

# The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

## Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

March 6, 2026 – Volume 5, Number 2

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

#### Important Dates

- *March 11 – United Women in Faith March 11<sup>th</sup> – Family Night-Movie and Supper 6:00 MUMC*
- *March 12<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Study Session 3 at MUMC @ 1p.m. & 7 p.m.*
- *March 17<sup>th</sup> – Knit, Pray & Crochet MUMC – 12:15 p.m.*
- *March 17<sup>th</sup> – Saint Patrick’s Day Dinner Martin @ 4:30 – 7:00*
- *March 21<sup>st</sup> – Community Breakfast – Martin 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.*
- *Women’s Lenten Breakfast 9:30 a.m. at Otsego UMC*
- *April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maundy Thursday MUMC 7:00 p.m.*
- *April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday SUMC 6:00*
- *April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 a.m. MUMC*
- *April 5<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast @ MUMC 8:15 a.m.*
- *April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. – Martin*
- *April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday Service 11:00 a.m. – Shelbyville*

#### A Note from Pastor Maggie

Dear Church Family,

I write this with a heart full of sorrow and a mind set on mercy. A painful incident in our county recently reminded me how central forgiveness must be to who we are as a people of faith. A local man made a terrible choice to drive after drinking, and a precious eight-month-old life was lost. I watched the sentencing unfold and listened to the voices of those who stood for justice, and most striking of all were the parents of that little girl. In the midst of unimaginable grief, they spoke words of forgiveness rather than hatred. They asked for the minimum sentence not to excuse the act, but to honor life, to claim accountability, and to offer space for healing. They offered grace, they offered mercy, and they separated the sin from the sinner.

This is not soft on truth or dismissal of consequences. It is a profound act of trust in God’s mercy and a bold act of love that refuses to let bitterness take root. Scripture invites us into this very posture again and again. Jesus teaches us to forgive as we are forgiven (Matthew 6:14-15). Colossians 3:13 calls us to bear with one another and to forgive one another if any of us has a grievance. Forgiveness, in the biblical sense, is not a feeling alone; it is a determined choice, powering a higher life of grace.

The parents’ example is a gift to us. They did not deny the gravity of the act, nor pretend there were no consequences. They chose to release their anger into God’s hands and to open a door for mercy to work where there is hurt. Forgiveness did not erase justice; it opened a path for healing—for themselves, for their family, and for the man who harmed them—to encounter grace and transformation.

So I invite us, as a church, to lean into forgiveness in our own lives. Are there resentments we cling to, grudges we nurse, or hurts we rehearse? If those who suffered such a loss can extend forgiveness in the hardest moment, who are we to withhold it from someone else we carry in our hearts?

Forgiveness is costly, but it is life-giving. It frees us from the tyrant of bitterness and makes room for reconciliation, restoration, and peace that only God can provide. It is a daily practice—prayed over, pursued with wisdom, and enacted in small choices as we walk with one another.

Let us pray for healing for the family who suffered an unimaginable loss, for the one who caused this tragedy, and for our entire community as we seek to live out mercy. May we be known not by how swiftly we condemn, but by how generously we forgive; not by how loudly we judge, but by how deeply we love; not by how often we sermonize about forgiveness, but by how faithfully we practice it.

If you are carrying anger or a desire for vengeance, bring it to God today. Seek His grace, confess where you need to, and choose the path of forgiveness. In Christ, forgiveness is a gift we receive and a gift we give.

Blessings, Pastor Maggie



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

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

IN SILENCE

I've felt God speak  
In scenes I've seen  
In dreams I've dreamed

I've seen his words in  
Bibles and in books I've read  
And caught them in  
The voice of friends

A child's babble brings  
An insight new  
An elder murmurs  
A long forgotten truth

All these and more deliver  
Wisdom God wanted me to hear  
But then

Life demands  
A silence  
So I may apprehend  
The still small voice of God

-RHawke

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible's at Martin and Shelbyville  
UMC's

Presenting bibles to the children of the church is an important tradition. It encourages their walk with Christ and gives them the opportunity to continue to learn about God outside of Sunday School. We usually only pass them out to third graders, but since we haven't done it in a couple of years, we will be passing them out to fourth and fifth graders as well. We are excited to have a growing children's ministry that gives us the opportunity to continue this tradition.

If you have a third, fourth, or fifth grader, please reach out to Kristin DeMann, Deb Boniface or contact the church office.

Women's Lenten Breakfast  
April 1, 2026  
9:30 a.m.

Otsego United Methodist Church  
223 E. Allegan Street, Otsego, MI. 49078

Join us for breakfast, fellowship and a guest speaker.

Please RSVP by contact Crystal in the church office.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 2026**

**Sunday, March 8, at 2:00 a.m.**

clocks "spring forward"  
one hour to 3:00 a.m..

*Office Hours:*

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

***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.*



**MARTIN & SHELBYVILLE UMC**

# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

MARTIN UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL

A night of fellowship, popcorn and fun for all!

**MARCH 11  
6:00 PM**

**HOT DOGS & MORE FOR DINNER & POPCORN**

969 E. Allegan Street, Martin, MI. 49070



Let the Irish spirit fill your heart with happiness!

## St. Patrick's Day COMMUNITY DINNER

**MARCH 17, 2026  
4:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

**Roast Pork Dinner  
(cabbage, carrots, etc.)**

Martin United Methodist Church  
969 E. Allegan Street  
Martin, MI. 49070

Donations are welcome for the  
Martin & Shelbyville UMC Food  
Pantry

**All are welcome!**



## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Would you like to coordinate?  
See Pastor Maggie

2026 Camp Scholarship Forms for Martin UMC are available in the office! Don't wait to sign up! Secure your spot!



## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

MARTIN United Methodist Church

**March 21, 2026  
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

ALL DONATIONS TO MARTIN/SHELBYVILLE UMC FOOD PANTRY  
969 E. ALLEGAN STREET, MARTIN, MI. 49070

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!!

## 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 MARCH THAT'S THE 8TH AND THE 15TH. (PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9:50 A.M. ON THE 15TH)



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 - 06:00 PM



5  
APRIL

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

## March Birthdays

- 1- Reva Daniel
- Nan Darrow
- 3 - Sydney Anderson
- 4 - Gordon Ash
- Amy Boniface
- 5 - LeAnna Rynbrandt
- 7 - Raven Culthurst
- Pat Kimmel
- Mike Shifflett
- 9 - Jim Martin
- 11- Jeff Anderson
- 12 - George Cuba
- 13 - Patty Jarvis
- 14 - Franny Martin
- 18 - Javier Guevara
- 19- - Martha Shoemaker
- 23 - Ryan Berens
- Lila Martin
- Jacob Wheeler
- 24 - Sue Zantello
- 28 - Steve Clark
- 29 - Tracey Shifflett

## April Birthdays

- 2 - Nancy Cardiff
- 3 - Sherri Fewless
- 4 - Chase VanHaun
- 10 - Brayden Culthurst
- Arie Martin
- 12 - Sara Jenkins
- 13 - Anita Rambadt
- 15 - Patty Hover
- 16 - Marie Farmer
- 17 - Danelle Wheeler
- 18 - Mary Jo Ash
- Jacob Wrisley
- 19 - Tim Hoyle
- 29 - Abigail Wheeler



## 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.

1-7-26  
 Dear Maggie + church family,  
 Thank you for the lovely card  
 w/all the signatures. So very special.  
 Also, thank you for the beautiful  
 hand made card. Someone is very  
 talented! I appreciated hearing from  
 so many on FB. Certainly made  
 this time in my life very important,  
 an age I never dreamed of  
 reaching.  
 Thank you, God bless,  
 love to all,  
 Nelly Monty

## In Case You Are Wondering

January 4, 2026  
 Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1,301.67  
 Food Pantry: \$30.00  
 Local Mission: \$30.00  
**Martin UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1,785.00  
 Food Pantry: \$40.00  
 Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 Worship: 29  
**Martin UMC:**  
 Worship: 62

January 11, 2026  
 Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$639.21  
 Food Pantry: \$100.00  
**Martin UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1,458.00  
 Food Pantry: \$1,250.00  
 Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 Worship: 26  
**Martin UMC:**  
 Worship: 50

January 18, 2026  
 Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$285.00  
**Martin UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1,040.00  
 Food Pantry: \$ 50.00  
 Special Offering: \$50.00  
 Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 Worship: 23  
**Martin UMC:**  
 Worship: 33

January 25, 2026  
 Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$949.25  
 Building: \$40.40  
**Martin UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$3,055.00  
 Building: \$20.00  
 Food Pantry: \$160.00  
 Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 Worship: 18  
**Martin UMC:**  
 Worship: 37

February 1, 2026  
 Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1068.67  
**Martin UMC:**  
 General Collection: 1.280.00  
 Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 Worship: 15  
**Martin UMC:**  
 Worship: 49

February 8, 2026  
 Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$834.16  
 Food Pantry: \$130.00  
**Martin UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1,6749.00  
 Building: \$20.00  
 Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 Worship: 29  
**Martin UMC:**  
 Worship: 69

February 15, 2026  
 Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$420.00  
**Martin UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1,414.00  
 Building: \$20.00  
 Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 Worship: 25  
**Martin UMC:**  
 Worship: 53

February 22, 2026  
 Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1,080.00  
 Food Pantry: \$285.00  
**Martin UMC:**  
 General Collection: \$1,080.00  
 Food Pantry: \$285.00  
 Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
 Worship: 29  
**Martin UMC:**  
 Worship: 53

