



Marble Memorial United Methodist Church

March 2022

St. Patty's Jigg's Dinner: March 12



Menu: Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes,
Carrots, Onions, Roll and Dessert

- Pre-order meals by Monday, March 7
- Dine in and Pick up times: 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12th
- Delivery available for our homebound
- Suggested donation \$13 per meal*

To order:
Contact the Church at 439-2421 or email:
office@marbleumc.org
Provide: Name, Phone number, Number of meals and Address (if delivery needed.)

**If you or someone you know cannot afford a meal, please contact the church.*

Sermon Series for Lent



Sign up for a book study:

1. Join a Neighborhood Group:
Sassy Sisters meet Mondays @7p (Led by Melissa West)
Beer & Bibles meet Mondays @8:30p (Led by Brian Foster and Jim Nagle)
2. **Sign Up for a New Group** on the sheet at the church office.

Groups will start the week of March 6

Questions? Call the office: 439-2421.

Marble Memorial United Methodist Church

Matt West, Pastor

8 Park Lane, Milan, Michigan 48160

9:00 a.m. Worship on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. Worship In-person and Facebook

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 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(closed holidays)

Facebook: "Marble Memorial UMC"

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From the Pastor's Desk

Hello, neighbors.

As we enter the month of March, we are also entering the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday kicks things off, and then we start our Lent series called "Reckless Love". During the journey to the cross, this series will teach us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor. Please join us in the neighborhood to take this journey together this year.

Lent is not the only thing I want to discuss with everyone this month. Last year, at this same time, we were returning to in-person worship after three months of not being together. I have some more exciting news to share as Lent starts this year. The Washtenaw County Health Department decided to lift its mask mandate on February 28th. Considering this information, the current Covid numbers and a discussion during the Church Council meeting, leadership has decided to follow the health department in lifting our masking guidelines starting March 6th. I thought this would be some good news to share as Lent begins.

Being able not to wear masks is not as simple as it sounds. Yes, we no longer require people to wear a mask while in the building. However, we strongly recommend that you still consider wearing one for your safety and protecting others. The choice is yours to make, and no one will be questioned or shamed if they choose to wear one or not. Please be mindful of this last statement. As we live out our vision at Marble, remember that some key characteristics of a good neighbor are being respectful, kind, compassionate, peaceful, and loving. Since the beginning, I have always asked everyone to do everything we can to respect and protect those who come to worship with us. I believe this is something simple we should be able to do.

Alright, the next thing I would like to talk about is celebrating some of our neighbors. After 2021, Marble has some leaders that have come off various committees, and I would like to thank them for their service. From Trustees, we would like to thank Jim Bolz, Andy Charter, Dave Ludwig, and Sue Sweet for their willingness to help maintain the church's assets. From the Staff Parish Relations Committee, thanks go out to Jane Kartje and Mike Sweet for their time serving the staff and leadership of Marble. Finance also wants to thank Marcia Bolog and Kevin Jarema for working on the budget and finances of the church. If there is anyone that I missed, I apologize, and we thank you for your service as well. I also realize we did not celebrate those who came off in 2021, which was not intentional, but we honor your service. Another characteristic of a good neighbor is being joyful. Moving forward, we will do our best to make sure we celebrate those who serve our neighborhood. Again, thank you.

Finally, "Pastor Matt's Neighborhood" is back on Facebook on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Everybody is welcome to watch the latest episodes of "Wrestling Beyond the Pulpit", too. For our social media fans out there, check out our Instagram and TikTok pages. Thank you to Aby Cryderman for all the work she is putting in to make our social media presence known to the entire neighborhood.

On our journey to the cross, I pray that everyone takes it upon themselves to figure out what this Lenten season means to them. I encourage you to fast from those things trying to separate you from God. Also, add a spiritual discipline or get back into one to deepen your relationship with God. Consider inviting a new or familiar neighbor to join us for worship. Be sure to sign up for a churchwide study of "Reckless Love", too. Lent is not just about remembering what led to Christ's death or why we celebrate Easter but also honoring the new life we have because of his sacrifice. I look forward to our journey to the cross and learning how else we will love on our neighbors.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Matt



Red Cross Blood Drive: Thu., March 17



**American
Red Cross**

Give blood. Help save lives.

Blood drive times: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Schedule an appointment at:

1-800-RED CROSS

(800-733-2767)

or, online: redcrossblood.org

(Event code: MARBLEMEMORIAL)

Marble Meetings

Trustees: Tue, March 1, 7:00 p (in person)

SPRC: Tue, March 8, 7:00 p (in person)

Finance: Tue, March 15, 7:00 p (Zoom)

Outreach: Wed, March 16, 7:00 p (in person)

Church Council: Tue, March 22, 7:00 p (TBA)

UMW Circles:

Sarah Ruth: Tue, March 8, 1:00 p @ Wanda K's

Susanna Wesley: TBA

Giving Thanks for God's Generosity – *Dave Ludwig, Treasurer*

Recently, Marble was the recipient of a generous gift of \$7,500.00. This gift was given by a couple from the Columbus, Ohio area, who wish to remain anonymous. The gift was sent through an organization called "Fidelity Charitable" and came with the stipulation that half could be used by the church as they saw fit and the other half was to be given to people in the community who were in dire need, through of no fault of their own. Our Finance Committee chose to send just over half to Aid in Milan as they would have the best knowledge of who in our community were in need. That gift was given at the end of 2021. The remaining funds are being held at this time for a project or need that finance deems worthy. We are eternally grateful for the generosity of this couple!

Twelve Months! - *Rod Hill, Lay Rep. to Annual Conference*

From the very beginning of the Methodist movement pastors have been in short supply. A primary cause is that we expect a lot from our clergy and there are a lot more opportunities for them than there are pastors to go around. In fact, the classic caricature of a Methodist pastor is a Circuit Rider.

In those days pastors were not appointed to a particular church but several congregations that they would visit in a regular cycle. Typically, the pastor would arrive, on horseback, and stay in a private home for a number of days, giving sermons and performing baptisms, weddings or funerals for the people in the area. These would take place in homes, public buildings, town squares, or wherever people could gather. In Milan, the old Union Church on Main Street was built as a shared meetinghouse for the many preachers traveling up and down the highway serving their various congregations.

As the pool of trained Methodist pastors grew, the number of stops would decrease and in the stronger locations, church buildings were established. In all of these appointments, the pastor's term was only for one year. This way, if the travel, terrain, hospitality, or personalities were not suitable to a given pastor, the circuit could be adjusted.

This is still true today. Of course, it's more practical to have pastors stay for multiple years (usually three or more) but their appointments are up for adjustment on an annual basis. It's also a great way to "breathe new life" into our collective Methodist experience. That's why it's important to get the most out of each new relationship. So, the next time he offers, give Pastor Matt a smile, fist bump, or a handshake. He's building God's Neighborhood right along with the rest of us!

—Praise God!

Join our Neighborhood Groups!



Neighborhood Study: Sundays, 10a – Room #25. Explore the Adam Hamilton book, “Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White”.

Sassy Sisters: Meets each Monday in Lent starting March 7 at 7:00pm to discuss “Reckless Love”. Contact Melissa West so she can keep you in the loop about where the group meets next: mdwest622@gmail.com

Beer & Bibles: : Meets each Monday in Lent starting March 7 at 8:30pm at The Owl to discuss “Reckless Love”. Men of all ages and stages of life are invited. Non-alcoholic beverages also sold at The Owl.

Neighborhood Coffee Talk: Every Tuesday at 10am at The Owl. Kick off your day with Pastor Matt. Chat over a cup of coffee or maybe a smoothie. If you have something on your mind, it’s a great place to start. If this time doesn’t work for you, please contact Pastor Matt.

Caregiver Support: This group is currently on a break but, please contact group leader Bridget Foster if you feel called to this Neighborhood Group. This group normally meets over Zoom; Bridget’s email is: bridgetf@med.umich.edu

Pray and Go: Thursday, 10a – step off from the church (weather permitting). Together we walk around the neighborhood and pray for our neighbors. If you would like to participate indoor, at the church, come by around 10a before the group steps off.

Game Night: Second Friday, March 11, 7-9:00p at the church. An evening of playing games and a chance to fellowship. Bring a snack to share.

Something for
EVERYONE!

Outreach: Congregational Care

-Brian Foster, Team Leader

The Outreach Team is finalizing the structure and procedures for the new “Congregational Care Team”.

We know this will be a great addition to what Marble is already doing and help organize our efforts to stay in touch with one another.

We are looking for people who would be interested in being a part of the “In Person” visiting group.

Please contact our Outreach Team Lead, Brian Foster: bdfoster1989@gmail.com to find out more information or see how your Spiritual Gifts can be used for this great new ministry.

Good exercise for the heart: reach
out and help your neighbor.

- Mark Twain

Easter @ Marble:

Marble is planning a community event for families and children on **Saturday, April 9th** (day before Palm Sunday).

The event will offer "crafting stations" for the children, and then an Easter Egg Hunt.

We need an Easter Event Coordinator and a “fluffle” of volunteers! Our Coordinator will assign volunteers for craft areas, crowd control, egg hunt and decorating.

Do your Spiritual Gifts lie in these areas?

If you would like more information, please contact Brian Foster 419-356-0712 or,

bdfoster1989@gmail.com . You can also contact the office: 734-439-2421.

*A “fluffle” is a term
for a group of
wild rabbits.

