

April | 2022

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



MUMC hosted the Marion High School Soccer Team for their pregame meal today. The church gave them a surprise gift! Their very own Patriot team soccer scarves! The scarves were designed by Ruffneck Scarves, the officially licensed scarf of Major League Soccer! Go Pats! Beat West Memphis!

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LOVING ONE ANOTHER

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BEN FORD

How long have you been a member of MUMC? I have been a member for approximately 4 years after moving to Marion in 2017.

Tell us about your family. I have a 9 year old son, Finley, who is a 3rd grader at WMCS. My parents, Steve and Mary Ann Ford, and sister, Joanna Chafin and her family (Chase, Ford, and Patton) are also members at MUMC.

Tell us about your job. I'm an operations manager for NexAir. We are a gas supply company based out of Memphis with approximately 75 locations throughout the Southeast.

What are your hobbies? Anything Razorback related. Most sports...basically anything you can dribble, kick, or throw. Outdoors. Fishing.

What are you involved in at MUMC? Vacation Bible school, Hope for the Holidays, and coaching several of our youth in soccer and baseball leagues.

What is your favorite thing about our church? There's so many people with such big hearts at our church. I felt instantly welcomed and am also very thankful for all of the opportunities Finley is provided. Bro. Bill's sermons always deliver as well!

What is your favorite Bible Verse?

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11,

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6,

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

What is your favorite worship song? The Old Rugged Cross & 10,000 Reasons



Happy Birthday

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

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 2022, 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!



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- Palm Sunday (4/10) – 10:45 am
- Holy Thursday (4/14) – 6:30 pm
- Good Friday (4/15) – 6:30 pm
- Easter Sunrise (4/17) – 6:30am
Sunrise Service will be held at the Crittenden Memorial Park
- Easter Day (4/17) – 10:45 am



Giving

Total financial gifts for March

Budget (General)
\$58,407

Cap. Improvement
\$30,409

Children's Ministry
\$90

Discretionary Fund
\$201

Hope for the Holidays
\$500

Kitchen
\$85

Memorials
\$275

Misc. Fund
\$300

Missions
\$584

Youth
\$125

UMCOR
\$460

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



Easter Lilies will glorify the sanctuary on April 17th.

If you would like to place one or more in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one, please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office with a check payable to MUMC. Price is \$25.00 for each lily purchased.

Order forms can be found on the tables in the Narthex.

Serving in Worship This Month

USHERS

Ted Archer
Rich Busby
Les Callan

Luke Kennedy
Jett Sutton
Nick Sutton

ACOLYTES

3rd **Davis Fowler**
Mollie Owen
10th **Lexi Claire Laughter**
Katie Wynn Entrekin
17th **Sam Owen**
Levi Rikard
24th **Mason Coe**
Lake Laughter

HOW MAY WE PRAY

Submit your prayer request by texting "MUMCPRAYS" to 77411



welcome
TO
our family



Please join us in welcoming Kathy Eide to our MUMC family. She officially joined our family on March 13th. She has attended MUMC for 2 years, participates in the Seekers and Servers Sunday School, volunteers with WWF and sings in our choir.

MUMC PRESCHOOL

4-yr old preschool—Shepherds

3-yr old preschool—Sheep



Despite rain, an ice storm, and no power it was still a great week at MUMC Preschool!



To celebrate Dr Seuss, the shepherds brought their favorite Dr Seuss book. After reading them, they snacked on green eggs and ham.



Career Month at MUMC

This month our shepherds are talking and learning about careers. Tuesday, March 8th, we had a visit from Mayor Fogleman who talked to them about his job. They were surprised to learn that he doesn't ride in a limousine and love that he is the boss of lots of people.



Wednesday March 9th, State Trooper Morris (Mr. Spencer) visited the shepherds class and told them all about being a State Trooper. The kids loved looking at his uniform, car and listening to the siren.

Listening closely and dancing in the pews! Preschool loves chapel time with Brother Bill.



The shepherds hosted a tea party for the sheep to celebrate the letter T.

Preschool had the rhythm this morning while Mr. Taylor talked to them about being a drummer. The kids learned about the drums and had fun helping Magnus's dad keep the beat.



What a fun job being a race car driver would be! ...says every preschooler at MUMC preschool. Izzy's dad, Derek Hagar, talked with the preschoolers about his career.

Coach Gray came to preschool and talked to the shepherds about being a coach and gave them some pointers for t-ball season.



Try their hand (yep straight into the bowl!) at being a baker with Ally B was lots of yummy fun!

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YOUTH MINISTRIES



Veritas was once again up and running after a two year break. Our youth traveled to Rogers, Arkansas, on Friday, March 25th, for a weekend of worship. The group attended sessions with renowned speakers, bands and specialized artists. Saturday afternoon, our youth took advantage of a break to have some fun at Topgolf. Saturday night, they continued with a tradition of having Krispy Kreme Donuts and pizza, but added watching the Hogs play in the Elite Eight.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



EASTER!



We are over-the-moon EGGcited to announce our Easter Egg hunt is here again!! Join us Saturday afternoon, April 16, at 2, in the church gym. We will gather here for light refreshments, family activities, and Easter fun before things get EGGstra serious!

Children will be divided by age groups, and if the weather is nice (and dry enough), we will walk to the open yard of Herbert Carter Global Communities for our hunt. If the weather does not cooperate, we will have an indoor hunt. Cross your fingers, it would be EGGciting to have our hunt in such a lovely outdoor space!

This will be a special time for our church family to come together for fun! The Children's Ministry needs your help to make our Easter Egg Hunt a success on Saturday, April 16. We will need the donation of stuffed eggs containing individually wrapped, peanut-free candy ... Ideally, two dozen stuffed eggs per donation! These may be dropped off in the church office or with Straley and Michelle in the Education Area.

Sunday school on April 17th will be used to focus on our true Easter blessing!

CONFIRMATION

Our new confirmation class will begin on Sunday, April 3. The confirmands will go through six-weeks of training and will be confirmed during Worship Service on Sunday, May 8th. Please lift up our confirmands in prayer as they learn to claim and profess their faith in Christ.

WWF

With only FOUR Wednesdays left in our WWF program for this school year, we are already excited about watching our program grow next fall! Precious Kathy Eide and Sarah Higginbotham have provided weekly support, as well as a couple of awesome youth workers!

This year our WWF kiddos have learned about God's love for them and focused on the Armor of God! Through weekly lessons, supporting activities, fellowship, fun, and music, these children have come to know WWF as a safe and loving environment open to all.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our VBS party is rolling in June 12th, through June 16th. From 5:00-7:30 pm, we will learn how God provides for us through lessons, games, science excitements, songs and crafts. Please register online to volunteer or to attend at <https://marion-united-methodist-church.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



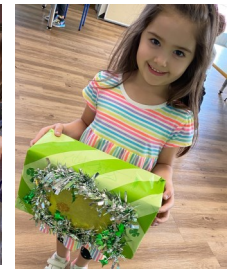
Preschool Con't.



Our preschoolers had a visit from another amazing preschool graduate. Dane Henry Gray stopped by to read to preschool and parents day out. So proud of you Dane!



Watch out all you sneaky leprechauns, our traps are set and we are certain this clever group of preschoolers can outsmart you.



When an MUMC preschool graduate grows up to be a pharmacist, her preschool teacher is super proud. Thank you Emily Lugar for taking time to visit with our preschoolers.



Preschool ended the month with the children dressing up as their career choice. When I grow up I want to be a florist, a Kentucky basketball player, a policeman, a paleontologist, an artist, a shop owner, a fire fighter in a helicopter, a forest ranger . We know this group can do and be any thing they set their minds and hearts on.

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.



PDO

MUMC Parent's Day Out program will be accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year on Tuesday, April 19th, 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.

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$75.00 per child due at the time of registration.

Monthly cost for the PDO program is \$195.00 for 2 days per week (Mondays and Thursdays) or \$100.00 for 1 day per week.

MENU

For April

April 6th

Cheesy Chicken Noodle Bake
Sweet Potatoes
Roasted Broccoli
Rolls

April 13th

Breakfast Bar
Youth cooking

April 20th

Big Pasta & Salad Bar
Pimento Cheese
BLTs
Desserts

April 27th

WWF Last Day
Bouncy house
Burgers
Hotdogs
Chips
Popcorn



Rev. Dr. William Cato, Pastor
william.cato@marion-umc.com

Cyndi James, Business Administrator
cjames@marion-umc.com

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

Joanna Chafin and Jennifer Morgan, Preschool Teachers

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)