



- STAYING CONNECTED -

United Methodist Church
Marion, Virginia

July 2025

COTTAGE MEETINGS

Dates - Times
Locations



FAQ: Do I need to attend all of the meetings? No. But feel free to attend more than one.

Sign-up sheets are in the Sanctuary and outside the church office or go to marionfumc.org to sign up online.

Tuesday
July 8
7:00 pm

15 people
Shirley Lockhart
319 North St
Marion

Sunday
July 13
3:00 pm

12 people
Ernie & Linda Catron
325 Haynes St
Chilhowie

Monday
July 21
5:30 pm

15 people
**Jim Gates, Beth Gates
and Helen Burkett**
245 Holly St - Marion

Tuesday
July 22
7:00 pm

15 people
Allen & Kandi Johnsey
101 W Cherry St
Marion

Wednesday
July 23
5:30 pm

12 people
John & El Saunders
2240 Teapot Lane
Marion

Tuesday
August 5
10:00 am

12 people
Margaret McKinnon
260 N Church St
Apt A - Marion

week of
August 11
TBA

15 people
Luke & Amy Spiker
190 Gailliot Vista Drive
Marion

Revived and Reconnected: Reflections from Annual Conference by Allen Johnsey

I had the privilege of attending the 2025 Holston Annual Conference during the first week of June, and I came home feeling something I didn't fully expect: revived. Not just encouraged or informed — though I was both — but truly stirred up with a renewed sense of what it means to be the Church together.

One evening especially stood out: Missions Emphasis, when we were blessed to hear from Bishop Darryl B. Starnes Sr. of the AME Zion Church. His message wasn't feel-good fluff — it was honest, challenging, and necessary. He spoke about the hindrances to mission that many of us, and our churches, continue to hold on to. Things like fear, complacency, nostalgia, and division. It was convicting, but hopeful — reminding us that revival isn't about returning to the past but clearing the way for what God wants to do now.

That spirit of clearing the way showed up again during the clergy retirement celebration, which honored the legacy of faithful leaders while pointing toward the

future. One local moment stood out: the retirement of a longtime missionary, Harry Howe, from Project Crossroads in Marion, and the introduction of Kirk Lowe as the new director. The message that day — titled "Encore" — captured the idea that God's not done yet. That even after years of ministry, there's still more to do, more to give, more to become.

But maybe the most hopeful moment of the week came during the Young Adult Ministry Committee report, delivered by Ben Smith. He challenged us not just to invite younger people to the table, but to build a new table altogether — one that is more inclusive, creative, and Spirit-led. His words hit home for me. It felt like a vision we've needed: one where the Church truly reflects the diversity and gifts of the Body of Christ. And based on the response in the room (standing ovation) it wasn't just me who felt that way.

Even the financial report was unexpectedly uplifting. Yes, we're making cuts. Yes, the budget is tightening. But it was framed not as defeat — but as preparation. As doing what we need to do now so that we can thrive in the future. That kind of faithful stewardship,

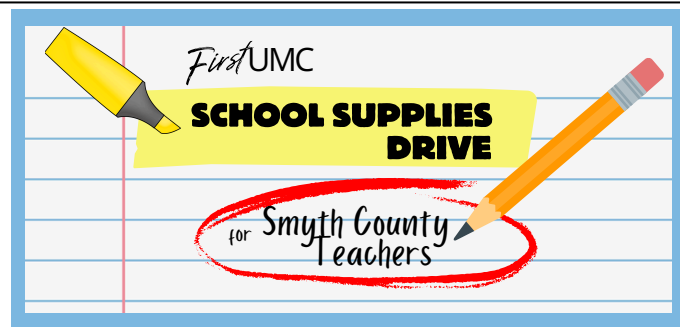
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School Supplies Needed

- liquid soap
- hand sanitizer
- wide-ruled paper
- disinfecting wipes
- boxed tissues
- pencils
- highlighters

Drop off supplies by July 27

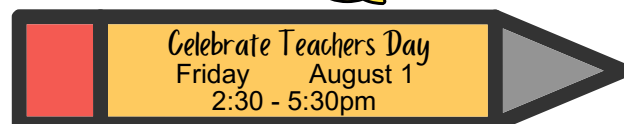
in crates outside the sanctuary and the office



How can our church be more involved in our area schools?



By helping our teachers stock their classrooms.



Teachers will be invited to the Fellowship Hall to pick up the donated school supplies, enjoy refreshments, a gift and a special treat....a hand massage.

We need volunteers August 1st, to help set up the Fellowship Hall and to welcome and visit with the teachers. Please call the office or sign up online at marionfumc.org to let us know you will be there.



NO SNOW
NO SLEIGH BELLS

just **Joy**

Sunday, July 27 - 9:45am

Mark your calendars for a special Christmas in July celebration. Our choir is coming back for a joyful Sunday to lead us in carols, Scripture, and reflections that remind us: the joy of Christ's birth isn't just for winter—it's for every season.

Expect familiar carols, an encouraging message, and the kind of joyful singing that fills a sanctuary (even when it's hot outside). Whether you've been with us all year or haven't been back in a while, this is the perfect Sunday to return, reconnect, and rejoice.

And yes.....
there will be cookies.



Thinking about joining the choir? This is a no-pressure way to get a taste of what we do. We'd love to sing with you! Contact Allen for more details!

Revived & Reconnected
cont from front page

grounded in reality but driven by hope, is the kind of leadership I believe our Church needs right now.

Throughout the week, I kept coming back to three words that seemed to bubble up again and again — not necessarily from the platform, but in my own heart:

Unity. Love. Revival.

- Unity — in worship, in hard conversations, in shared mission
- Love — across generations, traditions, and even disagreements
- Revival — not just emotional, but structural; not just for me, but for us

I'm grateful to have been part of this year's conference. More than anything, I left with a deeper hope for what God is doing — not just in Holston, but right here in our church. I pray we lean into that same spirit of unity, love, and revival as we step forward together in new beginnings.



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

First Community Ministries

First Food Pantry

Blessing Bags

Community Assistance One Day at a Time Bags Food & Fellowship Clothing Basics

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!**

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 - JULY 31
to provide, prepare & serve lunch

Without volunteers Food & Fellowship will be canceled on this date. If you can help on this date please: call us at 276-783-5194 or email us at info@marionfumc.org or text us at 844-214-4685. Thank you!

**"Lazy" Days of Summer
with First Kids &
First Youth**



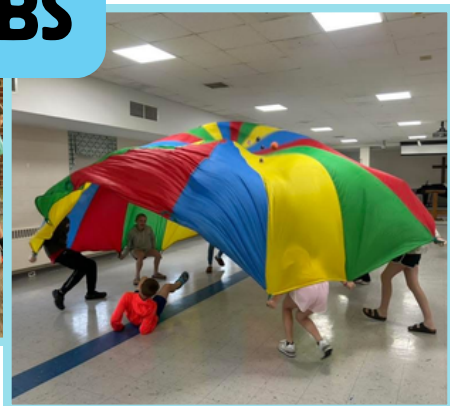
**Youth
Gone
Wild**



**First Kids
Summer
Fun Days**



VBS



2025 Budget

Estimated Revenue

Pledged Receipts	\$ 245,000.00
Non-Pledged Receipts	120,000.00
Loose Offering	10,000.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,000.00
Memorials	500.00
Interest Income - Checking	10.00
Total Estimated Revenue	\$ 377,510.00

Expenses

Health Ins & Retirement	\$ 50,175.00
Payroll Expenses	252,963.
Administrative Expenses	7,000.00
General Office Expenses	15,320.00
Facility & Equipment Maint.	25,250.00
Utilities	41,700.00
Conference Expenses	15,000.00
First Kid's Ministries	3,000.00
First Youth Ministries	1,500.00
Music & Worship Ministries	8,500.00
First Food Pantry	500.00
Education & Evangelism	5,500.00
Missions	200.00
Other Expenses	1,025.00
Property Insurance	28,900.00

Total Expenses \$ 406,358.00

Difference:

Estimated Revenue - Expenses \$ 28,848.00

Copies of the detailed 2025 Budget Reports are available outside the Sanctuary and church office

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
 THUR 11:30 am Food & Fellowship - Fellowship Hall
 4:00 pm First Youth Daffodil Life Group
 6:00 pm Praise Band

PLANNING AHEAD

Church Offices CLOSED

Thursday July 3 & Friday July 4

Board of Trustees

Monday, July 7 at 5:30pm

Cottage Meeting @ Shirley Lockhart

Tuesday, July 8 at 7:00pm

Cottage Meeting @ Catron's

Sunday, July 13 at 3:00pm

Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 15 at 5:30pm

FOOD PANTRY PACKING DAY

Wednesday, July 16 at 10:00am

Cottage Meeting - Gates & Helen B

Monday, July 21 at 5:30pm

Cottage Meeting @ Johnsey's

Tuesday, July 22 at 7:00pm

JULY FOOD PANTRY

Tuesday, July 23 at 1:00pm

Cottage Meeting @ Saunder's

Wednesday, July 23 at 5:30pm

A Very Choir Christmas in July

Sunday, July 27

School Supplies Deadline

Sunday, July 27

Food & Fellowship **OPEN** July 31

Celebrate Teachers Day

Monday, August 1 at 2:30-5:30pm

First Family Night at the Pool

Saturday, August 27 at 6:00-9:00pm

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Sarah Circle - 1st Tuesday monthly - homes

Tuesday, July 1 at 7:00pm

Faith Circle - 1st Wednesday Monthly - parlor

Wednesday, July 2 at 10:00am

Deborah Circle - 1st Thursday monthly - parlor

Thursday, July 3 at 6:00pm

Grace Circle - 2nd Tuesday monthly - parlor

Tuesday, July 8 at 6:30pm

First Kids

grades 6-12

Ginger Moore - First Kids Director
 ginger@marionufmc.org

July 23 @ 5:00-6:30pm
 Fun Evening at First UMC
 We have so much planned!



First Youth

grades 6-12

Jen Feliciano - First Youth Director
 jen@marionufmc.org

YOUTH GONE

WILD

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

July 9 @ 12:00-3:00pm
 Appalachian Trail Hike

July 16 @ 12:00-3:00pm
 Eat That! Medicinal plants at
 The Settler's Museum.

July 23 @ 12:00-3:00pm
 Hungry Mother Waterfall Hike

July 30 @ 12:00-3:00pm
 Tree ID Challenge at Hungry Mother



fAMILY SUNDAY

2025 Calendar

★ August 2
 Saturday
 Family Night
 at the Pool

September 7
 October 5
 November 16

Celebrate
 Family at *First*

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

Families come in
 all shapes & sizes.

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 6-30-25	\$206,492.00
Giving Received Y-T-D as of 6-30-25	<u>163,216.63</u>
Balance as of 6-30-25	\$ -43,275.37

Year-To-Date Generosity & Expenses

Total received as of 6-30-25	\$163,216.63
Total expenses as of 6-30-25	<u>179,421.19</u>
Balance as of 6-30-25	\$ -16,204.56

First UMC
 115 S Church St
 Marion, VA 24354

276-789-5194
 844-214-4685

info@marionufmc.org
 www.marionufmc.org

