



**United Methodist Church**  
Marion, Virginia

# - STAYING CONNECTED -

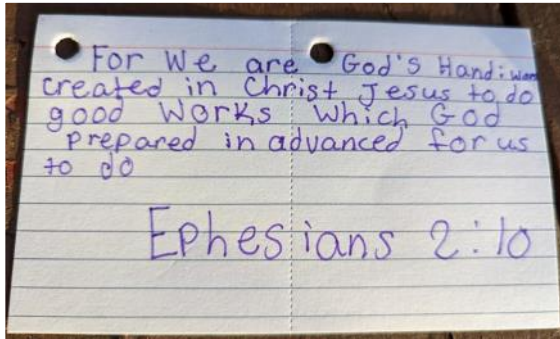
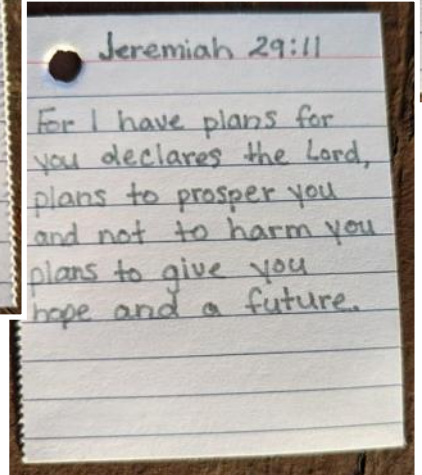
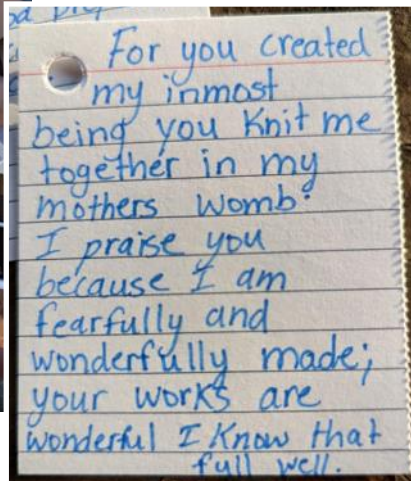
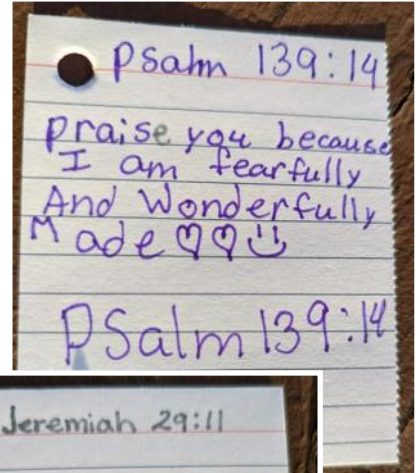
May, 2022



**We have the best front page news you can read....**

**Words are powerful.** We took a break from our Daniel study on a beautiful Sunday afternoon to focus on what God says about us. We spent time talking about these powerful scriptures and made scripture cards for our backpacks to remind us that what God says about us trumps everyone else's opinion. [#wordsmatter](#) [#fearfullyandwonderfullymade](#) [#chosen](#) [#redeemed](#) [#loved](#)

What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with First Youth friends, milk shakes and the BIBLE!



## National Day of Prayer

**Thursday, May 5**  
**Marion Town Hall Steps**  
**At Noon**

A day when we are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation".

The town of Marion has invited local pastors and the public to gather on the steps of the Town Hall at noon to pray.

Pastor James will be there, along with other pastors.

Please watch our FaceBook page for a livestream of this event.

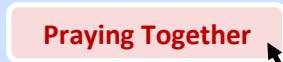
## Follow the red dot on [marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org)



Also, we want to highlight a new link on [marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org).

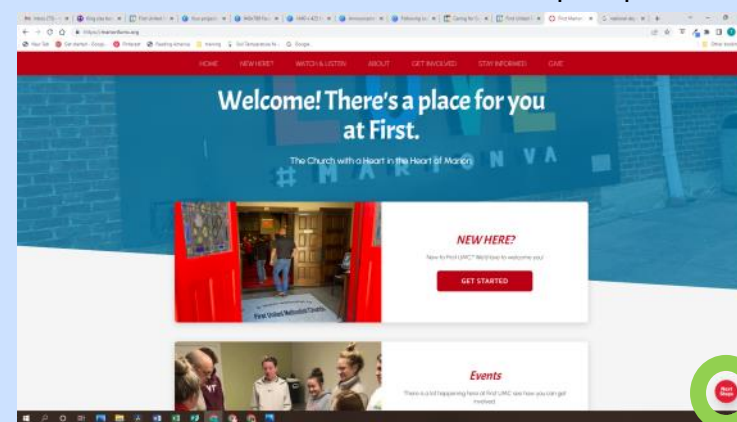
Go to [marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org) and click on the red "Next Steps" dot in the lower right corner. This is a short cut to several links on our website.

Your requests can be private and seen only by our prayer team, or they can be posted to our website prayer wall for the church family to see and add to their prayers. The prayer wall can only be seen by those who have registered on [marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org) and the information shared is secure and can not be "Googled".



Click on and share your prayer requests with the First UMC family.

The first time you share your request, you will need to register. Just follow the prompts.



## Meet Toni Stark First UMC Bookkeeper

The staff and Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPR) is excited to introduce Toni Stark, our new Bookkeeper.

Yes, that name is familiar as in the comic book hero "Ironman"!

Toni joined the staff at First UMC on March 28th. She is a native of San Antonio, Texas but has roots in Smyth County. Her parents live outside of Chilhowie and Toni and her husband, Byron, moved to Virginia to help care for them. They have two adult daughters, Brooke and Micaela. Toni and Byron also have a 2 1/2 year old grandson, Matthew.

Toni has a lot of experience in investments and customer service. She is also a school bus driver, substitute Teacher and Lincoln Theatre volunteer.

**Welcome to First UMC Toni. Be sure to stop by her office and say hi.**



REMOTE AREA MEDICAL'S  
**FREE** POP-UP  
DENTAL, VISION, MEDICAL  
**CLINIC**  
MAY 21-22, 2022

EMORY, VA.  
EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE  
12228 Itta Bena Rd., Emory, VA 24327

NO ID NECESSARY • FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED • 2 DAYS ONLY

In order to make a RAM clinic run smoothly, it takes an army of devoted volunteers with diverse backgrounds and interests to come together for one mission: to prevent pain and alleviate suffering. We truly hope to see you at a clinic as you become part of a team that brings tens of thousands of Americans much-needed care.

**Volunteers are needed at the May clinic  
in Emory, Virginia.**

To register to volunteer, go to:  
[ramusa.org/volunteer-with-us/](http://ramusa.org/volunteer-with-us/)

**It's time to clean up!**  
FIRST KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS

**Saturday - May 28**  
beginning at 9am  
LUNCH INCLUDED

We need lots of adults to help organize, sort, clean and update the First Kids Sunday School rooms.

Go to [marionfumc.org/cleanupday](http://marionfumc.org/cleanupday) and let us know you will be there.

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
REMEMBER AND HONOR

As a church family and as friends let's remember and honor the brave men and women who have fought for our country.

Please share the names of men and women you know and the branch of service they served in.  
For example: Clinton Land - Navy

To share the names of those who have served  
go to: [marionfumc.org/memorial-day-2022](http://marionfumc.org/memorial-day-2022)  
email: [info@marionfumc.org](mailto:info@marionfumc.org)  
call: 276-783-5194

We will honor them on our website and in the halls of First UMC.

## Caring for Our Community

### Community Service Days

**May 14 & 15 8:30am - 12:30pm**  
**Meet at Royal Oak Presbyterian Church**

Caring for Our Community (CFOC) is a network of volunteers coming together to bolster the quality of life in our Marion, Virginia community.

To volunteer, go to the Volunteer Registration tab at:  
[www.caringforourcommunity.org](http://www.caringforourcommunity.org)



NEW Small Group Study coming to First in June!

only on *Wonderful* **WEDNESDAYS**



**The Art of Neighboring**

What if Jesus meant we should love our actual neighbors too?

*Wonderful* **WEDNESDAYS IN JUNE, STARTING JUNE 8TH!**

**WEDNESDAYS**

First Kids Fun!  
First Youth Study  
&  
ADULT SMALL GROUP STUDY

@ *First!*

# Join the First HOSPITALITY Team!

[marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org) 🔍

One of the main reasons I'm here at First UMC is because of the friendly, welcoming environment that I encountered when I was a first time guest.

There are so many of you that go out of your way to make everyone that walks through our doors feel genuinely welcome.

I am eternally grateful for everyone that welcomed Kandi and I when we first walked through those red doors, and I see that same hospitality play out week after week.

On Palm Sunday we began rolling out:  
 a new **Connect Card** to help follow up with our guests,  
**AND**  
 a small **gift bag** to give them, if possible, before they leave on Sundays.

Thank you for the love and hospitality that you have shown me and my family, and thank you for sharing that love with everyone who walks through our doors.

**Together, let's show the love of Jesus to everyone every day.**

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
 Allen - Director of Ministries

## Are you available?

**1** Are you available to be a "friendly face" to welcome guests at the 9am or 11am service?



This involves saying something like:  
 "Hi, I don't think we've met. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Welcome."

Be sure to give them a gift bag and invite them to come back again.

## and/or

**2** Are you available to help assemble the small gift bags?

This involves coming to the church, when you have time. Someone will show you what goes into each bag. No gift wrapping skills required.

If you are available, go to this link and let us know

[marionfumc.org/hospitality-team](http://marionfumc.org/hospitality-team) 🔍

OR call the church office at 276-783-5194

It's one thing for the Pastor or Director of Ministries to greet someone, it's something potentially much more meaningful for other "friendly faces" to do so, especially if it's someone you've invited.

**FOOD PANTRY**  
 Tuesday, May 24 1 - 4 pm

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	
9:00 am	Contemporary Worship
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Traditional Worship with Children's Church
6:00 pm	First Youth Bible Study with supper
6:00 pm	First Kids Fun with supper
Monday	
5:00 pm	Hand Bell Practice
Tuesday	
6:45 pm	Choir
7:00 pm	First Kids Choir
Wednesday	
2:00 pm	First Clothing Closet
5:00 pm	First Kids Choir
6:45 pm	Chancel Choir
Thursday	
7:15 am	First Youth Breakfast Club
11:30 pm	Food & Fellowship
2:00 pm	First Clothing Closet
6:30 pm	Band Practice

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

Deborah Circle		
Thursday	May 5 at 6:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
First Food Pantry		
Tuesday	May 24 at 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Red Cross Blood Drive		
Friday	May 20 at 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Clean Up Day		
Saturday	May 28 at 9:00 am	3rd Floor

## COMMITTEE & MINISTRY MEETINGS

Board of Trustees	
Monday, May 2 at 5:00 pm	
Administrative Board	
Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 pm	
Staff Parrish Relations Comm.	
Thursday, May 19 at 6:30 pm	

When you leave money in the "little church bank" on your pew, you help people in our community.



100% goes to the First UMC Community Assistance fund

AMERICAN RED CROSS



**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Friday  
 May 20  
 1 - 5 pm**

First UMC Fellowship Hall

**James Bennington** - Senior Pastor  
 jlb@marionfumc.org

**Laura Robinson** - First Youth Director  
 laura@marionfumc.org

**Teri McCall** - Administrative Assistant  
 teri@marionfumc.org

**Jim Regin** - Director of Music & Worship Arts  
 jim@marionfumc.org

**Ginger Moore** - First Kids Director  
 ginger@marionfumc.org

**First United Methodist Church**  
 115 S. Church St.  
 Marion, VA 24354  
 276-783-5194  
 info@marionfumc.org  
[marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org)

**Allen Johnsey** - Director of Ministries  
 allen@marionfumc.org

**Toni Stark** - Bookkeeper  
 tastark@marionfumc.org





First UMC  
115 S. Church St.  
Marion, VA 24354

[marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org)



Thank you to Ginger Moore - First Kids Director  
AND everyone who coached, refereed  
and helped for a wonderful  
**UPWARD**  
*BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING*  
2022 Season

