



# MUMC Message

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2020

## Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship Services:

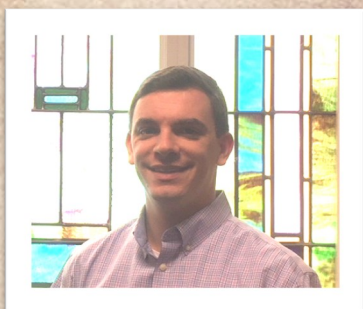
|                         |            |            |                                |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Ash Wednesday Services  | Feb. 26th  | 6:30 a.m.  | Morning Service                |
|                         |            | 5:30 p.m.  | Evening Service                |
|                         |            | 7:00 p.m.  | Evening Service                |
| Good Friday Service     | April 10th | 7:00 p.m.  |                                |
| Easter Sunday Services: | April 12th | 7:00 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*



## **2020 Prayer**

***Eternal God, pour 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 your vision for our congregation and community. Help us to be part of the making of disciples. Lead us in being your hands and feet in our community. In the name of Jesus, the holy one of God, we pray. Amen.***

## **Pastor's Pen**

### ***Love Your Neighbor***

I'm going to say it. Get ready: "Love your neighbor" has become a cliché within Christian circles. I don't like to acknowledge that, but it is true. For us preachers and pastors it is a go to line. For bible studies and devotionals, it is often the theme. For those outside of Christian circles it is often one of the few things people know from Jesus. It has officially reached cliché status. And in some respects, that is a very good thing. Clichés often become tropes within our culture. In horror movies, for example, there is always the person running upstairs away from the villain. In romantic comedies, there is the inevitable dislike to love relationship. We shake our head at the friend who mentions the no-hitter because we "just know" it will ruin it. So in some respect, the fact that "Love Your Neighbor" has reached cliché status is impressive.

However, when things reach cliché status we often stop paying as much attention. It becomes something we dismiss and no longer recognize as important. And when we do pay attention, it is often only when our assumption about that cliché has once again been challenged. The question then looms: how can we reclaim "love your neighbor" from cliché status? It is in relationships where we find the power of loving our neighbors. The small acts of kindness and support, the sacrificial moments, and those times we didn't know someone needed a kind word and we gave it anyway. Those are times when the cliché becomes reality once again.

Throughout February we are going to be looking at relationships. And no, this isn't a marriage enrichment series or how to raise good kids' series. This series is about how in our day to day lives we can have good, healthy relationships with those around us. What do we need to do?

Resolve our anger

Live for justice

Be honest

Seek forgiveness

Jesus tells us we must love our neighbor. It sounds so easy, but the realities of our world often make it difficult and trying. But we can reclaim "Love your neighbor" from a cliché and bring it back to its important place by building healthy relationships with those around us.

Love your neighbor!

Andrew

### ***Stewardship 2020 Update:***

You responded with faithfulness and generosity and I cannot thank you enough!

For 2020 we have received:

***-125 Estimate of Giving Cards for Approximately...***

***-\$490,000 of our operating budget and***

***-\$265,000 of our building debt service.***

Thank you and well done!

# Wednesday Night Dinners

## February 5th

Pork Loin, Hashbrown Casserole,  
Veggies, Rolls, Salad Bar, Desserts

## February 12th

See information below monthly menu.

## February 19th

Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes,  
Green Beans, Rolls, Salad Bar, Desserts

## February 26th

### Mardi Gras theme

Main entree to be announced  
Shrimp or Chicken Po Boys  
Mach Choux  
Salad Bar  
King cakes

## February 12th

### Wed. Night Valentine's Dinner

Join us for a Wednesday Night Valentines Dinner.

Your choice of:

Filet or Grilled Chicken stuffed with Asparagus and Cheese.

Sides will be:

Scalloped Potatoes, Asparagus and Bread,.

The Famous Kitchen Crew Salad Bar and desserts.

Prices per person

\$15.00 steak

\$10.00 chicken

Childcare will be provided for a small fee of \$5.00 and will include pizza, snacks and drinks.

**DEADLINE for placing orders is Monday, February 10th. Please contact the office @ 870-739-3434 to place your order.**

*"In every thing **give thanks:***

*for this is the will of God*

*in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

## February Sermon Series

## Love Your Neighbor

## Having Healthy Relationships

Feb 2: Anger

Sermon: "You Don't Exist In My World"

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26

Feb. 9: Justice

Sermon: "It's Just Not Fair"

Scripture: Matthew 5:27-32

Feb 16: Honesty

Sermon: "What Did You Mean?"

Scripture: Matthew 5:33-37

Feb 23: Forgiveness

Sermon: "Vengeance Is Not Yours"

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48

## Church News

### Reoccurring Events:

- Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26
  - WWF / 3:00 p.m.
  - Confirmation Meeting / 4:00 p.m.
  - Wed. Communion / 5:30 p.m.
  - Wed. Night Dinner / 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27
  - BSF / 6:20 p.m.
  - Education Building / Upstairs
- Feb. 23rd
  - Bake Sale to benefit Veritas trip
- Feb. 26th
  - Ash Wednesday Service
  - 6:30 a.m. / 5:30 p.m. / 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 28th
  - Veritas / Youth to Rogers, Ar.

## 2019 Trustees Report

Maintaining our church facility is an important job and it is tasked to our Trustees committee. Over the last year, the Trustees have overseen several projects that have helped improve and update our facility. These include updates to our sanctuary, children's area, education hall and the Matt Sample Youth Building. What a blessing! Make sure to read the report below for highlights of the Trustees 2019 projects.

### Children's Area

- Replaced carpet with vinyl tile.
- Camera installed in the children's main area.
- High efficiency LED lights.

### Education Hall

- Replaced carpet with vinyl tile.
- Patcraft walk off flooring in the vestibule area.

### Barbara Smith Family Life Center

- Camera installed in FLC.

### Gym/Kitchen

- Purchased and installed deep fryer.
- Purchased and replaced Freezer.
- Purchased new washing machine.

### Outside

- Speed bumps were installed at the under the canopy on the main parking lot.

### Matt Sample Youth Building

- Started updates including new paint, new carpet in classrooms, new furniture, and LED lighting. This is an ongoing project.

### Sanctuary

- Lighting was installed in the hallways surrounding the sanctuary to light the lower stained-glass windows.
- Sanctuary Audio-Visual equipment.
- Completed the LED lighting project.

### Security

- Replaced the old computer for the security system.

### Other

- Office entrance: Install patcraft walk off mats.
- Install lighting to display the stained-glass circle located below the steeple and seen from outside the church.

## Mission Work:

### The Heart of the Matter

As we move into the new year, the mission team is organizing a project for February.

As Pastor Andrew announced, we will be having a church wide mission project immediately after the church service Sunday, February 16. We will be packing meals for the Rise Against Hunger Project. This project is an international relief organization that distributes food and life changing aid for the world's most vulnerable. Their aim is to end world hunger by 2030. The website is [riseagainsthunger.org](http://riseagainsthunger.org)

The Backpack Program continues to deliver 90 bags of food for the weekend each Friday. In addition, we are now providing food for over 30 college students at ASU Mid-South on a daily basis. We are so excited and proud of the continuation and recent expansion of this amazing ministry.

## 2019 Finance and Stewardship

2019 was an amazing year for our finances and stewardship here at Marion United Methodist Church. As we have begun to focus more on missions and community, you have responded with incredible generosity and support.

Regarding our operating budget the numbers are as follows:

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Income:   | \$ 673,596 |
| Expenses: | \$ 650,992 |
| TOTAL:    | \$ +22,604 |

Regarding our building debt service:

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Income:   | \$ 354,840 |
| Expenses: | \$ 357,626 |
| TOTAL:    | \$ - 2,786 |

Thank you so much for your generosity! It makes it possible for us to be in mission and ministry to our community.

If you would like more information, please contact the church office for a complete year end summary.

# Member Spotlight: Nick Sutton

## How long have you been a member of MUMC?

I became a member of the church on July 16, 1989.

## Tell us about your family.

I am married to Beth Sutton. She and I will be married 20 years as of July. We have a son, Jett Sutton (14 years old) and a daughter, Bren Sutton (11 years old). My parents are Steve and Marcia Sutton, sister/brother-in-law (Matt & Laura Entrekin and kids) and sister-in-law/brother-in-law (Blake & Shea Hart and kids) are all also members.

## Tell us about your job

I am a banker for First National Bank of Eastern Arkansas.

## What are your hobbies?

Top of my list would be watching my kids play sports. Other hobbies are:

- Golf
- Outdoors, specifically the mountains
- Fishing

## What are you involved in at MUMC

I attend the Friends & Fellowship Sunday school class and I am a member of the Church Finance Committee.

## What is your favorite thing about our church

The members – I have lots of family and friends that are church members. It is good to see our membership always willing to help out when needed.

## What is your favorite Bible Verse?

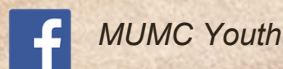
Romans 8-31

## What is your favorite worship song

Be Thou My Vision



# Youth Ministry

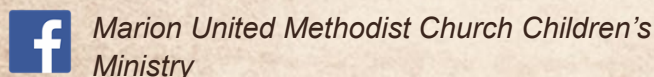


Our youth group meets on Sunday afternoons at 5:30 in the Matt Sample Youth Building. The

youth meeting is sometimes held throughout our facility allowing Kolby Jones to incorporate fun and games followed by dinner and devotional lesson. The youth occasionally watch movies providing life lessons followed with discussions led by the youth pastor. On Sunday, January 26th the group took a trip to MemPops at the Crosstown Concourse followed by a devotional lesson.



# Children's Ministry

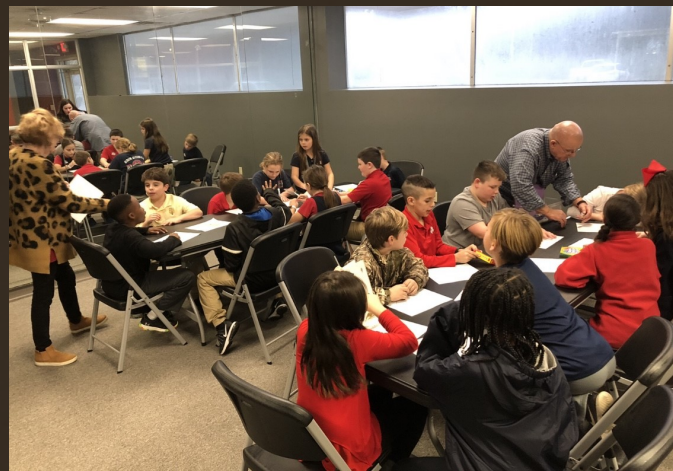


WWF

We have a great crew of children attending Worship With Friends this year, including several new faces since starting back January 15! With a great group of children, we utilize classroom space in the updated Matt Sample Youth Building - what a blessing! During January we learned that God created us to thrive and that we do the best with Him in our hearts. We also compared our lives to popular home renovation shows - how can we allow ourselves a personal demolition so that God will renew, rebuild, remodel, and refresh us!

Our sixth grade students will start Confirmation classes with Pastor Andrew will begin on February 5th at 4:00 p.m. Our students also look forward to more missional opportunities - they love to serve others.

WWF children always need more adult volunteers - we ask parents to volunteer rather than pay for this service, but that does not always work out and therefore, we love when our church members can help. The students enjoy working with and getting to know our adults.



# Preschool

Preschool open registration will begin Tuesday February 18th. Applications can be picked up in the church office, preschool area, or printed from the church website. To enroll in the three year program a child should be three by August 1st and for the four year old class four by the same date.

Our three year old class meets Tuesday and Thursday 9-12 and our fours Tuesday through Friday at the same time. We also have before and after school programs.

For more information please contact Teresa or Elizabeth.



Preschool graduate, Olivia Brick, stopped by to read to preschool. She read "Oh The Places You Go" to the classes and told of all the trips she has taken.



It gets a little challenging when the weather is wet and cold. The preschoolers had a toy parade to show off their favorite toy.



Preschool  
yoga class  
following  
instruction  
of Mrs.  
Teresa.

# PDO

Our PDO and Sunday School room is in need of new or gently used toys for our children. If you have a donation to make, please deliver to the church or call the office to make arrangements to get the items to the classroom. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please note PDO toys in the memo line of your check.



These kiddos have a great time playing together every Monday and Thursday. Here they are practicing and learning manners during lunch.

# Happy Birthday!

|   |  |    |                  |    |                      |    |   |
|---|--|----|------------------|----|----------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Foster Hart<br>Cori McCleskey<br>Max Stover                            | 7  | Jerri Crase      | 14 | Connor McFarland     | 19 | Ridge Harvey                                  |
| 2 | Sheryl Benson<br>Buster Benton<br>Reed Elizabeth Rikard<br>Wayne Tabor | 8  | Debbie Wallace   | 15 | Wesley Elizabeth Coe | 21 | Dale Henderson                                |
|   |  |    | Mason Shidler    |    | Brad Jonas           |    |   |
|   |  |    | Amelia Phillips  |    |                      | 23 | Frank Wallace                                 |
| 3 | Olivia Bailey  | 9  | Morgan Masengale | 16 | Whit Collard         | 25 | John Heath                                    |
|   |  |    | Lynlee Morris    |    | Carson Collins       |    | Brenda Williams                               |
|   |  |    | Talyn Pirani     |    | Michael East         |    |   |
| 4 | William Carter   | 11 | Jordan Tabor     | 17 | Dorothy Sample       | 26 | Frances King<br>Stephen Knych<br>Wesley Price |
| 6 | David Fogleman<br>Patrick O’Sullivan                                   | 13 | Natalie Collard  | 18 | Kim Bellis           |    |   |
|   |  |    |                  |    | Slade Inman          |    |   |
|   |  |    | James G. Hart II |    |                      | 28 | Katie Gray                                    |
|   |  |    | Jon Johnston     |    |                      |    | Caden McCarty<br>Billie Williams              |

## February Ushers

Rob Allison      Rex Gill  
Ted Archer      Nick Sutton  
Rich Busby      Mike Walker

## February Acolytes

2nd    Rachel Coe / Cameron Spencer  
9th    Beau and Izzy Fenter  
16th   AJ Kynch / Lake Laughter  
23rd   Davis Fowler / Jackson Rawls

## February Greeters

John Robbins Sunday School Class

## February Altar Flower Calendar

2/2      Laura / Justin Rikard  
2/9      OPEN  
2/16     Elizabeth Williams  
2/23     Patti Coleman

## Prayer List

Sue Bonds, Olive Vaughn, Patsy Catt, Leigh Garrett, Scott Bonds, Mart Thaxton, Mason Fowler & Tim Williamson.

## 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](mailto:kjorlaug@marion-umc.com)  
[andrew.kjorlaug@arumc.org](mailto:andrew.kjorlaug@arumc.org)

Sheila Henderson  
Administrative Assistant  
[Marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:Marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com)

Cyndi James  
Business Administrator  
[cjames@marion-umc.com](mailto:cjames@marion-umc.com)

Blake Owen  
Music Director  
[bowen@marion-umc.com](mailto:bowen@marion-umc.com)

Gary Talley  
Maintenance

Erica King  
Custodian

Gary Wehrum  
Recreative Director  
[gwehrum@marion-umc.com](mailto:gwehrum@marion-umc.com)

Teresa Gardner  
Preschool Director/Teacher  
[preschool@marion-umc.com](mailto:preschool@marion-umc.com)

Elizabeth Williams  
Preschool Teacher

Pam Scarbrough  
PDO Director/Teacher  
[PDO@marion-umc.com](mailto:PDO@marion-umc.com)

Kristi Stotts  
PDO Teacher

Straley Owen  
Children's Director  
[sowen@marion-umc.com](mailto:sowen@marion-umc.com)

Kolby Jones  
Youth Director  
[kjones@marion-umc.com](mailto:kjones@marion-umc.com)

Marcia Sutton  
Pianist

Debbie Wallace  
Organist

