

January | 2022

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



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



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Lighting of the Advent Candles

*The Hardke Family;
The Morris and French Family;
The Entrekin Family;
The Rikard Family
and staff of MUMC.*



Themed Sundays



*Joining in the spirit
with special Sundays
Red and White,
Ugly Sweater,
PJ's and accessories.
Thanks to all that participated in
these fun Sundays.*



Pastor's Pen

Wow! One year ... I have served MUMC as your pastor for one year. It's hard to believe!

It has been a joyful year. At times, it has been a sad year. On occasion, it has been a trying year. On one particular day, it was even a scary year. But, overall, it has been a blessed year.

Thank you all for being such a caring, energetic, and faithful congregation. It is a pleasure to serve in Marion, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us in 2022.



2022 already marks a special time for me. This year I celebrate 20 years in United Methodist ministry. I have great memories of every church I have served.

At this point, the expression "time flies" seems like an understatement. Some of this feeling is surely due to the increased pace of our culture. We're always seeking ways to do things faster.

The apostle Paul encouraged the church in Ephesus to "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16, NKJV). That phrase "redeeming the time" is a profound thing to consider at the beginning of this new year.

Redeeming the time means "making the most of every opportunity" (CSB) or "take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for his purposes" (TPT). As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to be strategic in the use of our time. We recognize that our time is a gift of God and it is to be spent pursuing God's glory as well as the good of one another.

Let's use this year wisely. Squeeze as much good, as much joy, as much beauty out of it as possible. Let's use our time to benefit the cause of Christ so that at the end of the day we can feel good about the way we used it. Let's use this year and every year, first and foremost, to the glory of God.



Happy Birthday

(1) Kristen Bernard (2) John Fogleman, Heather Benson (3) Conner Catt, Bubba Cooper (4) Patsy Catt, Anna Rawls (5) Spencer Morris, Dustin Smith, Heath Stuckey (6) Devon Doyle, Abi Grace King, Kathryn Perkins (7) Wayne Croom, Jonathan Gill (8) Linda Coale (9) John Traugh (11) Diana Lugar (12) Steve Ford, Ann Rogers, Chris Ward (13) Carson Smith (14) Pam Betts, Cheryl Conrad, Pam Gray, Olivia Harvey (15) Catt Cole, Debbie Reginelli (16) Paula Moore (17) Matthew Coe, John Wallace (18) Stacy Parker (19) Ryan Carey (20) Patricia Charlton, Troy Elizabeth Cole, Jackson Lancaster (22) MacKenzie Massey, Amelia Stuckey (23) Buster Benton, Jr., Steve Sutton (24) Jeff Johnston (25) Shanna Boney, Olivia Walker (26) Terry Gibbs (27) Matt Moore (29) Joanna Chafin (30) Jaxson Hinze, Weston Hinze



Giving

Total financial gifts for November

Budget (General) \$93,825.75	Cap. Improvement \$34,867.00
Children's Ministry \$6,560.00	Hope for the Holidays \$3,640.00
Memorials \$1,600.00	Misc. Fund \$60,650.00
Missions \$1,069.00	Youth \$5,100.00

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



Crossroads pitched in to assemble the tables and stools for the Narthex Coffee Bar area.



Our Sunday Service and special events could not go on without our audio/visual crew. Frank handles the online viewing, Vance makes sure we have information on the sanctuary screens and Lannie controls the sound. Thank you Vance Bacon, Lannie Lancaster and Frank Wallace for all that you do throughout the year.



Serving in Worship This Month

USHERS

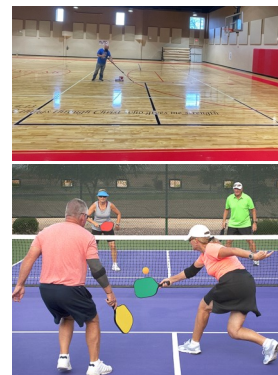
Ted Archer	Jett Sutton
Rich Busby	Nick Sutton
Les Callan	Wayne Tabor

ACOLYTES

2nd	Katie Wynn Entrekin
	Addie Clair Schwartz
9th	Mason Coe
	Mason Harkey
16th	Lexie Claire Laughter
	Clayton McCollum
23rd	AJ Kynch
	Collin Kynch
30th	Sam Owen
	Levi Rikard

New in 2022

Our gym floor now has pickleball lines painted at each end of the gym. Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong using a paddle and plastic ball with holes. This will be a great opportunity for some great exercise that allows you to work on your balance, agility, reflexes and hand-eye coordination without putting excessive strains on your body. Our recreation director is working to put together a pickleball camp for those who are interested in learning more about the game. Please contact Gary Wehrum or the office for more information.





December 19th—a day of Lessons and Carols following an hour of fellowship in the Narthex with coffee and a continental breakfast. Our Choir, Praise Band and musicians delighted the congregation with Christmas music and special lessons were read by various members.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Our Christmas Eve Service is always a special evening. This year Pastor Bill asked for all funds given during the service be donated to the Arkansas State Police in honor of Spencer and Cassie Morris. Pastor Bill presented the check totaling \$2,000.00 to Spencer and Cassie on December 30th.

Starting January 2, 2022



**ROLLING INTO 2022
WITH FAITH AND HAPPINESS**

Giving Opportunities for 2022

- An awning for buses near the volleyball-kitchen area. This will double as a place to cook during the annual Hullabaloo.
- Portable Microphones for the sanctuary
...to be used for Children's Moment on Sundays or any special choir / musical event.
- Kitchen Area - solid mats in the cooking and cleaning areas and convert an oven top to a griddle.
- Camera - add a second camera with remote camera controller and switch
- Children's Area - replace the padding and add a sunshade in the children's playground area

In Loving Memory of Joe Catt

Martha Holt

Gail Harlow

In Loving Memory of James Sample

Martha Holt

In Loving Memory of Jane Williamson

Ann Hurst
Jennifer & David Fogleman
Cindy & Tom French
Debbie & Suzanne Norton
Nancy & Judge John Fogleman

E. Jane McNeely
Vesta & Billy McNeely
Paula Howerton

In Loving Memory of MaryAnn Scifres

Nancy & Judge John Fogleman
Ann Hurst
Holly & Lannie Lancaster
Jennifer & David Fogleman



**Our 5th-6th grade
Sunday School
Class with teachers,
Jennifer Johnston
and
Teresa Gardner.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



The children of WWF presented A Christmas Melody on Sunday, December 5th. After the program, the children and congregation enjoyed cookies in the Narthex.



WORSHIP WITH FRIENDS!

WWF will resume January 19!

If your child already attends WWF:

- Simply pay your registration fee!

If your child would like to attend WWF:

- Complete a registration form
- Pay your registration fee

SCAN ME

*Wednesday
3:15-5:15 p.m.*



For more information, contact:
Straley Owen - 901.826.0511
Michelle Schwartz - 870.317.9000

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Youth Fundraiser

Our youth hosted the annual chili-cinnamon roll dinner on December 9th during the Christmas Parade. All proceeds were donated towards Hope for the Holidays .



Hope for the Holidays

We were able to return to our normal schedule after a year of challenges. This event is successful because of the generosity of a loving and caring congregation. Our youth are extremely involved with this event; however, it would not be possible without the assistance of many volunteers.

Preparation for this project takes year-round planning, starting with donations of soaps and shampoos from our congregation collected while vacationing.

Each year, we work with counselors at the Marion School District for adopting families. This year, the project took on 74 families and reached nearly 300 children. Our congregation adopted 49 families, the youth group adopted 2 families and the remaining families are funded through donations made directly towards the mission. Karen Jones took on the task of shopping for the unadopted families for a total of 125 children. Her shopping is greatly enhanced by those who make toy donations during November and December.

The volume of food needed to make this event a success is astronomical. The Marion School District took up collections and donated over 4000 canned items. The two schools who collected were Herbert Carter Global Community and the Marion Junior High School. Fogleman Farms continues to support this mission by purchasing all perishable food items.

On the morning of December 24th, the MUMC sanctuary was filled with volunteers sharing in a devotional by Kolby Jones. Afterwards volunteers received instructions on how pick up and deliveries take place. Volunteers assisted with loading of vehicles with food and gifts. The youth group would like to take this opportunity to THANK ALL who participated to make Hope for the Holidays another success.

The Sunday following Christmas Eve deliveries, we were pleasantly surprised by a visiting family. Once we began talking with our guests, we learned that they were the recipients of gifts and food distributed on Christmas Eve morning. They came to learn more about our church and give thanks for all that they received from the Hope for the Holidays mission.



PRESCHOOL

A preschool Christmas tradition is back! The kids had a great time on their visit to the Enchanted Forest.



Thanks to these precious kiddos, there will be lots of smiles on Christmas morning.



Rev. Dr. William Cato, Pastor
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Sheila Henderson, Administrative Assistant
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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
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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

Menu

For January

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Jan 19th | - Fried chicken
- Mashed Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Rolls & Desserts |
| Jan. 26th | TO GO ONLY
- Choice of Grilled Shrimp or Chicken Salad
- Grilled Cheese
- Desserts |

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Our backpack program continues to be a blessing to so many children throughout our community. This program could not exist without the support of our congregation and volunteers. Pictured: Rachel and Jeff Vaughn packed up over 200 backpack bags for the last delivery of 2021. Thank you to all who support this mission.



Church Office Hours

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