



MARTIN AND SHELBYVILLE UMC'S

Joyful Notes

SEPTEMBER 2019

Open Hearts.
Minds.
Doors.

The United Methodist Church

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR COREY:

Dear Church,

I don't know about you but the last two months have flown by, so far it has been a smattering of introductions, "stay-cations" (a hip Millennial word for all y'all, these being miniature local vacations as I get to know the area), and in the continuing epic - getting the parsonage in order. Boxes remain packed away as we await the contractors who have been graciously hired to update the place and in the meantime I'm doing what I can to add my own touch amidst the mess; which we might say is a bit like the situation the UMC finds herself in presently as we move forward towards next year's General Conference as we settle in after the events of this past February's special General Conference in St Louis. While we don't know what this will look like either in the denomination at large let alone the local churches, we do know that in some way things aren't going to look the same for much longer. So, with that foreboding bit of news, which I will be sure to keep everyone updated on, let's talk about what we have to look forward to.

First the good news, or at least the update. Through September, I will be going forward in a sermon series preaching on the lectionary texts from Jeremiah. Jeremiah, often called "The Weeping Prophet" writes in the face of the oncoming Babylonian Exile. As he sees it the reason God has allowed the people to be taken into exile is because of their unfaithfulness, the people have abandoned God for idols. Grim stuff. And yet despite the tears and the pain and the threat of the corporate suffering of the people Jeremiah still bears the news of God's promise of faithfulness. Again, as we stare down the face of Christianity's decline in America and the West especially, maybe we can find some uncomfortable parallels in our own world as we face the future. If you'd like to read ahead you can always follow the upcoming lectionary passages: Jeremiah 2:4-13, 18:1-11, 4:11-12 & 22-28, 8:18-9:1, and 32:1-3a & 6-15 (although just reading the whole book is also a valid option).

And so here's for some of the less good news, our finances in Martin. Simply put, they're not great. Since I've arrived we've been in conversations about how to improve our situation and have realized that in part we need to be better at communicating the financial situation of the congregation. While we have currently done everything we can to reduce our spending the simple fact is that we just need more giving. And so in the months ahead I'll be doing what I don't want to do, putting on my proverbial fancy suit and starting a pledge drive to encourage mindfulness in tithing and giving in the future, and so while we struggle presently I pray that the Spirit will work in us for the betterment of our church and our community,

And so, in the words of John Wesley, earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can, as long as you can.
Pastor Corey

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. PO Box 154
Martin, MI 49070
Worship: 9:30a.m
Patsy Hoekstra
Administrative Assistant
269-672-7097

martinshelbyvilleumcs@sbcglobal.net

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

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

Web site: www.martinumc.org

SHELBYVILLE CHURCH NEWS

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

CANCER: Shirley VanderPloeg Raina Oldebeken Lydia Cole Hope Wassenaar
MEDICAL ISSUES: Dick Boyle Jeff Oldebeken John Buskirk Bob Wieck
 Mike Pickens Betty Farmer Marlene Hoekstra Kenny Owens Albert Hoekstra Jr.
 David Olson Jim Bush

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**
September 4, 6PM
- 2. United Methodist Women**
Wednesday, September 11, 10am
Potluck at noon

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 card to:
 Bob Weick
 2115 84th St
 Byron Center, MI
 49315

MARTIN CHURCH NEWS

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

CANCER: Don Solomon Otis Royston Raina Oldebeken Larry Artis Carrie
 Will Moss Alana Boone Cora Hope Wassenaar
HEALTH ISSUES: Loyal Boulter Brent Hook Jeff Oldebeken Jim Bush
 Jalissa Stratton Jesse Rasnake Megan Rose Albert Hoekstra Jr. Henry Tuinstra
 Letty Sherry Bob Benedict Ed Buys Trudy Wells LeAnna Rynbrandt
CONCERN: James Smith, family issues, U M denomination, mass shootings, the Fisher family, political leaders

Please send a birthday card to:
 Donald Solomon
 1718 8th St.
 Martin MI 49070
 "84 on the 4th"

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.

MARTIN UMC COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Third Saturday every month!
 September 21

7:30am to 10am
 Proceeds to Food Pantry



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."

Dear MUMC,
 Thank you so much for everything all of you have done for me. I've loved growing up in this community and I appreciate all of you. Thank you so much for the bible and everything.

-Allison Collins

**Adm. Council mtg.
 September 18, 6:30pm**



SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

Please send cards to:

James Smith-Bird
The Haven of Rest
11 E. Green St.
Battle Creek, MI 49014

Thank you for all the prayers,
cards & notes concerning my
knee surgery. I am doing
very well.
Molly Mentzer

Please send a note of hello
to:

Trudy Wells
2081 Canopy Dr
Byron Center MI 49315

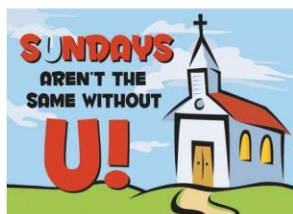
Please make a note in the
church directory of this
change:

Maggie Stoken
mlstoken66@gmail.com

Shelbyville UMC Choir

Practice will begin on Sunday,
September 22nd @ 9:30am

All are welcome to sing!



**BACK
TO
CHURCH
SUNDAY**
Martin UMC
9:30am

WESLEY WOODS CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center is a purpose-driven, year-round ministry site. You'll feel right home in our 300 acres of beautiful grounds and cared for by our staff who live out our mission of "Growing in Faith, and Serving in Strength."

Summer Camp: We welcome you to experience God's love through summer camp for children, teens, families and grandparents. You'll be pumped up through high-energy worship, creative and unique programs, and our beautiful outdoor setting.

Year-Round Retreat Options:

Your group, family or team-building event will love our versatile meeting spaces, delicious food service and accommodating overnight lodging.

Outdoor Fun and adventure:

From our swimming pool with slide to our kayaks, canoes and paddle boards, water-lovers have a grand time! Our go-karts, paint ball and mountain boarding give the high-adventure types lots to do! Fire bowl, chapel and scenic views help every day become more sacred and each guest grow closer to God through Jesus Christ.

1700 Clear Lake

Dowling, MI 49050

Office: 269-721-8291

Eric Hoffman, Camp Director

Summer Camp Registrar:

833-588-2267, option 1

CAMP SPECIAL SUNDAY

Sunday, September 22

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

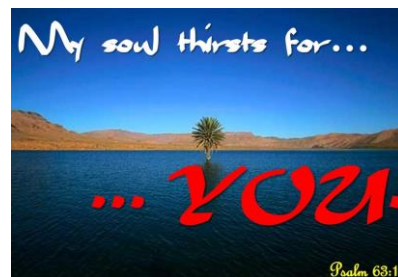
Monday 7:30-9 am
at Clipper Cafe

Wednesday 9 am-noon

Thursday 5:30-7 pm

also available by
appointment.

Pastor will be on
vacation
September 12-14
and
September 20-27.



Thirsty Thursdays
beginning

October 3rd

10am at Shelbyville

7pm at Parsonage

Psalm 63:1 O God, you
are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;

Thank you to all the
wonderful volunteers that
turned out for our Founder's
Day Celebration! The cookies
were great and the water
much needed.
Thank you, Alisha Kershaw &
Martin Resource Center

COMMUNITY GATHERING

Sunday, September 29

12PM

Gather

12:30pm

Potluck lunch

Meet and Greet Pastor Corey Simon

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St.
Martin, MI

