

**MARCH | 2024**

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

FOR WE WALK BY  
**FAITH**  
NOT BY SIGHT

## *Ash Wednesday Service*



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# MMC

Marion Methodist Church



## Giving

Total financial gifts for February

**Budget (General)**  
\$21,368.00

**Cap. Improvement**  
\$1,595.00

**Gym Flooring**  
\$4,825.00

**Missions-Backpack**  
\$370.00

**Misc.**  
\$1,029.78

**Scholarship**  
(Joe & Patsy Catt)  
\$301.00

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

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who placed their hands on the prayer blanket for Mike Miller. With this blanket, we hoped to provide Mike with a warm embrace of love and positivity. As he continues on his journey towards healing, may the blanket serve as a tangible reminder of the unwavering support and strength that surrounds him each and every day. A special thank you to Marcia Sutton and Laura Entrekin for pulling this together so quickly and Gary Wehrum for delivering the blanket to the hospital. Please continue to keep Mike and his family in your prayers.



# PALM SUNDAY

24TH MARCH 2024 | 10:45AM

Calling all children:

If you have a child(ren) sixth grade and under who would like to be involved with our Palm Sunday service, please have your child participate in practice on @9:45 am on Sunday, Mar. 3 and Mar. 10th in the choir room.

## Prayer Concerns:

Rod Alexander, Sue Bonds, Cathy Caldwell, Ann Carpenter, Mike Chrestman, Dan Doyle, Gail Fogleman, Heather Grider, Jimbo Hale, Mayson Hall, Jane Hartley, Laura Helms, Donna Lanier, Darlene Meek, Mike Miller, Trish Nichols, Sidney Pickering, Diane Sharpe, Bartt Vaughn, Billie Williams.

Also, Sue Bonds is now residing at Brookdale Germantown. If you would like to drop her a card to 7701 Poplar Ave, Apt 119, Germantown TN 38138.

# He is Risen!

## Easter Service

MARCH 31, 2024 @ 10:45 a.m.







LOVING ONE ANOTHER

## MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

### Monty and Valerie Hill

We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to our new music director, Monty Hill, and his wife, Valerie, as they join the MMC family. With their extensive background as band directors, the Hills bring a wealth of experience and passion to our community. It's evident that music runs deep in their family, as their daughter has also chosen to follow in their footsteps. Please join us in giving Monty and Valerie a heartfelt welcome as they embark on this new journey with us at MMC.



Mr. and Mrs. Hill were both educated at Henderson State University and New Mexico State University. Together they built a very strong band program at Lake Hamilton Public Schools near Hot Springs. The Lake Hamilton Bands began earning state and regional notoriety upon their arrival in 1998. In 2007, Mr. Hill accepted the position as Associate Director of Bands at NCAA Division I New Mexico State University, where he directed the "Pride of New Mexico" Marching Band, "The Roadrunner Revue" Basketball Pep Band, and both the NMSU Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band.

While in New Mexico, Mrs. Hill did not miss a beat, completely building a band program from the ground up at Chaparral Middle School that earned numerous accolades. In 2012, the Hills moved back to their home state of Arkansas in order to be close to family and achieved great success with the band programs at Mills University Studies High School and North Little Rock High School respectively.

In 2015, Mr. Hill was appointed as the first Director of Bands in the history of Lyon College in Batesville. Mrs. Hill was also hired as the Assistant Director of Bands a short time later, and together they recruited an outstanding marching band, concert band, and jazz band for the college.

In 2019, Harrison public schools sought to hire two experienced band directors to help lead the band program. The Harrison Band has flourished during their tenure, earning numerous first division awards.

Dr. Glen Fenter, Superintendent of the Marion School District hired Monty and Valerie Hill to revive the Marion Band program. Over the past four years, the band program has more than doubled in size and has earned numerous state, regional, and national recognition, including representing the State of Arkansas in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

During their 38-year marriage, Monty has led music in several churches located in Hot Spring, El Dorado, Greenwood, Rogers, Searcy, and Santa Teresa, NM.

Monty and Valerie Hill have two grown children. Their daughter Kristen Shepherd is a band director in the Marion School District and their son Nathaniel Hill, is a data scientist for First Orion, based out of North Little Rock.

## Leadership Update: Vision Statement and Future Pastor Needs at MMC

Dr. Hunter Bailey, in a recent leadership update, shared significant developments regarding the vision and future leadership needs of MMC. The leadership team, after extensive engagement including visits, conversations, and surveys, has crafted a potential vision statement for MMC: "A Community in Christ where you can belong, become, and be a blessing," complemented by the tagline "In Marion, For The Hearts of Marion."

Dr. Bailey explained the process behind arriving at this vision statement. Those who missed this update are encouraged to view this portion of our live stream on February 25<sup>th</sup> through the MMC Facebook page. He emphasized the importance of collective engagement and understanding in shaping MMC's identity and aspirations.

Looking ahead, within the next few weeks, the leadership aims to finalize a profile packet outlining the future pastor needs of MMC. This comprehensive packet will delineate MMC's identity, history, and its envisioned trajectory. Dr. Bailey underscored the significance of this preparatory phase as pivotal for MMC's progression.

Once the profile packet is complete, MMC will initiate the process of receiving applications for the pastor position. Prospective candidates will engage in initial discussions with a select team before advancing to broader leadership evaluations. Following thorough interviews, potential candidates will be introduced to MMC, fostering transparency and community involvement in the selection process.



The Grace and Peace Sunday School class displayed their compassion by serving a delicious meal of homemade spaghetti, bread, desserts, and tea to the men of the 8th Street Mission on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. This act of kindness isn't a one-time event; rather, the Sunday school intends to extend their support to the mission on a monthly basis. Such consistent assistance ensures that those in need receive a nutritious meal regularly, reflecting the class's commitment to serving their community with care and generosity.



In the solemn ambiance of the Ash Wednesday service, Pastor Hunter Bailey stood before the congregation delivering a poignant message of repentance and renewal. With words steeped in reflection and humility, he guided the faithful through a journey of introspection, urging them to embrace the season of Lent with open hearts and minds. As the service drew to a close, the atmosphere grew still as the distribution of holy ashes began. Pastor Bailey, with solemn reverence, marked foreheads and wrists with the sacred symbol of mortality and penance, reminding each individual of their connection to the divine and the call to spiritual transformation. In the quiet aftermath, the congregation departed, carrying with them the weight of their reflections and the promise of redemption in the season ahead.





# CHOIR

Choir practice  
Wednesdays  
6-7 pm

For more  
information,  
please contact  
Monty Hill  
@ 870-517-7443.

Choir Room  
Ed. Hall Bldg.

IT IS YOUR  
**TURN!**



## CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES:

Exciting news for music enthusiasts! Our cherished choir is reuniting under the esteemed direction of Monty Hill. Whether you're passionate about singing or possess a hidden musical talent waiting to be shared, we warmly invite you to join us for choir practice every Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7 pm. Our choir room is in the education building across from the children's area. Together, let's create beautiful melodies and foster a sense of community through the universal language of music. See you there!

6  
Thank  
you!

Dear MMC Congregation,

Thank you so much for your generous donation. It meant so much to us. The recovery project was amazing. Bartt did very well. We were able to get a much needed "reset". We brought back lots of good information, equipment, etc., for our journey. He is progressing a little each day and we have started a great routine. We are very hopeful for the future! Much Love, Bartt and Beverly

## 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 Lemmons (8) Vicki Knych (9) Laura Carpenter (12) Pam Young, Levi Rikard (13) Robert Lugar (14) Cassie Morris, Robyn Phillips (15) Laura Entrekin (17) Joanne Arceneaux (20) Jackson Abrams, George Kennedy (21) Caroline Rose Catt, Colby Jonas, Robert Melton, Elizabeth Wallace (22) Jack Carter (23) Shea Hart, Alexandria Inman (24) Lindsey Gill (25) Shea Hart (26) Tracye Carter, Hudson McKewen, Leslie Pace (27) Jeff Schwartz (28) Scotta Allen, Sydney Collard (30) Tess Hall, Cyndi James (31) Rita Callan, Dane Gray, Bill Hartley, William Baber Hardke

## CHILDREN'S AREA



### EASTER EGG HUNT:

We are in need of assistance to organize our Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled for March 31st at 9:45 am, coinciding with our Sunday School hour. Please pick up a bag containing 50 empty eggs and kindly replenish them with non-peanut butter candies before Sunday, March 24th. Bags can be returned at either the information area or the children's area. If you would like to help with the Easter Egg Hunt, please contact Shanna Boney.

### VBS:

We need help organizing our Vacation Bible School program. Our theme this year will be Camp



Firelight. Dates selected are June 17-19 from 5:00-7:30 pm. Please contact the office if you are willing to help .with this program. THANK YOU!

## Confirmation:

Confirmation classes kicked off Sunday February 18th with five of our 6th grade students in attendance. The class will span 8 weeks to cover the basics on the Christian faith. A combination of illustration videos, activities and discussion questions will help our confirmands dive into the importance of a journey with Christ. If you have agreed to sponsor one of our students, please follow up with them to reinforce the material discussed each week. We are excited to move through this process together and look forward to a Confirmation celebration on May 5th. Please mark your calendars to celebrate with us as a special guest will be here to lead our confirmation that day.

## Children's Sunday School

The Sunday school classes gather together for some fun Happy Valentine's Day projects. Our Sunday school classes begin at 9:45 each Sunday morning. Please come join us to learn and have fun!





# YOUTH MINISTRIES

Please join us  
March 10th  
The fun starts at 5 pm.  
Be sure to bring a friend!



MMC youth gathered on February 4, 11 & 25. Each night was filled with fellowship, dinner, and time to reflect how gracious Jesus is and all He sacrificed for us all. In the weeks leading to Lent and Easter, we have been reflecting on The Passion of Christ.



## Scholarship Opportunities

### ***Joe and Patsy Catt Family Scholarship Endowment***

Joe and Patsy Catt Family Scholarship Endowment will award its scholarship to a graduating senior from the Class of 2024. This recipient has to be an active participant in the youth program at Marion Methodist Church 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 is open now until April 1. The recipient will be awarded at our Senior Sunday program on May 19, 2024. Website to apply: [Arkansascommunityfoundation.org](http://Arkansascommunityfoundation.org) or [arcf.org](http://arcf.org)

For any student needing help with the online process please call:  
Jane Jones, Program Officer  
Arkansas Community Foundation  
501-372-1116

**YOUTH**  
**SUNDAY NIGHT**  
**MARCH 10 | 5-6:30 PM**

If you have a senior graduating this May, please contact Cyndi James in the church office as we prepare for Senior Sunday.



**Attention, youth! Prepare yourselves for an impactful evening ahead! Due to a two-week break from school, we're hosting just one youth night, so make sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, March 10th at 5 pm. Our focus remains on the profound topic of the Passion of Christ as we draw nearer to Easter. Your participation and engagement in our discussions are highly encouraged and valued. See you there!**

## PICKLEBALL:

The popularity of pickleball continues to soar as attendance numbers climb steadily higher. The men's group has grown to 25 members, while our ladies' group has an impressive participation from over 30 enthusiastic players. Eager to promote wellness and prevent injuries, we're taking proactive steps by placing informative signs in the gym, illustrating recommended stretches to perform before engaging in the exhilarating game. We extend a warm invitation to all to join us for our open court on Sundays from 2-5 and our Ladies' night on Tuesdays from 4-6:30 pm. Let's come together, stretch, and dive into the fun!

*Thank you*

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our gym flooring project. We are thrilled to share that we have not only met but exceeded our fundraising goal of \$4,700! It is because of donors like you that we can continue to provide a safe and vibrant space for our community to thrive in.

With your help, we are on track to commence the project and anticipate its completion by the end of April. Your contribution has played a pivotal role in ensuring that our facility remains a top-notch environment for everyone who walks through our doors.

As we move forward, the rescreening project should take approximately one week. We will keep you updated on a closure date.

Once again, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your unwavering generosity and belief in our mission. Together, we are making a difference.



# 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

### Staff

**Cyndi James**, Business Administrator

**Monty Hill**, Music Director

**Marcia Sutton**, Pianist

**Debbie Wallace**, Organist

**Tracy McDonald**, Custodian

**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)