

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

May 10th, 2024 – Volume 4, Number 10

“Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors.”

In Case You Are Wondering

May 5th, 2024

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$846.67

Building Fund: \$40.48

Local Mission: \$30.00

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,852.00

Building Fund: \$10.00

Missions: \$60.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 24

Martin UMC:

Worship: 67

April 28th, 2024

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,143.25

Building Fund: \$89.87

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$2,096.80

Building Fund: \$60.00

Food Pantry: \$255.00

Missions: \$265.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 29

Martin UMC:

Worship: 47



A Pastoral Letter From Bishop Bard A message of hope from General Conference in Charlotte NC May 4, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ in The United Methodist Church in Michigan,

Many of you have heard about what happened at the postponed 2020 General Conference. Delegates made three historic major changes in the United Methodist Church, referred to by those in attendance as "The Three R's" Regionalization, Revision of The United Methodist Social Principles, and Removal of language that limited the participation of LBGQT+ people in the church and was considered harmful by many. I have outlined key actions taken at the General Conference below.

While there are moments when things move slowly during plenary sessions, the news from the General Conference these past two weeks came in torrents. For many, it might have felt like drinking from a fire hose. There were legislative petitions to track, not to mention the commentary offered by different groups with different perspectives or agendas. I encourage us all to take time to breathe, pray, and digest all that has happened.

As you know, I have long favored widening the table in The United Methodist Church, expanding our tent. Pastors can now officiate at the weddings of parishioners without worrying if those parishioners are in a same-sex relationship, or if they might face ecclesial charges. Persons can respond to the call of God on their lives, and Boards of Ordained Ministry can discern those calls, regardless of the sexual orientation of the person being called.

For those troubled by these developments, I would say we are now genuinely agreeing to disagree without fear of church penalties and punitive processes. Appointments will continue to be made taking account of church and community context. Churches and pastors will make decisions about weddings.

While I will write more about the General Conference next week in my blog, I would like to conclude by sharing my hope that our United Methodist Church will be able to focus more freely on staying centered in the risen Christ and staying grounded in our Scriptures. I hope we will focus on engaging, in Spirit-filled ways, in the mission to which we are called, making disciples of Jesus Christ so that people can experience the healing and freeing grace of God in their lives and so that the world may be made more just, loving, and compassionate.

I look forward to sharing this journey in ministry with you all.

Grace and Peace,

David Alan Bard
Michigan Conference

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

Office Hours:

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



KINGDOM KIDS
Every Sunday following the
Children's Sermon!

The Connection -
Next issue Announcements/Articles/
Testimonies are due
June 4th, 2024.
Email to:
martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com

Next
M & S Connection
will be published on:
June 7th, 2024

Food Pantry Items
May - Canned Goods
June - Spaghetti Sauce

Graduation Sunday

June 2, 2024

We will honor 3 graduates on June 2, 2024 at Martin UMC. Would you like to help us honor them? Please drop off gift cards or gifts in the church office by May 26, 2024.

Thank you for helping to honor them!



Prayer Concerns:

Email martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com
to update or to add!

Updated May 9, 2024

- Molly Mentzer – Cancer
- Jeff Oldebeken – Health
- Those battling active addiction and those in recovery.
- Ernie Sunnerville- Health
- Larry Mattox – Cancer diagnosis and treatment
- Ronda Kelly - pray for healing
- Patti Jarvis – Health/Cancer Diagnosis
- Chip – Recovering from seizures
- Les Lynema – Leukemia
- Randy Yeo – Blood disorder
- Stan Town – bladder cancer
- Linda Reese – cancer diagnosis
- Shaylee Elkins – Cancer diagnosis
- Martin UMC – Children's Church
- Judy Shafer – Health
- Tracey Buskirk – Health
- Greg Cowan – Liver Transplant
- Remy Jane Colburn – Brain Tumor
- Ron Conley – Heart issue
- Jeremy Gilkison – Brain Surgery
- James Cole - Health
- Renata Moneta -Health
- Bruno Moneta - Rehabilitation
- John Fenner – Health
- Outlook Academy Students and Staff
- Whitey Meyers – Under Hospice care
- Terry Thompson – Health
- Karen Baker – Health
- Lindsey Folk – India Mission Trip
- Katherine Blanchard – Health
- Children caught in custody battle
- Parents with mental health issues
- South Monterrey & Hopkins UMC Congregations
- Family of Art Mattox
- Dee Bos – Health
- Sierra Smith – Health
- Pat Thomas – Brain Tumor

A VERY BIG THANK YOU!!
to All who helped with the
CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS SOUP
SUPPER

It was a huge success and we
collected \$794.48, how Awesome!

Important Dates

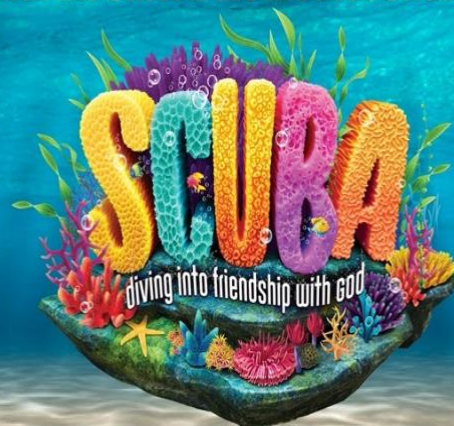
May Food Pantry Items:Canned Goods

- Allegan Co. Food Pantry Collaboration Cereal Drive – Month of May
- May 12th – Special Offering – Peace with Justice
- May 12th – Youth Group Grades 6-12 Martin 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- May 19th – Pentecost Sunday – Wear Red
- May 19 – May 26 – Pastor Maggie Vacation
- May 29 – June 1 – Annual Conference
- June 2, 2024 – Graduation Sunday
- June 5th – SUMC Ad Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- June 8 – Don Darrow Memorial service at Martin 9 – 11:00 a.m. visitation – noon service
- June 12th – United Women in Faith – 10:00 a.m. Shelbyville/Potluck
- June 12th – MUMC Ad Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- June 22nd – Community Breakfast - Martin - 8 am – 10:00 am

SAVE THE DATE!

Chicken BBQ
MUMC
July 20, 2024

Vacation Bible School Martin United Methodist Church



**Save the dates
June 24-28, 2024**

Pastor Maggie will be on vacation from May 19 – May 26, 2024

If you have an emergency during regular office hours, please call the office at 269-672-7097. If you have an emergency outside of office hours, MUMC should call Sharon Buys and SUMC should call Deb Boniface. Sharon and/or Deb will contact the covering pastor. Thank you! (Please note that Pastor Maggie will have very limited

*Sunday School at Martin
UMC will be suspended
from May 26th thru
September 1 –
Sunday school will resume
on September 8, 2024*

**Your Testimony Is Powerful!! Would you be willing to
share your testimony here in our newsletter?**

Acts 4:33 The apostles gave powerful testimonies about the
resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great measures of grace rested
upon them all.

Email martinandshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com to get on
the newsletter testimony schedule!

Attention Martin UMC

*Doors are being left
unlocked. Please make sure
the building is secure after
use!*

Drop Boxes for Cereal Drive can be located near the entrances at Martin & Shelbyville UMC



Ways to Donate:

- alleganfoundation.org
- Scan the QR code
- Text CEREAL to 44-321
- Send a donation to:
ACCF at 112 Locust St,
Allegan, MI 49010

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



Cereal Drive

May 1-31

We can maximize your dollars through bulk purchasing!



Construction on the Roof at Shelbyville UMC is completed! Thank you to all who made this possible!



Important Message from Pastor Maggie

Dear Church Family,
Bishop Bard's pastoral letter following the 2024 General Conference in Charlotte, NC is a message of hope and unity for the United Methodist Church in Michigan. The historic changes made at the conference, known as "The Three R's," signify a positive step forward for the church and its members.

The decision to regionalize, revise the Social Principles, and remove language limiting the participation of LGBTQ+ individuals in the church demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and acceptance. Bishop Bard's support for widening the table and expanding the tent of the church is admirable and reflects a compassionate and open-minded approach to ministry.

In a time when division and discord can often overshadow the true mission of the church, Bishop Bard's call for unity and focus on staying centered in Christ and grounded in Scripture is refreshing. By allowing for respectful disagreement and embracing diversity within the church, the United Methodist Church can better fulfill its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading God's grace and love to all.

As members of the United Methodist Church in Michigan, we have the opportunity to embrace these changes with optimism and enthusiasm. By working together, supporting one another, and staying true to our faith, we can continue to serve our communities and make a positive impact in the world.

Bishop Bard's message of hope and unity is a reminder of the strength and resilience of the United Methodist Church. Let's embrace this journey of ministry with faith and determination, knowing that we are guided by the love and grace of God.
Blessings, Pastor Maggie