

MARCH | 2023

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



Our Children from Second Sunday visited Ms. Sue Bonds Sunday, February 12th.



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YOUTH MINISTRIES

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Joe and Patsy Catt Family Scholarship Endowment will award its first scholarship for a graduating senior from the Class of 2023. This recipient will have participated in the youth program at Marion FUMC and will be attending an accredited college or university. The selection committee will choose based on financial need, community leadership and potential to succeed in college. The application process will begin soon and the recipient will be announced at our Senior Sunday program, May 21, 2023. For more information please contact, Patsy's sister, Stacey Harral at spharral@gmail.com or 870-761-4248.



As the end of our school year approaches, we are preparing for our Senior Sunday recognition to be held Sunday, May 21st. If you have a senior graduating this year, please contact Cyndi James at your earliest convenience. We want to be sure to recognize all our seniors!



Our Youth group will be attending Veritas March 3-5 in Rogers, AR. Veritas is a yearly youth conference for Arkansas Methodist Churches. Veritas is a close favorite of the youth, following Hope for the Holidays.

The group will meet at the church on Friday and head out. While in Rogers, the youth will attend worship, hear a speaker, attend live entertainment and bands. During their free time, the youth will do activities in a group such as Topgolf, watch basketball, shopping and other events. Please keep our youth and chaperones in your prayers during these travels.



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Marcia Sutton, Pianist

Church Office Hours

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

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Marion United Methodist Church



Marion UMC



Marion Methodist Church



VBS

Vacation Bible School will kick off Monday, June 18, and conclude Thursday, June 22. We cannot wait to call all our little superheroes into action for our fun-filled week. The QR code to register your child or children is below in Red. The Blue QR Code is an amazon wish list of items needed this year for those who would like to contribute.



PRESCHOOL



Left: February brought on a great day of celebrating Valentine's Day .

Above: The preschool is really enjoying their newly updated reading nook. Preschool was able to add beanbags and a new rug to their space, thanks to a generous gift from the Seekers and Servers Sunday School class.

Right: Our preschoolers sure do love Yoga time!



Confirmation Classes:

May 14th marks a very special day in the life of our church and community as our confirmands will be publicly professing their faith for the first time. This is not just an important day, but is a life-changing one.

If you have a child in the sixth grade, please contact Teresa Gardner to get him/her signed up for our confirmation classes. Classes will begin Sunday, April 2 at 9:45 am. The children will go through six weeks of classes with Bro. Bill.





LOVING ONE ANOTHER

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jeff Schwartz

How long have you been a member? My wife and I have been a part of the MUMC family for 13 years.

Tell us about you: I have been married to my wife Michelle for 14 years. We have two children Addi Clare (10) and Chase (6). We reside in Marion with our dog Finn. I grew up in central Ohio and have lived in Arkansas since 2004.

Tell us about your job: I am a captain and instructor of the Boeing 757 and 767 at FedEx. I have a degree in aviation from Kent State University and enjoy flying.

What are your hobbies? My hobbies include hunting and spending time playing sports with my kids. In the summers, I enjoy spending time on the water with my family. I also enjoy woodworking, whether it is making a table or a duck call.

What are you involved in at MUMC? I am a member of the Crossroads Sunday School class led by Pat Crase. I serve as a trustee, help the kitchen crew when able, cook for Hullabaloo and help with VBS.

What is your favorite thing about our church? The People!

What is your favorite bible verse? "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the prophets."
Mathew 7:12

What is your favorite worship song? Old Church Choir By Zach Williams



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, Robert Lugar (14) Cassie Morris, Robyn Phillips (15) Laura Entrekina (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

Pastor's Pen

Travel back in time with me for a moment to first century, Judea. We are standing in a crowd gathered around a rabbi named Jesus. Suddenly, we hear him say "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24).

Such a statement would hardly come to us as comforting news. In the ancient world, the cross was meant to make a public statement: Rise up against Rome or commit a crime and this too can be your fate. No one wanted to end up on a cross, let alone willingly take one up and start walking. So, what did Jesus mean when He said, "Take up your cross and follow me?"

I don't think Jesus was referring to the trials and tribulations we often encounter in the daily grind of life. Taking up the cross is not about dealing with chronic health problems, or

misbehaving kids, or difficult coworkers. Certainly these are issues of great concern and we can bring them to Jesus and ask for his help, but they don't define what Jesus meant by taking up the cross as a disciple. I don't think we can say, "That's the cross I have to carry."

In Jesus' day, the cross wasn't a shiny piece of jewelry or a topper for the church steeple. It was an instrument of humiliation, suffering, and death. For us as Christians, we look to the cross primarily as the source of our redemption but it is also a call to follow Jesus in the same manner. When Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow Me," it was in the context of following Him, regardless of the cost to our personal lives.

The good news, however, is that if we are following Jesus to the cross then we can be certain that crucifixion is not the end, there's something more that follows —

resurrection! We die to our own ambitions, pride, opinions, attitudes, and habits in order to follow Jesus into the new life that he promises. This new habit of dying to self is still exceedingly difficult — the old self never gives up the fight to live — but Jesus does remind us, that "whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25). It can be a scary thing to follow Jesus to the cross, to give up control, and let go of the only life I've ever known. But we also have the promise that He will lead us into a new way of life that truly honors God, self, and others.



Join us on Wednesdays

March 1, 8 & 29

COMMUNION
SERVICE

5:30 pm

with Rev. Dr. Bill Cato



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



WWF



This past month our WWF kiddos had the opportunity to pray over a blanket for a baby being treated at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Each child either made a card containing scripture of hope or drew a picture for the baby and her parents. The prayer was taped and sent to the parents to let them know they are in our prayers. Please be sure to add Fletcher Fazenbaker to your daily prayer list.

SECOND SUNDAY

In February our Second Sunday kids hosted a bake sale to raise money for Heifer International. Thanks to some amazing parents, and a very generous church family, they raised almost \$1000. Next month they will decide how to spend their money with Heifer.

After lunch they visited Willowbend nursing home to deliver Valentine treats. On their visit they were able to spend time with one of their favorite church members, Ms. Sue Bonds (See Cover Photo).



If you are in the 5th or 6th grade and haven't joined the Second Sunday Class, please be sure to join the fun on March 12th.

WWF

We are super proud of the WWF children who sang and played bells during our service Sunday, February 5th. Thank you Laura Entekin for taking time to teach our children this talent. If you didn't see it, you can view it on our FB page.



2023 Lenten Sermon Series
Sundays at 10:45 am (Feb 26 - Mar 26)

Love Beyond Degree

...How Jesus
Saves Us All



During the season of Lent, our minds and hearts turn toward the story of Jesus and how he came from God on a mission of mercy, giving away his life on behalf of the world. Over centuries of reflection, the Church has developed a remarkably rich vocabulary to talk about what the death of Jesus means as a work of God in the world. Join us for worship, online or in person, during the season of Lent as we take a look at five different ways of interpreting the divine mystery of redemption. Together we will explore the scriptures, meet interesting figures from church history, and - most importantly - worship and adore Christ who demonstrated "amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree." Please join us each Sunday beginning February 26 through March 20th for the 2023 Lenten Sermon Series.

Denomination Update:

Resources about discernment and disaffiliation can be found on the conference website at [ARUMC.ORG](https://www.arumc.org)

Schedule for listening sessions:

Sunday March 5, 2023 1pm MUMC Sanctuary -
Rev. Edna Morgan, District Superintendent

Wednesday April 12, 2023 6pm MUMC Sanctuary
Rev. Roy Smith, Pastor Trinity UMC-Little Rock &
Brian Swain, Laity Staff Central UMC-Fayetteville

Wednesday May 17, 2023 6pm MUMC Sanctuary
Further discussion and straw poll

Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to register your attendance. Also, please send any advance questions for the presenters to the Church Office.

Let's munch

March 1

Pulled pork sandwiches, slaw, BBQ beans, fries, dessert, water and tea.

March 8

Hamburger steak, mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, roasted carrots, rolls, dessert, water and tea.

March 15 off spring break

March 22 off spring break

March 29

Fried chicken, hashbrown casserole, green beans, rolls, dessert, water and tea.



MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Please join us as we
relaunch this exciting
ministry for our church.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH
7:00 AM
IN THE GYM**





Giving

Total financial gifts for \$38,246.85

Budget (General) \$38,246.85	Cap. Improvement \$9,062.00
Children's Ministry \$350.00	Discretion Fund \$43.00
Joyful Noise \$245.50	Kitchen Fund \$20.00
Memorials \$65.00	Misc. Fund \$600.00
Missions \$480.00	Youth \$100.00
Yoga \$150.00	

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

Serving in Worship This Month

USHERS

Rich Busby	Steve Sutton
Matt Hale	Bart Turner
Jim Johnston	Jeff Vaughn

ACOLYTES

5th	Mollie Ruth Owen Sam Owen
12th	Mason Coe Mason Hardke
19th	Jackson Rawls Lake Laughter
26th	AJ Kynch Collin Kynch

CHURCH EVENTS:

TUESDAYS:

- Mar 7, 14, 21 & 28 **Bible Study Fellowship** / 6:20 pm
Education Building - Upstairs

WEDNESDAYS

- Mar 1, 8 & 29 **WWF**
3:15 pm / Children's Area
- Children's Choir**
4:45 pm / Children's Choir
- Adult Choir**
6:45 pm / Sanctuary
- Mar. 1, 8 & 29 **Wed. Night Communion**
5:30 pm / Sanctuary
- Wednesday Night Dinner**
6:00 pm / Gym

THURSDAYS:

- Mar. 2, 9, 16
24 & 30 **Bible Study with our Pastor**
Genesis Classroom in FLC / 10:00 am

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- Mar. 3-5 Youth to Veritas in Rogers, AR
 - Mar. 5 Listening Session / Rev. Edna Morgan
 - Mar. 12 Second Sunday for 5th & 6th Graders
Lunch & Bible Study
 - Mar. 12 Daylight Saving Time begins
 - Mar. 20-24 Preschool Spring Break
 - Mar. 27-31 PDO Spring Break
 - Mar. 31 Good Friday Service / 6 pm
 - Apr. 2 Palm Sunday Service / 10:45 am
 - Apr. 9 Easter Egg Hunt / 9:45 am
Easter Worship Service / 10:45 am
 - Apr. 12 Listening Session / 6 pm
Rev. Roy Smith & Bill Swain
 - April 23 Mission of Hope immediately
Following service in gym
 - May 17 Listening Session / 6 pm
Further discussion and straw poll