

the *Beacon*

*First United Methodist Church
Marion, NC*

 **APRIL**

2020

*Keep Moving, Keep Making
Keep Ministering*



Dear Friends of Marion First UMC,

Things have really changed in a month. We would like to share how we are adapting to the situation. You may have wondered why the daycare is still open while schools and colleges are not gathering. Schools and colleges are continuing online, which is not an option for child care. Our daycare operates under state governance and they want the daycare to stay open so that it may provide care for children of essential needs workers like health care, first responders, medical supply chain etc. We have been able to stay open also because our suppliers continue to deliver the basic needs to run the operation. The daycare is following the directives of the NC DHHS as they are issued.

Church events are cancelled until the governor's orders relax, which includes no groups over 10. Funerals and weddings or other worship services that stay under that number may gather so long as 6 foot social distancing is maintained.

Charitable organizations that provide assistance may continue to operate. Our Make An Impact work continues. Though schools are closed, they are serving lunches and Marion Elementary continues to share backpack food that we prepare.

Our staff hours may be more erratic, but in order to continue the work of emergency bill assistance some staff will be temporarily taking on the work of the committee. We expect an increase in need. Jerri and Sharon will be taking assistance applications under the portico on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00am for benevolence emergencies and Beth will help process them.

We ended the month of March with all the obligations met except apportionments and still had \$4.50 in the operating account until the mailman arrived. Thank you for remembering to share your offerings that way and we will be checking the mail daily.

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Also, in an effort to aid our congregation in health or medical needs, Jerri Young and Sharon Rayburn are willing to pick up groceries and prescriptions for those who may need them delivered. Please contact Jerri at 828-273-8073 or Sharon at 828-442-1931 if you have any needs.

I will be striving to share a message each week on the church Facebook page. I will record it Sunday morning and have it posted by 11. It was an adventure getting the first one posted but I look forward to sharing Palm Sunday with you this week.

We ended the Month of March with all the obligations met except apportionment.

Our cleaning needs have gone down, but sanitizing has increased and we are doing small maintenance jobs as well. We will add, subtract, and adapt as things continue to change. Let us all pray for one another.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Warren and Staff

Jerri has made a Sunday devotional for youth available through the **Marco Polo app**. She has been in contact with youth about downloading the app and joining the 412 Youth members. Please encourage your teens and pre-teens to download the app and join in group conversations. This provides an opportunity for youth to stay connected to each other and to fellowship in Christ. Children can also be a part of this if parents are interested. If you have any questions, please contact Jerri.

All previously planned Youth and Children's activities are postponed, and future dates will be announced as public health status updates continue to be reported.



Applications for the **William Zachary Memorial Scholarship** and the **Grayson Tanner McGuire Scholarship** are now available in the church office for high school seniors and college students.

Applications are due in by May 7.

Financial Report 2020

Offering for March

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Designated donations | \$1,578 |
| ~~~~~ | |
| Operating Income | \$18,765 |
| Monthly Goal | \$26,154 |
| Month to Date | \$18,765 |

(72% of Monthly Goal)

Financial Reports are available in the business office

*Dear First United Methodist,
We would like to thank you so much for your generous donation. The men, women, and children are very thankful for your help. We appreciate all you do. May God richly bless you always.*

Sincerely,

Sabra Rock

Executive Director,
McDowell Mission Ministries

April Birthdays

April 4 Trevor Myers
April 6 Caleb Smith
April 9 Bill Ross
April 10 Quintin Wilson
April 12 Lou Godfrey
April 14 Brenda Salsman
April 15 Angie Hines
April 18 Chris Simolke

April 23 Phillip Tate
April 25 Ernie Whichard
April 26 Krinn Evans
April 27 John Cross
Lee Sisk
April 28 Jan Goodson
April 29 Phil Buchinger
Maggie Buckner



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A Lighthouse guiding people in Worship, Spiritual Growth, and Service.