

## EASTER IS....!!

Even if we will not be celebrating Easter together on April 12<sup>th</sup> nothing changes the fact that **EASTER IS!** We are Easter People! Christians celebrate Easter every day because **CHRIST IS RISEN!** He died for us. He **ROSE** for US. Because Christ IS, **EASTER IS!**

Watch for Pastor Jackie's Easter message on our Facebook Page: Marble Memorial UMC. When we can, we **WILL** be together to celebrate that **EASTER IS!**



### Little Free Pantry: NEW!

Brenda and Terry Kempher have converted their "little library" to a "Little Free Pantry". It is located at their home: the corner of East Second and Marvin Streets (address is 401 Marvin.)

"Take what you need, give what you can": non-perishable items only – canned/boxed or shelf-safe food items work best.

Questions? Brenda's email  
[Brendakempher49@gmail.com](mailto:Brendakempher49@gmail.com)

### Youth Service Project 2020:

As of this printing, the YSP 2020 trip is still planned for this July. But, as with anything during this season of uncertainty, it is subject to change.

We are still accepting donations in any amount. Your support is greatly appreciated.

This year's trip to Henderson is planned for July 18-25. Leaders are Kevin Jarema [kevin.jarema@dundee.k12.mi.us](mailto:kevin.jarema@dundee.k12.mi.us) and Tim Kartje [kartiet@comcast.net](mailto:kartiet@comcast.net)



Marble Memorial  
United Methodist Church

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Church Office Hours: Mon-Thu, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
(closed holidays)

Facebook: "Marble Memorial UMC"

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## **Finding Comfort through Faith –Rev. Jackie Roe**

During this time of sheltering-in-place and physical-distancing, when we need to stay home to help slow the spread of this new virus, my thoughts and feelings have been all over the place. I suspect I am not the only one.

When we are experiencing Lent in this new way sometimes the scriptures I have known the longest are a great comfort. Though I don't use the King James Version of the Bible much at times of stress the familiar language I learned it in is very meaningful. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is one of these familiar passages which I have been found comfort in these past weeks.

23<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This Psalm reminds me that even while I am physically-distancing, God is with me. God is there when things are good: green pastures and beside still waters. God is also with me in that valley of the shadow of death. And verse 6 reminds us that goodness and mercy will be with us in life and that we will be with the Lord forever.

When I get overwhelmed or fearful, I remember this scripture, sometimes by saying it out loud. I also let myself feel whatever I am feeling. I don't push the feeling away. I have learned it is best to feel the emotion.

I have also learned not to get stuck in that emotion. That is when I remember scriptures such as "Go make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), or our congregation's vision statement of "Inviting People, Living the Love of Christ". Yes, the way we do those things are different right now but they can still be done on the phone, through the mail and on the internet.

I hope you will reach out to someone today – maybe someone you haven't talked with in a while or someone who lives alone. Let them know that you care and that God loves them!

I am keeping very busy learning technology to bring some sort of worship or devotions to us. Our denomination, and especially our annual conference, is doing a great job of providing tools to assist in this ministry as well as other aspects of ministry. We have received word that the annual conference is funding some portion of our ministry shares – a small portion but it will still help! This is another way the conference is helping us.

See the rest of this newsletter for the events that are being postponed – they will happen later but they are postponed for now. Please know that while some things are postponed, we are still planning on Vacation Bible School, still working to hire a new Director of Music, still working with our worship consultant, still staying in touch with other churches and groups in Milan to see what we can do during this time and still providing worship and caring for each other – just in a new way.

If you are a leader of a group in the church and want to meet via the internet please let me know. I have access to 'Zoom' which is a virtual meeting space.

We will be celebrating Holy Week and Easter virtually. Watch for services to be online.

I am also looking forward to celebrating with you when we return to in person worship. That is another way I get through those 'tough' moments – visualizing us together and celebrating the resurrected Christ.

Please feel free to contact me via e-mail: [revjackieroe@gmail.com](mailto:revjackieroe@gmail.com), or phone (call or text) to 906-553-1953. If you need something brought to your house, or know someone who does, please contact me I will do my best to arrange it.

***See you Sunday... on-line!***  
***Pastor Jackie Roe***

## Conversations 2: On “Hold”

As many of you may have already learned: General Conference, originally scheduled for May 2020, has been postponed. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, large gatherings like GC are affected. The consideration of legislation and discussion will be delayed as a result.

For several weeks, Marble was planning small group studies to further our understanding of the legislation in question and its impact on the United Methodist Church. Since General Conference has been postponed, we find it necessary to put our “Conversations 2” small groups ON HOLD.

When the time comes, Marble will be ready to continue the conversation; we will be ready to discuss the “how” and “why” of the legislation that led us here.

Thank you to everyone who had signed up to participate in our small groups. Thank you to Carol McCrae for her preparation and willingness to serve.

If you have any questions, please contact the office: [office@marbleumc.org](mailto:office@marbleumc.org) or Pastor Jackie: [revjackieroe@gmail.com](mailto:revjackieroe@gmail.com)

## Thoughtful Ministry: Year-Round

### A NEW OPPORTUNITY:

#### Little Free Pantry:

Brenda and Terry Kempfer have converted their “little library” to a “Little Free Pantry”. It is located at their home: the corner of East Second and Marvin Street (address is 401 Marvin.) “Take what you need, give what you can” – nonperishable items only – canned/boxed or shelf-safe food items work best.

#### Aid In Milan:

Marble collects non-perishable food items, laundry items, baby items, paper goods and toiletries weekly. You may leave your items with our greeters or in the basket at the front of the sanctuary.

You may also make financial donations to Aid in Milan. Mark your envelope “Aid In Milan” .

#### Mission Focus Giving: Mar/Apr

**Lord’s Mountain Orphanage: Zambia** Started in 2001 as a feeding ministry to respond to the challenge of HIV/AIDS, in the small town of Zambezi, which created a growing number of orphans. Provides food, education, clothing and Jesus-inspired care and guidance to each child.

#### “Special Sunday” Giving:

The United Methodist Church supports church-wide ministries such as: Human Relations Day (January), UMCOR Sunday (March), Native American Ministries Sunday (April), Peace with Justice Sunday (June), World Communion Sunday (October) and UM Student Day (November). Marble participates each year in these special giving opportunities.

#### Projects and Missions supported by Marble: Ongoing

Oaks of Righteousness of Monroe

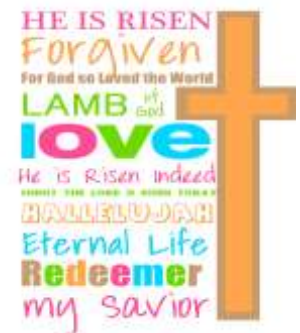
Habitat for Humanity: Good News House of Washtenaw County

Methodist Children’s Home Society, Redford Twp, MI

Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Kentucky

Alternative Gift Market: Global

Summer Lunch Program: Milan Schools



## **Marble Events & Meetings**

**All in-person Worship and Meetings are cancelled through April 13.\***

Check with your Committee Chair, teacher, or group leader about any meetings scheduled past this date.

(\*This date is subject to change based on the decisions of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church and our State and Federal Governments.)

Groups on "hold" for now:

Risk Assessment

FISH Family Programming

Middle School Youth

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Ed.

UMW Circles

Committee meetings (check with your chair to find out if a Zoom Meeting has been scheduled for your group.)

Men's Wednesday Morning Study Choir

Conversations 2

## **Giving During this shut-down:**

- Mail your donation to the church.
- Drop your donation in our mail slot (Bell Tower door).
- Give Electronically at: <https://marbleumc.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efc706e84f704e577d63f64d9&id=0bd1a5d02c&e=6f1edd717a>

## **Drug/Alcohol Use Risk Assessment: Walk-In Service**

This service has been postponed through the month of April. If you have questions or need information for someone, please send an email to Amanda and Curtis Thornton:

[1althornton2005@gmail.com](mailto:1althornton2005@gmail.com)

## **Children and Youth Ministry – Amanda Thornton**

### **F.I.S.H. Family Programming and Marble Middle School Youth**

Have been cancelled through the month of April. We plan to resume family and youth programming once the shelter-in-place orders have lifted. Watch for updates on our Facebook page and our Website.

VBS Planning for this summer is still underway. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer a summer VBS program.

## **Blizzard Conditions – Rod Hill, Lay Rep to Conference**

Now that we've had some experience with "stay home, stay safe" our present situation is most similar to blizzard conditions. We are kept indoors against our will. Schools are closed and many of us can't go to work. Travel is possible but it is difficult because most places we might go to are closed. And more particularly, this is also true of our neighbors. Beside the snow, I suppose that the biggest difference is that unlike most weather events, this one is not going to end very soon.

In fact, the Bishop has just confirmed that since the current secular order will continue through April 13, that there will be no Easter service at Marble on the 12<sup>th</sup>. I don't think that comes to a surprise to anyone but neither, really are the other things Bishop Bard shared in the same message. "This can feel like wilderness time, and our God is a God who brings the wilderness to blossom." We aren't going to stop being Christians because of this challenge.

We won't have our Easter Cantata but that doesn't mean we can't sing. If you have a hymnal at home or can source some lyrics and music on-line do so. If you like, do it together with family and friends at a given time on Sunday morning on-line or over the phone. And though we won't be able to celebrate communion together we can share the Love feast together, bringing our own bread and drink to the occasion. Praise God! And for those who are sequestered together, we can, as part of our Holy Thursday, remember Christ washing his disciple's feet.

"Even if Lent is extended, Easter is coming. Whatever day we come together again, no matter when, it will be Easter." Let it be so!

Stay strong and keep at the safety protocols. And, if you need help, or are asked for help, stay in touch.

**PRAISE GOD!**

**United Methodist Women-** Vicky Engelbert,  
UMW President

### **Prayer Brunch: Rescheduled**

The District Spring Prayer Brunch, originally scheduled for 3/28, has been rescheduled for May 16 to be held at Dixboro UMC, Ann Arbor.

Registration: 9:00 a.m.

Keynote speaker: Jeannette Harris from Detroit Metropolitan UMC.

In-gathering Project: Collecting underwear for "The House by the Side of the Road", Ann Arbor. The underwear can be for girls, boys, women or men. All sizes are needed. Donations may be dropped off at the church before Thu. 5/14 or, bring it with you to the Brunch.

Reserve your spot by filling out the online form at: <http://www.umwmichiganconference.org>

Any questions, contact Vicky Engelbert: [greemabert@comast.net](mailto:greemabert@comast.net) or, 734-483-4660.

If there are any changes to these rescheduled plans, they will be communicated to you.

Hopefully, it won't be too long until we can all meet together again. Give a helping hand if you are able or if you need help, please reach out to any of us and we will provide the help you need. You are loved!

**Sorry to report that this Retreat listed below has been cancelled as a precaution to the Covid-19 outbreak. Thank you for your interest.**

### **Win-Some Women's Retreat**

~~When: Tue. May 12 – Wed. May 13~~

~~Where: Mackinac Island, Grand Hotel~~

~~Cost: 2-3 person room \$240.00/person~~

~~———— 4 person room, \$220.00/person~~

~~(cost includes: registration, round-trip ferry, dinner and room day of arrival, breakfast and lunch day of departure, taxes, gratuities and baggage fees.)~~

**To Register:** Contact Vicky Engelbert at: [greemabert@comcast.net](mailto:greemabert@comcast.net) or, 734-483-4660

**Contact Vicky NO LATER than Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

(Vicky will submit one registration for the group and then contact you with your final cost.)

## **Vital Church Initiative Updates –Paul Salow**

### **Special March 5, 2020 Meeting**

Your Church Council, the Vital Church Initiative Leadership Team and those engaged on the 'home' or 'away' teams during the 2016-2017 Phase I VCI all joined on March 5, 2020 with the Rev. Sherry Parker-Lewis and the Rev. Gary Step. Both Sherry and Gary have been with us previously during our ministry revitalization journey.

The purpose of this meeting was to engage Sherry and Gary – who have repeated and significant experiences with churches seeking to revitalize ministries. The group shared the 50-year trend of Marble worship attendance, other more recent indicators of the health of our Marble ministry and a summary of our VCI progress thus far.

Sherry and Gary confirmed what a number of those in Marble leadership were starting to realize. While the VCI Ministry Plan we adopted was an excellent plan for preparing for ministry growth, additional key elements are still necessary to achieve long-term ministry growth:

1. A fuller and more detailed "vision" for our ministry – beyond our Vision Statement - a "vision plan" to drive our ministry program and to create accountability. A ministry vision plan will embody our passion and our dreams. A ministry vision plan will create more focused and consistent alignment of our congregational activity in support of the ministry.
2. A cultural foundation necessary in the long-term to create, grow and sustain a healthy ministry. We need the patience and fortitude to realize that culture change – which can take 4-7 years.

We will launch a Visioning Team - once we are able to do so. We will engage the entire congregation as continue on this ministry journey.

This joint leadership team wants the congregation to know that we will continue to complete our VCI Ministry plan actions as we are able to do so.

