

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

April 7th, 2023 – Volume 3, Number 7

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

In Case You are Wondering:

March 19th, 2023

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$956.46

Food Pantry: \$200.00

UMCOR Collection:

\$58.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$960.00

Food Pantry: \$200.00

UMCOR Collection: \$1

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 41

Martin UMC:

Worship: 27

March 26th, 2023

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,557.19

UMCOR Collection: 22.00

Building Fund: \$40.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$2,212.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 31

Martin UMC:

Worship: 36

April 2, 2023

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,135.61

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$2,227.00

Building Fund: \$40.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 37

Martin UMC:

Worship: 39

What Now?

As we near the end of the Lenten season, we have to consider the question “what now?”

We have studied Luke together, we have shared in devotionals and prayed for one another. We have learned about parables and how Jesus focused on those that were lost, those that were lowly and even those that were outlaws.

It is so important that we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. As we cast off our Lenten penance, prayer, and almsgiving, it's easy to just move on into the summer months and lose focus.

Let's make sure that we stay connected to Jesus, that we continue to study and to pray. Let's continue to lift one another up.

We are called to be “Christ-like” and Jesus made it a point to serve, to teach and to lift up those that were in need. Let's look for opportunities to serve and to help our brother's and sister's in Christ.

Let's look for ways to stay connected to one another. I would love to see us develop more small groups, that will give us opportunities for fellowship, for study, for prayer....Do you have an idea for a small group? Are you interested in leading a small group or a Bible Study?

The Lenten Bible study has been amazing. I have been so pleased with the attendance and with the participation of so many people in the study. Knit, Pray Crochet has been such a blessing. This ministry is truly anointed. We continue to receive yarn and we continue to add people to the group. This group is making lap blankets, prayer shawls and items to be sold at craft shows to benefit the food pantry.

Please feel free to come and talk to me about small groups! Spending time with our church family is such a blessing! Don't miss out on it!

Blessings, Pastor Maggie

Office Hours:

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

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

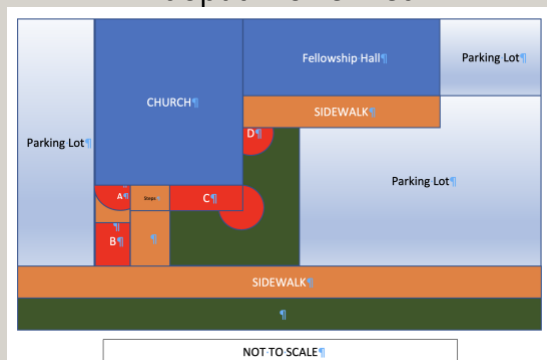
Knit, Pray & Crochet

Thursday, April 20th & May 4th at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for fellowship, and to knit, crochet, & pray.

Want to learn? Come and learn how to make a prayer shawl or lap blanket.

Adopt a Flower Bed



It's that time of year! Time to take care of the grounds. Please let the office know if you would like to accept responsibility for one of the flower beds at MUMC. Flower Bed C will be a group effort and will be coordinated by the Trustees. We would like to complete all by Memorial Day.

**Food Pantry
Month of April
Paper Products:
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper,
Tissue, etc.**

The Connection - next issue announcements/articles/testimonies are due April 19th 2023.

Email to:
martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns:

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

Updated April 7, 2023

- Raina Oldebeken - Cancer
- Molly Mentzer - Cancer
- Jeff Oldebeken - Health
- On line ministry
- Those battling active addiction and those in recovery
- Youth Ministries
- Victims of gun violence and their families
- Kenny Martin - Cancer Diagnosis
- Helene Todd - Cancer Diagnosis
- Tracy Buskirk - Health
- Rich Risner - Health
- Darren Mulder - Health
- Denny Mills - Heart issues
- Emma - Leukemia
- Peggy Everett - Heart Issues
- Diane Woodruff - Knee replacement
- Deb Rambadt - Health
- The family of J.C. Ritchie - J.C. passed away March 18, 2023
- Mr. Farmer - Dementia/Sugar
- Chip Brenner - Health
- Tim Hoyle - Knees
- Glenn Berens - Health
- Rev. Lee and Barb Zachman - Health
- Ron MacVean - Recovering from a fall
- Delores Hall - heart issues
- Ronda Kelly - Recovering/Rehab for broken leg
- Family of Julie Childers - Julie passed away March 24, 2023
- Nancy Nicolai - Health
- Tim Hayes - Health
- Gary Melvin - Under hospice care
- Shelby Vaughn - health
- Michelle Autens & Nathan - heart surgery
- Jessica Hassing - Surgery
- Ed Minor - Health
- Tim Hoyle - Upcoming Surgery

GRACE ADVENTURES WOMEN'S RETREAT

MARTIN AND SHELYBYVILLE UMC SISTERS



October 6-8

Check-In Friday 6-7:45pm

Price: \$165.00 per woman

Includes lodging, Meals and most activities. Massage, horseback riding and special crafts have an extra cost.

See website for more details.

Graceadventures.com women's retreat

Mears, MI near Silver Lake

If you would like to attend, please email the church office no later than May 1st, 2023. Confirmation and event information will then follow.

What is Native American Ministries Sunday?

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this Special Sunday helps to ensure the Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized and to celebrate their special voice in the United Methodist Church.

This Special Sunday was officially recognized in 1988 and has been celebrated on the Third Sunday of Easter since 1989. An offering is taken on this day and is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences, and Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist Schools.

On April 23rd we will receive a special offering for Native American Ministries, An envelope will be provided in the bulletin that morning.

Please give generously!

Martin/Shelbyville UMC Youth Group

Upcoming Dates:

April 16
April 30
May 14

All meetings: 6pm at Martin UMC

Ladies Fellowship

Would you like to host ladies fellowship in May? Please contact Jessica Cole with your ideas and to sign up for a date!

At the 2022 Michigan Annual Conference, members voted overwhelmingly to support “Readers to leaders,” which challenges each Michigan congregation to raise at least \$600 before May 1, 2023. The money raised will benefit the Liberia Scholarship Program and the Michigan Conference’s Children Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools Program, two ministries that encourage and support Children’s education.



Spring Clothing Drive

Held at the Orangeville Baptist Church- Gym
6921 Marsh Rd. Plainwell, MI

Donation Drop off is:
Thursday April 27th, 2pm-6pm
&
Friday April 28th, 10am-6pm

Free Shopping of donated items is:
Saturday April 29th, 9am-2pm

All donations should be gently used items such as:
Children’s clothing (all sizes), Adult Clothing
Linen, Blankets, Towels, Hats, Coats, Boots, Shoes

No Appliances, TV’s or Furniture

If you have any questions Please call:
Dennis or Becky at 269-267-4385
Melisa at 269-225-9845

*Please remember if it does not fit nicely in your car its to big to donate to us

MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

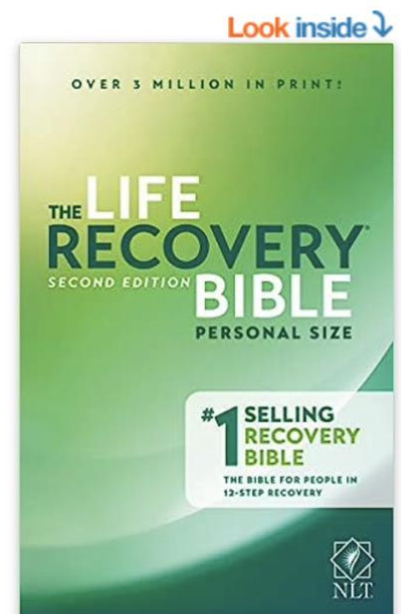
Friday, April 14, 11:30am

Please consider joining our team who are working to serve God in many ways!

Life Recovery Bibles

We are in need of more of the Life Recovery Bibles. These Bibles are given to those that are in active addiction or those that are in recovery. People continue to reach out to us that are seeking help with addiction and with recovery and it is such a blessing if we are able to provide them with this amazing Bible! If you are able to purchase, please drop off to the church office.

Your help is much appreciated in this ministry!



Important Dates

Food Pantry Items for April – Paper Products

- April 9th – Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30 a.m. Martin
- April 12th - United Women in Faith – Shelbyville 10:00 a.m./Potluck
- April 14 – MUMC Mission Team Meeting – Martin Fellowship Hall 11:30 a.m.
- April 16th - Youth Group /6 -7:30 p.m. Martin
- April 20th - Knit, Crochet & Pray – Martin 10:00 a.m.
- April 30th - Youth Group /6 -7:30 p.m. Martin
- May 4th - Knit, Crochet & Pray – Martin 10:00 a.m.
- May 8-12th – Spring Work Week at SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center
- May 21st – Graduation Sunday

Food Pantry Resource

The Martin/Shelbyville UMC Food Pantry is a member of the Allegan County Food Pantry Collaboration. I would like to tell you a little bit of how this benefits the pantry and the clients we serve. They sponsor the Annuals Peanut Butter Drive (February) The Cereal Drive (May) and the Soup-tober Drive (October). These drives are very helpful for a small pantry such as ours. We receive enough of these products that last around 6 months. ACFPC also hold bi-monthly meetings where around 20 countywide pantries come together for a nice lunch followed by a meeting. Hungry for Christ (will tell you more about them next time!) representative chairs the meeting. During this meeting we are made aware of changes that may be coming, opportunities are learned how we can receive food donations, and a time for questions and brainstorming. The meetings are very beneficial to those who attend. They then report to the Missions Committee on what they learned. We send at least 2 representatives each time. On April 26th, the Martin/Shelbyville UMC Food Pantry team will host the meeting. It is held at a different location where we tour their food pantry areas. We are excited for the opportunity to show them our pantry. If you would like to be involved with any of the food pantry operations, please contact Patsy Hoekstra.

Thank You for Serving!

I would like to thank Luesettie (Lue) Phelps for the many years she has served our church as the Health Department certified Serve Safe Manager. Her certification allows us to have community meals, allows us to divide food as we do each Friday for the pantry, and she keeps us up on new or existing laws. Lue's license will expire in June and she is not renewing it. We are in the process of replacing her in that position with one or two volunteers. If you would be interested in knowing more please contact Pastor Maggie, Sharon Buys or myself.

We are thankful for the 15 years Lue has served our church in this capacity. The Community Breakfast is dear to Lue's heart as she along with Don and Marge Solomon took a leap of faith and began the monthly Community Breakfast to help fund the food pantry. Due to covid the church stopped having them for a time. Due to strong interest among the church members the Community Breakfast has resumed with quarterly events and a wonderful response from the community. It is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and a great breakfast with the community members. If you have never attended I would highly recommend it. They are held the 3rd Saturday every quarter. The next breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 8 to 10am.

Lue has agreed whole heartedly to continue serving as the breakfast coordinator. Please take the opportunity to thank her for her service and ask her how you can help. Serving together,

Patsy Hoekstra, Mission Chair & Food Pantry Coordinator

The 2023 Stats so far...

Souper Bowl of Caring

\$3,463,472 cash and food items

2,316 Charities helped

2,247 participating groups