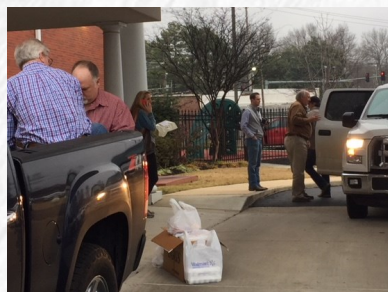


MUMC *Message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER / JANUARY 2018

Hope for the Holidays

MUMC Youth put together the 10th annual Hope for the Holidays in December. Marion school counselors provided names of families in need and the Youth, with the help of the congregation, delivered toys, food, and clothing on Christmas Eve morning. This year the event served 110 families. Thank you to everyone who helped make Hope for the Holidays 2017 a success!




*The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.
Proverbs 22:9*

Church Events

- Jan 11, Jan. 18 & Jan. 25
BSF (Bible Study Fellowship)
6:20 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Ed. Building, Upstairs
Use entrance under canopy
- Jan. 7, Jan 14, Jan 21 & Jan 28
Prayer Service 9:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

Sunday School 9:30-
10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service 10:45 a.m.
Sanctuary
- Jan. 9 / Rebecka-Ruth Circle
Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 10 / Chili Cook-off and
Cookie Challenge
- Jan. 15 / Office closed -
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 21 / Sisters Circle in UMW
Room 5:00 p.m.



Change the former way of life that was part of the person you once were, corrupted by deceitful desires. Instead, renew the thinking in your mind by the Spirit and clothe yourself with the new person created according to God's image in justice and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24



Pastor's Pen

In 2017, many members of the congregation participated in reading the entire Bible with a plan provided by the church. For 2018, I would like us to continue to read the Bible, but the church is providing three different plans instead of one.

The first plan is the M'Cheyne Reading Plan. This plan was created by the Scottish pastor, Robert Murray M'Cheyne, in the 1800's for his congregation. The plan takes the reader through the Old Testament once and the New Testament and Psalms twice over the course of the year. I know this can sound like a lot, but it takes only about 20 minutes or less a day. The plan is one of my personal favorites because there is a reading from four different parts of the Bible every day.

The second plan is a modified M'Cheyne Plan created by a Presbyterian pastor named Don Carson. In Carson's plan the New Testament and Psalms are read through once every year, but the Old Testament is read over the course of two years. This is a very practical plan that I think many people would enjoy and not feel overwhelmed by.

The last plan offered is a Chronological Plan. The plan takes you through the Bible chronologically so you get a feel for the timeline of God's Word. This plan can be fun because you do not always read through an entire book of the Bible in order. For example, the first three days of this plan are from Genesis and then you move to the book of Job for the creation story contained therein. Reading the Bible this way can answer a lot of questions people have particularly about the Old Testament.

All of these plans are available on the round table in the Narthex or you can do simple searches online to find them. However, do not feel obligated to use one of these plans, they are simply meant to help, not dictate. One of the things I enjoyed last year was having people tell me they were not going to use the reading plan I suggested because they had a reading plan of their own that they had done for a number of years. The idea is that we stay in the Word and continue to learn.

Before you read the scriptures though I want to provide you with a "prayer for illumination." These are prayers asking for the help of the Holy Spirit to understand God's Word and how it applies to our lives. From our Methodist Tradition Communion Service:

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

May this new year find you blessed and in deep study of the Word of God. I look forward to spending 2018 with you.

Blessings,
Bro. Robert

Bible Challenge 2018

Here are some helpful tips on how to read the Bible to experience God on a deeper, more intimate level. A good place to start is in prayer. Ask God to point you in the right direction, minimize distractions, and focus your heart for the following moments on Him.

Develop A Game Plan

Where do you want to go with God and how much do you want to know? Go on an adventure with God this year! Just like traveling to a new place, beginning a new chapter in encountering God's Word will need some directions. Bro Robert has provided three different study sheets to help guide us with a plan for 2018. You can provide a copy of the study sheets on our website or pick up one in the Narthex on Sunday morning.

As you read through the Bible, write out questions or journal your prayers. This will help you understand what you're reading more intimately and give you space to allow God to use his word to change you. Consider identifying words, phrases, relationships, and biblical connections that stand out. You may also want to practice memorizing key verses. Finally, strive for consistency. Commit to a consistent time each day to read. We all know that if we want to understand the Bible more deeply, we have to read it. And, let's not forget that we're reading it for our hearts and minds to change and be in accordance with his will.

Find A Translation That Makes Sense

All of our reading levels are different. Consider using a translation that might help you understand the text more fully. Some people like to have a companion translation nearby so they can compare between two translations. It's also helpful to have a study Bible because it provides additional references and explanations along the way. For beginners, the King James Version will be a little more challenging in comparison to the New Living Translation or The Message.

The Atmosphere Matters

Create a comfortable environment for yourself that increases the opportunity to connect with God. The atmosphere matters when it comes to focusing. This could be a challenge to eliminate the number of distractions during this time. Cellphones, laptops, watches, children, television, the dog, literally anything that can draw your attention and focus will become a distraction if we let it. The more distractions we eliminate the louder we can hear God's voice.

Final Thought

Having the right motivation will allow you will go as deep into the Bible as you want. Let's be honest, we make time for the things that we are passionate about or enjoy doing in our lives. Reading the Bible may not be one of them but that doesn't mean that it can't be or that it shouldn't be, we just have to put a little extra effort towards it this year.



Thursday Night Bible Study starts back Jan. 11

The Bible Study Fellowship will start back and continue studying the Gospel of Romans on Thursday, January 11, 2018. Men and women all over the world are doing the same study and learning the same things each week. Our MUMC Bible Study Fellowship group is for men and women. Childcare is provided for children in the Children's Area. BSF meets at MUMC on Thursday nights from 6:20 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Classes for both men and women will be held upstairs in the Education Building. You will need to enter the church through the entrance under the canopy located in the main parking lot. Once inside the building, you can either take the elevator or stairs to the second floor. We would love for you to join us as we study about God who is faithful, steadfast, our refuge and strength, the Word, and the Truth. Contact Sarah Catherine Davis for more information at marionumckids@gmail.com.



IT'S A COOK-OFF!!

Let's kick off the first Wednesday Night Dinner of 2018 with a BANG!

Please join us for the MUMC New Year Chili Cook Off and Cookie Challenge.

Bring your best tasting chili and/or homemade cookies to be entered.

Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 in each category.

You do not have to enter the contest to eat dinner that night. Dinner will also include: grilled cheese, cornbread, and all of the fixins, along with extra desserts including cinnamon rolls, tea and water.

Please email Beverly Vaughn @ bvaughn5@comcast.net if interested in entering.

WANTED!!!



**Your Best Bowl
of Chili & Homemade
Cookies**

Date: January 10th
When: 5:50 p.m. in the MUMC Gym
Everyone come, eat and judge!!
Prizes will be awarded for top 3
in each category

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

During the December 17 worship service, the Children's Choir performed "*Christmas Around the World*" under the direction of Blake Owen and Sarah Catherine Davis. Following the worship service, the children had a great time eating cookies before visiting with Santa.

We want to thank those who took the time to make homemade cookies for the children.



MUSIC MINISTRY

The Chancel Choir along with guest performers and musicians presented a musical program, "The Night Before Christmas". The performance featured solo's by Pam Gray, Brittany Bius and John Stotts; duet by Matt Entrekin and Sarah Catherine Davis and marching of the drums for the song the Little Drummer Boy led by Straley Owen. The story was read by Laura Entrekin.

Blake Owen, Director of the choir spent endless hours putting the program together. The choir met every Wednesday for weeks practicing and preparing for the performance and what a performance it was. If you were unable to attend and would like to view the program, please go to

the MUMC website, marionmethodistchurch.com under worship sermons and special events. Thank you to everyone who took the time to put the program together. Great job!



Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

MUMC PRESCHOOL



The children listened intently as Ms. Teresa explains the season of Advent and preparing for the coming of Jesus and celebrating His birth.

Top Right: Preschool in keeping with their Bible verse for the year, God loves a cheerful giver, gave toys to Hope for The Holidays.

Bottom Right: When 4H visited in December, the children talked about emotions and made "calm down" bottles.

Preschool classes will start back on January 9, 2018.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2	Robert B. Cloninger, III John Fogleman	1/11	Diana Lugar
1/3	Conner Catt Bubba Cooper Mike Kutscher	1/12	Ann Rogers Chris Ward
1/4	Patsy Catt Anna Rawls	1/13	Carson Smith
1/5	Spencer Morris Dustin Smith Heath Stuckey	1/14	Pam Betts Cheryl Conrad Pam Gray Olivia Harvey Nikki McCarty
1/6	Devon Doyle Abi Grace King Kathryn Perkins Diane Sharpe	1/15	Catt Cole
1/7	Wayne Croom Emerson Davis Jonathan Gill	1/16	Paula Moore
1/8	Michael Altermus Sarah Bolton Linda Coale	1/17	Matthew Coe John Wallace
1/9	John Traugh	1/18	Sarah Bolton Stacy Parker
		1/19	Ryan Carey
		1/20	Patricia Charlton Troy Elizabeth Cole Jackson Lancaster Caylee Grace McCain

Backpack Program

We are continuing the next few months with themes for our Backpack Program.

Jello-O January: Jello or any brand pudding and gelatin cups

Fruit February: Assorted fruit cups

Mac'n Cheese March: Boxes or individual servings of macaroni and cheese

Applesauce April: Snack sized apple sauce

Maybe I Should Eat More Vegetables May: Canned vegetables

1/22	MacKenzie Massey Amelia Stuckey	1/25	Shanna Boney Diane Sain Olivia Walker
1/23	Buster Benton, Jr. Steve Sutton	1/26	Terry Gibbs
1/24	Jeff Johnston	1/27	Matt Moore
		1/30	Jaxson Hinze Weston Hinze

Report from the Trustees

The work to better secure the church has begun. Presently we are planning to have three entrances open on Sunday mornings, but will lock those entrances at 11:00 a.m. We will have the ability to monitor the doors from the information desk. We also will be able to open those particular doors with the touch of a button if for some reason a member or guest is running late for the worship service. The doors to enter through on Sundays will be as follows:

- 1) The doors located at the entrance of the Ed. Hall;
- 2) The doors located at the office entrance off Currie Street, and
- 3) The double white doors located under the steeple.

Issues addressed during past quarter: Large leak outside the sanctuary toward the youth building; replacement of a compressor on one of the HVAC units, repair to the walk-in refrigerator and repair leak in the pastor's office.

Carpet from the office area was removed and new flooring installed as the result of water damage. Thanks to some very generous donations, the office was able to purchase new furniture during this time.

We want to thank Pat Crase and Ellen Whittington for their time serving on the MUMC Trustees Committee. We also want to take this opportunity to welcome Bart Turner and David Wallace as new members and thank Jack Avery for agreeing to serve another term on the committee.

MEMORIALS

IRBY CAMPBELL

Jack and Linda Avery
John and Dawn Brenner
Lee and Robin Fesmire
Frank and Gail Fogleman
Scott and Shireen Fogleman
Tom and Cindy French
John and Char Griffiee
Sandra Hall
Lannie and Holly Lancaster
Bart and Donna Turner
James and Dorothy Sample
Fred and Amelia Stuckey

JOHN VICK


Frank and Gail Fogleman
Judge John and Nancy Fogleman
John and Char Griffiee
Lannie and Holly Lancaster
Bart and Donna Turner
James and Dorothy Sample

DOUG LANDRY

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Craig
Lee and Robin Fesmire
Frank and Gail Fogleman
Judge John and Nancy Fogleman
John and Char Griffiee
Charles and Cathy Horton
Lannie and Holly Lancaster
Gerrye Martine
James and Dorothy Sample
John Robbins Sunday School Class

PRAYER LIST

Eddie Archer, Shirley Archer, Dixie Fair, May Ferguson, James Henderson, Sr., Ashley Jenkins, Margie Woodard Marshall, Richard O'Beirne, Linda Patterson, Connor Scott, Douglas Skipper, Tommy Ward, Sam Watts, Karyn Weaver, Rob Wells, McKenzie West, Terry and Steve Young, The Family of Irby Campbell, The family of John Vick and The Family of Doug Landry.



*God heals the brokenhearted
and bandages up their
wounds.*

Psalms 147:3

January Ushers

David Brick Frank Fogleman

Rich Busby Tony Gardner

Joe Catt Wayne Nelson

VISION STATEMENT

*A church on fire for Jesus Christ,
setting the world on fire for Jesus Christ.*

MISSION STATEMENT

Being disciples. Making disciples.

January Greeters

Seekers and Servers
Sunday School Class

SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 a.m. Prayer Service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Church Staff

Reverend Robert Cloninger
Senior Pastor
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Administrative Assistant
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Cyndi James
Business Administrator
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Blake Owen
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Tim Parker
Youth Director
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LaKeshia Lee
Custodian

Gary Talley
Maintenance

Teresa Gardner
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Elizabeth Williams
Preschool Teacher

Pam Scarbrough
PDO Director/Teacher

Kristi Stotts
PDO Director/Teacher

Gary Wehrum
Recreation Director
gwehrum@gmail.com

Marcia Sutton
Pianist

Debbie Wallace
Organist



Marion United Methodist Church



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