

# The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

## Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

February 2nd, 2024 – Volume 4, Number 3

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

#### In Case You Are Wondering

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,262.72  
Building Fund: \$40.40

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$699.00  
Building Fund: \$60.00

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 28

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 47

January 21st, 2024  
Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$722.47  
Food Pantry: \$100.00  
Special Offering: \$45.00

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,376.00  
Special Offering: \$118.00  
Building Fund: \$30.00

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 28

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 42

Did you know that you can give thru our website? Go to [martinumc.org](http://martinumc.org) or [shelbyvilleumc.org](http://shelbyvilleumc.org) for more information.

#### A Different Kind of Lent

Lent is a season of reflection and sacrifice. It is a time to give up certain things in order to focus on spiritual growth and prepare for the celebration of Easter. Here are some things that you could consider giving up for Lent, based on verses from the Bible:

Give up the need to be right all the time. Remember Psalm 46:10, which says, "Be still and know that I am God." Instead of always insisting on being right, try to cultivate a spirit of humility and openness to different perspectives.

Give up your fear of failure. Trust in God's plan and His love for you. Romans 8:28 assures us that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Embrace the possibility of failure as a chance to learn and grow.

Give up comparing yourself to others. Each person is unique and has their own journey. Romans 12:6 reminds us that "we have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." Focus on your own strengths and celebrate the accomplishments of others without feeling the need to compare.

Give up the need to have things all figured out. Trust in God's wisdom and guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Give up your fears of the future. Remember Matthew 6:34, which says, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Trust in God's provision and live in the present moment.

Give up the need to be in control. Surrender your desire for control and trust in God's sovereignty. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us that "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

Give up all the non-essential noise in your life. Take time during Lent to simplify and declutter your life. Create space for silence and solitude, allowing yourself to hear God's voice more clearly.

These are just a few examples of things you can give up for Lent. The specific sacrifices you make will depend on your personal journey and what you feel called to let go of in order to draw closer to God.

Blessings, Pastor Maggie

#### Office Hours:

Closed Monday, Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Knit, Pray & Crochet**  
**February 8<sup>th</sup> & February 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
at 10:00 a.m.

*I am so happy we started this little group, the fellowship and the people we have come to know as our little circle has been a blessing from above.*  
*Blessings, Crystal*

**Martin Sunday School**  
**Sunday School for all ages**  
**immediately following**  
**fellowship each Sunday!**

**Martin Adult Sunday School**  
**Lenten Sunday School Study starts**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup> – “Final Words From the**  
**Cross”. Would you like to join for this**  
**study? Let the office know so that we**  
**have enough books available!**

**Food Pantry Items**  
**January 24<sup>th</sup> – Peanut Butter Drive**  
**February – Personal Hygiene Products**

**Martin & Shelbyville UMC**  
**Youth Group**

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**February 4, 2024**

**February 18, 2024**

**February 25, 2024**

**March 3, 2024**

**6:00 P.M.**  
**AT MARTIN UMC**

**Prayer Concerns:**

Email [martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com](mailto:martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com)  
to update or to add!

**Updated February 2nd, 2024**

- Raina Oldebeken – Cancer
- Molly Mentzer – Cancer
- Jeff Oldebeken – Health
- Online Ministry
- Those battling active addiction and those in recovery.
- Youth Ministries
- Naomi Martin - health
- Sandy VanWormer – Cancer Diagnosis
- Ernie Sunnerville- Health
- Larry Mattox – Cancer diagnosis and treatment
- Ronda Kelly pray for healing
- Children being hurt during custody battle
- Doris Hawkey – Heart issues
- Nan Darrow – Mobility issues
- Don Darrow – Under Hospice Care
- Dan Lawrence – Cancer treatment
- Kim – Cancer diagnosis
- Don Cleveland – health
- Resolution in Israel
- Patti Jarvis – Health/Cancer Diagnosis
- Dick Mattox - cancer diagnosis
- Pat Kimmel – Health
- Nancy White – Heart
- Dean Rantz – Health
- Kenny Martin – Cancer
- Brad – head injury
- Chip Rynbrandt – Seizures
- Joyce Nauseida – Health
- Jim Fugate – healing
- Arlene VonMyhr – Health
- Rachel Richer – Health
- Roger Zeluff – Clinical Trial Results
- Linda Creviston - Health
- The Family of Butch Glass – Butch passed away recently
- The Family of Jill Jackson – Jill passed away recently
- The Family of Tim Curry – Tim passed away recently
- Beverly – Healing
- David Pierce – Broken Arm
- The Family of Fred Slager – Fred passed away recently
- The Family of Doris Evink – Doris passed away recently
- Albert Hoekstra – Health
- John Phelps – Health
- Chris Montes

## Important Dates

**January 24<sup>th</sup> – Peanut Butter Drive**  
**February- Personal Hygiene Products**

- February 4<sup>th</sup> – Youth Group Grades 6-12 Martin 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- February 7<sup>th</sup> – SUMC Ad Council Meeting 6:00p.m.
- February 8<sup>th</sup> - Knit, Pray & Crochet 10:00 a.m. Martin
- February 11 – Golden Cross Offering
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – Souper Bowl of Caring
- February 14<sup>th</sup> – Women in Faith – Shelbyville 10:00 a.m./Potluck
- February 14<sup>th</sup> -7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service at Martin UMC
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – Lenten Study “The Third Day” begins.
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Knit, Pray & Crochet 10:00 a.m. Martin
- February 24<sup>th</sup> – Book Club – Room of Marvels – 10:00 a.m. Martin

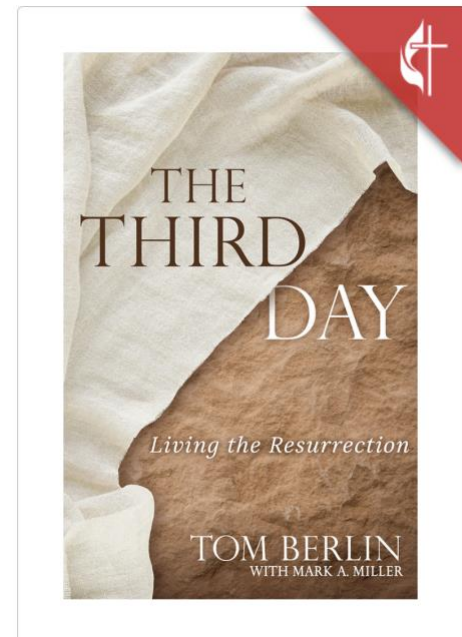
## The United Methodist Church Human Relations Day Special Offering – May 21 2024

Human Relations Day is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God’s children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

## Lenten Study

**Begins on Wednesday,  
February 21  
1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
Zoom available for evening  
study.  
Martin Fellowship Hall**

**Sign up thru the office to get  
your book.**



ALL DONATIONS TO MARTIN/SHELBYVILLE UMC FOOD PANTRY  
969 E. ALLEGAN STREET, MARTIN, MI, 49070

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!!

## A Birthday Card Shower!

LET'S SHOWER LINDA CREVISION WITH  
BIRTHDAY CARDS! HER BIRTHDAY IS:  
FEBRUARY 10, 2024

PLEASE MAIL THE CARDS TO:  
LINDA CREVISION  
620 ELY STREET, APT. 10  
ALLEGAN, MI 49010

## Golden Cross Sunday

**February 11, 2024**

This offering stays in the Michigan Conference and is split between six different projects. The six projects are: Joy Southfield, Chelsea Home, Clark Retirement, Bronson Hospital, Methodist Children's Home, and MI Area Camping.

## KINGDOM BUILDERS

Pastor Maggie is looking for disciples to lead the children's sermon each month....Can you make a difference in the lives of children?  
See Pastor Maggie to discuss!

What has a bigger impact than a trio of 300-pound linebackers bearing down on a quarterback?  
YOU!



## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is an important observance in the United Methodist Church, as it marks the beginning of the season of Lent. On this day, United Methodists gather for worship services that focus on repentance, reflection, and preparation for the journey to Easter.

During the Ash Wednesday service, the congregation participates in a symbolic act of receiving ashes on their foreheads. The ashes are typically made from the burned palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday service. The minister or worship leader applies the ashes in the shape of a cross while saying the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or a similar phrase derived from Genesis 3:19. This act serves as a reminder of human mortality and the need for repentance.

Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent are significant in the United Methodist Church as they provide an opportunity for believers to engage in intentional spiritual practices and draw closer to God. It is a time of introspection, repentance, and renewal, as individuals and the community as a whole seek to align their lives with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Ash Wednesday Service at Martin UMC February 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.**

## Book Club 2024

- February Book: Room of Marvels by James Bryan Smith
  - Review will be February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. MUMC
- March Book: The Reason for God by Timothy Keller
  - Review will be March 23rd, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. MUMC

All are welcome!

The Connection -  
Next issue Announcements/Articles/  
Testimonies are due  
February 14th, 2024.  
Email to:  
martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com

## 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.



## Souper Bowl of Caring

February 11, 2024

The first year, they invited 22 area churches to join the team and collected \$5,700 with 100% of donations distributed to local-area charities.

That was 1990. Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grass roots, youth inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good. Over \$193 MILLION in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities.

Thousands of participants including: churches, schools, youth groups, community partners, grocery partners, local businesses, media partners, NFL teams and passionate individuals have experienced for themselves, the joy and satisfaction of giving, serving and inspiring people across the country to follow their generous example.

Martin & Shelbyville UMC Food Pantry will participate on Sunday, Feb. 11 by providing soup during fellowship at both churches. Soup kettles will be available for donations to our pantry if you choose to participate. You may donate cash, or soup, cans or mixes. All cash donations will be designated for soup for the pantry.

## Martin UMC Missions

### Blessing Bag Project

We will be assembling 50 Blessing Bags for the homeless on February 18, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in fellowship hall

If you are able, we need:

- Quarters
- Dollars
- 1 X 3 Band aids
- Travel size toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.)
- Chapstick
- Handwarmers
- Please bring all items no later than February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024