

# The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

## Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

May 30, 2025 – Volume 4, Number 3

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

**In Case You Are Wondering**

April 27, 2025

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,211.77

Building Fund: \$40.40

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$2,047.53

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 34

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 37

May 4, 2025

Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$474.00

Missions: \$30.00

Food Pantry: \$30.00

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$2,142.00

Building Fund: \$50.00

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 31

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 43

May 11, 2025

Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$811.21

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,268.00

Food Pantry: \$50.00

Building Fund: \$30.00

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 41

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 64

May 18, 2025

Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$749.00

Food Pantry: \$20.00

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 57

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 0

### **Thoughts from Pastor Maggie**

#### **A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Community**

On May 15, a tornado swept through our village, causing a lot of damage and worry. But in the days since, I have been so proud of how our church family and so many friends and neighbors have come together to help each other.

Many people have worked hard to clean up, fix what was broken, and support those who have had damage to their homes and their businesses. It's amazing to see how everyone has shown kindness, strength, and caring during this difficult time.

I want to share a verse that reminds us of the importance of sticking together: Galatians 6:9 says, *"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* Encouragement to keep helping and supporting one another every day just as we have this past week.

Seeing our community unite like this shows how strong and caring we are. I am thankful for each person who has stepped up to make a difference. Even in hard times, hope and love shine through.

Let's keep helping each other, praying for those still rebuilding, and trusting that God is always with us. I have no doubt that we will get through this stronger than before.

**Blessings,  
Pastor Maggie**

May 25, 2025

Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,272.77

Building Fund: \$40.40

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,546.73

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 33

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 52

### **Office Hours:**

*Closed Monday,  
Tuesday thru Friday  
9:00 a.m. –  
1:00 p.m.*



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

### **June Food Pantry Focus**

**Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce**

*Martin UMC Sunday School  
Will be suspended thru the summer. We  
will be back the Sunday following Labor  
Day! Have a great summer!*

### **Big NEWS**

We are able to purchase  
the defibrillator! Thanks to  
all who contributed!

### **HELP WANTED**

Applications are being  
accepted for the  
position of Martin UMC  
Custodian. Applications  
are available in the  
church office. If you are  
interested, please fill out  
an application ASAP!

### **Important Dates**

- June 1<sup>st</sup> – Graduation Sunday
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> – SPRC Meeting – Martin @ 6:00 p.m.
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – SUMC Ad Council 6:00
- June 8<sup>th</sup> – Choir Practice - Martin after Worship
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – UWF – Shelbyville 10:00 a.m. Potluck to Follow
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – MUMC Ad Council 6:00
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Choir Warm Up at 8:55 a.m. – Martin
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Special Offering – Peace with Justice Sunday
- 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.

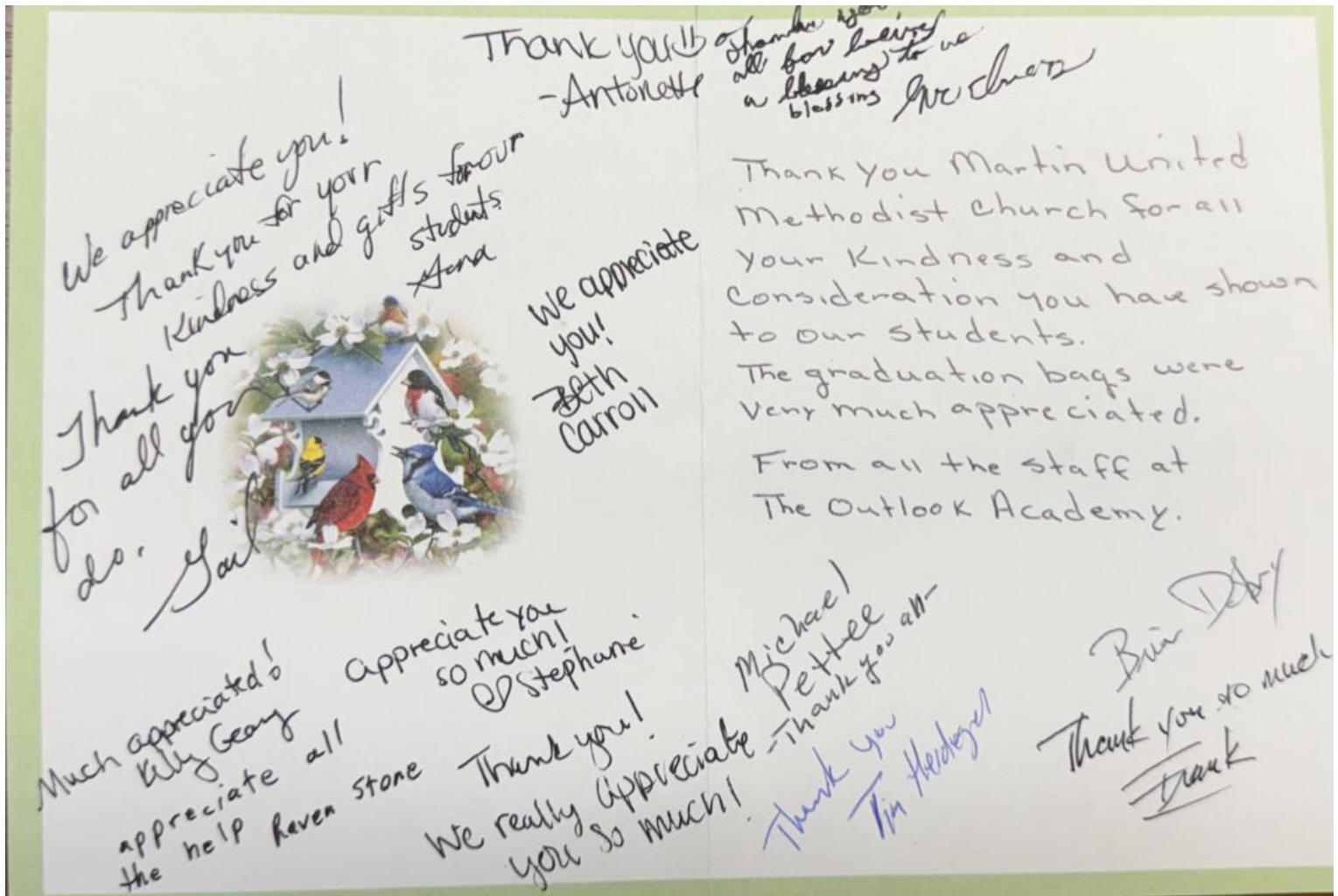
### **June Birthdays!**

#### **Happy Happy Birthday!**

- 1 – Crystal McWilliams  
Michael Stoken
- 8 – Rich Hilsbos
- 11 – Lindsey Folk
- Warren Kimmel
- 15 – Gus Scott
- 17 – Michelle Rose
- 22 – Katherine Hilsbos
- 24 – Letty Sherry
- 25 – Trudy Martin
- 27 – Ri Smith
- 29 – Deb Hilsbos

Did we miss your birthday? Let us  
know so that we can update the  
data base!

It's a Blessing to be a Blessing!  
The Student of the Outlook Academy Class of 2025 say thank you for your kindness and for making them feel so honored!



True North VBS at  
Martin Reformed Church  
(1073 W Allegan St. Martin)

June 16-19th 9am-12pm  
All kids 4 years old - 6th grade (grade  
going into in the fall)

Bible stories, games, snacks, crafts, science,  
music and  
tons of fun!

Save time and pre-register



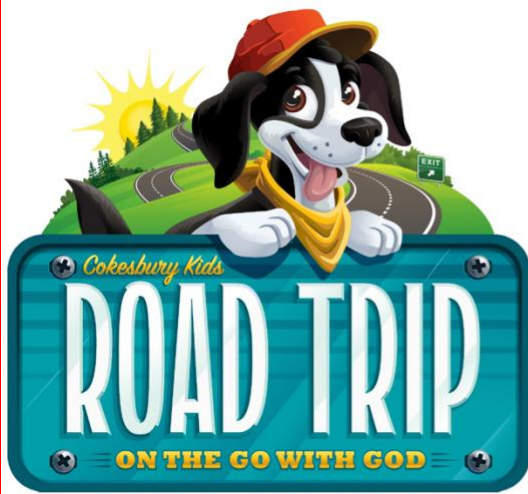


# TORNADO CLEAN UP 2025



Thank you to all who helped clean  
up!





# ROAD TRIP VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## Martin United Methodist Church

969 E. Allegan Street, Martin, MI



Vacation Bible School  
JUNE 23RD– JUNE 27TH, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sign up online @

[martinumc.org](http://martinumc.org)

click on NEWS VBS Info

## JOIN US FOR TEA



Saturday, June 14, 2025

Hopkins UMC Hall

322 N. Maple St. Hopkins

9:30 – Gather

10:00 – Tea, Treats\* and Tunes

11:00 – Presentation on  
Oils of the Bible

Please RSVP by Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to  
Mitzi Crowe (269)303-5503 OR  
[mjcrowe60@gmail.com](mailto:mjcrowe60@gmail.com)

\*This is not a meal.



Explore

## HOMELESS

A homeless child  
has no window  
through which to see the world,  
no way to focus  
on just one  
well-framed spot  
no glass  
no curtain to hide behind  
no way to pull  
the blinds  
to shut away the horror  
no light to shine out  
to guide her home at dusk  
no place to wave  
to welcome loved ones back.  
A homeless child  
has no window  
through which to see the world.

-RHawke

### ***Celebrating Ella Jongmans' Graduation and Faith Journey***

This month, our church community celebrates a remarkable young woman—Ella Jongmans—who has recently graduated from Hastings High School, Class of 2025. Ella, an exchange student from Germany, has shared her inspiring journey through high school, faith, and her bright future ahead.

Ella's favorite moments from her high school years include lively lunch breaks with friends back home and engaging in extracurricular activities here in the United States, such as live swim, student council, and soccer. Her positive outlook and willingness to embrace new experiences exemplify her adventurous spirit.

Ella's faith has become a guiding light in her life. She shared that scriptures like John 16:33 and John 13:7 have helped her stress less, reminding her that God has a plan for her life—even when things seem uncertain. Her reliance on her faith has strengthened her resolve and helped her navigate the challenges of being an international student.

Ella is most excited about finding her own path in life after graduation. She dreams of traveling extensively and exploring college opportunities, eager to embrace new horizons and learn more about herself and the world.

Ella's journey has been supported by her loving family—her US parents, Steve and Amy, along with her mom, dad, and stepdad—whose encouragement has meant the world to her. She also credits her church community for teaching her what it truly means to have faith and be part of a supportive congregation.

Her advice to younger students is simple yet profound: "BE YOU!" Ella emphasizes that, despite others' opinions, staying true to oneself is the most important. She also plans to stay connected to her faith through Bible plans and her Bible app, seeking daily inspiration and spiritual growth.

Reflecting on her accomplishments, Ella is proud of earning two Cambridge Certificates, an international baccalaureate, her high school diploma, and the unique experience of being an exchange student. These achievements showcase her dedication, perseverance, and zest for life.

Looking ahead, Ella aspires to serve others by helping them deepen their faith, just as others have supported and uplifted her. Her goals for the coming year include attending college and traveling, eager to explore all that life has to offer.

When asked how she wants to be remembered, Ella hopes to be remembered as a kind, outgoing, and compassionate person. Her gratitude for the opportunities she's received and her desire to serve others reflect her beautiful spirit and bright future.

Congratulations, Ella! Your faith, resilience, and joyful spirit inspire us all. We are proud of you and look forward to seeing all the wonderful things you will accomplish. May God bless you as you continue to follow His plan for your life.

**With love and blessings,  
Pastor Maggie and Martin United Methodist Church.**

### ***Celebrating Lexi Jankowiak's Graduation and Faith Journey***

This month, our church community joyfully celebrates Lexi Jankowiak, who has recently graduated from Hopkins High School, Class of 2025. Lexi, has shared her inspiring journey through high school, her faith, and her exciting plans for the future.

Lexi's favorite part of high school was simply seeing her friends every day, cherishing those special moments of connection and friendship. Throughout her high school years, her faith played a vital role in helping her navigate challenges. She shared that reading her Bible and attending church lifted her spirits during tough times, reminding her that she can always turn to God, who makes even the most difficult moments manageable.

Looking ahead, Lexi is most excited about pursuing her passion for coaching volleyball and teaching young girls how fun and rewarding the sport can be. She dreams of becoming an inspiring coach that everyone admires and respects.

Lexi's journey has been supported by her loving family—her parents, her Aunt Anna, and her Aunt Chelsea—whose encouragement has been invaluable. Her favorite Bible verse, 1 Peter 5:10, reminds her that after suffering a little while, God will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish her, offering hope and reassurance for the future.

One important lesson Lexi learned in high school is that the people who stand by you during difficult times are the ones worth keeping close. She plans to stay connected to her faith by continuing to read her Bible and attending church regularly.

Her aspirations for after graduation include becoming a coach everyone loves and respects. She also feels called to serve God by worshiping, sharing joy, and volunteering as a camp counselor—ways she hopes to spread kindness and faith.

In reflecting on her journey, Lexi is grateful for the lessons she's learned and the support she's received. She hopes to be remembered as a good friend—someone who is easy to talk to and always there for others.

As she steps into this exciting new chapter, Lexi is most proud of her accomplishments: graduating, her faith, and her family. Her dedication, positivity, and faith are inspiring us all.

Congratulations, Lexi! We are proud of you and look forward to seeing all the wonderful things God has in store for your future. May His blessings continue to guide you on your journey.

**With love and blessings,  
Pastor Maggie and Martin United Methodist Church**