

# April 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”*

I have a confession. I'm messy. I've apparently been given a special talent that allows me to make bigger messes than other people. If I pick up my desk and have everything organized perfectly, then by lunch time papers will be scattered, books opened, and file folders stacked. Honestly, I can't quite figure out how I do it. Don't get me wrong, they're not gross, moldy messes, but they are messes nonetheless. The odd thing is that though I'm messy I have this strange obsession with owning less. For some reason I keep entertaining the idea that I should be a minimalist. My rationale is that if I owned less stuff then I would have less stuff to make a mess with. Perfectly logical, right? I still haven't taken any steps towards minimalism and with a new baby at home I've hung the minimalist dream up.

Mess and clutter makes me think about our Christian walk. If you think about it, we're going to be walking in the footsteps of Jesus for our entire lives. So with all that walking how much can we honestly carry along for the journey? How much strength do you have to go the extra mile Jesus calls us too, and how much of that strength can be wasted on baggage? Matthew 10:9-10 says "Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food." That's a shocking statement by Jesus. Can you imagine getting rid of all that you owned and living so simply you could carry out the work of Jesus at a moment's notice.

Don't get me wrong, I don't think it's just physical clutter that gets in the way and makes the path of Christ hard to walk. If you got rid of all that you owned and made up your mind to follow Jesus, then how far would any internal clutter you might have allow you to go? How much trust in Jesus do you have for the journey, or is your clutter doubt? How far would your attitude or outlook on life let you go? I've really been exploring these questions and I've realized that the hindrances to walking the Christian walk are more internal than external. Think about how often we get our priorities mixed up. We end up managing the blessings that God gives us with attitudes and focuses that are unrelated to God. I wasn't a star baseball player, but I remember that if you take your eye off the ball when you're up to bat then you're either going to get hit with the ball or not hit it.

In this 50 days of Easter, take some time and look at what you could get rid of baggage wise that would make your journey with Christ easier. Maybe you'll find nothing, but my guess is we will all find at least one thing. Take a look at attitudes, grudges, and how you live with your family and figure out how to travel lightly and keep focused on Jesus.

Blessings,  
Bro. Robert

### Exodus 15:2

**“The Lord is my strength and my  
defense; he has become my salvation.  
He is my God, and I will praise him, my  
father's God, and I will exalt him.”**



## Sunrise Service and Easter Morning

Easter morning sunrise service was held at 7:00 a.m. at Crittenden Memorial Park. There were over sixty people attending the service where Bro. Robert read from Luke 24:1-12. Tim Parker played the guitar providing music to “Amazing Love”, “Jesus Messiah”, and “Because He Lives” as everyone sang along. As everyone listened to the message, a cross appeared in the sky. After the early service, approximately 65 individuals attended the pancake breakfast prepared by Joe Catt and his team. The 10:45 a.m. service was overflowing with worshipers reaching a total of 525. What a blessing to reach so many on such a glorious day.



## SEDER DINNER

On Maundy Thursday a Seder dinner was held in the Family Life Center. Seder, a Jewish ritual service and ceremonial dinner held on the first evening of the Passover, includes the reading of the Haggadah and the eating of symbolic foods. Straley and Blake Owen and their son, Miller, acted as the host family for the dinner. Each table was set with silver dishes and flatware. The center Seder plate held the symbolic foods which included Beitzah (a roasted egg), Karpas (parsley), Charoset (chopped apples and nuts), Maror (horseradish), Matzah (unleavened bread) and salt water. After the candle lighting blessing, Brother Robert led the 75 guests through the meal and recited various blessings.



## Just in Time for Easter

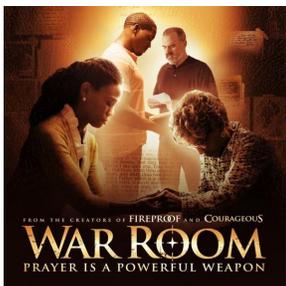
The Crossroads Sunday School Class planted these gorgeous tulips in late fall. They bloomed just in time for everyone to enjoy Easter morning. Thanks Crossroads!!!

*Thank You*



## MOVIE NIGHT

The Friends and Fellowship Sunday School Classroom hosted a movie night Sunday, March 6th. There were approximately 25 individuals in attendance to view *War Room* in the Family Life Center. The movie was shown on the large projector screen recently added to the Family Life Center (pictured on right). The attendees enjoyed drinks and popcorn.



## In Memory of Joel Prentice (“J.P.”) Cockrill

John and Char Griffiee

E. Jane McNeely

Anne Hurst

Billy and Vesta McNeely

Rowena Stuckey

Sanders “Sully” Carter

Frank and Gail Fogleman

Robert and Diana Lugar

James and Dorothy Sample

Bart and Donna Turner

Virginia P. Boswell

Frances Young Harrison

Veterans of Foreign Wars

J. Herbert and Verna Jean Carter

Blann and Diane Britton

John D. Carter

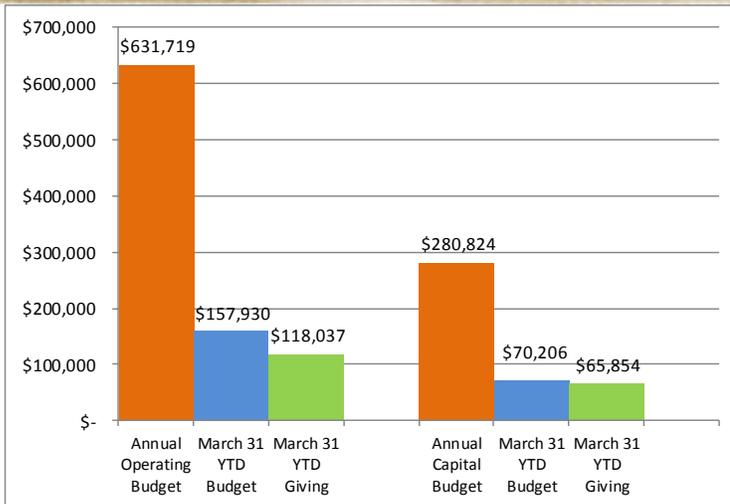
Bro. Wayne and Doris Clark

Leven and Mary Williams

Judge John and Nancy Fogleman

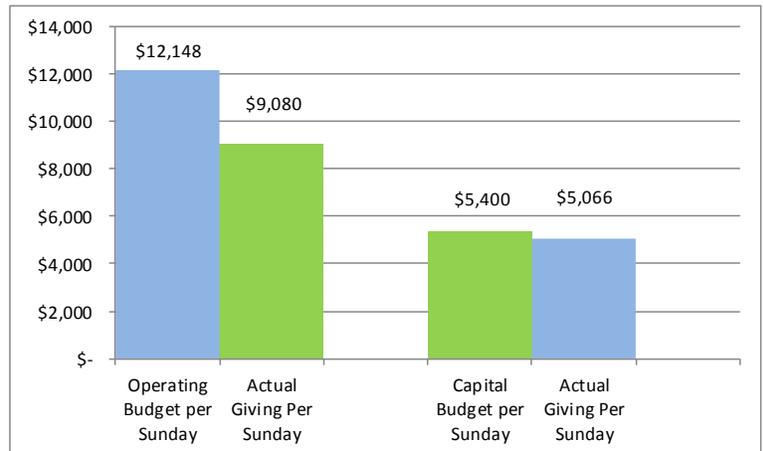
Friends and Fellowship Sunday  
School Class

# 2016 Finance Funds Report



Annual Operating Budget	\$631,719	
March 31 YTD Budget	\$157,930	
March 31 YTD Giving	\$118,037	75%
Operating Budget Per Sunday	\$ 12,148	
Actual Giving Per Sunday	\$ 9,080	

Annual Capital Budget	\$280,824	
March 31 YTD Budget	\$ 70,206	
March 31 YTD Giving	\$ 65,854	94%
Capital Budget Per Sunday	\$ 5,400	
Actual Giving Per Sunday	\$ 5,066	



## Trustees Report

The youth building a/c unit had a substantial Freon leak; the hot water heater developed a leak; both bathrooms had water issues due to the volume of rain received during the second week of March and the ice machine is in need of repair. All have been addressed and are in process of repairs. Also, the holes in the flooring were filled in.

Our roofer worked on the area of the remaining leak in the kitchen. Once we receive another hard rain, we will know if he was able to seal the problem area.

The gym continues to receive a lot of our attention. During the long, hard rain the second week of March, we not only had a small leak below the window next to the north entrance of the gym, but we also had an issue with water pooling along the north wall of the gym. The water pooling caused a minor amount of water to seep under the wall approximately half an inch in a five foot section. The trustees have determined that the best action to prevent such a problem in the future is to install a drain and pump. The installation should be completed by April 10th.

One heating/cooling unit for the sanctuary had to be shut down last month. The technician returned this month with parts for the unit and it has fully repaired.

As reported last month, the trustees are working to replace the outside lighting with LED lights. We have obtained a second quote and hope to proceed with this project shortly. We will have to rent a lift for this project and hope to take advantage of the lift with repairs to the steeple and several other areas on the roof during that time.

We originally were schedule to blank the locks to the building around December, but did not do so to allow everyone the opportunity to adapt to the FOB system. Since installation of the FOB system, we have had complaints about doors not opening properly. In doing a follow up to the complaints we realized that individuals with keys were using the door key rather than using a FOB to enter the building, but upon their exit, they failed to lock the door back with the key. In an effort to remedy these issues, the majority of doors have now been blanked. If someone is in need of a FOB, please contact the office during business hours.

We have had issue with an alarm on our fire system. This was due to a cut wire according to AT&T. This has been repaired.

With spring coming early this year, our lawn service is working to get everything sprayed, trimmed and the irrigation system up and running.



Left: To celebrate the letter T our threes held a tea party. The children dressed in play dress up clothes and enjoyed a snack of cheese sandwiches, fancy cake, fruit, and whipped cream covered milk.

Below: The four year old class held their annual tasting party. The children tried new fruits and vegetables from artichoke to papayas. We are quite sure parents were stopping by the store for new things their children found to eat.

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## SCHOLARSHIP

The Marion United Methodist Church preschool offers a scholarship to alumni of the preschool. To be eligible for the scholarship the applicant must be graduating from Marion High School, be a member of MUMC, and have attended MUMC preschool for two years. Qualified seniors may contact the preschool to pick up an application. The scholarship will be awarded at our senior luncheon.

Right: The children were stuck inside because of the rain so they decided to take an "inside field trip" and visit Bro. Robert and Mrs. Sheila in the church



They looked for Jesus everywhere and even tried to call him on the telephone but realized he was with them the entire time. They learned that Jesus lives in their hearts.



The Music Ministry stepped it up a notch during March under the direction of Blake Owen. The congregation enjoyed the Handbell Quartet on March 6th in their version of "Here I am To Worship". For Palm Sunday the Praise Band, Children's Choir and Chancel Choir joined together in singing Michael W. Smith's "You are Holy." And on Easter Sunday the Chancel Choir channeled their inner "Sister Act" and had a wonderful time singing "Oh Happy Day" with soloist Wally Fowler.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Children's Church Volunteers

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

- Apr 3 No Children's Church on Communion Sunday
- Apr 10 Robin Phillips, Shay Wyatt, Paula Pace  
2 adults from the John Robbins Sunday School  
Curriculum: **Creation**
- Apr 17 Steve and Jenny Knych  
2 adults from the Friends & Fellowship Sunday School  
Curriculum: **Adam and Eve**
- Apr 24 Matt and Laura Entrekim  
2 adults from the Genesis Sunday School  
Curriculum: **Noah and the Ark**

As our Church continues to grow, we are blessed to have our children's area increase as well.

Pictured on the right are the children attending children's sermon just before going to children's church. The picture to the left is of the children celebrating Palm Sunday with the processional of the palm branches as they waved the palms and shouted Hosana. Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of Holy week.



## VBS 2016

Save the Date for VBS June 12 thru June 15. This year the theme will be SURF SHACK, CATCH THE WAVE OF GOD'S LOVE. Students will discover an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that will give them an opportunity to catch God's amazing love. During Vacation Bible School, students will become Surfers and explore how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

After a high-energy opening assembly at the Surf Shack, the Surfers make their way to the Story Deck. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Wave Words for following God's plan for our lives, and discover Pop-Up Verses (Bible memory verses) that will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities including making their own art projects at the Craft Hut, singing new music at Tidal Tunes, participating in recreational activities at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty snacks at Shack Snacks.

To register or find out more about Surf Shack, call the church office at 870-739-3434 or Debbie Scola 901-270-0111. You can also visit Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MUMCchildren>.

DATE: June 12-15

Times: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ages: 4 to 10

Nursery provided for all volunteers' children.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Following Palm Sunday Service, the children gathered in the Family Life Center for pizza and pictures with the Easter Bunny. The children were divided by age and taken to select areas in the church for group Easter Egg Hunts.



The WWF Children, grades 4th-6th enjoyed visiting with several elderly members of the church on Wednesday March 4th. The children delivered flowers, a balloon and cards they made especially for these individuals. They also stopped by to visit one of their classmates who was under the weather!



# MUMC YOUTH – 2016 VERITAS CONFERENCE



March 4th—6th marked the weekend of the Annual Veritas Youth Trip. The theme at the 2016 Veritas Conference was “Let Love”. All the youth wore shirts with the theme as seen in the photo above. This year MUMC was blessed to have the largest group of youth in attendance at the conference of over 1500 attendees. Tim Parker was excited to have forty-three youth sign up and attend the event. With such a large group Tim had to not only charter a bus, but request additional chaperons for the three day event. In all, MUMC had 49 individuals attend this year’s event. A special thank you to those adults who volunteered to attend and make this trip possible. They were: Bart Vaughn, Sandy Bloodworth, Kolby Jones, Ellen Whittington and Stacy Parker.

The youth met at MUMC on Friday, March 4th and loaded a chartered bus headed for Hot Springs, Arkansas. The first session was held Friday evening with a live band and speaker. The last session was held

Sunday morning ending with communion led by the Bishop. The youth were excited to have the Bishop on site leading small groups in worship (pictured on right) and involved the entire weekend.



The youth took advantage of a break between services and enjoyed a walk around downtown Hot Springs.

What a blessed weekend it was to have such a large attendance worshipping and getting to know other Christian youth.



## THANK YOU

As we learned that James Sample would no longer be able to handle the collection of cans, we want to thank him for his service to the church in that area. We are happy to announce that Joe Catt has agreed to take over this area of service to MUMC.



Please remember to drop off cans in the designated trash can at the kitchen door and Joe will take care of the rest. A big thank you to Joe Catt for stepping up to handle this for us.

## Acolyte Training

You have chosen to become a worship leader. An acolyte plays a very important role in worship. You are one of our worship leaders. You begin the worship service. You end the time of worship, and lead us out into the world to be the light of Christ. There are many things you can learn and many ways for you to grow as a Christian as you serve as an acolyte. It is our prayer that you are blessed richly by being an important part of our worship team.



Front row l-r: Sam Gerrard, Noah (Coopwood) Lacefield, Miller Owen, Hudson McKewen and Ella Rivers Kennedy

Back row: Joseph Hale, Brother Robert, Abby Simmons, Addison Weirmer and Anna Wehrum

## Parsonage Furniture for sale

### Silent Auction



The UMW will host a silent auction to sell the parsonage furniture. The auction will begin Sunday, April 3rd and end Sunday, April 17th at 1:00pm. Each person interested in bidding will be given a dedicated number for bidding purposes. When placing a bid on the "Bid Sheet", the bidder will put his/her dedicated number rather than their name. Bid numbers may be picked up on Sunday, April 3rd or during regular business hours at the church office.

Some of the items available are bedroom furniture, couches, tables, chairs, mirrors, framed prints and much, much more. The furniture will be on display in the Barbara Smith Family Life Center during the time indicated above. If you have other questions about the auction, please contact Carol Johnston (739-3722), Char Griffiee (739-4606) or the church office (870-739-3434). Proceeds from the sale will go to fund UMW projects in and around the church.

## MUMC recreation department



Although our gym has been closed, we had several members of MUMC continue to compete with indoor volleyball. The team recently went undefeated in both in the league and tournament play at the First Baptist Church Co-ed League. Members included: Amanda Harlow, Gail Harlow, Vance Bacon and Gary Wehrum.



# Mark Your Calendar

- April 3 Confirmation Breakfast in Gym
- Apr 3-17 Silent Auction in Family Life Center
- April 18-20 Pick Up Silent Auction Items
- April 22 Preschool Field Trip
- April 23 Blood Drive in Family Life Center 9:00-3:00

## April Ushers

David Brick  
Denny East  
Tony Gardner  
Rick Gill  
Danny Moore  
Wayne Nelson

## April Greeters

Seekers and Servers  
Paula Howerton



**BLOOD DRIVE**

Saturday: April 23rd  
Time: 9:00 am—3:00 pm  
In the Barbara Smith  
Family Life Center  
For More Info contact  
Scotta Allen

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Logan Landry                      | 11 Lillian Fogleman<br>Riley Tittle                             | 21 Mark Baber<br>Robin Coe                                      |
| 2 Andy Rawls<br>Courtney Rawls      | 13 Matt Molloy<br>Harper Doyle                                  | 22 William Collard<br>Caleb McCain<br>Glenys Moore<br>TJ Stotts |
| 3 Erin Sutton                       | 14 Sara Betts<br>Laura Charlton<br>Bob Cosgrove<br>Brandon Gill | 25 Kristie Stotts<br>Jane Ellen Whittington                     |
| 4 Annalee Parker                    | 15 Gray Edward Patterson<br>Anna Wehrum                         | 26 Wilkes East<br>Blake Hart                                    |
| 5 April Buffington<br>Neal Williams | 16 Baylus East  | 27 Nancy Baratti  |
| 6 Charlene Sylvia Kelley            | 18 Kenny Conrad   | 29 Remington Cade Kutscher<br>Ella Grace Maranto<br>Luke Myers  |
| 7 Gail Durham<br>Buddy McCain       | 19 Ben Barber<br>Amy Holt<br>Robyn Price<br>Joel Sargent        |   |
| 8 Myles Emerson Holt                |   |   |
| 9 Missy Bius<br>Stan Price          |   |   |
| 10 Ellen Whittington                |   |   |

## 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.

## 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