

the *Beacon*

*First United Methodist Church
Marion, NC*



2020

*Keep Moving, Keep Making
Keep Ministering*



Dear Friends Of Marion First UMC

You are probably spending time differently these days than usual. Maybe you are reading a good book. You could read the Good Book. I have a suggestion or two for that since plans to read it through from Genesis to Revelation frequently don't get completed.

One way is to pick a gospel and read it through from first chapter to last. Hopefully it will all be familiar, but we usually read short sections at a time. Actually reading a gospel in one or two sittings gives you a wholistic picture painted by each author of the life of Jesus that is missed when chopped up in to bits and pieces.

The gospel of John was written in a more devotional style with long sections for each scene. The Last Supper lasts for several chapter in John's retelling. If you like to use a highlighter count how many times he uses the word believe. Matthew, Mark, and Luke share source material together and most scenes are bite sized making them easier to teach and preach from. There are differences in style and emphasis even when they share the same or similar story.

If I were to pick a letter to read that I think is really good it might sound like saying that others are bad, but here's my favorites. Philippians or Ephesians are shorter reads. Interesting factoid the letters of Paul are not arranged chronologically but according to length with the pastoral letters first then the personal letters.

Romans is the longest of Paul's letters. I took a course on Romans taught by a well respected scholar and we asked how to prepare for the final exam. Much to our surprise he didn't recommend digging deep and reading notes on his lectures. Instead he recommended seeing how many times we could read the letter the night before the exam. Romans gets easier to read the more often you go through it but I would recommend a modern translation.

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James is a great letter loaded with practical advice for living a life of faith. It may have been a model sermon shared by the brother of Jesus. Many times I have thought about sharing it word for word as the Sunday message. I always chicken out because I can't imagine stepping on everyone's toes on the same day. You are a better person than I am if you can read James and not say such a couple of times.

There are many different ways to read the Bible, end to end, topically, prophetically, and prayerfully, but the best way is to read it often.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Warren

Happy Birthday, Marion FUMC!

As you know, we usually celebrate the church's birthday the third Sunday in May. At this point in time, we are not sure if we will get to have the actual celebration. It may have to be postponed to a different time, but we still have a birthday wish list of the things the church needs. Below is a list of some of those always needed items:

- **Paper towels**
- **Lint-free dish towels**
- **Napkins for special occasions**
- **Sink Soaps**
- **Room spray**
- **Family size tea bags and packets of lemonade**
- **Glass pitcher for Parlor kitchen**
- **Regular coffee for office coffee maker**
- **Creamer and stir sticks**
- **Dawn dish washing liquid**
- **#5 leads for sanctuary pencils**
- **Live flowers for pots outside of Fellowship Hall**
- **2 ferns to go into pots outside of Parlor hallway (outside)**
- **Simple door wreaths**
- **Crosses for table decorations**



If you can help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated!



The beautiful wreaths adorning our front doors are given to the Glory of God by Kathy and Mike Rabb, Sandra and Gene Brown.



Graduation Sunday

The tentative date for Graduation Sunday is

Sunday, June 7

**Our 2020 High School Graduates
are:**

Olivia Bell

Ben Kagan



We're Proud of You!



May Birthdays

May 1	Ben Kagan Everett McCartha	May 12	Daniel Simolke
May 2	Carrie Atkins Ginny Rhodes	May 14	Anjanette Myers Ryan Smith
May 3	Kathy Roberts	May 15	Allecyn Griffin
May 4	Julian Austin Howard Baker Jill Young	May 18	Dylan Kagan
May 5	Chelsea Koon	May 23	Tessa Ross
May 6	Teagan Myers	May 25	Tony Long Katherine Ross
May 10	Kevin Austin	May 26	Mark Miller
May 11	Michelle Fowler Shirley Buchinger Ethan Watkins	May 27	Ronnie Watkins
		May 28	Scarlett Rhodes
		May 29	Diane Judd
		May 30	Tom Atkinson



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