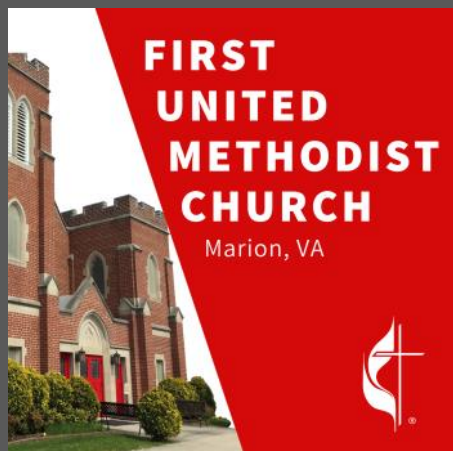


# STAYING CONNECTED NEWSLETTER



March 2021



## FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING CLOSET

"My kids are going to be so excited. They've been wearing the same clothes to school everyday."

By: Teri McCall, Admin Asst.

This statement, from a mom who came to the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet in February, made me stop in my tracks. If this mom and her family were the only ones who benefited from the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet it is worth all of our effort.

Don't worry, she was not the only family who went home with food and clothing. Thankfully this mom went home with a large box of food and several bags of clothing for her family. She thanked every volunteer she met and she left with a smile on her face.

Thank you. You made this possible. Your time, contributions, clothing donations, food donations and your prayers for these ministries makes this all possible. Together, we are helping people in our community. Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ reaching out with love and a smile.

### FUMcares

My family really enjoyed the Ingles fried chicken. It was delicious and your kindness and generosity was very appreciated.

*Thanks again, Wendy Howell*

### March Committee Meetings

**Finance Committee via Zoom**  
Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm

Please contact the committee Chairperson if you have not received an email by the date of your meeting.



### IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

Thursdays - Beginning March 18  
5:15 - 6:00 pm

**In-Person:** maximum children allowed - 10  
The first 10 children registered, each week, will join Ginger in the Fellowship Hall.

**March 11 - JAM registration opens for in-person**  
Text Ginger Moore at 276-780-9701 to register.

**Virtual Zoom: will also continue** to be available for any children who can not attend in-person. If you need a Zoom link text Ginger at 276-780-9701.

# Lent

a deliberate and intentional  
time to draw close to God.

So it is we are in the season of Lent. We remember that Lent is a deliberate and intentional time to draw close to God. It is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter beginning with Ash Wednesday. It is a time to reflect on what God has done; what God is doing and what God will do.

One of the traditional practices of Lent is *fasting*. Matthew 4:1-11 says that Jesus spent forty days fasting in the wilderness and afterwards "he was starving."

Fasting is, as a follower of Jesus: intentionally withholding something we would normally partake in (normally food) for the purpose of creating space in our lives to feast on the presence of Jesus "directly."

It is holding to the truth that God's resources meet our needs and in "making ourselves weak" we can know and receive the strength and power of God (2 Cor 12:9-10).

In fasting, we place ourselves in the way of grace by withdrawing our reliance on earthly things so that we can feast on God's presence and power.

Here is a twist, a modern practice on fasting, from the words of Pope Francis:

- Fast from hurting words ...  
and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness ...  
and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger ...  
and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism ...  
and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries ...and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints ...  
and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures ...and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness ...  
and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness ...  
and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges ...and be reconciled.
- Fast from words ...  
and be silent so you can listen.

Together let us keep a good and holy Lent.  
Peace, James



**Holy Week  
2021**

Palm Sunday	March 28
Maundy Thursday	April 1
Good Friday	April 2
Easter Sunday	April 4

Plans will be posted soon.



**CHURCH WEEK**  
SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS

**SUPPORT US**

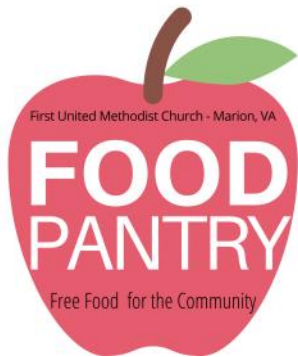
March 14th - March 27th, Rural King will donate 10% of your purchase to the Christian organization of your choice! Choose us! Upload your receipts to show your support!

All receipts must be uploaded to [www.ruralking.com/churchweek](http://www.ruralking.com/churchweek) by April 1, 2021.

Shop at Rural King or at  
[www.ruralking.com](http://www.ruralking.com)  
between  
March 14-27, 2021  
**SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS.**

Upload your qualifying receipts to  
[www.ruralking.com/churchweek](http://www.ruralking.com/churchweek) by April 1.

Choose First UMC-Marion, VA  
First UMC will receive 10% of your purchase.



**Tuesday - March 23 1-4 pm**

Volunteers are needed weekly to help sort and package clothing. Monday - Thursday, 9am - 5pm. After 5 pm and Saturdays are also available. Please call 783-5194 if you prefer to come in the evening or on Saturday.



**Thank you to the First UMC Youth** for joining in on the SOUPER BOWL of Caring on Super Bowl Weekend. This photo is just some of the food that was donated and given to the FUMC Food Pantry. They also raised \$356 that has also been given to the FUMC Food Pantry.



**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**Friday - March 5, 2021  
2pm - 6 pm  
At First UMC  
Fellowship Hall**

### Our Giving 2021

#### General Budget:

Giving Needed Each Month	\$ 43,195.67
YTD Giving as of 01/31/2021	\$ 108,730.00
YTD Expenses as of 01/31/2021	\$ 45,954.66
YTD Surplus as of 01/31/2021	\$ 62,775.34
YTD Surplus as of 01/31/2021	\$ 62,775.34
YTD Tithe due as of 01/31/2021	\$ 10,873.00
<b>Actual YTD Surplus as of 01/31/2021</b>	<b>\$ 51,902.34</b>



### NEW Bible Study Library is OPEN at First UMC

We have a lot of learning material for all ages. Groups are not currently meeting in-person at the church. But if you have a group that is meeting off site or virtually, these materials are available you. Come take a look and see if there is something you can use.

*THANK YOU Debbie Gollehon for all of your time painting the new shelves and organizing the materials.*

### Upper Room Daily Devotionals

Upper Room daily devotionals are available at the Sanctuary doors and outside the church office. You can pick up an Upper Room on Sundays or during the week at the Church Office. If you prefer to stay in your vehicle, just give us a call at 276-783-5194 and we will be glad to bring a copy to your vehicle.

### Join with us on Zoom

#### Sunday School classes

Adult:	11:30am	Seekers Class
		Teacher - Tony Graham
	12:00 pm	First Friends Class
		Teacher - Brian Cregger
Youth:	10:00 am	Teacher - Mike Albano
		Youth - grades 6-12
Children:	11:15 am	Teacher - Ginger Moore
	11:40 am	Pre-K
		K-5

#### Children's Weekly JAM Zoom & In-Person

Thursday	Teacher - Ginger Moore
5:30 pm	Grades: pre-K thru 5

If you want to join a Zoom activity please text Ginger Moore at 276-780-97101 and request a Zoom link be emailed to you. If you would like to register your child for the in-person weekly JAM please text Ginger Moore at 276-780-9701.

**James Bennington** - Pastor  
jlb@marionfumc.org

**Denton Staley** - Program Dir.  
denton@marionfumc.org

**Jim Regin** - Director of Music & Worship Arts  
jim@marionfumc.org

**Laura Robinson** - Youth Director & Preschool Director  
laura@marionfumc.org

**Ginger Moore** - Children's Director  
ginger@marionfumc.org

**Lisa Moore** - Business Admin.  
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**Teri McCall** - Admin. Asst.  
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