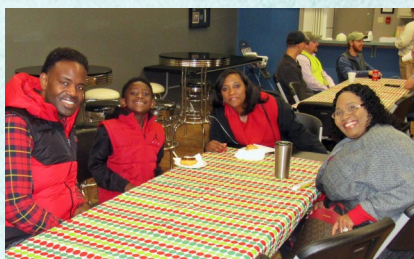




# MUMC *message*

Monthly Newsletter | *January 2020*



## Hope for the Holidays 2019

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 were 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 71 families. For the families not adopted, we sorted through gifts donated from our preschool, our Sunday school classes and individuals. Karen Jones then shops in bulk to fulfill the additional needs for those families.



The volume of food needed to make this event a success is astronomical. In order to raise awareness and encourage donations we set a list of items in need each week and asked our congregation to fill those needs by shopping and dropping off donations in the Narthex each Sunday. Any additional food items needed were then purchased by our youth.



On the morning of December 24th, the MUMC sanctuary was filled with volunteers sharing in a devotional by the youth director, Kolby Jones. Following the devotional, volunteers received instructions for pick ups and deliveries. Volunteers assisted with the loading of food and gifts after double checking the gift bags against delivery sheets. The youth group would like to take this opportunity to THANK ALL who participated to make Hope for the Holidays another success.

(More pictures in youth section)



### **2020 Prayer**

***Eternal God, pour your Holy Spirit upon  
Marion United  
Methodist Church,  
the Marion community, and its  
people. Help us see where you  
are leading. Help us 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**

### ***No More Resolutions!***

New Year's Resolutions, sad to say, are generally worthless. I wish I was telling you something profound, but you are already aware of this fact. Perhaps the most obvious tell of how worthless they are is to drive by your local gym the first two weeks of the new year. The parking lot will be packed, all the treadmills and ellipticals will be in use, and people will be working hard to get in shape. Then, by the first day of February, things will have returned to normal with the parking lot and machines being at the normal level of business. Yet, most of us still resolve to do something new and different as each year turns. How can we make it more of a success rather than just an empty promise?

While we may think that we must make major changes for them to matter, it is often the small changes that make the biggest impact long term. One small example from my own life was the decision to stop drinking sodas. If you enter my office, you will see plenty of Coke memorabilia. I used to drink several a day. However, in a move to help my long-term health, I gave them up in August of 2017. It was very difficult at first but has made a major impact on my health and looking back, was not that difficult.

However, what if I had said, "I'm going to stop eating all unhealthy foods, give up sodas, and work out two hours a day"? I would have failed. The task would have seemed to large and daunting. I would have stopped and given up. That is how most of us are with our resolutions. We set a near impossible goal and then act surprised when we cannot immediately achieve that goal. To be more successful in meeting our goals, we must set smaller goals that build on top of each other, making long lasting change and success.

With all the above said, let's consider this question:

***What small change can you make to help us as a church in 2020?***

Can you commit to attending worship one more time a month? Can you commit to helping in our children's area one additional time? Can you take 5 more minutes a day for scripture or prayer? Can you help with our mission team one additional time? Consider what you can do, in small ways, that combined will help our church in big ways. Imagine the impact within our church and community if we as a congregation each made one small change.

What change will you make?

Have a blessed new year.

Andrew



## MISSION TEAM

The mission outreach team would like to give an update on the projects thus far for the year.

1. The backpack program is in it's 3rd school year of providing food for children in the Marion School District that need assistance regarding nutritional needs.

We are currently supplying 90 bags of food for the weekend each Friday. Included in each bag are breakfast items, snack items, along with lunch and dinner options. We have recently expanded to open a food pantry on the campus at ASU-Midsouth to support the college students that have been identified as in need. College students will have a no fee option that will allow them to have food while there on campus or take a supply of food home if needed. We are so excited and proud of the continuation and recent expansion of this amazing ministry.

2. The mission team has also completed service and projects at the Eighth Street Mission this year. The Friends and Fellowship Sunday school class continue to provide a quarterly meal at the Eighth Street Mission. This assistance helps to provide food to the residents of the program and also any individual from the area in need of a meal. The mission outreach team assisted in painting and reorganizing the "Amazing Grace" Mission Thrift store. We also assisted in the grand reopening and attended the Eighth Street Mission annual banquet this year. This participation assisted in providing monetary assistance in their biggest fundraiser for the year. The mission relies on local support from individuals and organizations in the area for its continued operation.

3. We assisted the VPA (Visual and Performing Arts) magnet school with its Fresh Start Initiative by providing hygiene kits to all of the students. We also assisted with food preparation and serving for the program.

4. We have provided manual labor assistance including moving furniture, and removing carpet along with clean up to local residents in need due to flood damage.

5. We assisted the youth in providing 105 warm delicious thanksgiving meals to elderly residents in Crittenden County.

6. The food pantry also assisted in providing food boxes to federal workers during the government shutdown.

7. We also provide food boxes during the summer months to the school aged children that received backpacks during the school year.

### Upcoming Mission Projects:

#### February/March

Be looking for an upcoming service project to address the continued problem of hunger.

#### June

Mission trip to Harlan Kentucky along with the youth group. We will be providing assistance to families in that area.

## CHURCH EVENTS

- Jan 15, 22 & 29  
**WWF** / 3:00 p.m. / Children's Area  
**Wed. Night Communion** / 5:30 p.m.  
**Wed. Night Dinner** / 6:00 p.m.

- Jan. 9, 16, 23 & 30  
**Bible Study Fellowship**  
6:20 p.m./ Education Building

- Jan 1      New Year's Day  
Office Closed
- Jan 6      PDO returns from  
Christmas break
- Jan 7      Preschool returns from  
Christmas break
- Jan 20     Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Office Closed

### January Sermon Series

#### Jesus: The Early Days

January 12th

Jesus' Baptism  
Sermon: "With Water and the Spirit"  
Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17

January 19th

The Declaration of John  
Sermon: "Well Look Who It is..."  
Scripture: John 1:29-42

January 26th

Calling the Disciples and Preaching  
the Word  
Sermon: "Let's Get Moving!"  
Scripture: Matthew 4:12-22

## Wednesday Night Dinners

January 15

Pasta bar choice of 2 pastas and 2 sauces, meatballs, baked chicken, salad, bread, desserts, tea and water

January 22

King ranch chicken, cheese dip, salsa, chips, salad bar, desserts, tea and water

January 29

Pot roast, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, green beans, rolls, salad bar, tea And water



# Music Ministry

December 15



The Preschool and WWF children's choir presented "A Nativity Story" Sunday, Dec. 15. From sweet sheep to shepherds and angels, more than 50 children helped present to a full sanctuary the birth of our Savior in music that was narrated by Laura Entrekin.

Following their program the adult Chancel Choir and guest orchestra presented "Have You Heard" - a Celtic Christmas. Guest musicians worked with our choir to bring home a special rendition of Christmas.

The amazing kitchen crew assembled soups, salads, special kid fare, and desserts for all guests who could join following the joint Christmas program.



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

A night to reflect upon the birth of Jesus, praising with Christmas Carols and delivery of the message, "You're All Invited" Matthew 1:18-25



# Children's Ministry



Marion United Methodist Church Children's Ministry



December was a wonderful whirlwind of activities for Marion United Methodist Church! This is a season where taking time to worship and give thanks for the birth of Jesus is so very important, and through the eyes of our children - precious!



Our fifth and sixth graders sang Christmas Carols at Willowbend Nursing Home on Wednesday, December 4th.



## COOKIES with Santa

Thanks to all who provided cookies for our children to enjoy as they waited to visit with Santa and Mrs. Clause.



# Preschool



Our preschoolers were the opening act of this year's Christmas program.

Each month our preschoolers learn the joy of giving and helping others by collecting and delivering food for our backpack program. They also gave toys to Hope for the Holidays.



Preschoolers donated and delivered food to the Herbert Carter Global Magnet School.



Preschoolers field trip to the Enchanted Forrest.

## WWF

Our amazing kitchen crew came and graciously helped our kids wrap up our final Worship With Friends of the year by making gingerbread houses!





# Member Spotlight :

## Shanna Boney

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

I have been a member of MUMC for 20 years.

### **Tell us about your family.**

Jamey and I have been married for 20 years. We have two children: Jase is a senior at Marion High School and plans to attend the University of Arkansas next year. Avery is in the ninth grade at Marion Junior High School. Both attended preschool at MUMC and are members of the youth group. We enjoy traveling together and making memories wherever we can!

### **Tell us about your job.**

I currently work as an inside sales rep for a steel company in Memphis. I previously served as MUMC secretary for a couple of years following the loss of our beloved Barbara Smith. I truly enjoyed my time as church secretary. It was such a pleasure getting to know and work with our church members.

### **What are your hobbies?**

My hobbies include spending time with friends and family and being involved in Jase's sports. We love to spend time at the beach each summer and taking small trips during the year when time allows.

### **What are you involved in at MUMC?**

I have been involved in many things at MUMC during the past 20 years. Jamey and I recently retired from teaching the kindergarten and first grade Sunday school class after 12 years. I have also served on various committees over the years and volunteered for VBS and other events. I enjoy helping with our youth group when needed. I currently serve on the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

### **What is your favorite thing about our church?**

I was raised Methodist and knew when we moved to Marion that MUMC would be my church home. The church members have been supportive and welcoming to our family since the first time Jamey and I visited in 1999. My favorite thing about this church is the love and generosity of the members! I am constantly amazed by the outpouring of support for Hope for the Holidays and anything else this church does to reach out and help others in the community. Our backpack program is my favorite!

### **What is your favorite Bible Verse?**

I have several favorite Bible verses. One of my favorites is "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Thessalonians 5:16-18

### **What is your favorite worship song?**

My favorite worship song is "Amazing Grace "(My Chains are Gone) by Chris Tomlin.





## January Birthdays

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

## Memorials for May Ferguson

John and Don Brenner  
Bill and Jane Hartley  
Bart Turner  
E. Jane McNeeley  
Friends & Fellowship  
Scott and Shireen Fogleman  
Scott and Ann Carpenter  
Rowena Stuckey

## Youth Ministry



MUMC Youth

Although the youth were very busy during the month of December with Hope for The Holidays, they managed to get in a night of fun with Secret Santa and a devotional led by youth director, Kolby Jones.



Below: Photos from Hope for the Holidays on Christmas Eve morning.



Upcoming for youth:

February 28th—March 1st / Veritas in Rogers, Arkansas.  
March 6th / Winterfest in Southaven, Mississippi.

*"Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father which is in  
heaven. "*

Matthew 5:16



## January Ushers

Jay Hale                      Danny Moore  
Matt Hale                    Tracy Stokes  
Jeff Masengale             Bart Turner

## January Acolytes

5th     Gray Collard and Callan McCollum  
12th    Avery Gill and Witt Kennedy  
19th    Samantha McAnally and Piper McFarland  
26th    Jack Phillips and Owen Pressler

## January Greeters

Youth Sunday School Group

## January Altar Flower Calendar

5th           Pam Betts  
12th          Carol Johnston  
19th          Open  
26th          Open

## Prayer List

The Family of Earnest Archer, Olive Vaughn,  
Carolyn Shivley, James Sample, Patsy Catt, Dee  
Helton, Scott Bonds, Mart Thaxton, Mason  
Fowler, and 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
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Marion United Methodist Church

## Church Staff

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*Marcia Sutton*  
*Pianist*

*Debbie Wallace*  
*Organist*



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