

MUMC *message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER 2020

Pastor's Notes

From Church to Chaplain

The hardest day of the last year, and there have been many in 2020, was October 5th. On that day, the news became official and public: I will be leaving Marion United Methodist Church in January of 2021 to become a Chaplain in the United States Army. Even typing those words recalls the rush of emotions from the various text messages, phone calls, emails, and visits I have received from you all following this announcement. I will admit to being overwhelmed by your support and positive response. This was a long fraught decision, that pushed Priscilla and I in our understanding of God's call. We are excited, nervous, and curious as to what this change will mean for us and our family.

In preparing for this change, I keep looking at one of the tenants of Army Chaplaincy: ministry of presence. To be present with soldiers while at home, in the field, and while deployed is the ministry of the chaplain. This change of call has made me look at the nature of ministry within our local churches, including here in Marion. How are we involved in ministry of presence with others?

Let us name a couple of things first: presence does not always lead to transformation and presence does not always mean a reciprocal relationship. Jesus encountered many people on his journeys, some were already Jewish, others were Gentile, some were healed, some followed, others did not. Yet, Jesus and the disciples encountered them none the less. Later, in the Great Commission in Matthew and Luke-Acts, Jesus commands the disciples to go forth into all the world. The nature of ministry in the gospels is always one of solidarity and presence. That presence stands beside persons throughout the best and worst of life. There, in those moments, we can offer love and support.

Marion United Methodist Church sits in a unique location here in our community. We have the possibility to grow in presence within our community, to be with people both in their time of need and when things are going well. If there is any lesson that 2020 has taught us, it is that ministry can look different from one moment to the next. As we enter a new time of transition, I would encourage us to pray and seek a new way to be present in our community and to those we serve.

Youth *MUMC Youth*

Our youth director hopes to have Hope for the Holidays adoption forms ready for distribution by mid November. Until then, the program is in need of food for the program. If you would like to help, please purchase items and drop off on the designated shelving located in the Narthex on Sundays or drop the items by the office during the week.

Month of November:

**Canned fruit and spaghettiOs
or ravioli, peanut butter and jelly.**

Wednesday Night Communion

Service is Returning During

Advent:

Wednesday Night Communion Service will be meeting for three weeks during advent: December 2nd, 9th, and 16th. The service will be at 5:30pm and will be in the sanctuary. If you are attending, please enter through the Education Hallway and follow the same guidelines as you would for Sunday morning worship. The service will be approximately 30 minutes in length and Communion will be served.

Stewardship 2021: New Opportunities for a New Year

In 2019, you responded in a resounding way. As we considered our ministries and priorities for 2020, over 125 of our families submitted an Estimate of Giving Card. That is approximately half of the families in our church and is an amazing statement about the faithfulness of this congregation. Throughout November, you will be given the opportunity submit an Estimate of Giving Card for the 2021 church year. I know 2020 has been a difficult and unusual year, but I would like to challenge us again. I would like to set a goal of 140 cards submitted. This would be approximately 65% of our families and would further help us plan and develop ministry here at Marion UMC. More information will be coming out in the next few days, but please do take time to reflect and see how you can support Marion UMC in 2021.

PDO

We are so excited to have our Parent's Day Out program up and running again. We have had to cut back to 7 toddlers this year because of the pandemic.

Ms. Pam and Ms. Kristie have worked hard on new guidelines to put the parents at ease when dropping off the toddlers for their first year of PDO.



Update on Worship and Sunday School:

We resumed indoor, in-person worship on September 20th and have had a great response. We have averaged around 100 persons each week in the sanctuary, while still having around 60-70 each week at Drive-In and many more worshipping through our online platforms. Thank you all for following our guidelines and helping us make sure worship is safe for all who attend.

Below is an update about our worship schedule:

9:00am Drive-In (extended through November 22nd)

10:45am Sanctuary

10:45am Livestream on YouTube and Facebook

Please also remember that Children's Sunday School resumed on November 1st and will be in the gym until further notice.

Sermon Series November 2020:

"Shining, Sharing, and Loving"

In November we will be looking at how we can shine Christ's light, share our gifts and talents, and love our neighbors, even when times are tough. We will be using Matthew 25 as our guide and considering some of these final lessons of Jesus.

Nov. 8th: "Keep Your Light Shining", Matthew 25:1-13

Nov. 15th: "Don't Bury Your Gifts", Matthew 25:14-30

Nov. 22nd: "Being Ready to Love", Matthew 25:31-46

From the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee would like to thank our congregation for your continued financial support. This has been a vastly different and difficult year, but you have responded incredibly.

As we look towards the end of 2020, the Finance Committee would like to extend an opportunity to help the church pay down our existing building debt. For our Christmas Eve services, all gifts and offerings given during those services (unless notated otherwise on the gift) will go directly to Principal Reduction. This is a concrete way you can support the church at the end of 2020 that will help us for years to come. Over the next 8 weeks, please prayerfully consider how you can help with this endeavor.

New To Our Family



Baptism of Kody Ryder Stokes, Sunday October 11, 2020. Kody is the son of Emma Stokes and grandson of Tracey and Tracy Stokes.

Barbara Reginelli –Whitten and Debbie Reginelli joined the church following worship on October 11, 2020.



Member Spotlight:

Jennifer Johnston

How long have you been a member of MUMC?

I became an official member of MUMC under Brother Wayne Clark, when Laura, my daughter, was baptized, in December 2003. I grew up Methodist, but joined MUMC 17 years ago.



Tell us about your family.

Jeff and I met in Orlando, Florida in 1994. We married and moved to Memphis, TN in 1999. We moved to Marion, AR in 2001 and Laura was born in August 2003. Laura is a junior at St. Agnes Academy and a cheerleader for Christian Brothers High School. Jeff is the owner of Bluff City Provisions, the Memphis area distributor for Boar's Head Meats and cheeses. My in-laws, Dr. Jim and Carol Johnston, are an inspiration to me with their faith.

Tell us about your job.

I have been a Spanish teacher for 25 years at the elementary, middle, high school Level for 15 years and at The University of Memphis as a Spanish instructor / advisor for 10 years. Go Tigers! It is truly a blessing to work with students, making plans for them to graduate, secure internships and help find their dream jobs.

What are your hobbies

In my free time, I like to spend time with family and friends, take the dog for walks, read novels and cook.

What are you involved in at MUMC?

At MUMC, I have enjoyed working with the children's ministry as a children's church volunteer, VBS story time teacher and a Spanish Camp instructor. Outside of working with children, I served as part of the cookbook committee, was part of the Praise Team Worship Band, I facilitate the Hullabaloo Country Store and participated in and hosted ABCD small group bible study programs under Brother Tom Letchworth and Celeste Letchworth.

What is your favorite thing about our church?

My favorite thing about the church are the people! I feel at home at MUMC each time I walk in the door.

What is your favorite worship song?

My favorite worship song is Open the eyes of my heart- Michael Smith

What is your favorite bible verse??

My favorite bible verse is Philippians 4:13. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. In the year 2016, I lost my mother, my grandma and my grandpa. I would never have been able to face these losses without God in my life, knowing Jesus Christ was my savior and that the Holy Spirit was at work to help bring me peace.



Prayer Concerns:

Cheryl Allen; Vince Callahan;
Harold Carpenter; Scott Carpenter; Marty Catt; Patsy Catt; Terri Catt; Patricia Davis;
Sharon DeVasier; Teddy Ferguson;
Mason Fowler; Leigh Garrett; Debbie Hale;
Pat Jacobs; Emily Kyzar; Wayne Marconi;
Roy Miller; Jeff Page; Kathryn Perkins;
Peppi Pirani; James Sample; Zac Stevens;
Mart Thaxton; Martha Ann Weaver;
Billie Williams; Jane Williamson;
Tim Williamson; All Hospital Personnel,
First Responders, Nursing Home Residents
& Staff; Teachers, staff, faculty, and
students; COVID19 pandemic.

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. Drive-In Worship Service

10:45 a.m. Indoor In-person Worship
and
Online Worship Service



Marion United Methodist Church



Marion UMC

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 1	Ginger Barber Olivia Coopwood	Nov. 11	Ripp Inman	Nov. 16	Gary Kelley	Nov. 21	Anne Hurst
Nov. 3	Madelyn Allison John Whittington	Nov. 12	Brynna Claire Fogleman Tom French Pamela Rosavo	Nov. 17	Allie Altemus William S. Jonas Emily Lugar	Nov. 22	Dana Robbins
Nov. 4	Teresa Gardner	Nov. 13	Holly Lancaster	Nov. 18	Sheila Henderson Sheryl Tabor	Nov. 23	Blake Vaughn
Nov. 5	Preston Barber Cindy Benton Case Fesmire Bart Turner	Nov. 15	Ann Harness Jeremy Roeder Jonythan Tribble	Nov. 20	Donovan Doyle Sam Gibbs Heath Jackson	Nov. 24	Brandon Moore Jennifer Wallace
Nov. 6:	Austin Cates					Nov. 26	Lindley Abrams Jeff Altemus Laura Rikard
Nov. 7	Cindy French					Nov. 27	Mary C. Fogleman James Mason Coe
Nov. 9	Kevin Bellis Whit Keasler					Nov. 29	Sarah Traugh
Nov. 10	Banks Barber Joseph Hale Garrett Sargent					Nov. 30	Kristin Allison Jase Boney Julie Heath Jan Long



Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9-3 / Friday 9-Noon

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