



MUMC

message

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2021

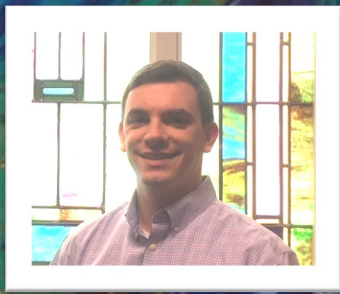


Hope for the Holidays

Hope for the Holidays 2020 was indeed challenging, from collecting food items to shopping for families. We are so blessed to have members willing to step up during tough times to make this event a success. While our normal indoor gathering took on a new look this year by having everyone meet on the main parking lot and tuning into the radio for a devotional by our Youth Director, Kolby Jones. After a prayer led by Pastor Andrew, everyone received instructions on how to proceed picking up food and gifts.

The food boxes were split into regular and large families and distributed at two locations off the gym. Karen Jones was stationed in the education hall for those who were willing to make deliveries. 2020 certainly will be one to remember. We were able to take on 77 families and 269 children. Not only did we overcome many challenges, but we did not let the pandemic prevent us from delivering food, gifts and a bright Merry Christmas to those on our Hope for the Holidays list. THANK YOU MUMC!!!!





Pastor Andrew's final Sunday is January 10th:

Sermon: What We Leave Behind..."

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 and Mark 4:1-20

What We Leave Behind...

May 25th, 2003. That was my first day of local church ministry. It was just down the I-40 in Forrest City. Since that time, I have served churches in Tennessee, Massachusetts, and Arkansas. I served in youth ministry, music ministry, Christian education, and as clergy. I have had some amazing experiences and some terrifying ones. Over the years I have wrestled with my call and how to serve in the local church. I resisted God's call into ordained ministry, struggling with the implications of itineracy and consequences on family life. There was even a time I considered leaving ministry. Yet throughout all that time, my call and the church have persisted.

My call (and subsequently my appointment) will change on January 21st. That is the day that I report to Fort Jackson, outside Columbia, South Carolina to begin my journey as an Army Chaplain. Following the completion of my training, we will relocate to Fort Campbell in Kentucky. Even as I write these words there is a nervous excitement and anxiety mixing in my heart. I am excited to serve our country and help our soldiers. I am also anxious at the distinct life change that will occur. I am excited for new adventures and the opportunity to serve God in a new way. I am also anxious at the reality of being separated from my family for the next few months as I attend training. This mix of emotions reminds me of the uncertainty of ministry. We answer God's call, but we do not know where that will send us when we answer. It is both exhilarating and scary at the same time.

When I was appointed here in 2018, you not only welcomed my family and I, but you incorporated us into the Marion community. You prayed for us, you fed us, you worshipped with us, and even as 2020 turned into an unusual and difficult year, we walked through it together. I can never say enough about Marion United Methodist Church and your support. You are a church that has so many seeds planted. Some are just now being watered, others are growing, and some are beginning to bear fruit. Keep planting. Keep watering. Keep moving forward.

In I Corinthians, Paul speaks that "...I planted, Apollos watered, but God has been making it grow..." The nature of ministry is that we may never see the seeds we planted come to fruition, but through faithfulness and prayer we know that God will be at work. On one of my first Sundays, we handed out a small packet of seeds and I asked: "What is God planting at Marion UMC?" I ask that question of you again. What is God planting, watering, and growing here at Marion UMC? We may not see all that pieces yet, but I know that God is and will do a great thing at Marion United Methodist Church. Continue to plant seeds, water them, and see what God can do.

Andrew

Children's Ministry Position Update:

Back in early 2020, before the pandemic took hold, Staff Parish was working to restructure our Children's Ministry position. After many months of delays, this work is completed. Beginning January 1st, Straley Owen and Michelle Schwartz will share the Children's Ministry position, splitting the various aspects between them. This will enable us to be pushing forward in new ways as we emerge from the pandemic, ready to move in ministry in new ways. As we look forward to the return of our WWF program sometime in 2021, this change will help us better reach our children and their families for the work of God.



Pastor William Cato

Greetings, Marion UMC family! My name is Bill Cato and I am your incoming pastor. I am looking forward to joining you in January as we continue the work of building God's kingdom together in Marion. Together we share the important mission of helping people discover how to live life on purpose as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are currently engaging in this all-important work under difficult circumstances. But there is hope! Remember the words of the author of Hebrews who wrote that "Faith is the certainty of things hoped for, the proof of things not seen" (NASB). So, keep your faith in God's future for our church because it is the best future we can hope for.

For the present, we are looking for every way possible to introduce me to the congregation. I want to thank Andrew for the opportunity to write an article to tell you a bit about myself. I'm a lifelong Arkansan who loves life in the Natural State. I grew up in the Searcy-Judsonia-Kensett metroplex which means I love Yarnell's ice cream!

I graduated high school as part of the last graduating class of Kensett High School before they consolidated with Judsonia and Giffithville to form Riverview. I attended Henderson State University for my bachelor's degree, Memphis Theological Seminary for my masters, and Garrett Evangelical-Theological Seminary in Chicago for my doctorate.

I enjoy camping and hiking adventures and have worked with United Methodists in Virginia/West Virginia to minister with hikers on the Appalachian Trail. I'm a movie buff as well - especially anything with Robin Williams or Bill Murray - but my favorite movie is still "The Godfather." I enjoy Civil War history and visiting battlefields. My favorite professional sports teams are the Chicago Bears, the Cubs, the Memphis Grizzlies, and the Detroit Red Wings. I also love BBQ and Blues music.

What else? Oh, yeah! I once met Gerald Ford. I was about five or six years old at the time. He visited Arkansas and my grandmother took me to see him. Afterward, we were standing in a line as he was leaving by limousine. My grandmother picked me up and held me up to the car window. He rolled down the window and shook my hand.

I grew up in two other faith traditions. My father's family is Baptist and my paternal grandfather was deacon. My mother's family is Pentecostal and my maternal grandfather was a preacher. I came into the United Methodist Church after college through the influence of my Philosophy professor, Dr. Bill Gentry, and his wife Betty. Dr. Gentry was also an ordained United Methodist elder. I like to say that the Baptists taught my how to read the Bible, the Pentecostals taught me how to pray, and the Methodists taught me how to love.

So, that's a bit about me. Again, I'm excited to join you in person in a few short weeks. I've been praying for Marion UMC every day since I learned of this new appointment. I've also been praying for Andrew, Priscilla, and their family. I hope you will join me in prayer over the holidays. Please pray for the Kjørlaug's, for Marion, and for me.

May God richly bless you in this Christmas season. Follow the star; sing with the angels; linger at the manger, and may the peace of the Christ child be yours.

Bill



Lighting of the Advent Candles



The Johnston Family



The Collard Family



The Wehrum Family



The Allison Family



The Gerrard Family



*Christmas
Eve*



Christmas Special

Our Annual Christmas Program was pre-recorded this year for our YouTube and Facebook viewers . A special Thank You to our musicians who have gone the extra mile during 2020 to bring us music, bells and singing.



Preschool



Above: Ms. Susan Hale spent a morning with the children building gingerbread houses.

Below: Delivering toys to Hope for the Holidays program.



The preschool classes shared in a Christmas Party this year.

Snacks, fun and games !!

Backpack Program

We would like to thank our many volunteers who unpack, box and deliver food to our local schools . This program has been such a blessing to so many children throughout out community. This program could not exist without the support of our congregation and volunteers.



MUMC Spotlight: Jay Collard

How long have you been a member of MUMC?

I have been a member at MUMC for 15 years.

Tell us about your family.

I am blessed with a sweet, wonderful and beautiful wife Natalie. Three fantastic kids Sydney, Whit and Grey. Sydney is a senior in high school at Saint Agnes and plans to attend college next year at either University of Arkansas or University of Alabama. Whit is a sophomore at Christian Brothers High School and is on the football and track teams. Grey is in sixth grade at Richland Elementary and plays golf and basketball.

Tell us about your job.

I enjoy a couple full time jobs. I am a CPA and enjoy having a relatively small client base of family and friends. I also work at FedEx Express and manage the Global Mobility and Human Resource People Support teams.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy all family time and especially family trips, golf with my dad and sons, college football viewing with friends and perfecting my jump shot.

What are you involved in at MUMC?

I have enjoyed a couple of stints on the finance committee and have recently joined the Church Council.

What is your favorite thing about our church?

There are so many things I love about our church but the wonderful members make this a special place.

What is your favorite Bible Verse?

John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." I think this verse pretty much sums it all up for me.

What is your favorite worship song?

During the Christmas season, I particularly enjoyed listening to Christmas songs some of which are: Do They Know It's Christmas; We Three Kings; Tennessee Christmas; The First Noel; Silent Night; Go Rest High On That Mountain, and Blessed Assurance.



YOUTH

FOOD DRIVE: The student council at Herbert Carter Global Community led a food drive for one week with a goal of collecting 1500 items of food for our annual Hope for the Holidays food pantry. Children from Kindergarten through sixth grade participated. Not only did they meet their goal, but exceeded collections to over 2600 items. The children delivered the items over a two-day period and organized the items by categories to help assist with an easy flow of packing food boxes. Our collection process was challenging this year, but thanks to HCGC, we were able to catch up. Thank you to all that participated in the group effort.

SHOPPING FOR FAMILIES: The youth masked up and went on their annual shopping trip for adopted families. The group selected two families and shopped for a total of 10 children.



Children's Ministry

The Marion United Methodist Church Children's Ministry wanted to share love with our children from Sunday School and our Worship With Friends Ministry, even if we cannot be together! Sunday School teachers and Mrs. Straley took goodies to more than 75 families in the days leading to Christmas so, while apart, we could still celebrate the Advent and Christmas season!

Goody bags varied per family based upon the age or number of siblings, but all included a candle to be lit Christmas Morning to help celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus!

Special thanks to the church for helping support and supply materials for children from both Sunday School and Worship With Friends! And special thanks to Diana Lugar, Pam Betts, Joe Catt, and Pastor Andrew for helping to distribute to our families!



Prayers for a blessed start to our New Year!

January Birthdays

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

Prayer Concerns:

Harold Carpenter; Scott Carpenter; Marty Catt; Patsy Catt; Terri Catt; Patricia Davis; Mason Fowler; Emily Kyzar; Wayne Marconi; Errol & Margie Marshall; Kathryn Perkins; Jeremy Roeder; James Sample; Zac Stevens; Mart Thaxton; Billie Williams; Jane Williamson; Tim Williamson; The Family of Chief Gary Kelley; 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 UMC



Marion United Methodist Church

Church Staff

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Youth Director
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Marcia Sutton
Pianist

Debbie Wallace
Organist



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

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