

# The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

## Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

April 12th, 2024 – Volume 4, Number 8

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

#### In Case You Are Wondering

April 7th, 2024

Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$865.00

Building Fund: \$99.47

Food Pantry: \$255.00

Local Misson: \$30.00

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,490.90

Building Fund: \$30.00

Food Pantry: \$230.00

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 32

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 46

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,101.67

Building Fund: \$49.47

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,731.00

Food Pantry: \$275.00

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 45

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 75

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.

#### Summer Church Attendance and Online Giving: Embracing Technology

As the summer season approaches, I am thinking about church attendance. I am so excited that we have been seeing new faces at church almost weekly! It's very exciting! I want to make sure that we continue that momentum and continue to invite people to church even through the summer.

A reality of summer is that people get to visit and go on vacations. That is awesome and so needed! I just want to remind everyone that consistency is key! Please be sure to pass on your responsibilities to someone else if you have a commitment in nursery or liturgy, etc.

I also would like to remind everyone that even during the busy months of summer, consistent giving is so important! If you are having a busy summer and know you will miss worship please consider giving on line or signing up for weekly/monthly (or whatever makes sense for you) giving! You can do that (if you don't already) thru our website.

In today's fast-paced world, where smartphones and tablets are prevalent, churches are embracing the power of online giving to facilitate donations and support from their members. Online giving platforms provide a convenient and secure way for worshippers to contribute financially to their church, whether they are attending services in person or participating virtually. This shift towards online giving allows for greater flexibility and accessibility, enabling individuals to support their faith community from anywhere in the world.

Scripture encourages believers to give generously and willingly, as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." This biblical principle emphasizes the importance of giving with a joyful heart and a spirit of generosity, regardless of the means through which the donation is made.

Did you know that you can watch Martin's service on Facebook each week? Soon we will be able to watch Shelbyville's as well! Our online platform enables individuals to stay connected with our faith community, even when physical attendance may not be possible. By leveraging technology to extend the reach of the church beyond its physical walls, we can foster a sense of unity and fellowship among worshippers, regardless of their location.

As we navigate the changing landscape of worship and stewardship, it is essential to embrace technology as a tool for spreading the message of faith and fostering community engagement. Summer church attendance and online giving are not mutually exclusive but rather complementary aspects of a vibrant and thriving church community.

I hope that you have an amazing summer and I hope that you will consider taking advantage of the technology that is offered.

Blessings, Pastor Maggie

#### Office Hours:

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



**KINGDOM KIDS**  
Every Sunday following the  
Children's Sermon!

The Connection -  
Next issue Announcements/Articles/  
Testimonies are due  
April 17th, 2024.  
Email to:  
martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com



**Food Pantry Items**  
April - Cleaning Products  
May - Canned Goods

## Graduation Sunday

June 2, 2024

We will honor graduates on June 2, 2024. If you have a graduate that you would like to see honored, please contact the church office.

We will be inviting our church families to donate gifts to go in the gift bags. We will let everyone know the number of graduates when we have a total.



## Prayer Concerns:

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

**Updated April 12, 2024**

- Molly Mentzer – Cancer
- Jeff Oldebeken – Health
- Those battling active addiction and those in recovery.
- Sandy VanWormer – Cancer Diagnosis
- Ernie Sunnerville- Health
- Larry Mattox – Cancer diagnosis and treatment
- Ronda Kelly pray for healing
- Doris Hawkey – Heart issues
- Nan Darrow – Mobility issues
- Patti Jarvis – Health/Cancer Diagnosis
- Tim Hoyle – knee replacement recovery
- Chris Boyle Montes – Stroke Recovery
- Sherri Fewless – Health Issues
- Brenda Vandenburg – Bladder Cancer
- Prayers for Kelinda's friend Jim
- Chip – Recovering from seizures
- Les Lynema – Leukemia
- Randy Yeo – Blood disorder
- Stan Town – bladder cancer
- Linda Reese – cancer diagnosis
- Shaylee Elkins – Cancer diagnosis
- Martin UMC – Children's Church
- Judy Shafer – Health
- Tracey Buskirk – Health
- Jack Farmer – Cataract Surgery
- Greg Cowan – Liver Transplant
- Julie Kubiak – Surgery/Recovery
- Remy Jane Colburn – Brain Tumor
- Odyssey of the Minds – Martin Students
- Ron Conley – Heart issue
- Eric Foster – Surgery
- Jeremy Gilkison – Brain Surgery
- The family Raina Oldebeken – Raina passed away recently
- The family Lynn, Caroline Buskirks nephew, Lynn passed away recently
- Kevin Vaughn – Neck surgery
- Jeff Anderson – Test results
- Carol Rickili – Recovering
- Don Rambadt – Recovering
- James, Kelinda's friend - Health

Important Dates

**April Food Pantry Items:**

**Cleaning Products**

**May Food Pantry Items:**

**Canned Goods**

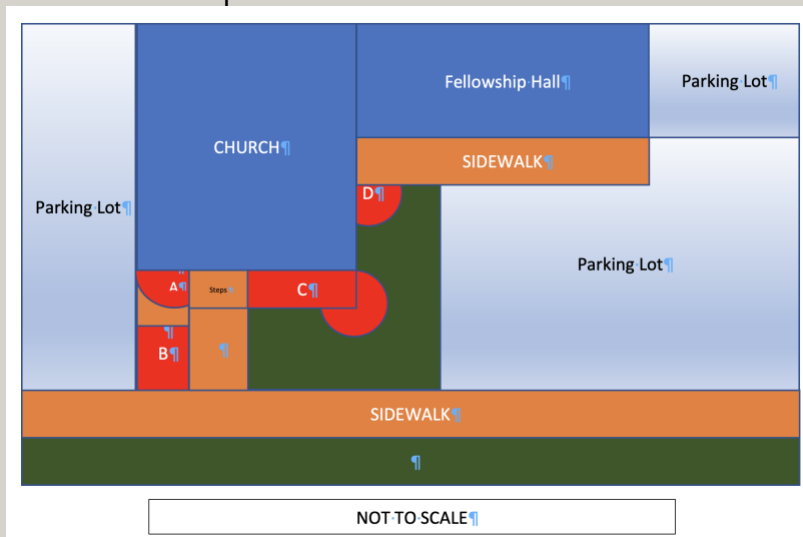
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Collaboration Luncheon Martin
- April 24<sup>th</sup> – Joint SPRC Meeting @ Martin 6:00 p.m.
- April 27<sup>th</sup>– Spring Clean Up Martin UMC – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Allegan Co. Food Pantry Collaboration Cereal Drive – Month of May
- May 1 – Christian Neighbors Soup Supper Martin 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- May 11 – Stamp Out Hunger/Postal Drive
- May 19 – May 26 – Pastor Maggie Vacation
- May 29 – June 1 – Annual Conference
- June 2, 2024 – Graduation Sunday
- June 8 – Don Darrow Memorial service at Martin 9 – 11:00 a.m. visitation – noon service

MS Food Pantry

Is in need of a Monday Worker  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Please see Patsy Hoekstra for more information.

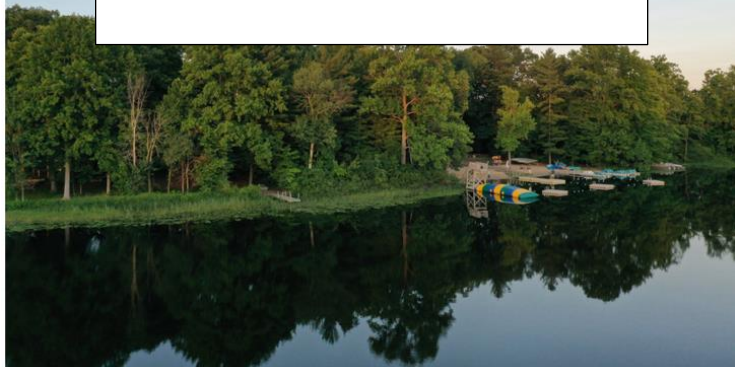


Adopt a Flower Bed at Martin UMC



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.

## SON LIFE CAMP



## Spring Work Week

May 6-10, 2024

Come out and help us get ready for another amazing summer of ministry! Fellowship with others, do some projects, and camp for free (must provide your own camping unit).

We will start Monday at 10 am and ends Friday after breakfast. Meals are served all week.

The schedule is flexible - serve one day or all 5, we'd love to have you here! Please contact the office to get registered or for more details!

### SUMC SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp information is available! Please see Deb Boniface for information on camps. If you need assistance with camp tuition there are forms available!

*Sunday School at Martin UMC will be suspended from May 26<sup>th</sup> thru September 1 – Sunday school will resume on September 8, 2024*



**KINGDOM KIDS**  
Every Sunday following the  
Children's Sermon!



### MUMC Summer Camp Opportunities

It is time to think about summer camp. Martin United Methodist Church has been committed to sending children and teens to camp for many years through money donated to our church from the Oetman family. The Michigan United Methodist Conference has several camps around the state that offer so many opportunities for youth to participate in adventures. We will update you on the activities for the summer of 2024 as the brochures and information come into our office or online. Students can also choose to attend other Christian camping experiences such as SON-Life camp.

Please remember to completely fill out the request form for each individual student who is attending camp so that we can properly inform each camp who we are paying for.

Thanks  
Melinda Tison  
Camp Coordinator

**Your Testimony Is Powerful!! Would you be willing to share your testimony here in our newsletter?**

Acts 4:33 The apostles gave powerful testimonies about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great measures of grace rested upon them all.

Email [martinandshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com](mailto:martinandshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com) to get on the newsletter testimony schedule!

*Spring Cleaning Martin UMC  
INDOOR AND OUTDOOR CLEAN-UP  
April 27, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00  
p.m.  
Lunch Provided*



### **Let's Help Lindsey Get to India!**

Lindsey Folk is a member of the Martin UMC. She has a heart for mission work and the love of children. The Missions Committee challenges the congregation to donate to Lindsey's dream to return to India and minister to their people. Please donate with "Lindsey Folk" on the check memo line. Funds given thru the church will be matched up to \$1,000. You have the opportunity to support Lindsey this way until April 22, 2024.

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to tell you about an amazing opportunity that I have been given to serve the Lord once again on a mission trip to minister to children in India from July 24th to August 5th this year. I will be traveling with an organization called Orphan Outreach and they are committed to serving orphans and vulnerable children around the world. In 2018 I served on my first mission trip with Orphan Outreach. You can learn more about the ministry of Orphan Outreach on their website at [www.orphanoutreach.org](http://www.orphanoutreach.org).

As a mission trip participant, I will serve children and their families by providing essentials of care and sustainable support to ensure the children and families are strengthened. Our main purpose is to build relationships to show each child that he or she is loved unconditionally and is special in the eyes of our Heavenly Father.

I can't do this on my own. I need the support of friends and family in my life to make this happen. I am thankful for your influence in my life and would love for you to be a part of this mission trip with me. One of the ways you can help me is to pray for the ministry we will perform and for me personally. Please pray that all work would be done according to God's will and for His glory. Also pray for the children we will serve, for unity among my team, and for the details of our travel and itinerary.

If you would like to give financially, the individual cost of the trip is \$5300. This includes airfare, food, bottled water, lodging, ground transportation, interpreters, travel insurance, sightseeing and cultural events, etc. If you are able to make a gift to Orphan Outreach to assist with expenses you can go directly to my Mission Trip page at , <https://my.orphanoutreach.org/trip-donation/in24-07idv/lindsey-l-folk> Or you are able to donate using the QR Code at the bottom of this page.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration and willingness to be a part of God's work in India. I pray that my team will be God's faithful servants on this trip and hope that you will prayerfully consider joining me through your prayers and/or financial support. May God bless you richly as you consider your involvement in this mission trip!

In Christ,

Lindsey Folk

Trip Itinerary:

Jul 24th - Jul 25th-Depart USA, Arrive India  
Jul 26th - Travel to Aizawl; Orientation at Hotel  
Jul 27th - Jul 29th Ministry at Gan Sabra  
Jul 30th - Depart Aizawl; Arrive Delhi  
Jul 31st - Rest; Shopping in Delhi; Museum and cultural experiences  
Aug 1st - Travel to Manali; Visit Dar-UI-Fazl  
Aug 2nd -4th Ministry at Dar-UI-Fazl  
Aug 5th - Travel to Delhi; Depart to USA  
Aug 6th - Arrive USA

