



MARTIN AND SHELBYVILLE UMC'S

Joyful Notes

DECEMBER 2019

Open Hearts.
Minds.
Doors.

The United Methodist Church

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR COREY SIMON:

Dear Church,

Often, when driving, I do a halfway decent job of tuning out or ignoring the billboards seen along the road, however, there was one that struck me upon seeing it a few weeks back. Along M-94 Firekeepers Casino has a number of billboards to advertise their various events throughout the year and a week or so ago I noted a sign for their New Years Party. This sign was just slightly different than the usual New Year's signs we see dotted about every year, this party displays itself as a celebration of the **LAST PARTY OF THE DECADE!** As I reflected on it it struck me, strangely enough for the first time that yes, this year marks the end of the decade (at least it is if we play by the numeric rules which would note that we're at the end of the decas) as we move forward into the roaring twenties.

As we know, the year and years ahead could begin to mark significant changes in our local church, in our denomination, in our state and nation, and throughout the world; and while the dividing lines of decades are rather arbitrary, they do aid us in defining and measuring time & change. In the year ahead many things are going to change in my life and I hope to be able to gradually introduce changes in our own church; by this time next year I will be married, I will know whether or not I will be ordained, we will have a clearer idea of where the denomination is going.

I desire neither to fool you nor to overly worry you here, the year ahead is going to be decisive as to where our denomination leads us and how we as a local church respond. The divisions that have been made apparent throughout the years reached something of a new boiling point at General Conference 2019 and General Conference 2020 isn't looking all that promising either. I was requested early on in my tenure here to be a guide in these trying times and to aid in leading us through them. I hope and pray that I will be able to do this for us, and hope and pray for your patience and perseverance in the wake of what will likely be a trying year ahead. Presently I have no answers as to what the denominational or conference-level effects will be but having seen the relationships and love present in these churches has been inspiring and hopeful. I believe that whatever happens in the year or years ahead that we can weather them together, that through God's abiding presence in the Spirit of Christ within us we can move towards greater things yet.

And so sisters and brothers, I invite you as the apostle Paul once did to pray without ceasing, to give thanks in all circumstances, and to work to rejoice always, even in the face of the hardships of life. In faith, hope, love, and joy, in the spirit of Advent (and the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future),
Pastor Corey

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. PO Box 154
Martin, MI 49070
Worship: 9:30a.m

Pastor Corey Simon
231-622-2070
pastorcoreysimon@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesday-Thursday - 8-3
Closed noon to 1pm for lunch
Friday - 8 to noon

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave.
Shelbyville, MI 49344
Worship: 11:00am

Patsy Hoekstra
Administrative Assistant
269-672-7097
martinshelbyvilleumcs@sbcglobal.net

Web site: www.martinumc.org

SHELBYVILLE CHURCH NEWS

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

CANCER: Shirley VanderPloeg Raina Oldebeken Lydia Cole Hope Wassenaar

Tristin Abnet Kenny Warner Daryl Gillaland Shawn Goodrich

MEDICAL ISSUES: Dick Boyle Jeff Oldebeken Bob Weick Mike Pickens

Agnes Chlebana Albert Hoekstra Jr. Jim Bush Terrena Send Virginia Mauchmar Shirley Moore

Norm Constant JR Hildebrand Dale Miller Betty Farmer Mary Winebarger Mary Lou Boyle

Bob Benedict Dina Goodrich Karla Lawrence

CONCERNS: Randy Martin

If you would like a name added or removed from the prayer list, please notify the Church Office.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

1. Administrative Council Meeting

No meeting in December

2. United Methodist Women

Wednesday, December 11, 1pm

No Potluck

The mission of the Shelbyville United Methodist Church is to provide a warm, loving environment in which to worship the Lord, and to educate and reach out to others in our community.

Please send a note to:

Agnes Chlebana

PO Box 106

Shelbyville, MI

49344

MARTIN CHURCH NEWS

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

CANCER: Otis Royston Will Moss Raina Oldebeken Hope Wassenaar

Tom Schoenhoven Dale Holland Sharon DeMann

HEALTH ISSUES: Loyal Boulter Brent Hook Jeff Oldebeken Jim Bush

Ed Buys Albert Hoekstra Jr. Randy Everett Deb Lahaie Sally Jenney

Dan Reniff Larry Truax Eddie Oetman Leanna Rynbrandt Jesse Rasnake Jerry Hill

Mark Ondersma

DEATH: The Don Solomon family

CONCERN: family issues, mass shootings, UM denomination, the Fisher family, Lindsey Folk,

Boulter Family, Merry Ondersma, James Smith, Deb Straub family

Please send a card to:

Dorothy Levett

C/o Diane Kladder

9720 84th St SE

Alto MI 49302

MISSION STATEMENT

We, who are the Martin United Methodist Church, are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, committed to:

***SHARING** God's Love

***TEACHING** the Bible and spiritual life

***INVITING** the community to grow and walk with us in Christian faith

***SERVING** the needs of our neighbors

Sunday School for all ages begins at 11am on Sunday mornings.

Monthly Loose Change
Second Sunday of the month
Offering Designated for
the Project Hope



"Showing God's Love in the community by praying, serving and encouraging people with the **HOPE** of Christ.

Ecclesiastes 3 (NRSV)
3 For everything there is a season...

MARTIN UMC COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Third Saturday every month!
Dec. 21, 7:30am to 10am
Proceeds to Food Pantry

In July of 2009, Don Solomon approached Lue Phelps with an idea of a community breakfast with donations for the food pantry.

Since that time they have happened every month with a grand total of \$17,748.87 benefitting the Martin / Shelbyville UMC Food Pantry.

This will be the last breakfast.

Thank you to Lue Phelps, the Solomons, Alice Kelsey, Royal Boulter, Dave Carter, Ronda Kelly and countless others who have volunteered.

FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

Cereal



DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

We will be updating the church directory in January. If you have had a change in address, email, phone, etc. this year, please include the new information in the attendance registration pa or call the church office.

MARTIN CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Tags have been placed on fellowship hall doors for gifts needed for the 5 families we have adopted.

Items are due by December 15. Please gift wrap or gift bag your gift and place the tag on it.

No time for shopping?
Ronda is accepting money too!

CHRISTMAS PARADE COMMUNITY DINNER

Friday, December 6
4:30-6:45PM

High School Cafeteria
Christmas Parade, 7pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, Dec. 24 @ M
Candlelight-Communion
service

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

DISCUSSION GROUP

Every other Tuesday

Nov 5 & Nov 19

1:30PM

Host by

Carolyn Buskirk

1164 124th Ave.

Shelbyville

CRAFT DAY

1st & 3rd Saturdays

Nov 2 & Nov 16

10am to noon

Shelbyville UMC

All are welcome!

PLAYDAY

Every Wednesday

3:30-5pm

Shelbyville UMC

Peace Drum Circle

3rd Saturday

Nov 16, 5pm

Got a drum?

Bring it!

Need to borrow one?

We have you covered!

Shelbyville UMC

Red Cross Blood Drive

Dec. 10 @ M

Blue Christmas Worship With Those Who Mourn

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas.

Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

Some churches hold a service of worship on the longest night of the year, which falls on or about December 21st, the Winter Solstice. There is an interesting convergence for this day as it is also the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle.

The Martin UMC will host a Blue Christmas Worship Service on Saturday, December 21, at 6pm. We invite all to this meaningful service.

