

March | 2022

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



The UMW purchased and donated new Bibles for the Sanctuary

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Pastor's Pen

Lent. Fat Tuesday.
Mardi Gras.
Ash Wednesday.

What does it all mean?

The word Lent simply means "spring" and refers to the season in which we observe the spiritual disciplines associated with Lent. Liturgically speaking, Lent was originally a time of preparation for new converts, during which they would be prepared for baptism at the Easter vigil. It has come to be observed as more of a general practice for all Christians when we focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. Lent is generally referred to as the forty days before Easter. If you take time to count

the days on your calendar, however, you will find that it is actually 46 days. That's because Sundays are excluded from the counting. Every Sunday is meant to be celebrated like a little Easter.

Ash Wednesday is so named because it is the day when the faithful have ashes imposed on their foreheads. The ashes are a reminder of our mortality (from dust you came and to dust you shall return). They are also a sign of repentance and mourning. We begin the season of Lent with ashes as a signal of our desire to live lives of repentance and turning toward God.

Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday which is the day before

Ash Wednesday. This day is meant to be observed as a final day of feasting and entertainment before the long season of Lent. Interestingly, the word carnival also finds its origins in the practice of Mardi Gras. Carnival means "farewell to meat" and is a reference to the practice of fasting from meat during Lent.



Lenten Sermon Series

Join us each Sunday in Lent for our new sermon series "Not by Bread Alone." Each week we will explore the power and redemption of our human appetites and seek to develop a holy hunger for the divine.

March 6: What are You Hungry For? (Luke 4:1-13)

March 13: Appetite for Destruction (Philippians 3:17-4:1)

March 20: The Better Feast (Isaiah 55:1-9)

March 27: Hungry for Home (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

April 3: Never Eat Alone (John 12:1-8)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- WWF is in full swing for the spring semester. Spots are still open if you would like to join us. The program begins at 3:15 and ends with children's choir at 5:15. Cost is \$100 per child and that includes snacks, games and a Bible lesson.
- WWF Choir will perform during Sunday, March 6th at 10:45 am.
- WWF schedule coincides with MSD, therefore, the program will not be in session during spring break, March 11th—March 27th.

Giving

Total financial gifts for February

Budget (General)
\$45,584.17

Cap. Improvement
\$9,395.00

Kitchen
\$75.00

Memorials
\$855.00

Misc. Fund
\$5,450.00

Missions
\$395.00

Youth
\$100.00

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



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BILL ENTREKIN

How long have you been a member of MUMC?

We have been members of the church for about three years, however; we have been attending when we were visiting from Indiana for about 15 years.

Tell us about your family.

Pat and I will have been married fifty-three years this July. We moved to Harbor Town, in Memphis, from Indiana in 2017 to be close to our son Matt and his family. Our daughter lives in a suburb of Indianapolis with her two boys. Last year we moved to Marion and live about a block or so from Matt and Laura. We have six grandchildren. THE BIGS: Wyatt (22) {*Georgia Tech*}, Anna (21) {*Alabama*}, THE MIDDLES: Nathan (18), Henry (16) and THE LITTLES: Katie Wynn (9) and Thomas (7).

Tell us about your job.

I retired in 2013 from a landscape/ maintenance company after 44 years in the industry. Our main emphasis was on large private, public and commercial installation projects. Pat is a retired RN.

Tell us about your hobbies.

I enjoy gardening, reading and being a spectator at the plethora of grandchildren's athletic endeavors. I am somewhat a student of World War II, especially the Pacific Theater. My father and father-in-law both served in several conflicts in the Pacific.

What are you involved in at MUMC?

With Covid, our involvement has been somewhat altered and limited. We are members of the Genesis Sunday School Class, enjoy participating in Hope for the Holidays and I sing in the choir. I also like providing special music singing duets with Matt.

What is your favorite thing about MUMC?

There are so many things I enjoy about MUMC. Besides the fellowship of the congregation, we have been blessed to have had excellent pastors that are also great preachers. Their sermons are thought provoking and provide courses of action that we can practice in our everyday lives to make us better disciples of Jesus Christ. We also like the Wednesday night communion services and dinners.

What is your favorite Bible verse?

One of my favorite Bible passages is Matthew 5:3-12, The Beatitudes. God promises rewards for how we live our lives.

What is your favorite Worship song?

There are so many songs that are special to me. My mother played piano for Sunday school classes and one that she would play and we would sing together was "*Open my eyes, that I may see*". That holds a special place in my heart.



Happy Birthday

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

Let's munch

Wednesday Night Dinners / 6:00 p.m.

March 2nd—Ash Wednesday

MARDI GRAS THEMED MEAL
Red beans and rice, bread, hot ham sandwiches
Mach choux and king cake

March 9th

TACO BAR WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS
Tacos, rice/beans, cheese dip, salsa, chips and desserts

March 31st

FISH FRY
Fish, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw and dessert

No Meals

March 16th & March 27th

Serving in Worship This Month

USHERS

Lee Fesmire	Jay Salter
Frank Fogleman	Bart Turner
Danny Moore	Blake Vaughn

ACOLYTES

6th	Mason Coe
	Mason Hardke
13th	AJ Kynch
	Collin Kynch
20th	Lake Laughter
	Jackson Rawls
27th	Hadley Gill
	Clayton McCollum



Preschool paused just long enough for a photo at the Valentine's Day party.



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Straley Owen, Director of Children's Ministries
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Michelle Schwartz, Co-Director of Children's Ministries

Teresa Gardner, Preschool Director/Teacher
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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)