

MUMC *message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2019

Hope for the Holidays 2018

Hope for the Holidays has become an annual event and main project for the MUMC youth. The event started in 2006 and has continued to expand since that time. Our youth group is extremely involved with this event; however, it would not be possible without the assistance of many volunteers. Preparation for this project takes year round planning starting with donations of soaps and shampoos from our congregation collected from hotels while vacationing. Without the donations from these trips, the health kit project would not be possible. Thanks everyone!!

Our families are provided through the counselors at the Marion School District and the adoption process starts in November of each year. This year the project took on 85 families. For the families not adopted, we have individuals who shop in bulk to fulfill those needs and made easier by toy donations during November and December. The gift collecting and assortment is an enormous task starting with the youth shopping and finalized with persons donating gifts for those families that do not get adopted.

The volume of food needed to make this event a success is astronomical. In order to raise awareness and encourage donations, bags are placed in the narthex with a list of requested food items with announcements during worship and in the newsletter. After all food donations have been received, Harvest Partners stepped in to fulfill any additional needs to complete the project.

The event is successful because of the generosity of a loving and caring congregation. Donations range from money to provide funds to purchase necessary items, time dedicated for the many needs throughout the month, a chili supper with cinnamon rolls during the Marion Christmas Parade, cook book sales. All proceeds go toward the Hope for Holidays project.

On the morning of December 24th, the MUMC sanctuary was filled with volunteers sharing in a devotional by Tim Parker. Following the devotional, volunteers received instructions on how pick up and deliveries take place. Volunteers assisted with loading of vehicles, with food, gifts, checking bags against delivery sheet or whatever necessary. The youth group would like to take this opportunity to THANK ALL who participated to make Hope for the Holidays another success.





Pastor's Pen

Looking for the Vision of God

For years I was the only one in my family who needed no vision correction. My parents and both brothers have horrible eyesight. My wife needs contacts as well. I'm sure at some point we will find ourselves in the optometrist office for David, Emma, or Samuel. But for years, I took pride in the fact I didn't need glasses or contacts. In 2012, however, after three years in graduate school staring at small print in books and on computer screens, my eyes finally gave in. I went to the eye doctor and learned that while I did not need glasses for everyday activity, I would indeed need them for reading and screen activity.

At this revelation, I did what people do: I went into denial. I tried to just limit my time of deep eye concentration. I made things bigger print when available. I increased the font on my phone. But alas, the reality set in: I needed to wear my reading glasses. Most days at the church office you will find me in my office with my glasses on. If not, know that I pay a price later in the day or evening with a horrible headache. It is such a simple fix, and yet I often still find myself being reluctant to use my glasses. I know the benefits. I know the consequences. Somehow, I still refuse to believe that my glasses are in my best interest. Why?

In church we often try to do things on our own. We try to do worship on our own. We try to serve our community on our own. We try to read and study scripture on our own. We try to make disciples on our own. Sometimes we are even mildly successful at doing this. Yet, just like me without my reading glasses, when we try to do it our own we fall short of what we can do or be. We grow tired easily and burn out. We struggle to keep up and stay relevant in a rapidly changing world. Just like when we take off our glasses, when we try to do things without inviting the presence of God, we cannot see the whole picture of opportunities that lay before us.

In January a new group will begin meeting at Marion United Methodist Church. This new Vision Team will meet weekly for prayer and discussion as we begin the process of looking for the vision of God here in our midst. This team will seek to ask the hard questions within our church and congregation including:

Where are we making disciples?

Where are we not being faithful?

How are we fulfilling our call as a congregation?

Where are we afraid?

What are we trying to do on our own without God?

How can we seek God's vision for the future of our congregation?

This process will be ongoing and evolving, helping us to ask God's guidance and see where the holy Spirit is leading. The Vision Team will give regular updates to the Church Council and the Congregation and will help set goals for our congregation in the coming years.

To help in this process, I ask that every family in the church, whether you are a family of 1, 10, or somewhere in between, pray the following prayer together each day.

***Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon Marion United Methodist Church,
the Marion community, and its people. Help us to see where you are leading.
Help us to share in the vision you have for our congregation and community.
Help each and everyone of us to be part of the making of disciples.
In the name of Jesus, the holy one of God, we pray. Amen.***

God has been moving! God is moving! God will continue to move! Let us join together in seeing the vision of God for our congregation, our community, and each other here at Marion United Methodist Church in 2019.

Reading the Bible in 2019

In 2019 we as a congregation will read a different book (or short epistles) of the bible each month. Listed below are the books we will read and at the beginning of each month you will receive an outline for each book. Let us join in reading scripture together!

January:	Matthew
February:	Genesis
March:	Romans
April:	Luke
May:	Exodus
June:	I and II Corinthians
July:	Acts
August:	I Samuel
September:	Hebrews and James
October:	John
November:	II Samuel
December:	Galatians, I Thessalonians, Philippians, and Philemon

January Reading Outline:

January 1:	Matthew 1	January 16:	Matthew 15
January 2:	Matthew 2	January 17:	Matthew 16
January 3:	Matthew 3 and 4	January 18:	Matthew 17
January 4:	Matthew 5	January 19:	Matthew 18
January 5:	Matthew 6	January 21:	Matthew 19
January 7:	Matthew 7	January 22:	Matthew 20
January 8:	Matthew 8	January 23:	Matthew 21
January 9:	Matthew 9	January 24:	Matthew 22
January 10:	Matthew 10	January 25:	Matthew 23
January 11:	Matthew 11	January 26:	Matthew 24
January 12:	Matthew 12	January 28:	Matthew 25
January 14:	Matthew 13	January 29:	Matthew 26
January 15:	Matthew 14	January 30:	Matthew 27
		January 31:	Matthew 28

Wednesday Night Dinners:

January 9

Pasta Bar: 2 pastas, 2 sauces, meatballs, chicken, salad, bread, desserts, tea, and water

January 16

Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert, tea and water

January 23

Texas spaghetti, vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert, tea and water

January 30

Gourmet burger bar with (Grilled Chicken breast option) variety of toppings including bacon, mushrooms, onions, variety of cheeses, fries, onion rings, salad bar, desserts, tea and water

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)

New To Our Family

We would like to welcome Cori Catt to our church family. She joined the church as a member on December 9.



Church Events

Reoccurring Events:

- Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30 / WWF / 3:00 p.m.
- Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30 / Wed. Communion / 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30 / 6:00 p.m. /Wednesday Night Dinner
- Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31 /Bible Study Fellowship / 6:20 p.m.
Education Building / Upstairs
Enter through Ed Hall Doors

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- Jan. 7 Martha-Mary Circle Meeting / 6:30 p.m. / For location of meeting, please contact the church office
 - Jan. 8 Rebecka-Ruth Circle / 7:00 p.m. For location of meeting, please Contact the church office
 - Jan. 13 Confirmation Parent Meeting 5:00 p.m. / Family Life Center

Adult and Children's Choir

Our church was a great place to be Sunday evening, December 16! The sanctuary came to life with the sweetest voices singing about the upcoming birthday of Jesus! While not all of our WWF Children's Choir was able to make this event, our group was well represented by nearly 50 children that evening. From traditional hymns to festive hymn mash-ups, the children spoke and sang with perfect delivery about Christmas!

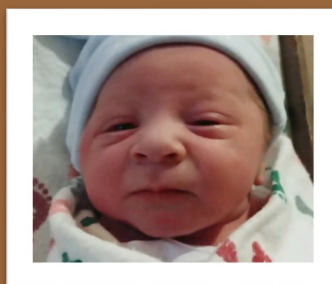
Immediately following the children, Blake Owen led our Adult Chancel Choir and special guest orchestra through a story of sacrifice and love. Beautifully narrated by Pat Crase, the musically talented group shared an encounter of the true and infallible love parents have for their children, just as God loves us all, His children.

To tie together an evening of music, all of the children came back to the front and joined our adults and sang "Put a Little Love in Your Heart!"

As if the evening of music wasn't special enough, once again our amazing kitchen crew delighted and delivered a special meal in the gym. Soups and salads and pastas and homemade desserts wrapped up a perfect evening!



Priscilla and I would like to thank you all so very much for your kindness and support in helping us prepare for our new arrival, Samuel James Kjorlaug. All of your gifts and prayers were wonderful and warmly received. Thank you again.



Pastor Andrew

Samuel James Kjorlaug
Born 12-19-2018 at 10:16pm
21 inches long, and 8lbs, 8oz.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Gail Fogleman for the amazing artwork she painted specifically for the Christmas Season. The artwork is currently hanging on the walls in the Education Building. If you haven't had an opportunity to view the four seasonal canvases, please be sure to do so before they are placed in storage for next season.



Member Spotlight: Neal and Elizabeth Williams

How long have you been a member

Elizabeth has been a lifelong member and Neal joined almost 10 years ago.

Tell us about your family

Neal and I married in May of 2010. We had our twins, Ross Stanley and Anna Apperson in August of 2013. We love to be outdoors as much as we possible enjoying camping, swimming, grilling out and going to the beach.

Tell us about your job:

Elizabeth- I have been teaching preschool here at church for 15 years now. I love my job and all of our sweet kiddos that have been in class over the years. Some of my favorite things about school include teaching our kids about giving. We collect and deliver food to the pantry each month and do a toy drive at Christmas. I also attended preschool here when I was a little girl. My mom was one of the first teachers that started this wonderful program all those years ago.

Neal- I'm a farmer here in Crawfordsville I was raised in the home that we now live in. I grow cotton, beans, corn and rice just as my father did and uncle still does. I'm fortunate to have grown up on the family farm and now farm myself.

What are your hobbies?

Elizabeth— with 5yr old twins my hobbies are now their hobbies! Building tents throughout the house, painting, building cities with blocks only to be taken over by "wild animals", reading fun facts about earth and space and animals (especially the creatures that the twins try to guess why god made them look so strange)

Neal- I enjoy deer/ duck hunting and fishing when I get the chance.

What are your favorite things about our church?

Elizabeth- I would have to say that I love seeing the same people on Sunday mornings as I did as a child. Mrs. Marcia and Mrs. Debbie on the pianos, sitting next to my Grandparents, seeing friends I grew up with still sitting in our congregation. I just love the traditions we still have that I grew up with. I'm also thankful that we as a congregation have grown to the size we are and I know that we have because of all of our wonderful and dedicated members working hard to make sure our church is a strong one.

What is your favorite Bible verse?

Elizabeth- my favorite verse is "trust in the lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" Proverbs 3.5

This is my favorite because I truly believe there is nothing better to do in everything you do than to Trust God.

What is your favorite worship song?

Elizabeth- my favorite song is Pass it on. I can remember as a child my oldest brother Matt having to learn it with his fellow youth members. I remember how proud I was that my big brother was on stage singing this song and from that moment on it's been my favorite.

And I love hearing all of the hymns when our beautiful church bells play. I'm honored that Mr Julian Fogleman asked me to learn the bell system when our new sanctuary was built. I coordinate the songs with the seasons and do simple fixes when necessary .



Children's Ministry

WWF

What a magical and precious time of year for all of our church family, especially our children!

To help wrap up an amazing session of Worship With Friends this year our kids were blessed to create graham cracker houses and decorate them! With the help and leadership of Susan Hale, Beverly Vaughn, and other awesome elves - children walked into our gym and found 50 small houses already assembled with plenty of candies to help decorate and finalize their Christmas houses!

The final WWF found our children with fun Christmas games and activities! They had a lovely party with delicious snacks and cakes to celebrate the real reason for our Christmas season!

Not all play... the WWF Children's Choir also put in final rehearsals in preparation of their musical program held Sunday, Dec. 16.



Sunday School

Sunday school classes have been busily preparing for the Advent and celebration of Jesus' birth! December 23 culminated all of the work as our children celebrated and had special birthday parties for Jesus! Special cakes and foods were prepared, gifts from teachers to their students, amazing crafts created, and most importantly the good news of Jesus' birth was shared! Thank you to our amazing and selfless Sunday School teachers for always loving your children as if your own. Our church does amazing things to help raise our children in the light of God!

Cookies with Santa

Cookies with Santa was another amazing success to help celebrate the season! As families exited the church service on Dec. 23, tables creatively decorated by Elizabeth Gill and her family greeted everyone as they were covered with delicious goodies made by our church family! Everyone was encouraged to take come their own sampling of tasty treats! Thank you to all who participated and made this a great event!



Jolly Ole Saint Nick was ready for children and adults alike! Santa was sitting next to a lovely Christmas tree and couldn't wait to hear all of the goodies our children were seeking this Christmas! Once again, our congregation came together to provide a wonderful experience that will be part of many fond church memories of our children one day!

Preschool

Preschool began celebrating the Christmas season with a trip to The Peabody Hotel. The children had milk, and duck cookies and watched the march of the ducks.



Our preschoolers donate each month to the backpack program, and during December they each brought a toy for donating to Hope for the Holidays. The preschool teachers used this opportunity to review 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

PDO

The children of Parent's Day Out spent time making and decorating ornaments. They acted as Santa's helpers decorating the children's tree. The special ornaments were on display throughout December in the children's area.





Hope for the Holidays Shopping



Hand bells ringing "Angels from the Realms of Glory" on Dec 9th.



Jesus went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:3

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2	John Fogleman Heather Benson	1/8	Michael Altermus Sarah Bolton Linda Coale	1/15	Catt Cole	1/23	Buster Benton, Jr. Steve Sutton
1/3	Conner Catt Bubba Cooper	1/9	John Traugh	1/16	Paula Moore	1/24	Jeff Johnston
1/4	Patsy Catt Anna Rawls	1/11	Diana Lugar	1/17	Matthew Coe John Wallace	1/25	Shanna Boney Diane Sain Olivia Walker
1/5	Spencer Morris Dustin Smith Heath Stuckey	1/12	Ann Rogers Chris Ward	1/18	Sarah Bolton Stacy Parker	1/26	Terry Gibbs
1/6	Devon Doyle Abi Grace King Kathryn Perkins	1/13	Carson Smith	1/19	Ryan Carey	1/27	Matt Moore
1/7	Wayne Croom Jonathan Gill	1/14	Pam Betts Cheryl Conrad Pam Gray Olivia Harvey Nikki McCarty	1/20	Patricia Charlton Troy Elizabeth Cole Jackson Lancaster Caylee Grace McCain	1/29	Jeanna Chafin
				1/22	MacKenzie Massey Amelia Stuckey	1/30	Jaxson Hinze Weston Hinze

January Ushers

Lee Fesmire	Cliff Lafitte
Rex Gill	Mike Walker
Rick Gill	Neal Williams

January Acolytes

6th	Sam Gibbs, Whit Kennedy
13th	Samantha McAnally, Piper McFarland
20th	Rachel Coe, Harper Doyle
27th	Lucas Cheney, Sam Gerrard

January Greeters

Genesis Sunday School Class

January Altar Flower Calendar

1/6	Jim and Carol Johnston
1/13	Adam and Shelby Cole
1/20	Open
1/27	Open

Prayer List

May Ferguson, Mason Fowler,
Dee Helton, Billie Williams, Tim Williamson,
Wally Fowler, Lynn Stanfield, The Family of
Pat Jacobs & The Family of 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
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Marion United Methodist Church

Church Staff

Reverend Andrew Kjorlaug, Pastor
kjorlaug@marion-umc.com
Andrew.kjorlaug@arumc.org

Blake Owen
Music Director
blake.owen78@gmail.com

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

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

Sheila Henderson
Administrative Assistant
Marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com

LaKeshia Lee
Custodian

Elizabeth Williams
Preschool Teacher

Gary Wehrum
Recreation Director
gwehrum@gmail.com

Cyndi James
Business Administrator
cjames@marion-umc.com

Gary Talley
Maintenance

Pam Scarbrough
PDO Director/Teacher

Marcia Sutton
Pianist

Kristi Stotts
PDO Teacher

Debbie Wallace
Organist

