Welcome Neighbors!

Marble Memorial United Methodist Church **February 2022**

Aid in Milan: Stock the Pantry

In shopping for AIM, these pantry items are needed:

sliced bread (this is top of the list for AIM)

cereal

soups (especially hearty soups, chili and stew)

canned pasta meals (like spaghetti & ravioli)

healthy snack items: (granola bars, nutri-grain bars, oatmeal packets)

Our donation baskets for panty items are at the top of our south stairwell (parking lot end.)

You can also take donations directly to AIM at their offices at 89 W. Main St. They are open:
Tue 12-5p, Wed 9a-3p, Thu 9a-3p
Pull into the lot and call their number for someone to assist you: 734-439-8420

Suggested Donation: $12/meal

Carry Out: 5-6:30 p.m.

Local Delivery Available for Homebound

Call to order: 734-439-2421

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!

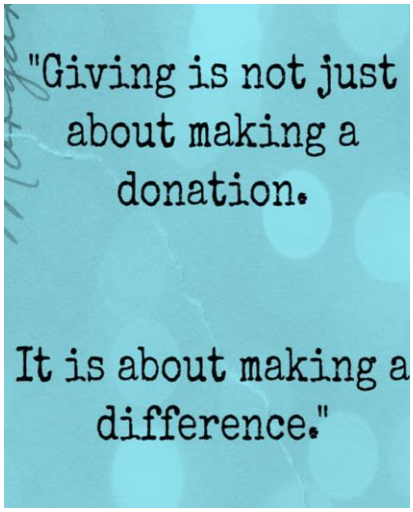
Recently, I read an adaptation of an article from Rev. Ken Sloane on tithing. This piece also discussed what we teach about tithing in the UMC. Scripturally, we preach to give one-tenth of our income to God. These lessons come from the Old Testament book of Genesis. Part of what we teach comes from John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. This is from Rev. Sloane: "Here is Wesley's own brief summary which is the foundation of our teaching: 'Gain all you can…. save all you can… give all you can.' As he develops each of these points in his sermon, his message is plain. We are to seek to earn all we can in ways that are helpful to ourselves and others, never harmful. We are to "save all we can" by being frugal in our expenses. And then having earned all we can and spent only what we must to care for our own basic needs and those of our family (which we are never to neglect!), we are to give everything else away."

We went through a series called "The Good Life" and used the Sermon on the Mount to guide us to live a simple life in Christ during January. Many people want to enjoy the fruits of their labor, but giving with a heart for God will provide us with something more significant in return. Along these same lines, another Methodist teaching from Rev. Sloane's article, "United Methodists value the tithe as a benchmark for giving, one we encourage our members to move toward and, once achieved, move beyond. We believe our giving should be both more challenging and more gracious to the whole world than simply trying to give a tithe of our income. We also believe that there is joy in giving, and the greater the generosity, the deeper the joy."

I ask everyone to pray on what they give and then consider what God might be asking you to give now. Whether a person is a tither or a regular giver, think about increasing your giving this year by 1%. Sometimes we have to start somewhere instead of solving a more significant issue all at once. Remember, we are to build treasures in heaven, not on earth. Look at giving and tithing as an investment in the future of our church and ourselves. Don't consider giving as just another financial obligation to help pay the bills. Something else to think about is sharing our time and talents as a way of giving back for God's many blessings. A positive take on giving becomes yet another way we can love our neighbors and the neighborhood.

Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." I pray that what I have written will provide everyone with some food for thought and help us re-think how we give in 2022.

Peace be with you. Pastor Matt



Pastor Matt's Neighborhood Returns!

Watch for videos to post Tuesdays and Thursdays each week on Facebook.

Current Devotional is:
"The One Year Coffee with God: 365 Devotions to Perk Up Your Day" by Sarah Arthur

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)

Neighborhood Study: Sundays 10am

This group will meet following the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship (around 10 a.m.) each Sunday in Room #25.

The study will be using the book "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White" by Adam Hamilton.

Questions? Talk to Rod Hill or contact him at rhill@provide.net

This book invites the reader to climb down from the barricades of the culture and political wars, and discover a Christian faith capable of bringing people together.

Marble Meetings

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

SPRC: Tue, Feb 8, 7:00 p (Zoom)

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

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

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

UMW Circles:

Sarah Ruth: Tue, Feb 8, 1:00 p @ MMUMC

Susanna Wesley: TBA

Who We Are -*Rod Hill, Lay Rep. to Annual Conference*

We can blame it on John Wesley.

Now, to be sure, the Leader of our Church is the Lord God Almighty in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, God's earthly Son. But in terms of the day-to-day practice of Methodism, it's John's fault, his inspiration, which makes us who we are.

John Wesley and his brother Charles were born into the High Anglican Church. Their father, Samuel was a writer, scholar and churchman who taught them the Anglican canon but he was a bit of a rebel in the church. With their father in and out of trouble it was mostly their mother, Suzanna, a teacher who had also been born into the high church, that helped them (and their 17 siblings!) cope with the realities and limitations of large buildings and enormous egos.

John and Charles went outside those walls and reached out to who ever might not feel welcome in their Dad's church. They began to hold services in open fields, houses and in town squares wherever people were willing to gather. John gave the message and Charles wrote the songs. John's most famous thesis is now our canon: "Do all the good you can do by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can for as long as you ever can!"

Their call, then as now, is to serve people and build God's Kingdom, one soul at a time. It's a pretty open and loose mission that calls us to do our best and do it continually even though we might (and do) get off track now and then. (More on that later.)

So when someone asks '*what do Methodists do?*' Just say, "everything we can!"

Join our Neighborhood Groups!

Neighborhood Study: Sundays, 10a – Room #25. Explore the Adam Hamilton book, "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White". Themes are: religion, morality and politics.

Sassy Sisters: **Mondays,** 7p –Locations subject to change. Make sure to contact Melissa West so she can keep you in the loop about where the group meets next: mdwest622@gmail.com This is a "book study- hanging out- catching up outside of work and home", relaxing place to be.

Beer & Bibles: **Every other Monday**, 8:30p – at The Owl. Dates in February: 14 & 28. Men of all ages and stages of life are invited as books are read, scripture studied and life in Christ is discussed. Non-alcoholic beverages also sold at The Owl.

Neighborhood Coffee Talk: **Tuesdays,** 10a – 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.

Caregiver Support: **Wednesdays**, 7p: February dates: 9 & 23rd - on Zoom. A safe and confidential space to share your challenges and joys as a caregiver. Learn how Jesus walks with us all. Contact group leader Bridget Foster so she can make sure you receive the Zoom link: bridgetf@med.umich.edu

Pray and Go: **Thursday,** 10a – step off from the church (weather permitting.) Call the office to confirm: 734-439-2421. 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.

Neighborhood Coffee Talk: "Evening Version": **2nd and 4th Thursdays**, 8:30p - at The Owl. End 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.

Neighborhood Chat: No meeting scheduled for February – Don't hesitate to contact Leadership if you have questions!

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

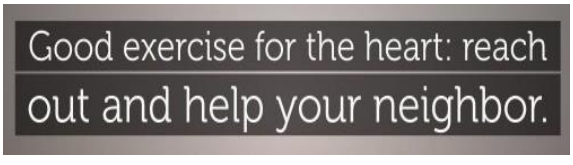
Outreach @ Marble*: -Brian Foster, Team Leader*

The Outreach Team will meet February 16th.

Hot Topics:

- Worship in the Park for 2022
- Community Outdoor Cookout to benefit local missions/charities
- Congregational Care Team
- Third Thursdays for 2022
- "On The Lookout" for Opportunities in 2022

Is there a topic that is speaking to you?
Do you have a new idea?
Attend a meeting so Marble can benefit from your insight and ideas!
Team Lead is Brian Foster: bdfoster1989@gmail.com



-Mark Twain

New Sermon Series to begin February 6th:

"YOUR **PART** MATTERS"
The month of February at Marble.

This series explores the role of spiritual gifts in the church and in believers lives. Looking at what gifts are for and how they're used, this series will help believers gain a more holistic view of spiritual gifts.