



MUMC Message

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2019

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship Services:

Ash Wednesday Services	March 6th	6:30 a.m.	Morning Service
		12:30 p.m.	Noon Service
		5:30 p.m.	Evening Service
Good Friday Service	April 19th	7:00 p.m.	
Easter Sunday Services:	April 21st	6:30 a.m.	Sunrise Service (MUMC portico)
		9:00 a.m.	Early Morning Service
		10:45 a.m.	Regular Service

We again approach the forty days of Lent. During this season, new and longtime Christians alike hear the call to return to God with all their hearts, thus entering a season historically characterized by much prayer and fasting. You are encouraged to fast, if you are able, from one or more meals on Ash Wednesday. Prayer and fasting are frequently linked together in the scriptures as two significant means of grace. Ash Wednesday is a traditional service that opens the season of Lent. The observance invites us to reflect on our mortality and repentance of sin. The ashes are imposed on the foreheads of the participants in the service as a witness to both repentance and God's grace.

These works of discipline have for hundreds of years served as a means by which new converts prepare for baptism, which occurs as a part of the Easter Vigil. Using the words of Wesleyan theology, we believe all this work is initiated by God, who invites us to come before God with all our hearts.

“Whenever you fast, don’t be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they make their faces unattractive so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.”

Matthew 6:16



Pastor's Pen

A Uniquely Diverse Body

If you have attended worship on Wednesday evenings, you have noticed a recurring liturgy that we do every week. It is written as follows:

Leader: All are welcome at this communion table. Together, we claim our unity in Christ -- in this time, in this place, with this uniquely diverse body. Together, we rejoice in God's presence among us as we remember and celebrate this Sacred Meal. Together, we are called to prepare the table. However, as you may have noticed, the table is not yet set. Who will bring forward the gifts God has provided for the table of love, healing, and forgiveness?

All: ***We will!***

Leader: For Christ is among us and within us, calling us by name to remembrance, reconciliation, and restoration. Welcome home.

Following this liturgical exchange, persons are invited to come forward and help prepare the table for communion later in the service. The call and response seeks to remind us of the diverse and varied nature of God's kingdom here on earth, and even within our local community and church here in Marion.

The last week of February I traveled to St. Louis to attend the special called session of General Conference of the United Methodist Church. This is the official denominational wide decision-making body. They set our official denominational policies, doctrine, and practices. Uniquely, the United Methodist Church is a truly world-wide body. Delegates come from over 60 different nations to attend. While there are around 6.5 million UMC members in the United States, there are millions more in various African nations, the Philippines, Europe, Russia, Mexico, and South America. To worship, pray, discuss, debate, and observe together indeed is a "uniquely diverse body".

As we here in Marion worship, pray, love, and disciple together, it is important to remember the unique nature of the kingdom of God. It is the one kingdom in which all persons are called to be a part. One needs no special degree, pass a certain kind of test, or have a certain amount of money. Rather, when we express our desire to have a closer relationship with Jesus the Christ the work of God begins to take over. In our baptism we are initiated, through communion we share in Christ's message of love, in worship we commune together, and in service we further share God's kingdom.

I'm proud to be part of this uniquely diverse body, the United Methodist Church. I'm thankful to be part of the uniquely diverse body, the Kingdom of God. I am immensely grateful to be part of this community here in Marion as we continue to work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Who will bring forward the gifts God has provided? Will you bring forward your gifts?

Andrew

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!

March Scripture Reading

March 4 th :	Romans 1	March 18 th :	Romans 13
March 5 th :	Romans 2	March 19 th :	Romans 14
March 6 th :	Romans 3	March 20 th :	Romans 15
March 7 th :	Romans 4	March 21 st :	Romans 16
March 8 th :	Romans 5	March 22 nd :	I John 1
March 9 th :	Romans 6	March 23 rd :	I John 2
March 11 th :	Romans 7	March 25 th :	I John 3
March 12 th :	Romans 8	March 26 th :	I John 4
March 13 th :	Romans 9	March 27 th :	I John 5
March 14 th :	Romans 10	March 28 th :	II John
March 15 th :	Romans 11	March 29 th :	III John
March 16 th :	Romans 12	March 30 th :	Jude

March Sermon Series:

"Those Horrible Things We Say..."

During March we will confront and dispel many common church sayings that keep us from seeing God's vision. Each week we will look at a different saying, how it holds us back, and what we can say instead.

March 3rd	"We've Never Done it That Way Before" Matthew 9:9-17
March 10th	"You're Doing it Wrong!" Luke 13:10-17
March 17th	"I've Done My Time" Genesis 12:1-9
March 24th	"Don't we Pay Someone to do That?" Luke 16:19-31
March 31st	"No One Will Come" Luke 14:15-24

New to Our Church Family



Logan, Hillary, Lincoln and Parker Hartwig



Rick, Christine and Owen Preslar



Vern and Nina Luedke



Clay and Taylor Starkey

Church News

Reoccurring Events:

- Mar. 6, 13 and 27 WWF / 3:00 p.m.
 - Mar. 6, 13 and 27 Wed. Communion / 5:30 p.m.
 - Mar. 6, 13 and 27 Wed. Night Dinner / 6:00 p.m.
 - Mar. 7, 14 and 28 BSF / 6:20 p.m.
Education Building / Upstairs
 - Mar. 6, 13 and 27 Confirmation Meeting / 4:00 p.m.
Education Building / Upstairs
-
- Mar. 4 Martha-Mary Circle Meeting / 6:30 p.m.
 - Mar. 6 Ash Wednesday Service
6:30 a.m. / 12:30 p.m. / 5:30 p.m.
 - Mar. 10 Confirmands to Annunciation
Greek Orthodox (Memphis)
 - Mar. 12 Rebecka-Ruth Circle / 7:00 p.m.

Special Wednesday Night Dinner

We LOVE because HE first LOVED us!

The 2019 Valentine's Dinner was a great success with 150 people in attendance. Once again, the kitchen crew outdid themselves on a delicious meal.

As guests arrived at their tables, they were able to munch on cheesy mushroom dip, sautéed mushrooms and help themselves to the salad bar. The salad bar was overflowing with salad toppings, multiple pasta salads, and slaws.

Attendees chose an entrée between bacon wrapped chicken with shrimp, bacon wrapped filet with shrimp, or filet with a lobster tail, all served with sides of asparagus, mashed potatoes, and bread. Entrees were made to order and served to the tables. The dessert tables held rich chocolate brownies, homemade vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce, and piles upon piles of chocolate-dipped strawberries!

As entertainment during the meal, hosts Matt and Laura Entrekin awarded door prizes to lucky winners. The evening's gifts included Scooples Jewelry donated by Cindy French, Valentine's paintings donated by Gail Fogleman, cookbooks, chocolate, a back massager, Valentine mugs, sausage sampler, and funny t-shirts. Prizes were also given to the couple married the longest – a tie between Glenn and Linda Whitmarsh and Rex and Ann Rogers – and to the couple most recently married – Butch and Sarah Higginbotham.

Near the end of the evening, three couples went head-to-head in a Valentine-themed competition for the grand prize, a gift certificate for dinner at Flight Restaurant in downtown Memphis. The competitors included Jack and Linda Avery, Paul and Scotta Allen, and Matt and Robin Coe. It was a close game but Paul and Scotta Allen won by one point to take home the prize.

Special thanks to everyone that helped make the evening a success. We appreciate your hard work!



Member Spotlight: Kolby Jones

How long have you been a member of MUMC?

I have been attending MUMC for 21 years and became a member in April 2013.

Tell us about your family.

My parents are Karen and Stephen Jones. My younger brother is Forrest Jones.

Tell us about your job.

I currently work at United States Department of Agriculture-National Resource Conservation Services. We have different programs that farmers and land owners can sign up for, once they get approved there are different practices that they can choose to help conserve their land.

I will be starting a new job on March 4th at Regional One Health as a Desktop Support Technician in the Information Technology Department. Also, I recently became the Interim Youth Director at MUMC and just completed my first trip as youth director with the MUMC youth group to Veritas.

What are your hobbies.

My hobbies include running, hunting, fishing, videography and photography.

What are you involved in at MUMC?

I have been assisting MUMC Youth for the past four years. I enjoy being around the youth and watching them grow.

What is your favorite thing about our church?

My favorite thing about our church is how involved it is in the community with different programs that help people out.

What is your favorite Bible Verse?

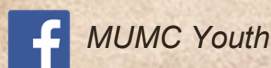
My favorite verse is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

What is your worship song?

In Christ Alone



Youth Ministry



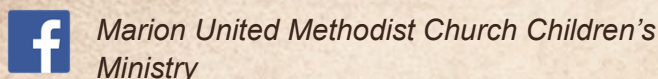
MUMC Youth spent the weekend of February 15-17 in Rogers, Arkansas at Veritas. The annual conference is put on by the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries.



Each year over 1,200 youth and youth leaders come together to celebrate what it means to be connected. Through inspirational words and music led by nationally known speakers and musicians, young people encounter the Lord in new and deeper ways. Worship describes those times we gather deliberately seeking to encounter God in Christ. God uses worship to transform lives, provoke change, inspire compassion and bind people to one another.

We had 24 youth and 7 adults attend the event. The youth had the opportunity to listen to Bishop Mueller Friday night. They also had worship service, fellowship, devotionals and concluded the weekend with Communion.

Children's Ministry



WWF Happenings ...

With the addition of even more new members after the Christmas break, our Worship With Friends now has more than 70 children enrolled! Our children have continued with their weekly devotionals - learning with conviction about the love Jesus has for us all. While we were blessed last fall with wonderful weather allowing for outdoor recreation, January and February brought wet and cold weather allowed the opportunity for some creative games that encouraged teamwork! From balloon tennis, to minute-to-win-it cup games, to cotton ball relay races - our children were able to burn some energy at the end of a long school day in a positive and constructive manner!

Students focused on scriptures that share love and turned that knowledge into special hand-made Valentines that were left for congregation members and visitors to enjoy on the Sunday before Valentine's Day!

VBS 2019

Our Vacation Bible School will be going off the beaten path and Into The Wild for 2019! We are looking at the month of July for the MUMC VBS. Once definite dates have been determined, we will get the word out. For now, please plan to join us either the second or third week in July!



Thank you!

Dear church family,

I am selfishly taking space in our newsletter to again express my humble gratitude to our church family for helping to care for not just my family, but our children at church! My surgery was much more than I anticipated, and I foolishly assumed I could prove my surgeon and realists wrong with their warnings of a tough and lengthy recovery. Talk about a humbling experience!

I received encouraging messages, tasty meals and treats, and the comfort and reassurance that all of our children at church carried on in their regular routine while I had to be away. From Cookies With Santa, to the Christmas musical, to WWF kicking back off in January - I appreciate your prayers and your assistance!

Gratefully and humbly yours,
Straley

Preschool

MUMC preschool began taking applications for the 2019-2020 school year in February. To apply for the three and four year old programs, your child must be three or four years



old by August 1st. Applications can be picked up in the church office or printed from the church website.



Above: The 3 year old class on Valentine's Day.

Right: Davis Fowler, a former preschool student dropped by to read a book to the preschool.



Children's Choir

Our children's choir worked each week to prepare a special piece taking many members back to a former television commercial for Coca-Cola from the 1970s. This song is appropriately still relevant today and our children were able to sing about love and harmony and the enduring love that God has for each of his children. We have between 55 and 60 children in the Children's Choir each Wednesday. If you missed the performance, you can find it on the church website or facebook page with the Sunday Service on February 24th.



Confirmation Quiz

A few of our confirmands answered questions by Pastor Andrew as the children collected for Joyful Noise.



Happy Birthday!

3/1	Carter Benton Patton Chafin	3/9	Laura Carpenter John Scola	3/17	Joanne Arceneaux	3/26	Tracye Carter Hudson McKewen
3/2	Brooklyn Arceneaux Liz Laughter Van McNeely Wayne Tabor	3/12	Pam Young Levi Rikard	3/19	Rex Rogers	3/27	Jeffrey Schwartz
3/3	Franklin Fogleman Denise Letner	3/13	Jake Hale Robert Lugar	3/20	George Kennedy	3/28	Scotta Allen Sydney Collard
3/6	Carol Acuff Wesley Betts Karen Cooper Char Griffiee	3/14	Cassie Morris Robyn Phillips	3/21	Caroline Rose Catt Colby Jonas Robert Melton Elizabeth Wallace	3/29	Neena Pirani
3/7	Meredith Gill Dennis Pirani	3/15	Laura Entrekin Dianna Hanks	3/22	Jack Carter	3/30	Tess Hall Cyndi James
				3/23	Shea Hart Alexandria Inman	3/31	Kristi Boon Dane Gray Bill Hartley William Baber Hardke
				3/24	Lindsey Gill		

March Ushers

Rich Busby	Garrison Hardke
Steve Ford	Andy Rawls
Tony Gardner	Nick Sutton

March Acolytes

3rd	Payne Bius and Lucas Cheney
10th	Harper Doyle and Callen McCollum
17th	Gray Collard and Jack Gerrard
24th	Sullivan and Hudson McKewen
31st	Jack Phillips and Owen Presslar

March Greeters

Friends and Fellowship Sunday School Class

March Altar Flower Calendar

3/3	Wayne and Sheryl Tabor
3/10	Laura Rikard
3/17	Ann Rogers
3/24	Open
3/31	Garrison and Elizabeth Hardke

Prayer List

May Ferguson, Mason Fowler,
Dee Helton, Billie Williams, Tim Williamson,
Wally Fowler and Lynn Stanfield.

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

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Debbie Wallace
Organist

