

The Martin & Shelbyville CONNECTION

Newsletter for Martin & Shelbyville UMC

November 1, 2024 – Volume 4, Number 15

**“Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors.”**

In Case You Are Wondering

November 3, 2024

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$2,208.67

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Local Mission: \$30.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$2,625.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 27

Martin UMC:

Worship: 59

November 10, 2024

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$985.21

Food Pantry: \$125.00

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$1,399.00

Food Pantry: \$25.00

Building Fund: \$20.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 40

Martin UMC:

Worship: 56

November 17, 2024

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$672.21

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$883.00

Building: \$

Food Pantry: \$212.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 32

Martin UMC:

Worship: 46

November 24, 2024

Offering:

Shelbyville UMC:

General Collection: \$1,404

Food Pantry: \$200.00

Building: \$40.40

Martin UMC:

General Collection: \$940.00

Special Offering: \$40.00

Attendance:

Shelbyville UMC:

Worship: 42

Martin UMC:

Worship: 47

Things That Pastor Maggie Loses Sleep Over: Looking Ahead to 2025

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we approach the end of 2024, it's a natural time for reflection and anticipation. This month, as we celebrate the blessings of the past year, I also want us to look forward to the possibilities that 2025 holds for our church community. Together, we have accomplished much, but there are important concerns we need to address as we move ahead.

Food Pantry Viability - One of our most cherished missions is our food pantry, which serves those in need within our community. However, we face a pressing question: how long can this vital service continue without a dedicated coordinator? The food pantry not only provides nourishment but also embodies our commitment to loving our neighbor. I urge each of you to pray for guidance and consider if you or someone you know might step into this role. Together, we can ensure that this mission continues to thrive and meet the needs of our community.

Connecting with Our Youth - Our youth are the future of our church, yet we must ask ourselves: how do we connect with them effectively? In a rapidly changing world, their needs and interests evolve. It's essential for us to engage with them in meaningful ways, whether through mentorship, activities, or simply listening to their voices. Let's brainstorm together how we can create a vibrant youth ministry that not only draws them in but also nurtures their faith. We must continue to engage with them as teenagers.

Stewardship and Finances - As we evaluate our financial stewardship, we must consider whether we are giving appropriately to support the work of our church. Are we generous in our giving, not just in financial terms, but with our time and talents? Reflecting on our personal contributions can help us understand how we can further God's mission through our collective efforts. Let's commit to supporting our churches ministries wholeheartedly as we prepare for the new year.

Attendance and Community Engagement - As we reflect on our attendance this year, it's encouraging to see familiar faces as well as new ones joining our congregation. However, we must consider how we can increase our attendance and make our gatherings more inviting. Are we reaching out to those who may be searching for a spiritual home? I encourage each of you to invite friends and family to join us as we worship together. A thriving church is one where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Multimedia and Volunteer Support - In our increasingly digital age, the importance of multimedia in our worship services cannot be overstated. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to participate in the filming of our live services, manage sound, and assist with other technical aspects. If you have skills in videography, sound engineering, or simply a passion for helping in this area, please consider stepping forward. Your involvement can enhance our worship experience and extend our reach to those who are unable to join us in person.

Understanding Evangelism - Evangelism—what does it mean for us today? It's not just a program; it's a lifestyle. Are we immersing ourselves in God's work and sharing His love with those around us? As we enter 2025, I encourage each of us to redefine what evangelism looks like in our lives. It can be as simple as inviting a friend to church or sharing our testimonies in everyday conversations. Let's focus on being active participants in God's mission.

Serving Our Community - Finally, are we actively working in our community? Our church has a rich history of service, but as we look ahead, we must seek new ways to engage with those around us. Whether through outreach programs, partnerships with local organizations, or community events, let's ensure our presence is felt in meaningful and impactful ways. As we close out 2024, I invite you to join me in prayerful consideration of these concerns. Let's come together as a family of believers, united in our mission to serve God and our community. With faith in our hearts and a commitment to action, I believe we can make 2025 a year of growth, connection, and transformation.

Blessings to each of you, Pastor Maggie

Office Hours:

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



KINGDOM KIDS
Every Sunday following the
Children's Sermon!

Youth Pizza with Pastor Maggie
Middle School and High School Students
December 1, 2024
3:00 p.m. BC Pizza - Plainwell

Food Pantry Items

December – Personal Hygiene

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

Martin UMC
Sunday School
For ALL ages!
11:00 a.m.
Please join us!

Martin UMC
Parking Lot Project
COMING SOON!
Start contributing now -
tax season is right
around the corner.



COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST

MARTIN United Methodist Church

December 21st, 2024

8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M.

ALL DONATIONS TO MARTIN/SHELBYVILLE UMC FOOD PANTRY

969 E. ALLEGAN STREET, MARTIN, MI. 49070

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!!

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!



Winter Weather

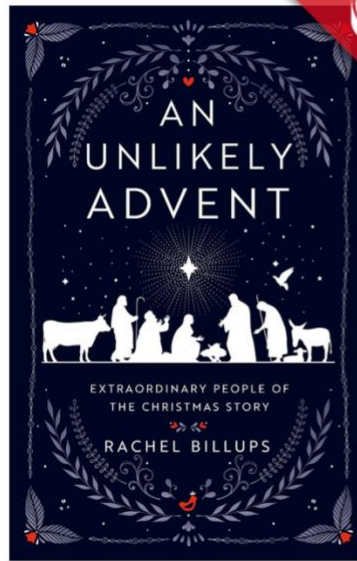
The office will be closed if Martin Public Schools is closed for weather.

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 WWT channel 3 and on our Facebook page.

Important Dates

- December 1, 2024 – 3:00 p.m. Pizza with Pastor Maggie – BC Pizza in Plainwell
- December 4, 2024 – Advent Study at Martin – In person only at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- December 5, 2024 – Knit, Pray, Crochet – 10:30 a.m. MUMC Fellowship Hall
- December 7, 2024 – Martin Holiday Craft Show – Brandon Elementary
- December 13, 2024 – Missions Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- December 18, 2024 – Advent Study at Martin – In person only at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- December 19, 2024 – Knit, Pray, Crochet – 10:30 a.m. MUMC Fellowship Hall
- December 21, 2024 – Community Breakfast – Martin 8:00 a.m – 10:00 Martin
- December 23, 24 & 25 – Office is closed
- December 24, 2024 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m. Martin
- December 31, 2024 – Office closed
- January 1, 2024 – Office closed



ADVENT STUDY

Wednesday's During Advent
Martin UMC Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.
Martin UMC Fellowship Hall & via Zoom
at 7:00 p.m.

Week 1
November 20, 2024
10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Week 2
December 4, 2024
10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Week 3
December 11, 2024
10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Week 4
December 18, 2024
10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



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 WNT channel 3 and on our Facebook page.



Holiday Market Help!

The Martin Missions Committee is in need of help the day before, the day of and donations of craft items and baked goods!

Please sign up on the sign up sheet that is posted!

Please see Sharon Buys with any questions!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING

PRESENTED BY
MARTIN UMC MISSIONS COMMITTEE

PLEASE HELP US FILL 45 STOCKINGS! BOYS AND GIRLS
KINDERGARTEN THRU 5TH GRADE

EXAMPLES: Action figures, dolls, puzzles,
crayons, coloring books, stickers, craft kits,
card games, travel size games, brain teasers,
books, fun toothbrushes, hair accessories,
bath bombs, socks, mittens, nail polish, etc.

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2024

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan Street, Martin, MI
martinshelyvilleumcs@gmail.com
269-672-7097

Thank you for being a blessing!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING

🎄 Spread Holiday Cheer! 🎄

Join the Martin Missions Committee in making the holiday season brighter for children in need! Our Stocking Stuffer Program aims to provide joy and comfort to at-risk children in our community (students at Martin Public Schools.) We invite you to contribute small gifts that can fit into a stocking and bring smiles to their faces.

How can you help? Bring joy with small gifts that are perfect for boys and girls ages 5 - 12.

Together, We Can Make a Difference!

Your contributions will help create a magical holiday experience for children who need it most. Thank you for your generosity!

Please Contact Della Bellgraph if you have questions.

MARTIN UMC

Christmas GIVING TREE

SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER!

CHOOSE A GIFT TAG AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS CHRISTMAS.

PICK A TAG FROM OUR GIVING TREE, PURCHASE SOMETHING THAT THEY WANT, SOMETHING THAT THEY NEED OR SOMETHING TO READ AND BRING IT BACK BY THE RETURN DATE (PLEASE LEAVE UNWRAPPED AND PLACE THE TAG ON THE GIFT.) YOUR KINDNESS WILL BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S HOLIDAY SEASON!

RETURN BY:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

BE AN ANGEL, SHOW YOU CARE
GIVE A GIFT, SPREAD LOVE EVERYWHERE!

MARTIN UMC 269-672-7097

The Martin United Methodist Church Christmas Giving Tree Program is seeking generous donations to help brighten the holiday season for those in need. Participants can contribute by filling gift tags for the recipients:

- **Something They Want:** A special gift that brings joy, such as toys, games, or electronics.
- **Something They Need:** Essential items like clothing, hygiene products, or school supplies that support daily living.
- **Something to Read:** Books for all ages to encourage literacy and provide enjoyment during the holidays.

Families will receive 3 gifts for each family member as well as all the makings for a Christmas dinner.

Your support helps create a meaningful and memorable Christmas for families in the community. Thank you for your generosity! Please Contact Crystal McWilliams or Della Bellgraph if you have questions.

Let's Talk About Body Language

In our daily interactions, we often communicate more through our body language than our words. Understanding these non-verbal cues can enhance our connections with one another, helping us to foster a more loving and supportive community.

What is Body Language?

Body language encompasses a range of physical behaviors, including gestures, posture, facial expressions, and eye movements. These signals can convey feelings and attitudes that words might not fully express. For example, a warm smile can convey friendliness, while crossed arms might suggest defensiveness or discomfort.

The Power of Eye Contact

One of the most significant elements of body language is eye contact. It can express interest, attention, and sincerity. However, the absence of eye contact may indicate disinterest or discomfort. In contrast, an eye roll—a common reaction in various situations—often communicates annoyance, disbelief, or frustration. While it may seem like a lighthearted gesture, it can signal underlying tension and hurt the feelings of others.

The Meaning Behind Sighs

Sighing is another form of non-verbal communication that can convey a multitude of emotions. A sigh can express relief, frustration, or even sadness. In a church setting, a sigh might arise during a discussion about a challenging topic, indicating the weight of the conversation. Recognizing these sighs can remind us to approach one another with compassion and understanding.

Examples of Negative Body Language

1. **Crossed Arms:** This gesture often signals defensiveness or closed-off attitudes. It can make the person appear unapproachable.
2. **Frowning or Scowling:** Negative facial expressions can convey displeasure, frustration, or disapproval, impacting the mood of a conversation.
3. **Tapping Fingers or Feet:** Restlessness can indicate impatience or anxiety, suggesting that the person is not fully present in the moment.
4. **Turning Away:** Physically turning one's body away from someone can signal a desire to disengage or a lack of interest in the interaction.
5. **Fidgeting:** Constantly adjusting clothing or playing with objects can indicate nervousness or discomfort, which may distract from the conversation.
6. **Closed Hands or Fists:** Clenching hands can signify anger or frustration, while open hands are typically seen as more welcoming and approachable.

Being aware of these negative body language cues can help us adjust our own behaviors and better interpret the feelings of others, leading to more meaningful and constructive interactions.

Fostering Community Through Awareness

Being mindful of body language can significantly enhance our relationships. As we gather for worship and fellowship, let's pay attention to the unspoken messages around us. A kind word paired with open body language—such as uncrossed arms and a relaxed posture—can create an inviting atmosphere.

Let's strive to communicate not only with our words but also with our actions and expressions. By being aware of our own body language and interpreting the cues of others, we can nurture a church community that is truly welcoming and supportive.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Maggie



O Holy Night

Join
The Martin & Shelbyville United
Methodist Churches for
Christmas Eve
969 E. Allegan Street,
Martin, MI 49070

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday,
December 24 at 7 o'clock in
the evening

Christmas pajamas are not just welcomed, but encouraged! Take a picture in front of our beautiful tree!

Call the church office at 269-672-7097 with any questions.

Martin & Shelbyville UMC Food Pantry is searching for a Food Pantry Coordinator

Please reach out to Pastor Maggie to discuss

Food Pantry Coordinator Volunteer Job Description:

Summary:

The Food Pantry Coordinator Volunteer is responsible for overseeing the operations and activities of the food pantry program. This individual will work closely with volunteers, church staff, and community members to ensure the effective and efficient distribution of food to those in need. Food Pantry Coordinator is a member of the Martin UMC Mission Committee.

Key Responsibilities:

- Coordinate and schedule volunteers to assist with food pantry operations, including stocking shelves, food pick up, sorting donations, and distributing food to clients.
- Oversee accurate record keeping of food inventory, donations, and client information.
 - Oversee that food pantry operations comply with health and safety regulations and guidelines.
- Complete weekly orders from partners for food stocking
- Communicate with community partners, donors, and volunteers to coordinate food drives, donations, and fundraising efforts.
- Collaborate with Missions Committee, staff and volunteers to plan and execute special events, such as holiday food drives or community outreach initiatives.
- Stay informed about food insecurity and hunger-related issues in the community and make recommendations for program improvements.
- Attend regular meetings with staff and volunteers to provide updates on food pantry activities, challenges, and successes.
- Uphold the values and mission of the organization while representing the food pantry program in a positive and professional manner.

Qualifications:

- Must have a strong desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ
- Must love people, all people
- Strong organizational and communication skills
- Must be willing to delegate
- Ability to work effectively with diverse populations
- Knowledge of food pantry operations and procedures (training provided)
- Commitment to serving others with compassion and respect
- Safe Serve Certification Required (will train and schedule the right person for this certification)

Why So Many Projects at Christmas?

As the holiday season approaches, many Methodists and Christians embrace the spirit of giving and service. This time of year, marked by celebrations of love and joy, also calls us to reflect on the needs of our neighbors and the broader community. The commitment to serve others during the holidays is deeply rooted in our faith and traditions.

A Call to Serve - In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches us about the importance of serving others: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in” (Matthew 25:35). This passage reminds us that serving those in need is not just an act of kindness; it is a fundamental expression of our faith.

Methodists, in particular, are guided by the principles of social justice and compassion. The teachings of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, emphasize the importance of practical faith—faith that is lived out through acts of service and love for others. Wesley famously stated, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” This philosophy inspires many to take action, especially during the holiday season.

The Joy of Giving - The holidays can often be a time of excess and consumerism, but for Christians, it is an opportunity to refocus on what truly matters: love, compassion, and community. By engaging in service, we not only help those in need but also enrich our own lives. The act of giving fosters a sense of connection and fulfillment, reminding us of the blessings we have received. In Acts 20:35, we are reminded: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” This message encourages us to look beyond our own needs and desires, nurturing a spirit of generosity that reflects Christ’s love.

Community Impact - Whether through food drives, toy collections, or volunteer work, our efforts during the holidays have a profound impact on our communities. Programs like the Christmas Giving Tree exemplify this commitment, providing gifts and essential items to those who may otherwise go without. Each act of service is a tangible expression of hope and love, illuminating the lives of individuals and families during a season that can be challenging for many.

As we enter this holiday season, let us carry the spirit of giving in our hearts. Let us remember the words of Galatians 6:2: “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” By serving others, we not only honor our faith but also embody the true meaning of the holidays—bringing light, love, and hope to those around us.

May our efforts inspire others to join in this mission of service, creating a ripple effect of compassion that extends beyond the holiday season. Together, let’s make this a season of giving that reflects the heart of Christ in all we do!

Blessings. Pastor Maggie