



**United Methodist Church**  
Marion, Virginia

**- STAYING CONNECTED -**

October 2025

Town of Marion  
**HALLOWEEN**  
*Madness*  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**

Saturday | October 25 | 11am - 1pm



Trunk or Treat 2024

Let's do Trunk or Treat 2025 on Main St.  
Last year was fun, let's make 2025 even better!

**But first.... we need YOU  
to plan and help with:**



a fun, decorated trunk

a photo booth next to the trunk  
where kids and groups can  
take selfies.



several volunteers to hand out  
candy & flyers about First UMC.  
Costumes encouraged but not required.

and of course **A LOT OF CANDY  
DONATIONS!**



First UMC will set up in front of the  
old Wells-Fargo Bank drive thru.



Please let us know you are ready to  
join the fun and how you can help.

Call the office at 276-783-5194  
or talk to Allen, Ginger or Jen.

**First Food Pantry**

we are collecting  
**16 oz Peanut Butter**



*Old Fashioned*

**All-Day Singing  
&  
DINNER on the GROUNDS**

First United Methodist Church  
**Sunday - October 26**

**Music**  
starts at  
**10:45am**



**Worship**  
at 11:00am

(No Sunday School)

**Potluck & Singing to follow  
in the fellowship hall.**

**Potluck & Praise!**

**What More Could You Want?**

**OLD FASHIONED ATTIRE ENCOURAGED!**

*Bring a dish if you're able.*

*Bring yourself either way.*



*"as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual  
songs to one another, singing and making  
melody to the Lord in your hearts."*

-Ephesians 5:19

*"Dust off your  
hymnbook and  
your overalls  
- it's gonna be  
a good'un!"*





## WINTER & MORE COAT DRIVE



MEN - WOMEN - KIDS

NEW & GENTLY USED

COATS  
HATS  
SCARVES  
GLOVES  
MITTENS  
HOODIES  
BLANKETS

Donation Deadline **Friday Oct 3, 2025**

Please leave donations outside the church office.

For more information  
[marionfumc.org/coatdrive](http://marionfumc.org/coatdrive)

## WINTER COATS & MORE DISTRIBUTION DAY

Men - Women - Kids



Coats - Hats - Scarves - Gloves  
Hoodies - Blankets

**Saturday | October 4 | 12 - 4pm**

First United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall

## First Food Pantry

### Co-Director needed immediately

In order to continue our vital Food Pantry Ministry we need a Co-Director

First Food Pantry Co-Director responsibilities include:

- attending required training at Feeding America SWVA concerning policies and USDA guidelines
- being available during the week to pick up donated food in Marion. This involves moderate lifting and transportation
- assisting with monthly food orders that need to be transported and set up for Pack Days
- other general daily Food Pantry operations
- working with willing servants in this ministry

★ Please contact the church office if you are willing to help our neighbors in need!

### Blessing Bags

- 1 - 16oz bottled water
- 2 - pack of peanut butter or cheese crackers
- 1 - granola bar
- 1 - 4 oz applesauce pouch (no cups please)
- 1 - cookie - individually wrapped
- 2 - 1.75 oz trail mix pouches
- 2 - .28 oz jerky snack sticks
- 2 - paper towels or napkins

*Feel free to add additional items*

Daily folks stop by the office at First UMC asking for food. **How can you help?**

- Drop off filled Blessing Bags
- **donate food items to fill Blessing Bags** (Please no applesauce, we have plenty).

### Food & Fellowship needs you Thursday - October 23 & 30

to provide, prepare & serve lunch



Without volunteers Food & Fellowship will be canceled on these dates.

If you can help please:  
call us at 276-783-5194  
or email us at [info@marionfumc.org](mailto:info@marionfumc.org)  
or text us at 844-214-4685. Thank you!

### Food Pantry Packing Day

Wednesday, October 22 at 10:00am at our storage building on Gill Street. Next to the E&H University School of Health Sciences.

### Food Pantry Day

Tuesday, October 28 at 1:00 - 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers please arrive at 12:45pm.

Thank you to all the Food Pantry Volunteers. You keep this ministry going.

## Clothing Basics for the Unhoused

We continue to provide clothing and shoes for the homeless for both men and women. **The need continues to be urgent and daily.**

The following items are needed in sizes SMALL-MEDIUM-LARGE. **Bolded items are especially needed.**

- |                        |                        |   |
|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| • jeans                | • hoodies              | • <b>tennis shoes</b>                           |
| • <b>pull-on pants</b> | • t-shirts             | • <b>hiking/work boots</b>                      |
| • <b>shorts</b>        | • long sleeve t-shirts | • new, unopened underwear, for both men & women |
| • sweatshirts          | • jackets              |   |

Please leave your donations on the bench outside the church office. **Thank you!**



## WORSHIP

Live music & connection

## WORD

Bible truths that stick

## WALK

Life skills

A weekly experience that... connects your faith to your future.

Each week builds spiritual depth, meaningful relationships, and practical skills that help you live a holistic life.

(holistic= encompassing the whole thing, not just part of it.)

### WORSHIP - Chapel

We start in the Chapel with Allen Johnsey on the guitar. Together we learn what it means to worship our loving God.

### WORD - Parlor

**Proverbs = Wisdom** is the accumulated insight of God's people through generations about **how to live in a way that honors God and others.**

### WALK - Wesleyan Room

### October - Time Management

How to be a Productivity Ninja!



Join Teri McCall - AAAdministrative Assistant @ First

(Awesome-Amazing-Administrative-Assistant)

We will be talking about:

- Using a calendar or planner
- Making & sticking to a to-do list
- Understanding deadlines & how to meet them
- Balancing school/work with personal time

We will also take a field trip in October - learn more on Wednesdays.

## Christian Youth Who CHANGED THEIR WORLD

Being a follower of Jesus can feel isolating and is challenging. We will be highlighting young historic figures in our Christian

faith who acted with courage and stood for Jesus through their lives. Let's get inspired together!

Just Jen, First Youth Director

### Agnes of Rome (c. 291-304)

Agnes was only about 12 or 13 when she was arrested in Rome for refusing to give up her Christian faith or marry someone who didn't follow Jesus. She boldly declared her faith in Christ even though it cost her life.



A common quote attributed to her life is -

"I am a servant of Christ; I cannot deny Him."

Scripture says: Matthew 5:10 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

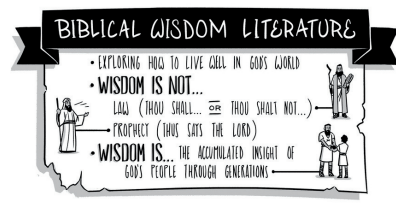
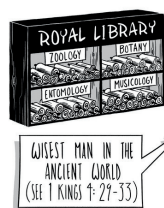
Reflection Questions:

• What does it say about Agnes that she stood firm in her faith at such a young age?

• What pressures do young Christians face today that test their faith?

To Jane Conner our youth mentor during September. We learned great tips on how to care for our clothes and how to do laundry.

THANK YOU



### 1-9 AN INTRODUCTION TO PROVERBS 1:1-9

FOR GAINING WISDOM

PROVERBS OF SOLOMON

HEBREW: KHUKHMAH

SKILL, APPLIED KNOWLEDGE (SEE LAMOS 3:1-3)

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

- REVERENCE & AWE
- A MORAL MINDSET
- HUMBLE ONESELF BEFORE GOD

### TEN SPEECHES FROM A FATHER TO A SON

LISTEN MY SON TO YOUR FATHER'S INSTRUCTIONS (1:8)

### THE MORAL LOGIC OF PROVERBS

WISDOM & FEAR OF THE LORD	VIRTUE, INTEGRITY AND GENEROSITY	SUCCESS & PEACE
FOLLY & EVIL	SELFISHNESS & PRIDE	RUIN & SHAME

APPLY WISDOM IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

### FOUR POEMS OF LADY WISDOM 1:20-33 | 3:13-20 | CH8 | CH9

UPHOLDING JUSTICE

COME, LEARN FROM ME!

• A POETIC WAY OF CLAIMING THAT WE LIVE IN A MORAL UNIVERSE

• FEAR OF THE LORD & WISDOM = GRACE OF THE UNIVERSE

NOT GUILTY?

INTEGRITY

GENUINITY

PROVERBS ≠ GOOD ADVICE...

PROVERBS = GODS INVITATION TO LEARN WISDOM FROM PREVIOUS GENERATIONS

### 10-29 HUNDREDS OF ANCIENT PROVERBS

MARRIAGE JUSTICE DEBT WORK

ALCOHOL TOXICITY ENRAGED POVERTY

CHARACTER FAMILY FORGIVENESS

THE FEAR OF THE LORD PROLONGS YOUR LIFE, BUT THE YEARS OF THE CHICKEN ARE CUT SHORT (10:27)

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO, AND WHEN THEY'RE OLD THEY WON'T TURN FROM IT (22:6)

PROVERBS = PROBABILITIES

FEAR OF GOD & WISDOM	NO FEAR OF GOD & FOOLISHNESS
THINGS WILL GO GREAT	THINGS WILL GO POORLY

PROVERBS ≠ PROMISES

THE GENERAL RULE & EXCEPTIONS

LIFE IS TOO COMPLEX FOR FORMULAS, WE NEED ALL THE WISDOM BOOKS TOGETHER

NO GUARANTEES

### 30 AGUR

I AM A DRYDE AND HAVE NO WISDOM (30:2-3)

MODEL READER OF PROVERBS

GOD'S WISDOM

### 31 LEMUEL

HERE'S WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME:

- GUIDANCE FOR WISE LEADERSHIP (31:1-7)
- ALTHOUGH TOLD ABOUT THE WISE WOMAN (31:10-31)

THANK YOU!

HER HUSBAND

THE POOR

HER CHILDREN

THE PRESENTS



## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FIRST UMC

9:15 am Join us for coffee & doughnuts  
 9:45 am **Sunday WORSHIP**  
 11:00 am First Kids Sunday School  
 11:00 am First Youth Sunday School  
 11:00 am Seekers Sunday School  
 11:00 am The Discovery Group

## WEEKLY

**TUES** 3:00 pm Recovery Group - Fellowship Hall

**WED** 8:30 am Prayer Breakfast at Downtown Pioneer  
 3:30 pm After School Fun  
 5:15 pm The Table  
 5:45 pm W<sup>3</sup> - starting  
 6:00 pm First Handbells  
 7:00 pm First Choir

**THUR** 11:30 am Food & Fellowship - Fellowship Hall  
 6:00 pm Praise Band

## PLANNING AHEAD

Board of Trustees  
 Monday, October 6 at 5:30pm

Nominations Committee  
 Sunday, October 5 at 4:00pm

**FOOD PANTRY PACKING DAY**  
 Wednesday, October 15 at 10:00am

**OCTOBER FOOD PANTRY**  
 Tuesday, October 28 at 1:00pm

Finance Committee Meeting  
 Tuesday, October 21 at 5:30pm

**Food & Fellowship OPEN**  
**Thursdays October 23 & 30**

## UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Faith Circle - 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Monthly - parlor  
 Wednesday, October 1 at 10:00am

Deborah Circle - 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly - parlor  
 Thursday, October 2 at 6:00pm

Sarah Circle - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday monthly - homes  
 Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00pm

Grace Circle - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly - parlor  
 Tuesday, October 14 at 6:30pm

## GENEROSITY AT FIRST UMC

General Budget Year-To-Date	
Giving Needed Y-T-D as of 9-28-25	\$309,738.00
Giving Received Y-T-D as of 9-28-25	<u>224,399.87</u>
Balance as of 9-28-25	\$ <b>-85,399.87</b>
Year-To-Date Generosity & Expenses	
Total received as of 9-28-25	\$224,399.87
Total expenses as of 9-28-25	<u>255,527.43</u>
Balance as of 9-28-25	\$ <b>-31,127.15</b>



**October 26** (not Oct 5-rescheduled)  
**All Day Singing & Dinner on the Grounds**

Coffee & Snacks at 9:15am  
 Music Begins at 10:45am  
 Worship at 11:00am  
 Fellowship Potluck at 12:00pm

Bring a dish if you're able. Bring yourself either way!  
 Yes, there will be fried chicken.

**November 16 - Thanksgiving Together**

Coffee & Snacks at 9:15am  
 Worship at 9:45am  
 Sunday School at 11:00am  
 Fellowship Potluck at 12:00pm

**REVIVING HOPE  
IN OUR BACKYARD**

**October 28, 2025  
9:00am - 3:00pm**

**Lincoln Theater  
Marion, VA**

A free event focused on addressing addiction and trauma in our community.

Registration & more details:  
[achrevivehope.eventbrite.com](http://achrevivehope.eventbrite.com)


Join us for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual gathering to spark conversations, share resources, and support those affected by these issues.

case of  
**POCKET BIBLES  
DRIVE**

Chaplain Paul Ritter at the Marion Correctional Treatment Center is asking our community to help him provide pocket Bibles for the inmates. He will order the Bibles to be sure they meet the specifications needed.

If you want to help Paul bring the word of God to the folks at MCTC you can contribute to the Pocket Bible Drive by check (be sure to include "pocket Bible" on the memo line) or online at [marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org)






Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Ms Ginger and the First Kids volunteers are excited to welcome the kids to After School Fun. Each Wednesday kids, grades K-5, are invited to come to First UMC to have a lot of fun learning about Jesus, playing games, watching videos, playing outside and so much more. Snacks are provided.

**Parent Pick-Up at 5:15pm  
at the church office doors**

**Parents:**  
please send a note to your student's teacher giving permission for your student to ride one of these buses.

Oak Point Elem - First UMC bus  
Marion Elem - school bus #241B



This month in our First Kids ministry, we are focusing on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. A disciple is simply someone who learns from Jesus and tries to live the way He taught. Disciple might sound like a big word, but really it comes down to some simple and powerful choices:

loving God

loving others

following Jesus in our everyday lives.

For our children, being a disciple might look like showing kindness on the playground, including someone who feels left out, praying for a friend, or listening to God's Word with an open heart. For parents, discipleship is about guiding our children toward Jesus while also continuing to grow in faith ourselves.

Together,  
families can learn  
side by side,  
helping each  
other to put faith  
into action.

Jesus didn't just tell His disciples how to live—He walked with them, shared meals, taught lessons through stories, and showed them how to serve others. In the same way, we are inviting our children to learn by doing. Each week, we will practice simple ways to follow Jesus, from memorizing Scripture to serving others with love.

Parents, your role is so important! When children see faith lived out at home—in prayer, in forgiveness, in gratitude—they begin to understand what discipleship looks like beyond Sunday mornings.

Our prayer is that this season of study will not only teach our children about being disciples but will also inspire families to walk more closely with Jesus together. Let's encourage one another, celebrate small steps of faith, and remember that Jesus promises....

"Follow me, and I will show you..." (Matthew 4:19).

With joy and excitement,  
Ms. Ginger  
First Kids Director







First United Methodist Church  
115 S Church St.  
Marion, VA 24354

## Wednesdays at First UMC

**3:30 - 5:15pm**

Parent pick-up at  
church office doors.

*First Kids*  
after school  
**fun!**

**5:15 - 5:45pm**

Families - Please  
be sure to register  
and pay online by  
Monday for the meal  
on Wednesday



First UMC congregation.... You are invited to enjoy  
the meal on Wednesdays. Please be sure to register  
and pay online at [marionfumc.org/thetablemeal](http://marionfumc.org/thetablemeal)  
or please place your \$5 in a pew envelope and  
place it in the offering plate. **PLEASE** be sure to  
**include your name, AND the how many people**  
**will be eating with you on the envelope.**

**5:45 - 7:00pm**

**First Youth**

A weekly experience that...  
connects your faith to your  
future.



Each week builds spiritual depth, meaningful relationships,  
and practical skills that help you live a holistic life.

**6:00pm**

**First Handbells**

**7:00pm**

**First Choir**

Do you sing in the shower or in the car? How about  
singing with the choir? We would love to have new  
voices and faces.

## Halloween Candy Needed

First UMC will be handing out candy at the  
Town of Marion Halloween Madness on  
Saturday, October 25. We need LOTS of  
candy for the Trick or Treaters

**Please bring your candy  
donations by  
Thursday, October 23.**

There are Halloween Candy collection  
baskets outside the sanctuary and the  
church office.

**Thank  
you!**

