

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

July 2, 2026 – Volume 5, Number 6

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

Important Dates

- *July 8 – Office Closed*
- *July 9 – Office Closed*
- *July 10 – Office Closed*
- *July 10 – United Women in Faith – Shelbyville – 10:00 a.m.*
- *July 18 – Chicken BBQ – Martin*
- *July 19 – Bible and Brew Potluck & Baptisms – 1:30 p.m. – Schnable Lake Family Campground- All are welcome!*
- *August 3-7 Vacation Bible School – MUMC*
- *August 9 – VBS Sunday @ MUMC and SUMC*

Safety with Love: Responding as a Community of Faith

Recently our community was faced with a situation that can make many of us uncomfortable: encountering a homeless person in a church setting. These moments test not only our safety practices but also our commitment to Christian love. As followers of Jesus, we are called to respond with both wisdom and compassion.

First, safety is absolutely necessary. Our churches are shared spaces where families, children, and neighbors gather to worship, learn, and support one another. We must protect everyone's well-being by following established safety protocols: securing entry points, reporting concerns to church leadership or local authorities when appropriate, and ensuring staff and volunteers are trained in de-escalation and situational awareness. If you notice a safety concern, please bring it to me so it can be addressed promptly and respectfully.

At the same time, loving others and responding in Christian love is the heart of who we are. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, especially the vulnerable and marginalized. We can respond in practical, compassionate ways that honor both safety and humanity:

- **Listen with dignity:** If someone approaches us, listen attentively and without judgment. Often, presence and a listening ear are powerful gifts.
- **Offer practical help:** If appropriate, offer a warm drink, a snack, etc.
- **Protect dignity:** Treat every person with respect. Avoid stigmatizing language or shaming. Remember that a person's worth comes from being made in the image of God.
- **Pray and reflect:** Lift up the person in prayer, asking for discernment to know how best to respond and whether there is a specific need you can meet.
- **Coordinate with leadership:** Come to me, call me, let's ensure that responses align with our policies and resources, while remaining open to compassionate, individualized outreach within those boundaries.

Our community can also grow in how we prepare for these moments:

- **Welcome all with open hearts,** while clearly communicating what we can offer and what we cannot. Hospitality does not require compromising safety or church policies.

Jesus modeled a radical combination of truth, grace, and mercy. He welcomed the marginalized, spoke truth with love, and protected the vulnerable. As a church, we aspire to embody that same balance. We do not abdicate safety, but we do extend the hands and feet of Christ to those in need.

May our churches be known for following the example of Christ: a people who care deeply for one another, who stand firm in safety and stewardship, and who respond with unwavering love to every neighbor in need.

Blessings,

Pastor Maggie



KINGDOM KIDS
Pre-school – 5th Grade
Every Sunday following
the Children's Sermon!

Martin UMC Kingdom Kids

The first Sunday of each month children and leaders will remain in the sanctuary for worship, this will give them an opportunity to experience worship with their families as well as participate in communion.

Kingdom Kids is available for children thru the 5th grade.

Please reach out to Kristen Ash or Hannah Tanner if you have questions.

Martin UMC Nursery Care:

Nursey care is available during worship – Infant to 4 years of age – please sign your child in and supply your phone number to nursery care in case they need to contact you during the service.

Please plan for children over the age of 4 to remain in the sanctuary or they are welcome to be part of Kid's Kingdom worship.

Martin & Shelbyville UMC
Office will be closed:

July 8, 2026

July 9, 2026

& July 10, 2026

Office Hours:

Closed Monday

Tuesday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Martin UMC Sunday School for all ages will resume September 13, 2026

June 7, 2026

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$920.21

Mission: \$30.00

Food Pantry: \$130.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$2,050.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 26

Martin UMC:

Worship: 52

June 14, 2026

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$592.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,769.00

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 37

Martin UMC:

Worship: 61

June 21, 2026

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$615.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,216.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 28

Martin UMC:

Worship: 55

June 28, 2026

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,460.25

Building: \$40.40

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$919.00

Food Pantry: \$1,130.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 33

Martin UMC:

Worship: 60

In Case You Were Wondering

WISDOM

At eighty-three, it must be
that I am the among the oldest in the pews
perhaps a woman of wisdom
that age is touted to bestow

I have a faith that keeps me day by day
when times are happy and life serene
when everything seems secure
when bills are paid in full
when great-grandchildren come to visit

when times are hard and frightening
when life for one I love ends too soon
when burdens are most heavy and hurts are deep
when there is a one-armed man with a machete
in the back seat of my car with miles to go
before we safely reach our destination

what is it that tells me I am safe
that joys will come again
that it does not matter
on which side of heaven I am found

I've heard many sermons preached
and preached a few myself
with words and concepts long forgotten
I've taken courses
studied hard, passed the written tests
with experience gained through all those years
I might be a fount of wisdom
from Bible quotes or sermons heard
and now dispensed with discretion and compassion

but in the end it is the hymns
that tell me who God is
what I am, who I'm still meant to be
it is the hymns stamped on my heart
stored from my head down to my tapping toes
preserved in every fiber of my being
that tell me who I am and how I long to be
that give me hope, that show me I am loved

Jesus loves me this I know
He's the lily of the valley
Amazing grace how sweet the sound
I surrender all
Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
What a friend we have in Jesus
I'll go where you want me to go
Trust and obey for there's no other way
O victory in Jesus
In the sweet by and by,
we shall meet on that beautiful shore
To God be the glory

the list is long
my days are numbered
but I shall keep on singing
Until the day
God calls me home

-RHawke



MUSICAL NOTES FOR MUMC

JULY 2026

ALL ARE INVITED TO COME INTO HIS HOUSE WITH
SINGING. COME JOIN THE CHOIR FOR ONE SUNDAY
OR FOR THE YEAR OR FOR ANY AMOUNT OF TIME
THAT WORKS FOR YOU.

WE PRACTICE AFTER WORSHIP ON THE SECOND
SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. WE SING ON THE THIRD
SUNDAY. IN JULY THAT'S THE 12TH FOR PRACTICE
AND ON JULY 19TH WE WILL SING: "REVIVE US
AGAIN"

(PLEASE ARRIVE BY 8:50 A.M. ON THE 21ST FOR
WARM UP.)



SHARON BUYS RETIRING FROM
FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR
POSITION
THANKyou

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for your years of devoted service as the Food Pantry Coordinator, and for being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our community. Your heart to feed others, your compassion, and your unwavering dedication have blessed so many lives.

Thank you for the countless hours of hard work, planning, organizing, and serving with grace and humility. Your leadership has created a lasting impact, and your legacy will continue to inspire us.

As you retire from this position, please know that you have been deeply appreciated and cherished. May this next chapter bring you joy, rest, and abundant blessings.

With sincere gratitude, The Martin & Shelbyville United Methodist Churches

MARTIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHICKEN BBQ Fundraiser

Saturday, July 18th, 2026
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



\$15 1/2 CHICKEN MEAL
\$10 1/4 CHICKEN MEAL
\$5 CHILD PORTION

INCLUDES: CHICKEN, SALADS, DRINK, DESSERT AND MORE!

MARTIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 969 E. ALLEGAN STREET MARTIN, MI 49070

DINE IN OR TO GO!

Questions? Call 269-672-7097 or email martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School

August 3-7, 2026

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Contact the church office or Kristin DeMann if you would like to volunteer!



It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

PSALM 74:17

Vacation Bible School-the best and tiring week of the summer

someecards
user card



FOOD PANTRY BLESSINGS

Our food pantry is now being blessed with food from City BBQ in Kentwood. Each evening, they freeze their leftovers and donate them to us. Items may include Mac and Cheese, Corn Pudding, Peach Cobbler, Green Beans and occasionally meat or other items.

Delicious! Pick up is between 2 and 4 on Tuesdays. If you would like to see how this operation works or to thank them in person for their generosity, contact Reva Daniel .

Someone is needed each week. Call or message @ 616-550-2645 to get on the calendar to ride along. God is Good!

July Birthdays

- 1- Dan Boniface
- 4 - Cameron Curtis
- 7 - Zoe Belka
- 9 - Jessica Cole
 - Betty Farmer
- 11 - Todd Boulter
- 13 - Elaine Jeblonski
 - Tony Verhage
 - Mary Warner
- 15 - Don Rambadt
- 16 - Albert Hoekstra
- 23 - Scott Warner
- 24 - Aubrey Curtis
- 26 - Ozzie Guevara
- 28 - JJ Jenkins
- 31 - Nancy Nicolai
 - Sawyer Tanner



Shelbyville UMC kiddo's were loving Son Life Camp!



AUGUST

- 1 - Josh Cole
- 1 - Hayden Swinney
- 2 - Lennon DeMann
- 3 - Sheila Hinline
 - Haley Jenkins
- 4 - Remi VanZile
- 7 - Levi DeMann
 - Marisa Hilton
- 9 - Susan Coburn
- 10 - Delores Bos
 - Ruth Schrier
- 13 - Ronnie Collins
 - Leslie Pohl
- 15 - Everly Hassing
- 16 - Terry McWilliams
- 17 - David Mouw
 - Marlene Rose
- 20 - Jill Anderson
 - Tracy Good
- 23 - Lawson DeMann
- 26 - Dale Noteboom
- 27 - Deborah Staub
- 28 - Doris Hawkey
 - Maggie Stoken
- 30 - Shirley Noteboom