



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2021

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday – 9:00 & 10:45 am

Holy Thursday – 6:30 pm

Good Friday – 6:30 pm

Easter Sunrise – 6:30 am

South End of Lake @ Marion Sports Complex

Easter Day – 9:00 & 10:45 am*



*Palm Sunday 9:00 in Parking Lot
10:45 in Sanctuary
Easter Sunday both services in Sanctuary



Pastor's Pen

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Well ... almost. You're probably reading this on Palm Sunday or sometime during Holy Week. In other words, it's still the pre-Easter season, but I still want to address what Easter is all about.

We often associate Easter with the rejuvenation of spring, and this year spring will offer hope of its own kind due to the increasing numbers of COVID vaccinations and the declining numbers of sickness. There is hope! There is reason enough to celebrate!

But there is still a distinct difference between the hope of a new spring season and the hope of Easter. The beauty we experience during the spring (allergies aside) is not a return to life from death—it's a return to life from dormancy. The blooming plants, the budding trees, and the growing grass didn't die; they lost their leaves, they stopped growing, and reserved their energy. The birds that we hearing singing once again were not dead—they were migrating.

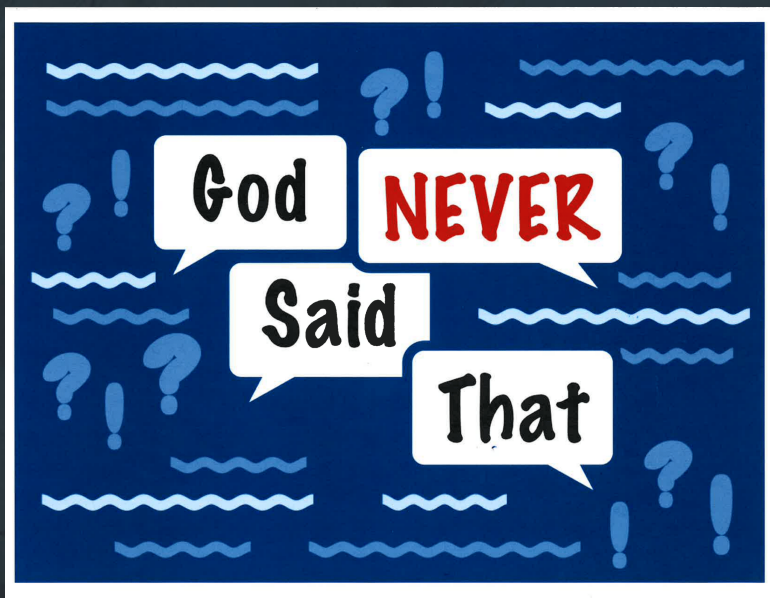
Easter hope is of a remarkably different sort. Easter hope is based on the real experiences of Jesus who, as the Apostles' Creed reminds us, "suffered, died, and was buried." Say those words aloud: Suffered, died, buried. There is a cadence that reinforces the truth of the words. Say them three times in a row and you can almost hear the rhythm of a hammer hitting nails.

When Jesus died on the cross, his friends and followers held no illusions, no hope of ever see him again. They knew as well as we do what death meant. Jesus was gone. Certainly, Jesus told them what would transpire, but the Gospels emphasize the point that they never understood what he was telling them. Who would? In terms of the human experience, resurrection makes no sense at all.

But still it happened. By the power of God, Jesus was raised from the dead and He "presented Himself alive [to them] after His suffering by many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3, NKJV). Jesus was alive. And the resurrection of Jesus proved to be a life-changing experience for the disciples—and for the world!

We, now living in 2021, share in the same "living hope" (1 Peter 1:3) as those first disciples experienced. Only God can bring life (*real* life) out of death (*real* death). God brought unexpected, impossible, miraculous hope from a tragedy of the cross. We have yet to experience the full reality of what God began on the first Easter. We still live in a world of tragedy, burdened by grief. But God has promised, in Jesus Christ, that one day the entire world will enter into the new creation called Easter. So, rejoice and be glad! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Sermon Series:



Our new Sermon Series "God Never Said That" will begin April 11 and continue through May 2nd.

In this four-week sermon series we will explore a few common sayings that sound good, but are not really biblical.

April 11 - "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

April 18 - "God Will Never Give You More Than You Can Handle"

April 25 - "It Doesn't Matter What You Believe As Long As You Are Sincere"

May 5 - "Forgive and Forget"

In Memory of Bill King

Dr. James and Carol Johnston

In Memory of Chief Gary Kelley

Lannie and Holly Lancaster

Judge John and Nancy Fogleman

Shannon Busby

Dr. James and Carol Johnston

Gary and Allison Wehrum

In Memory of Emily Kyzar

Roger and Rita Gilmore

Thankful for our many volunteers

We have come to depend on volunteers recently after the retirement of our maintenance person. This month Mr. Joe Catt came to the church at a moment's notice to remove a brick for better drainage by the youth building. Thanks Mr. Joe!!!



Pray for Our Confirmands

Our new confirmation class started on Sunday March 28. They are currently going through six-weeks of training and will be confirmed during worship on May 9. Please lift up our confirmands in prayer as they learn to claim and profess their faith in Christ.

Vaccinations

Marion Family Pharmacy and MUMC have teamed together to help get our community vaccinated. As of now, Marion Family Pharmacy is using our gym as a vaccination clinic on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. The vaccines are given by appointment for a smooth process. There is a 15 minute monitoring period for each individual after receiving the vaccine just in case of an allergic reaction.

If you are interested in getting a vaccination, please go to the following link to get signed up.

<https://mpharm134covidclinic.as.me/mumc> or call the Marion Family Pharmacy at 870-739-1111.

Thank you to all the volunteers each and every week.



St. Patty's Day Dinner

Our kitchen crew once again delivered a wonderful meal to over 100 families. The meal was a St. Patrick's Day themed dinner with shepherd's pie, cabbage, deviled eggs, cornbread, Lucky Charm cereal bags for the kiddos and homemade rainbow cupcakes.

Preparing for dinners in large volume not only takes a lot of planning and shopping, but requires two or three days of prepping and cooking by the entire kitchen crew. Our kitchen crew consists of: Bartt and Beverly Vaughn, Danny and Paula Moore, Matt and Susan Hale, Ginger Gibbs and Jerri Crase. Be sure to tell them how thankful we are to have them back in the kitchen.



April

Dinner-To-Go

Get ready!!!, Our kitchen crew is planning a fish fry with all the trimmings during April. They have not selected a specific date as of yet, so be sure to listen to the announcements at each Sunday Service. We will also put the announcement on our FB page.

Our praise band and audio technicians getting ready to start back at our indoor service.



MUMC Member Spotlight:

Chris Archer

How long have you been a member of MUMC? Ted and I joined MUMC with our 11-year-old triplets 16 years ago. Brother Wayne welcomed us and remembered all our kids names. We came back.

Tell us about your family. Ted and I have been married for over 30 years. I am the stepmother to our oldest daughter, Erica. When our triplets, Palmer, Micah and Hayden were born in 1993, Erica was 10 years old. We have lived in Marion 17 years now. My mom Shannon Busby, my brother Rich Busby and my sister Marty Smith live in Marion as well and all go to MUMC. We are bunched up together. It's nice.

Tell us about your job. I am a working Contemporary Folk artist. I have been painting over 20 years. I am a native Arkansan and very proud of my Southern roots. I try to reflect a sense of humor into most of my art pieces. My art features whimsical, abstract, and creative twists. I believe I have created my own style with modern techniques coupled with use of vivid color. I enjoy painting images of primitive birds, people, landscapes, animal portraits and colorful abstracts. I am very busy in my home studio creating printed commissions for anyone interested. Just call me.

What are your hobbies? Drawing and painting is not my hobby. Art work is work! I am home a lot, so many things I love to do is here. I am a birder, a rescue bird lady, a rescue stray and feral cat lady, and a dog owner. I am very involved with our four grown children, spending as much time with them as possible. I am an active 65 year old. Love to run, jog, walk or just get down the streets on food in Marion as much as humanly possible. I love beach volleyball, badminton and frisbee! I love to read and cooking has all of a sudden become a pleasurable past time to me. Go figure. Love traveling with all of my family including my sweet mom.

What are you involved in at MUMC? When we first joined MUMC, I was involved in mission work and mission trips. Have been to Mexico, Appalachian mountains and Joplin, Missouri. I served on several committees and boards earlier as a member. I was involved with our youth group when our girls were that age. Went on several trips. One day Rita Gilmore said why don't you join the choir? I said ok. Have been dedicated member of the choir for I think 12 years and love it!!! I enjoy singing and harmonizing, but that's not the most important thing about it. It is the friends, fellowship and prayer received and given being involved in the choir. Come join us. If you can't sing, we will teach you! I help in the kitchen usually, always when asked. The Thanksgiving luncheon is one of my favorite events here. Really missed it this year.



What is your favorite thing about our church? I love walking through the door and feeling at home. Seeing smiling faces and caring hearts. We have made so many friends here and cherish all of our friendships. Jesus is here and I feel that! Thank you Jesus.

What is your favorite Bible Verse? Not sure I have a favorite verse, but I do have a favorite book, Proverbs. As you know, the book of proverbs teaches us timeless wisdom, how to avoid trouble and honor God with our life. I like mixing Proverbs and Psalms together. Makes a great morning lesson.

What is your favorite worship song? I think I do have a favorite worship song. Revelation song! I never mind getting teary in church.

Children's Ministry



Marion United Methodist
Church Children's Ministry

Easter Egg Hunt

If you'd like to help with sneaky Egg Deliveries... let Straley or Michelle know! We plan to hide eggs in the yards of our children Friday evening, April 2. We want to deliver around dusk so our children will wake up to a surprise Saturday morning!

Eggs will be divided and ready for delivery with addresses attached! Plan to help our kids have a fun Easter Egg Hunt!

Thank you to everyone who provided us with candy filled eggs.



Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes for children ages 2 through 6th grade will start again Sunday, April 11. Please be prepared to utilize our KidCheck program to check your children in safely. Please note that, just like school, we strongly suggest and encourage all school-age children wear appropriate face coverings for the protection of others and the individuals wearing them.

College Scholarship

Each year MUMC preschool offers a college scholarship to a preschool graduate. To qualify the graduating senior must have attended MUMC preschool two years, be graduating from Marion High School, and be a member of MUMC. Any interested seniors please contact the preschool for an application.

Preschool

Our 3-year-old preschool learned about the letter T with a Tea Party.

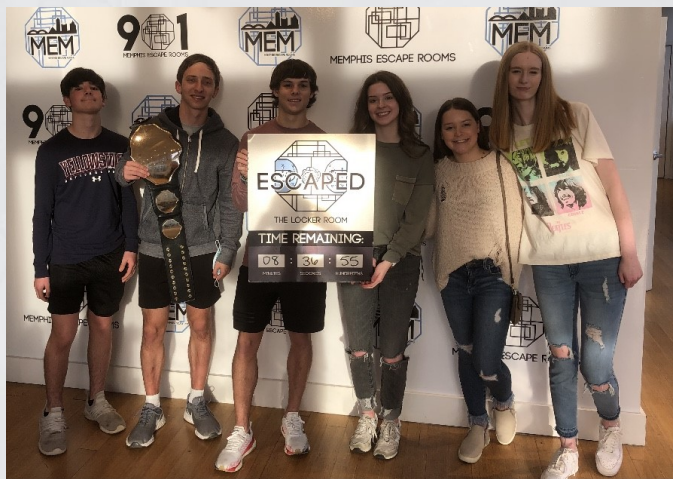


We have 11 preschoolers participating in the yoga classes offered by preschool teacher, Mrs. Teresa.



Our preschoolers learn about helping the needy by donating to our backpack program. March was Mac 'n' Cheese





Sunday, March 7th: Our youth group escaped the Locker Room, then headed to Central B-B-Q for dinner.



PDO

MUMC Parent's Day Out program will be accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year on Wednesday, April 21st from 11:00 a.m. until noon. Children must be at least one year in age or walking. PDO will enroll students in the following order:

1. Members of MUMC & returning PDO students.
2. Siblings of those who have attended MUMC PDO and/or Preschool.
3. All others.



Sunday, March 14th: Our youth group made stress balls for the special education department at Marion School District .

Happy Birthday

4/1	Logan Landry	4/8	Eddy Cates Myles Holt Owen Preslar	4/14	Sara Betts Laura Charlton Brandon Gill Fletcher Smith Hawkins Smith	4/21	Robin Coe Allen King
4/2	Andy Rawls Courtney Rawls	4/9	Missy Bius Stan Price Emma Stokes	4/15	Gray Patterson Hayden Roeder Anna Wehrum	4/22	William Collard Glenys Moore TJ Stotts
4/3	Erin Sutton	4/10	Ellen Whittington	4/16	Baylus East	4/24	Taylor Roeder
4/4	Jim Bagwell Annalee Parker	4/11	Lillian Fogleman Riley Tittle	4/17	Sandy Bagwell	4/25	Bree Rikard Kristie Stotts Jane Ellen Whittington
4/5	April Buffington Cooper Gill Neal Williams	4/13	Harper Doyle	4/18	Kenny Conrad	4/26	Blake Hart
4/6	Charlene Kelley			4/19	Ben Barber Amy Holt Robyn Price	4/27	Nancy Baratti
						4/28	Kody Stokes
						4/29	Ella Grace Maranto

March Ushers

Ted Archer

Tony Gardner

Cliff LaFitte

Wayne Tabor

Prayer List:

Harold Carpenter; Scott Carpenter;

Marty Catt; Patsy Catt; Terri Catt;

Mason Fowler; Kathryn Perkins;

James Sample; Mart Thaxton;

Billie Williams; Jane Williamson

& Tim Williamson.

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

*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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cjames@marion-umc.com

Kolby Jones
Youth Director
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Tracy McDonald
Custodian

Blake Owen
Music Director
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Sheila Henderson
Administrative Assistant
Marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Gary Wehrum
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gwehrum@marion-umc.com

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

Pam Scarbrough
PDO Director/Teacher
PDO@marion-umc.com

Elizabeth Williams
Preschool Teacher

Kristie Stotts
PDO Teacher

Straley Owen
Children's Director
sowen@marion-umc.com

Michelle Schwartz
Children's Co-Director

Marcia Sutton
Pianist

Debbie Wallace
Organist



Marion United Methodist Church

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

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