JULY | 2021

A monthly newsletter of Marion United Methodist Church encouraging faith, love, and action.





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Mission Volunteers

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Pastor's Pen

"My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation. Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend o n your understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones." (Proverbs 3:1-8, NLT)

Vacation Bible School is coming up soon. The dates are July 13-16, in case you need a reminder, and we can still use some volunteers.

I always get a bit nostalgic during VBS week. For a seven or eight-year -old, the words "vacation" and "school" typically do not belong in the same sentence. But Vacation Bible School was different.

I spent many weeks of my childhood summers at VBS. I can still taste the packaged cookies and red kool-aid. I can still sing several of the songs we learned. I remember flannelgraph Bible stories; games played on the church lawn; crafts made with popsicle sticks, and pipe cleaners, and googly eyes.

Most of all, though, I remember the people. I remember the adults and older youth who helped guide us and teach us. We kids had an inexhaustible energy and they seemed to possess an inexhaustible patience and joy.

There was Mrs. Beulah Bloodworth who loved to teach us stories about Daniel in the lion's den and Noah on his ark. There was Kay Lawson who gathered us up in the choir loft and led us in songs that taught us how to spell as well as how to be a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N who read the B-I-B-L-E. My grandfather, grandmother, and two or three of my aunts could often be found in the kitchen putting together plates of snacks. Older youth, like my cousin Darren, were waiting outside for us with activities to help us burn off some energy.

I remember them because they were present. They volunteered. They stepped-up. And they made a difference in my life. They were models of faith, discipleship, and service to others.

Proverbs 3:1-8 was one of the passages we memorized during one

summer VBS. We learned it from the King James Version, of course, and that's the way I still quote it today. But I like the version above, too: "My child, never forget the things I have taught you." I haven't, Mrs. Bloodworth. I still rembember them. I remember you, too.

In just a few short weeks the halls of our church will once again ring with the laughter, the music, and all the sounds of children at VBS. Children will march in the Lord's Army and will be led by bands of faithful saints leading songs, teaching lessons, making crafts, and playing games. My prayer is that some of what they experience will be stored up in their hearts. I pray that they will have fun, develop friendships, and learn how to help one Most of all, I pray that another. children and teachers alike will learn more about the love of Jesus because it is the experience of his love, his loyalty, his kindness that will never leave us. That's what makes VBS an experience worth remembering.



Happy Birthday

(7/1) Bill Adams, Lynda Avery, Emily Burns (7/3) Melissa Sargent, Charles Stokes (7/4) Tyler Carey, Aiden Carey, Mary Peyton Bell, Whitten Morris, Don Nelson, Jr. (7/5) Susan Griffee, Leslie Brick (7/6) Kelly Fogleman (7/7) Elliot Allen, Kristen Catt, Lee Catt III, Alex King, Avery Knych (7/8) Laura Helms, Jack Gerrard (7/9) Mark Miller (7/11) Mickey Charlton (712) Marcia Sutton (7/16) Amy Henderson (7/17) Eme Claire Bius, Tony Gardner, Tammy Hale (7/18) Brian Doyle (7/20) Lisa Heath, Mike Sample, Kaleigh Busby (7/21) Alan Helms (7/23) Vickie Sample (7/24) Patricia Jones (7/26) Denny East, Meghan Fowler, Missy King (7/27) Lee Catt IV, Catherine Catt (7/28) Julie Burns, David Catt, Frank Harrison (7/29) Caroline Bernard, Taylor Conrad, Sam Stuckey, Stephen Jones



Total financial gifts for June:

General Budget \$38,984.13

Capital Improvement \$13.307.00

Memorials \$3,793.13

Children's Ministry \$720.00

Discretionary Fund \$155.00

Honorariums \$100.00

Kitchen \$520.00

Miscellaneous \$445.00

Missions \$899.00

Thank you for your generous support for the ministries of our church.

Serving in Worship This Month

Ushers

Ted Archer Bart Turner
Rich Busby Jeff Vaughn
Frank Fogleman Neal Williams

Acolytes

4th – AJ Knych/Katie Wynn Entrekin 11th – Rachael Coe/Abigail Harlow 18th – Katie Wynn Entrekin/Lexie Laughter 25th – Beau Fenter/Levi Rikard



Memorials for <u>Margaret Fogleman</u>

Gail and Frank Fogleman Sarah and Butch Higginbotham Patsy and Joe Catt Rita and Roger Gilmore Char and John Griffee Becky and James Doyle Holly and Lannie Lancaster Mary and Leven Williams **Baylus and Michael East Becky and Steve Singleton** Debbie and Frank Wallace Diane and Les Scruggs Doris and Rev. Wayne Clark Frances and David Wallace Sandra and Lynn Jenkins Pat and John McDougald Laura and Allen Helms Vesta and Billy McNeely Kathy and Wally Fowler Sarah and John Traugh Linda and Jimmy Taylor Marcia and Steve Sutton Stacy, AnnaLee and Tim Parker

Richard Ossoff Joy Sample Roger Brown Katherine Ruckert Ralph Smith Charlotte Earwood Cyndi James **Bart Turner** Richard Howard Catherine Johnson Anne Hurst Rita Person Cross Jimmie C. Barham Eugene Barham, III Jimmie B. Beauchamp Elaine Looney Laura Partlow Foster Nancy Baratti Marianne Adams Veletta Smith Diemthuy Nguyen Karen E. Michael Martha Holt

NEVER TOO OLD

Lauren Catt and Jane Ellen
Whittington filled in as
Acolytes on Sunday, June 27th.
Thanks Lauren and Jane Ellen!





Summer Mission Project

Our summer mission project, in conjunction with the Marion School District Backpack Program, is well underway. We are delivering food boxes to our families every two weeks.

Each food box consists of non-perishable and perishable food items. We are serving 15 families and providing over 20 boxes at each distribution.

We have volunteers that are shopping, packing, and delivering. Pictured on the cover are Jennifer and Jeff Johnston, Eva and Rich O'Beirne, Pam Young and Teresa Gardner packing boxes.

Please email Beverly Vaughn at bvaughn5@comcast.net if you would like to volunteer to deliver this summer or begin assisting in any way this school year.

Top Picture: Organizers for the project — Beverly Vaughn and Allison Wehrum.

Middle Picture: Ella Rivers Kennedy and Luke Kennedy helping box items.

Regular volunteers not pictured: Dana Robbins, Kristi and Brian Doyle.

Bottom Picture: One of our families served through the summer program.

Thank you to the entire congregation for making this mission project successful and so beneficial to our families in Crittenden County.





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Michelle Schwartz, Co-Director of Children's Ministries

Teresa Gardner, Preschool Director/Teacher preschool@marion-umc.com

Tori Fraley, Preschool Teacher

Pam Scarbrough, PDO Director/Teacher

Kristi Stotts, PDO Director/Teacher

Debbie Wallace, Organist

Marcia Sutton, Pianist

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9:00-3:00); Friday (9:00-12:00)