of Christ. With sacrifice comes reward, reward of a family dedicated to God, living, thriving, and working for the sake of the Gospel. With sacrifice comes the reward of freedom in this life to worship and live according to the dictates of Holy Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit for the sake of Christ, His Church, and a world in need of salvation. All the sacrifices of this life are wrapped up in the longing of each heart to know God and be known by Him as we live with the freedom that our God has for us. Sacrifice and freedom go together, for without the one the other is simply not possible.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, may you dedicate yourself fully to Christ, in all areas of life, that the world might know our Savior, that Christian families might show forth the grace of Christ, the heart of Christ, and the will and way of Christ to the world, that our country might live up to the sacrifices made for her existence and may experience true revival, and the church to once again stand as a city on a hill shining bright for the Kingdom of God that the world might know we have a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

> In the matchless name of Jesus, may it be so, Your brother and fellow servant of Christ, Pastor Bill

> > Pastor Bill



Our choir will be singing four more Sundays before our summer break! The year has really flown. It's time now to line up our special music for a few months. A clipboard is in the Welcome Center for you to sign up, and at the bottom of that page there is space to write a name of someone you'd like for me to contact to personally ask them to share their talents during worship.

I have heard there are people right here in our congregation who play instruments! We'd love to have you share a song or two. You can find me in the office most Wednesdays. If I'm not there, feel free to call or text me personally or leave me a note. My phone number is 618-201-4955. You can talk to me on Sundays, too! (I'm just sometimes forgetful when too many people tell me things at once, so please write a note to help me remember.)

Summer is always a good time to get away and to have family come visit. But don't forget - God doesn't take vacations! Make sure to be in worship, so He can fill you with His presence and grace, while YOU make a joyful noise for Him.

Serving HIM with you,



Children & Youth Newsletter It was a great month for kids and youth here at FUMC! We started out with a family bowling party-lots of people and fun! The first day for Spring KFC was perfect! We ate popsicles and played outside. Our theme is animals. There are lots of animals mentioned in the Bible and we are enjoying lessons about them. KFC is open to all kids kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We meet on Wednesdays after school until 4:00. Come join us!



5:30. Bring a friend and go with us! everyone there!

13. A complete list of activities will be in the June newsletter. Watch for VBS news coming soon! VBS is the week of June 16. Online registration will begin May 19. You can also sign up in the church office after May 19. We still need volunteers, so if you can help out, contact the church office and we will be more than happy to give you a job.

Kelly







We took a van full to Christian Skate Night on the 14<sup>th</sup>. May skate night is on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church at

Hey pen pals! Let's get together for Pen Pals and Pasta on May 21 at 5:30. We'll eat, visit, and play BINGO. Hope to see

Adventure Week for 6<sup>th</sup> graders through high school is June 9-



### Prayer List



Kyle James, Summer, Bruce Gubbins (Laura Irwin's BIL), Don Torbeck (Diana Bailey's Brother in Law), Shaun Edwards (Kathy Brown's son), Pastor John Davis, Hannah (Cousin of Pastor Bill), Dave Culberstson, Our Church, Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Bishop David A Bard, Gordon & Carolyn Clark, Eve (friend of Avis), Karen Wheat (friend of Kathy Brown), Candace Painter, Brian Winkleman (brother-in-law of Eric Murphy), 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), 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

<u>Our Mílítary Personnel:</u>						
Our Nation, Our N	lation's Leaders	, and Armed Forces				
Chris Bradford	John Flowers	Daniel Gard				
Michael Holmes	John Kuhn	Shelby Sanborn				
Lewis Sanborn	Jake Hoalt	Chaplain Jonathon Maloney				
<u>Our Homebound &amp;</u>	Health Care	<u>Facílíty Resídents</u>				
Violet Cook Sharon Miller						

Phyllis Boatright Dan Flowers Ray King Gordon & Carolyn Clark

#### +



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

- 6<sup>th</sup> Marshall Family Restaurant 9AM
- 13<sup>th</sup> Holly Brook 2PM
- 20<sup>th</sup> Gypsy Queen 9AM
- 27<sup>th</sup> Gypsy Queen 9AM



**Prayer Focus:** Graduates

New Officers elected were Diane Moore, President and Evadene Crumrin, Vice-President.

#### Mark Your Calendar:

Tuesday:	5/6	-	UWF Board Meeti
Saturday:	5/10	-	Mother, Daughte
Thursday:	6/5	-	Book Study Susa

#### **Weekly Events**

Weaving from 10AM-12PM. Come join us. We can teach you to weave or there are other jobs you can do. It's a fun time

#### **Circles:**

Thurs., - May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM Esther Circle -Thurs., - May 15<sup>th</sup> Faith Circle -@ 9AM in the chapel Susannah Wesley – Mon., - May 19<sup>th</sup> @ TBD Sisters In Faith -Thurs., - May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6PM in the chapel

#### "Loads of Love"

Sisters in Faith Circle would like to thank Kelly Lindley and the congregation for your generous "Noisy Offering" in March. The money we received will enable us to help over twenty people with the expense of doing their laundry at our local laundromat. Each time we give someone a little bag with guarters and detergent, we know how much they appreciate the extra help and the kindness. But we feel the biggest blessings of all! Thank you!



ing in the chapel er, Friend Dinner @ 5:30 PM. annah Wesley is hosting.

#### Our Mission of the Month for May

1. **California Wildfires**- UMCOR is actively still responding to the wildfires of January ,2025 in California. Many United Methodist Churches were destroyed in that fire. In addition to immediate relief efforts after the fire, UMCOR is now awarding multiple grants to local UMC conferences to help those who are still displaced and to aid in restoration of those churches that were not completely destroyed.

2. Hurricane Helene-UMCOR is coordinating with relief efforts in affected areas in the Southeastern U.S. due to catastrophic flooding that displaced thousands of people. UMCOR has provided solidarity grants to various UMC Annual Conferences to support long term recovery efforts including ongoing debris removal, home cleaning and UMC church restoration. UMCOR does not leave an area after providing immediate relief. The agency continues to work with local community groups to address specific needs for many months following a disaster.

Often areas that suffer disasters are soon forgotten by people. The California wildfires and the Southeastern flooding are two examples. The media focuses on recent disasters and forgets the past ones. These areas will need relief aid for several years before they fully recover.

With the help of your donations, you can provide the means for UMCOR to continue its presence and aid. The agency will continue to work with community groups and UMC conferences as long as needed, and funds are available. As always, make your checks out to MFUMC and we will forward your donations to UMCOR. 100% of your donations will be used for relief efforts.

Because of your generosity, the mission fund was able to send over \$200.00 to World Service Blankets. We are Jesus' representatives here on earth. Let us not forget our mission was given by Him who loved us all.











### Anniversaries

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Bob & Barb Sabo	5/3	Everly		5/4	Bria Lake	5/15
Bob & Joyce Smithson	5/4	Sally	Mallory	5/4	Garvin Manhart	5/15
Tim & Lesa Trudeau	5/10	Larry	Strohm	5/4	Dan Harper	5/18
Jon & Gail Glick	5/12	Jen Janet	Crumrin Eitel	5/5 5/5	Gail Glick	5/19
John & Linda James	5/19	Paul	Cannady	5/6	Tim Trudeau	5/20
Garvin & Barb Manhart	5/19	Addy	Ross	5/6	Henry Arthur	5/25
Mike & Carole Henderson	5/26	,	ne Crumrin	5/7	Tom Hintz	5/25
Kyle & Adrienne Hutson	5/26	Brian	Macke	5/8	Hannah McConchie	5/25
Russ & Karen Haenig	5/29	Lesa	Trudeau	5/10	Jon Glick	5/26
Ryan & Dana Sanders	5/30		eSanderfer	5/12	Ivy Claypool	5/27
			/ Macke	5/13	Oakley Claypool	5/27
			5 Miller	5/13	Haley King	5/27
		0	Brown	5/14 5/14	Robin Lake	5/29
			n Flowers Schneider	5/14 5/14	Flossie Rhoads	5/29
		Jaime	Schneider	5/14	Debbie Miller	5/30

## May Volunteers

Liturgist	4 <sup>th</sup> – Charlie Moore 11 <sup>th</sup> – Ken Claypool 18 <sup>th</sup> – Ken Claypool 25 <sup>th</sup> – Ken Claypool
Greeters-	4 <sup>th</sup> – Gale & Jackie Titus 11 <sup>th</sup> – Gale & Jackie Titus 18 <sup>th</sup> – Open 25 <sup>th</sup> – Open
Ushers	– All Month – Alane White, Cris Fitzjarrald, Robin La
LODDY Wall	ch – All slots for Lobby Watch are
Nursery	4 <sup>th</sup> - Jenna Morey 11 <sup>th –</sup> Ken & Nancy Claypool 18 <sup>th</sup> – Janet Eitel 25 <sup>th</sup> – Amy & Kaylee Daugherty
Counter	<ul> <li>All Month – Peggy Zoll</li> </ul>

## ration Birthdays

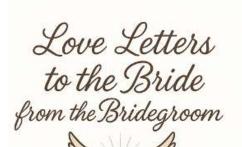


Altar Flowers

- 4<sup>th</sup> Jan Ridgway
- 11<sup>th</sup> Cris Fitzjarrald
- 18<sup>th</sup> Garvin & Barb Manhart
- 25<sup>th</sup> Brannan Family

.ake e open.

#### New Sermon Series Based on Revelation 2 & 3



Revelation 2-3

Revelation 2 and 3 are an expression of the great joy and deep love that Christ has for His bride the Church, and the great sorrow and righteous anger that same deep love can bring when unfaithfulness has entered the relationship. Yet in the midst of the mixed emotions of the letters to the seven churches. We the Church in our day are filled with hope as we see the tenderness of our bridegroom, Jesus Christ, as He writes to His bride.

#### Sunday, May 4, 2025

Sermon 1 - Christ's Love Letter to Ephesians Revelation 1:1-3 and 2:1-7

Sunday, May 11, 2025 - Mother's Day Sermon 2 - Christ's Love Letter to Smyrna Revelation 2:8-11

Sunday, May 18, 2025 Sermon 3 - Christ's Love Letter to Pergamum Revelation 2:12-17

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Sermon 4 - Christ's Love Letter to Thyatira Revelation 2:18-29



Mother-Daughter-Friend Dinner

Time:5:30 PM When: Saturday, May 10th Where: First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Meal Prices:

\$ 11.00 adults \$6.00-children 6-12 years old No charge for chidren 5 and under Make checks payable to  ${{{\it U}}{{\it U}}{\it J}}$ Menu: Swiss steak and mashed potatoes Pork loin and dressing Green beans, salad

Yeast rolls Asso<mark>rted fruit</mark> cobblers

You can make your reservations with your payment after church in the foyer or by contacting the office through May 5th.

All women, children and friends are welcome to enjoy an evening with good food and fellowship.

Catered by: A Taste of Country: Catering and Bakery

Program: Honduras Mission Trip-- Angie Propst

# MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1. National Day of Prayer New Rivers Church @ 6PM	2. Exercise- 8:30 AM	3.
4. Communion Sunday	5. Exercise- 8:30 AM Mother-Daughter-Friend Reservations Due	6. Holy Grounds-9AM @ Marshall Family Restaurant UWF Board Meeting – 4PM In the chapel	7. Weave from 10AM-Noon Power Lunch KFC Choir Practice - 5:30PM	8. Esther Circle 7PM V-E Day, Germany signs unconditional surrender. (1945)	9. Exercise- 8:30 AM Lost Sock Memorial Day	10. Mother-Daughter-Friend Dinner @ 5:30PM in the Fellowship Hall
11. UMYF @ 5PM	12. Exercise- 8:30 AM Christian Skate Night- 5:30PM	13. Holy Grounds-2PM @ Holly Brook Scholarship Applications Due	14. Weave from 10AM-Noon KFC Power Lunch Choir Practice – 5:30PM Dance Like a Chicken Day	15. Faith Circle 9AM The flush toilet is patented. (1792)	16. Exercise- 8:30 AM	17. Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop from 8:30-12
18.	19. Susannah Wesley @ 11:30 AM	20. Holy Grounds- 9AM @ Gypsy Queen Unified Leadership - 6PM	21. Weave from 10AM-Noon Choir Practice - 5:30PM Pen Pals & Pizza - 5:30PM	22. Sisters in Faith 6PM In the Chapel	23. Exercise- 8:30 AM	24.
25. UMYF @ 5PM Marshall High School Graduation	26. Office Closed Exercise- 8:30 AM	27. Holy Grounds- 9AM @ Gypsy Queen Come volunteer @ the Food Disbursement Center from 12-4:30PM	28. Weave from 10AM-Noon Choir Practice - 5:30PM	29.	30. Exercise- 8:30 AM	31.