



Relay for Life Milan: 2020 – Brian Foster, Team Chair

Milan is holding its Relay for Life "event" on August 22nd and Marble has a team!
Most will be virtual with ceremonies, silent auction and testimonials throughout the day.

Here's What You Can Do:

Survivors: If you are a cancer survivor please register at Milan Relay for Life website:

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY20NCR?pg=entry&fr_id=97099

Or contact Brian at 419-356-0712. Please register by August 6th.

Luminary Ceremony: Brian is selling Luminary Bags for \$10 each after Worship Service August 2, 9 & 16. Those honored will be read during the online ceremony at 9 p.m. on 8/22. If you want to donate, please see Brian Foster after worship or, contact Lisa in the church office.

Virtual Auction: Brian Foster is LOOKING FOR 2 or 3 GIFT BASKETS (only new items) for our Marble Team to auction. Brian needs the gift baskets by August. Contact Brian if you or your group can contribute a basket.

Marble Team Walk: The Fosters are hosting a walk at their home, 243 Lafayette Street, from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. on August 22nd. They will be decked out in **PURPLE** and have a tent in the front yard with Marble and Relay signs. We will be walking around our block and having a bake sale during this time. (Bake sale items needed!)

Anyone interested in helping with the details, walking, donating for the auction, bake sale or Luminaries, please email Brian Foster: BDFoster1989@gmail.com or call 419-356-0712.

**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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Hello Neighbor! - Pastor Matt West

In chapter three of the book of Isaiah, we read about the “Judgement on Jerusalem and Judah,” and verse five is where I want to take us. “People will oppress each other—man against man, neighbor against neighbor. The young will rise up against the old, the nobody against the honored.” This reading sounds like some pretty scary stuff and not what I think of when we talk about being good neighbors. Isaiah saw trouble coming and tried to warn the people. May this scripture and article offer some guidance for today.

Since arriving at Marble, I have used the term neighbor a lot. One mistake I have made is taking for granted that everyone knows what “neighbor” means. I want to take some time to discuss what it means to be a neighbor, specifically a good neighbor. Hopefully, this conversation will guide us moving on as a Christian community at Marble.

While reading an article titled *How to Be a Good Neighbor*, I quickly noted this statement. “Being a good neighbor is essential to being part of a community. When you make an effort to be the best neighbor you can, those living near you are more likely to reciprocate.” This quote seems like a straightforward approach to being someone’s neighbor and also being a good one.

The next thing that got my attention was how the article addresses how a good neighbor can help us personally. First, it allows us to work toward a safer community, create a friendlier community, and have more fun in our community. Next, we can meet new people, make new friends, and have people to support and help us. Finally, being a good neighbor will enrich our lives and the lives of our neighbors and let us learn more about our community and the area around us.

Now, while reading this, you might be thinking to yourself these are simple ideas. Maybe you might consider these unique Christian perspectives. The funny thing about the article I read and the information I am sharing is from a construction and real estate company. Yet, if you re-read this piece, you will see how easily these ideas apply to the church.

Here are some steps from the article you can take—and avoid—to be a good neighbor. I will be adding some thoughts on how we can apply them to our Christian community.

1. Know the rules of your community.

- There are guidelines we follow as United Methodist, but not all of our neighbors know them. Please do not assume they do and offer to provide answers when they look unsure.

2. Introduce yourself.

- Be hospitable and introduce yourself to our new neighbors. Do not expect someone to say hello to a group of people unknown to them.

3. Be mindful of noise.

- Sometimes it is not easy to hear what is going on in service. Be aware of the distraction you might be causing for someone near you.

4. Maintain the outside of your home.

- We must care for God’s House on the outside as much as we do on the inside. Would you stop at Marble if it did not look attractive on the outside?

5. Keep a lookout.

- We do not stop with just introducing ourselves. We have to keep an eye out for our new neighbors when they could use our help with anything. Maybe offer to let them sit with you if they look uncomfortable.

6. Respect Space.

- Understand that not everyone is where you are at with comfort levels. What you like, our new neighbor may not. Respect and protect.

7. Practice the golden rule.

- Think about when you go somewhere and the expectations you have upon arriving. Now, put yourself in the other person’s shoes. You are serving our neighbors, and they have expectations when coming to a church, too.

8. Behave on social media.

- Think before you type and hit share. We want to create allies, not enemies, with our thoughts and words for the whole world to see. People check us out online and use that to decide if they will come to our neighborhood.

9. Communicate.

- Not just with the people we know, but everyone we come in contact with weekly. Things will be a lot easier for our new neighbors to understand if we talk with them, instead of figuring it out for themselves.

10. Listen to your neighbors.

- We do not know everything, and there will be times we can learn from our neighbors. Learning will only occur when we listen to what they have to say. Think of this as praying. If we do all the talking, then how can we hear God’s response?

I offer these insights as food for thought and a different perspective. We have people at Marble that are already practicing some of these steps. The goal is for all of us to practice all of these steps. We have a beautiful Christian community here, and we want to keep working at making it better all the time. Our mission is to create more disciples, and our vision is to invite people who, in turn, are living the love of Christ. So, go back and re-read those steps and see how we can serve our neighbors better.

Habitat for Humanity 2020 – Rod Hill,
coordinator

- We are looking for a couple more volunteers for our August 15th work date. If you are available and able to work, please contact Rod Hill: 734-645-0864 or by email: rod@tglyph.com
- Marble's financial commitment to this year's Habitat project is \$1,500. If you would like to donate, please mark your giving "Habitat".

Aid in Milan: Summer Food Program

Aid in Milan still needs volunteers to help with the summer food program distribution on Tuesdays.

The link to the Sign-Up Genius is below. Anyone who is interested can sign up and send an email to info@aidinmilan.org to receive the required orientation video.

Sign Up Genius

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044EABAA2FA0F58-aidinmilan1>

Boxed Lunch Fundraiser in August - Sponsored by Finance Committee

Marble is taking orders for an "old-fashioned" box lunch. Order and pre-pay any time from now until Monday, August 24.

Pick-up is: Sunday, August 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lunch consists of 2 pc fried chicken, "Marble" coleslaw, bag of chips and 2 cookies

Each boxed lunch is \$10 (please prepay and pre-order)

These lunches are for take-out only. You can take them home with you or to the park or to a friend's home to share. If you choose to eat them at church, you must remain outdoors, use your own chairs, properly social distance and clean your area when you are finished.

Tell all your friends and relatives about this opportunity. If they are interested, just give them an order form and instructions as to where to turn them in and we will be happy to take their orders - the more the merrier!

Print and use the bottom of this page as your order form or, print a form off at this link:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:19ec9c73-01e2-4f31-921a-d50f49ccdfea>

Turn in form with prepayment to the church office or, on Sunday mornings by 8/24.

ORDER FORM: Box Lunch pick-up Sun, August 30, 11:30 a - 12:30 p

Cost per box is \$10.00 (lunch is 2 pc chicken, coleslaw, bag of chips, 2 cookies)

Please turn your order form and amount due into the church office no later than Monday, August 24. Questions: Contact Brenda Kempher (810-577-9969), Vicky Engelbert (734-483-4660) or the church office (734-439-2421).

_____ Number of box lunches at \$10.00 ea _____ Amount paid (Checks made to Marble Memorial UMC)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Marble Memorial United Methodist Church, 8 Park Street, Milan, MI 48160 734-439-2421

Marble Meetings

VCI Implementation: Thu, Aug 4, 7 p (ZOOM)

Staff Parish Relations Committee:
Tue, Aug 11, 7 p (ZOOM)

Trustee Committee: No meeting in August.

VCI Outreach: Wed, Aug 19, 7 p (ZOOM)

Finance Committee:
Next meeting: September 22

Church Council: No meeting in August.

Music Ministry – Justin Murray, director

This is an open invitation to anyone interested in singing with the praise team during worship!

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

Justin is also looking for a drummer and a bassist.

If you or someone you know may like to share their skills, please contact Justin.



Crafty Creations Group - Sharon Early *Looking ahead to September...*

Marble's Crafty Creations Group will meet on Monday, September 14 at 7 p.m.

Precautions will be in place to assure social distancing. More details on what to expect and the crafts planned will be shared closer to the date. This invitation is open to everyone!

Questions? Contact Sharon at: 734-439-2848.

Vital Church Initiative –Paul Salow

After a COVID-19 pause, VCI Ministry Plan implementation activity has resumed. In addition to supporting Pastor Matt's transition, a charge has been drafted for a ministry "Visioning Team". Below is a recap of the March 2020 VCI update which describes the purpose of this new team.

Your Church Council, the VCI Implementation Team and those engaged during the 2016-2017 Phase I VCI met on March 5 with the Rev. Sherry Parker-Lewis and the Rev. Gary Step.

The purpose of this meeting was to engage Sherry and Gary. 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.

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.*

Updates will follow regarding membership, timeline and expected results as we move toward the launch of this new team.

"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

Keep Sowing the Seeds! – Rod Hill, Lay Rep to Annual Conference

Excepting that I attended it from the same office I've been working in for the last six months, this year's Michigan Annual Conference was every bit as exciting and thought provoking as any I've attended. In this year of uncertainty and daunting challenges the underlying theme, set last winter, "sowing seeds, rooting, tending, reaping," was still completely appropriate.

More than 1,200 delegates from all over Michigan met online in the first virtual annual conference in our history. The technology seemed to work very well during this new world of "Q&A", "Wave" and "Un-mute your mic"; so well that we will likely adapt the format for all kinds of large-scale meetings in the future. The docket also was very light involving nothing combustible: budget, a few reports, some annual renewals and tweaking a couple of committees. It was especially fun to watch Bishop Bard's eyes light up as three screens full of participants emerged to get the meeting started. It's safe to assume that we'll be keeping virtual meetings in our toolboxes from here on.

Even so, the message conveyed was very old school. In Jesus' parable, the exuberant generosity of the sower was not a waste of seeds but a calling. Although some of the places the seed fell were not ready for, or capable of, receiving the gift at that time, they were not deprived of it. And some of the places that rejected the seed the first time were promised new chances in later seasons. The goal for the sower was to keep offering the gift. In the words of the poet, Langston Hughes: "Keep Sowing the Seeds! Keep dancing the dance! Keep your hand on the plow! HOLD ON!" In God's good time, may we also.

Love and Joy!

Finance Update – Brenda Kempher, Finance Chair

Greetings Church Friends,

July has been a month of many changes here at Marble. We have welcomed Pastor Matt and Melissa and our new Music Director, Justin. Outdoor services have begun with much planning for our safety during this pandemic. We now have online services and devotions for us to worship and meetings held on Zoom.

Finance has also seen changes. Our offerings have been down this summer. We have lost the rental revenue from Milan Area Schools (\$1,500), hired custodians (\$600), and had an increase in health insurance for our Pastor (\$500).

Please keep our church finances in your prayers and prayerfully consider increasing your giving to keep God's church running strong.

Finance will not meet until September 22 unless notified.

Yes, there are many changes in our lives and the way that we do things, but the one constant is our Lord and Savior. He is always with us, always loves us, and is always in control.

Peace and Blessings



Serving Aid in Milan: Ongoing

Marble collects pantry items weekly. You may bring donations to the church or, there are drop off instructions at the bottom.

Aid in Milan: Current Pantry Needs

- SLICED BREAD
- laundry soap
- full size: shampoo, conditioner
- bar soap
- toilet paper
- grape jelly

Drop off instructions: Times: Monday, Thursday and Friday 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday 12:00 p until 5:00 p.

Pull up out front or into parking lot. Call this number: 439-8420. Staff will unload your donations; no need to get out of your vehicle.



“Marathon for Mission”: United Methodist Women – Vicky Engelbert, President

To help our local UMW build up its treasury, to pay the annual pledge to the district and to support UMW mission projects your Marble UMW is holding a “virtual marathon”! Everyone can participate – from our youngest kids through our older elders.

What to do:

1. Fill out a registration form at this link (or print this page and use the form below):
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:0b0b8113-2013-40cc-937d-7b09d3ab8144>
2. You choose the “distance”:
 - 26 mile full marathon
 - 13 mile half-marathon
 - 10K “run”
 - 5K “run”
3. Your registration fee will be \$1.00 per mile/kilometer for your distance choice.
4. Turn in your form and fee by August 31st to Mary Dennison, UMW Treasurer.

You can participate from your easy chair, sofa or outside lounge chair. There’s no training required, no sweating and no special attire needed!

This Virtual Marathon is open to everyone regardless of your gender or age. Tell your friends about it so that they, too, can participate. All monies received will be used for the UMW mission projects and pledge - local, national and international.

Please submit your registration and fee prior to August 31, 2020 to our UMW treasurer, Mary Dennison.

If you have questions, please contact Vicky Engelbert at greemabert@comcast.net or 734-483-4660.

Let's all get ready to “run” and help UMW reach its goals!!

2020 United Methodist Women Virtual “Marathon for Mission” Registration Form

Name of participant _____

Address of participant _____

Select your event; fee is \$1.00 per mile/kilometer

- Full marathon-26 miles
- Half-marathon-13 miles
- 10 kilometer run
- 5 kilometer run

Total amount due \$ _____



Registration form and fee due no later than **August 31, 2020**. Run your race anytime you choose.

Please return this form and your fee, either in person or by mail, to:

Mary Dennison, UMW Treasurer
805 North St., Milan, MI 48160

Questions: Vicky Engelbert, UMW President, greemabert@comcast.net or 734-483-4660