



Marble Memorial United Methodist Church

Love. Grow. Serve.

November 2020

Serving our Community

Aid in Milan is always in need of volunteers with different skill levels. If you find you have time to offer, give them a call at (734) 439-8420 and they will get you started.

Each week, Marble collects your donations of pantry items for Aid in Milan. If you are out shopping, the following items are currently in great need:

Current Pantry Needs:

- ✓ Pull Ups: size 4 and 5
- ✓ Diapers: size 6
- ✓ Thanksgiving items: stuffing, gravy, fried onions, cranberries, green beans, rolls

You can bring pantry donations to the church on Sundays or, take them to Aid in Milan during business hours.

Scouting @ Marble has begun again and with the same guidelines as Marble observes each time we meet for Worship. We welcome our scouting partners back in the building and work to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Safe in Our Church Home: Marble has established easy to follow guidelines for safe indoor worship. We recommend regular review of the guidelines. The guidelines are reprinted on page 4 of this copy of "Love. Grow. Serve". Marble takes our ability to worship in person seriously.



**Marble Memorial
United Methodist Church**
Rev. Matt West, Pastor
8 Park Lane, Milan, Michigan 48160

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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Getting Back to God's Work - Pastor Matt West

Hello, neighbors.

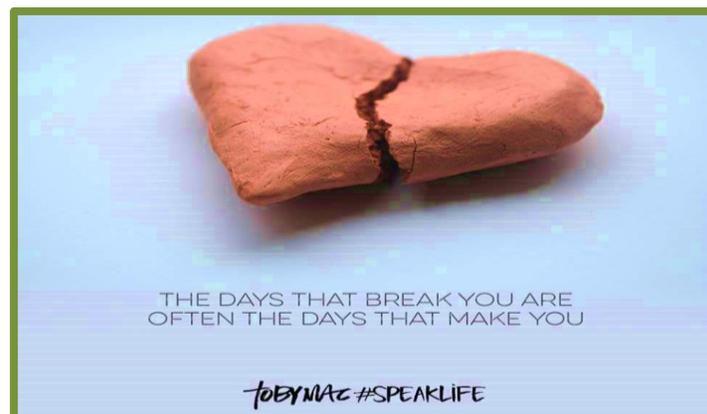
To say that October was a strange month would be an understatement, considering the year as a whole. We were starting to get into some things and then life throws us a curveball. At least it threw one at me! The last couple of weeks have been an experience for me and my family. Thankfully with God in our lives, dealing with what has happened was a lot easier to handle.

Let me take a moment to make sure everyone is in the loop. A couple of weeks ago, I started to experience some pain in my lower abdomen. After a visit to a local walk-in clinic, I left thinking I had a kidney stone. Then a couple of days later, the pain was not getting any better. So, after service, the pain returned and was not going away. My wife, Melissa, took me to the ER at St. Joe Mercy Hospital to see what was up with me. They ran a CT scan and found that it was not a kidney stone. Instead, I was told I have a tear in my aorta or what is medically referred to as an aortic dissection. Thankfully, this tear is not by my heart, but lower in my abdomen. Are you with me so far?

This led to me being admitted to the hospital for the next 10 days. They spent a couple of days deciding whether or not I should have surgery. Then they were working on treating my issue medicinally. The idea was to get my blood pressure down and then see if we could keep it low. Once they figured this out, we had to move from the medication being given to me via IV to taking them orally. From there, I had to see how things went to figure out when I could go home. For some, 10 days may not seem like a lot of time, but this was the first time I had ever been admitted to a hospital.

Now, I move forward and give thanks for each day I am blessed with to serve our God and God's people. Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and support you have shown my family and me these last couple of weeks. We are so appreciative of the love the neighborhood has offered us during this time. Thank you to everyone that helped make service possible these last couple of Sundays and a couple more to come. God is good all the time.

Moving forward, I will slowly be working my way back into a routine at the church. Pastor Matt's Neighborhood will return, but it might be next week before I go back to recording shows. My prayer is that this life event does not change who I am, but only alters what I do or how I do things in the future. Please know that God loves you, and nothing can change my love for my neighbors. Again, thank you for everything and we still have work to do to build God's kingdom here on earth!



Marble Meetings

Staff Parish Relations Committee:
Tue, Nov. 10, 7 p (ZOOM)

Trustee Committee: No meeting in November

Finance Committee: Tue, Nov 17, 7p (ZOOM)

Church Council: Thu, Nov 19, 7p (ZOOM)

UMW Circles:

Sarah Ruth Circle: Nov 12, 1 p.m. (church)

Sister's Aglow Circle: Nov 9, 7 p (info TBA)

Susanna Wesley Circle: Nov. 16, 7p (info TBA)



Outreach @ Marble: Serving Others

Marble has an Outreach Team that was born out of the Vital Church Initiative. This team has worked hard to create new, easy, sustainable guidelines for anyone interested in directing a service or mission project or a project that connects us in more ways to the community.

It is the goal to empower the congregation to act on their ideas and support the intention we all have to serve Christ in our community.

Where to get started: If you have an idea for a service project, fundraising for mission, a mission project, or any activity for the community, pick up a **"Marble Outreach Request Form"**. The forms are available in hard-copy from the church office, or you can download a copy from your computer by following this link:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b85911e5-8382-40d4-9c8a-34722b9b3af9>

Complete instructions are on the form.

Go "Bake-less" for Mission!

Our annual pre-Christmas Goodie Sale is going Bake – Less.

Due to current restrictions, Marble has decided to cancel this year's sale. To reach our mission giving goals, we are doing something different:

From now until Sunday, December 6th

we are collecting "special donations" we will earmark for local, national and world mission ministries.

Please mark your donation: "Bake Sale". What we collect over five Sundays, will help fulfill our ministry in mission and giving goals we historically earn during our annual sale.

Please consider what you would normally spend for baking goodies or shopping at the sale, then pray about offering up a similar amount toward mission.

Good News:

These "goodies" are Calorie Free!



Music Ministry – Justin Murray, director

Interested in singing in a praise team? Please contact Justin. We are trying to create a fixed schedule for singers to plan services more easily.

We are always looking for musicians!
If you or someone you know may like to share their skills, please contact Justin.



Contact Justin either by email:
justinmurray252@gmail.com
or, by phone/text:
330-224-8575

Steady as She Goes – Rod Hill

Sailors know that in a storm, keeping a steady course is both the most important and sometimes the hardest thing to do. For those who trust their ship and are convinced of the rightness of their path, it's easy. But over a long haul, and in the face of relentless and changing pressures and challenges, our confidence can take a beating. After long hours at the helm, even the strongest among us take comfort in that confident and encouraging direction "Steady as She Goes".

Loving all of our neighbors, whoever and wherever they are, is often not easy and serving can mean so many things. But there it is. God intends the Kingdom for all people and promises as much even to those who have fallen by the wayside. For Christ-following folk this means embracing people where they are and serving them in whatever way is necessary, and in any way we can to help them be themselves before God. It is for that building and that kingdom that we gather, I think. We meet because God's Kingdom is important, because building is often hard to do, and because it is easier when we do it together.

These are turbulent times for all of us and there's a lot going on. But for us, the course hasn't changed. Fear and change are not enough to change our course. And there has never been a more important time to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. In resistance to all the pressures to give in or turn away, God's call is still clear and sure. Praise God!

Steady as she goes. With nothing less than that promise of God's Kingdom under our feet, and Jesus as our commander, nothing more is required. **Hallelujah!**

Finance Update – Brenda Kempher, *Finance Chair*

The Finance Team will meet on November 17 at 7 p.m. by ZOOM.

The 2021 Budget has been completed and was sent to Church Council on October 29 for approval. Thank you to the Finance Team for your hard work and input.

Did you see the "Bake-less Goodie Sale" notice earlier in the newsletter? Your consideration of a donation for mission is appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Marble and the work of the church during these changing times. Supporting one another is what we do in Christ's name – Amen!



Guidelines for Indoor Worship

- Masks are required along with social distancing protocols.
- Enter through the Parking Lot door on the south side of the building.
- Temperatures will be taken at the door before entry. If a temperature of 100 or higher is registered, then you will be asked to return home.
- Colored bracelets will continue to be utilized to show a person's comfort level.
- No congregating in the hallways before or after service.
- Please head directly to the sanctuary.
- No reservations/reserved seats or switching seats.
- Ushers will direct you to your seat adhering to the 6-foot distancing guidelines.
- The upstairs restrooms by the elevator will be available for use.
- Coffee areas will be closed, but you are welcome to bring something to drink.
- Masks will remain on while in the building and for singing.
- No programs, hymnals, or Bibles will be available for use.
- An Offering Station will be available to leave your gifts before or after service.
- Ushers will dismiss everyone by row at the end of service.
- Exiting will be through the Bell Tower Doors.
- There will be no receiving line with the pastor.
- Everyone will be asked to go outside to visit.
- Communion will continue to be served by the pastor in pre-packaged kits.