

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

December 4, 2025 – Volume 4, Number 10

**“Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors.”**

In Case You Are Wondering

November 2, 2025

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$

Local Mission: \$

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$

Attendance

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship:

Martin UMC:

Worship:

November 9, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$

Building Fund: \$

Special Offering: \$

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship:

Martin UMC:

Worship:

November 16, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$

Building: \$

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$

Building Fund: \$

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship:

Martin UMC:

Worship

November 23, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$

Building Fund: \$

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$

Parking Lot Fund: \$

Food Pantry: \$

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship:

Martin UMC:

Worship:

Dear Martin and Shelbyville United Methodist Church Family,

As we light the Christmas candles and sing beloved carols, my heart overflows with gratitude for the gift of this church community. This season reminds us that the divine gift of Emmanuel—“God with us”—comes not only as a distant miracle, but as a present, living reality among us when we gather, serve, and love one another.

I am profoundly grateful for each of you—your faithful worship, your generous service, and your sturdy hope in times of challenge. You embody the Christmas spirit in everyday acts: a comforting word to a grieving friend, a shared meal with neighbors in need, a pair of hands stretched out in repair, a note of encouragement to a discouraged soul, and a thousand quiet prayers offered for our world. It is in these faithful habits that we witness the joy of the season take root and grow among us.

Being your pastor is a great privilege and a deep joy. I am proud to belong to this church family—two congregations united in mission, united in Christ, walking this Advent and Christmas season with courage, curiosity, and compassion. Your faithfulness inspires me: in our worship gatherings, in our small groups, in our mission partnerships, and in the many ways you show up for one another and for our neighbors near and far. You model what it means to “live out faith with love” (Galatians 5:13-14), and you remind me every day that church is not just a building, but a people on mission together.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and anticipate the new year ahead, I invite us all to lean into the invitation of discipleship. Discipleship is not a one-time decision but a daily following—learning, growing, and serving in the way of Christ. I look forward to 2026 with you, as we walk more intentionally in Christ’s footsteps, deepen our worship, expand our outreach, and nurture the next generation of followers who will carry the light of Christmas into every corner of our communities.

Merry Christmas to all of you!

Blessings, Pastor Maggie

Did you know that you can give thru our website? Go to martinumc.org or shelbyvilleumc.org for more information.



KINGDOM KIDS
Every Sunday following the
Children's Sermon!

**Thank you to all who contributed
to the November bulk meat
purchase for the food pantry!**

*Martin UMC Sunday School
Ages 4 to Adult at 11:00 a.m.*

The Manger

*The church is dark and silent.
It smells of pine and fir.
In the front I see a manger;
In my heart I feel a stir.
So with quiet tread I tip-toe
Right up where I can see
Straight into that manger
Where the little babe will be.
But there is no baby sleeping
Upon that hay filled bed,
Though something very wonderful
Is lying there instead.
There lies the loaf all baked and brown;
There lies the cup so full and free.
There is a birth and there is death.
There is life – and so for all eternity.
-RHawke*

Office Hours:

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

Important Dates

- *December 10th – UWF – 10:00 a.m. Shelbyville Potluck to follow*
- *December 10th – MUMC Ad Council 6pm*
- *December 11th – Chosen & Popcorn 9:30 - MUMC*
- *December 11th – Advent Study –Faithful - 1:00 p.m. in person @ Martin -7:00 Zoom*
- *December 16th – Knit, Pray & Crochet 12:15 Martin*
- *December 18th Chosen & Popcorn 9:30 - MUMC*
- *December 18th - – Advent Study –Faithful - 1:00 p.m. in person @ Martin -7:00 Zoom*
- *December 20th – Community Breakfast - 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Martin UMC*
- *December 20th – Memorial Service for Agnes Chlebana – Noon – Martin UMC*
- *December 24th – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m. - Martin UMC*

Martin UMC Nursery Care:

*Nurse 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 and are welcome to be part of Kid's Kingdom worship.*

MUSICAL NOTES FOR MUMC:
CHOIR PRACTICE AFTER WORSHIP
ON DECEMBER 14TH @ 10:45

CHOIR WILL SING ON
DECEMBER 21ST, 2025 – “A
COMMUNION HYMN FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE” FROM THE
CELEBRATION HYMNAL #287
(WARMUP ON DECEMBER 21ST @ 8:45)

ALL THOSE WHO LIKE TO PRAISE
GOD IN SONG ARE ENCOURAGED
TO JOIN US.



•COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

MARTIN United Methodist Church

December 20, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

ALL DONATIONS TO MARTIN/SHELBYVILLE UMC FOOD PANTRY

969 E. ALLEGAN STREET, MARTIN, MI. 49070

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Ivy Pohl
- 6 – Chris Swinney
- 8 - Glenda Ash
- 10 - Deb DeMann
- 11 - Jack Farmer
 - Mark Ondersma
 - Melinda Tison
- 12 - Charla Richmond
- 14 - Kristin DeMann
- 16 - Gloria Shook
- 19 - Carolyn Buskirk
 - Randy Martin
 - Julie Mentzer
- 21 - Sharon Buys
- 23 - Margaret Cambell
- 24 - Chad VanHaun
- 28 - KeLinda Scott
- 29 - Pat Holland
- 30 - Molly Mentzer

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Elizabeth Buskirk
- 3 - Carly Anderson
 - Angie Basore
- 6 - Bill Drake
 - Ryan Wheeler
- 11 - John Tison
- 14 - Terry Chrisman
- 23 - Gary Coburn
- 24 - Denice Pettee
- 25 - Richard Mattox
- 26 - Penelope VanZile
- 27 - Barbara Dickert
- 28 - Johnathan Clark



Winter Weather

The office will be closed if Martin Public Schools is closed for weather.

Church activities/meetings will be cancelled if Martin and/or Wayland Public Schools are closed for weather.

Sunday morning service cancellation will be announced on WMT channel 3 and on our Facebook page.

BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

Please join us for a Birthday Card Shower Honoring

Molly Mentzer

MAIL CARDS TO
MOLLY MENTZER
1637 LINDEN TRAIL
KALAMAZOO, MI. 49009

MOLLY TURNS 90 ON:
DECEMBER 30, 2025



MARTIN & SHELBYVILLE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

*Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the heavenly
lights, who does not change like shifting
shadows.*
James 1:17

24TH DECEMBER 2025 - 7PM
MARTIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
969 E. Allegan Street,
Martin, MI. 49070

*All are welcome!
Come as you are
or wear your
Christmas pajamas!*

To all,
Due to the
overwhelming
expense for
mailing Christmas
cards we have
chosen to include
our card to all of
you here, in the
newsletter.

We are so grateful
for all of you and
hope that you
have the best
Christmas!

Love,
Maggie & Crystal

REJOICE! THE BIRTH OF CHRIST IS HERE.



*Smile and be
grateful for all
you hold dear.*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New
Year*

*With all of our love,
Pastor Maggie and Crystal*