



Staying Connected

Newsletter

September 2021



Marion Family,

We are observing a cautious and careful way of doing things at church these days so that we can stay safe and well. But let us remember, we are also seeking to continue with a faithful forward. We continue to plan, implement, live into and consider the following:

How are we learning? This Fall I want us to explore small groups and various types of studies so that we may learn and grow in our understanding of the Bible and our faith. I plan to offer a study in the Fall with a group meeting on a Sunday night and group on a weekday morning.

How are we serving? Part of our life together is to serve our neighbors. The Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are meeting a need in our community. We need servants to step up and take part. Another effort is Celebrate Recovery. This Fall my effort will be to call a group together and explore the possibility of offering Celebrate Recovery.

How are we worshipping together? What is the best way for us to gather and worship the living God? We currently offer two almost identical services. Starting September 12, the format will be the following:

- 9 am - Contemporary service
- 10 am - Sunday school
- 11 am - Traditional service with Children's Church

How are we growing? Here is where we think about fellowship. But here we also think about how we are structured and organized. We will consider moving to One Board model instead of the current multiple committee structure. This is so that we can right size and right align. It is also so that we can be more efficient and effective.

How are we connecting? We are already engaging in Live Streaming. We have enhanced our presence on YouTube and Facebook. In the near future, we will have an upgraded and updated website which is an essential tool in staying informed but also in reaching out.

Our mission is God-given, Jesus centered and Holy Spirit equipped: make disciples.

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We do all that we do and more "so that" we grow in our relationship to the mission and our relationship with Jesus.

Together let's make the faithful forward!

Peace, James



**A new podcast
and coming soon.....a new website.**

First with First is a podcast focusing on the first things of the faith with First United Methodist Church. Featuring the preaching of our Pastor, James Bennington.

Listen to the *First with First* podcast on:
<http://www.firstwithfirst.podbean.com/>

Thank you to Allen Johnsey for setting this up and posting to the podcast weekly. We are excited to add another media opportunity that will reach more and more people. Once we have our new website up and running you will be able to find the podcast and many other new options at:
marionfumc.org.

First Youth

Laura Robinson
Director

Open to all youth
grades 6 - 12

Weekly Bible Study

"Believing Jesus"

Sunday 6:00 - 7:30 pm, includes supper

Breakfast Club

Thursdays - 7:15 am @ McDonald's

First KIDS

Ginger Moore
Director

Open to all kids
grades preK - 5

Starting September 12

First Kids Fun

Sundays: 6:00 - 7:30 pm, includes supper

First Preschool

Teacher
Alicia Martin

3 & 4 year olds
Monday - Friday

Begins, Monday, September 13, 2021

First Music

Jim Regin - Director

Hand Bells

rehearsal is Mondays at 5:00 pm.

If you have seen the Hand Bells in action
you may have noticed the larger bells.

We need someone to play the larger bells.

Stop by one Monday evening and watch
rehearsal. We are learning together and
we will teach you and help you learn. Join
us and join the fun.

Praise Band

rehearsal is Thursdays, at 6:30pm.

We need a drummer and a female vocal-
ist. If you are interested or you know

someone who may be interested in joining
the band, please talk with Jim Regin at
276-783-5194.

FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, September 28

1 - 4 pm



Thursdays - 7:15 am @ McDonald's

FIRST KIDS POOL PARTY



Every
**Wednesday
& Thursday**

2:00 - 4:30 pm

We were overwhelmed at the Clothing Closet. Our summer volunteers had gone back to school and are working longer hours at their job. There were donations needing to be sorted, shelved and organized and we didn't have any "greeters" to open the Clothing Closet. We sent word out for HELP!!!

Thursday, help arrived. Three friends spent the afternoon working to get the Clothing Closet straightened and organized. Thank you for answering the call.

If you would like to be a Clothing Closet "greeter" on Wednesdays and Thursdays, please give the office a call.

Without greeters, we can not open.

If you would like to help, Monday - Thursday; sorting, straightening and organizing, please stop by or call the church office.

September Calendar

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY: Worship

- 9:00 am Traditional Worship
 9:00 am **Contemporary Worship**
Beginning Sept 12
 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Traditional Worship
 11:00 am **Children's Church**
Beginning Sept 12

Morning Classes

- 10:00 am Adult
 Seekers Class - Fellowship Hall
 Teacher - Tony Graham

 10:00 am First Youth - grades 6-12
 Teacher - Mike Albano

 10:00 am First Kids - grades K-5
 Teacher - Ginger Moore

 10:00 am Pre-K I Wonder Class
 Teacher - Amy Martin

Evening Activities

- 6:00 pm First Youth Bible Study
 6:00 pm **First Kids Fun - Beginning Sept 12**

MONDAY:

- 5:00 pm Hand Bell Practice

WEDNESDAY:

- 2:00 pm Clothing Closet
 6:45 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY:

- 7:15 am First Youth Breakfast Club
 10:00 am **Prayer In Action**
Time to pray for First UMC and each other

 2:00 pm Clothing Closet
 6:30 pm Band Practice

Events & Activities:

- Sept 6 **Labor Day - offices closed**
 Sept 13 First Day of First Preschool
 Sept 24 1:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive
 Sept 28 1:00 pm First Food Pantry

Committee & Ministry Meetings

Board of Trustees -
 Monday, Sept 13 at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Finance Committee
 Tuesday, Sept 14 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Staff Parrish Relations Comm.
 Thursday, Sept 23 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Emergency kits needed to help central Tennessee flood survivors

Church groups are asked to begin assembling Cleaning Kits and Hygiene Kits – based on instructions prepared by UMCOR – to help

Holston Conference send more supplies as needed to central Tennessee, as well as to replenish inventory for future disasters.

Kit lists and instructions are on the next page.



Do you have a few minutes each Thursday to pray?

If you do please remember to pray for the staff, ministries and programs at First UMC. We need God's guidance in these challenging times. Here are a couple of requests: First Preschool begins again this month after being closed for over a year. Also the media team is struggling with technical issues. Thanks for your prayers.

Our Giving 2021

General Budget:

Giving Needed Each Month	\$ 43,195.67
YTD Giving as of 07/31/2021	\$ 312,105.03
YTD Expenses as of 07/31/2021	\$ 290,807.23
YTD Surplus as of 07/31/2021	\$ 21,297.80

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YTD Tithe due as of 07/31/2021	\$ 17,423.17
Actual YTD Surplus as of 07/31/2021	\$ 3,874.63

James Bennington - Pastor
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 Music & Worship Arts
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**Holston Conference needs
Flood Buckets (aka Cleaning Kits)
& Hygiene Kits
for the flood victims in Tennessee
And victims of Hurricane Ida**

**Please bring your Cleaning Kits & Hygiene Kits
To the church by Sunday, September 19.**

Cleaning Kit Materials Value: \$75 per kit

- **One five-gallon round bucket with lid**
(14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
 - * No screw lids
 - * May be used, but must be free from all residual product
 - * Advertisement on the outside acceptable
- **One 32–64 oz bottle liquid laundry detergent**
- **One 16–40 oz bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner**
 - * No spray cleaners
- **One 16–34 oz. bottle liquid dish soap**
- **One 4–8 oz. pump spray air freshener**
- **One 6–14 oz. pump spray insect repellent**
(pack of 10–20 wipes also acceptable)
 - * Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- **One scrub brush**
 - * With or without handle
- **18 re-usable cleaning wipes**
 - * No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels
 - * Remove from packaging
- **Five scouring pads**
 - * No stainless steel or pads with soap in them
 - * Remove from packaging
- **36–50 clothespins**
- **One 50–100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)**
- **24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33–45 gallon sizes)**
 - * Remove from packaging
- **Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks**
(1–3 mm thickness)
 - * No surgical masks Last updated September 2019
- **Two pairs kitchen gloves**
 - * Durable for multiple uses
 - * Remove from packaging
- **One pair work gloves**
 - * Cotton with leather palm or all leather

Assembly Directions

- Place all liquid items on the bottom of the bucket.
- Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items.
- Scouring pads and trash bags can be separated in order to fit all items in the bucket.
- Clothespins may also be placed in a small re-sealable bag.
- Secure the lid on the filled bucket.

Important Notes

- All items must be new with the exception of the bucket and lid.
- All cleaning agents must be in liquid form. No powders are accepted.

- If items have been omitted, label bucket. Please indicate which items are missing
- Sponges have been removed from the list of supplies due to the challenge of locating the non-cellulose sponges that prevent mildew. Non-cellulose sponges will be added to each bucket upon arrival at the affiliate warehouse.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols

Instructions for Packing

- Packed buckets cannot exceed 70 pounds
- Please include \$3 per bucket for the cost of sponges and shipping.

Hygiene Kit Materials Value: \$12 per kit

- **One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)**
 - * No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **One washcloth**
 - * No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **One comb**
 - * Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
 - * No pocket combs or picks
 - * Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- **One toenail or fingernail clipper**
 - * No emery boards or metal nail files
- **Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)**
 - * No Ivory or Jergen's soap
 - * Do not remove from packaging
- **One adult toothbrush**
 - * Do not remove from packaging
 - * Personal advertising not acceptable
- **10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)**
 - * Common household bandages acceptable
- **One one-gallon size re-sealable bag**

Instructions for Packing

- Lay hand towel flat on a table.
- Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
- Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
- Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
- Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
- Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.
- Please include \$3 per bucket for the cost of sponges and shipping.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.