

December | 2021

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



## Thanksgiving Day Dinners



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## LOVING ONE ANOTHER

# Joey Laughter



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

About 10 years

**Tell us about your family.** I have been married to my lovely wife, Betsy, for almost four years. We have three children: Lake (10), Lexie Claire (8) and Ann Ashley (2).

**Tell us about your job.** I've been a technical sales engineer for Emerson for ten years.

**What are your hobbies** I enjoy many outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, hiking and traveling. I also enjoy spending time with my family and watching all their sports activities.

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

Hullabaloo, WWF and Hope for the Holidays

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

I enjoy attending church with my family. It's very fulfilling to watch my children come to understand what it means to be a Christian and to grow in their faith.



**What is your favorite Bible Verse?** This you know, my beloved brethren.

But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. - James 1:19

**What is your favorite worship song?** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



## Happy Birthday

(1) Nick Chrisman, Megan Bius, Lorelai Kay Harrison, Tinlee Mae Harrison, Collin Wade Knych (2) Les Callan (3) Beth Sutton (4) Anna Caroline Fesmire, Chasity Johnston, David Wallace, Glen Whitmarsh (5) Waverly Kate Gray, Mary-Ann Ford, Taylor Fowler, Mary Inman, James O'Beirne (6) John Griffiee, James Williams (7) Wyatt Entrekin, Sallie Streeter (8) Matt Entrekin, Robin Fesmire, Destiny Henderson, Jenny Knych, (9) Chase Chafin (10) Pat Crase, Elizabeth Hardke, Debbie Scola (11) Bill Barnett (12) Lauren Catt, Marty Cooper, Wilson Henderson (13) Brenda Melton (14) Josh Doyle, Lauren Miller, Karen Nelson (15) Lannie Lancaster, Layton Scarbrough, Brooklyn Sims (16) Scott Carpenter, Rachel Vaughn (18) Mary Alice Gerrard (19) Lucas Peyton, Claire Wallace (20) Ryce Smith, Allison Wehrum (22) Jane Hartley, Miller Owen (23) Nathan Castle, Jimmy Williams (24) Vernon Luedke, Samatha McAnally (25) Anna Elizabeth Entrekin (26) Mario Baratti (28) Rachel Coe, Sean Gray, Rick Preslar, Jackson Rawls, Jason Sells (29) Gary Wehrum (30) Stoy Long, Wayne Nelson (31) Ben Gerrard



## Pastor's Pen

With the arrival of December we once again enter the season of joy and anticipation which culminates in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. I always love being around the church during the Advent and Christmas season. I love hearing the traditional scriptures and familiar carols as well as the new songs which always seem to make an appearance. I also enjoy the many Christmas movies and television specials. One of the other things I enjoy about this season is reading and hearing the many legends surrounding the story of the Nativity.

Among the countless Christmas stories, there is one involving a spider. The story was recently republished as a children's book. According to this legend, when Joseph was warned in a dream to flee from King Herod, the Holy Family was accompanied by several animals from the manger on their journey to Egypt. Each animal set out with a brave determination to do their part in protecting the baby Jesus, and each was confident that his or her abilities would prove invaluable along the way.

There also happened to be a small spider who wanted to join the adventure. Unfortunately,

none of the other animals felt the spider would be helpful. After all, she was only an insect — and a creepy one to boot. She did not have big ears or sharp teeth, she could not carry heavy loads nor could she fight. The spider, however, persisted in her request, until all the other animals finally agreed to let her join, provided she did not get in the way.

As the journey unfolded, all of the other animals were either frightened off or got distracted by other priorities. The Holy Family grew more and more weary from the journey until they finally had to stop and try to hide for the night from Herod's troops. They searched until they found a small, out of the way cave where they huddled inside to rest. The donkey and the spider were their only remaining companions. The family settled in and Mary rocked Jesus to sleep. For a while, everything seemed fine. The only problem was a chilly draft blowing into the cave. Seeking a way to be helpful, the spider carefully wove a web over the opening of the cave to stop the breeze.

The spider had just finished weaving when suddenly voices

were heard outside the cave. Herod's soldiers had caught up with the Holy Family and were searching the entire area. When they came to the cave, Mary and Joseph held their breath, certain they would be discovered. But the soldiers simply passed by the cave. One soldier said the cave was clearly unoccupied because there was a spider's web over the opening. And so it was that a seemingly insignificant spider saved the day.

The legend is supposed to explain why we hang tinsel on our Christmas trees. The silver strands are there to remind us of the spider's web, and to remind us that no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever without purpose or significance to others.



*Join us on Wednesdays*

# COMMUNION SERVICE

5:30 pm

with Rev. Dr. Bill Cato





## Giving

### Total financial gifts for November

<b>Budget (General)</b> \$45,708.70	<b>Cap. Improvement</b> \$15,835.00
<b>Children's Ministry</b> \$130.00	<b>Hope for the Holidays</b> \$2,000.00
<b>Memorials</b> \$905.00	<b>Misc. Fund</b> \$4,000.00
<b>Missions</b> \$1,410.00	<b>Youth</b> \$150.00

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



Red Poinsettias will beautify the sanctuary December 12th through Christmas Eve. If you would like to place one or more poinsettias in the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of loved ones, please complete an order form located on the tables in the Narthex. Please return the order form along with a check in the amount of \$27.00 for each poinsettia purchased. Orders will be taken through noon on December 9th. Please turn your order in as soon as possible.



**James  
Sample**

## Serving in Worship This Month

### USHERS

**Tony Gardner**      **Jeff Schwartz**  
**Andy Rawls**      **Neal Williams**

### ACOLYTES

**5th**    **Clayton McCollum**  
         **Hadley Gill**  
**12th**   **Jackson Rawls**  
         **Davis Fowler**  
**19th**   **Lexi Laughter**  
         **Mollie Owen**  
**26th**   **Mason Coe**  
         **Mason Hardke**

Betty Catherine  
Hal Padgett  
Linda and Williard Lawrence  
Laura and Allen Helms  
Sheryl and Wayne Tabor



**Joe  
Catt**

Betty Catherine  
Hal Padgett  
Shirley Stockton  
Leslie Brick  
Laura and Allen Helms  
Sheryl and Wayne Tabor  
Robin and Lee Fesmire  
Linda and Willard Lawrence  
Cheryl and Richard Kindervater




# Holiday Cheer

**December 5 – Ugly Sweater Sunday**


**December 12 – Wear Red & White**

**December 19 – Jammies/Comfy Clothes**

**December 26 – Christmas Socks/Accessories**




*Christmas*  
*Lessons and Carols*



Please join us for a special lessons and carols brought to you by the Praise Band and Chancel Choir.

Lessons and carols will be held December 19th during our 10:45 Sunday Service.



## HOW MAY WE PRAY WITH YOU?

Submit your prayer request by texting "MUMCPRAYS" to 77411



## Menu For December

- Dec 1 - BBQ chicken, baked beans, slaw, potato salad, dessert, tea & water
- Dec 8 - **No Dinner** - Come out & support our youth at the Marion Christmas parade for chili and cinnamon rolls on December 9
- Dec 15 - Soup and salad
- Dec 22 - **No Dinner**
- Dec 28 - **No Dinner**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



## Mark your Calendars



A Christmas Melody

5

DECEMBER

Our children from Worship With Friends will join our Praise Band and present a Christmas medley during the offertory Sunday, December 5!

Following the service, we will have a Christmas Cookie Swap! Please

bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies and take a box of goodies with you! We will have tables set up for cookies and festive boxes for you to take your cookies home. Our cookie swap will take place immediately following church. If you have any questions, please reach out to Straley Owen or Michelle Schwartz!

## WWF

Our Worship With Friends have been learning about Isaac and his boys who loved to argue - Jacob and Esau!

We have talked through conflict resolution and of course, what we are thankful for during this Holiday Season! Our students created a Thankful Turkey!



## Sunday School Favorite Bible Stories

In Sunday School discussions, Straley asked the children about their favorite bible story. Below are a few of the responses:

Wesley Coe: Moses and the burning bush is my favorite story. When the bush talks to Moses - and we sing: "Pharaoh, pharaoh - ooooh, let my people go!"

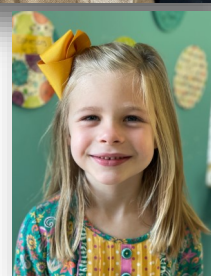
Reed Rikard: When David is named the new king. My favorite part is when he was choosing the new king.

Chase Schwartz : I like God the best because he fights the Devil. And I don't like the Devil.

Hollis : When Jesus was born because Jesus loves me. He made the world and I love hunting in the world.

Magnus Fowler: My favorite Bible story is David and Goliath. When David gets a sling shot and has five rocks and he pulls the sling shot back and shoots the big knight giant Goliath.

Lynlee Hazel Morris: I love the jacket - when Joseph has his jacket of many colors. My favorite part is when his dad bought the jacket.



# YOUTH MINISTRIES



## Hope for the Holidays—Adopt a Family

It's not too late to adopt a family for our Hope for the Holidays program. We had a total of 75 families this year. As of Sunday, November 28th, we have 40 families remaining for adoption. Please be sure to drop by the information desk Sundays after service to pick a family or contact Kolby Jones about the adoption process.



## Hope for the Holidays Can Drive

Once again the Herbert Carter Global School pitched in and took up collections of canned goods, rice, mac and cheese and several other items for our Hope for the Holidays mission project.



The entire school grades Kindergarten through 6th grade all participated. Their joint efforts and unbelievable kindness collected roughly 4,000 items. This will help fill food boxes for families in need on Christmas morning.



## Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors

Our youth met Thanksgiving morning to prepare food to be delivered to 50 individuals selected through the Arkansas Council on Aging. The home-cooked meals were prepared by our youth with assistance from the kitchen crew. Our MUMC youth, Kolby Jones and many volunteers delivered the prepared meals. The meals consisted of turkey, sweet potatoes, dressing, gravy, green beans, cranberry relish, rolls & various desserts.



A special thank you goes to Bartt & Beverly Vaughn, Gary & Allison Wehrum, Paula Moore and Jerri Crase for making sure everything got prepared.





## PRESCHOOL

The shepherds took a walk to Ally B's to visit their favorite baker. Ally and her mom helped the kids decorated cookies with plenty of icing and loads of sprinkles.



The sheep celebrated the letter I as Indians and the shepherds had to get in on the fun!



**Rev. Dr. William Cato, Pastor**  
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**Gary Wehrum, Director of Recreation**  
gwehrum@gmail.com

**Straley Owen, Director of Children's Ministries**  
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**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)

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