

# MUMC *message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2020

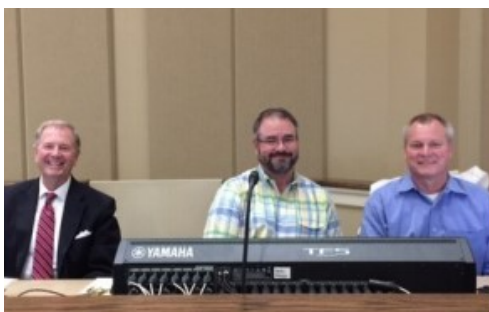
## LIVING A LIFE FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

While you may see Pastor Andrew, Blake, the Praise Team, and Marcia and Debbie leading worship on Sunday, there is another group that ensures things run smoothly. Without this group, worship would not happen. For 2020, they have adapted and adjusted, taking worship from the sanctuary to the internet, to the parking lot, and back again. We as a church cannot thank them enough for all of their hard work and commitment to make sure our technology runs smoothly for worship each week.

Thank you Lannie Lancaster, Frank Wallace, and Vance Bacon for all of your hard work and dedication.

### Update on Drive-In Worship:

Drive-In Worship will continue until further notice.



## Hope for the Holidays

This year our Hope for the Holidays deliveries will be just a bit different. We will start at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas Eve in the MUMC main parking lot. Food boxes will be available for pick up at both gym entrances on the South side of the building.

If you are making a delivery to families for whom the youth shopped for or were not adopted, Karen Jones will be just inside the Education Building / Portico entrance to hand out information for those families. The gifts for these families can be picked up at the youth entrance. The family adoption process will begin soon, but please remember we also need volunteers to help shop, wrap and bag gifts for the families.

Please contact Kolby Jones ([kjones@marion-umc.com](mailto:kjones@marion-umc.com)) to help with any and all of these great projects.

## 2020 Daily Prayer

*Eternal God, pour out 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 the vision you have 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*

## ***I Need Christmas This Year***

I am well known in my family, my friend groups, and clergy circles for being a bit of a Scrooge during the Christmas season. I am not totally sure how it happened. My best guess is that after years of working in Church, particularly when I was on the music side of ministry, the simple joys of the season were replaced by “work”. This is a common issue for us clergy and church employee folk, particularly with the ever-expanding footprint of the “Christmas season”, now stretching seemingly from mid-Oct to about Noon on Christmas day.

There are ways in which I try to fight against it. I hold the kids off on Christmas movies and specials until at least after Thanksgiving, if not December 1<sup>st</sup>. I try to plan worship to focus on Advent and “waiting”. Priscilla graciously indulges me, and we hold off on putting up our Christmas tree until the last few days before Christmas. It then stays up until Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. And I will admit that most years this does give me some relief, as well as a Scroogie reputation. Yet, as 2020 grinds to an end, I realize that this year I need Christmas. Now.

Part of the reason why Christmas is such a powerful holiday and holy day is that the entire focus is upon deliverance. That deliverance and salvation was long awaited by the Israelite people. The prophets of the Hebrew Bible foretold that God’s deliverance would come. A savior, a prince of peace, one who would change the world, would be born to save the people from their oppressor and their sin. The people of the Hebrew Bible waited some 600 years for that prophesy to be realized. Even then, Jesus defied the expectations of the people, who sought a warrior king, and instead lived out a life of love and grace. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, the reality of God’s love is made manifest, redeeming the world.

This year has tried all our patience and has looked like no other year in living memory. We need something to look forward to and set our minds upon. The promise of the Christ child shares a new hope in the world. We receive a promise that rather than being bound in our current place, we are set free in something greater. This year I look forward to Christmas, not just the day, but the whole season. The hope, joy, peace, and love that can abound even during a pandemic. I pray you too are looking forward to Christmas. This year do not simply wait but embrace the promise that is to come. From someone who would normally urge you to hold off, be patient, wait for Christmas...this year I boldly say to you: Merry Christmas! Christ is coming, and indeed is already here, sharing hope and grace with a hurting a broken world.

# Wednesday Night Communion, Drive thru Communion and Dinners-To-Go

## Service is Returning During Advent:

Our Wednesday Night Communion service will return during Advent. Dates for the service are: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Pastor Andrew will also offer drive-thru communion from 6:10pm until 6:30pm on those nights. To receive drive thru communion, please pull under the portico on the main parking lot from Hwy. 77 to avoid traffic picking up to go food.

Our kitchen crew has graciously agreed to provide meals for the 2nd and the 9th. Those meals will be to-go only, available immediately following the end of service. The cost will be \$7.00 and can be picked up under the Gym Entrance Canopy. Menu for each is as follows:

December 2: Choice of potato, taco or tortellini soup with chef salad, bread and dessert

December 9th: Lasagna, salad, bread and dessert

## *Special Music Opportunities*

While we are unable to do our normal Cantata and Pageant programs this year, we will still be having some special Christmas music opportunities.

On Sunday night, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm, we will be sharing a previous cantata program from our Choir via YouTube and Facebook. On Christmas morning, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am, we will release a special music compilation from many of our musicians and singers to help make your Christmas morning even brighter.

## With the New Year comes a new Pastor.



We will be welcoming our new pastor, Bill Cato, on January 17, 2021.



# Advent-Christmas Sermon Series

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> through Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>

## *“Light in the Darkness: The Hope of Christmas”*

As we wrap up the difficult year that has been 2020, we focus on the light and hope of Christ found in Christmas. From the birth of Jesus, to His death on the cross, to the glorious resurrection, and promised final reign, we share in the grace of Jesus. In this season we will encounter the stories and people from the birth narratives and see where we can both see hope and live in the light for the future.

- Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>: Prophets in the Wilderness  
Sermon: “Screaming for Hope”  
Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-17  
and Mark 1:2-8
- Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>: The Expectant Women  
Sermon: “I’ve Got Something to Tell You...”  
Scripture: Luke 1:5-18  
and Luke 1:26-38
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>: Shepherds and Magi  
“For the Poor and the Immigrant”  
Scripture: Luke 2:8-20  
and Matthew 2:1-12
- Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>: With the Animals  
“It Happened Where?”  
Scripture: Luke 2:1-7  
and Matthew 1:18-25
- Dec. 23/24: The Child of Creation  
“From the Beginning and the End”  
Scripture: John 1:1-14  
and Revelation 1:7-8
- Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>: Fulfilling the Law  
“The Torah and The Law”  
Scripture: Luke 2:21-38  
and Matthew 2:13-15
- Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>: The Salvation of the World  
“And a Child Shall Lead Them”  
Scripture: Luke 2:41-51  
and Matthew 2:16-18

## New To Our Family



Jason and Grace Sells joined our church following the baptism of their daughter Ava Taylor Sells on Sunday, November 8, 2020.



The Pandemic has caused us to become creative for those who are wanting to join MUMC, but are not ready to attend the in-person service.

Brian Kremer and Tammie Hatley met with Pastor Andrew during the week prior to the announcement of officially joining the church on November 22, 2020.



# MUMC Spotlight: Joanna Chafin

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

I have been a member since we moved to Marion in 2012.

## Tell us about your family.

I married my high school sweetheart, Chase, in 2007. We have 2 sons, Ford (10) and Patton (4). Chase is a farmer in the Osceola area. Ford is a 4th grader at West Memphis Christian School and Patton is a pre-K student at MUMC. We also have 4 dogs.

## Tell us about your job.

Full time mom! And while it's difficult at times, it's also one of my biggest blessings!

## What are your hobbies?

I enjoy spending time with family and friends, cooking, gardening, deer hunting, and watching Ford play baseball.

## What are you involved in at MUMC?

I've enjoyed helping with VBS and Hope for the Holidays each year. I'm also on the Preschool Board.

## What is your favorite thing about our church?

There are many things I love about MUMC! It's so heartwarming to walk in on Sunday mornings and see so many friends with smiles on their faces. I'm very thankful that we have so many young families and lots of children in our Church. I always look forward to seeing the kids, especially during VBS! I also love Christmas Eve because of our Hope for the Holidays activities and candlelight service.

## What is your favorite Bible Verse?

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 16-18

## What is your favorite worship song?

This is tough because I love all of the music, both old and new. Some of my favorites are How Great Thou Art, In Christ Alone, Up from the Grave He Arose, How Great is Our God, and Voice of Truth.







The Marion Preparatory School Academy collected canned goods for our Hope for the Holidays program. They delivered the goods to the youth building on November 18th.



## Turkey Dinner for the Elderly

Typically, the holidays are a unique time of the year which allows us to reach out to others in many ways and display the love of Christ to a watching world. Thanksgiving, in particular, is a great time to show love for our community. This year we once again partnered with Arkansas Council on Aging to provide a prepackaged meal to 83 individuals on Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving day. We are hopeful that, next year, our youth group will once again prepare meals and deliver home-cooked meals on Thanksgiving morning.



The youth building continues to get updates. Kolby Jones and his father, Stephen Jones built an amazing 20-foot focal wall and attached the following scripture: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

## Preschool



Preschool took advantage of the beautiful fall weather and spent one morning picnicking, visiting the community garden, and gathering fall leaves.



Ms. Beverly and Ms. Ginger held a cooking camp with both preschool classes. After reading a fun story about pizza, the kids each made their own yummy pizza.



## 2021 Church Council

Chairperson	Matt Entrekin
Vice Chairperson	Brian Doyle
Sec. of Council/Charge Conf.	Jerri Crase
Treasurer	Frank Fogleman
Finance Chair	Shelby Cole
Financial Secretary	Sheila Henderson
Lay Leader	Matt Entrekin
Lay Member/Annual Conf.	John Fogleman
Sup. of Sunday School	Scott Fogleman
	Sally Streeter
SPRC Chair	Lannie Lancaster
Trustee Chair	Marty Cooper
Youth Director	Kolby Jones
Children's Director	Straley Owen
Music Director	Blake Owen
UMW President	Jerri Crase
Membership Secretary	Sheila Henderson
Hullabaloo Coordinator	Allison Wehrum
Usher Coordinators	Rich Busby
	Scott Carpenter
	Tony Gardner
Wedding Liasons	Dawn Brenner
	Nancy Fogleman

## 2021 Committees

### Trustees:

2021 Vance Bacon, Tracy Brick, Marty Cooper  
 2022 David Fogleman, Steve Ford, Stacy Parker  
 2023: Jack Avery, Steve Knych, Don Nelson

### Finance Committee:

2021 Kelly Fogleman, Michelle Schwartz, Nick Sutton  
 2022 Shelby Cole, Josh Doyle, Mitch Shidler  
 2023: Robin Fesmire, Justin Rikard, Tracey Stokes

### Staff/Parish Relations Committee:

2021 Pat Crase, Cindy French, Rachel Vaughn  
 2022 Lannie Lancaster, Farah McFarland, Bartt Vaughn  
 2023: David Brick, Gary Kelley, Misty Kennedy

### Nominations Committee:

2021 Paul Allen, Doc Johnston, Cassie Morris  
 2022 Nancy Fogleman, Betsy Laughter, Tim Parker  
 2023: Jerri Crase, Syndi Landry, Anna Rawls

### Church Council At-Large:

2021 Sandy Nelson, Ellen Whittington, Neal Williams  
 2022 Brian Doyle, Chloe Harrison, Jay Salter  
 2023: Jason Collard, Jim Johnston, Whit Keasler

### THANK YOU!

We would like to extend a most gracious thank you to all of those rolling off committees this year:

Scotta Allen, Shanna Boney, Shelby Cole, David Fogleman, Garrison Hardke, Cathy Horton, Andy Rawls, Bart Turner, Beverly Vaughn, Mike Walker and David Wallace

## December Birthdays

Dec 1 Nick Chrisman  
Megan Conrad  
Lorelai Kay Harrison  
Tinlee Mae Harrison  
Collin Wade Knych

Dec. 2 Les Callan

Dec. 3 Beth Sutton

Dec. 4 Anna Caroline Fesmire  
Chasity Johnston  
David Wallace  
Glen Whitmarsh

Dec. 5 Waverly Kate Gray  
Mary-Ann Ford  
Taylor Fowler  
Mary Inman  
James O'Beirne

Dec. 6 John Griffie  
James Williams

Dec. 7 Wyatt Entrekin  
Sallie Streeter

Dec. 8 Matt Entrekin  
Robin Fesmire  
Destiny Henderson  
Jenny Knych

Dec. 9 Chase Chafin

Dec. 10 Pat Crase  
Elizabeth Hardke  
Debbie Scola

Dec. 11 Bill Barnett

Dec. 12 Lauren Catt  
Marty Cooper  
Wilson Henderson

Dec. 13 Brenda Melton

Dec. 14 Josh Doyle  
Lauren Miller

Dec. 15 Lannie Lancaster  
Layton Scarbrough  
Brooklyn Sims

Dec. 16 Scott Carpenter  
Rachel Vaughn

Dec. 18 Mary Alice Gerrard

Dec. 19 Lucas Peyton  
Samuel Kjolraug  
Claire Wallace

Dec. 20 Ryce Smith  
Allison Wehrum

Dec. 22 Jane Hartley  
Miller Owen

Dec. 23 Nathan Castle  
Jimmy Williams

Dec. 24 Vernon Luedke  
Samatha McAnally

Dec. 25 Anna Elizabeth Entrekin

Dec. 26 Mario Baratti

Dec. 28 Rachel Coe  
Sean Gray  
Rick Preslar  
Jackson Rawls  
Jason Sells

Dec. 29 George Andrew Myers  
Gary Wehrum

Dec. 30 Joe Catt  
Stoy Long  
Wayne Nelson

Dec. 31. Ben Gerrard



## Prayer Concerns:

Laurie Adams; Cheryl Allen; Vince Callahan; Harold Carpenter; Scott Carpenter; Marty Catt; Patsy Catt; Terri Catt; Patricia Davis; Sharon DeVasier; Glen Fenter; Mason Fowler; Leigh Garrett; Debbie Hale; Lloyd Hightower; Pat Jacobs; Bill King; Emily Kyzar; Wayne Marconi; Roy Miller; Jeff Page; Kathryn Perkins; Peppi Pirani; Jeremy Roeder; James Sample; Zac Stevens; Mart Thaxton; Martha Ann Weaver; Woody and Diane Wheelless; 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

## Church Staff

Reverend Andrew Kjorlaug, Pastor  
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PDO Teacher

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

Marcia Sutton  
Pianist

Debbie Wallace  
Organist



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