

February | 2024

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

FOR WE WALK BY
FAITH
NOT BY SIGHT

Potluck—January 21st



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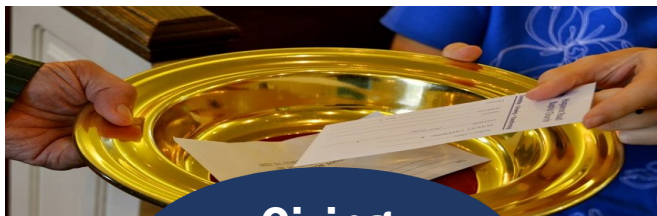
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YOUTH

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MMC
Marion Methodist Church



Giving

Total financial gifts for January

Budget (General)

\$43,721.00

Cap. Improvement

\$27,287.00

Backpack Program

\$1,629.00

Discretionary

\$45.00

Miscellaneous

\$45.00

Missions

\$40.00

Hope For The Holidays

\$50.00

TOTAL: \$73,518.00

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

Prayer Concerns:

We come before you with open hearts, seeking Your healing grace for those who are unwell. In Your infinite compassion, we ask for strength and comfort for those facing illness. Surround them with Your love and warmth, bringing solace to their spirits.

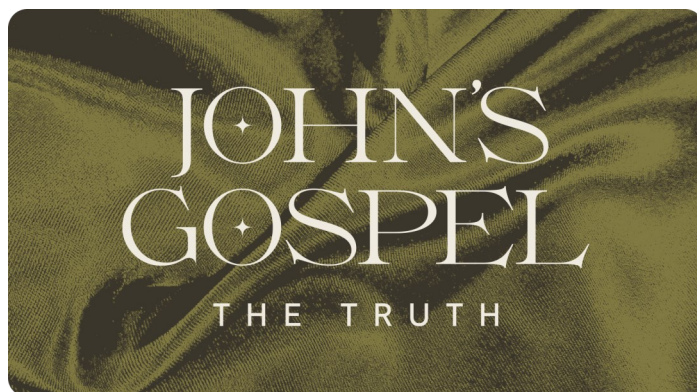
Grant wisdom to healthcare providers, guiding their hands and minds as they care for the sick. May healing energy flow through every treatment and medication administered.

We also pray for the families and friends who support their loved ones during times of sickness. Provide them with resilience, patience, and a sense of hope.

May Your divine light shine upon all those who are unwell, bringing restoration and renewal. In God's name we pray, Amen.

Please keep the following in your daily prayers:

Laurie Adams, Rod Alexander, Sue Bonds, Ann Carpenter, Dee Helton, Mayson Hall, Jason Moody, Sidney Pickering, Diane Sharpe, Billie Williams, Bartt Vaughn, Mike Rowand, Heather Grider, Joyce Rose, Jane Hartley, Kim Fraley, Donna Lanier, Mike Miller and Gail Fogleman.



Bible Study Fellowship

The ladies Bible Study Fellowship is every Tuesday at 6:20 pm in the Education Building. Please enter the church through the doors under the portico on the parking lot off of Hwy. 77. BSF is located on the second floor of the building.

CHURCH EVENTS:

- Contact Baylus East for more information on Ladies' Pickleball
- Contact Mitch Shidler or Gary Wehrum for more information on Basketball or Men's Pickleball

SUNDAYS:

- Bible School / 9:45 am
- Worship Service / 10:45 am
- Open Pickleball / 2 -5 pm / Gym
- Youth (Feb 11 & 25) / 5-6:30 pm / Gym

MONDAYS:

- Pickleball / 5:30-7:30 pm / Gym
- Gym in Use / 7:30-8:30 pm / Allison Wehrum
- Bible Study Fellowship / 6:20 pm
Education Building - Upstairs

TUESDAYS:

- Ladies' Pickleball / 4:00-6:00 pm
- Men's Basketball / 6:30-8:00 pm

WEDNESDAYS

- Gym in use / 7-8 pm / Justin Rikard

THURSDAYS:

- Gym in Use / 4:30-7:30 pm / Michelle Schwartz

FRIDAY:

- Gym in Use / 5-7 pm / Matt Coe

SATURDAYS:

- Men's Pickleball / 9 am - Noon

Our leadership extends their heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our faith community. Together, we've weathered many storms and, through it all, our faith has remained unshaken. As we enter this new season, let us hold onto hope, for with God, there is always a brighter tomorrow.



Starting Soon

CONFIRMATION Classes

Confirmation classes will begin in late February or early March. If you have a sixth grader or older who has not gone through confirmation classes and would like to sign up, please contact Michelle Schwartz at michelle.schwartz09@gmail.com

MMC CHALLENGE:

As we start the new year, MMC would like to encourage you to add one or more of the following to your weekly routine:

- Help at least one person this week
- Pray for a stranger you've seen lately
- Start a prayer and/or gratitude journal
- Memorize scripture
- Volunteer, either at church or in the community
- Share one inspiring story on social media or face-to-face



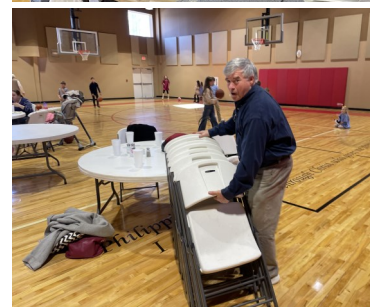
Flowers Calendar for February

4th	—	Laura and Justin Rikard
11th	—	Leslie Brick
18th	—	Robin Coe
25th	—	Barbara Reginalli



Friends and Fellowship

The recent church potluck was a wonderful gathering filled with warmth, fellowship, and an abundance of delicious dishes. The church graciously provided mouthwatering fried chicken and mashed potatoes, setting the stage for a satisfying meal. Congregants showcased their culinary talents by contributing an array of delectable sides, including flavorful casseroles, homemade mac 'n cheese, refreshing salads, and an irresistible assortment of desserts. The potluck not only satisfied our taste buds, but also strengthened the sense of community as we shared wholesome food and heartwarming conversations. It was a memorable occasion that reflected the spirit of togetherness within our church family.





Warming Center

With bad weather on the way, Bud Spears of the Crittenden County Office of Emergency Management reached out to MMC requesting assistance for those in need during the frigid temperatures. Currently Crittenden County has a homeless population of roughly 100 people. Also, there are several older and lower-income groups that either have no heat source or no means to pay for a heat source. After meeting with Bud, MMC agreed to open our doors to the Matt Sample Youth Building as a “Warming Center” to house those needing shelter. The building was opened Monday, January 15th through Wednesday, January 17th.

The county provided individuals to work the center

24 hours a day during this process. They also provided anyone in need with drinks, snacks and food. Cots were set up for those needing to spend the night. Guests were able to stay warm, watch television and eat warm meals. We had two guests stay while the center was open and a few others came by for a warm meal and a place to warm up. There were two warming centers in Crittenden County during this period. First Baptist Church of West Memphis provided a location for those in West Memphis area and MMC covered Marion and surrounding areas. A special thank you to David Fogleman for working with the Crittenden County Office of Emergency Management to make this happen. David went above and beyond during those days, coming by the church checking on the workers and the homeless to provide additional assistance if needed. This dedication is a testament to the spirit of service that defines our congregation. Thank you also to those who volunteered to step up and help before we knew the county would provide individuals to oversee the center.



Getting ready for the New Year

We all enjoy the decorations during Christmas, especially when you enter the sanctuary and see the trees, lights and garland. We take it in and know what a wonderful time of the year we are experiencing. This wouldn't be possible without you!

Thank you to everyone who helped take down Christmas decorations on January 7th. With so many volunteers, we were able to get everything down, boxed up and put away within an hour. We had some very young helpers this year, some of which took on the task of vacuuming. Thank you Laura Rikard and Elizabeth Hardke for spearheading this project from beginning to end.



Backpack Program

Our Backpack Program continues to thrive. Currently we are serving a minimum of 90 students each week with bags of food in addition to stocking pantries at the Junior High School and High School. This allows students to stop by and grab some items to take home over the weekends. Pictured: Some of our leadership taking time to stock the pantry prior to a meeting and one of our Sunday School Classes bagging food for the week.





LOVING ONE ANOTHER

CONGREGATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

COLBY JONAS

Tell us about your family. I am a native Memphian and my husband Brad is from Cincinnati. We met on NYE and the rest is history. :) We have been married for 8 years and have 2 children, Vivian 7 and Shepard 6. We lived in Marion when we first got married and joined MUMC. We then moved to Memphis about 6 years ago but loved the strong foundation and family values of the church and made the decision to remain members even though we were "over the bridge". Our children attend Woodland Presbyterian School and Brad works at Nucor Steel in Blytheville.

Tell us about your job. I have been employed with Youth Villages for 19 years. I currently serve as the Residential Director for our Bill's Place Campus in Bartlett. Since working at Youth Villages, I have served in our Intercept program, providing family therapy in the community and in various roles in our residential programs. I feel so lucky to have found an organization early on that has helped me to grow my career and serve young people and families.

What are your hobbies? I love being creative and trying new things. In my free time I love to cook, work on craft projects with my kids, and play tennis. I recently took up gardening and would love some pointers.

What are you involved in at MMC? I am helping to teach Sunday School for our 5th and 6th graders and am always willing to help out when needed.

What is your favorite thing about our church? The church's foundation in strong family values has always been my favorite part. However, resiliency and passion have quickly become something I am most proud of.

What is your favorite Bible Verse? I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 This was the motto of the youth group I was a member of in high school and it has stuck with me ever since.

What is your favorite memory of our church? The day that my babies were baptized is my personal favorite. I also loved my first Hullabaloo experience! We had a great time as a family and I probably overindulged in too many items from the bake sale.

What are you looking forward to at our church over the upcoming months? I am looking forward to the growth of our congregation and continuing to build a wonderful church family.



Happy Birthday

(1) Foster Hart (2) Sheryl Benson, Buster Benton, Reed Elizabeth Rikard, Sharon Rikard, Wayne Tabor (3) Olivia Bailey Knight (4) William Carter (5) Robin Shidler (6) David Fogleman (7) Jerri Crase (8) Debbie Wallace, Amelia Phillips (9) Lynlee Morris, Mason Shidler, Jordan Tabor (11) Natalie Collard (13) James Hart II, Jon Johnston, Connor McFarland (15) Wesley Elizabeth Coe, Brad Jonas (16) Whit Collard, Michael East (17) Dorothy Sample Slade Inman (21) Dale Henderson (23) Frank Wallace (25) John Heath, Brenda Williams (25) Frances King (28) Katie Gray, Billie Williams



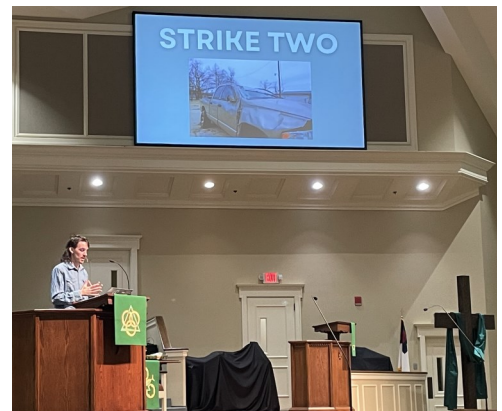
Testament of God's Love for us!

Justin Craven, a native of Crittenden County, gave his testimony on January 28th. If you were unable to attend, please go to our Facebook page to hear his incredible story.

Justin Craven's journey from addiction and despair to redemption and service is a testament to the power of faith and resilience. Despite facing significant challenges, including multiple DWIs and time spent in jail, Justin's life took a transformative turn after a near-fatal accident.

His decision to seek rehabilitation at the Shepherd's Center in Atlanta marked a pivotal moment in his recovery journey. Through his determination and the support of his community, Justin emerged from the grips of addiction and found purpose as the youth leader at Cross Community Church.

Justin's story serves as a beacon of hope for others struggling with similar battles. It underscores the belief that with faith, perseverance, and the support of others, individuals can overcome even the most daunting obstacles. In Justin's case, his faith in God played a central role in his transformation, guiding him towards a life of sobriety and service to others.



Children's Church

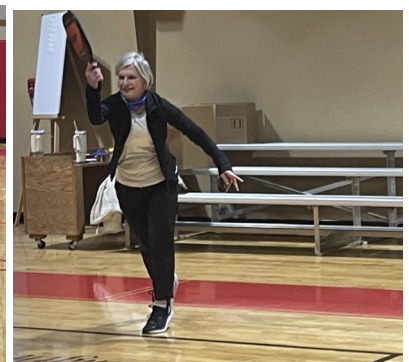
Thanks to Bella Hinze and Michelle Schwartz, our children were able to attend children's church during Craven's testimony. This was a great opportunity to integrate our children's church with our main worship service to create a meaningful worship experience for everyone.



Winter is heating up!

Activities at our gym have increased over the past few months. Activities include basketball, volleyball and pickleball. If you are not involved in any of these sports and would like to join in on the fun, please be sure to contact Gary Wehrum or Mitch Shidler for open pickleball and Baylus East for Ladies' pickleball.

The first ladies Pickleball clinic was held on Tuesday, January 9. There were 12 ladies in attendance and many more planning to join in next time. The ladies were able to take advantage of a snow day on the 16th. If you haven't tried this sport, please join us. The ladies play on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 and we have an open court each Sunday from 2 to 5.



Gym Floor Needs

The existing gym floor has seen its fair share of workouts, events, and sports competitions. Over time, it has developed scratches, worn surface areas, and signs of aging. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a top-notch space for physical activities, we are looking at the opportunity to resurface the floor before summer. For this to come to fruition, we collecting funds to help offset the cost. The initiative to raise funds for a resurfaced gym floor reflects the strength and unity of our church members and community. By coming together to support this project, we not only enhance the facilities for current users, but it also will be an attraction to our community. If you are interested in donating, please contact Gary Wehrum, Mitch Shidler or Cyndi James.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Please join us
February 11th & 25th.
The fun starts at 5 pm.
Be sure to bring a friend!



Our youth met for the first time this year on January 7, 2024. The group enjoyed a devotional, fellowship, pizza, and volleyball. While the youth played volleyball (boys against girls), the parents met in the family life center to discuss future plans for our youth group at MMC. Our volunteers have scheduled dates for the remainder of the year for our youth to meet. Amy Simmons organized a meal train and within 24 hrs., all slots were taken for the entire year! Our youth also met on Sunday, January 28th where they enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Tammy and Jody Catt and watched *Passion of the Christ*. If you would like to help with our youth dept., please contact Amy Simmons, Straley Owen, Brianna Livingston or Devon Doyle.



MMC

Leadership

Lannie Lancaster, Board of Managers Chairperson

Tracy Brick, David Fogleman; Frank Fogleman; Franklin Fogleman;
David Rikard; Jeff Schwartz; Mitch Shidler and Steve Sutton

Cyndi James, Business Administrator
Michelle Schwartz, Director of Children's Ministries
Marcia Sutton, Pianist
Debbie Wallace, Organist

Teresa Gardner, Preschool Director/Teacher
Joanna Chafin and Jennifer Morgan, Preschool Teachers
Pam Scarbrough, PDO Director/Teacher
Kristie Stotts, PDO Director/Teacher

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9:00-3:00)

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