

March 2016 Newsletter

MUMMC

Marion United Methodist Church

*"A Church on Fire for Jesus Christ, Setting the World on Fire for Jesus Christ" by
"Being Disciples Making Disciples"*

Mark Your Calendar

- Mar. 3-5 Created by God presented by Dr. Shelley Griffiee
- Mar 6 Movie Night in Family Life Center at 6:00 p.m.
- Mar 4-6 Youth to Hot Springs for Veritas
- Mar 13 Commission of Officers
Daylight Savings Time
- Mar 20 Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt & Pizza in Family Life Center
- Mar 21 Spring Break
-25 (PDO and Preschool Closed)
- Mar 24 Maundy Thursday—RSVP Only
Seder Service in Family Life Center—6:00 p.m.
- Mar 25 Good Friday Service 6:00 p.m.
Church Office will be closed
- Mar 27 Easter Sunday
- Apr. 3 Confirmation Class Service
- Apr 16 Youth to Mud Island—
Steven Curtis Chapman Concert

EVERY WEEK

Sunday

9:45 / Sunday School
10:45 / Sunday Service

Monday

5:00-6:00 pm / Ageless Yoga
Yoga Room

6:00-8:00 pm / Scouts
Youth Bldg.

Tuesday

4:45-6:15 pm / Mixed Yoga
Yoga Room

Wednesday

12:00-1:00 pm / Marion Rotary
Youth Bldg.

5:00-6:00 pm / Tai Chi-FLC

6:30-7:30 pm / Adult Choir
Choir Room

Thursday

8:30-10:00 am / Mixed Yoga
Yoga Room

6:30-7:30 pm / Scouts
Youth Building

6:30 pm / Bible Study Fellowship
Sanctuary

For more Information about weekly events contact:

Choir-Blake Owen
Scouts-Marie Chrisman
WWF- Debbie Scola
Yoga/Tai Chi-Shelley Griffiee

Please call the office for contact numbers.
or the church office 870-739-3434.

Thoughts from Bro. Robert:

There is a theory that says all preachers have one main point that shows up every time they preach. Recently, I was talking to a pastor friend of mine about this theory. He asked what his main point always was and I was able to answer him easily. Then he told me that my main point was, “we’re doing pretty good, but let’s try to do even better.” He was right. God calls us not just to be at our best, but to be like Jesus. That’s a high bar that has been set. However, there is such reward in the pursuit of trying to be like Christ. This reward is joy.

The more we try to be like Christ and the more we are shaped into the image of Christ the more joy we have. I’ve often bluntly said a Christian might be depressed, they might be going through a hard time, but if they are a Christian there will be a joy in the midst of the chaos. By no means is this joy a sense of euphoria all of the time, nor does it mean life is perfect, but having the joy of Christ means that we are always connected into true hope.

Let’s chase after joy. At this point in my ministry at Marion UMC I’m seeing three main areas we need to press on for more joy.

1. We need to continue to work to live into our vision statement: “A Church on Fire for Jesus Christ Setting the World on Fire for Jesus Christ.” Let us be zealous in this time because now more than ever we are being called to witness to the world and to other Christians that the only way to live is to live all in for Jesus.
2. Let’s work on marriage. There is not a time in any married person’s life when they should not be working on their marriage. This is an area of ministry I’ve grown incredibly passionate about. When a man and woman come together in marriage they are showing the world the relationship between Christ and His Church. That means we need to be doing everything that we can in order to show more love and have stronger marriages.


We are the light of the world. Marriage is not all about us. Marriage is primarily about Jesus Christ. So we owe it to Jesus to work and work on our marriages. How will we do that? We’re going to start down the path of intentional marriage ministry. To start we want to offer a date night where the Youth and a few adults provide childcare so that couples can go out and actually date. If you haven’t heard it before, let me say it, if you’re married you need to date each other.

The second event we have for married couples is a marriage conference this summer. A guest speaker that has been leading marriage conferences and retreats for the past decade is coming to our church. Keep in mind, this marriage conference is not for marriages that need deep counsel and repair. This marriage conference is about getting the most out of marriage and honoring God as men and women in the covenant of marriage. In other words, no matter how long or how short a time you have been married be at this event; it will be wonderful.

3. Let’s press for joy in our giving. We have so much in this country. And we don’t have to live our lives keeping up with other people and chasing after the latest, greatest products. We need to remind ourselves regularly that we have enough and that we need to invest our treasure in bringing people to Christ and changing lives. Please continue in your generosity and see where you can increase your giving. You will continue to see regular financial updates in newsletters and bulletins so that you are informed about the state of giving.

I pray that during this Lenten season you are chasing after Christ. I pray that you are growing to be more like Christ. And I pray that we will all celebrate His resurrection together on Easter.

Blessings,
Robert



Matthew 6:18

“That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.”



March 20—Palm Sunday—10:45 a.m.

March 24—Maundy Thursday Seder Service—6:00 p.m.—RSVP Please

March 25—Good Friday Scriptural Stations of the Cross—6:00 p.m.

March 27—Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Crittenden Memorial Park

Easter Sunday Service—10:45 a.m.

FORTY DAYS OF LENT



The number 40 shows up often in the Bible. When God destroyed the earth with water, He caused it to rain 40 days and 40 nights (Genesis 7:12). After Moses killed the Egyptian, he fled to Midian, where he spent 40 years in the desert tending flocks (Acts 7:30). Moses interceded on Israel's behalf for 40 days and 40 nights (Deuteronomy 9:18, 25). The Israelites wandered for 40 years (Deuteronomy 8:2-5). Goliath taunted Saul's army for 40 days before David arrived to slay him (1 Samuel 17:16). Jesus was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights (Matthew 4:2). There were 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension (Acts 1:3).



MOVIE NIGHT

The Friends and Fellowship Sunday School Class will host a movie night featuring *The War*

Room on Sunday, March 6th at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Child care and snacks will be provided. Please contact Kristi Doyle at kristid@lpinsurance.com to RSVP.

VISITORS' COFFEE

Bro. Robert will host a "Visitors' Coffee" on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Matt Sample Youth building. All visitors are welcome!



CHURCH OFFICERS

Church officers will be commissioned on March 13th during the worship service. If you are currently serving on a church committee or it is your first year to do so, please attend this worship service to be formally commissioned and installed.

Monthly News

The deadline for our monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month. Please email your information to cjames@marion-umc.com or drop your info off in the church office during regular office hours.

Monday —Thursday
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday
8:30 a.m.— noon

Thanks!

FLOWER OPENINGS

March 13
and
April 24



If you would like to place flowers in celebration of someone, as an honorarium or a memorial, please call the church office

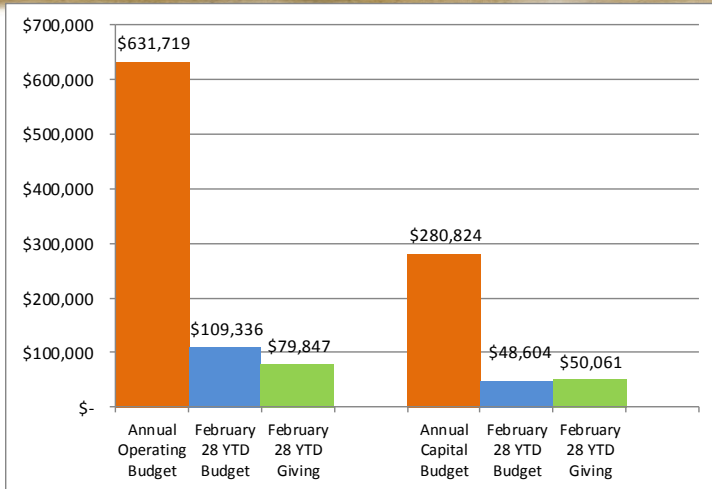
If you know of a member who is in the hospital or in rehab,



please call the church office with that information.

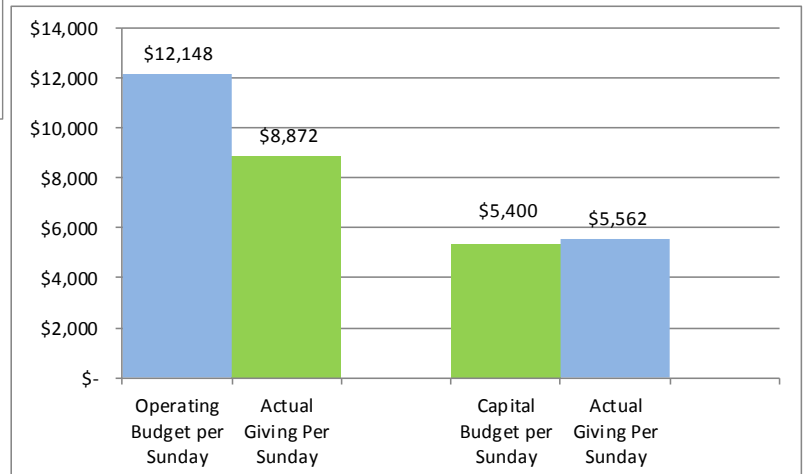
Thank You!

2016 Finance Funds Report



Annual Operating Budget	\$631,719	
February 28 YTD Budget	\$109,336	
February 28 YTD Giving	\$ 79,847	73%
Operating Budget per Sunday	\$ 12,148	
Actual Giving Per Sunday	\$ 8,872	

Annual Capital Budget	\$280,824	
February 28 YTD Budget	\$ 48,604	
February 28 YTD Giving	\$ 50,061	103%
Capital Budget per Sunday	\$ 5,400	
Actual Giving Per Sunday	\$ 5,562	



Trustees Report

A new pump was installed in the area between the education building and the gym. The old pump was no longer able to handle the volume of water in the area during hard rains.

The heating system controlling the sanctuary and surrounding area incurred difficulty heating as a result of two units shutting down. One unit was an easy repair; however, the second unit has been shut down for an extended period while further maintenance is needed.

We are happy to report that three of the four leaks in the kitchen area have been fully repaired. After the rain on February 23, it was evident that we had one area needing additional work in the kitchen above the prep table.

We have removed an additional portion of sheetrock in the gym area to continue elimination of the existing water leak. Also, work has been completed to the window located in the area as a precaution. The hard rain on February 23 caused an additional issue with water holding in the area outside the gym. This will also need to be addressed before we can approve moving forward with installation of the flooring. Please bear with us on this project.

We are happy to report that the projector system in the Family Life Center was put to use for a meeting on February 22nd and will again be used for the Created By God study series in March. Please keep this area in mind for future events where audio and visual needs are required.

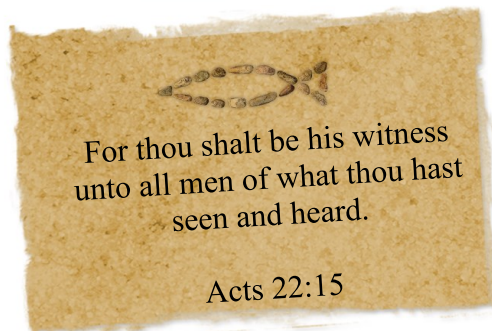
We have installed all seven louvers on the Family Life Center. The old louvers were rotten and allowing water to enter the building. We hope that this will eliminate any further leaks in that building.

We are working with Entergy to replace the parking lot lighting with LED lighting. This is a great opportunity for the church to not only lower utilities but we will also receive incentive funds for the project.

We are getting ready for work in the children's area over spring break. Carpet in the children's hallway will be removed and replaced with VCT flooring. Also, the nursery will be painted before placement of three murals. Other areas to be addressed during spring break will be repairs to flooring tiles in the sanctuary, and filling in holes in the youth building flooring.

PRECHOOL

The preschool was very busy during the month of February. Along with their daily class work, the children spent time finding way to spread God's love. Each child made a handprint Valentine and mailed it to someone special to them. The children also shared God's word with someone they didn't know. Each child had a scripture heart they passed out to someone they didn't know and told them "God loves you". The hearts were given to waitresses, people working at fast food drive through windows and customers in restaurants. What an awesome witness.



Below: Preschool graduate, Sam Gibbs, came to read to the preschool classes during February.

Right: The three year old preschool class celebrated the letter P with a prince and princess day.



Above: One recipient of the children's work.



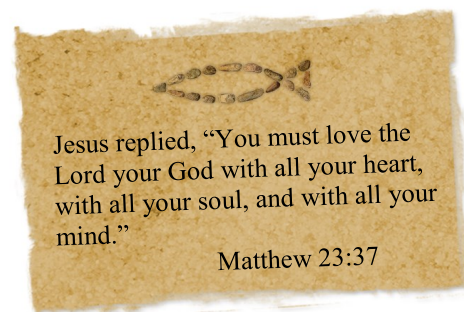
PDO

PDO (Parents' Day Out) REGISTRATION: 2016-2017 School Year

PDO Registration will be held Wednesday, March 16th from 11:00 a.m until noon.
Children must be at least one year in age or walking.
PDO will enlist students in the following order:

1. Members of MUMC & returning PDO students
2. Siblings of those who have attended MUMC PDO and/or Preschool;
3. All Others

There is a \$75.00 registration fee and completed information pack are to be submitted at time of registration.



Below: The children made hands and hearts as they leaned about the color pink.



The children learned about hearts during the month of February and God's love for us. Above is an example of brotherly love, it is the best!!

The children took advantage of playing inside during the cold season. They can't wait until spring and enjoy playing outside on the playground.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WWF

The children observed Ash Wednesday by creating prayer hands. The prayer hands are used to help establish a routine of prayer. The hands taught the children:



The closest finger to you is the thumb. Since it is the closest to you, the thumb reminds you to pray for those that are closest to you. Pray for your parents and your brothers or sisters. The next finger is called your index finger. It is used for pointing. Let this finger remind you to pray for those that point you in the right direction. Pray for your teachers at school, your Sunday School teacher, and your pastor. The next finger is the tallest finger. This finger reminds us to pray for our leaders. Pray for the president and other leaders in our government and those who are leaders in our town. The fourth finger is the called the ring finger. Did you know that this is the weakest of all fingers? Let this finger remind you to pray for those who are sick. The next finger is the smallest finger. The Bible says, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought." Let the little finger remind you to pray for yourself. The next time you are



talking to God, and you can't think of anything to say, let the "Five Finger Prayer" help you.



WWF 4th—6th

The Marion United Methodist Church "Worship with Friends" 4-6th graders kicked off the season of Lent by establishing a community prayer box. Lent is a time of prayer for the 40 days prior to Easter. The kids would like to extend an invitation to those in the community who are in need of prayer. Those in the community that have a prayer request or concern can fill out a request form. Prayer forms are available and attached to the prayer box. Requests can be submitted anonymously or individuals can include their name and telephone number. The prayer requests are submitted in a locked box and will be collected weekly. Those requesting prayers will be lifted up weekly. Confidentiality will be maintained. The box will be located in the Marion United Methodist Church yard on Currie Street.



MUMC Annual Easter Egg Hunt MARCH 20th in the FLC



Please join us for pizza and our annual Easter Egg Hunt following Sunday Service on March 20th in the Family Life Center. Ages: walking babies to 11 years old.

Children's Church Volunteers

Please let Debbie Scola know if you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday. Thanks to our new volunteers!

- Mar 6** No Children's Church on Communion Sunday
- Mar 13** Erin and Jason McKewen
2 adults from the Grace & Peace Sunday School
- Mar 20** Jay and Tammy Hale
2 adults from the Seekers and Servers Sunday School
- Mar. 27** No Children's Church

Confirmation Class 2016

The confirmation class kicked off on Sunday, January 3rd with an introduction parent, mentor meeting. Confirmation class continues every Sunday except for March 27th, Easter Sunday and will conclude with the confirmation ceremony on Sunday, April 3rd. Confirmation class covers a variety of topics to help the confirmands on their journey as young United Methodists. They will join the church and make their profession of faith in Jesus Christ.



Left to Right: James Adland, Claire Wallace, Laura Johnston, Harris Hale, Rainey Wallace, Glenys Moore, Sydney Collard, Elliot Allen, Max Chrisman, Luke Kennedy, Ben Gerrard, Dawson Whittington, Preston Banks, Taylor McNeely, Baron Scifres, Donovan Doyle and (not pictured) Anna Caroline Fesmire.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

Children's Ministry at MUMC continues to grow and with the growth an increasing demand for volunteers to keep things running smoothly. There are ongoing weekly needs such as Sunday School, Children's Sermon and Children's Church. With the additional KidCheck system, we have had to add help to monitor the check-in and check-out process and facilitate questions that may arise. The Wednesday after school program (WWF) has grown to 32 children. Special events require



volunteers in order to provide these activities to our church family and the community as well. Those events include: Palm Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt, Confirmation, VBS, summer camps, promotion Sunday Blessing of the backpacks, fall carnival, hanging of the greens and visit from Santa. There are also "on demand" events such as Created by God curriculum. We are extremely lucky to have the number of volunteers helping with all of our programs. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and may you continue to be blessed by serving God and your church with your gifts. Pictured above: Volunteers enjoyed lunch following Sunday Service on February 21st in the Family Life Center.

Debbie Scola, Children's Ministry Director



Kid Check

Kid Check was first recommended by our Children's advisory board and implemented as a security system for children's department on January 31st. It has been challenging at times as we work through the trials of a new process in our children's department. It has evolved as a much more beneficial tool than just the advertised benefits below. We have already experienced having a visitor from another state whose information was already in the KidCheck program from another church and was easily able to check in with this system.



Advertised Benefits

- Easily create and update a list who can (and cannot) pick up your children
- Upload photos of children and guardians for added security
- Provide medical and allergy information and alerts

Additional Benefits Observed since implementation

- Provides name tags for our children (Helps our volunteers that don't know all the children)
- Provides name tags for our volunteers (Helps families identify our many volunteers by name)
- Easily identifies visitors (Helps them feel a part of our church family which can be scary for a first time visitor with children)
- Provides contact information on all our families of children for follow up or outreach the church may want to initiate for special events

Challenges

- Providing a stream line process :
 - Added 2 stations: 1) check in
2) new registrations or updates
 - Create lanyards for 4th, 5th and 6th graders eliminating parent check in for this age group
 - Create name badges for all volunteers eliminating check in requirements

We are working to train everyone supporting our children to embrace the new process and help in implementing a seamless solution at MUMC. Thanks everyone for your patience as we implement this system for our children.

Please pray for Children's ministry.

THANK YOU!!!

I want to thank MUMC children's ministry for implementing the kid check program. Having a child with food allergies causing great concern when leaving your child in someone's care, but with this program, I am relieved to know that his allergies are clearly printed on a label and placed on his back for his safety. This process should eliminate the possibility of an allergic reaction and a possible trip to the emergency room.
Thank You!!

Emilee Leerskov

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 Carter Benton | 13 Steven Crook
Jake Hale
Robert Lugar | 22 Jack Carter
Freddie Williams |
| 2 Wayne Tabor
Brooklyn Arceneaux
Liz Laughter
Van McNeely | 14 Cassie Morris
Robyn Phillips | 23 Shea Hart
Alexandria Inman
Freddie Williams |
| 3 Denise Letner
Franklin Fogleman | 15 Laura Entrekin
Dianna Hanks | 24 Lindsey Gill |
| 6 Wesley Betts
Char Griffee
Carol Acuff | 17 Joanne Arceneaux | 26 Tracye Carter
Hudson McKewen |
| 7 Meredith Gill
Dennis Pirani | 19 Rex Rogers | 27 Jeffrey Schwartz |
| 9 John Scola
Laura Carpenter | 20 George Kennedy | 28 Sydney Collard |
| 12 Pam Young | 21 Caroline Rose Catt
Robert Melton
Elizabeth Wallace | 29 Neena Pirani |
| | 30 Tess Hall | 31 Kristi Boon
William Hartley |

March Ushers

Vance Bacon
Rich Busby
Joe Catt
Cliff LaFitte
John Traugh
Bart Turner

March Greeters

Sheryl Tabor

Genesis Sunday School Class

MUMC
81 Military Road
Marion, AR 72301
870.739.3434

Gary Mueller
Bishop

Mark Norman
District Superintendent

Robert Cloninger
Pastor

Cyndi James
Church Administrator

Sheila Henderson
Administrative Assistant

Blake Owen
Director Traditional
Music Ministry

Tim Parker
Director of Youth
Ministry

Gary Wehrum
Director of Recreation

Debbie Scola
Director of
Children's Ministry

Pamela Scarbrough
Parents' Day Out
Director/Teacher

Kristie Stotts
Parents' Day Out
Director/Teacher

Teresa Gardner
Preschool Director/
Teacher

Elizabeth Williams
Preschool Teacher

Marcia Sutton
Pianist

Debbie Wallace
Organist

LaKeshia Lee
Custodian

Sam Watts
Custodian

**Don't Forget
To Spring
Forward
March 13th!**

