

# MUMC *message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2021

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We again approach the forty days of Lent. During this season, new and longtime Christians alike hear the call to return to God with all their hearts, thus entering a season historically characterized by much prayer and fasting. You are encouraged to fast, if you are able, from one or more meals on Ash Wednesday. Prayer and fasting are frequently linked together in the scriptures as two significant means of grace. Ash Wednesday is a traditional service that opens the season of Lent. The observance invites us to reflect on our mortality and repentance of sin. The ashes are imposed on the foreheads of the participants in the service as a witness to both repentance and God's grace.

These works of discipline have for hundreds of years served as a means by which new converts prepare for baptism, which occurs as a part of the Easter Vigil. Using the words of Wesleyan theology, we believe all this work is initiated by God, who invites us to come before God with all our hearts.

This year you will have two options. We will host a drive thru in the morning where you will receive prayers and ashes or join us for our indoor evening service at 6 pm. For those who opt for the drive thru, please enter the portico from the gym area and exit onto Hwy. 77.

**Drive-Thru 6:00 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.**

**Indoor Service / 6:00 p.m.**

### *Dinners To-Go is back for Ash Wednesday*

The kitchen crew will be preparing to go dinners before and after the Ash Wednesday service, February 17.

Menu will be: Red Beans and Rice  
Mach Choux  
French Bread  
Bread pudding

Cost is \$7 per person. 4:45-6:00 p.m.  
and  
6:30-7:00 p.m.

Pick up location will be the kitchen door. Once you arrive, someone will be out to deliver food to your car.

Please place your order by emailing  
Beverly Vaughn at  
[bvaughn5@comcast.net](mailto:bvaughn5@comcast.net).

*“Whenever you fast, don’t be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they make their faces unattractive so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.”*

*Matthew 6:16*





*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 1:4-6, NIV*



## *Pastor's Pen*

Partnership. Did you notice that word in the scripture above? Paul calls the Philippian disciples “partners in the gospel.”

The Greek word that Paul uses is actually *koinonia*. The word *koinonia* is usually translated as “fellowship” but the problem with that rendering is that when we hear the word “fellowship”, we typically think of donuts and coffee and conversation. Now, there’s nothing wrong with a good donut! I enjoy them myself ... maybe a little too much. But Paul has something bigger in mind.

The Christian fellowship Paul has in mind is a sharing of the same vision of getting the gospel to the world – and then investing personally to make it happen. When Paul thanks God for the “partnership” of the Philippians, he is thanking God that from the very first day of their conversion, they rolled up their sleeves and got involved in the advance of the gospel. Paul knew about the power of partnership.

I don’t know about you, but it’s all too easy for me to imagine the great apostle Paul as some kind of trail blazing lone ranger, out there writing the New Testament, founding churches, and preaching the gospel all by himself. That’s simply not the case. Paul was never alone in his missionary work of spreading the gospel. He had wealthy benefactors like Phoebe, Pricilla and Aquilla, and Lydia. He also had companions like Luke and Barnabas and Timothy. In addition, he was often in contact with supportive local church leaders like Chloe and Junia, the female apostle, and Apollos. Paul was never alone in working for the gospel. He understood the value and the power of partnership.

Partnership means investment – we are all invested in the same goal, the same work, the same mission. One thing is for sure: we are not called to live by the Gospel According to Otis Redding, “sittin’ on the dock of the bay, watchin’ the tide roll away.” Partners have skin in the game. Partners put their back into it. Partners work for a common goal. Partners add their abilities and strengths together to benefit everyone. Partners give their all to support others and partners work to strengthen everyone else.

A few weeks ago, we started a partnership with each other. It’s a partnership in ministry, a partnership in worship and service to our community. It’s a partnership in which we will learn about each other and how we can work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ right here in Marion and throughout the Delta region.

What are we all about here at Marion United Methodist? We’re about being disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We’re about helping other people live life on purpose by connecting with Christ for life – a life-changing experience, a life-forming discipleship, and a life-long mission to change the world. So we’re not just members. We’re not just people with our names on a roll. We’re not just individuals who happen to belong to the same club. We’re partners – partners with God; partners with each other.

And, finally, let’s remember the words of Paul to the Phillipians: I am “confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” This partnership in the gospel: It begins with God, it will continue with God, and it will be completed with God. All God needs is a few good partners.



## Saying Farewell and Welcome

Pastor Andrew's last worship service was held on January 10th. Toward the end of service he and incoming pastor Bill Cato prayed over each other, their families, our church and our community. Many of those in service wished Pastor Andrew much luck during his upcoming weeks of service on his way to becoming an Army Chaplain.



## Sermon Series

Population We: Learning How to Love and Serve Our Community (February 14—March 21)

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. And he also added a second commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. How do we fulfill these two commandments? In this six-week sermon series, we will explore the answer to that very question.

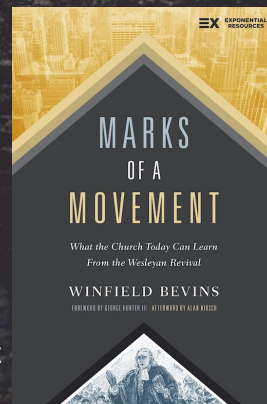


## Pastor's Reading Corner

### CURRENTLY READING:

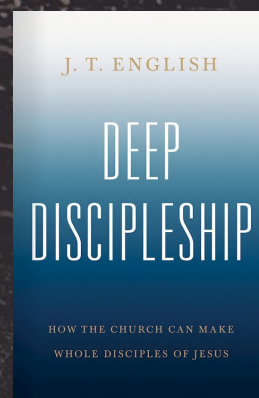
We in the Western Church need a movement of historic proportions once again. What would such a multiplication movement look like for us today? We must look to the past to gain wisdom for the future. And as we look at the pages of church history, there is no better example of a multiplication movement in the West than the Methodist movement of the eighteenth and nineteenth

centuries. In *Marks of a Movement* Winfield Bevins reminds us of the vital multiplication lessons from the Wesleyan movement, and highlights the lessons and key insights that enable us to learn from the past and reapply this timeless, biblical wisdom for today. With a love for history as well as a passion for today's church, *Marks of a Movement* calls us back to the disciple-making mandate of the church through the timeless wisdom of John Wesley and the Methodist movement, one of the greatest missional movements the world has ever known.



### On Deck:

Everyone is being discipled. The question is: what is discipling us? The majority of Christians today are being discipled by popular media, flashy events, and folk theology because churches have neglected their responsibility to make disciples. But the church is not a secondary platform in the mission of God; it is the primary platform God uses to grow people into the image of Jesus. Therefore, as church leaders, it is our primary responsibility to establish environments and relationships where people can be trained, grow, and be sent as disciples. In *Deep Discipleship* J.T. English helps to equip churches to reclaim the responsibility of discipling people at any point on their journey.



## WELCOME Rev. Dr. William Cato

Please join us in welcoming Bill to Marion United Methodist Church. We will host a drive-thru welcome for Bill on Sunday, February 14th from 11:45—12:45. This is a great opportunity for those who have not had an opportunity to meet Bill. Please be sure to mark your calendars to give our new pastor a big welcome.

This is a perfect time for those who have ordered sweet treats from our kitchen crew. Say Hello! to Bill then simply swing by the kitchen to pick up your order of cinnamon rolls or chocolate covered strawberries.



## *Valentine's Sweets & Treats*

*The kitchen crew will be preparing sweets for Valentine's Day. They will offer cinnamon rolls (approximately 6-7 per pan) for \$10 or one dozen chocolate covered strawberries for \$25.*

*Orders will be available for pick up on Valentine's Day at 11:45 in the MUMC kitchen following the indoor church service*

*Please email [bvaughn5@comcast.net](mailto:bvaughn5@comcast.net) to sign up.*

## *New to our Church Family*



*Grover Shannon  
joined our church  
on Sunday,  
January 10, 2021.*

## *Thank You!*

*I cannot express enough thanks and appreciation to all of you at MUMC for your prayers and gifts as I transitioned into the United States Army. It meant the world to myself, Priscilla and our family. Your kind hearts and generosity were an incredible blessing. May the Holy Spirit continue to be upon Marion United Methodist Church.  
Thank you all.*



## *2020 Report from the Trustees:*

The mission of maintaining and improving our facilities is important to our community witness. Our buildings and grounds make the first impression on church guests. We want our facilities to command beauty while also keeping an eye on good stewardship practices.

This past year provided several opportunities for our Trustees. One of the first was the opportunity to participate in solar energy through Entergy. This project took a great deal of the year to assess, review and eventually meet with Entergy representatives before deciding to proceed with the project. We saw our first savings in November 2020 and expect to continue these savings from the opportunity offered to schools, churches and other non-profit entities.

Over the past two years we have had issues with the HVAC units in the Family Life Center. The units were approximately 30 years old, and with the church being closed, we had the perfect opportunity to replace the units without disrupting any ongoing events. We replaced a total of six old units with 15 SEER units to hopefully provide us additional savings throughout the upcoming years.

The trustees took advantage of an LED incentive opportunity. Our church is now 99.5% LED lights. We were able to reduce the number of fixtures from 119 to 64 and reduce the number of bulbs per fixture. One of the things our trustees look at throughout the years is our energy usage and with each LED project, we have continued to see our energy costs decrease.

It's hard to believe, but February marks one year since we installed the gym canopy and new doors. This not only provided a noticeable entrance to our gym but has also come in very handy during our summer outreach food distribution program (an extension of our backpack program) and again during our Hope for the Holidays program.

This past year we had our typical spring storms but during May, we had a storm with straight line winds causing damage to our shingled roofs. After several meetings with the insurance adjusters, we were able to obtain approval for all three roofs (Ed Hall, Sanctuary and Family Life Center) to be replaced. That task was completed during December.

### *Other:*

- We installed additional speed bumps to prevent speeding through the parking lot;
- Our youth building was updated with paint, adding a focal wall with scripture; purchase of audio/visual equipment to be installed and we made repairs to the gutters that were causing water damage to the ceiling and walls;
- Replaced electrical receptacles for the annual Hullabaloo meat sales;
- Replaced a pump for drainage of water between gym and Ed Hall; and
- We started the process of pressure washing the church and plan to complete during the spring this year.



## *MUMC Spotlight: Beverly Moore*

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

I have been a member for roughly 13 years joining on the first Sunday in the finished sanctuary. I was raised in the Baptist church when it was across the street (practically) from MUMC. As a child I attended many MUMC events like VBS, Christmas concerts/bell concerts, community Thanksgiving services, even the dedication of the family life center (before the full gym). I remember how beautiful the old sanctuary was. So even though I haven't been a member my whole life, it still felt a little bit like coming home.



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

My immediate family includes my daughter, Glenys (16) and my dad (Leroy). My mom, Carolyn has been living in the Willowbend nursing home but just recently passed away. My Dad is a member of 1st Baptist in Marion. I am 3rd in a family of 4 kids; 3 of us are spread out in Arkansas, and 1 is in Virginia.

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

I am a benefit administrator for an apartment management company in Memphis.

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

My current hobbies and interests include: jigsaw puzzles; reading about historical events and people as well as religion and theology; farming feeder insects for our pet chameleon, Charlie Brown; reading national and international news feeds; watching Youtube videos on cooking, history, and cultural/country comparisons; listening to church, political, and comedy podcasts; and looking for and collecting recipes and recipe books that I probably will never actually try.

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

I am/was a Sunday School teacher until covid hit and am ready to return to that position. I miss my class members desperately. I sang in the choir and will be glad when that can resume as I miss it, especially the practices. I was certified as a lay servant in 2019 and re-certified in 2020. I am also involved in Bible Study Fellowship, currently on Zoom but maybe will return to MUMC soon.

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

The people, so many I have known since childhood. We were embraced with open and loving arms when we joined.

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

Where do I start? There are so many. I think for this time, Isaiah 1:18 speaks loudly of the hope of the gospel.

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." (ESV)

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

So very many: "Be Thou My Vision," "It Is Well with My Soul," "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" are top four of a very long list.





# Preschool

Preschool will begin registration for the 2021-2022 school year on Tuesday, February 23rd. Applications may be picked up in the church office, preschool area, or printed from our church website. To enroll in our 3 year old class, a child must be 3-years-old by August 1st, 2021, and to enroll in our 4-year-old class, a child must be 4-years-old by the same date.

For more information, please contact our preschool at [preschool@marion-umc.com](mailto:preschool@marion-umc.com) or 870-739-3434.



Each year our pastor designates a portion of his week to spending time with the preschoolers in chapel. This was always a special time for Pastor Andrew. He loved telling stories and singing with the children. Pictured is Pastor Andrew's last chapel with the children on January 5, 2021.

## Children's Ministry

### New Addition to our Children's Ministry Team

We are thrilled to announce the addition of Michelle Schwartz to the Children's Ministry team! While things are a little quiet right now and we are not rolling at full steam, once we are able to resume normal



worship activities, Straley and Michelle will have their hands full! Michelle has always been an active volunteer with Worship With Friends, so this is just an exciting and much-needed addition. The children and families of our ministry will be blessed by Michelle for sure!

Lesson materials are always available when the weekly materials' email is distributed. And whether you attend our drive-in service or our in-person worship, crayons and lesson materials are always available!

### Valentine's Day Goodies

Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday this year, and we certainly want another opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our kiddos and their families! Sunday morning, Feb. 14, whether you attend drive-in or face-to-face worship, we will have special goodies for our children! Please make plans to join us for worship!



### Nursery Workers Needed

We look forward to the day we can fully open our Children's Ministry again! We will be looking for nursery workers, if you are interested or know of someone qualified, please let us know. Contact Straley Owen, Michelle Schwartz, or Cyndi James. Thank you!







## Prayer Concerns:

Bud Bond, Kathy Bond,  
Harold Carpenter; Scott Carpenter;  
Marty Catt; Patsy Catt; Terri Catt;  
Patricia Davis; Mason Fowler;  
Doug Helton; Emily Kyzar;  
Errol & Margie Marshall;  
Lee Myers; Kathryn Perkins;  
James Sample;  
Zac Stevens; Mart Thaxton;  
Billie Williams; Jane Williamson;  
Tim Williamson; The Family of  
Carolyn Moore; 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

Rev. Dr. William Cato, Pastor  
[William.cato@marion-umc.com](mailto:William.cato@marion-umc.com)

Cyndi James  
Business Administrator  
[cjames@marion-umc.com](mailto:cjames@marion-umc.com)

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

Tracy McDonald  
Custodian

Blake Owen  
Music Director  
[bowen@marion-umc.com](mailto:bowen@marion-umc.com)

Sheila Henderson  
Administrative Assistant  
[Marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:Marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com)

Gary Wehrum  
Recreation Director  
[gwehrum@marion-umc.com](mailto:gwehrum@marion-umc.com)

John Scola  
Maintenance

Teresa Gardner  
Preschool Director/Teacher  
[preschool@marion-umc.com](mailto:preschool@marion-umc.com)

Pam Scarbrough  
PDO Director/Teacher  
[PDO@marion-umc.com](mailto:PDO@marion-umc.com)

Elizabeth Williams  
Preschool Teacher

Kristi Stotts  
PDO Teacher

Straley Owen  
Children's Director  
[sowen@marion-umc.com](mailto:sowen@marion-umc.com)

Michelle Schwartz  
Children's Co-Director

Marcia Sutton  
Pianist

Debbie Wallace  
Organist



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

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