

MUMC *Message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2020

Mission Work Heart of the Matter

On Sunday, February 16th preparations for setting up tables, packing stations, sealing stations, boxing stations, and pallets were all being arranged as we gathered for worship. . Even lunch arrangements had been made. The wheels were in motion for our Mission Sunday. As people arrived for worship, the first announcement was met with some chuckles and odd looks, "Today worship will only be 30 minutes. Then we will be going down the hall to pack over 20,000 meals!" Hymns were sung, prayers shared, the word preached, and before, we knew it we were in the gym, hairnets and all, packing meals. By 1:00pm that day, we as a congregation packed over 20,000 meals to help feed the hungry. Backs were tired, legs and arms sore, but the spirit was moving. What an amazing blessing! Thank you for your help and support.





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.*

Stopping in the Park

When I was in seminary, I rode public transit, most notably the subway (called the T in Boston) and commuter train, basically every day. While it isn't for everyone, I mostly enjoyed my experience. It was a productive time when I could read, study, make pastoral calls, or just relax. But on warm spring days, rather than taking the T to South Station to catch my train, I would make the 45-minute or so walk from Boston University up through Commonwealth Avenue, and arrive at the Public Garden on Boston Common. There, I would take the rare moment to just stop. I would often buy a water or tea and just relax in the park, for even just a few minutes, to hear the birds and let the business of the day drift off behind me.

In the years following, I have found those opportunities growing rarer as our family has expanded, and the busyness of church has replaced the business of seminary. But still, on a warm day in the Spring I find myself longing for those few precious minutes when it seemed as though the world stopped and let me catch my breath. There are places and times I find those moments. Sometimes, even just walking in the zoo as the kids run up ahead to the next exhibit can give me a glimpse of those moments. What is hard to acknowledge, however, is the moment to find that breath and pause, we must make intentional time. We must take the time, set it aside in our schedules and obligations, to just pause and reflect.

Between the overwhelming force that is the Christmas season and the outburst of joy that is the Easter story, we often limp along spiritually. We don't take the time to renew our walk. We let our prayer life, our worship, and our scripture reading slide. We just feel too busy to make it all happen. Then Lent arrives.

We have entered the Lenten season. This is our deep breath and pause in the park. This is our warm day in which we can take a breath from all our busyness to prepare for the next steps in our walk with Jesus. We know that there is still more to do, more on the horizon, even difficult things ahead, but we pause here. Perhaps you have given something up to help you refocus on the things of God. Or maybe you find yourself like me: just needing a breath. What if this Lenten season you took five, or ten, or even thirty minutes a day to just exist? To just be. To simply rest and watch the world around you.

Take a breath. Pause. Let your soul and body relax. There is more ahead and Jesus is calling us to get ready.

MARCH SERMON SERIES

"People of the Fourth Gospel" Sermon Series

In the Gospel of John, we meet four people who have their lives profoundly changed by encountering Jesus. A religious leader who begins to rethink his faith; a woman being welcomed despite her social location; a man who has been ostracized due to his disability; a friend who was dead. Each of these people had their course in life changed when they encountered Jesus.

This forces us to ask the question: ***How has your life changed since you encountered Jesus?***

Throughout March we will be looking at how the life change each of these experienced helps inspire and guide us in our faith.

March 1st: Nicodemus

March 8th: The Woman at the Well

March 15th: The Man Born Blind

March 29th: Lazarus

"Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again".

1 Kings 18:37

Wednesday Night Dinners

March 4

Taco bar with all of the trimmings, rice, corn, cheese dip, salsa, chips, desserts, drinks

March 11

Breakfast bar. Youth will be cooking
All proceeds go toward the mission trip in June

March 18

Lasagna, roasted vegetables, salad bar, garlic bread, desserts, drinks

March 25

No Dinner—Spring Break

New To Our Family



Bill, Kristen, Caroline and Will Bernard joined our church family on Sunday, January 19, 2020.

Church News

Reoccurring Events:

Mar. 4, 11 & 18	WWF / 3:00 p.m.
	Confirmation Meeting / 4:00 p.m.
	Wed. Communion / 5:30 p.m.
	Wed. Night Dinner / 6:00 p.m.
Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26	BSF / 6:20 p.m.
	Education Building / Upstairs

Mar. 6	Youth—Winterfest in Southaven
Mar. 7-14	University of Georgia Mission Group (will occupy the youth bldg in evenings)
Mar. 8	Finance Committee meeting / 5:00 p.m.
Mar. 15	Church Council / 6:00 p.m.
Mar. 23-27	PDO/Preschool Spring Break
Apr. 10th	Good Friday Service / 7:00 p.m.
Apr. 12th	Easter
	Sunrise Service (MUMC Portico) 7:00 a.m.
	Early Morning Service 9:00 a.m.
	Regular Service 10:45 a.m.

Mission Work

Heart of the Matter



Member Spotlight: Brittany Bius

How long have you been a member of MUMC?

I have been a member of MUMC for about 20 years!



Tell us about your family.

My mom and step dad are Robin and Lee Fesmire. My dad and step mom are Steven and Missy Bius. My siblings are Case and Anna Caroline Fesmire and Megan, Emery Claire and Payne Bius. My grandmother is Liz Laughter.

Tell us about your job.

I graduated from anesthesia school last May and I recently started my dream job as a nurse anesthesiologist at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include singing, reading, playing with my puppy, being active outside, and spending time with friends and family. I also really love to travel and I am looking forward to getting to do a lot more of that now that I am finished with school!

What are you involved in at MUMC?

I am in the praise band and the chancel choir, which I love! Praise band and choir practice is always such a highlight to my week. I also enjoy volunteering to help with WWF and VBS. I try not to miss an opportunity to volunteer at the various events we have at the church!

What is your favorite thing about our church?

My favorite thing about our church is the sense of family. I have loved growing up in our church and having such an amazing extended family. Our congregation is made up of some of the kindest and most supportive people and I love how we always come together to help in a time of need whether it be for someone in the church or out in the community.

What is your favorite bible verse?

I have several favorite verses, but one I always go back to is Matthew 6:33 which says "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."

What is your favorite worship song?

This is a very hard question!! I feel the most connected to the Lord through worship and singing and music is very important and moving for me. If I had to pick just one, it would be "You Say" by Lauren Daigle.



Children's Ministry



Marion United Methodist
Church Children's Ministry

Our WWF children have been so busy helping to make Valentines for all sorts of people! Sweet tidings were mailed to members of our military, delivered to the residents of Willowbend Nursing Home, delivered to the Marion Police Department, and given to our Marion Fire Department!



Children decorated small flower pots with Bible verses and color, while filling the pots with sweet treats! WWF participants stuffed goody bags with love boxes, bracelets, candy pots, and heart mobiles. We love to give small tokens of appreciation and affection to others!



Members of our fifth grade crew at WWF recently packed the pantry and stuffed 80 bags for our church backpack ministry!



WWF Fun: learning about John 3:16, charades, Simon Says, and enjoying the feast from our amazing kitchen crew!!!



Children's Choir



Our WWF Children's Choir performed "Every Move I Make I Make in You," Sunday, Feb. 16. This group of sweet voices helped lead worship before our congregation helped pack meals during our church-wide mission initiative.

Preschool

When you have cold and rain, you simple have a pajama's, pizza and popcorn party.



God loves a cheerful giver. The Shepard's delivered food for the back-pack program to HCGS .

Our preschoolers had a fun geography lesson! Each child learned where they lived on a map of Marion and West Memphis. Then they learned about maps of our state, our country and the world.



MUMC Preschool has begun open enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. Applications are available in our church office, preschool area, or on our church website. For additional information, please email preschool@marion-umc.com or call 870-739-3434.

PDO

MUMC Parent's Day Out program will be accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year on Wednesday, April 15th from 11:00 a.m. until noon. Children must be at least one year in age or walking. PDO will enroll students in the following order:

1. Members of MUMC & returning PDO students.
2. Siblings of those who have attended MUMC PDO and/or Preschool.
3. All others.

Special Wednesday Night Dinner

The 2020 Valentine's Dinner was a great success with over 100 attendees. 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 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 filets and stuffed chicken breasts, both served with sides of asparagus, scalloped potatoes, and bread. Dessert tables held chocolate covered strawberries and homemade marshmallow sticks drizzled with chocolate, heart shaped chocolate chip cookies, chocolate covered bananas sticks and a variety of fruits.

As entertainment during the meal, hosts Matt and Laura Entrekin awarded door prizes and special gifts. Volunteers competed for a gift certificate to Flight Restaurant. The winners were Kyle and Mary Catherine Werner. Special thanks to everyone that helped make the evening a success. We appreciate your hard work!



Ash Wednesday— Mardi Gras Themed Dinner



Our fabulous kitchen crew continues to amaze us with their talents. The Mardi Gras themed dinner featured Shrimp and Chicken Po Boys, Mach Choux, Salad Bar, Chicken strips and fries for the kiddos and an awesome dessert bar with Mardi Gras cookies, cupcakes, king cakes and the kitchen crew bread budding. We had over 160 attend this event following our Ash Wednesday Service.

Happy Birthday!

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

March Ushers

David Brick Jeff Johnston
Joe Catt Wayne Tabor
Lee Fesmire Jeff Vaughn

March Acolytes

1st Cooper & Conner Allison
8th Molly & Sam Owen
15th Witt Kennedy & Owen Pressler
22nd Samatha McNally & Piper McFarland
29th Gray Collard & Callan McCollum

March Greeters

Genesis Sunday School Class

March Altar Flower Calendar

1st Open
8th OPEN
15th Laura Rikard
22nd Open
29th Open

Prayer List

Jane Williamson, Jeff Page, 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



Marion United Methodist Church

Church Staff

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Marcia Sutton
Pianist

Debbie Wallace
Organist

