

SEPTEMBER | 2022

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

hands heart & feet



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Witt Kennedy

Page 2

SURVEY RESULTS

Page 3

MONTHLY

- Events
- Giving Report
- Ushers / Acolytes

Page 4

BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

- Bible Study with Pastor Cato
- Bible Study Fellowship

Page 5

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Food Drive—Hope for the Holidays
- Health Kit Needs

Page 7

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Sept. 7, 14 and 21

Page 8



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Witt Kennedy

How long have you been a member of MUMC?

I have attended MUMC all of my life. I went through confirmation and officially joined the church in 2021.

Tell us about your family.

My parents are George and Misty Kennedy. I have an older brother, Luke, and an older sister, Ella. I have two dogs, Delta and Scout.

Tell us about your job.

I mow yards in the summer. (hit me up if you need your yard mowed)

What are your hobbies

I enjoy running, hunting, fishing, gaming, going to the lake and playing with my dogs.

What are you involved in at MUMC?

I am involved with the youth group. I volunteer each year for VBS. Last year, I volunteered to help with WWF on Wednesdays.

What is your favorite thing about our church?

The people because everyone is so welcoming and kind. We also have great cooks!



What is your favorite Bible Verse? “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10

And

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
Phillippians 4:13

What is your favorite worship song?

We Three Kings



Happy Birthday

(9/1) Straley Owen (9/2) Randy Benson, Taylor Landry (9/3) Chris Coopwood, Garrison Hardke, Vesta McNeely, Beverly Moore, Richard O’Beirne (9/4) Palmer Archer, Micah Archer, Hayden Archer, Vance Bacon (9/5) Trent Hanks, Brittany Hanks, Tim Parker (9/6) Katie Brick, Blake Meyer, Adam Rawls, Jacob Tabor (9/7) Amanda Elliot, Scott Fogleman (9/8) Kennedy Arceneaux, Nicole Devasier, Michelle Schwartz (9/9) Patti Coleman, Gail Fogleman, Paula Howerton (9/10) Eric Doyle, Linda Whitmarsh (9/11) Dustin Bolton (9/13) Thomas Doyle, Jennifer Johnston, Charlie McNeely (9/14) Lauren Nash, Clay Starkey (9/15) Will Fogleman (9/16) Shane Hinze (9/17) Ford Chafin (9/18) Addie Clare Schwartz, Mollie Owen, Sam Owen (9/19) Mason Fowler, Jay Hale, Austin LaRue, Sam Rawls (9/20) Rita Gilmore, Cliff Lafitte, Paxton Marotti (9/21) Nancy Ragsdale, Callie Wallace (9/22) Cissie Stuckey (9/23) Brenda Alexander, Jack Avery, Katie Entrekin, Peyton Fogleman, Susan Hale, John M. Heath (9/24) John Brenner, Fred Wesberry III (9/27) Isabella Hinze, Forrest Jones, Ben Vaughn (9/28) Ted Archer, Hartley Charlton (9/29) Brittany Bius, Adam Fogleman, Barbara Reginelli, Shelby Ward, Jeffrey Vaughn

Congregational Beliefs and Affiliation Survey

Here are the results from our recent congregational survey. We had a total of 157 respondents. Thank you to all those who participated.

Some congregants had concerns about the language in the statements. We want to reiterate once again: we understand the language of the survey is not perfect. No survey is perfect. We simply asked for people to respond in the way that **most closely** aligns with their beliefs.

The language of the survey is very pointed. The plain language is intended to make us think about what we want our church and/or denomination to look like when we come to things about which we may disagree.

Finally, this survey is simply the initial step in a process of discernment that will last several months and will include opportunities for congregational conversations where beliefs and opinions will certainly find more nuance. The survey is a simple attempt to get an idea of where our congregation as a whole (rather than only a few members) are currently in their beliefs.

Question 1: Please select the statement that most closely aligns with your beliefs.

- A1:** I am a **progressive** but I'll leave if others don't see things the way I do. I don't know if I can be in the same church with others who have different ways of thinking. The practices and policies of every church in the denomination should align with MY interpretation of scripture. (1.27%, 2 respondents)
- A2:** I am a **progressive** but I can stay if others respect different views; we can be in the same church. I can be in a denomination where the practices and policies of other churches may reflect different interpretations of scripture. (15.92%, 25 respondents)
- A3:** I am a **traditionalist** but I can stay if others respect different views; we can be in the same church. I can be in a denomination where the practices and policies of other church may reflect different interpretations of scripture. (36.31%, 57 respondents)
- A4:** I am a **traditionalist** but I'll leave if others don't see things the way I do. I don't know if I can be in the same church with others who have different ways of thinking. The practices and policies of every church in the denomination should align with MY interpretation of scripture. (46.50%, 73 respondents)

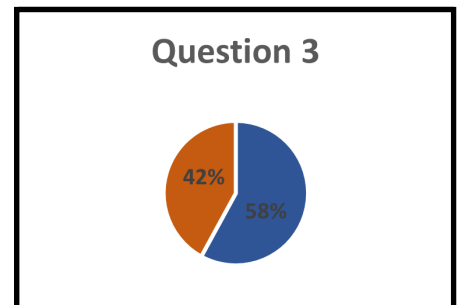
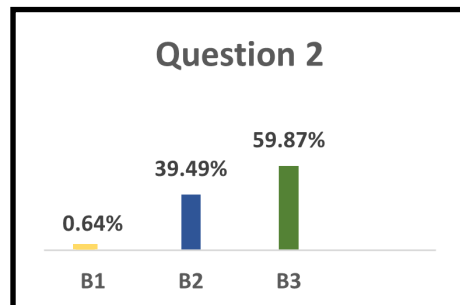
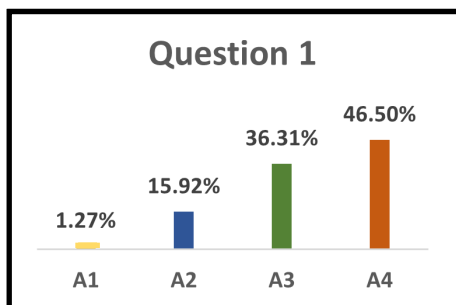
Question 2: Please select the statement that most closely aligns with your beliefs.

- B1:** If I had to choose, I would personally prefer a church that supports my progressive point of view ONLY. (0.64%, 1 respondent)
- B2:** If I had to choose, I would personally prefer the United Methodist Church with others who disagree with me as long as we love all people. (39.49%, 62 respondents)
- B3:** If I had to choose, I would personally prefer a church that supports my traditional point of view ONLY. (59.87%, 94 respondents)

Question 3: Do you think NOW is the time for our congregation to start a formal process of considering our affiliation/disaffiliation with the United Methodist Church?

Yes (58%, 91 respondents)

No (42%, 66 respondents)





Giving

Total financial gifts for Aug. 1 – 21

Budget (General) \$46,562.99	Cap. Improvement \$10,184.50
Children's Ministry \$310.00	Hope for the Holidays \$0.00
Memorials \$1,040.00	Misc. Fund \$4,100.00
Missions \$1,090.00	Youth \$500.00

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

Serving in Worship This Month

USHERS

Rich Busby	Matt Hale
Frank Fogleman	Danny Moore
Steve Ford	Wayne Nelson

ACOLYTES

4th	Lexi Claire Laughter
	Mollie Owen
11th	Jackson Rawls
	Lake Laughter
18th	Troy Cole
	Davis Fowler
25th	Hadley Gill
	Clayton McCollum

CHURCH EVENTS:

TUESDAYS:

- Sept. 13, 20 & 27

Bible Study Fellowship / 6:20 pm
Education Building - Upstairs

WEDNESDAYS

- Sept. 7, 14 & 21

WWF

3:15 pm / Children's Area

Children's Choir

4:45 pm / Children's Choir

Wed. Night Communion

5:30 pm / Sanctuary

Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 pm / Gym

Adult Choir

6:45 pm / Sanctuary

THURSDAYS:

- Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29

Bible Study with our Pastor

Genesis Classroom in FLC / 10:00 am

-
- Sept. 5 Labor Day - Office Closed
 - Sept. 11 Wear your favorite team jersey to Worship Service then attend the Redbirds Game at Autozone Park At 2 pm
 - Oct. 9 5th & 6th Graders Lunch & Bible Study
 - Oct. 9-14 Hullabaloo set up
 - Oct. 15 Hullabaloo / 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Silent Auction / Country Store / Games / Concession / Children's Area
 - Oct. 30 Trunk or Treat

HOW MAY WE PRAY WITH YOU?

Submit your prayer
request by texting
"MUMCPRAYS"
to 77411





Marion United Methodist Church hosts a Bible Study Fellowship ("BSF") discussion group for women age 18 and up. BSF is an inter-denominational group where women study, discuss, hear teaching, and read notes on weekly passages. This year an in-person group will meet upstairs in the education building from 6:20 -8:00 pm. BSF will also host another women's group by Zoom at the same time. The Bible study will start on September 13th and will run through May, 2023, with breaks for Christmas and Spring Break.

The 2022-2023 BSF is entitled "*People of the Promise: Kingdom Divided*". The study will unpack a fascinating period in Israel's history across 15 books, from its split into two nations, through dozens of kings and prophets and ultimately to the heartbreaking exile into Babylon. Books of the Old Testament that will be covered are Jeremiah, Lamentations, 1 & 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Isaiah!

For more information contact Lisa Heath. email: lheath1@comcast.net or please call 901-410-3677 to leave a message (no texts to this number.)

Grace and Peace Sunday School



A funday Sunday for the members of the Grace and Peace Sunday school class and many guests. The group met at the home of Meghan and Taylor Fowler for fellowship and grilling while the children enjoyed a large waterslide.



Please come join us on Thursday mornings for
a Bible study led by our pastor,
Dr. William Cato.

Classes will start at 10:00 am on September
8th in the Genesis Sunday School room located
in the Barbara Smith Family Life Center.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Directors of Children's Ministry

Teresa Gardner, 870-559-6770

Michelle Schwartz, 870-317-9000

CALLING ALL 5th & 6th GRADERS

The children's ministry is beginning a program just for you beginning Sunday, October 9th.

Each month, on the second Sunday of the month, our fifth and sixth graders will be invited to stay after church for lunch and a fun activity. We are excited about having an afternoon for the tweenagers in our church family.

For more information and to sign up please contact Teresa Gardner.

Take Me Out to the Ball game!

As we wind down summer, at least on the calendar, please join our church family for an afternoon with the Memphis Redbirds. The MUMC day will be on Sunday, September 11th at 2:00 pm at Autozone Stadium. Group tickets for this event are \$17 each, but are only available through August 27th.

Also, we want our congregation to show their support at Sunday School and the 10:45 Worship service on September 11th, by wearing your favorite team jersey for a morning of baseball-themed worship. Following our service, everyone is invited to head to the stadium.

Please contact Teresa Gardner or the church office to purchase tickets.

WWF IS BACK!!

Worship with Friends kicked off on 8/24. It was an exciting time for the children to begin their deep dive into the Fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things." WWF children were challenged to talk with their families about what they love most about their families and how they can share God's love with others. Enrollment is open for grades K-6 to join us. Please reach out to Michelle Schwartz with any questions or if you are able to volunteer your talents to share in growing the Children's Ministry at MUMC.



YOUTH MINISTRIES



August 7th: Our youth had a bit of a challenge trying to “Escape” shipwreck cove. After barely escaping in the allotted time period, the crew needed some relaxation over dinner. Their choice for dinner and fellowship was Central BBQ.



Our youth group took on the challenge to help provide selected supplies to the Marion School District for those children who are in need of school materials. Supplies ranged from crayons and pencils to Clorox wipes and Kleenex. A big thank you to Straley Owen for helping to distribute the supplies.

Our youth loaded up and headed to AutoZone Park following service on Sunday, August 14th. The group enjoyed food and drinks in one of the AutoZone club boxes while watching some great ball. The Memphis Redbirds did not disappoint with an 11-2 victory over the Indianapolis Indians.



Health Kits:

Please remember the youth group collects a variety of items to include with deliveries during Hope for the Holidays. Items needed are:

- Soaps
- Washcloths
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotions
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes

Please drop items off at the information desk in the Narthex or at the church office.

We are collecting canned goods for our families for Hope for the Holidays. If you would like to help, a list of items and dates are below:

SEPTEMBER

Canned green beans
Canned corn
Peanut butter and jelly

OCTOBER

Canned sweet peas
Spaghettios / Ravioli
Mac-n-cheese

NOVEMBER

Canned soup
Canned fruit
Saltine Crackers

MISSION OUTREACH

MUMC will continue our mission outreach project of feeding the Marion School District teams. If you are a Patriots fan, then this just might be an area for you to volunteer. Meal preparation starts as early as the day before the game and continues on the day of the game, depending on what will be served to the team players. We need volunteers to help with food prep, serving, setting up tables and cleaning up afterwards.

Dates for feeding the players are:

- September 9th—Feed the Football Team
- September 16th—Feed the Band
- September 23rd—Feed the Football team

If you do not have time to volunteer but would like to make a monetary donation, please deliver to the church office with a note stating where the donation is to be credited. To volunteer, please contact Beverly or Bartt Vaughn or the church office.



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
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Teresa Gardner, Director of Children's Ministries
tgardner@marion-umc.com

Michelle Schwartz, Director of Children's Ministries
mschwartz@marion-umc.com

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)

Wednesday Night Dinners are Back!!!

Our Wednesday Night Dinners will start back on September 7th . Cost for dinners are: \$10 per adult, \$5 for children under 10 or a



maximum of \$30 per family. You can go to marionmethodistchurch.com and sign up under Wednesday Night Dinners or call the church office to get on the dinner list.

Dates and Meals for September are:

- Sept. 7 Mel's Diner will give you a choice of: Hamburger, Cheeseburger, chicken strips (3), Grilled or Fried Chicken Sandwich, Grilled or Fried Chicken Salad Along with Fries, Dessert, Tea & Water.
- Sept. 14 Meal prepared by Crossroads Sunday School Class: King Ranch Chicken, Chips/Salsa, Mexican Salad, Desserts, Tea & Water
- Sept. 21 Meal prepared by the MUMC Kitchen Crew: Porkloin, Mac-n-Cheese, Green Beans, Hashbrown Casserole, Desserts, Tea and Water
- Sept. 28 No Meal