

MUMC *message*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2021

Our Fantastic Kitchen Crew

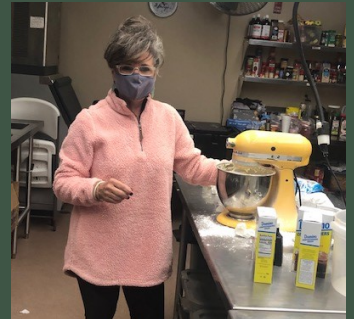
We are so excited that our kitchen crew jumped by into action during February to whip up cinnamon rolls from scratch and chocolate-covered strawberries. They prepared 130 pans of cinnamon rolls and 50 dozen chocolate covered strawberries.

In addition to the sweet treats on Valentine's Day, the kitchen crew teamed together for Ash Wednesday dinners-to-go. Originally they planned to serve the meals on Ash Wednesday, but due to the winter storm, they decided to cook the meal on Friday and Saturday (12th and 13th) for those who preordered. The meals were able to be picked up on Sunday, February 14th just before the snow storm blew in. Normally the kitchen crew would cook extras for those who drop in the last minute for a meal, but due to the circumstances, we were only able to serve those who pre-ordered. Thank you to all who supported both of these events. They were both a huge success!

Coming up!!! Our kitchen crew is planning a special St. Patrick's Day Wednesday Night dinners-to-go on Wednesday, March 17th. Please be sure to contact the office or email Beverly Vaughn at bvaughn5@comcast.net. The menu for the dinner is as follows:

Shepherds pie
Cabbage
Deviled Eggs
Cornbread/rolls
Dessert

Cost is \$7 per person. Dinners will be ready for pick up from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm and can be picked up at the MUMC kitchen door located on our main parking lot. Once you arrive, someone will be out to deliver food to your car.





Pastor's Pen

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
Prosperity within your palaces."
For the sake of my brethren and companions,
I will now say, "Peace be within you."
Because of the house of the Lord our God
I will seek your good.
(Psalm 122:6-9)

We are currently in the middle of our sermon series and prayer campaign focused on loving the place we call home. I've heard from several of our members who are actively praying for our schools, businesses, government, public servants, neighbors, and our church. Thank you for your participation! I believe everything we do as a church must start with prayer and everything we do must be energized by prayer in order for it to be fruitful. The Psalm above encourages the people of God to pray for the city of Jerusalem. As we learned a few weeks ago, when the people went into exile they were instructed to pray in the same way for the cities of the Babylonian empire where they were exiled. I think this Psalm can also apply to us as we pray for our city of Marion. There are five important prayer points that we can note in the verses above:

1. Pray for the economy of the city - pray for businesses to prosper, pray for debt to be relieved, and pray for the poor.
2. Pray for the safety of the city - pray for public servants who protect our city, pray for attorneys and judges, pray that our streets and neighborhoods will be free of violence, and pray for those who have broken the law that they may be transformed by the love of Christ.
3. Pray for the government of the city - Pray for all those who hold offices of authority that they may lead with wisdom and justice.
4. Pray for the residents of the city.
5. Pray for the communities of faith in the city. Prayer is ultimately about seeking the will of God rather than our own. May God's kingdom come, may God's will be done, in Marion as it is in heaven. Amen.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 28th

9:00 a.m. Drive-In Service

10:45 a.m. Indoor and Online
Service

Holy Thursday, April 1st

6:30 p.m. Indoor Service

Good Friday, April 2nd

6:30 p.m. Indoor Service

Resurrection Sunday, April 4th

9:00 a.m. Drive-In Service

10:45 a.m. Indoor and Online

Mission Team: Backpack Program

The backpack program continues to provide weekly food bags to approximately 75 kids per week. Currently we have April 25th open for volunteers to load bags for our program. We will also have opportunity for help in May. Please contact Beverly Vaughn at bvaughn5@comcast.net to sign up for the 25th or to volunteer your time at another date.

The program also continues to stock a mini pantry at the high school. We also continue with monthly food box deliveries to some families in the district whose kids are participating in virtual learning. Thank you to all who continue to support this mission.

Sermon Series

Population We: Learning
How to Love and Serve Our
Community

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.

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| March 7 | Part 4: Jesus Is In the Neighborhood
(John 1:1-14) |
| March 14 | Part 5: Won't You Be My Neighbor?
(Acts 6:1-7) |
| March 21 | Part 6: Community Planning
(Ephesians 2:11-22) |

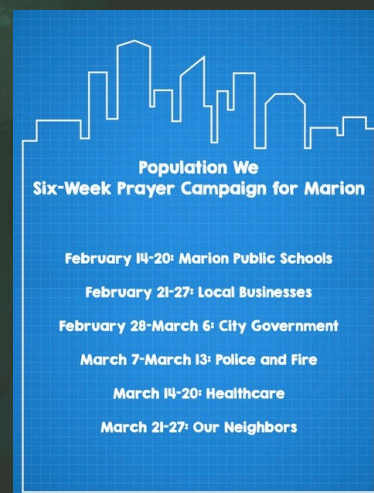
God of all people, we lift up our city of Marion before you now. Create our community anew as a place where hope abounds. Raise up our church as a transformative influence in our region. Bless our neighbors, both young and old. Guide our city leaders in wisdom. Guard our police officers, fire fighters, and all who work for the common good. Cause our schools, families and businesses to prosper with abundant life and resources. May Your love be made manifest among us and through us, making our community whole. Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done, in Marion as it is in Heaven. Amen.

Each day, follow the common prayer, add your own personal prayer for the week's community prayer emphasis.

3/7 Police and Fire

3/14 Healthcare

3/21 Neighbors



Indoor Worship

February 2021 was our attempt to move more towards “normal” for our church family. This past month we have brought back more of our normalcy as we slowly continue to increase attendance at our indoor service. We have returned to ushers handing out bulletins and welcoming those as they enter the sanctuary and our acolytes are back in action. As you can see from the photos, we continue to social distance (every other pew) and everyone properly wears a mask while inside the church.

When we started back to indoor service on September 20th, there were approximately 120 in attendance, bulletins were placed on pews along with communion each Sunday. After a month, our attendance quickly dropped to 80 for a few weeks then drastically dropped again in November as the virus started to spread within our community.

Our new year has brought a higher attendance, maybe because some people have had the vaccine shot, maybe because there are some who have had the virus and now have the antibodies in their system or maybe simply because people have missed the indoor service. Whatever the reason, we are so happy to be able to offer this service. Hopefully the fact that we have put safety measures in place has eased the minds of those who have returned. This unfortunately is our new normal for now, and we want to thank everyone for following the CDC guidelines and properly wearing your masks while inside the church.



Outdoor Worship

We continue to hold our 9 a.m. outdoor service as an option for those who do not feel comfortable quite yet with returning to the indoor service. Our crew bundles up and heads out to greet guests as they arrive supplying them with the weekly bulletin, children’s weekly learning information, newsletter, upper room devotional and communion cups. The photos below are from our February 14th and 21st services. While the streets were still a little icy, we had some brave souls that were able to make it to each service.



MUMC Member Spotlight: Laura Rikard

How long have you been a member of MUMC? Since I was born and baptized here at MUMC, I've been a member almost four decades!

Tell us about your family. I've luckily been married 15 years to Justin Rikard, a Crittenden County native who I met in college. We have 3 children: Levi, who turns eight in March, Reed turned five in February, Bree, who turns two in April, and also Harlie, our 14 year old dog. I'm fortunate to have my parents, in-laws, and 2 out of 3 siblings live in Marion too, all who attend MUMC.

Tell us about your job. I've been a nurse for 17 years! About 10 of those years as a Nurse Anesthetist, and I have been serving the children of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for the last 6 years. As grateful as I am to work at my dream job, I'm blessed to spend half my weekdays at home being mom and COO of the Rikard home.

What are your hobbies? When time and location allows for hobbies, I like crafting, reading, laking, fishing, and newly, (I'm turning into my mother) gardening.

What are you involved in at MUMC Although I don't care to lead, I find ways to serve. Cooking Wednesday night dinners, VBS, WWF, Food pantry, Sunday school fill in, and Christmas decorating.

What is your favorite thing about our church? Simply put, the people of the congregation. They genuinely care for me, and love my children.

What is your favorite Bible Verse? If you know me personally, you know I could never have a favorite anything! I lean on needing strength the most, and Deuteronomy 31:6 says "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

What is your favorite worship song? There are so many emotions that tie one to music that no one worship song could jump out as my favorite. I'm most sentimental of the songs my Mom sang me when she rocked me as a small child (The Old Rugged Cross I remember most vividly.)





Thank you!

Winter arrived in full force starting on February 11th with freezing ice, followed by two rounds of snowfall, as we also endured record breaking temperatures with windchills as low as -13 degrees. Local schools and businesses, as well as our church office, were forced to close. The church cancelled the in-person and drive-up Ash Wednesday services for the safety and well-being of everyone. In place of the Ash Wednesday service, Pastor Bill released a video for the congregation via Facebook.

There was mention of the church parking lot and doors being covered with ice and snow and that this may affect our Sunday service...no worries we had a team of church members who stepped in to make sure the parking lot was clear and safe for Sunday service. We are so blessed and extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and compassionate people in our community and church family.

A huge thanks to everyone who gave a helping hand during our winter snowstorm:

Tony Gardner
Frank Fogleman
Joe Catt
Cross Fogleman
Aiden Carey
Mark Miller
Jason MCollum

Franklin Fogleman
Chase Chafin
Ford Chafin
Ryan Carey
Tyler Carey
Landon Miller

We also want to thank our staff who walk the parking lot during the drive-up service passing out materials and resources:

Cyndi James
Straley Owen
Michelle Schwartz

You guys are amazing...Thanks for all you do!!!



Children's Ministry

Valentine-Snow Day Goodies

On our bitterly cold Valentine's Day, we distributed goody bags to children in attendance at both our drive-in and in-person worship services. We still have bags available for children who have not yet received their bags! Look for Straley and Michelle at church to receive your bag, or text us to let us know you need one!

Opening Nursery!

We are excited to open our nursery again Sunday, March 7, to serve our babies! Any infant under the age of two is welcome in the nursery during service!

We are looking to hire a nursery worker or start a nursery worker rotation schedule. This would be a paid service, and employees should expect to work for the duration of Sunday worship. Once Sunday school is back in action, the employee will need to work from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Sundays, Wednesday afternoons for Worship With Friends, and as needed for other church functions such as Bible studies or meetings. Contact Straley or Michelle to inquire.

Easter 2021

Easter will be early this year - Sunday, April 4. We are **eggcited** and plan to "Egg" the yards of our Sunday school children!

We need church members to donate one-dozen filled Easter eggs to the church office, Michelle, or Straley as soon as possible. We would like to go "Egging" the weekend of Easter and kick-start our Sunday School classes Sunday, April 4 - Easter morning.

We look forward to seeing our children!

Preschool

Valentine's Day Celebrations

Valentine's Day celebrations were a little late this year due to weather but was worth the wait with cookie decorating, ring toss and ice cream sundaes.



Chapel

Pastor Bill giving the week's lesson to the three and four year old preschool classes.



Happy Birthday!

3/1	Carter Benton Patton Chafin	3/7	Meredith Gill	3/17	Joanne Arceneaux	3/19	Rex Rogers
3/2	Brooklyn Arceneaux Liz Laughter Van McNeely Wayne Tabor	3/9	Laura Carpenter John Scola	3/20	George Kennedy	3/26	Tracye Carter Hudson McKewen Leslie Pace
3/3	Franklin Fogleman Denise Letner	3/12	Pam Young Levi Rikard	3/21	Caroline Rose Catt Colby Jonas Robert Melton Elizabeth Wallace	3/27	Jeffrey Schwartz
3/4	Jereme McFarland	3/13	Rita Callan Jake Hale Robert Lugar	3/22	Jack Carter	3/28	Scotta Allen Sydney Collard
3/6	Carol Acuff Wesley Betts Karen Cooper Char Griffiee	3/14	Cassie Morris Robyn Phillips	3/23	Shea Hart Alexandria Inman	3/30	Cyndi James
		3/15	Laura Entrekin	3/24	Lindsey Gill	3/31	Dane Gray Bill Hartley William Baber Hardke

Prayer Concerns:

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

Cyndi James
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Kolby Jones
Youth Director
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Tracy McDonald
Custodian

Blake Owen
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Administrative Assistant
Marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com

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Teresa Gardner
Preschool Director/Teacher
preschool@marion-umc.com

Pam Scarbrough
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Elizabeth Williams
Preschool Teacher

Kristi Stotts
PDO Teacher

Straley Owen
Children's Director
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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