

MUMC *Message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2018

Christmas Eve Services / Noon and 6:00 p.m.

MUMC Youth Prepare and Deliver Thanksgiving Meals

The holidays are a unique time of the year which allows us to reach out to others in many ways and display the love of Christ to a watching world. Thanksgiving in particular is a great time to show gratitude for our good fortune by giving to those who are less fortunate. This year our youth stepped up once again by preparing and delivering plate lunches to 100 elderly individuals.

Each year, the youth work with the Arkansas Council on Aging to seek out individuals who, without our assistance, would not enjoy a typical Thanksgiving meal. Our youth met on Wednesday, November 21st at 5:00 pm to begin preparation of the food to be delivered the following day. On Thanksgiving day, the youth pulled together to warm food, prepare plates and deliver the meals to all the individuals on the list by noon.



Hope for the Holidays Shopping List

We are collecting can goods for our families for Hope for the Holidays. If you would like to help, a list of items needed are set out below:

Canned green beans, corn, sweet peas, fruit, soup and spaghetti's .
Peanut butter, jelly, mac n cheese, cereal, saltine crackers and
2 lb. bags of rice.

Youth Scavenger Hunt

The youth participated in a scavenger hunt around the church grounds following their lesson November 4th. Some of the items included a selfie with the MUMC sign outside, a human pyramid with their team, and being a "tree" by a real tree. They also had to count the number of crosses in the sanctuary and number of American flags. And, lots of other fun! They ended with a meal of spaghetti.



Youth Cookbooks

The youth are selling cookbooks with all proceeds going to the Hope for the Holidays program. The cookbooks are available for purchase through any of the youth or in the narthex following Sunday service on December 2, 9 and 16 at a cost of \$15.00. These will make great gifts for those who love to cook.



Pastor's Pen

Why I wait to sing Christmas Hymns

Without fail, every year I have been in ministry there is always a tension around when to start singing Christmas hymns in worship. Some say hold off until Christmas Eve, others say work one in a week, and others say that as soon as December starts so should the Christmas hymns. I know. This is a hot button topic this time of year. Let me give you a quick rundown of how the conversation normally goes.

Church goer: Nice sermon today Pastor.

Pastor: Thank you.

Church goer: And the worship service was great.

Pastor: I'm glad you thought so.

Church goer: Too bad we didn't sing any Christmas hymns, though.

Pastor: But it isn't Christmas yet. We're still in Advent.

Church goer: But it's the Christmas season.

Over the years, whether I was a music minister or pastor, I have had that conversation (or one like it) as a bell weather of the Christmas season. Persons begin decorating for Christmas pretty much the instant the Thanksgiving turkey has grown cold in the refrigerator, if not before. They begin seeing advertisements for Christmas sales and products before their children have finished trick-or-treating, if not before. And they seem to turn their car radios to the Christmas carol station when the first gift has been purchased. Yet, in the church, there is another season which in our secular and modern Christmas has become forgotten and overlooked. It is the Advent or "preparation".

While the commercial society transitions to Christmas seemingly earlier and earlier each year, the Christian calendar marks the beginning of the "Christmas Season" in a somewhat counterintuitive manner. We're asked to wait. And not wait in the DMV, doctor's office, roller coaster line manner. No, we're asked to wait in fervent prayer, meaningful worship, and personal reflection. While we visit stores, set-up trees, decorate our homes, and plan parties, Advent rolls along asking us a different question: how do we prepare for the new hope that Jesus brings? The temptation, however, is there to skip over this question entirely, focusing instead upon the obvious joy of the promised Messiah and not our own internal struggle with its meaning.

Jesus' birth marks the beginning of a new era, one highlighted by grace and not retribution. The struggle and oppression of the Israelite people held one promise above all others: God will deliver the people. Jesus was the fulfillment of the promised Messiah. While many others had come claiming to be God's "agent of change", only Jesus could offer a means out of oppression that did not resort to violence. Instead of raising an army, calling for a revolution, or leading a violent revolt, Jesus wandered through the wilderness of Judea teaching, healing, inviting, and reconciling. He was killed because he dared to challenge the status quo, urging people to share God's love and not the Lord's rules. When he rose from the dead, Jesus' victory was not simply over physical death, but was a powerful symbol that no matter what happens, God can raise you again.

Yet, we start singing those Christmas hymns earlier and earlier every year. They bring an awkward sense of comfort. If we start singing the Christmas hymns as early as possible, then the pain of loss so many feel during this time, the financial crises that millions of persons experience, the emotional conflict and spiritual warfare that goes on, the reminder of broken family relationships and interpersonal conflict, can all just be swept under the rug again for another year. When we dare take the time to experience Advent fully, then all those sticky, troubling, hard, worrying, and time-consuming issues surface and demand recognition. They demand that we no longer ignore them but address them fully.

In preparing to meet the new born Jesus, we can meet a new way of life. It is a way of life that calls us to constantly prepare and be repaired for the work of God's reign on earth. We must not try to skip ahead like a child peaking at their Christmas presents, but instead embrace the waiting, embrace the journey, and find healing for those things which weigh us down and burden our hearts. Do not rush through Advent. Christmas will come. Jesus will come.

O come, o come, Emmanuel...

Sermon Series: Jan. 20-Feb. 17

"WHAT IS A PROPHET ANYWAY?"

Through January and February we will be exploring what it means to be a prophet in the biblical sense. We will be looking at Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel to learn what they can teach us about our community, faith, and growth with God.

January 20 th :	"It's Not Me, It's You", Amos
January 27 th :	"The Fall of Judah", Isaiah (part 1)
February 3 rd :	"I Don't Know What to Say", Jeremiah
February 10 th :	"The Future is Not What You Think", Ezekiel
February 17 th :	"Welcome Home!", Isaiah (part 2)

Special Guest Speaker

Please join us on December 30th as our very own Annalee Parker will be our special guest speaker during the Sunday Service.

Sip & Shop Benefitting the Backpack Program

Beverly Vaughn will host a Sip & Shop in her home Sunday, December 2nd from 2-4 p.m. with a portion of all sales to benefit MUMC's Backpack Program. The small businesses participating are Cole Mnt. Designs (Jennifer Cole), Limelife (Cori Catt), All Things Sweet (Beth Wilson) and Sassy Monkey Crafts (Brittany Bullard). Please drop by the home of Beverly Vaughn, 251 Evelyn Road, Marion, Arkansas to sip and shop.

Poinsettias

Red Poinsettias will be available for purchase in honor of or in memory of loved ones through December 10th. The poinsettias will line the stairs located in the front of the sanctuary on December 16th until Christmas Eve. If you would like to place one or more poinsettias in the church during this time, please contact the office as soon as possible.

Order forms can be found on the round table in the Narthex. Please complete the form and submit to the office. Price per poinsettia is \$15.00. You may take your flowers home following the Christmas Eve Service.

Mitten Tree

Please bring gloves, scarves and toboggans for the Mitten Tree. The items will be donated to the schools after Christmas.

Cross Trees

The Cross Tree will be decorated with crosses from each family in our church. If your family does not have a cross, please add a cross for your family to this tree. The tree will be located in the narthex.

New to Our Family

Joy Sample joined our family on November 25 during stress free Sunday.



Church Events

Reoccurring Events:

- Dec. 5 and 12 / WWF / 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 5 and 12 / Wed. Communion / 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 / 6:00 p.m. / Wednesday Night Dinner
NOTE: No Dinner Dec. 5, 19 & 26
- Dec. 6 & 13 / Bible Study Fellowship / 6:20 p.m.
Education Building / Upstairs
Enter through Ed Hall Doors

- Dec. 3 Martha-Mary Circle Meeting / 6:30 p.m. / For location of meeting, please contact the church office
- Dec. 6 Chili and Cinnamon Roll Sale Youth Building during Christmas Parade
- Dec. 9 Shower Table in the Narthex for The Kjorlaugs (Samuel James Kjorlaug is due December 23rd)
- Dec. 11 Rebecka-Ruth Circle / 7:00 p.m. For location of meeting, please Contact the church office
- Dec. 16 Children's Program "Christmas Is Jesus" 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary AND
The adult choir and guest orchestra Perform "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Dinner will follow the performances in the gym
- Dec. 17-19 Gym Closed for repairs
- Dec. 23 Cookies with Santa
- Dec. 24 Noon Service and 6:00 p.m. Service
- Dec. 25-26 Office Closed

Turkey Dinner 2018

The first "turkey dinner" was held around 1953 (65 years ago) when a church addition containing our first kitchen was built. The first dinner was cooked mostly in church members homes and brought to the church kitchen and served on card tables with probably 25-50 people in attendance. The key founders of this tradition at the time were Helen Williams, Mamie Olive Stokes and Mary Beth Rieves. Around 1963 the turkey dinner side dishes which includes the traditional sweet potatoes, green beans and cranberry relish were prepared in the church kitchen. We have come a long way in 63 years to evolve from 2 or 3 turkeys to 900+lbs of turkey and 480 lbs. of sweet potatoes. We serve 900 people for dine in and carry out.

This year a portion of the money raised will go towards new screens and equipment for our sanctuary. The money raised also goes to support our church building fund and following mission ministries:

- MUMC Hope for the Holidays
- MUMC Backpack Program
- Brooks Howell Home — a non-profit charitable continuing care retirement community. Originally, it was established as a retirement home for United Methodist deaconesses and missionaries.
- Hope House — provides a food pantry and clothes closet for needy residents of Crittenden County, Arkansas.
- Families in Transition — Women and children seeking shelter and services (domestic violence and other situations).
- Good Neighbor Center — Coordinates and provide indigent/disaster/emergency relief.
- Steudlein Learning Center— The Frank C. Steudlein Learning Center is a private, non profit community day service center designed to work with children from birth to age five through a variety of pre-school settings.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Turkey Dinner such a success from cooking cakes, pies and cornbread to cooking and carving turkeys, buying and selling tickets. The planning extends from one year to the next and really cranks up about a month before the event. The week of the dinner is a flurry of duties on a daily basis. We have a lot of good fellowship but the fruits of our labor are evident the day of the dinner as everyone enjoys the "treasured first turkey dinner" of the holiday season.

God Bless you and your families this Holiday Season.

Jerri Crase, UMW President
Debbie Scola, Turkey Dinner Coordinator



Turkey Dinner Final Numbers

INCOME:

Ticket Sales	\$ 13,620.00
Contributions	\$ 265.00
Leftover Sales	\$ 1,180.00
	\$ 15,065.00

Less Expenses: \$ 5,203.24

PROFIT: \$ 9,861.76

Hullabaloo Final Numbers

INCOME:

Rummage:	\$ 924.60
Concessions	\$ 1,979.02
Tickets—kids	\$ 1,372.00
Meat Sales:	\$ 20,052.00
Country Store:	\$ 8,792.00
Silent Auction	\$ 6,164.00
Volleyball Tournament	\$ 250.00
Fishing Tournament:	\$ 1,120.00

Less Expenses: \$ 10,211.92

PROFIT: \$ 30,441.70



Five teams participated in the Spook and Spike Sand Tournament with proceeds going to the Hullabaloo event. Pictured are the winners: Freddy Williams, Amanda Carlo, Amanda Harlow and Gary Wehrum.

PDO

The PDO teachers spent time talking with the children about being thankful for family. They made a Thanksgiving keepsake book and learned about the history of Thanksgiving while doing it.

Bible verse for the month:
Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; his love
endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34



Children's Ministry & Children's Choir

The music department has been working non-stop to prepare a musical event celebrating the birth of Jesus! Not only is the Marion United Methodist Church Chancel Choir and Guest Orchestra preparing to perform "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," but the Children's Choir is preparing to share their gifts in "Jesus is Christmas."

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend a special performance of both musical groups, Sunday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m.

A special dinner will be held in the gym following the combined performances. You will not want to miss this special event!

... Speaking of dinner ... don't miss the opportunity to prepare your finest dessert for the supper following the musical performances! While our awesome kitchen crew will be preparing a delicious meal, they would love your sweet treats to be the exclamation point to their meal!

Second Annual Christmas Cookie Swap with Santa, Sunday, Dec. 23!

Bust out your aprons, Christmas spirit, festive cookie cutters and cameras ... it's that time! Following church Sunday, Dec. 23, come prepared to share your best Christmas cookies, as our children take home a goody bag filled with your best!

All parents, grandparents, members, and amazing bakers are encouraged to prepare your tastiest Christmas treats! Santa is making a special trip from the North Pole to visit the children of Marion United Methodist Church before his reindeers head out Christmas Eve.

Tables will be set up in the Narthex for cookies as you enter the sanctuary that morning, and cookies will be available immediately following.

Scouting for Food

The Boy scouts spent Saturday morning, November 10th at the local Neighborhood Market. The group handed out a list of items needed for our backpack program to customers as they entered the store. As you can tell from the photo, there were numerous donations that morning. Customers stopped by the Boy scouts upon exiting the store to drop off the items purchased for the program. Great job Boy Scouts and thank you for your time and efforts to gather food for this program.

MUMC Preschool



The preschoolers celebrated learning the letter H by wearing crazy hats to school.



Each week several of our preschoolers participate in yoga class led by their teacher, Teresa Gardner. They have a blast learning fun moves to help improve their balance, coordination, and ability to focus (a work in progress!).

This month's
Donation to
the backpack
program.



Member Spotlight : Brian and Kristi Doyle



How long have you been a member of MUMC? Both since 1999. Joined after we got married. Kristi is a lifelong Methodist from Beebe and Brian came from Holy Cross Episcopal Church in West Memphis.

Tell us about your family: (Brian) Technically we are a “Yours, Mine, and Ours” family but that description doesn’t do us justice I don’t think. We have grown together and bonded over our almost 20 years together. All with MUMC nurturing us along the way. Having said that we start with my wonderful wife, Kristi. On the kids we are all boys. My oldest is Blake. In the middle is Joshua. Bringing up the rear is Donovan. I have given this much thought over the years but I cannot emphasize enough the role that MUMC has played in our family development. The love and support we have been shown all these years. MUMC has been a Godsend in our lives and for that we are thankful! (Kristi) Just to add a little info to Brian’s, I’m originally from Beebe and moved to Marion after we got married on May 29, 1999.

Tell us about your job: (Brian) I has been an insurance agent for Farm Bureau Insurance in Marion since August of 1996. I believe I am blessed to have this career and the people that I work with. Many of my customers are also my church family and that has been a blessing through the years as well.” (Kristi) I am the Senior Accounting Analyst at Lipscomb & Pitts Insurance in Memphis. I have been there since July 6th of 1999.

What are your hobbies: (Brian) I am about as big a sports fan as you’ll find. Particularly football and basketball. Sports has always been a centerpiece in our family as Kristi is as big a fan as I am. Any chance to do Grizzlies, Tigers, Razorbacks, Broncos, Raiders, Cardinals, and Patriots games we usually jump at. I’ve also enjoyed coaching all of my boys throughout their childhood. As for the rest I enjoy music (I’m a “Rocker” but enjoy anything with a melody). Kristi and I enjoy going to concerts throughout the year. She is also my movie and TV buddy. I also enjoy reading and an occasional project though I’m not extremely “handy”. (Kristi) I love reading, which I unfortunately don’t get to do as much as I would like, and just like Brian mentioned, I love going to movies and watching our TV shows with him. Also, there are the sports teams we love and the live music concerts we enjoy seeing together.

What are you involved in at MUMC: (Brian) I sing in the MUMC Choir. I occasionally teach Sunday School (Friends and Fellowship). I have served in various roles in church leadership over the years and am currently the vice chair of the Church Council. I also enjoy helping out when needed with the cooking team. I don’t get to participate as much as I used to but I also enjoy basketball and volleyball through our MUMC Rec Department. We also frequently attend Wednesday Night Supper for some of the best food and fellowship around. (Kristi) I’m the class secretary for our Friends and Fellowship Sunday school class. We are both very active in our class. I attend the Bible Study Fellowship that we host at MUMC on Thursday

nights. This is my 4th year in it. I am presently on the Nominations committee. I help out the kitchen crew when I can. They do such a fabulous job each Wednesday night. When Hullabaloo time comes around, I am in charge of the meat tickets and all that involves. This was my 3rd year doing that. Ms. Patsy retired from doing it for so many years. Before handling the meat tickets, I was Beverly’s helper with the kids games. I am still involved with helping out wherever I’m needed leading up to Hullabaloo as well as the day of with any last minute stuff. This was my 11th year being so involved. It’s exhausting every year, but it is so worth it. I couldn’t image not being involved.

What is your favorite thing about our church? (Brian) Without a doubt it’s the sense of “Family” that I feel we have at MUMC. Our family has always felt so loved and supported by SO MANY over the years and that has been priceless to our family. I know this can be true in many churches but I honestly believe that there is something special about the people God put in our lives through MUMC. I can’t imagine my/our lives over the last 20 years anywhere else.

(Kristi) I have to agree with Brian. The love and support we receive from our MUMC family is indescribable. Honestly, if it wasn’t for our church, I have no doubt my first few years living here in Marion, not knowing anyone, would have been so much more difficult. The friends I have, the lifelong friends I have, are at MUMC. My wish for everyone is to feel as comfortable as we feel at MUMC. I truly can’t imagine being anywhere else.

What is your favorite Bible Verse?

(Brian) Matthew 18:20- “Where two or more are gathered in my name...I am there.”

(Kristi) I couldn’t choose, sorry. Hebrews 11...all of it. John 3:17 “God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.” Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

What is your favorite worship song: (Brian) “I Can Only Imagine” (Kristi) Again, I couldn’t choose just one so...I narrowed it down to two... “Pass It On” and “10,000 Reasons”



2019 Church Council

Chairperson	Matt Entrekin
Vice Chairperson	Brian Doyle
Sec. of Council/Charge Conf.	Jerri Crase
Treasurer	Frank Fogleman
Finance Chair	Ashley McNeely
Financial Secretary	Sheila Henderson
Lay Leader	John Fogleman
Lay Member/Annual Conf.	John Fogleman
Sup. Of Sunday School	Scott Fogleman
	Sally Streeter
SPRC Chair	Scotta Allen
Trustee Chair	Marty Cooper
Youth Director	
Children's Director	Straley Owen
Music Director	Blake Owen
UMW President	Jerri Crase
Membership Secreary	Sheila Henderson
Hullabaloo Coordinator	Allison Wehrum
Usher Coordinators	Tony Gardner
	Scott Carpenter
Wedding Liasons	Dawn Brenner
	Nancy Fogleman
Missions	Syndi Landry
Church Administrator	Cyndi James

Members at Large

2019	Danny Moore, Rex Rogers, Jon Stotts
2020	Jenny Knych, Holly Lancaster, Beverly Moore
2021	Sandy Nelson, Jane Ellen Whittington, Neal Williams

2019 Committees

Trustees:

2019	Joe Catt, John Griffie, Matt Hale
2020	Jack Avery, Bart Turner, David Wallace
2021	Vance Bacon, Tracy Brick, Marty Cooper

Finance Committee:

2019	Thomas Gerrard, Ashley McNeely, Justin Rikard
2020	Garrison Hardke, Cathy Horton, Mike Walker
2021	Kelly Fogleman, Michelle Schwartz, Nick Sutton

Staff/Parish Relations Committee:

2019	Matt Coe, Susan Hale, Beth Sutton
2020	Scotta Allen, Shanna Boney, Andy Rawls
2021	Pat Crase, Cindy French, Rachel Vaughn

THANK YOU!

We would like to extend a most gracious thank you to all of those rolling off committees this year:

Laura Entrekin, Taylor Fowler, Tony Gardner, Char Griffie, Elizabeth Gill, Sarah Higginbotham, Jennifer Johnston, Cassie Morrie, Richard O'Beirne, Adam Rawls, Steve Sutton, Wayne Tabor, Bart Vaughn and Rachel Vaughn.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 1	Nick Chrisman Megan Conrad Lorelai Kay Harrison Tinlee Mae Harrison Collin Wade Knych	Dec. 8	Matt Entrekin Robin Fesmire Destiny Henderson Jenny Knych	Dec. 15	Lannie Lancaster Layton Scarbrough Brooklyn Sims	Dec. 25	Anna Elizabeth Entrekin
Dec. 3	Beth Sutton	Dec. 9	Chase Chafin	Dec. 16	Scott Carpenter Rachel Vaughn	Dec. 26	Mario Baratti
Dec. 4	Anna Caroline Fesmire Chasity Johnston David Wallace	Dec. 10	Pat Crase Elizabeth Hardke Debbie Scola	Dec. 18	Mary Alice Gerrard	Dec. 28	Rachel Coe Sean Gray Jackson Rawls
Dec. 5	Taylor Fowler Mary Inman James O'Beirne	Dec. 12	Lauren Catt Marty Cooper Gary Haynes Wilson Henderson	Dec. 19	Lucas Peyton Claire Wallace	Dec. 29	George Andrew Myers Gary Wehrum
Dec. 6	John Griffie James Williams	Dec. 13	Brenda Melton	Dec. 20	Allison Wehrum	Dec. 30	Joe Catt Stoy Long Wayne Nelson
Dec. 7	Wyatt Entrekin Sallie Streeter	Dec. 14	Josh Doyle Lauren Miller	Dec. 21	Caroline Cloninger	Dec. 31	Ben Gerrard
				Dec. 22	Jane Hartley Miller Owen		
				Dec. 23	Nathan Castle Jimmy Williams		

December Ushers

David Brick
Scott Carpenter
Steve Ford

Tony Gardner
Wayne Nelson
Wayne Tabor

December Greeters

John Robbins
Sunday School Class

December Altar Flower Calendar

12/2	Christmon Tree
12/9	Chrismon Tree
12/16	Poinsettias
12/23	Poinsettias
12/30	Syndi Landry

Prayer List

May Ferguson, Mason Fowler, Dee Helton,
Ashley Jenkins

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

5:30 p.m.	Communion Service
-----------	----------------------



Marion United Methodist Church

Church Staff

Reverend Andrew Kjorlaug
Pastor
kjorlaug@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

LaKeshia Lee
Custodian

Gary Talley
Maintenance

Preschool Director/Teacher
preschool@marion-umc.com

Elizabeth Williams
Preschool Teacher

Pam Scarbrough
PDO Director/Teacher

Kristi Stotts
PDO Director/Teacher

Straley Owen
Children's Director
sowen@marion-umc.com

Gary Wehrum
Recreation Director
gwehrum@gmail.com

Marcia Sutton
Pianist

Debbie Wallace
Organist

