



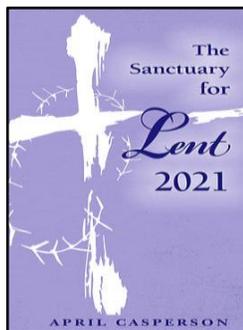
Marble Memorial United Methodist Church



Love. Grow. Serve.

February 2021

Ash Wednesday at Marble



"The Sanctuary for Lent, 2021" devotionals will be mailed soon. We hope this will help guide your Lenten studies and your Lenten journey in 2021. In place of in-person interment of Ashes, you will also receive "rub-on" ashes with your mailer.

Ash Wednesday Service will be on Facebook Live at 7:00 p.m. on February 17.

Pantry Needs for Aid in Milan

Current pantry needs are:

Cereal, ramen-style noodles, fruit cups, canned pasta like spaghetti-O's



You can drop off items to Aid in Milan during their business hours. Pull up to the building and call their office number: 734-439-8420 to tell them you have a donation. They will come out to your vehicle to get what you have. IT'S SO EASY and they appreciate every donation!

**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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A Message from the Pastor's Desk...

Hello, neighbors! Yes, 2021 is here and it is already February. Last month, I spent some time talking about the transition from 2020 to 2021. Now, I want to talk more about the vision I rolled out to the neighborhood on January 17th during Sunday morning worship. I believe this is the direction God is leading us in and lead us into a fruitful future at Marble.

The vision begins with the **characteristics of what a neighbor is at Marble** -

A Neighbor is...

Loving – Showing love or great care towards everyone.

Kind – To each other and anyone new to the neighborhood.

Faithful – Being loyal to God, the church, and the community.

Compassionate – Showing sympathy and concern for all.

Peaceful – Making the neighborhood harmonious, calm, and at peace.

Patient – Being able to accept change or deal with problems without being anxious or stressed.

Joyful – Feeling or expressing happiness for all God gives us.

Generous – With our time, gifts, and talents, but willing to give more when it is not expected.

Respectful – Making sure everyone feels loved and valued in the neighborhood.

From there we move into the **Core Values** -

1. As neighbors, we are seeking to love God in worship through prayer, preaching, and praise.
2. As neighbors, we are looking to include everyone in what we do with love and respect for all.
3. As neighbors, we are willing to serve others through outreach in our community and the world.
4. As neighbors, we are continuing to grow in our faith with small groups, Bible studies, and mission work.

Then we add our **Vision and Mission Statements** -

These statements look different than what has been in place but fit better with the rest of the vision.

Vision Statement-

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

Mission Statement-

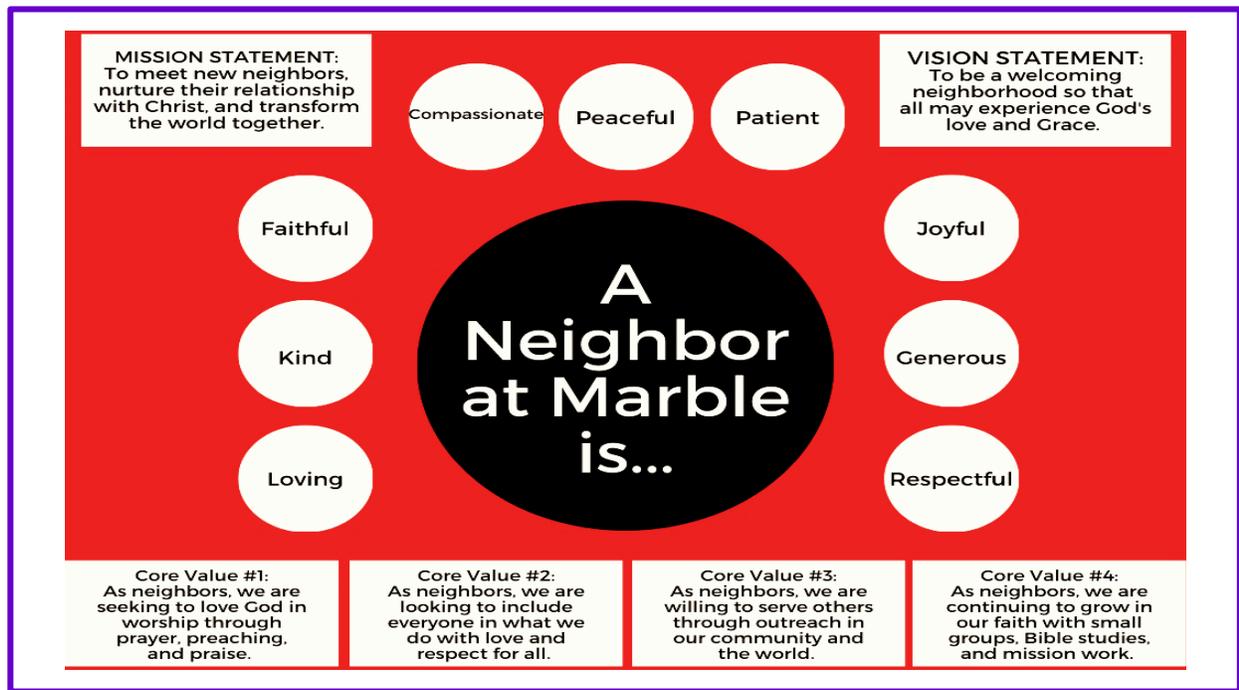
To meet new neighbors, nurture their relationship with Christ, and transform the world together.

As your pastor, I am excited to see what the future holds for us at Marble. In our last newsletter, I made mention about changes still to come. Together we will work through struggles. Remember that change is an opportunity for growth, too. We must get in the habit of evaluating our practices and systems to make sure we move forward in a way that pleases God. In my message about this vision, I shared a statement that is hard for some to hear, but is the truth. The church's purpose is not to make us happy. The purpose of the church is to make us more like Jesus. Knowing we have the chance to grow, share the Good News, and expand our neighborhood, doesn't that excite everyone?

Please continue to be in prayer for this vision, leadership, Marble, and the neighborhood. My hope is for Marble to become a thriving church. No, I don't mean the biggest church in town, but one that reminds everyone that they are loved, valued, and welcome to be our neighbor.

Until next time, peace be with you! ~ Pastor Matt





Town Hall Meetings:

Marble held Virtual Town Hall meetings January 21 and January 27 via Zoom. Both meetings addressed the current and projected financial State of the Church. Direction for Finance was presented and discussed.

If you were unable to sign into the meetings and would like a copy of points and information, please contact the church office to receive a physical copy of details: office@marbleumc.org.



Mission and Service: 2021

Habitat for Humanity Good News House Project

Watch for opportunities to serve on the 2021 project home.

Youth Service Project:

Our Marble YSP Team is hoping to make the trip this summer to Kentucky to serve and support our brothers and sisters in Christ in Appalachia.

If you have questions or if you know a youth 8th – 12th grade, who may be interested, contact Kevin Jarema:

kevin.jarema@dundee.k12.mi.us

Aid in Milan:

Our local United Way Access point for this area, is always looking for volunteers. Call their office to get started: 734-439-8420

Heritage District Lay Servant Ministry Spring Classes: March – May 2021

All classes are by Zoom. Dates and times are dependent on the class.

The complete flier is at this link: [Spring Lay Servant Classes](#)

To register use this on-line form: [Lay Servant Registration Form](#)

Class titles:

- Introduction to Lay Ministries: Basic Class
- Class Leaders: Recovering a Tradition
- Delivery an Effective Sermon
- Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts
- Leading in Lay Pastoral Care
- Living Our United Methodist Beliefs: Heritage Class



From Your Outreach Team:

Marble was busy in the month of December. With your donations we were able to donate \$775 in gift cards to Aid in Milan for local families' Christmas needs. Members of the Outreach Team wrote Christmas Cards and notes of encouragement to 60 teachers and staff at Paddock Elementary. On Christmas Eve the team delivered Christmas tins filled with candy to eight local businesses that were open that night (the employees were filled with smiles).

Members of the Outreach Team have been regularly calling our congregants who have been "disconnected" from church since we haven't been able to worship in person. Team members contact people every couple of weeks to see how they are doing and let them know of any happenings.

We encourage ALL of our Marble neighbors to reach out to one another and help us all stay connected!

If you know of anyone who would benefit from an extra call or check in, please notify the church office and they can also be added to the Outreach Team call list.

Notes that went to local teachers went so well, that the Outreach Team will be writing similar notes of encouragement to local businesses. These notes will be going out through the month of February.

We need your opinion:

We are considering offering a "Dave Ramsey Financial Program". They are very popular and helpful. There is a cost (\$130 each person) for a 9 week/lesson program. If you are personally interested, please email Lisa at the church office office@marbleumc.org to put your name on our "interested" list.

The Outreach Committee is always looking for ways to reach our neighbors in the Milan Community, so if you have an idea or project you would like to head up, please complete an Outreach Interest form and return it to the Church office: <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b85911e5-8382-40d4-9c8a-34722b9b3af9>

In His love, Brian Foster, Outreach

Hospitality Coordinator Needed

An important role Marble is looking to fill is that of "Hospitality Coordinator".

This (or, these) volunteer(s) make contact with and schedules door greeters/temperature takers, the coordinator will also make sure people are signed up for "Cup of Grace" when in use, make sure we have volunteers each Sunday in the sanctuary and at our exits.

Interested? Please consider prayerfully if you are available to step in as Hospitality Coordinator.

Contact Pastor Matt at: pastormattwest@gmail.com

Marble Meetings

Finance Committee: Wed, Feb 3, 7 p (ZOOM)

SPRC Committee: Tue, Feb 9, 7 p (ZOOM)

Trustee Committee: No Meeting in February

Outreach Committee: Wed, Feb 24, 7 p (ZOOM)

Church Council: Thu, Feb 25, 7 p (ZOOM)

UMW Circles:

Sister's Aglow Circle: Mon, Feb 8, 7 p (ZOOM)

Sarah Ruth Circle: Thu, Feb 11, 1 p at Wanda K's

Susanna Wesley Circle: Mon, Feb 15, 7p (ZOOM)

Pastor Matt and "The Good News Gang"

Watch Marble's Facebook page for more insightful and fun "Good News Gang" videos each Thursday starting February 4th.



Who is in "the gang" with Pastor Matt:

Pastor Curtis Clark, Marysville UMC

Pastor Kim Metzger-Hope, Hastings UMC

Pastor Matt Osborne, Ishpeming Wesley UMC

Pastor Jackie Raineri, Clare UMC