



MUMC *Message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 2018
MARION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Farewell and Best Wishes

Please join us May 16th for our last Wednesday Night Dinner before summer. This will be an opportunity for everyone to have dinner with Bro. Robert and Betsy before they pack up and prepare for their move to Bella Vista, Arkansas.

The food for the evening will be a cookout style with hotdogs, hamburgers, beans and all the fixings.

We will also have a cotton candy machine, popcorn stand and snow cones. In addition, we will have a bouncy house to help keep the children entertained.

Price for the evening will be the usual, \$5.00 per person or \$20 for a family of four or more.

As always, please RSVP with the church office if you are planning to attend. Office phone: 870-739-3434 or

Email: marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com

UMW Women's Luncheon

The UMW will host a women's luncheon with guest speaker Chloe Harrison of CASA on Sunday, May 6, 2018. The event will be held in the gymnasium immediately following the church service. Reservations are required for the caterer.

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, May 2, at 870-739-3434.



Pastor's Pen

For some strange reason I've always loved to research. In college I majored in History because of my love of research. After college I was persuaded to go to my particular seminary because of their huge library dedicated to theology. All of this research creates problems at times. Basically, I over-research things and from time to time I over complicate matters. Throughout the process of my personal Christian walk I've been curious about the faith, prayer, and study life of great Christian thinkers and leaders. A lot of these people that I've studied were known to rise early in the morning. John Wesley and George Whitfield, who are both highly influential to Methodists, were known to rise at 4:00 a.m. so that they could pray. George Whitefield was reported to have grooves on his hardwood floor next to his bed because of all of the time he spent kneeling in prayer. That's pretty intimidating. How can I ever hope to achieve that level of dedication? I've also researched the early Church Fathers. Antony of the Desert gave away all of his money, ate a diet of bread and water, and lived in caves in the desert so that he could pray and keep silence. I don't know that I can keep silence for five minutes, let alone decades. I have also read about the kindness of Francis of Assisi to all living creatures and the zeal of Martin Luther for glorifying God through writing numerous books and preaching six days a week. Again, these guys are hard acts to follow.

I made the mistake of holding myself to the wrong standard, but I think a lot of Christians do the same thing. However, if we start with Jesus as our standard for how we live life then we are free to be ourselves. When we are ourselves we get the great privilege of living as authentic Christians. I'm not saying that we don't have a lot to learn from some of the greats throughout church history. What I am saying is that those "greats" can't be the standard we measure ourselves against. The same as true as modern day saints. Some of us look at other Christians, even grandparents and parents, and feel utterly inadequate in our faith life. We think that if we aren't like other Christians who we see as "having it all figured out" then we are failing. Be authentic in your faith walk. If God would have wanted two of your faith heroes then he would have made two of them, but he didn't. He made you.

When I was going through the ordination process we had a retreat one year at Subiaco, which is a Benedictine Monastery right outside of Paris, Arkansas. I was talking to a room full of monks at one point on the retreat and they talked about one monk that lived in the monastery. Apparently, this monk went to bed at 7:30 p.m. so that he could get up before 3:00 a.m. to pray in the middle of the night when the other monks would be asleep. Here's the thing: the other monks slept better because they knew someone was up praying for them. Further, the other monks were more motivated in early morning prayer because the monk who got up early every day was wide awake and energetic by the time morning church rolled around. But if this monk would have been like all of the other monks, maybe even some of his faith heroes, look at what his community would be missing.

When we aren't authentic our faith community misses out. So what's different about you? Who are you when you are authentic? Who do you inspire or help sleep better at night? My guess is that your strengths, weaknesses and differences balance out another brother or sister in the church. My other guess is that those people you might be kicking yourself for not being more like don't have the same spiritual strengths that you do. Embrace what God has given you.

Meet and Greet Dinner

Brother Andrew Kjorlaug will be joining us Wednesday, May 2, 2018 for our Wednesday Night Dinner. This will be a great opportunity to meet Bro. Andrew.

The meal will be prepared by our youth group. Menu for the evening will be a breakfast bar with the following items being served:

Casseroles, eggs, hashbrowns, pancakes, sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy. There will also be an optional salad bar. Dessert will be served along with tea and water.

Proceeds from the dinner will go to the MUMC Youth Department for their summer trip. Price is \$5.00 per plate or \$20 for a family of four or more. Please RSVP with the church office if you are planning to attend.

Office Phone: 870-739-3434

Office email: marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com

LOST and FOUND ITEMS

We have collected several items that have been left around the church. If you think you've lost or left something, please give the church office a call. Items will be kept through the month of May. Any items that are not claimed will be donated to the Eighth Street Mission.

Wednesday Night Cook-off

These are the winners of the Wednesday Night Dinner Cook-off held April 25, 2018.

Chicken Wings - Bartt Vaughn
Beans-Misty Kennedy
Sauce-Misty Kennedy

Best Pie- Paula Moore
Best cupcake-Susan Hale
Best Misc Dessert-Kristi Doyle

In Addition to the various chicken wing entries, dinner included grilled bbq chicken, beans, Mac and Cheese, potato Salad, and rolls. There was a wonderful selection of desserts.

MUMC is Hiring

Marion United Methodist Church is taking resumes for a part-time Director of Children's Ministries. For more information or to send in a resume contact Robert Cloninger at rcloninger@marion-umc.com. Applications sent via Facebook will be considered.



Confirmation Class 2018

Confirmation is a time of intensive study, instruction, and reflection. Confirmands are required to attend a weekly class for several months, and out of those classes they are only allowed to have two absences. It doesn't end there. Confirmands are also required to work with mentors, which are people in the congregation that help disciple the confirmands. And lastly, confirmands are required to personally explore what they believe and why they believe it. It's almost like a Christian boot camp.

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, the 2018 class of confirmands started the morning off with breakfast in the gym along with their families, mentors and leaders. During this time, each student received a new CSB Bible as well as a stole worn during the confirmation to remember their special moment. During the Sunday Service the confirmands professed their faith to Jesus Christ before the MUMC congregation. We congratulate each of you and can't wait to see the great things you will do as you continue your journey with Christ.



CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Back row: Cross Fogleman, Joseph Hale, Isabella Hinze, Jack Carter
Front Row: Landon Miller, Miller Owen

Preschool

Our preschoolers were busy during the month of April. Miss Arkansas made a special visit to MUMC. During her visit Miss Arkansas read to the children, sang for them and signed autographs. The preschoolers were excited to take her on a tour of our food pantry and tell her the history and progress of our backpack program.



The preschool children led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer during Sunday service on April 15th. Each child that participated received a certificate signed by Bro. Robert.

The preschool still has a few openings for the preschool program starting in August. If you are interested, please contact the preschool or find an application on the church website.



Children's Choir



On Sunday, April 22, the children sang "You are Holy" and "Open Up the Heavens" for their last performance of the school year.

Member Spotlight: Steve Sutton

How long have you been a member of MUMC?

My wife, Marcia and I joined MUMC in 1984, so 34 years.

Tell us about your family.

I have been married to my wife, Marcia Sutton for 43 years. We have three grown children, Nick, Ben and Laura. We have 9 grandchildren.

Tell us about your job.

I am EVP/Chief Credit Officer for Financial Federal Bank in Memphis for the last 22 years.

What are your hobbies?

I love spending time with my kids and grandchildren; playing golf; woodworking and spending time in Florida.

What are you involved in at MUMC?

I am currently on the Finance Committee (past chairman), previously taught junior high Sunday school for 8 years.

What is your favorite thing about our church?

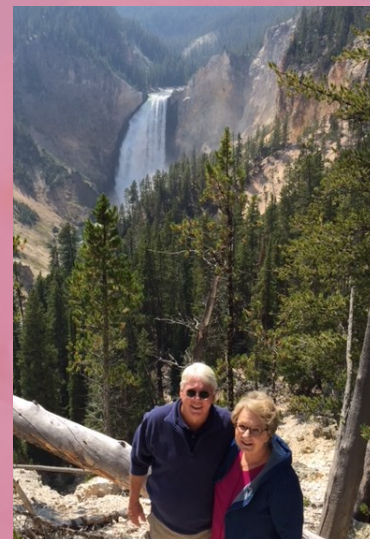
The Church is also home to many of my long time friends, family and colleagues that I enjoy seeing every Sunday; we have great facilities and I love the laidback approach to my spiritual nurturing.

What is your favorite Bible verse? "But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength"

2 Timothy 4:17

What is your favorite worship song?

Sweet Hour of Prayer



Youth Ministry

Our seniors last day of school is quickly approaching. Senior prom is over and final exams are coming to an end with graduation just around the corner. Seniors not pictured are Lily Catt and Jack Wallace.

The seniors and their families will be invited to a luncheon in their honor on June 3, 2018, following the Sunday service.

We would like to congratulate all the seniors on a job well done! Please keep the seniors in your prayers as they prepare for the next journey in their lives.



Grant Benson

Plans to attend a technical school for Welding and obtain a scuba license for a career in underwater welding.



Mallory Caldwell

Plans to attend the University of Arkansas. She will major in Biology.



Connor Catt

Plans to attend Arkansas State University Mid-South to become a history teacher.

NEW COOKBOOK

The MUMC youth and UMW are putting together a new cookbook. They are asking for recipes. Please be sure to submit your signature recipes to Stacy Parker or to the church office. Once the cookbooks are completed, the books will be sold with proceeds going to the youth department. Please email any recipes to Stacy Parker at sparker@msd3.org or marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com



Lillian Fogleman

Plans to attend the University of Arkansas. She will major in Physical Therapy.



Ripp Inman

Plans to attend Maryville University in St. Louis. He will major in Cyber Security.



Payton O'Quinn

Plans to attend the University of Memphis and transfer to Savannah College of Art and Design. She will major in Animation.



Carly Russell

Plans to attend the University of Arkansas. She will major in Nursing.



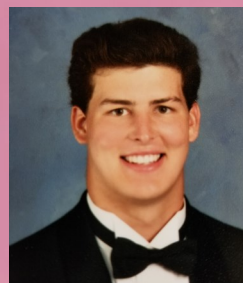
Manning Shidler

Plans to attend the University of Arkansas. He will major in Agriculture Economics and Agri Business.



Ryce Smith

Plans to attend Arkansas State University Mid-South. She is undecided on a major.



Christopher Stuckey

Plans to attend the University of Arkansas. He will major in Food Science with a pre-med track.



Miles Young

Plans to attend the University of Memphis. He will major in Computer Science.

Happy Birthday!

May 1	Ben Sutton Kristin Bolten Robin Phillips James Williams	May 14	Lance Scarbrough
May 2	Heather Holt AbiGail Harlow	May 15	Issabella Harlow
May 4	Will Moore Davis Fowler Landon Miller	May 19	Jennifer Fogleman
May 8	Steven Bius Michael Walker	May 20	Margaret Fogleman
May 9	Brittany Carey	May 21	Woody Trimbell Frances Wallace
May 10	Jan Webb Corbin Kutscher	May 22	Olivia Brick Joseph Laughter Amy Peyton
May 11	Jett Sutton Erin McKewen Caroline Johnston	May 23	Cross Fogleman Claire Catt
May 12	Hanna Betts Dawson Wittington Syndi Landry Dawn Brenner Harris Hale	May 24	Abbie Rawls Luke Kennedy Jack Phillips Amy Simmons
May 13	Nick Sutton Dennis Burns	May 26	Abby Fowler Cheryl Robbins Jack Lane
		May 28	Landon Scarbrough
		May 29	Ella Kennedy Janice Bellis
		May 30	Sam Gerrard
		May 31	Maddie Maranto Rieves Wallace

Church Events

SUNDAYS (Reoccurring events)

- May 6, 13, 20 & 27
Prayer Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 -10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- May 2
Wednesday Night
Communion Service 5:30 p.m.
- May 2 & 16
Wednesday Night Dinner 5:50 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- May 3
BSF (Bible Study Fellowship)
6:20 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Ed. Building, Upstairs
Use entrance under canopy
- May 6 / UMW Luncheon
- May 7 / Martha-Mary Circle
Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- May 8 / Rebecka-Ruth Circle
Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- May 13 / Happy Mother's Day
- May 16 / Preschool Graduation
- May 17 / Last Day of Preschool
- May 17 / Last Day of PDO
- May 28 / Memorial Day / Office Closed

PRAYER LIST

Janice Boyd, Patsy Catt, Worth Eubanks, May Ferguson, Mason Fowler, Wally Fowler, Joey Hopson, Cathy Horton, Ashley Jenkins, Karen Jones, Vickie LaDart, Charlie McNeely, Jim Johnston, Sam Watts and Tim Williamson

May Ushers

Ted Archer	Wayne Nelson
Joe Catt	John Traugh
Frank Fogleman	Bart Turner

May Greeters

Friends & Fellowship
Sunday School Class

May Altar

Flower Calendar

5/6	Open
5/13	Joe Catt
5/20	Shea Hart
5/27	Kelly Fogleman

VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Being disciples. Making disciples.

SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 a.m.	Prayer Service
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
10:45 a.m.	Worship Service



Marion United Methodist Church

Church Staff

Reverend Robert Cloninger
Senior Pastor
rcloninger@marion-umc.com

Sheila Henderson
Administrative Assistant
marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Cyndi James
Business Administrator
cjames@marion-umc.com

Blake Owen
Music Director
blake.owen78@gmail.com

Tim Parker
Youth Director
cattparker@aol.com

LaKeshia Lee
Custodian

Gary Talley
Maintenance

Teresa Gardner
Preschool Director/Teacher
preschool@marion-umc.com

Elizabeth Williams
Preschool Teacher

Pam Scarbrough
PDO Director/Teacher

Kristi Stotts
PDO Director/Teacher

Sarah Catherine Davis
Children's Director
marionumckids@gmail.com

Gary Wehrum
Recreation Director
gwehrum@gmail.com

Marcia Sutton
Pianist

Debbie Wallace
Organist

