

MARCH  
2024



Marshall United Methodist Church

The Circuit Writer

NEWSLETTER

## MONTHLY MESSAGE from the PASTOR

Dear Beloved,

Greetings of grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As of right now, we are about two weeks into our Lenten journey. Lent is a time when we prepare our hearts for reflection and repentance. We start this preparation on Ash Wednesday, when we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our mortality. As we hear the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe the Gospel," we are reminded that this world will come to an end, and we need to give more thought to what comes at the end of this earthly life. That is eternal life. Ashes are also a sign of our need for repentance and acknowledgement that we are sinners, falling short of the glory of God, and the need to be saved by God. Sin is a part of our human nature. Brokenness is our human condition, and thus we **NEED** Jesus in our lives.

Beloved, we need to confess our sins and sinfulness and to seek God to ask God's forgiveness. We need to continue to trust and lean into God's grace. And Beloved, Lent gives us the space and the intentionality to do just that. I am encouraging you to continue down this road for the remainder of Lent. Do not worry if you have not kept up with your devotion through Lent. Now is the time to restart for the rest of the forty days. Here is a prayer from John Wesley that might help you.

*O Merciful Father, do not consider what we have done against you; but what our blessed Savior has done for us. Don't consider what we have made of ourselves, but what He is making of us for you, our God. O that Christ may be "wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption" to every one of our souls. May His precious blood cleanse us from all our sins, and your Holy Spirit renew and sanctify our souls. May He crucify our flesh with its passion and lusts and cleanse all our brothers and sisters in Christ across the earth. Amen.*

*Blessings - PJ*

Lent IS A TIME TO  
GROW  
CLOSER TO JESUS

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." John Wesley*

Pastor John Rowe . 703-357-5446 . johnrowe@vaumc.org . www.marshallumc.org . www.facebook.com/MarshallVAUMC

# MUMPS - PRESCHOOL POST



School days are moving along beautifully at MUMPS. Augmenting daily routines are special events. This month, we will have several very special guests including a firefighter and a representative from the Sheriff's Office coming in to talk with our kids. March will be a very important month when we'll be celebrating books and the importance of reading. There will be a field trip to the John Marshall Branch of Fauquier Public Library. Our goal is to read 500 books between school and home; and yes, books that our parents read will count toward our total.

When we reach our goal, it's ice cream party time! We also have special "Spirit Days" planned for each Friday during the month. And our Trike-a-Thon is coming up

Friday, March 22nd at 11:00 in the mini-hall! Thanks to dedicated staff, volunteers, board

members, and many others, our church preschool provides valuable learning and growth opportunities for children and families in our community.

If you or anyone you know can *substitute* when teachers are out or can *volunteer* to simply *read books* or *do art projects*, please let us know. We will also be looking for a special person with a love for kids to hire in place of Ms. Ruth who is currently volunteering as interim director. If you know anyone (preferably not a MUMC church member) who would make an exceptional candidate to be our *preschool director* next year, please spread the word to help in our recruitment efforts.

For now, any needs, enrollments, inquiries, or questions can be emailed to [mumps@marshallumc.org](mailto:mumps@marshallumc.org). There is more information about the preschool on the church website as well. Much gratitude to everyone for supporting MUMPS as we serve the children!

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14*

## UMWiF at MUMC

### What do all those letters mean?

Clue: If you're *female*, come find out at our monthly women's group meetings on the first Saturdays of each month at 9am; although this Saturday 3/2 we will attend the prayer breakfast at Front Royal UMC. Anytime, just ask the lovely ladies at church about how to get involved in fellowship and fun events!

Participate in any or all of the good stuff coming up including Easter activities, Sunrise Service, our women's retreat in April, or graduation and Mother's Day celebrations happening in May with spring fast approaching again.

What it all means: *faith, hope, and love in action* thanks to the participation of the wonderful women at our church!



United Methodist Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

## MARCH birthdays & anniversaries

- 2 – Casey Barr
- 10 – Joey Bersack
- 11 – Marty Wyne
- 11 – JR Sweeney
- 12 – Gabriel Egeland
- 12 – Linda Bekermeier
- 17 – Jane Eickhoff
- 19 – Bruce Smith
- 20 – Melanie Brown
- 20 – Ralph Eickhoff
- 20 – Chip Brown
- 20 – Dustin Hill
- 27 – Syd Stewart
- 28 – DeeDee Clark
- 29 – Skip Atkins
- 31 – Doug Stewart

As updates to our celebration rosters are underway, please email any **APRIL** birthdays or anniversaries you'd like posted next month to [admin@marshallumc.org](mailto:admin@marshallumc.org).

# MISSION & OUTREACH



## GIVING

Please remember that our church's missions and expenses require your support! You can *mail* in your donations anytime to the church at *MUMC PO Box 144, Marshall, VA 20116*; or simply leave gifts in the *offering plate at services*. (The "give" button on the website is under repair.)

We routinely donate 10% of general funds received to local non-profit charitable organizations as we "share God's gifts." Thanks to everyone's generosity in the congregation, contributions have a high impact in our community. Check out the SGG bulletin board outside the sanctuary to see notes of appreciation continually received.

## PRAYER

If you have or are aware of prayers to be shared outside of Sunday services, please direct them to:

Pastor John Rowe at [johnrowe@vaumc.org](mailto:johnrowe@vaumc.org) or 703-357-5446; and/or [prayers@marshallumc.org](mailto:prayers@marshallumc.org).

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## MISSION

The Kraig Kelican Memorial Scholarship has been established through collaboration of his family members, friends, the Fauquier High School community, and his former classmates in honor of the past FHS principal who died from injuries sustained in a car accident in September.

If you would like to make a contribution to this scholarship fund, you can send a check:

*payable to "NPCF"*

*with "Kraig Kelican Memorial Scholarship"*  
*noted in the memo line to*

*Northern Piedmont Community Foundation*  
*PO Box 182*  
*Warrenton VA 20188.*

The scholarship, managed and administered through the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation, will be available to graduating FHS students this year whose applications are selected for good academic standing and a record of school or community engagement.

## SERVING in MARCH:

### Worship Leaders:

March 3 - Laurie Bersack  
March 10 - Bob Lambert  
March 17 - Betty West  
March 24 - Joe Bersack  
March 31 - Cheryl Kowalczyk

### Communion Steward:

Kezia Glascock

### Counters:

March 3 - Debbie Machamer & Betty West  
March 10 - Cathy Lambert & Joe Bersack  
March 17 - Bob Lambert & Wendy Emery  
March 24 - Jeff Machamer & Terri Hill  
March 31 - Laurie Bersack & Cheryl Kowalczyk

# Covenant Discipleship at Marshall UMC

contributed by Terri Hill

## Covenant Groups at Marshall

What is a Covenant Group? I have heard this question often and asked myself that a lot! The group is really whatever you want to make it.

Its foundation is a group of 3 to 5 committed people who have a desire to come together to talk about where God is in their lives.

It is not just an accountability group – it is a group to help grow your faith. Faith and God are the focuses. The group is completely confidential and very close. The group can help deal with seeking God and celebrating when you see Him, as well as supporting you when you may not be seeing Him.

Other than that, the get-togethers are kept to a 60-90 minute time frame beginning and ending with prayer.

I can say what it is not. It is not a gripe session or a gossip session. There are no strict rules about what happens, but whatever happens is within God's framework of love and purposed to give God glory.

I encourage 3 or 4 of you to try it out. You can meet monthly, weekly, in person, over zoom, or even text. There really are no rules for the logistics. It is more about wanting to be with people who share your faith and who you can comfortably talk with about joys, concerns, doubts, and questions.

It is definitely a John Wesley/Methodist kind of 'thing,' and I am sure he would expect us all to be in some kind of covenant group to help us grow our faith.

Maybe you are in a group like this and don't even realize it! Just think about it and pray about it. There is always time and room for some God-talk.

If you need structure to get started, there is a covenant worksheet to help you discuss what you want the group to be. I am happy to share this with anyone or to just sit and talk about it with anyone.

I look forward to each of my group's meetings and always feel refreshed afterward. I wish you the same peace, growth, and joy from covenant.

I am always available to help answer questions:  
[terrih57@msn.com](mailto:terrih57@msn.com) 540-270-3068.

## Summary

- 3-5 people meet
- 60-90 minute gatherings generally
- any form of meeting will work
- any frequency is acceptable
- to identify where you see and feel God in your everyday life with the support of a tight-knit group



# God's **MARCH**ing Orders

Realize the Bible is life's best instruction manual you will ever find.  
Take for instance these marching orders found in Romans:

## **ROMANS 12**

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**1** And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**2** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**3** Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

**4** Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,

**5** so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

**6** In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

**7** If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.

**8** If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

**9** Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

**10** Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

**11** Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

**12** Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

**13** When God's people are in need, be ready to help them.

Always be eager to practice hospitality.

**14** Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.

**15** Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

**16** Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

**17** Never pay back evil with more evil.

Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.

**18** Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

**19** Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God.

For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD .

**20** Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."

**21** Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

## 2024 Marshall Leadership

**Church Council Chair:** Cathy Lambert

**Church Council Committee:** Cliff Barr, Joe Bersack, Laurie Bersack, Amy Glascock, Candy Glascock, Terri Hill, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Debbie Machamer, Jeff Machamer, Amy Taylor, DeAnna Taylor

**Lay Leaders:** Joe Bersack, DeAnna Taylor

**Lay Servants:** Laurie Bersack, Terri Hill, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Amy Taylor

**Lay Member to Annual Conference:** Michelle Rowe

**District Steward:** Wendy Emery

**SPRC Chair:** Terri Hill

**SPRC Committee:** Cliff Barr, Lisa Burnside, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Amy Taylor

**Recording Secretary:** Candy Glascock

**Finance Chair:** Debbie Machamer

**Finance Committee:** Joe Bersack, Amy Glascock, Terri Hill, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Cathy Lambert, Jeff Machamer, DeAnna Taylor

**Financial Secretary:** Cheryl Kowalczyk

**Treasurer:** DeAnna Taylor

**Trustee Chair:** Jeff Machamer

**Trustee Committee:** Phil Harris, Rick Kowalczyk, Bob Lambert, Jeff Machamer, Rich Umbel

**Worship Chair:** Cathy Harris

**Worship Committee:** Candy Glascock, Terri Hill, Bob Lambert, Amy Taylor, DeAnna Taylor, Ruth Umbel

**Older Adult Ministries, Memorials:** Doris Edmonds

**Children's Ministry:** vacant

**Christian Education Committee:** Terri Hill, Bonnie Murphy, DeAnna Taylor, Pastor John

**Family Life Ministries Chair:** Kezia Glascock

**Family Life Ministry Committee:** Candy Glascock, Pastor John

**Mission Committee:** Amy Glascock, Bob Lambert, Cathy Lambert

**Outreach:** Laurie Bersack

**Communications:** Marti Church, Terri Hill

**Nominations Chair:** Pastor John

**Nominations Committee:** Joe Bersack, Christine Burnham, Smokey Jacobs, Bonnie Murphy, DeAnna Taylor, Marge VanDeman

**Safe Sanctuaries:** Pastor John

**Technology Chair:** Pastor John

**Technology Committee:** Bob Lambert, Debbie Machamer, Michelle Rowe, Amy Taylor

**UMWIF Chair:** Terri Hill

Serve.



OPEN  
HEARTS.  
OPEN  
MINDS.  
OPEN  
DOORS.

admin@marshallumc.org  
contacts: 540-364-2506  
Marshall VA 20116  
PO Box 144  
mailing:  
Marshall VA 20115  
8405 West Main Street  
location:

WORSHIP SERVICE  
• 10:30 - 11:30am  
Fellowship & Coffee Time

• 10 - 10:30am  
(Adults & Kids)  
Sunday School

• 9 - 10am  
CHURCH  
METHODIST  
UNITED  
MARSHALL



# Marshall United Methodist . Circuit Writer Newsletter . March 2024 Calendar

SUN 25	MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI Mar 1	SAT 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Tir</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Lenten Dinner</li> <li>7pm Lenten Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> </ul>		Women's Prayer Breakfast in Front Royal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Tir</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> <li>11:30am Missions Mtg</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Lenten Dinner</li> <li>7pm Lenten Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Monthly Luncheon</li> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Tir</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:45pm HOA mtg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Lenten Dinner</li> <li>7pm Lenten Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Tir</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Lenten Dinner</li> <li>7pm Lenten Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm MUMPS Board Mtg</li> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> <li>7pm Council Mtg</li> </ul>		
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Tir</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Lenten Dinner</li> <li>7pm Lenten Study</li> </ul>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> <li>7pm Maundy Thurs Service</li> </ul>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
<b>EASTER</b> <b>Sunrise Service &amp; Breakfast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>	Apr 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm WEEKLY Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Monthly Luncheon</li> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Women's Meeting</li> </ul>