

# The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

## Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

May 1, 2026 – Volume 5, Number 4

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

#### Important Dates

- *May 6<sup>th</sup> – Christian Neighbors Soup Supper 4:30 – 7:00 Martin*
- *May 13<sup>th</sup> – United Women in Faith 10:00 a.m. – Shelbyville*
- *May 13<sup>th</sup> – Family Fun Night – 6:00 p.m. – Martin –Taco’s & Trivia*
- *May 17<sup>th</sup> – Graduation Sunday*
- *May 20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Ad Council – 6:00 p.m.*
- *May 25 – Memorial Day*
- *May 27-May 31 – Annual Conference*
- *July 19 – Bible and Brew Potluck & Baptisms – 1:30 p.m. – Schnable Lake Family Campground*
- *August 3-7 Vacation Bible School – MUMC*
- *August 9 – VBS Sunday @ MUMC and SUMC*

Dear Martin and Shelbyville UMC Families,

As I write this, the world outside is waking up in bursts of color. Flowers are popping thru, the dogwoods begin to blush, and the days grow longer with a hopeful glow. Spring has a way of reminding us that renewal is not just a season, but a rhythm we can carry in our hearts all year long. And as we step into May, we also look ahead to the bright possibilities of June and July—longer evenings, gatherings on porches and lawns, and the sweet pace of summer weekends.

In the bustle of life, it’s easy to let connection slip through the cracks. Yet our church communities—Martin and Shelbyville UMC—remain a steady heartbeat for families near and far. Now more than ever, we need one another: to share prayers, to celebrate joys, to lift one another when the days feel heavy, and to model for our children and grandchildren what faithful, loving community looks like.

Spring and summer bring together two simple, transformative gifts:

- Time with family. Whether it’s a Sunday lunch after worship, a weekend visit with grandparents, or a game night in the living room or camper, these moments become the stories we tell later—stories of faith, laughter, and shared resilience. Let’s make space in our calendars for the people we hold dear, remembering that family is not only those who share our blood but those who share our values of grace, truth, and service.
- Connection with our church family. The church is more than a building—it is a gathered people, a chorus of voices, a place where we practice compassion, generosity, and service. As flowers bloom in every neighborhood, may our bonds of care also bloom—in meals shared after worship, in prayer circles, in small groups, and in the countless small acts that say, “You belong here.”

This month, I invite you to:

- Join us for worship with growing warmth and a sense of expectancy. Bring a friend who might be curious about faith or simply in need of encouragement. Our doors are open, and our welcome is wide.
- Participate in our summer ministry opportunities. We have spaces for families to serve together, seniors and youth to learn side by side, and newcomers to find their place in mission and fellowship.
- Prioritize regular connection. A quick check-in call, a handwritten note, or a shared meal can be a lifeline. Let us be the ones who show up when life is busy, the ones who offer prayer and presence.

As the temperatures rise and the flowers bloom, let’s remember that the church’s vitality is not measured by weather but by our willingness to stay connected. May our gatherings—whether in a pew, a kitchen, a garden, or a porch swing—be moments where grace is given, faith is encouraged, and love is shared generously.

Please keep our church family in your prayers, and I ask you to lift up in prayer those who are seasonally away—traveling, caregiving, or facing health challenges. May they feel the warmth of Christ’s presence through our collective care.

I am so grateful for each of you and eagerly anticipate the months ahead, I bless you with peace, hope, and the courage to tend the relationships that make our communities strong.

In Christ’s love, Pastor Maggie



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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible's at Martin and  
Shelbyville UMC's  
Third Grade Bible's will be  
presented at both Martin and  
Shelbyville UMC's on May 17,  
2026. Please let us know if your  
child is on the list to receive if you  
cannot attend.

Graduation Sunday  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Martin and Shelbyville UMC's  
If you would like to add a gift to our  
graduate's bags you can do so in the  
office at Martin UMC or in the  
conference room at Shelbyville UMC

**Martin UMC Nursery Care:**  
*Nursery 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  
before Summer Break will be May 17<sup>th</sup>,  
2026*

April 5, 2026  
Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
General Collection: \$1,204.13  
Mission: \$30.00  
Food Pantry: \$30.00  
**Martin UMC:**  
General Collection: \$2,303.00  
Building: \$20.00  
Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
Worship: 32  
**Martin UMC:**  
Worship: 82

April 12, 2026  
Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
General Collection: \$939.21  
**Martin UMC:**  
General Collection: \$1,134.00  
Building: \$10.00  
Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
Worship: 27  
**Martin UMC:**  
Worship: 47

April 19, 2026  
Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
General Collection: \$512.00  
Special Offering: \$160.00  
**Martin UMC:**  
General Collection: \$1,309.00  
Special Offering: \$141.00  
Food Pantry: \$215.00  
Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
Worship: 38  
**Martin UMC:**  
Worship: 69

April 26, 2026  
Offering:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
General Collection: \$1,451.25  
Building: \$40.40  
**Martin UMC:**  
General Collection: \$1,257.00  
Food Pantry: \$234.58  
Attendance:  
**Shelbyville UMC:**  
Worship: 36  
**Martin UMC:**  
Worship: 49

*In Case You Were Wondering*

## REQUIESCAT

From here I see the playground,  
Its swings and monkey bars,  
Its seesaw going up and down,  
Children running everywhere  
Playing chase.

Over there, in the park,  
See the bridge.

Under yellow willow trees,  
Half-hidden, see the lovers –  
Arms entwined.

From the farmhouse a mother  
Sees her child's playhouse  
Near catalpa trees  
And soon-to-blossom  
Lilac bushes.

The turned earth awaits the farmer  
Planting seeds with nature's promise  
Of a bountiful tomorrow.  
Pray nature does not forget her promise  
Or her harvest.

Beyond is the graveyard  
Outlined with somber pines.  
It is here the living come  
Bringing their flowers and  
Their memories.

When all that's left of me  
Is memory and ashes,  
Set me free  
To be in all the lovely places  
Where the living are.

-RHawke

*In case you wonder, Requiescat is Latin for  
"may he or she rest in peace."*



MUSIC & WORSHIP

BAPTISMS

# BIBLE & BREW SUMMER POTLUCK

Bring your favorite dish,  
beverage of choice & enjoy  
great company!

SCHNABLE LAKE FAMILY CAMPGROUND

July 19, 2025 1:30 p.m.

1476 115th Ave,  
Otsego, MI. 49078  
Pavilion

Bring the family!  
We will have access to the lake and  
the splash pad!

## MUSICAL NOTES FOR MUMC

### MAY 2026

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 MAY THAT'S THE 10TH (MOTHERS  
DAY) FOR PRACTICE AND THE 17TH WE WILL SING:  
COME STAND ON THE PROMISES.

(PLEASE ARRIVE BY 8:50 A.M. ON THE 17TH FOR  
WARM UP.)



# MARTIN & SHELBYVILLE UMC'S MAY 2026 FAMILY FUN NIGHT



## TACOS & TRIVIA

MAY 13TH 2026  
6:00 P.M.

Join us for a night full of fun, laughter, and friendly competition!

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

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

### Missions Update

April 16, 2026

Thank you for your generous support of the countywide Peanut Butter Drive. A total of 5,235 jars were collected across participating pantries. The Martin/Shelbyville pantry received 69 jars, which were placed directly on the shelves of the pantry and distributed to families.

The collaboration will launch the Cereal Drive in May; more details to follow.

We have served 207 households so far this year compared to 190 at the same time last year. With rising prices, we expect this number to continue increasing. Please keep those families in mind as you shop.

We are planning future mission fundraisers, including tables at Martin Hometown Days on August 8, 2026. Hours are 4-8PM. Donations of baked goods or crafts are appreciated.

There are preliminary plans for a bake and craft show at the Martin Church. Watch for the dates and times as they are determined.

Additionally, we are planning to assemble Hygiene and Menstrual kits to send to UMCOR for distribution as needs arise. Donations details will be shared soon.

Finally, we are still seeking a Food Pantry Coordinator. I will step down from this role after June 30, 2026. This position is both meaningful and rewarding.

*Sharon Buys*

Martin UMC Mission Chair

MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL  
ALUMNI

INVITES YOU!

# 2026 ALUMNI BANQUET

AT THE COMMON ROOM  
(BETWEEN THE AUDITORIUM AND NEW  
GYM)

BRING A DISH TO PASS & TABLE SERVICE

Saturday, June 6, 2026 • 6pm

MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL  
1556 CHALMERS STREET  
MARTIN, MI 49070

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

THE VILLAGE OF MARTIN  
HONORS OUR HEROES!

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY AS WE  
REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE THE  
BRAVE



Date: Monday, May 25, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

DOWNTOWN MARTIN MICHIGAN  
PARADE STARTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL  
PARKING LOT AND ENDS AT MEMORIAL PARK  
WITH A COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR ALL  
VETERANS-DONT MISS THIS SPECIAL SERVICE!

To participate in the parade, line up at  
Martin HS parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

MARTIN & SHELBYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

# SOUP SUPPER



**MAY 6, 2026**

📍 969 E. Allegan Street, Martin, MI. 49070

## May Birthdays

- 1 - Richard Bellgraph
- Deb Boniface
- Michael Stoken
- 3 - Aleandro Guevara
- 4 - Virginia Mauchmar
- Barb Morris
- Lisa VanHaun
- 5 - Magdalena 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



## Save the Date Vacation Bible School



❄️ August 3-7, 2026 ❄️

❄️ Martin UMC ❄️

## June Birthdays

- 1 - Crystal McWilliams
- 8 - Tiffany Mattox
- Rich Hilsbos
- 10 - Owen Cuba
- 11 - Lindsey Folk
- Warren Kimmel
- 15 - Gus Scott
- 17 - Michelle Rose
- 22 - Katherine Hilsbos
- 24 - Letty Sherry
- 25 - Trudy Martin
- 26 - Jim Town
- 27 - Ri Smith
- 29 - Deb Hilsbos