



First Youth



# - STAYING CONNECTED -

United Methodist Church  
Marion, Virginia

February 2023



## 10,000 REASONS BLESSING WALL LET'S COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

*"For all your goodness, I will keep on singing, 10,000 reasons for my heart to find to bless the Lord, O my soul worship His Holy name!"*

- 1 Write (or draw) a blessing: What are you thankful for? Paper available.
- 2 Tape it to the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
- 3 We won't stop until we have 10,000 reasons that ..... **OUR GOD IS GOOD!**

### Showing Care

Smyth County News & Messenger  
Stephanie Porter-Nichols

Reaching for a tissue, putting on antiperspirant, or showering with soap takes on a whole new importance to wellbeing when those products aren't easily accessible to a person. A community partnership is now making hygiene and other personal care items more readily available to those who need them.

Two churches in Marion are now home to One Day at a Time Boxes and plans are in the works to set up two more this year.

The project is a collaborative effort of Appalachian Community Connectors (ACC), Mount Rogers Community Services (MRCS), First United Methodist Church, and Ebenezer Lutheran Church

"The boxes were created to provide supplies and resources to promote health and wellness for all citizens. We know that folks are only able to thrive once their basic needs are met," said Ginny Moorer, a leader with ACC and a trauma recovery coordinator with Mount Rogers. "The One Day At A Time Boxes," according to Moorer, "help meet... needs by offering a variety of toiletries, feminine hygiene products, detergents and soaps, health supplies like tissues and hand sanitizer, and seasonal supplies like scarves, socks, and gloves. We hope the community can benefit from having access to these items that we all use every day."

To help reach people in need, the group turned to local churches. ACC's Patty Warren explained, "When our group met to discuss the boxes and where we should place them, we decided that one of our focuses should be to engage the faith community in our efforts." She noted that churches have a strong presence in the community and "people in need often turn to them for support."

First United Methodist Church in downtown Marion hosts a food pantry, is the site of regular meals for those in need, and offers a variety of community outreach programs. "...Since the church was already viewed by folks as a location to get food and additional support," Warren said, it seemed "like a logical place to pilot this project. We connected with the church and they agreed to partner with us on this project." In fact, the project coincided with plans the church was already exploring to offer the same kind of ministry, Warren said.

"Since both the ACC and First UMC were thinking along these same lines, we decided that we would keep the One Day at a Time Box outside supplied with items and when

Please see CARE, page 2



### Thank you First Preschool!

The preschool students, their families and the preschool staff collected 24 jars of Peanut Butter for the First Food Pantry. They visited the church office to make their delivery and to let us know that Peanut Butter is yummy. Thank you First Preschool for collecting yummy food for the First Food Pantry

### Do you want to help the First Food Pantry too?

Our Food Pantry is one of the most significant ministries in Marion and Smyth County. Our Food Pantry goes a long way to help people in need and to address food insecurity.



Grants have been plentiful to allow us to purchase and distribute food. However grants do not cover operating expenses such as utilities, gasoline for the truck, maintenance and repairs to the truck, coolers, freezers, fork lift, etc. A gift to help with the normal operating expenses is needed and would be appreciated.



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**Have you noticed the apple tree outside the parlor?**

This is actually a Giving Tree. The apples on the tree list classroom supplies needed at First Preschool. Items such as:

- expo markers
- kinetic sand
- clorox wipes
- blunt tip scissors
- spray sunscreen
- gallon Ziplock bags
- sensitive baby wipes
- colored pencils
- playdoh & playdoh tools
- disposable cups
- books
- elmers glue
- stamp ink pads
- markers
- bandaids
- paper plates
- snacks

Please take an apple if you are able to donate needed supplies to First Preschool. Please leave your donations in the box under the tree. **THANK YOU!**

CARE | CONNECT | CLAIM

# GRIEF SHARE®

Tuesdays, starting January 24  
10:00AM or 5:30PM  
Church Conference Room

**Weekly on Tuesdays, Jan 24 - May 2**  
You have a choice of two sessions:

10:00am - 12:00pm or  
5:30pm - 7:30pm.

We meet in the church conference room at the church office entrance. You are welcome to begin attending our Grief-Share group at any point. Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence.

For information call 276-783-5194 or click on [marionfumc.org/griefshare](http://marionfumc.org/griefshare)

**CARE - From page 1**

the box was empty, there could be a sign that directed people to request these personal items inside the church. In order to sustain this project, both First UMC and ACC will collect donations of personal hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, tissues, feminine hygiene products, etc.)."

The first One Day at a Time Box was placed at FUMC under the church's portico. Last month, the second one was put just outside of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, facing Main Street.



Marion's Tom Hower, an ACC member, noted that these initial boxes are the first steps to see how the endeavor works. "We're experimenting," he said. Moorer added that ACC hopes to expand the effort and place two more boxes in the community this year. Hower, Moorer and Warren encouraged community members to support the project. "We would appreciate any donation of items," Hower said.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the project may connect with Moorer at [ginny.moorer@mountrogers.org](mailto:ginny.moorer@mountrogers.org) or call or text 276-239-0030. Items may also be dropped off at First United Methodist Church or Ebenezer Lutheran Church during business hours.

On behalf of Mount Rogers Community Services, Moorer said the agency "is grateful for partnerships like this where we work together with caring folks and organizations whose passion is to create connections and work together for the health and well-being of every single person in their community."



**UPWARD BASKETBALL GAMES = MINISTRY**

**Sundays at Oak Point Elementary beginning at 1:15pm -5:30pm.**

- How can YOU support this ministry?**
- Come to a game on Sundays.
  - Smile, say "Hi" to people in the stands.
  - If you get a chance to talk to them, let them know you are from First UMC, the church that supports Upward Sports.
  - Tell them "I hope you will visit First UMC soon."

Upward Sports is a ministry that reaches children **AND** their families.

**70** families are participating.

**Many do not belong to or attend church.**

As the families meet more people from First UMC they will see your support for this ministry and your church. This example of support just might get them to start coming to church.

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>Sun</b>	9:00 am	CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP & Children's Church
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
	6:45 pm	First Youth Bible Study
<b>Tues</b>	10:00 am	GriefShare
	5:30 pm	GriefShare
	7:00 pm	Scouts
<b>Wed</b>	8:30 am	Prayer Breakfast @ Atkins Tank
	5:45 pm	First Kids After School
	6:00 pm	Hand Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
<b>Thurs</b>	7:15 am	First Youth Breakfast Club @ McDonald's
	11:30 pm	Food & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Band Practice

**MONTH AT A GLANCE**

- Faith Circle** - 1st Wednesday monthly  
Wednesday, February 1 at 10:00am
- Deborah Circle** - 1st Thursday monthly  
Thursday, February 2 at 6:00pm
- Small Group Bible Study** - 2nd Thursday monthly  
Thursday, February 9 at 10:30am in the Parlor  
This month we will watch and discuss a video on Heaven.
- Grace Circle** - 2nd Tuesday monthly  
Tuesday, February 14 at 6:30pm
- First Food Pantry**  
Tuesday, February 28 at 1:00 pm - Fellowship Hall

**COMMITTEE & MINISTRY MEETINGS**

- Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Monday, February 6 at 5:00pm
- SPR Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, February 16 at 6:30pm
- Finance Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, February 16 at 6:30pm

**FIRST YOUTH SCHEDULE**

- First Youth Breakfast Club  
Thursdays @ 7:15 am McDonald's
- First Youth Bible Study  
Sundays @ 6:45 pm Fellowship Hall

**FIRST KIDS SCHEDULE**

- Upward Basketball Games  
Sundays at Royal Oak Elementary School beginning @ 1pm
- First Kids After School  
Wednesdays @t 3:45pm Fellowship Hall

**Do you have a refrigerator and/or a stove that you don't need?**

We are trying to help someone with these appliances. If you have either appliance please call or email Teri at the church office at 276-783-5194 or [teri@marionfumc.org](mailto:teri@marionfumc.org)

**Online Giving is Here!**

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

Easy. Safe. Secure.

**100% goes to First UMC!**

**Next Steps**

How? Start by going to our website: [marionfumc.org](http://marionfumc.org) Then click on the red button "Next Steps". Click on "Give Now!". You can give your tithe and give to specific ministries. It's easy and quick.

**First with First**

**SEASON 1**

*Part 2*

WHAT UNITES US?

Podcast

**Scouts**

First United Methodist Church has been a proud supporter of BSA Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 93 since 1965!

Scouts meet on Tuesdays at the church!  
[marionfumc.org/scouts](http://marionfumc.org/scouts) for more info go to: [marionfumc.org/scouts](http://marionfumc.org/scouts)

**First Food Pantry**

**Tuesday February 28**

**1:00pm - 4:00pm**

**First United Methodist Church**

**2023 Year to Date Giving & Expense Report**

<b>2023 General Budget:</b>	\$ 485,088.00
Giving Needed Each Month	\$ 40,424.00
Giving Revenues-January 2023	\$ 68,712.66
Operating Expenses-January 2023	\$ 73,963.07
Balance Year to Date	\$ (5,250.41)