

# The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

## Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

May 2nd, 2025 – Volume 4, Number 2

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

#### In Case You Are Wondering

March 30, 2025

##### **Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$983.54

Special Offering: \$90.00

##### **Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,141.00

Special Offering: \$70.00

Food Pantry: 255.00

Attendance:

##### **Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 47

##### **Martin UMC:**

Worship: 44

April 6, 2025

Offering:

##### **Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$970.34

Food Pantry: \$55.00

Missions: \$30.00

##### **Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$2,120.00

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Building Fund: \$50.00

Attendance:

##### **Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 33

##### **Martin UMC:**

Worship: 45

April 13, 2025

Offering:

##### **Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$ 570.00

##### **Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,469.00

Food Pantry: \$200.00

Special Offering: \$74.00

Attendance:

##### **Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 37

##### **Martin UMC:**

Worship: 53

April 20, 2025

Offering:

##### **Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$755.52

Local mission: \$500.00

Food Pantry: 200.00

##### **Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,265.00

Attendance:

##### **Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 53

##### **Martin UMC:**

Worship: 87

### Thoughts from Pastor Maggie

#### Lent is Over, Now What?

As we finish the season of Lent, many of us are feeling reflective and grateful. For forty days, we spent time praying, fasting, and helping others — all to get closer to Jesus and prepare our hearts for Easter. But now that Easter has passed, you might be wondering: *What's next?* The end of Lent doesn't mean the end of our journey. Instead, it's an invitation to continue living with the joy and hope of the resurrection every day. Jesus' victory over death is a gift that calls us to keep serving others and to stay focused on Him.

#### Remembering What Easter Means

The resurrection is the most important part of our faith. In 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, Paul reminds us, *"Christ has been raised from the dead, the first to do so, and because of that, we also have hope of new life."* Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that death isn't the end — there's new life for everyone who believes in Him.

#### Keep Living Like Jesus

Easter isn't just a one-day celebration — it's a way of life. As followers of Jesus, we're called to serve others with kindness and love, just like He did. Galatians 5:13 tells us, *"Serve one another humbly in love."* So, let's keep the joy of Easter alive by helping those around us — whether that's volunteering, reaching out to someone who's hurting, or simply showing kindness. Our actions keep the spirit of the resurrection going strong.

#### Stay Focused on Jesus

After Lent, it's a good time to grow even closer to Jesus. Spend time talking to Him through prayer, reading the Bible, and sharing faith with friends. In John 11:25, Jesus says, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even after they die."* This reminds us that because of Jesus, we can hold onto hope no matter what.

#### What Can You Do Now?

As we move beyond Lent, let's commit to living out the love and hope we've rediscovered. Keep serving others, stay focused on Jesus, and share His love with everyone around you. The resurrection isn't just a story from the past — it's alive in us today, giving us purpose and joy. May this season after Lent inspire us to live fully in the hope of the risen Christ. Let's shine His light everywhere we go.

**He is risen! And because of that, we are called to live like it.**

*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!

### **MAY Food Pantry Focus**

**Canned Foods**

**Fruits, Vegetables, Soups, Sauces, Meat**

*Martin UMC Sunday School*

*For ALL ages!*

*11:00 a.m.*

*Please join us!*

#### **BE A BLESSING**

Pastor Maggie has mentioned that it is a very real blessing to her when people share their stories of a time in their life that God was very real to them. Let's bless Pastor Maggie and others with our stories

Did God answer your prayer? Did God surprise you? Did God put you in the right place at the right time?

Did God send someone to you just when you needed it most? Did God bring peace to your heart and mind? Did the wonder of God's creation fill you with awe? Please share your story of being blessed that your blessing may bless others.

Here is how it can be done. Write your story down and read it aloud in worship on an assigned 4th Sunday of the month. Afterward, it will be printed in the newsletter. Then Pastor Maggie and others can read it and be blessed again. Those who may have missed it can be blessed as well.

Here are some other options. Write your story and someone else will read it for you. Tell your story to a writer who will help you get your thoughts on paper. Submit your story to an editor for proofreading and suggestions.

The first opportunity to Be A Blessing will be May 25 which is Memorial Day weekend. There will be a time during worship for one person to share on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please volunteer for May 25 or any later date by contacting Reva Daniel in person or at 616-550-2645 or [revarev@live.com](mailto:revarev@live.com).

#### **Important Dates**

- May 4<sup>th</sup> – Holy Communion
- May 5 – 9<sup>th</sup> - Spring Work Week @ Son-Life Camp
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Soup Supper 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – United Women in Faith 10:00 a.m. Shelbyville/Potluck
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – MUMC Ad Council 6:00
- May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – Office Closed
- June 1<sup>st</sup> – Graduation Sunday
- June 1<sup>st</sup> – Holy Communion
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – SUMC Ad Council 6:00
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – MUMC Ad Council 6:00
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> –VBS

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.

#### **May Birthdays!**

***Happy Happy Birthday!***

- 1 - Richard Bellgraph
  - Deb Boniface
  - Michael Stoken
- 3 - Maggie Guevara
- 4 - Virginia Mauchmar
  - Barb Morris
  - Lisa VanHaun
- 5 - Jandro Guevara
  - Pearl Shook
- 6 - Stephen Jones
- 8 - Garrett Kajkowski, Jr
- 11 - Rev. Thurland Meredith
- 14 - Jacob Smith
  - Jaiden VanPelt
- 19 - Kali Hawke
- 30-Shyanna Buskirk



# Outlook Academy



*Join us as we celebrate and embrace 11 graduates from Outlook Academy with love and gifts, showcasing the compassion of Jesus Christ. Let's come together to shower these graduates with blessings and support as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. Your generosity will make a lasting impact on these young individuals as they transition into the next phase of their journey. Let's spread love, joy, and faith as we uplift and empower these graduates in the name of Christ.*

4 girls and 7 boys make up the graduating class of 2025. MUMC Missions Committee are putting together graduation gift bags and snack boxes for each graduate. MUMC will be purchasing Bibles for each of them.

**Each graduate will receive a "snack box". You are invited to add to the snack boxes with the snack of your choice!**

Please join in this celebration by taking a tag from the bulletin board in fellowship hall and provide one or more of the following:

- Graduation Tumblers
- Socks
- Jolly Ranchers
- \$25 McDonalds gift card

**Please fill the tags and bring to church no later than May 4, 2025.**

**\$\$.** We will joyfully do the shopping if you would like to donate money! **\$\$**

**About Outlook Academy:** Outlook Academy offers Middle and High School education for students who are suspended, expelled, court-ordered, or placed through the IEP process. These students are often from broken homes, dysfunctional homes, or homes that lack parental guidance.

**Outlook Academy Mission:** To empower our students to reintegrate into their communities and graduate as competent learners and responsible citizens through having the freedom to make positive choices

**Outlook Academy Believes:** A safe, orderly, and positive environment is necessary for learning. Diversity is key to meeting the unique needs of all students. Community service builds belonging. The ability to self-monitor leads to healthy minds, bodies, and lifelong learning

## WERE YOU MISSING THE CONNECTION? KEEP IT ALIVE!



### Keeping Our Church Newsletter Alive: We Need Your Help!

Dear Church Family,

We believe our church newsletter is more than just a collection of announcements—it's a way to connect, inspire, and grow together as a community. But to keep it alive and thriving, we need your help! Here are some fun ways you can get involved and make our newsletter even better:

**Share Your Stories -** We want to hear from you! If you have a testimony, a story of faith, or an experience that inspired you, please consider sharing it with us. Your stories can uplift and encourage others in our congregation.

**Submit Photos and Art -** Have you captured moments from church events or activities? Or perhaps you've created a piece of art or a craft? Send those our way! Visuals add a vibrant touch and help us all feel connected.

**Stay Involved -** The newsletter is filled with opportunities for you to get involved. Whether it's volunteering for an upcoming event, joining a small group, or participating in community outreach, we want to help you connect with these opportunities. Make sure to check out our calls to action!

**Give Us Feedback -** We want to hear your thoughts! What do you enjoy reading? What would you like to see more of? Your feedback is invaluable in helping us create content that resonates with you.

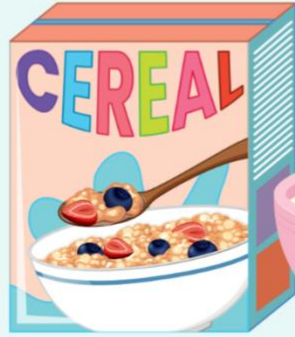
**Celebrate Together -** Let's use the newsletter to celebrate our milestones—baptisms, confirmations, anniversaries, and other special moments in our church family. If you have something to celebrate, let us know, and we'll share it!

Together, we can keep our church newsletter vibrant and engaging. Your contributions and involvement are what make our community so special. Let's work together to create a newsletter that reflects the love and unity we share at the Martin and Shelbyville UMC's!

Blessings,

Pastor Maggie & Crystal

# 2025 Cereal Drive



May 1st-31st

**BECAUSE HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A  
SUMMER VACATION!**

Allegan County  
**Food**  
Pantry  
Collaborative

A Program of the Allegan County Community Foundation

**ACCF**  
Allegan County Community  
Foundation  
Impacting Community. For Good. For Ever.

## Martin UMC Graduates

We will be honoring 2 graduates at Martin UMC this year! Ella Jongmans and Lexy Jankowiak.

We are excited for an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of these young women.

If you would like to help us to celebrate and to honor them, please feel free to pick up a gift or write a note to place in their "graduation gift bags." Bags will be on the counter in the church office. Please bring gifts no later than May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Thank you for helping us to celebrate them!



Outlook Academy

## A Letter from Michael Pettee, Lead Teacher Outlook Academy

Hello,

I would like to take a few moments to share with you the story of the Outlook Academy. But first, on behalf of the entire Outlook Academy family, I would like to thank Martin United Methodist Church for all the kindness and generosity you have shown Outlook. Your graduate gift bags are wonderful, and our students and staff truly appreciate the positive support given by all of you.

Outlook Academy came into existence in 2002, it has a simple mission. To give students who have been suspended long term or permanently expelled from their local district schools a second chance. In 2009 Outlook began providing educational services to the Allegan County Juvenile Detention Center and a long-term placement center, the Cheever Treatment Center. Although our students can be challenging, they are all good kids, who have simply made some poor choices. The original goal of Outlook was to have them return to their home districts if possible. In 2011 Outlook started graduating students, many prefer the structure of Outlook to a larger traditional school. We service students from grades six through twelve. Since that time, we graduate about ten students or so each spring. Some of these students would have dropped out of school if it hadn't been for Outlook and our dedicated (and very patient) staff.

The school is growing, and we are happy to be relocating. Westward elementary school is scheduled to close this spring as students will be attending a new facility in Allegan. Outlook will then occupy the old school. Renovations will take some time, but we are scheduled to move into the building in the fall of 2026. Our current location was never designed as a school and is too small for our current student population of forty students.

Once again, I would like to thank every member of the congregation for your support and encouragement of our students. Too often students in alternative programs get overlooked or are looked down upon by the community. It is wonderful to have positive feedback and support from Martin United Methodist Church.

Sincerely,

Michael Pettee, Lead Teacher Outlook Academy

## Helping our Friends

Otsego UMC hosted its annual Lenten Breakfast on April 16. Some of the Martin ladies offered help with setting up and some took part in a skit. Can you find Reva Daniel/Elegant, Sharon Buys/Granny, Denice Pettee/Child, Melinda Tison/AuNatural and Pastor Maggie/Wife. The Otsego characters are Cold, Narrator, Hot and Modern.



Each modeled her nightmare . . . er nightwear. When Modern is overwhelmed and falls to the floor, the other models help her to her feet just as God helps us when we are overwhelmed. As always our Otsego neighbors provided good food, good fun and good messages. It's a good and joyful thing to help our friends!

Thanks to Pat Holland for the picture.

## GET READY FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

**JUNE 23 – JUNE 27**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**ROAD TRIP PARTY!!!**



Martin & Shelbyville United Methodist Church

## Christian Neighbors Soup Supper

**May 7, 2025**  
**4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

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



## LOVE OFFERING

**May 19, 2025**

**Christine Swinney**

**Opportunity to bless our sister Chris as she embarks on this stem cell transplant journey.**

**If you feel led to contribute, please do so by placing it in the offering with a note of "Chris Swinney" or you are welcome to turn in to the office.**

**Blessings,**  
**Pastor Maggie**