

# The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

## Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

September 30, 2022 – Volume 2, Number 20

“Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors.”

In Case You are Wondering:  
September 18, 2022

Offering:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$882  
Local Mission: \$20  
Food Pantry: \$200

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$435  
Special Offering: \$84  
Building Fund: \$20  
Memorial Fund: \$50

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship - 29

**Martin UMC:**

Worship - 13

In Case You are Wondering:  
September 25, 2022

**Shelbyville UMC:**

General Collection: \$1,198.47  
Building Fund: \$40  
Memorial Fund: \$50

**Martin UMC:**

General Collection: \$957

Attendance:

**Shelbyville UMC:**

Worship: 30

**Martin UMC:**

Worship: 37

### Evangelism 101 - Conversation Starters

Turn conversations toward spiritual matters in a way that is natural and doesn't come off as pushy.

People invest time and energy into developing their career, their bodies, and relationships, but often neglect the spiritual dimension of their lives. How do you pursue spiritual development?

1. Do you consider yourself to be a spiritual person?
2. How has this experience affected the way you view God?
3. Do you have a religious or faith background?
4. I'd like to tell you how I established a personal relationship with God. (Tell your personal testimony of how you became a Christian. *Before* – what characterized your life before trusting Christ. *During* – how you came to trust Christ. *After* – how you are different now.)
5. What is your concept of God? Do you view Him positively or negatively?
6. Have you ever come to a point in your life where you believed in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord? Is that something you'd consider for your life?
7. Does faith or spiritual values play a role in your work/day/marriage/perspective on life?
8. If you could be sure there is a God, would you want to know Him personally?
9. Bring a friend to your church then ask: What did you think of it? Did it make sense to you?
10. Have you made the wonderful discovery of knowing God personally?
11. Do you go to church? If not, why? If yes, what do you like about that church?
12. We've been friends for quite some time now, and I've never really talked to you about the most important thing in my life. May I take a few moments and do so?
13. Is church something that has had an influence in your life? Are you at a point now that you want church to be a bigger part of your life? What prompted this? Would you want to hear our basic beliefs so you'll know if that fits with what you're looking for?
14. How do you think someone becomes a Christian?
15. Do you mind if I share the thing I've found most important to me as a dad/mom/employer?
16. What do you think about when you go to sleep at night? (If anxiety or guilt rob them of sleep, introduce the peace found in a relationship with Christ).
17. Most Americans say they believe in God. What does believing in God mean to you?
18. Before I came to know Jesus personally, God was a vague concept that I could not relate to or grasp. How would you describe your view of God? Is He a reality to you or a vague concept?
19. If you were to die tonight, are you sure you'd go to heaven? Has anyone ever explained how you can know for sure?

I found these conversation starters at [www.tcbchurch.org](http://www.tcbchurch.org). I thought they might be helpful. Read through them a couple of times and some of them may really make a difference when you find yourself in the position to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and struggle to start the conversation. Work on your personal testimony...be prepared.

We are called to share the Good News. We are called to evangelism. Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit every step of the way. Only God can open hearts to receive Him.

Blessings,  
Pastor Maggie

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.

Office Hours:

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

### **Important Dates**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Men's Study-The Chosen- Martin 9:00 a.m.  
**October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Women's Book Study – Lineage of Grace, Novella 4 and 5, Martin – 11:00 a.m. - Martin  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** – SPRC (both churches) –Noon – Shelbyville  
**October 5<sup>th</sup>** – Shelbyville Administrative Council meeting – 6:00 p.m.  
**October 6<sup>th</sup>** – The Chosen & Popcorn– 9:00 a.m.– Martin  
**October 8<sup>th</sup>** – Men's Study-The Chosen- Martin 9:00 a.m.  
**October 12<sup>th</sup>** – United Women in Faith – 10:00 a.m. – Shelbyville -Pot Luck Lunch  
**October 12<sup>th</sup>** – Charge Conference - SPRC – 5:30 p.m. via Zoom  
**October 12<sup>th</sup>** – Charge Conference 6:00 p.m. via Zoom  
**October 13<sup>th</sup>** – The Chosen & Popcorn– 9:00 a.m.– Martin  
**October 14<sup>th</sup>** – Office Closed  
**October 15<sup>th</sup>** – Men's Study-The Chosen- Martin 9:00 a.m.  
**October 16<sup>th</sup>** – Bible & Brew – 10<sup>th</sup> Street Saloon – 1:30 p.m.  
**October 31<sup>st</sup>**– Trunk or Treat  
**November 5<sup>th</sup>** – Craft & Vendor Show - Martin  
**November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Maggie's Graduation at Okemos Community Church – 3:00 p.m.

### **Shelbyville UMC Local Mission Fund**

At SUMC we maintain a local mission fund. This fund is used for families in crisis. It may be spent on gas cards for people to get to work or to the doctor, help with rent, a light bill, a gas bill, etc. This fund is spent with the person in need in mind, but it is also spent prayerfully and wisely.

We so appreciate those of you that give to it regularly. At this time the fund has become depleted due to the high needs of people in the recent past.

Are you interested in helping out? You can give to this fund on line or placing in the offering plate with the designation "local mission fund".

### **Women's Fellowship**

Would you like to host Women's Fellowship?

We are in need of hostesses that would like to schedule October, November and December 2022, January, February and March 2023.

***The Connection - next issue announcements/articles/ testimonies are due October 12, 2022. Email to: martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com***

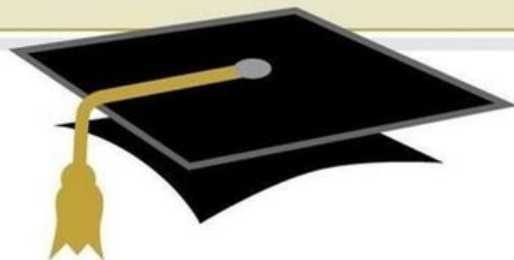
### ***Knit, Crochet & Pray***

*Pastor Maggie would like to start a group that makes prayer shawls and prayer lap blankets. Are you interested in being part of this ministry? Please contact Crystal or Pastor Maggie and let us know. We would like to find out if people are interested in working on them at home or getting together for prayer, fellowship, etc. We are also looking for people that might like to teach others.*

*There has been a large donation of yarn at the Martin church. Please stop in and help yourself!*

### **TRUNK OR TREAT CANDY**

**Donations of candy are needed!  
If you are able, please start bringing bags of candy on Sundays to be used for Trunk or Treat!**



**Please join us at graduation!  
Margaret (Maggie) Stoken  
will be graduating from  
Michigan School for License as a  
Local Pastor**

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Okemos Community Church  
4734 Okemos Rd,  
Okemos, MI 48864**



## Shelbyville UMC On Line Ministry

SUMC is in need of a team of people that would be interested in being part of the online ministry that we would like to launch.

Please let Pastor Maggie know if this is an area that you feel called to serve in this area!

## Food Pantry Month of October

**Canned Goods**  
Canned Fruits and Vegetables

### *Old Halloween Costumes?*

**We would love to have the old Halloween costumes that you have laying around! We plan to hang any costumes that we collect out for food pantry clients to choose from. No kiddo should have to worry if they will have one!**

### Children's Moment

**Pastor Maggie is looking for a few people that would commit to sharing the Children's Moment once a month at Martin and Shelbyville!**

**Please contact Pastor Maggie if you have questions or if you interested!**

## Prayer Concerns:

Email [martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com](mailto:martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com) to update or to add!

Updated: September 30th, 2022

- Tracy Buskirk - Cancer
- Blaine Anderson - Cancer
- Raina Oldebeken - Cancer
- Molly Mentzer - Cancer
- Shirley Vanderploeg - Cancer
- Stacy Knorr - Cancer
- Sandy Meyers - Cancer
- Sue Arnsman - Cancer
- Jeff Oldebeken - Health
- Mary Lou Boyle - Cancer
- On line ministry
- Those battling active addiction and those in recovery
- Dick Boyle - Strength
- Mayson Campbell - Health
- Ann Wells - Health
- Betty Barden - Cancer
- Shirley Buskirk - Health
- Letty Sherry - Health
- Ray (Chip) Brenner - Health
- Fay Risner - Cancer
- Ryan Welcher - Automobile Accident
- The family of Mary Lou Boyle - Mary Lou passed away on September 18, 2022
- Stephen Jones step father Larry - Seizures
- John Kling - brain tumors and heart attack
- Letty Sherry - health, upcoming surgery
- Doris Evink - recovering from a fall
- Joyce Nelson - suffering from RA
- Jeff Shafer - open heart surgery needed
- Judy Shafer - Leg injury
- Family of Linda Mullins - Linda passed away on September 17, 2022
- Kelinda's mother & Gus' mother - both in need of prayer
- The family of Joyce Mead - Joyce passed away on September 12, 2022
- Betty DeMann - Stroke
- Ron Ketchy - health
- Earl Wykstra - stroke
- Pearl Shook - heart issues
- Youth Ministries
- Sherron Mora – Fractures in back – surgery
- Todd Boulter – Health Issues

## Annual Charge Conference

**Martin & Shelbyville SPRC will meet with our District Superintendent on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 via Zoom.**

**Church Leadership will meet with our DS at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

**The link will be available for the Zoom meetings just a couple of days prior to the meeting. We will use the same link for both meetings. If you are in the SPRC meeting do not sign out, as it will not allow you to sign back in.**

**If you are not able to Zoom from your home, contact Pastor Maggie.**



Please join us for the  
**MARTIN UNITED  
 METHODIST CHURCH**  
**TRUNK OR  
 TREAT**

**31**  
 OCTOBER

**5:00-7:00 PM**  
 969 E. Allegan Street  
 Martin, MI. 49070

Food, Fun, Prizes and Games!

RSVP for your spot to Church Office  
 by Oct 25th @ 269.672.7097

**EXTRA! EXTRA!  
 READ ALL ABOUT  
 IT!!!**

Coming soon – Youth  
 Group!!! All middle  
 school and high  
 school age kids will  
 be welcome!

This is very exciting!  
 Please be praying for  
 this ministry as it is  
 launched!

**Membership Classes**  
 If there is an interest, Pastor Maggie  
 will schedule membership classes  
 before the end of the year. Please let  
 the office know if you are interested in  
 seeking membership this year.

*The Power of Prayer*  
 Please take a look at the beautiful card that our  
 sister Molly Mentzer sent to us.

*Dear Church Family, Thank you for your many  
 thoughts, prayers and cards that I have received  
 over the last years of finding out I have cancer. For  
 now I am feeling so much better following my  
 surgery and rehab. I don't know what is ahead but  
 none of us do, only God knows. I miss all of you so  
 much, but my Doctor still does not want me to be in  
 crowds, but maybe someday I will be able to be back  
 in church. Take care and keep on believing, keep the  
 faith and know that I love you and care about all of  
 you very much.*

*God Bless,  
 Love, Molly Mentzer*

**WORLD COMMUNION SPECIAL OFFERING**

On the first Sunday in October, World Communion Sunday encourages those of the Christian faith to experience Holy Communion together. The day also demonstrates unity among various denominations in the church. Holy Communion is also known as Eucharist or the Lord's Supper.

Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities.

Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries.

Thirty-five percent supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry (deacon or elder) and includes a mentoring program.

Fifteen percent funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions in every level of the church and its ministry.

If you choose to participate, please use the envelope that will be provided in the bulletin on October 2. If you give online, please designate your offering as "World Communion Special".

