

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

March 11th, 2022 – Volume 2, Number 5

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

In Case You are Wondering:
February 27th, 2022

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$988.17
Property: \$65

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,753.00
Memorial Fund: \$50

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship - 22

Martin UMC:

Worship - 33

Sunday School -

In Case You are Wondering:
March 3rd, 2022

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,175.27
Property: \$100.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,655.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 30

Martin UMC:

Worship: 28

Sunday School:

**Men's Fellowship and
Video Study
The Chosen**
Join us on Saturday,
March 12th, 19th & 26th
2022, at 9:00 a.m.
Martin UMC

Jesus - The Renegade

For Lent I have a 40 day devotional that I am using to help me stay focused on Jesus.

March 6th my scripture reading was: John 1:9-13, I hope you will take a few minutes to read that before you continue on reading.

Jesus was coming, I kind of imagine it was like a movie - an old western in the desert comes to my mind....a desolate place....a hero coming in to save the day....but instead of a gun fighting cowboy it was Jesus. Jesus was coming to save the world.

Think about it....Our Creator...God...walking around His own creation and no one had a clue. But how would they? He looked like a regular guy, average looking I would imagine. No crown, no majesty. He was poor, we know that because when Joseph and Mary brought him to Jerusalem they offered up a sacrifice of two turtledoves, they couldn't afford a lamb. He came from Nazareth, small town, nothing too exciting about it. People were not sure that anything good could come out of Nazareth.

Jesus came to His own people and they did not receive him....When He claimed to be the Messiah, they rejected Him. Then they ran him out of town. Crazy right?

Those that did receive Him....there were no requirements. To have a relationship with him you did not have to be a certain age, race or gender. No education was required, no track record of doing good things. The bigger the sin....the bigger the forgiveness with Him. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are one in Christ Jesus." - Galatians 3:28.

Jesus gave anyone....any of US the right to become children of God.

It was hard for people to recognize Jesus as the Messiah...The Hero....The King....especially because he looked like a regular guy who....maybe even looked like a down and out guy....But those that "got it" those that could see who He was...they were blessed!!!

Jesus....The King....The Renegade....He hung around with some pretty shady characters....People that saw him....they reaped huge rewards! With Jesus we become our own kind of renegade - with Jesus, ride or die.

Jesus, The Renegade, he reached his hand out to so many types of people....do you? Do you have a requirement for people? Do they have to meet a certain standard for you to extend your hand? Be a Renegade....BE LIKE JESUS....

Jesus is Ride or Die for us....Let's be Ride or Die for Jesus. Let's do His work...Serve those in need....Let's be Renegades.

Blessings,

Pastor Maggie

Office Hours:

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

The Lenten Season in 2022

Palm Sunday: April 10, 2022

Maundy Thursday: April 14, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. at Shelbyville UMC (joint service)

Good Friday: April 15, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. at Martin UMC (joint service)

Easter Sunrise: April 17, 2022 – 7:00 a.m. at Martin UMC (joint service)

Easter Sunday: April 17, 2022



2021 Martin Little League



Thank you to all who contributed for the Martin Rec Team Sponsorship! We will have a Martin & Shelbyville United Methodist Church Team!!

Thank you to: Patsy Hoekstra, the Hilsbos Family, Pat Holland, Deb & Dan Boniface, Ed & Sharon Buys, Amy Boniface, Jeff Anderson, Shirley & Dale Noteboom, Jill Anderson and one person who would like to remain anonymous!

**If you have not yet turned in money, cash or check to MUMC please!
Thanks for supporting our community!**

**Women's Fellowship -
March 19, 2022**

11:00 a.m. at Shelbyville UMC

Fun with Gourds!

Hosted by Caroline Buskirk

Materials provided.

Refreshments will be served!

Invite a friend!

**Shelbyville UMC Food Pantry Collection
March – Cleaning Supplies**

Dish soap, toilet cleaner, Awesome, Cleanser, Lysol, cleanser, etc.

Please place items in the container and they will be transported to the pantry.

**Martin UMC Food Pantry Collection
March – Cleaning Supplies**

Dish soap, toilet cleaner, Awesome, Cleanser, Lysol, cleanser, etc.

Please place items in the grocery cart outside of fellowship hall.

SON-LIFE CAMP

Volunteer Mowers Needed.

SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center is looking for volunteers to help mow lawns once a month (depends on availability and number of volunteers) this summer. Should have the ability to run a zero-turn mower and be 18 yrs. or older. Please call us if you are interested in being added to the schedule. (269) 792-2081

Summer Camp Positions ~ We're hiring!!

SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center is looking for a **HEAD COOK, HEALTH OFFICER & WATERFRONT DIRECTOR** for our summer camp program. Must be 18 yrs. or older to apply. Please check our web site, www.SON-LifeCamp.org for job descriptions. Apply on line or email: Ben@son-lifecamp.org for more information.

SAVE THE DATE: SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center's annual **SUMMERFEST** fundraiser – **Saturday, June 18, 2022** (3:30 – 8pm). Join us for a fun, family day of free waterfront activities, archery, tomahawks, crafts, inflatables, and games. Dinner served at 4:30pm for donation. Live & Silent Auction to follow.

**UMCOR Sunday
March 27, 2022**

UMCOR SUNDAY

**TOGETHER
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE**

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive

TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL SUNDAYS?

United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit UMC.org/yourimpact

HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT UMCOR?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**, we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that **100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.**



Confidential Pastor Email - umcpastormaggs@gmail.com

The Power of Vulnerability

MARCH 14–20, 2022

TOMMIE L. WATKINS JR.

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW: In the midst of Lent, when many might be giving up a certain food that they love, we read about feasting. The focus is not on physical feasting, but on feasting as a metaphor for communing with God. Isaiah describes food and drink that one cannot buy with money, for it comes freely from the Lord. The psalmist describes the state of his soul as being hungry and thirsty. Only meditating on God's faithfulness nourishes his soul at the deepest level. Physical food is momentary, but spiritual nourishment endures. In First Corinthians, Paul appeals to this imagery. Although the ancients experience this spiritual nourishment, some pursue physical pleasure and stray into idolatry and immorality. Partaking in this nourishment should cause us in turn to produce spiritual fruit, as Jesus admonishes his listeners.

Taken from: The Upper Room Disciplines 2022

Pastor Maggie's Message
Sunday, March 13, 2022
"Under The Wings"

Pastor Maggie's Message
Sunday, March 20, 2022
"If It Bears Fruit"

Pastor Maggie's Message
Sunday, March 27, 2022
"Lost and Found"

Pastor Maggie's Message
Sunday, April 3rd, 2022
"Filled With Fragrance"

The Connection - next issue
announcements/articles/ testimonies are
due March 23rd, 2022. Email to:
martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com

Equipped by Grace

MARCH 21–27, 2022

JULIA SEYMOUR

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW: Lent is a time for focusing on our need for God and for remembering God's abundant resources for filling that need. When the Israelites finally pass into Canaan, they observe the Passover as a reminder of God's deliverance of them from Egypt. The psalmist, traditionally David, rejoices in the fact that God does not count his sins against him. Paul declares that through Christ, God has made everything new. God no longer holds our sins against us, and we in turn appeal to others to accept this free gift. Jesus eats with sinners and tells the story of the prodigal son to demonstrate that no matter how far we stray, God will always welcome us home with open arms. God never stops pursuing us, even if we feel unloved or unworthy.

Taken from: The Upper Room Disciplines 2022

Looking Back, Going Forward

MARCH 28–APRIL 3, 2022

K. CHERIE JONES

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW: The Isaiah text portrays the redemptive activity of God that is about to be introduced into Israel's life. All paradigms lie shattered before the immensity of God's grace! The joy of Psalm 126 is occasioned by the memory of God's act of redemption in the past and also by the anticipation that a similar intervention is imminent. Paul's autobiographical sketch directed to the Philippians confesses the change that has come into his life as a result of "knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." The story of Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet must be read in the context of Jesus' looming passion. Jesus sets Mary's actions in their proper perspective by linking them to his own death, even as he deflects Judas's counterfeit compassion.

Taken from: The Upper Room Disciplines 2022

Spring and Summer Women's Book Club

April/May 2022 – Meeting will be:
11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2022
in person or 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May
12, 2022 - Zoom

**Pray Confidently and Consistently:
Finally Let Go of the Things Holding You
Back from Your Most Important
Conversation**
Author: Valerie Woerner

A vibrant, unstuck prayer life can begin for you right now.

*Why is it so difficult to pray without getting distracted?
Why don't I have this figured out by now?*

Pray Confidently and Consistently is for all of us who ask these questions and yearn for more. Join author and prayer journal creator Valerie Woerner in learning to pray boldly to the God of the universe who is beckoning us to come sit with him, share our hearts and needs, and simply know him.

Living in close communication with our Father has the power to transform even the most difficult moments of our lives. What weights do we need to throw off so they don't hold us back from a deeper connection with God? What distractions are keeping us from running freely with him?

When we release the burdens suffocating our prayer lives and leaving us gasping for Jesus, we can finally experience the truth that prayer changes everything.



May/June 2022 – Meeting will be:
11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2022
in person or 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June
16, 2022 - Zoom

**The Well-Watered Woman: Rooted in
Truth, Growing in Grace, Flourishing in
Faith.**
Author: Gretchen Saffles

Discover the bottomless, refreshing Well of God's Word—and experience a fullness and peace beyond your circumstances. In the chaos of our everyday, it can be difficult to live out and apply the truths of Scripture. We want more of Jesus, but we find ourselves looking to our own lives and accomplishments for our worth and identity. And while that may buoy us for a time, we're often left feeling dried up, discouraged, and longing for more.

Gretchen Saffles knows what it's like to feel overwhelmed and unable to flourish. In *The Well-Watered Woman*, Gretchen leads us to the Well of fullness, the Word of freedom, and the Way of fruitfulness. She teaches that God's Word will satisfy us for all eternity.

Using Scripture and her own personal story of surrender, Gretchen offers spiritually hungry women tangible tools to not only know Jesus more but to live a life that thoroughly enjoys Him, seeks Him, and follows Him into freedom.



May/June 2022 – Meeting will be:
11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2022
in person or 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June
16, 2022 - Zoom
**A Lineage of Grace: Biblical Stories of 5
Women in the Lineage of Jesus – Tamar,
Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary**
Author: Francine Rivers

The Bible is filled with inspiring stories of unlikely candidates God chose to change eternity. This bestselling compilation in one volume contains five novellas about such people—women in the family tree of Jesus Christ.

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary.

Each was faced with extraordinary—even scandalous—challenges. But they had courage. They lived daring lives. Sometimes they made mistakes—big mistakes. And yet God, in His infinite mercy, used them to bring forth the Christ, the Savior of the world. Their stories still hold great meaning and inspiration for us today.

Tamar risked her life and her reputation to be the woman she was called to be. See how God uses our circumstances and our steps toward Him, however faltering, to fulfill His plan.

Rahab was exploited by men who saw only her beauty, yet she held fast to her faith in God and was rewarded. Discover how God seeks and finds those whose hearts are tender toward Him, no matter how far away they are.

Ruth's loyalty, especially toward her mother-in-law Naomi, helped her to persevere in the face of tragedy, and God gave her a second chance at love. Be encouraged that God will provide even when all hope seems lost.

Bathsheba's scandalous affair with David did not end in one night. Learn that God is willing to restore those lost in the depths of despair who call out to Him.

Mary is one of the most revered women in history. But first, she was an ordinary woman striving to please God in the same way that women still do today. When God spoke, Mary responded in obedience which changed the world forever.

Each novella includes an in-depth Bible study perfect for personal reflection or group discussion.



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

Sunday School for All Ages at Martin UMC

Every Sunday we have Sunday school for kids and adults.

Sunday School Begins at 11:00 a.m.

Important Dates

March 12th – 9:00 a.m. Men's Video Study – The Chosen – at Martin

March 13th – Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 16 – 7:00 p.m. Women's Book Study Via Zoom

March 19th – 9:00 a.m. Men's Video Study – The Chosen – at Martin

March 19th – Community Breakfast – Martin – 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

March 19 – Ladies Fellowship – 11:00 a.m. at Shelbyville

April 6th – 6:00 p.m. SUMC Ad Council

April 9th – 9:00 a.m. Men's Video Study – The Chosen – at Martin

April 10th – Palm Sunday

April 13th – 10:00 a.m. UMW Meeting at Shelbyville – Sack Lunch

April 13 – 6:00 p.m. MUMC Ad Council

April 14 – Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. at Shelbyville

April 15 – Good Friday Service - 7:00 p.m. at Martin

April 17 – Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 a.m. at Martin

April 17 - Easter Breakfast – 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Martin

April 17 – Easter Service – 9:30 a.m. – Martin

April 17 – Easter Service – 11:00 a.m. – Shelbyville

Prayer Concerns:

Email martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com to update or to add!

Updated: March 10, 2022

- Families of those affected by COVID
- Tracy Buskirk - Cancer
- Blaine Anderson - Cancer
- Raina Oldebeken - Cancer
- Molly Mentzer - Cancer
- Orie Perry - Cancer - Hospice Care
- Megan Rose - Cancer
- Jessie Rasnake - Cancer
- Worship musicians for Martin UMC
- Shirley Vanderploeg - Cancer
- Stacy Knorr - Cancer
- Sandy Meyers - Cancer
- Hope Wassenaar - Cancer
- Terry Chlebana - Cancer
- Sue Arnsman - Cancer
- Jeff Oldebeken - Health
- Edna Chene - 2 broken legs - pray for healing
- Pat Kimmel - Healing - Answers - Broken Hip
- On line ministry
- Those battling active addiction and those in recovery
- Lexi Cronen - Broken hip
- Jason Sherry - healing/problems with medication pump
- Agnes Chlebana - Healing-recovering from a fall
- Families affected by fire at Aspen Apartments-Otsego
- Family of Amy Woodruff - Amy passed away February 27, 2022
- Family of Michelle VanPutten - Michelle passed away February 27, 2022
- Amber Stephens - Brain Tumor
- Zoe Allen - Recovering from broken leg
- Cheryl Teinstra - Health
- Ann & Trudy Wells - Both receiving Hospice Care
- Family of Casey Borrer - Casey passed away March 7, 2022
- Craig and Barb Ash - Loss of Daughter
- Ron Hazel - Kidney Issues
- Family of Allen - Allen passed away
- Laura Sileeka - Head Injury

Spring is coming!! Martin UMC will be doing Spring Clean Up soon! Would you like to help out with \$\$\$ for flowers and freshening up the woodchips?

Please write a check or put cash in an envelope and note Spring Clean Up!

Bulletin announcements are due each week on Tuesday! Email to: martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com



Friends, today, the Commission on the General Conference for The United Methodist Church announced that the 2020 General Conference, already postponed twice, will be postponed again, this time until 2024. This news will be received with a range of feeling across our churches. There are some for whom this just makes sense given the uneven distribution of vaccinations across the globe, the current world situation, and the challenge of obtaining the appropriate travel documents for all the elected delegates from around the world. For others, this is deeply disappointing, delaying an anticipated vote on a denominational separation even further, which might allow for new expressions of Methodism to emerge and bring an end to our disputes over how we minister with and to the LGBTQ+ community. Some ask just how we can make it through the coming months with deep unresolved tensions. I have heard all your voices. I understand your concerns.

And I am thrown back to words found frequently in our Scriptures, "do not be afraid." The text I share above is one of countless Scriptures that encourage us not to be afraid. While the range of emotions the news about General Conference brings includes disappointment, dismay, anger and fear, the text remains helpful as an encouragement to not allow such emotions to fully define how we move forward. This text invites courage, focusing on the tasks ahead, and not being defined by our fears, angers, anxieties or disappointments. I understand the range of feelings. The delay in General Conference is disappointing. I also know that the world continues to need the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. People need Jesus. The world needs churches that can surround people with communities of love and forgiveness. The world needs people and communities of faith committed to justice, peace, reconciliation, committed to seeing the image of God in all others and breaking down dividing walls. I know we have some profound differences about how God calls us to be in ministry. We also share many of the same passions to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. People are hurting. People are wounded. Relationships are frayed. Families are struggling. Our world is plagued by war, poverty, environmental degradation, and the persistence of old prejudices and ancient hatreds. God still calls us, each of us and all of us, to be in ministry for and with Jesus Christ in this chaotic and all-too broken world.

We can, at this moment, allow ourselves to focus on anger, fear, dismay, disappointment, or we can feel these feelings and still move through toward the strength of love and the courage to be in ministry.

My commitments to all of you are the same commitments I have made in my ministry with you in this difficult time. I am committed to kindness. I am committed to graciousness. I am committed to fairness. I am committed to seeking as much wisdom as I can to exercise the ministry to which I am called. As we move forward in this tense time I am committed to communicating with you all clearly and fairly. As we continue to discuss future alternatives in the coming months, I will consistently sources for additional information with you. While I am

committed to the continuing United Methodist Church, I will make sure you know where to find information about other expressions of Methodism. As a conference we will do our best to provide resources for your congregational discernment about your mission, vision and values. We have been living in an uneasy tension with one another. While uncomfortable, I trust we are capable of continuing to live in this tension. My commitments include the understandings reached concerning abeyance and fairness in working with all congregations and clergy when the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation was first announced in early 2020.

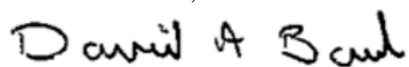
The Michigan Conference has consistently identified a direction for its future, a direction that defines inclusivity in ways beyond our current polity, a direction that seeks to combine personal faith development, congregational vibrancy, and passion to create a more just and peaceful world. There is spaciousness, room for difference in matters of conscience and an encouragement to on-going dialogue amid contradictory convictions within that broad direction. As a bishop I have shared with many that I am not interested in exchanging one set of judicial processes, complaints and trials about matters of conscience for another. And I recognize that not everyone sees themselves or their congregation as part of this direction. There are unanswered questions about whether or not new expressions of Methodism may launch before General Conference. There remain provisions for disaffiliation for local congregations in accordance with paragraph 2553 of The Book of Discipline, revised in 2019.

The Council of Bishops has scheduled a meeting for March 8 and I may have more to share with you following that meeting. At that time, I may be in a better position to respond to more specific questions about disaffiliation, pathways for new expressions of Methodism to form, and whether or not Jurisdictional Conferences might yet be held this year. If pathways to new expressions of Methodism are developed, I will work graciously with those seeking to move in that direction.

I have long cherished these words of Parker Palmer, and have shared them often. “‘Don’t be afraid’ does not mean we cannot have fear. Everyone has fear, and people who embrace the call to leadership often find fear abounding. Instead, the words say we do not need to be the fear we have. We do not have to lead from a place of fear, thereby engendering a world in which fear abounds. We have places of fear inside of us, but we have other places as well – places with names like trust and hope and faith. We can choose to lead from one of those places, to stand on ground that is not riddled with the fault lines of fear, to move toward others from a place of promise instead of anxiety.”(Let Your Life Speak)

May we not be the fear we feel. May we not be defined by our disappointment, anger or dismay. May we find ways to lead and work in ministry from places with names like trust and hope and faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we be courageous and do the work of ministry to which we have all been called by God in Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,



David Alan Bard
Michigan Area Bishop