



# - STAYING CONNECTED -

**United Methodist Church**  
**Marion, Virginia**

August-September 2025

Starting September 3

*Wednesdays @* **FIRST UMC**

Starting September 3



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

Ms Ginger and the First Kids volunteers are excited to welcome the kids back 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.

#### 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

#### ALSO...

Please plan to stay when you come for parent pick-up. You and your family are invited to enjoy a home cooked nutritious meal together in the Fellowship Hall.

- Total cost for you and your family is \$5.
- Please register weekly at [marionfumc.org/thetablemeal](http://marionfumc.org/thetablemeal)



**5:15 - 5:45pm**  
**Local Families**

**4:00 - 7:00pm**  
**Local**  
**Houseless Folks**

Families in our community are struggling to find time together as busy schedules overwhelm them. First Kids gather on Wednesdays until 5:15pm. Parents are picking them up but most likely haven't gotten home yet to begin dinner prep. They may be on the way to another activity and are picking up dinner in the drive-thru.

The Table provides a gathering space for families on the run to slow down and have a home cooked, nutritious mid-week meal together. Families will register in advance (weekly) and pay \$5 (total) to reserve their space for a family meal. All community families are invited

Families and caregivers.....

Please plan to stay when you come for parent pick-up. You and your family are invited to enjoy a home cooked nutritious meal together in the Fellowship Hall.

- Total cost for you and your family is \$5.
- Please register weekly at [marionfumc.org/thetablemeal](http://marionfumc.org/thetablemeal)

Our friends who attend Food & Fellowship face many hurdles. Job training, employment skills, and mentorship can help. First UMC will provide a 12-week training and mentorship program for local men and women who currently do not have stable housing in order to provide them with job skills and experience.

A team of mentors will run the program - people with kitchen experience and peer support. We will use curriculum that covers kitchen basics and an includes job skills training. Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate and letter of recommendation for potential employment. Participants will join in dinner weekly and can "shop" at the hygiene center.

#### Are you interested in helping with "The Table"?

As a mentor or a volunteer?  
Please sign up at [marionfumc.org/thetablementor](http://marionfumc.org/thetablementor)



**5:45 - 7:00pm**  
**grades 6-12**

**Worship**  
Live music & connection

#### Word

Bible truths that stick

#### Walk

Life skills

**W<sup>3</sup>** is a weekly experience that connects your faith to your future. Every session builds spiritual depth, meaningful relationships, and practical skills that help you live a holistic life.

#### September Bible Study

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

#### Each Month a Unique Focus

laundry care	job readiness
money mgmt	transportation
cooking basics	communication
cleaning tricks	time mgmt
first aid	

#### Interested? Contact:

Jen Feliciano - First Youth Dir.  
email: [jen@marionfumc.org](mailto:jen@marionfumc.org)  
cell: 585-200-0380



We are wanting to engage the wisdom of our congregation and community members. We are looking for volunteers to teach 30-minute Life Skills classes to youth from 6:30-7:00pm for one month. Contact Jen if you are ready to serve.

# Fall REVIVAL

## REKINDLING YOUR FIRST LOVE

SEPTEMBER 14 TH-17TH

STARTS AT 7PM

**Guest Preacher:**  
**Rev. Scott Spence**

Special offerings will  
be collected each  
night for local  
missions

**Davis Memorial UMC**  
**5904 Lee Hwy, Atkins, VA**

**Sponsored by: First UMC, Grace UMC,  
Greenwood UMC, Mt. Carmel UMC and  
Davis Memorial UMC**

## FREE Grief Support Group

Find Hope  
and Healing  
after the death  
of a loved one.

GRIEF SHARE®

**Beginning Tuesday, August 19**

**Tuesday @ 10:00am or 5:30pm**

**We meet in the Church Conference Room  
outside the church office.**

### When to Join A GriefShare Group

You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin. You will be able to continue with GriefShare through the next 13-week cycle and view any of the videos you have not seen.



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 marionufmc.org

*First Kids*

grades 6-12

Ginger Moore - First Kids Director  
ginger@marionufmc.org

### After School Fun

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Oak Point Elem - First UMC bus  
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*First Youth*

grades 6-12

Jen Feliciano - First Youth Director  
jen@marionufmc.org

**W<sup>3</sup>** Begins Wednesday, September 3 at 5:45pm.  
It is a weekly experience that connects your faith to your future. Every session builds spiritual depth, meaningful relationships, and practical skills that help you live a holistic life.

### First Youth Breakfast Club

Begins Thursday, September 4 @ 7:15am  
Meet Jen at McDonalds in Marion.  
First UMC bus will take you to MSHS & MMS.



Our youth enjoy breakfast every Thursday during the school year at McDonalds in Marion. Along with biscuits and coffee they connect with Jesus and each other. Jen Feliciano – First Youth Director – shares the Bible and a time of prayer before school starts.

The last Sunday of each month they switch things up and meet at First UMC in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast. Groups from First UMC provide and host breakfast for our youth.

Would your group consider providing and hosting breakfast for First Youth? The fall schedule is below. Please let Jen know when you can provide and host breakfast.

Thursday, September 25 - GRACE CIRCLE

First Youth Breakfast Club @ 7:15

AND Food & Fellowship Lunch beginning at 11:30am

\*Thursday, October 30 OPEN

First Youth Breakfast Club @ 7:15

\*Food & Fellowship is also open on this date. Would your group be available to host both breakfast & lunch?

Thursday, November 20 OPEN

First Youth Breakfast Club @ 7:15

First Youth Breakfast Club @ 7:15 OPEN

Thursday, December 18 First Youth Breakfast



In Loving Memory of Gene Walker  
Faithful Servant and  
Co-Director of the First Food Pantry



The First Food Pantry began serving our community in December 2010. From its earliest days, Gene and Marilyn Walker were a constant and faithful presence. Always willing to lend a hand, they gave their time generously—volunteering on distribution days, handing out food boxes, stocking shelves, and packing countless boxes for families in need.

Following Marilyn's passing in 2015, Gene continued his service with quiet dedication. He made frequent trips to Feeding America Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, bringing back pallets of food for the pantry. He was always ready to help—unloading and loading food at the storage building, packing boxes, and stepping in wherever there was a need.

In 2024, Gene Walker and Ernie Catron were named co-directors of the First Food Pantry. Together, they formed a strong and dependable team. They carefully compared prices before purchasing food, took turns picking up donations from the Marion Walmart, and ensured that the pantry tables outside the Fellowship Hall were well-stocked for families in need. Their thoughtful planning and teamwork made distribution days run smoothly and efficiently.

In May of this year, Gene passed away unexpectedly. His loss is deeply felt by his family, his church family, and all who served with him at the First Food Pantry. Gene's quiet leadership, tireless work, and compassionate heart made a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

We are profoundly grateful for Gene Walker's years of faithful service and loving dedication. He leaves behind a legacy of generosity and care that will not be forgotten.

Thank you, Gene, for everything. You are dearly missed.



## Clothing Basics for the Unhoused

For several months we have asked for clothing and shoes for the homeless for both men and women. **The need continues to be urgent and daily.**

A great way to provide clothing and shoes is to shop the clearance racks at local stores. Shoes especially. Another great place to shop is the thrift shop or yard sales.

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

- jeans
- hoodies
- **tennis shoes**
- **pull-on pants**
- t-shirts
- **hiking/work boots**
- **shorts**
- 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!**

**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!

## REVISED 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  
**OR** donate food items to fill Blessing Bags  
(Please no applesauce, we have plenty)

We also need folks to stop by and fill Blessing Bags with donated items. Drop by the office during the week and we will show you the supplies we have. **Thank you!**



**Food & Fellowship needs you**  
**Thursday - August 28 & September 11**  
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!

## 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** 10:00 am GriefShare - starting Aug 19  
 3:00 pm Recovery Group - Fellowship Hall  
 5:30 pm GriefShare - starting Aug 19

**WED** 8:30 am Prayer Breakfast at Downtown Pioneer  
 3:30 pm After School Fun - starting Sept 3  
 5:15 pm The Table - starting Sept 3  
 5:45 pm W<sup>3</sup> - starting Sept 3  
 6:00 pm First Handbells - starting Aug 27  
 7:00 pm First Choir - starting Aug 27

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

## PLANNING AHEAD

### August

Board of Trustees - **RESCHEDULED**  
 Monday, August 11 at 5:30pm

Cottage Meeting @ Spikers  
 Monday, August 11 at 7:00pm

Finance Committee Meeting  
 Tuesday, August 19 at 5:30pm

**FOOD PANTRY PACKING DAY**  
 Wednesday, August 20 at 10:00am

**AUGUST FOOD PANTRY**  
 Tuesday, August 26 at 1:00pm

**Food & Fellowship OPEN August 28**

### September

Labor Day - Monday, September 1  
 Church Offices Closed

**FAMILY SUNDAY**  
 Sunday, September 7 at 5:30pm

Board of Trustees  
 Monday, September 8 at 5:30pm

Finance Committee Meeting  
 Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30pm

Fall Revival  
 September 14, 15, 16 & 17  
 at 5:30pm - Davis Memorial UMC

**Food & Fellowship OPEN Sept 11**

**FOOD PANTRY PACKING DAY**  
 Wednesday, September 17 at 10:00am

**SEPTEMBER FOOD PANTRY**  
 Tuesday, September 23 at 1:00pm



## 2025 Calendar

**September 7**    October 5    November 16

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

If you are able, please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert. But most important, please bring yourself.

# First Food Pantry

## JULY & AUGUST

we are collecting

### Boxed Cereal



## GENEROSITY AT FIRST UMC

### General Budget Year-To-Date

Giving Needed Y-T-D as of 8-7-25	\$214,434.00
Giving Received Y-T-D as of 8-7-25	<u>188,883.78</u>
Balance as of 8-7-25	\$ <b>-25,550.22</b>

### Year-To-Date Generosity & Expenses

Total received as of 8-7-25	\$188,883.78
Total expenses as of 8-7-25	<u>207,928.66</u>
Balance as of 8-7-25	\$ <b>-19,044.88</b>

## UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Sarah Circle - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday monthly - homes  
 Tuesday, Aug 5 & Sept 2 at 7:00pm

Faith Circle - 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Monthly - parlor  
 Wednesday, Aug 6 & Sept 3 at 10:00am

Deborah Circle - 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly - parlor  
 Thursday, Aug 6 & Sept 4 at 6:00pm

Grace Circle - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly - parlor  
 Tuesday, Aug 12 & Sept 9 at 6:30pm

