

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

January 10, 2026 – Volume 5, Number 1

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

In Case You Are Wondering

December 7, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$923.34

Local Missions: \$30.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$3,522.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 28

Martin UMC:

Worship: 51

December 14, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$735.00

Food Pantry: \$100.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: 1,222.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 40

Martin UMC:

Worship: 66

December 21, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$901.00

Food Pantry: \$100.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,317.00

Food Pantry: \$ 200.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 24

Martin UMC:

Worship: 64

December 28, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,143.25

Food Pantry: \$200.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,633.00

Parking Lot Fund: \$60.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 17

Martin UMC:

Worship: 54

A Note from Pastor Maggie

Dear Church Family,

As Christmas glows in our memories and a new year dawns, my heart is full of gratitude for the generosity and thoughtfulness you have shown me and one another during the Christmas season. Each gift, each card, each note of encouragement touched my heart in a profound way. I am grateful all year long for the love you share and the steadfast spirit that makes our churches places of welcome, healing, and hope.

During the Advent Season where lights are bright and hearts are open, I am reminded that the love we give is the very pulse of our faith. From the smallest token to the grandest gesture, every act of kindness speaks of the Christ who formed us and sustains us. Thank you for being conduits of that love—your prayers, your time, your generosity, and your presence.

As we turn the page of the calendar from Christmas to the new year, it is time to consider the season of Lent that lies ahead. Lent invites us into a season of reflection, renewal, and deeper discipleship. It is not about withdrawal for its own sake, but about opening space in our lives so that we may seek God more fully and respond with greater devotion to God's call.

I invite each of you to explore how you will seek God during this sacred time. Whether through prayer, fasting, service, or study, Lent offers a unique opportunity to align our hearts more closely with Christ. Observing Lent helps us acknowledge our need for grace, remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and renew our commitment to live as faithful followers.

A few ways we can journey together this Lent:

- **Lent Study:** Our Lenten study is a wonderful way to grow in understanding and practice. It provides space for honest reflection, meaningful conversation, and shared discovery of God's presence in our daily lives.
- **Ash Wednesday:** We will begin with Ash Wednesday, a powerful service that invites humility, repentance, and renewal. It marks a sacred entry into the season and sets a tone of earnest worship for the weeks to come.
- **Personal practice:** Consider a personal or family spiritual practice that fits you—daily scripture, a simple act of service, or a short Lenten discipline that leads you toward greater awareness of God's nearness.

My prayer for you this season is simple: that you may encounter God in the ordinary and the holy, that your hearts be stirred toward generosity and mercy, and that you find fresh hope and renewal as we walk this season together.

Blessings,
Pastor Maggie

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



KINGDOM KIDS
Every Sunday following the
Children's Sermon!

Martin UMC Sunday School
Ages 4 to Adult at 11:00 a.m.

Grandma's Prayers

I've seen her on her knees,
At night beside her bed,
Her hands, quiet, folded,
Bowed her old white head.
Her prayers were always answered,
I know without a doubt,
Though the answer wasn't always
The one she had planned out.
With prayer she lived for eighty years
Through good times and through bad,
When what went on the table
Was the only food she had.
The Lord led her through sickness,
And the deaths of those she loved.
Her prayers have reached out to me
Wherever I have roved.
Whene'er the world o'erwhelmed me
And I could not see my way
I knew I'd find it soon enough
When Grandma knelt to pray.

-RHawke

Office Hours:

Closed Monday
Tuesday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. –
1:00 p.m.

Important Dates

- **January 14 – United Women in Faith – 10:00 a.m. SUMC**
- **January 20 – Knit, Pray, Crochet – 12:15 p.m. MUMC**
- **January 16 – 27 – Pastor Maggie on Vacation**
- **February 4 – SUMC Ad Council – SUMC**
- **February 11 – Family Fun Night Chili Cook Off – 7:00 p.m. MUMC**
- **February 18 – Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 p.m. – MUMC**
- **February 19 – Lenten Study – 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m**
- **February 22 – Baptism's**
- **February 26, Lenten Study – 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m**
- **March 5 - Lenten Study – 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m**
- **March 11 – Family Fun Night Movie and Soup Supper - MUMC**

Martin UMC Nursery Care:

Nurse care is available during worship – Infant to 4 years of age – please sign your child in and supply your phone number to nursery care in case they need to contact you during the service.

Please plan for children over the age of 4 to remain in the sanctuary and are welcome to be part of Kid's Kingdom worship.

MUSICAL NOTES FOR MUMC:

ALL ARE INVITED TO COME INTO HIS HOUSE WITH SINGING. COME JOIN THE CHOIR FOR ONE SUNDAY OR FOR THE YEAR OR FOR ANY AMOUNT OF TIME THAT WORKS FOR YOU. WE PRACTICE AFTER WORSHIP ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. WE SING ON THE THIRD SUNDAY. IN JANUARY THAT'S THE 11TH AND THE 18TH. WE WILL SING "THE LILY OF THE VALLEY"



MARTIN & SHELBYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S

LENT 2026

18
FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY
MARTIN UMC - 07:00 PM

29
MARCH

PALM SUNDAY
MARTIN UMC - 09:30 AM
SHELBYVILLE UMC - 11:00AM



2
APRIL

MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARTIN UMC - 07:00 PM

3
APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY
SHELBYVILLE UMC - 07:00 PM



5
APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY
MARTIN UMC 7:30 AM
MARTIN UMC - 09:30 AM
SHELBYVILLE UMC - 11:00AM

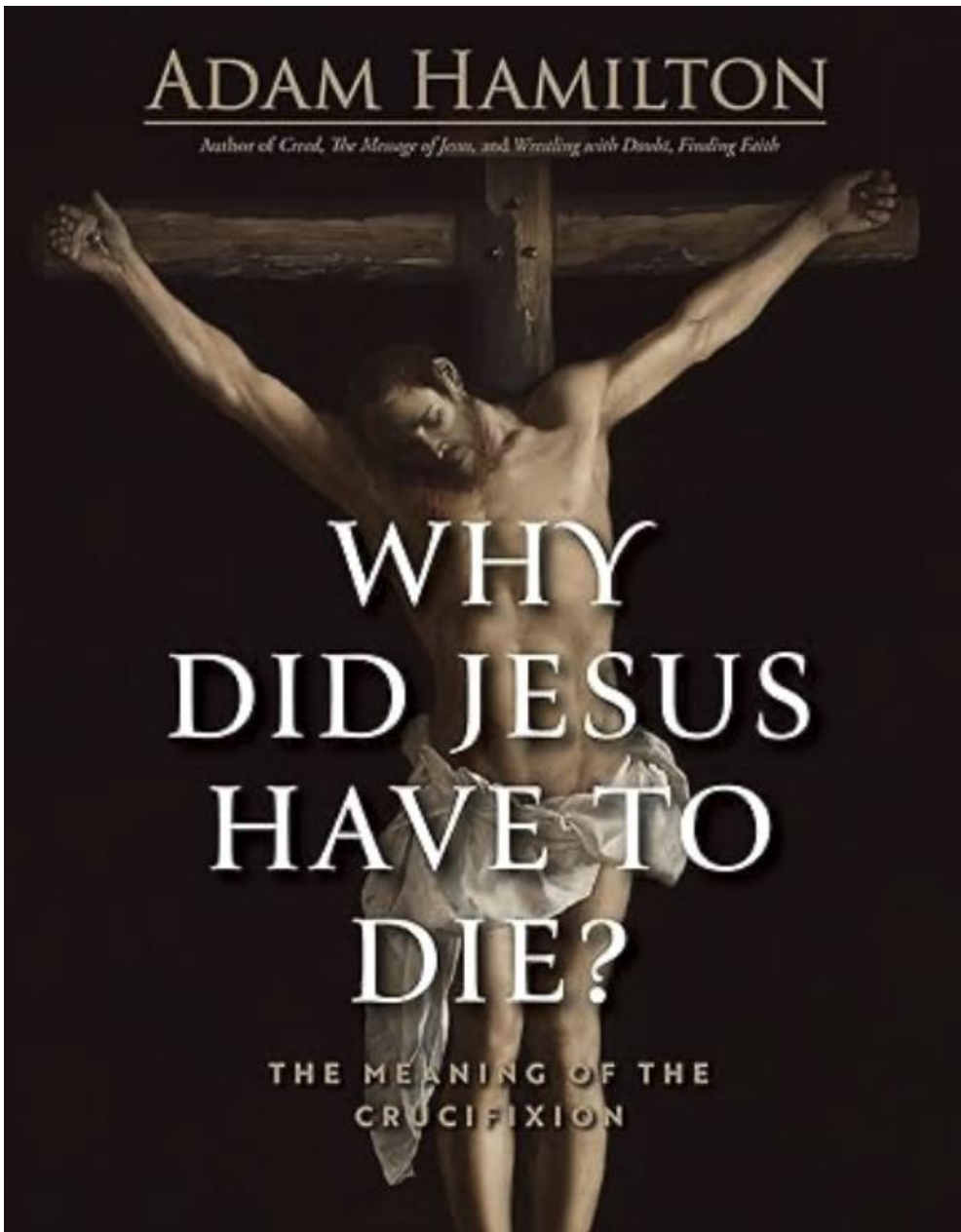
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Elizabeth Buskirk
- 3 - Carly Anderson
 - Angie Basore
- 6 - Bill Drake
 - Ryan Wheeler
- 14 - Terry Chrisman
- 23 - Gary Coburn
- 24 - Denice Pettee
- 25 - Richard Mattox
- 26 - Penelope VanZile
- 27 - Barbara Dickert
- 28 - Johnathan Clark

February Birthdays

- 3 - Addie Swinney
- 8 - Steven Hover
- 10 - Linda Creviston
- 12 - Harry Basore
- 13 - Jeff Oldebeken
 - Rose Oglesbee
- 14 - Donna Benedict
- 15 - Susan Pyle
 - Elaine Tandy
 - Jackson VanHaun
- 16 - Kim Cuba
 - Alice Kelsey
 - Neil Pohl
- 18 - Mike Kelly
- 20 - Patsy Hoekstra
 - Stephanie Wrisley
- 22 - Dina Goodrich
- 23 - Jacob Wheeler
- 26 - Nancy Portice
- 27 - Marion Myers

2026 Lenten Study



Thank you Choir!! Your singing brings us closer to God. You sing from your heart which brings a special joy to our worship! Thank you for your dedication! It's a pleasure to share with you.

Reva Daniel



February 19, 2026	Session 1	Read: Preface, Introduction and Chapter 1
February 26, 2026	Session 2	Read: Chapter 2
March 5, 2026	Session 3	Read: Chapter 3
March 12, 2026	Session 4	Read: Chapter 4
March 19, 2025	Session 5	Read: Chapter 5
March 26, 2026	Session 6	Read: Chapter 6 and Postscript

1:00 p.m. at Martin UMC

7:00 p.m. via Zoom



REMINDER: Pastor Maggie will be on vacation from January 16 – January 27. She will have limited access to her emails. Please call Crystal McWilliams in the office during office hours if you have a pastoral care emergency. In case of an after hours emergency, please contact Sharon Buys or Deb Boniface. They will contact the covering pastor and arrange for them to call you. Thank You!



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.



**MARTIN & SHELBYVILLE
UMC
FEBRUARY FAMILY
NIGHT**

CHILI COOK-OFF

**WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 11, 2026
6:00 P.M.
CHILI'S MUST BE REGISTERED
BY 6:15 P.M.**

**Calling all chili
enthusiasts
and culinary
wizards!**

Why join?

- Delicious Chili
- Fun for All Ages
- Competitions & Prizes
- Euchre, Uno, and much more!

JUDGES WILL VOTE BASED ON:

**FLAVOR BALANCE AND WOW FACTOR
TEXTURE AND CONSISTENCY
AROMA, APPEARANCE, AND GARNISH**

MUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL