

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

October 2, 2025 – Volume 4, Number 8

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

In Case You Are Wondering

September 7, 2025

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$689.21

Local Mission: \$30.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$2,358.90

Attendance

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 31

Martin UMC:

Worship: 50

September 14, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$587.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,052.00

Building Fund: \$10.00

Special Offering: \$25.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 35

Martin UMC:

Worship: 60

September 21st, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,280.25

Building: \$40.40

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,199.23

Building Fund: \$10.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 29

Martin UMC:

Worship: 69

September 28th, 2025

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,564.25

Building Fund: \$40.40

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,842.00

Parking Lot Fund: \$500.00

Food Pantry: \$500.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 30

Martin UMC:

Worship: 70

A Fresh Fall, Fresh Faith

Summer's gone, and yeah, that's a little sad with the longer days and lazy vibes behind us. But Scripture reminds us that every season is a chance to lean into God's faithfulness. Fall invites us to deepen worship, reconnect in community, and dive into learning together.

I feel like the mood of Autumn calls us to a richer rhythm of praise—singing, praying, and listening for God's voice in new ways. Let's use this season to draw closer to Him and live out our faith with real devotion.

Fellowship - As schedules shift, we can re-anchor in community—invite someone new to a group, host a simple gathering, or share a meal. Hebrews 10:24-25 (²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching) reminds us to keep showing up for each other; let's do that with warmth and hospitality.

Fall brings steady chances to grow—Bible studies, sermons, Sunday School and hands-on training. Let's commit to small daily disciplines and learn together as a church family.

Call to action: Start a small group, join a small group, go to Sunday School, attend Bible Study, so many opportunities to get involved!

- Knit-Pray-Crochet returns on October 28 at 12:15 p.m. in MUMC Fellowship Hall! All skill levels are welcome!
- United Women In Faith meet the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Shelbyville UMC.
- The Chosen and Popcorn returns starting on Thursday, October 23rd at 9:30 a.m.
- Advent Bible Study is coming soon!

Let's worship, let's learn and let's fellowship together!

Blessings, Pastor Maggie

Did you know that you can give thru our website? Go to martinumc.org or shelbyvilleumc.org for more information.



KINGDOM KIDS
Every Sunday following the
Children's Sermon!

**October Food Pantry Focus
Jelly & Canned Meats**

*Martin UMC Sunday School
Will be starting back up September 7th
Adult Sunday School Class books are in
the office.*

October Birthdays!

Happy Happy Birthday!

4 - Shelly Hausermann
5 - Royal Boulter
 - Chad Tanner
8 - Louise Thompson
15 - Heather Foreman
19 - Erin Holland
 - Jeff Stevens
20 - Ed Buys
30 - Matt Ash

Office Hours:

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

Important Dates

- **October 5th –Path Walk**
- **October 5th – World Communion Sunday**
- **October 12th – SUMC Homecoming**
- **October 15 – Soup Supper – Martin UMC**
- **October 19th – Charge Conference at MUMC – 3:00 p.m.**
- **October 31st – Trunk or Treat**

CARDINAL

*The yard is full of fallen nuts
And colored leaves that rustle
As the children and the wind go past.
The morning air smells crisp,
But only stings the nose a tiny bit.
The sun will soon release the frost.
I hear a cardinal call his mate.
He flies, his red blending with the autumn
leaves;
I scarcely see him settle on his chosen
branch.
When white winter comes,
His bright coat will be a celebration,
Bringing remembrance of a life
That now radiantly shines in heaven.
.*

-RHawke



MUSICAL NOTES FOR MUMC:

CHOIR PRACTICE AFTER WORSHIP
ON OCTOBER 12 @ 10:45

*CHOIR WILL SING ON OCTOBER
19, 2025 – FOR THE BEAUTY OF
THE EARTH, FROM THE
CELEBRATION HYMNAL #793
(WARMUP ON OCTOBER 19 AT 8:50 A.M.)*

ALL THOSE WHO LIKE TO PRAISE
GOD IN SONG ARE ENCOURAGED
TO JOIN US.

COME SING WITH US!



MUMC RUMMAGE SALE – HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work and for your generosity!!

Total towards Parking Lot Project: \$



MARTIN & SHELBYVILLE UMC ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Meeting

October 19, 2025

3:00 P.M.

Martin UMC Sanctuary

We will have our annual Church Conference with a new format: all Branch Churches meet together at the same time and place. Join us as we celebrate 2025 at Martin & Shelbyville UMC's



Martin UMC Homecoming and Playground Dedication

Martin UMC Homecoming Sunday and Playground Dedication On October 5th, 2025 was awesome!

Met some new friends, and caught up with some old friends as, we gathered for a joyful Homecoming and Playground Dedication. It was a great turnout with uplifting worship and warm fellowship. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who helped make this time possible. We are blessed to have the children among us, a living reminder of God's grace and new beginnings.

Psalm 127:3 — "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him."

Proverbs 22:6 — "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."



Welcoming the Circle: Serving Together as a Church Family

As followers of Christ, we are called into a life of service that mirrors the love, humility, and unity modeled by Jesus. In this season, I've been reflecting on a practical, God-honoring approach to mobilizing our congregations—one that aligns with the spirit of Mel Robbins' book *Let Them* and, more importantly, with the eternal wisdom of Scripture: we must invite others to serve with us, not to serve us, so that every person feels valued, included, and empowered to contribute.

Shared Service: Shared service rests on three truths. First, every part has a purpose (1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - uses the analogy of the human body to explain the concept of the "body of Christ," where diverse believers are united into one body through baptism in the Holy Spirit): no role is more important than another; each gift—practical, creative, relational, or administrative—supports the whole, so we discern passions and strengths rather than simply assign tasks. Second, leadership is service, not status (Mark 10:45 - challenged the disciples' understanding of greatness and the kingdom of God, as they often confused it with worldly power and status): invitations to serve should be given with humility, clarity, and a commitment to stewardship and mutual growth, creating safe spaces for questions and contribution. Third, the culture of invitation: the Gospel is an invitation to know Christ, grow in faith, and serve with joy. Invitations must be personal, specific, and aligned with gifts and training, accompanied by clear expectations and heartfelt appreciation for every contribution.

Involvement: Mel Robbins' *Let Them* nudges us from command-and-control to collaborative participation. In a church, this means clarifying roles through listening—matching people's passions with ministry needs—while lowering entry barriers with simple pathways. We celebrate every contribution, big or small, to reinforce that everyone belongs, and we foster growth through ongoing formation, training, spiritual disciplines, and accountable community that builds character and competence.

As your pastor and as a servant I have some responsibilities: I am called to invite people with clear, personal invitations—at worship, events, and groups—so hesitation becomes belonging. I need to be able to build partnerships with co-leaders and diverse roles to prevent burnout. I need the space to equip volunteers through discipleship that ties service to spiritual formation, pairing newcomers with seasoned mentors. I have to protect space for dissent and growth by addressing tensions with grace and maintaining safe feedback loops for concerns about process, boundaries, or workload.

As a pastor, I'm learning to lead with an open hand: I want to offer roles, support, and accountability, but never presume ownership of people's time, talents, or calling. God has knit each person uniquely, and our churches flourish when we honor that design.

A Simple Call to Action: If you feel called, reach out to me and share your passions and gifts and how you'd like to participate. Start small—find your place and grow in ministry. We have opportunities in many different areas of ministry: greeters, nursery, missions, outreach, kids ministry, adult ministry, assist with tech, the list goes on...let's pray for unity as we move together with purpose, love, and a shared mission.

Together, let us create a culture where everyone has a seat at the table, where service is a joy, and where the body of Christ thrives because all its members are invited to contribute, grow, and belong.

Blessings, Pastor Maggie



Greater Southwest District

Michigan Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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August 19, 2025

Dear Greater Southwest District Churches,

I greet you in prayer with hope for the life that comes in our shared faith in Christ.

O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze: We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes, so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit, United Methodist Hymnal #329

We will be meeting for our annual Church Conferences soon under a new format. Churches from each Branch will meet together at the same time and in the same space. Forms to be completed prior to the Church Conference are listed below. These forms are due in the District Office no later than 10 days before the Branch Church Conference, and the items that are in **bold** also require a review and vote by your local church governing board.

A second list of forms is also below, describing what to prepare for the day of the Branch Church Conference. These packets are for each person from your congregation who attends, and one for the District Superintendent.

Please invite any who have been Baptized or joined the church since the last Church Conference. We will name them and celebrate them. If you have questions, or if there are any concerns about this new Branch Church Conference format, please contact me.

Peace,

Rev. Dean N. Prentiss

Rev. Dean N. Prentiss

SMALL GROUPS IN THE UMC FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law."

Small groups are a vital part of life at our church. A group of women in our congregation (MUMC) has started a new group that meets weekly for breakfast and fellowship. We lift one another in prayer for personal needs, our church, and our nation. These gatherings are a source of self-care for our spirits and a time of meaningful connection with other women of faith.

In addition to weekly meetings, we now gather once a month for crafting—painting rocks, making cards, and learning to make salve. We're excited to host a trunk at Trunk or Treat and to plan a soup supper/chili cook-off to raise funds for our parking lot. A video Bible study is also in the works.

All of us are focused on living out the fruit of the Spirit God calls us to. We invite you to consider starting a small group—men, young adults, young moms, or other interest areas. The possibilities are endless, and you will be blessed.

Blessings, Patsy Hoekstra

When asked about "Fruit of the Spirit" small group, one of the attendees said "I love the no judgement feel we have with each other. When I see this group of women my heart instantly warms and a smile crosses my face. I look forward to the projects we have planned as The Fruit of the Spirit."