

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

April 8, 2022 – Volume 2, Number 7

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

In Case You are Wondering:
March 27th, 2022

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,028.17

Property: \$65

Local Mission: \$160

UMCOR: \$142

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,041

UMCOR: \$480

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship - 28

Martin UMC:

Worship - 29

In Case You are Wondering:
April 3rd, 2022

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,071.61

Property: \$48.48

Local Mission: \$48.48

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,588

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 24

Martin UMC:

Worship: 20

Men's Fellowship and Video Study

The Chosen

Join us on Saturday,
April 9th, April 16th,
April 23rd, and April
30th at 9:00 a.m.

Martin UMC

BELIEVE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

A promise and a covenant are the same...sort of...

A promise is a declaration that something will or will not be done. A covenant is a contract, a formal agreement between two or more people.

In the Old Testament God made promises in the form of covenants with ancient Israel. - Because He is God....and because He knows what's good for his people, the covenant was on His terms, and He called all the shots. God promised to protect the Israelites if they kept His law and remained faithful to Him.

Of course, they didn't. It was impossible. Not because God's plan was flawed but because we are....human's are.

Enter Jesus, the new covenant....Jesus is the new covenant. If you are born again, you will be saved...that's the deal, the contract, the new formal agreement.

This is the most extraordinary contract ever to be written!

Easter is nearly here! Thank you, God, for sending your son to save us!

I hope that each of you will consider being part of the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. It is so important to the Easter story....the amazing story of everlasting life....The best every "happily ever after ending" ever written.

I hope that each of you are blessed this Easter season.

Blessings, Pastor Maggie

Office Hours:

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



This photo was taken Saturday, 4-2-2022 by William Eckler, a friend and employee of ours.

Bill took several pictures of the Shelbyville community including the church and texted them to Dan.

I have flown a few times and looked out the windows of the plane mostly thinking "yaay we're almost there", simply anxious to arrive at the destination. But my first thought of seeing the arial pictures that Bill took of the Shelbyville Church was different since it wasn't me in the air and it was home; my church home.

My first thought was *God is Good!* and this is what he sees. But you know what, *God* is not only looking down on us, he is with us everywhere we go. It's not a one-dimensional view, he with us on our left or right, looking over our shoulder, gently nudging or tugging at our hearts, behind us or in front of us. *God* is everywhere.

At our admin board meeting Jeff Anderson reminded us how our church friends and family that reside in Heaven are dearly missed. Perhaps they are the ones looking over us that I felt in this picture., Bob Benedict, Nancy Jensen, Bart Bos, Neola Martin, Bob Weick, John Buskirk, Dorothy Warner, Nadiine Ellinger, Jerry Mauchmar, Roy Anderson, Roy White, Jerry Fish, and many more. Feeling blessed and wanted to share...

Deb Boniface

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

Martin & Shelbyville UMC Food Pantry Collection

April – Cleaning Supplies

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

In March we did not get a lot of response for the cleaning products....so we are making another plea for those types of products.

Shelbyville - please place items in the container and they will be transported to the pantry.

Martin – please place the items in the shopping cart outside of fellowship hall.

Annual Lenten Breakfast

Otsego UMC

April 13, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

Must RSVP by April 11, 2022 (if you let Crystal know she will be happy to call it in for us.)

Invitation: Hallelujah! The United Methodist Women of Otsego invite the ladies of our churches and community for their Annual Lenten Breakfast. They will be serving breakfast casseroles, with a variety of flavors including gluten free and vegetarian.

Programming will feature Donna Church sharing Quilt Stories.

Sierra Smith's journey as a Hopkins Viking ends;

Her journey as a Glen Oaks Viking begins!

Sierra Smith has signed to play softball with Glen Oaks Community College in Centreville, Michigan

Sierra will be studying Criminal Justice.

Good luck Sierra! We are so proud of you ! We know that God will continue to bless you!



The CHOSEN

Thursday Morning "The Chosen"

We will be showing The Chosen on Thursday mornings at Martin UMC – all are welcome to attend.

Episode will start promptly at 9:30 a.m.
Location will depend on the number of people that are interested in viewing.

Thursday, April 14th we will begin with episode 1 – please let the church office know if you are interested in participating!

Confidential Pastor Email - umcpastormaggs@gmail.com

Graduation Sunday will be here before we know it! Please contact the church office and let us know who if you have a graduate that you would like to be honored. Please send us their name, degree/diploma, and school that they are graduating from.

Date of graduation is Sunday is TBD.

Pastor Maggie's Message
Sunday, April 10th, 2022
"He Comes Unarmed; He Comes With Love"

Pastor Maggie's Message
Thursday, April 14, 2022
"The Table"

Pastor Maggie's Message
Friday, April 15, 2022
"Mary at The Cross"

Pastor Maggie's Message
Sunday, April 17, 2022
"God Raised Him"

Pastor Maggie's Message
Sunday, April 24, 2022
"We Are Witnesses"

The Connection - next issue announcements/articles/ testimonies are due April 20th, 2022. Email to: martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com

Easter Flowers for Shelbyville UMC

Please feel free to bring fresh cut flowers on Easter morning to be placed on the Easter cross.

Please feel free to bring potted flowers for the alter on Easter morning. Daffodils, Lily's, Tulips, etc.

Easter Flowers for Martin UMC

Please feel free to bring potted flowers for the alter on Easter morning. Daffodils, Lily's, Tulips, etc.

Please place your name on the bottom to ensure that they go home with the right person!



UPCOMING SOUP SUPPERS 2022

To benefit the Christian Neighbors Food Pantry

Wednesday, April 20, 5-7pm

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th Street
Plainwell

Wednesday, April 27, 5-7pm

Alamo Community Congregational Church
7925 N. 6th
Alamo

Wednesday, May 4, 5-7pm

Martin/Shelbyville United Methodist
Held @ Martin United Methodist
969 E. Allegan, Martin

Wednesday, May 11, 5-7pm

Otsego United Methodist
223 E. Allegan Street
Otsego

SAVE THE DATE

**Shelbyville UMC
Community Picnic**

July 24, 2022

All are welcome!

Please plan to come!

Details soon!

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.



June/July 2022 – Meeting will be: 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 23, 2022 in person or 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 21, 2022 - Zoom

A Lineage of Grace: Biblical Stories of 5 Women in the Lineage of

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.

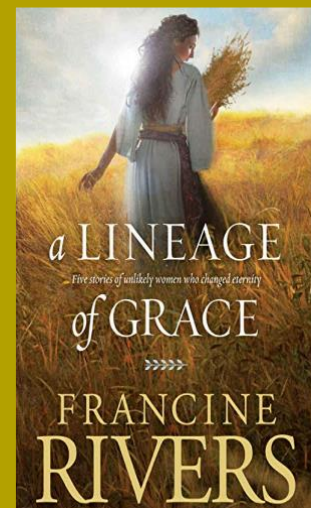
Tamar. Rahab. Ruth.

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.



July/August 2022 – Meeting will be: 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 27, 2022 in person or 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 2022 - Zoom

A Lineage of Grace: Biblical Stories of 5 Women in the Lineage of

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.

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.

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.

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

April 10th – Palm Sunday

April 13th – 9:30 a.m. Otsego UMW Annual Lenten Breakfast – Otsego UMC

April 13 – 6:00 p.m. MUMC Ad Council

April 14 – Holy 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

May 4th – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Christian Neighbors Soup Supper Martin UMC.

MY 7th – 9:00 a.m. Vendor/Craft Show and Lunch – Martin UMC Fellowship Hall

Prayer Concerns:

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

Updated: April 8th, 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
- On line ministry
- Those battling active addiction and those in recovery
- Jason Sherry - healing/health
- Agnes Chlebana - Healing-recovering from a fall
- Amber Stephens - Brain Tumor
- Cheryl Teinstra - Health/Cancer
- Fred Slager - Kidney issues
- Drew Rickert - Health
- Dan Boniface - Health
- Brenda Pierce - Healing - Broken Foot
- David Pierce - Heart Care
- Nancy Portice - Eye Surgery
- Dick Woodruff - Improving - Praise God! Blood Clots
- Allegra Hibma - Health
- Trace Buskirk - Covid
- Keveryly Dyson - Safety - Working in Ukraine with Samaritans Purse
- People of Ukraine
- Lou Phelps - Health
- The Boyds - Health
- Mary Wineberger - Health
- Jaryd Flick - Lymphoma
- Pearl Shook - Vision
- Erin Rumery - Recovering from car accident

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

Summer Camp Information

MUMC has scholarship funds available - Please contact the church office for the necessary forms.

Amount of each scholarship is dependent on the number of children that sign up (typically MUMC pays up to half).

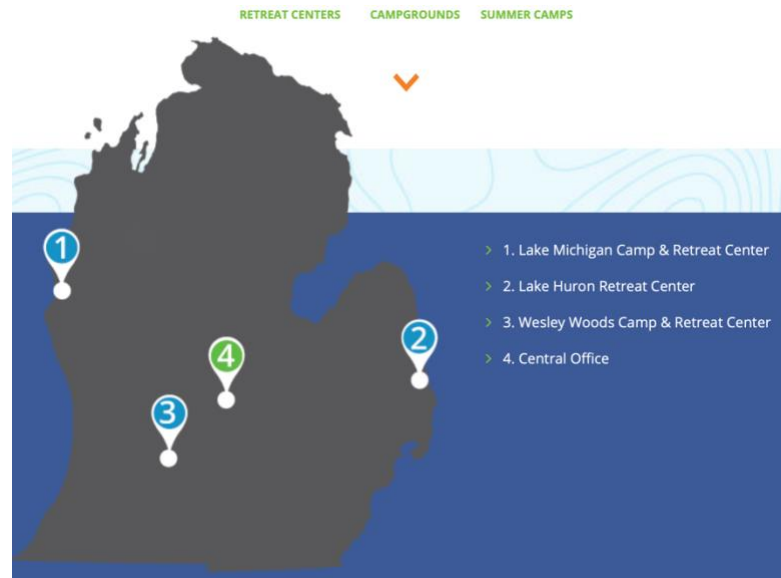
5th graders receive full scholarship.

If you have questions, please contact Melinda Tison.

SUMC has scholarship funds available - Please pick up the camp information and forms just inside the entryway at SUMC.

Amount of each scholarship is dependent on the number of children that sign up. If you have questions, please contact Deb Boniface.

umccamping.org



son-lifecamp.org



Life change happens at Summer Camp.

In 2017, 90% of our campers indicated a first-time or deeper relationship with Christ.

OUR IMPACT →

