

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

April 2, 2026 – Volume 5, Number 3

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

Important Dates

- April 3rd – Good Friday
SUMC 6:00
- April 5th – Easter
Sunrise Service 7:30
a.m. MUMC
- April 5th – Breakfast @
MUMC 8:15 a.m.
- April 5th – Easter
Sunday Service 9:30
a.m. – Martin
- April 5th – Easter
Sunday Service 11:00
a.m. – Shelbyville
- April 8th – United
Women in Faith 10:00
a.m. Shelbyville
- April 8th, Family Fun
Night, 6:00 p.m. Martin
- April 11th, Spring Clean
Up! 9:00 a.m. Martin
- April 15th – Martin Ad
Council – 6:00 p.m.
- May 6th – Shelbyville
Ad Council – 6:00 p.m.
- May 13th – United
Women in Faith 10:00
a.m. – Shelbyville
- May 13th – Family Fun
Night – 6:00 p.m. –
Martin
- May 20th – Martin Ad
Council – 6:00 p.m.
- May 27-May 31 –
Annual Conference

He is Risen: A Holy Week Journey to Easter Morning

Dear Church Family,

As we turn the final pages of this Lenten season and stand at the threshold of Easter morning, our hearts are full—grieving with Christ in the desert, wrestling with our own longings, and finally rejoicing in the empty tomb. Lent has invited us to examine our lives with honesty, to repent where we have fallen short, to turn toward God with renewed hope, and to practice acts of mercy, humility, and prayer. Easter morning then becomes not a single day, but the heartbeat of the season—a festival of grace that carries us into new life.

Reflecting on the journey

- The Desert and the Cross: Lent invites us into intentional slowing, confession, and surrender. In the wilderness, we discover what we truly need—God’s presence, mercy, and love. We name the shadows we carry and lay them at the foot of the Cross.
- The Promise of Resurrection: Holy Week culminates not in despair but in the astonishing good news: death defeated, love triumphant, and the promise of life that cannot be quenched. Easter is not about a single miracle but about the ongoing miracle that God makes all things new.
- The Invitation to New Life: The empty tomb is less a memory and more a commissioning—the invitation to live as people of hope, peace, and justice, witnesses to the risen Christ in every corner of our world.

Easter Morning: The Joyful Dawn

On Easter morning, we awaken to a chorus of contrasts—the quiet of dawn and the triumph of grace; the silence of the tomb and the proclamation that “He is not here; He has risen!” Our celebration is both personal and communal:

- Personal: We are invited to encounter the risen Christ anew in prayer, Scripture, and sacraments. May each of us hear the voice that calls us by name and receive the peace that passes understanding.
- Community: We gather as a people gathered by grace, united in mission. Our worship, songs, and shared meals are acts of testimony—telling the world that love wins, that mercy endures, and that hope never fades.

Practices to carry into the season

- Worship: Let Easter joy shape our worship beyond Easter Sunday. Sing with gratitude, proclaiming the resurrected Lord in every gathering.
- Service: Put faith into action—volunteer, feed the hungry, visit the lonely, and advocate for those in need. The risen Christ meets us in our acts of mercy.
- Discipleship: Deepen Bible study and prayer practices that nurture resilience and growth. Consider a devotional guide for Lent into Easter or a quarterly church-wide study on the transformed life in Christ.
- Hospitality: Welcome neighbors near and far with warmth and generosity. Easter invites us to be a sign of God’s inclusive love in our community.

May the God of resurrection pour grace into your days. May the risen Christ meet you in your joys and in your burdens, guiding you with the light of hope. May the Holy Spirit empower us to live as people transformed by Easter, carrying the good news into every corner of our world. Alleluia—Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.*

A DISCIPLE

There was a disciple named Peter
And many were those who were sweeter.
He was big, strong and proud,
And incurably loud
And of his own words a big eater.

-RHawke

**3rd 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.

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.

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

*Martin UMC last day of Sunday School
for Summer Break will be May 17th,
2026*

March 1, 2026
Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$490.54

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$2,025.00

Building: \$10.00

Food Pantry: \$40.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 32

Martin UMC:

Worship: 57

March 8, 2026
Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$721.00

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Local Mission: 30.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,244.00

Building: \$10.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 28

Martin UMC:

Worship: 48

March 15, 2026
Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$475.00

Food Pantry: \$100.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$848.00

Building: \$10.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 32

Martin UMC:

Worship: 55

March 22 2026
Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$778.25

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,467.00

Building: \$10.00

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 28

Martin UMC:

Worship: 28

March 29, 2026
Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,598.06

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,749.00

Food Pantry: \$100.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 43

Martin UMC:

Worship: 54

*In Case You
Were
Wondering*



JOIN US FOR

CLEAN UP DAY

Join us for Clean-Up Day! Help make our church a cleaner, greener place by volunteering to pick up litter and beautify our church inside and out!.



04.11.2026

AT 9:00 AM

MARTIN UMC

MUMC & SUMC NEEDS A WEB SITE COORDINATOR/DESIGNER

We need



Contact

Pastor Maggie to discuss!

We're seeking a volunteer Website Coordinator/Designer to help keep our church's online presence welcoming, current, and accessible. If you have a heart for ministry and skills in simple, user-friendly web design, we'd love to hear from you! Responsibilities include updating event pages, keeping the service times and sermon archive current, and coordinating with ministry teams on monthly content.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
 May 13th, 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!

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 APRIL THAT'S THE 12TH FOR PRACTICE AND THE 19TH WE WILL SING: THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSING
 (PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9:50 A.M. ON THE 19TH)

Martin & Shelbyville UMC
April 2026 Family Fun Night

Game Night

Join us for a night full of fun, laughter, and friendly competition!
Euchre, Cribbage, Board Games Available, or bring your own!

APRIL 8
6:00 PM

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

ALL AGES ARE
WELCOME!

SOUP
SUPPER

Save the Date Vacation Bible School



❄️ August 3-7, 2026 ❄️

❄️ Martin UMC ❄️

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

May Birthdays

- 1 - Richard Bellgraph
 - Deb Boniface
 - Michael Stoken
- 3 - Magdalena Guevara
- 4 - Virginia Mauchmar
 - Barb Morris
 - Lisa VanHaun
- 5 - Aleandro Guevara
- 6 - Stephen Jones
- 8 - Gerrett Kajkowski, Jr
- 9 - Mason Martin
 - Sherry Simpson
- 11 - Rev. Thurland Meredith
- 14 - Jacob Smith
 - Jaiden VanPelt
- 19 - Kali Hawke
- 25 - Danielle VanZile
- 29 - McKinleyTanner
- 30 - Shyanna Buskirk