



Hello, Neighbors!

Our Vision Statement-

To be a welcoming neighborhood so that all may experience God's love and grace.

Our Mission Statement-

To meet new neighbors, nurture everyone's relationship with Christ, and transform the world together.

Marble Memorial United Methodist Church • January 2024 IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



January 20
FREE
Shop or Swap



New
Series
Beginning
January 7



Marble Memorial United Methodist Church

Matt West, Pastor

8 Park Lane, Milan, Michigan 48160

10:30 a.m. Worship In-person

Facebook and YouTube

Church Phone: 734-439-2421

Pastor's Emergency Number: 269-967-4444

Church Website: marbleumc.org

Church E-mail: office@marbleumc.org

Church Office Hours: Mon-Thu, 9 am - 3 pm
(closed holidays)

Facebook: "Marble Memorial UMC"

Online Giving: [Tithe.ly Giving](https://Tithe.ly/Giving)

Index

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD	pg 1
Notes from the Pastor	pg 2
Helpers Needed	pg 3
Kidz Worship	
Cleaning Team	
Meetings @ Marble	pg 3
Pre-Blessed Sacraments	pg 3
Leadership Meeting	pg 3
Monthly Neighborhood Offering	pg 3
Neighborhood Groups	pg 4
"Abraham Lived for 175 years..."	pg 4

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Hello, neighbors!

A new year is upon us, and great things are on the horizon for Marble. We experienced some beautiful things in 2023, like baptisms, new members, and meeting new neighbors. The Leadership Team experienced some growing pains over the year. We have learned from our mistakes and look forward to more traction in 2024. The team will welcome four new members to fill the two vacant seats and bring our group up to nine members. Before the end of the year, leadership worked on a few ideas regarding the future of Marble. The Leadership Team will share more information about these ideas and what we must do as a church to thrive in 2024.

Near the end of November, I received some personal news that will make the start of this new year interesting. On January 12th, I will be going into the hospital for surgery to repair my aortic dissection. After the surgery, I have to stay in the hospital for at least a week, according to my surgeon. Once I am home, I will continue my recovery for several more weeks. So, January will involve me getting better and the Church stepping up in my physical absence.

Sunday, January 7th, I will be at Azalia and London to preside over communion and share the message. Because this is the Sunday before my surgery, I will not be in the pulpit for the entire month at Marble. If things go well, I can attend worship later in the month, but we will have to see how I am doing. Please lift Vicki Charter, Brian Foster, Dierdre Fudge, and Jim Nagle in prayer, as they will be helping me out with preaching for January. We are so blessed to have these awesome neighbors in our neighborhood!

As far as what everything else will look like, let me explain my plans leading up to and after my surgery. I will be in and out of the office through January 4th. The next day, I have my pre-operation appointment and will lay low until my surgery. I can still be reached by phone, text, or email until the 12th. While I am in the hospital and recovering, besides preaching, the Caring Neighbors Team will be available to visit and make phone calls to keep an eye on the neighborhood. Pastor Amy Triebwasser from Saline UMC will also be available for pastoral care. My time away will also cancel my time at The Owl on Mondays. Call the office and work with Lisa before contacting me if anyone needs to talk with me after I return home.

As I make all these plans, please remember that Melissa will be helping take care of me. I mention this because she has the final say in what I can and cannot do post-surgery. I hope to return in person and to the pulpit in February. I am working on a few Marble-related matters in the days leading up to my surgery. The gist of my plans has been explained, but I may have left something out as well. Either way, we have a lot of great neighbors to help, and they should be able to handle anything. Thank you to Lisa Jarema, Aby Cryderman, The Leadership Team, and The Neighborhood Church for your prayers and assistance during this season at the start of the new year.

With a new year comes new goals, resolutions, and changes. I encourage everyone to start small and build up as the year progresses. If we take this approach, we can avoid disappointment because our goal or resolution is too big. We are kicking off 2024 with a new series called "Reset." From the series overview, "God's mercies are new every morning! But sometimes it is easy for us to get stuck in the same old routine. This New Year, let's hit the "reset button," so we can claim the fresh start God makes available to us. As we rediscover our true identity in the love of God, we will discover new purpose and, guided by the compass of God's values, head off in an exciting God-given direction!" We hope everyone will join us in person or online as we start 2024 with a rest.

Peace be with you!

Pastor Matt

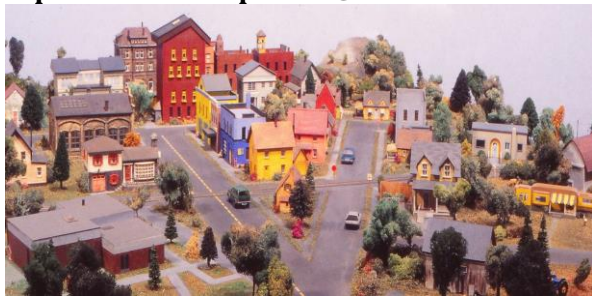


HELPERS NEEDED...

Have a Passion for Kidz Worship?
Marble has a Great Foundation,
and Now: We Need YOU!

Consider becoming a touchstone for our
Kidz and their Faith Development!
Kidz Worship Team Members lead
programs based on the "Deep Blue"
Cokesbury series.

Sign up to be a Kidz Worship team member!
There will be a rotating schedule which will
allow our neighbors to be a part of all
aspects of worship here @ Marble.



From light cleaning to heavier tasks,
Marble will put together cleaning teams that
will help maintain our beautiful church home.

Sign up and provide your available days & times
and the level of task with which you are comfortable.

Meetings @ Marble

Leadership Team Meeting:

Wed, January 24, 7pm

Media Room

Outreach:

Wed, January 24, 7pm

Room #25

United Women in Faith:

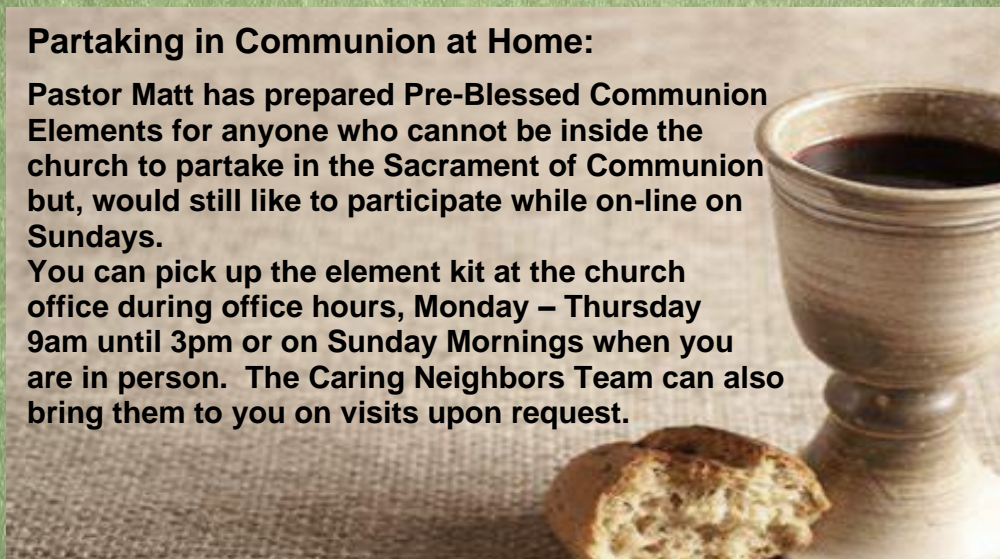
Tuesday, January 9 @1:00pm

All Women age 16 and over
of ANY faith are invited
and welcome!

Partaking in Communion at Home:

Pastor Matt has prepared Pre-Blessed Communion
Elements for anyone who cannot be inside the
church to partake in the Sacrament of Communion
but, would still like to participate while on-line on
Sundays.

You can pick up the element kit at the church
office during office hours, Monday – Thursday
9am until 3pm or on Sunday Mornings when you
are in person. The Caring Neighbors Team can also
bring them to you on visits upon request.



**Congregants are Invited and
Encouraged to Attend!**

Monthly Neighborhood Offering: January



**Milan Seniors
for Healthy Living**

empowering healthy aging & enhancing quality of life

Neighborhood Groups: Group coordinators are listed

Sundays:

Worship Team: Music, Technology, Kidz Zone, Nursery. Contact: Pastor Matt pastormattwest@gmail.com

Hospitality Team: Greeters, Ushers, Coffee Fellowship

Contacts: (greeters) Tammy Balk coachbolz@gmail.com (coffee fellowship) Rose Timbers rotimbers@aol.com

Neighborhood Study Sunday at 9:00am in room #25. The current study is "CREED" by Adam Hamilton (book provided) Contact: Rod Hill rhill@provide.net

Mondays:

Neighborhood Coffee Talk with Pastor Matt: On Hold for the month of January.

Sassy Sisters Women's Study: Mondays at 7:00pm at The Owl on Main Street.

Led by Melissa West mdwest622@gmail.com

Thursdays:

Neighborhood Study on Prayer: First and Fourth Thursdays in January, 1:30pm @ MMUMC

Led by Nancy Nagle nnagle@umich.edu

Beer & Bibles Moved to Thursdays: Second and Fourth Thursdays, 7pm at Original Gravity.

Led by Brian Foster: bdfoster1989@gmail.com and Jim Nagle jnnagle@comcast.net

Abraham lived for 175 years... - Rod Hill

Here is my final report on the 2023 Annual Conference. The special session of Michigan Annual Conference was held to complete the work begun in June regarding the disaffiliation of churches.

Bishop Bard opened the meeting reminding us of the story of Isaac and Ishmael at the grave of their father, Abraham. In their grief they noted a "dim glimmer of a new horizon" before them and they realized that "we are the elders now. It's time to move on." The sadness of the passing was hard but there was good news also.

The meeting was a property matter and so was run by the Trustee's Committee where we accepted the closure of one more church, Charlevoix UMC and the disaffiliation of 62 more. That brings the total to 120 of Michigan's 750 churches as of the first of this year. There had been 63 churches listed but Forrester UMC changed their minds and decided to stay. — Praise God!

The meeting closed the terms of the Paragraph 2553 that was passed in 2019 by General Conference and expires on 12/31/23. That's an end of it.

There were of course still questions.

Among them: Members of any of the disaffiliating churches may immediately connect to another UMC of their choice, without any repercussions, if they wish to remain with us. Congregations may return to us at any time as new churches if they wish. The approximate total reduction in revenues to the Conference resulting from this action is \$1.8M and we are now a denomination of approximately 630 churches throughout Michigan.

What had been, is gone. We are the elders now. — Hallelujah!

Wishing you Joy, Love and Hope in this blessed season of Emanuel, Wonderful Councilor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace.

Rod

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