

MAY | 2021

A monthly newsletter of Marion United Methodist Church encouraging faith, love, and action.



GENESIS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Our 2021 Confirmands share their faith in Christ and their love for our church.

Pages 2, 3 and 8

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!

Celebrate our 2021 high school graduates

Page 4

PASTOR'S PEN

May is a month full of celebrations and family is at the heart of it all.

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LOVING ONE ANOTHER

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

2021 CONFIRMANDS

Grey Collard



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? Knowing that you are going somewhere good after life on earth.

What do you most like about being a part of our church? I love being a part of something like WWF and I love the music especially “10,000 reasons”.

Harper Doyle



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? Accepting Jesus as your savior means putting all of your trust and faith in His hands. Jesus is who you need to guide you in your daily life.

What do you most like about being a part of our church? I love our fellowship with one another on Sundays and prior to Covid, I loved attending Wednesday

Worship and Wednesday Dinners. I could sit with my family or join another family for dinner. I also know I’m never alone. I have a church family that I can count on if the need arises. I also enjoy being a leader for the younger children of the

Izzy Fenter



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? For Jesus to be my savior means so much and that He died for me on the cross and that He really cares for me and loves me!

What do you most like about being a part of our church? What I most like about being a part of our church is we all come together and learn a little

too. Also that I support Christ!

Jack Gerrard



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? It means that He died on the cross for our sins and we need to spread his love.

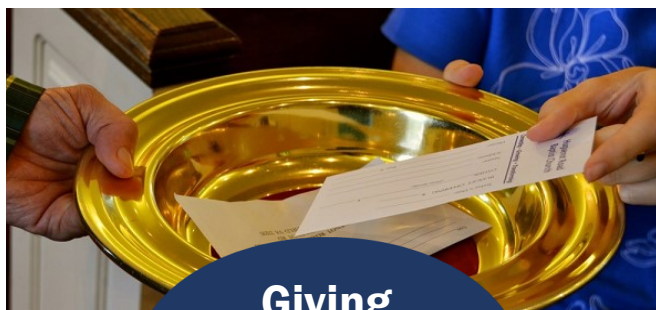
What do you most like about being a part of our church? I like learning about Jesus and I also like the singing.

Continued on page 3

Happy Birthday

(5/1) Kristin Bolten, Robin Phillips, James Williams (5/2) Isabella Harlow (5/4) Davis Fowler, Will Moore, Landon Miller (5/5) Trey Robbins (5/8) Steven Bius, Mike Walker (5/9) Brittany Carey, Julia Hale (5/10) Jan Webb (5/11) Caroline Johnston, Erin McKewen, Jett Sutton (5/12) Hanna Betts, Dawn Brenner, Harris Hale, Syndi Landry, Dawson Whittington (5/13) Dennis Burns, Farrah McFarland, Nick Sutton (5/14) Lance Scarbrough (5/15) Abigail Harlow (5/19) Jennifer Fogleman (5/20) Margaret Fogleman (5/21) Piper McFarland, Woody Trimbell, Frances Wallace (5/22) Olivia Brick, Joseph Laughter, Amy Peyton (5/23) Claire Catt, Cross Fogleman, Mason Hardke (5/24) Luke Kennedy, Jack Phillips, Abbie Rawls, Amy Simmons (5/26) Abby Fowler, Abby Hale, Jack Lane, Cheryl Robbins (5/28) Landon Scarbrough (5/29) Janice Bellis, Ella Kennedy, Orlando Rosado (5/30) Sam Gerrard (5/31) Maddie Maranto, Rieves Wallace





Giving

Total financial gifts for April 4-25 included the following:

General Budget
\$54,190.00

Capital Improvement
\$16,282.00

Missions
\$415.00

Discretionary Fund
\$10.00

Children's Ministry
\$50.00

Kitchen
\$70.00

Thank you for your generous support
for the ministries of our church.

Serving in Worship This Month

Acolytes

Teresa Gardner will hold an acolyte training session Sunday, May 16th at 9:45 am. To be an acolyte, the children must be between second and fifth grades. Please contact the church office for more information.

Ushers

Rich Busby	Jeremy McFarland
Joe Catt	Jay Salter
Lee Fesmire	Will Wright

2021 CONFIRMANDS Con't

Isabella Harlow



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? Of course eternal life to be able to some day live with him in Heaven and see my family again and to know when I sin and ask Him, He will give me forgiveness. He also watches over me everyday and keeps me safe!

What do you most like about being a part of our church? I like being a part of our church because of our church family.

Everyone there works hard to do community service and support each other and our whole community. I can't wait to be able to join our youth group and do my part in serving along side of our

Myles Holt



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? I believe that He sacrificed His whole life for us on the cross and died so He forgives our sins, and whoever has faith in Him and believes in Him will have everlasting life in heaven!

What do you most like about being a part of our church? ? My favorite thing about MUMC is that you can always

depend on the church family for guidance, help, support, love, and prayer. Also, MUMC always helps to make our community a better

Witt Kennedy



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? It means that Jesus wanted to help us and do whatever He could no matter the cost to save us and forgive us of our sins so that we can go to Heaven.

What do you most like about being a part of our church? I love the backpack program because it gives to kids every week who may not have enough food. I like Hope for the Holidays because kids

who may not get anything for Christmas get some toys and clothes. I like learning about God.

Continued on page 8



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching your goal at this point in your life. There are so many more goals and opportunities ahead, and faith, determination, and skill will take you far. Whether or not you plan to go on to pursue more formal education, just remember that life never stops teaching.

Your formal education so far has equipped you with lots of knowledge and theories and skills that are vital to your success in the world. But life is not lived in theory. Life is lived with purpose. Whatever your career or station in life, your

**“Let the love of God always be
your guide. Love will never fail.
Love is the one thing you can
always be proud of.”**

purpose is to always be a follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus summed up what is most important in life in this way: “Love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy, and .. Love others as well as you love yourself” (Mark 12:30-31, The Message). Love reminds us that life is about more than just self. Love leads us to live for a bigger purpose that is beyond our own self concern. So, let the love of God always be your guide and you’ll never go wrong. Love will never fail. Love is the one thing you can always be proud of.

Do not be afraid of the best that is in you. All that you are is a gift of God and it is meant to be shared with the world. A life lived in love with and for others will never disappoint. Blessings to you!

Pastor Bill

Buster Benton

Parents: R.H. and Cindy Benton
Graduate of Marion High School
Buster plans to attend the University of Memphis to study Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science.



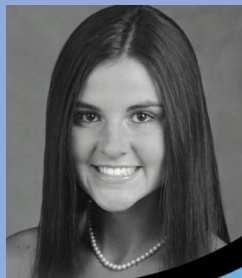
Kyndell Bailey

Parents: Tony and Kristi Bailey
Graduate of Marion High School
Kyndell plans to attend Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.



Preston Barber

Parents: Ben and Ginger Barber
Graduate of Christian Brothers High School
Preston plans to attend University of Arkansas and major in accounting.



Sydney Collard

Parents: Jason and Natalie Collard
Graduate of St. Agnes Academy
Sydney plans to attend University of Alabama.



Taylor McNeely

Parents: Van & Ashley McNeely
Natalie McNeely
Graduate of Concord Academy
Taylor plans to enroll in the TigerLIFE program at University of Memphis.



Claire Wallace

Parents: John and Jennifer Wallace
Attended St. Agnes Academy and Bowie Day School
Claire plans to attend University of Arkansas.

Pastor's Pen

May is certainly a month of celebration for our church and our community. We celebrate mothers and mother figures, confirmands making their first public profession of faith, graduates, and we observe our national Memorial Day. Also, don't tell the kids but the end of school is just around the corner. And that means we are also entering vacation season.

Much of our celebration and observance will center around family and friends. As we gather around our bbq grills and ice chests, let's remember to take a beat and give thanks for those who mean so much to us and enrich our lives by their presence.

I'm reminded of how Jesus told his disciples, "'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing'" (John 15:5). What a marvelous and powerful relational image that is! Jesus reminds us that our lives are intertwined with his and that it is his grace that flows through our lives, nourishing us and causing growth. The same image applies to our human relationships as well. We are grafted to one another in mutual

relationships of love and support. Several years ago, the pasta sauce company Prego released a series of heartstring tugging commercials with an overly-sweet invitation to "bring something nice to the table ... your family." In the original version, the tagline was followed by still shots of beautifully perfect children.

The revised ad was a bit more real. The photos were swapped out for a video of a toddler seated in a high chair blissfully slurping down pasta, then dumping the bowl on his head.

In the third variation, Prego finally got it right. The invitation to bring your family to the table was followed by a mad free-for-all. Siblings, parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts are all gathered at a long table, shouting for pasta and salad as bread flies through the air. Some of the food even manages to make it onto the plates! It's a wild, chaotic scene and completely believable.

Relationships don't always look picture perfect and photograph ready. Relationships are messy and untameable things. And don't you just love it! The thing that keeps us together doesn't come in a jar. Life isn't really about the quest for the perfectly cooked burger from the grill. What keeps family and friends coming back to the table time and again is love.

One beloved hymn of the church puts it so well:

*Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above*

*We share our mutual woes;
Our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.*

"Remain in me," Jesus tells us, "and you will bear much fruit." This is the season for enjoying the rich, ripe fruit of our relational ties. But it is also the season for planting and rooting new relationships in anticipation of the next round of fruitfulness. How are you growing and thriving in this season? In this month of celebration, remember to keep nourishing those relationships that give you life.



Special Worship

Join us on Sundays in May at 10:45 am for these special worship services

Confirmation Sunday (May 9) We will celebrate the confirmation of 11 new disciples of Jesus Christ.

Senior Sunday (May 23) We will recognize 5 graduating seniors.

VBS2021

JULY 13-16

@ 5:30 PM

DESTINATION



UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS
JEREMIAH 29:13

MUMC FAMILY

FUN DAY
Noon — 3 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 23

BURGERS • HOT DOGS • CHIPS
POPCORN • DESSERTS • DRINKS

BOUNCY HOUSE & GAMES



Summer Sermon Series



JESUS

**IS
BETTER**

A STUDY
IN HEBREWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



VBS

Our Vacation Bible School will be held from Tuesday, July 13th through Friday, July 16th. VBS is for children from Kindergarten through sixth grade. To register for VBS, please either pick up a form in the church narthex on the round table or go to the church website www.marionmethodistchurch.com to print a form.

We will definitely need adult volunteers. Also youth who have been through the confirmation process and are entering 7th grade are invited to volunteer. For those wanting to volunteer, please complete a volunteer form also located in the church narthex on the round table or go to the church website to print a VBS volunteer form. If you have any questions, please contact Straley Owen or Michelle Schwartz.

PRESCHOOL



Our 3-yr-old and 4-yr-old preschool classes: Easter fun with the cutest bunnies ever!



V is for volcano . Learning is always fun at MUMC Preschool and Parent's Day Out



Preschool loved painting with local artist and preschool graduate Case Fesmire.

PRESCHOOL 2021-2022

Preschool still has a few openings remaining in both our pre-k 3 and pre-k 4 classes. For more information please contact Teresa Gardner

2021 CONFIRMANDS Con't

Sam McAnally



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? To me it means that He saved us, and He is the one that made us better He is the reason I am who I am, and I am very thankful.

What do you most like about being a part of our church?

My favorite thing about being a part of our church is that we are a family, and we are always there for each other, and we are all friends. I love that we are a church that communicates and knows

Patrick Rath



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior?

It means that I can always trust in Him and I know that everything is ok because I will be saved.

What do you most like about being a part of our church?

I like being part of our community and learning and worshiping our faith with friends and family .

Piper McFarland



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? It means that He will always be with me in the bad and good times.

What do you most like about being a part of our church? It's like having a really big family that you can always count on. I'm excited about getting to be a part of the youth

Bren Sutton



What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior? Jesus is my Lord and Savior and died to break the power of sin in my life. Through Him, I'm able to have a personal relationship with God.

What do you most like about being a part of our church?

My favorite one has to be Hullabaloo because of all the fun and games I can play. I look forward to participating in all the youth group activities as well.



Rev. Dr. William Cato, Pastor
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Sheila Henderson, Administrative Assistant
marionunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Kolby Jones, Director of Student Ministries
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Blake Owen, Director of Music Ministries
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Gary Wehrum, Director of Recreation
gwehrum@gmail.com

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

Michelle Schwartz, Co-Director of Children's Ministries

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

Tori Fraley, Preschool Teacher

Pam Scarbrough, PDO Director/Teacher

Kristi Stotts, PDO Director/Teacher

Debbie Wallace, Organist

Marcia Sutton, Pianist

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9:00-3:00); Friday (9:00-12:00)