

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

December 1st, 2023 – Volume 3, Number 24

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

November 26th, 2023

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,297.72

Building Fund: \$40.40

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1385.00

Vanco General: \$199.38

Building Fund: \$50.00

Food Pantry: 1,000.00

Missions: 150.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 30

Martin UMC:

Worship: 28

November 19th, 2023

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$893.47

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$913.00

Vanco General: \$

Building Fund: \$110.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 33

Martin UMC:

Worship: 44

The Connection -
Next issue
Announcements/Articles/
Testimonies are due
December 13th, 2023.

Email to:

martinshelbyvilleumcs@gmail.com

The Reason for the Season

This is your reminder that Christmas is not just about the decorations, gifts, and festivities, but about the birth of Jesus Christ.

The reason for the season is rooted in the belief that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby, born in a humble manger in Bethlehem.

The birth of Jesus represents God's love and grace towards humanity. It is a reminder of God's plan to reconcile us to Himself and to offer us salvation through faith in Jesus. The reason for the season is to remember and celebrate this incredible act of love and redemption.

Christmas is a time for us, as believers, reflect on the significance of Jesus' birth and to rejoice in the hope and peace that He brings. It is a time to focus on the spiritual aspects of the holiday and to deepen our relationship with God.

Commercialization of Christmas often distracts us from the true reason for the season, it is important for us to keep our focus on Jesus and to share the message of His birth with others. It is an opportunity to share the good news of salvation and to demonstrate God's love to those around us.

Bottom line? The reason for the season is to honor and worship Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world to save us from our sins and to offer us eternal life. It is a time to celebrate the greatest gift ever given and to express our gratitude and love for our Savior.

I wish you all a wonderful season of Advent – stay focused on “The reason for the season”.

Blessings, Pastor Maggie

Office Hours:

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

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

Knit, Pray & Crochet

Thursday, December 14th & December 28th
at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for fellowship, and to knit, crochet, & pray. Want to learn? Come and learn how to make a prayer shawl or lap blanket. We are also working on scarfs, hats and mittens for winter.

Food Pantry Items

December- Personal Hygiene Products

Martin Sunday School
Sunday School for all ages immediately following fellowship each Sunday!

Martin & Shelbyville UMC Youth Group

UPCOMING DATES:

November 26, 2023

December 10, 2023

January 7, 2024

6:00 P.M.
AT MARTIN
UMC

Prayer Concerns:

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

Updated December 1st, 2023

- Raina Oldebeken – Cancer
- Molly Mentzer – Cancer
- Jeff Oldebeken – Health
- Online Ministry
- Those battling active addiction and those in recovery.
- Youth Ministries
- Naomi Martin - health
- Sandy VanWormer – Cancer Diagnosis
- Ernie Sunnerville- Health
- Larry Mattox – Cancer diagnosis and treatment
- Ronda Kelly pray for healing
- Children being hurt during custody battle
- Thurlan Meredith – Health
- Doris Hawkey – Heart issues
- Nan Darrow – Mobility issues
- Don Darrow - Cancer
- Dan Lawrence – Cancer treatment
- Willard Campbell – Health
- Kim – Cancer diagnosis
- Don Cleveland – health
- Resolution in Israel
- Patti Jarvis – Health/Cancer Diagnosis
- Jill Jackson – Health
- The family of PeeWee Caswell – PeeWee passed away recently
- Dick Mattox - cancer diagnosis
- The family of Joe Henry – Joe passed away recently
- The family of Marie Farmer – Marie passed away recently
- Kia & Samantha – General prayers
- Rich Hilsbos – Health
- Aimee Mouw – Stress
- Mark Singleton – Health
- Pat Kimmel – Health
- Mary Winebarger – General prayers
- Nancy White – Heart
- Bloomingdale family – House Fire
- Martin family – House Fire
- Dean Rantz – Health
- The family of Asher Johnson - Asher passed away recently
- Kenny Martin – Cancer
- Mike Oetman – General

Important Dates

Food Pantry Items for December
Personal Hygiene Products

- December 3rd – Holy Communion
- December 6th – Shelbyville Ad Council 6:00 p.m.
- December 7th - The Chosen & Popcorn – Martin 9:00 a.m.
- December 7th - Advent Study – Martin 1 p.m. & 6 p.m.
- December 8th – Missions Meeting Martin 11:30 a.m.
- December 10th - Youth Group Grades 6-12 – Martin 6:00 -7:30 p.m.
- December 13th - Women in Faith – Shelbyville 10:00 a.m./Potluck
- December 13th - Charge Conference – 8:00 p.m. – Martin Fellowship Hall
- December 13th – Martin Ad Council 6:00
- December 14th- The Chosen & Popcorn – Martin 9:00 a.m.
- December 14th - Knit, Pray & Crochet – Martin 10:30 a.m.
- December 14th – Advent Study – Martin 1 p.m. & 6 p.m.
- December 16th – Community Breakfast Martin 8:00 a.m.– 10:00 a.m.
- December 17th – Christmas Program – MUMC and SUMC
- December 21st - The Chosen & Popcorn at Martin 9:00 a.m.
- December 21st - Advent Study – Martin 1 p.m. & 6 p.m.
- December 24, 2023 – Christmas Eve
 - 9:30 a.m. Martin Worship
 - 11:00 a.m. Shelbyville Worship
 - 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service at Martin (Feel free to wear your pajamas and take pictures with our tree!)

2023 Charge Conference: Wednesday, December 13, 2023

- **SPRC meets with DS at 7:30 p.m. at Martin**
- **MUMC & SUMC Charge Conference 8:00 p.m. at Martin**



Martin and Shelbyville Missions invites you to participate in the reverse ADVENT CALENDAR! All food benefits the Martin/Shelbyville UMC Food Pantry.

At Aldi's the cost of all items is just under \$40 – If you would like to donate cash you are welcome to, someone will shop for you!

Thank you for your help!

Book Club 2024

January Book: The Shack by William P. Young (meets January 27th, 2024)

February Book: Room of Marvels by James Bryan Smith (meets February 24, 2024)

March Book: The Reason for God by Timothy Keller (meets March 2, 2024)

All are welcome!

Thank you for putting together the luncheon for Rogers dad's service. The food was delicious and your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.
Thank you again,
Roger & Dawn

Winter Wear

The Missions Committee will be collecting gently used coats, boots, gloves, hats, and scarves. You may bring them to the church office or place in fellowship hall in the box labeled "winter attire". We will gather for the month of November and give to those who need them thru the food pantry. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Hoekstra.

Christmas Eve

Join us for our candlelit Christmas Eve service, Sunday, December 24th at 7:00pm.

Wear your Christmas pajamas!

Yes, you can wear your pajamas. Families, please feel free to come before or stay a few minutes after to get pictures of your family in your Christmas pajamas in front of our Christmas Tree!

All are welcome!

(Pajamas are not required, come how you are comfortable! Just join us!)

Winter Weather

The office will be closed if Martin Public Schools is closed for weather.

Church activities/meetings will be cancelled if Martin and/or Wayland Public Schools are closed for weather.

Sunday morning service cancellation will be announced on WMT channel 3 and on our Facebook page.

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MAGGIE

In today's world, it is easy to get caught up in the chaos and division that seems to be prevalent everywhere we turn. Whether it is politics, religion, or personal beliefs, it seems that there is always something or someone trying to divide us. As believers in God, and followers of Jesus Christ, it is important to remember that we are called to be united and to not let the devil interfere with God's work.

The devil, the enemy, is known for his cunning ways and his desire to create discord and division among God's people. He knows that when we are divided, we are weaker and more susceptible to his temptations and lies. It is crucial that we recognize his tactics and actively work to resist him.

One of the ways the devil tries to divide us is through our differences in beliefs and opinions. He knows that we are all unique individuals with our own perspectives and convictions, and he uses this to his advantage. He whispers lies into our ears, telling us that our beliefs are superior to others and that we should not associate with those who think differently. **REMEMBER** - we are called to love one another and to seek unity, even in the midst of our differences.

Another way the devil tries to divide us is through our relationships with others. He knows that when we are isolated and alone, we are more vulnerable to his attacks. He will do whatever he can to create conflict and strife within our families, friendships, and communities. He will plant seeds of doubt and resentment, causing us to turn against one another. **REMEMBER** - as believers, our strength lies in our unity. We have to work to build and maintain healthy relationships, rooted in love and forgiveness.

The devil tries to divide us by distracting us from God's work. He knows that when we are focused on ourselves and our own desires, we are less likely to be actively engaged in God's mission. He will tempt us with worldly pleasures and distractions, causing us to lose sight of our purpose. **REMEMBER** - as believers, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to God's work.

It is crucial that we do not let the devil divide us and interfere with God's work. Pay attention...watch out for him and actively resist his influence. We must seek unity, even in the midst of our differences, and actively work to build and maintain healthy relationships.

God loves us and it is His expectation that we love one another in all things.

Blessings,
Pastor Maggie