



Hello, Neighbors!

Our Vision Statement-
To be a welcoming neighborhood so that all may experience God's love and grace.

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

Marble Memorial United Methodist Church • January 2023

In The Neighborhood:

NEXT FREE COMMUNITY MEAL:

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Saturday Jan 21

5 - 7:00 pm

This month's meal:
Stew and Biscuits
Dessert and Beverage



Join us at
Marble Memorial
United Methodist
Church
8 Park Lane, Milan
Reservation not required



A Barrier Free Facility - Located at the traffic triangle



January Sermon Series: "At the Movies: The Shack"

Looking at questions like:

- Where is God when I need Him most?
- How does God see me?
- Why are you doing this to me?
- How can I know the heart of the Father?
- So you just let him get away with it?

Every Sunday in January
at 10:30am and online.

Marble Memorial United Methodist Church

Matt West, Pastor

8 Park Lane, Milan, Michigan 48160

10:00 am Hymn Sing

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 am - 3 pm

(closed holidays)

Facebook: "Marble Memorial UMC"

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Neighborhood Notes from the Pastor's Desk



Hello, neighbors!

A new year is upon us, and it's time to be talking about what's to come. Before I get too far ahead, I want to thank everyone for a wonderful 2022. God has blessed us with a lot of new faces in worship. Our children's ministry is growing thanks to the efforts of those volunteering to make that happen. We also welcomed two new members into the neighborhood before the end of the year. Our Free Community Dinner started back in October. We worshiped in the park again back in August with an excellent turnout. Vacation Bible School made its return to Marble during the summer. These are just some things that have been happening in the neighborhood. I'd like to know what 2023 will look like for us. Things will continue to build upon what we did in 2022.

I want to speak about our recent growth. These last few months have been amazing to see all the people we have in worship. With growth comes change, and we need to take the next step on our journey to continue to grow. The analogy popping up in my head is of a baby and how each phase requires changes. I am not just talking about getting out of diapers but about how they physically and mentally grow. In some ways, 2020 and 2021 felt like we were still in the womb, preparing to come into the world. This past year, we started to see the fruits of our labor from our preparation of returning to things opening more. We need to take the next step if we want to continue growing as a neighborhood.

We have several areas which we need to address to move forward. First, our children's ministry is at a point where we must offer different options based on age levels. This issue means we will be looking for more of our adult neighbors to lead a group of our young neighbors. The next thing regarding this ministry would be staffing the nursery. We have new families with little ones, and I'm sure parents would like to focus more on worship than keeping their children occupied or quiet. We could also use some help with our teens and young adult programming. If you want to help with any of these things, then please speak with Joy Whitenburg.

Before the end of the year, we opened our lounge room for coffee before service. Thankfully, we have had some neighbors (Rose Timbers, Vicky Englebert, and Rod Hill) step forward to organize this ministry. On the flip side, we have some hospitality needs this year. Tammy Balk organizes our greeters but has yet to get enough for consistency and a rotating schedule. To offer proper hospitality each week, I think we need someone at the outside door (parking lot), at the top of the steps, someone helping in the lounge to stand by the entrance to invite neighbors to grab something if they want, and one or two people in the area outside of our worship space. Our vision is to be a welcoming neighborhood so that all may experience God's love and grace, and it begins with hospitality every Sunday or event we host.

The last ministry we would like some help with is worship. The Praise Team would love anyone interested in singing or playing an instrument to talk with them. Right now, you may speak with Ronni and Rich Brennan until we hire a new music director. If you know anything about sound or someone who does, please let us know. We can always use more folks to run the media part as well. Slides for worship, Facebook Host, and the camera is what I am talking about for media. This ministry is another area that I would like a rotating schedule, too. Then those who have been behind the scenes may want to enjoy worship when they're not helping. It takes a neighborhood to make everything work in the church!

I am sure there are some of you wondering, "Where will we get all this help that Pastor Matt is looking for?" My response would be, "It starts with you!" As we grow, there will be more neighbors to assist with all these volunteer opportunities, but until then, we who are here are responsible for maintaining God's house. Yes, I have talked about this subject a few times, but our current neighbors must make this a focus. Also, I plan to set up some dates for training in these areas this month or next. So, whether you are new or someone that's been volunteering for a while, we want to show everybody how we would like to handle things moving forward. These last few months have been an exciting time at Marble, and it is only going to get more exciting if we get the help we are looking for to take care of the church and the neighborhood. Bring it on in 2023 because God has got our backs!

Peace be with you. Pastor Matt



Join other coffee lovers for Sunday Morning coffee prep!

Training on machines is available. To keep this ministry going, and to provide coffee on Sundays, we need volunteers! We know we have **many coffee lovers** – Please consider signing up! Our schedule coordinator is: Rose Timbers: rotimbers@aol.com (cookies and nibbles are not a requirement) Sign up sheet is outside the office.

Neighborhood Outreach – Brian Foster

Monthly Free Community Meal:

Our next meal is Saturday, January 21
Serving time 5-7:00 pm – no reservations required
December Meal: Stew and Biscuits
Dessert and beverage also provided.

Volunteers Are Needed For:

- Meal Prep: See Brian Foster for times
- Serving (kitchen and dining area) 4:30 - 7:00 pm
- Clean Up 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Sign up on the clipboard outside the office, or by emailing Brian Foster: bdfoster1989@gmail.com

If you sign up and cannot come that night you are expected to contact Brian Foster.

Ministry for Youth and Young Adults

Tap into your inner child or teenager: can you remember early experiences with faith?

No matter your answers **YOU** can be a touchstone for our Neighborhood Kidz and provide them with a GREAT early faith experience!

Consider being a volunteer with our youth programming and contact Joy Whitenburg with questions and to sign up: joylandinhabited@gmail.com or (734) 819-2341

Ongoing Neighborhood Groups:

Beer & Bibles Men’s Group:

For January, this group will meet at Original Gravity brewery on County Street Street. *Beer not required.

Dates in January are on Tuesdays:

January 10 and 24th. Bring your own Bible.

Led by Brian Foster: bdfoster1989@gmail.com and Jim Nagle: jnnagle@comcast.net

Sassy Sisters Women’s Group:

Monday at 7:00 pm at The Owl on Main Street.

2023 gatherings start on January 2nd!

Join the discussion anytime. Led by Melissa West: Mdwest 622@gmail.com

New Small Groups are Coming!

We will announce new group opportunities soon – if you have an idea, contact Pastor Matt and he will work with you on getting it to happen!



NOODLE BEE
Sat, January 28
8:30a – 12p
(may finish earlier depending on number of volunteers!)

Everyone is welcome to come! There's a task for every skill level – and training is available!

Health benefits include...

- Taking out frustrations on a ball of dough
- Fellowship with neighbors
- Getting flour all over the front of you
- Laughter!

Our coordinator is Vicky Engelbert:

greemabert@comcast.net

(734) 483-4660

Meetings @ Marble

Simplified Accountability Structure Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
7:00 pm (in person)

Outreach: Wed, January 25, 7pm (in person)

United Women of Faith:

2nd Tuesdays: Jan 10, 1:00 pm @ MMUMC
Program plus refreshments.

Monthly Mission for January:

Ozone House of Ann Arbor



Tomorrow – Rod Hill

I think that the most profound blessing we all share is God's promise of tomorrow. The challenges and joys of the coming very near term are always there to inspire us. For most of us, by the time we've arrived at our today we know pretty much what's likely to happen. But our tomorrows are always just a step beyond our grasp, and that makes them a powerful presence in our imagination and our soul.

To be sure, tomorrow can be a terrifying place. Even the most stable and sustainable lives can be turned upside down in an instant. What we don't know and can't foresee will always be a presence in our days. And fear of such a loss can corrode our happiness even on the brightest of days. But the joys of God's message and mission can be just enough to see us through those fears if we can keep them in sight. — Praise God!

God's message of confidence, that, throughout all of what may come before us we are complete, that we are "enough" to be worthy of God's love and acceptance is a simple and core assurance of our place in God's kingdom. Remembering that, internalizing that, might be the labor of a lifetime but it is worthiest of investments of our time and attention. And once we have discovered that assurance, God's mission of love is all the easier to serve.

My brothers and sisters, I hope that your tomorrows in this New Year will be easy. And, in lieu of that, I pray that your grasp of God's assurance for you develops to become an ever-increasing comfort to you. And as the challenges and joys of your day-to-day mission in the neighborhood present themselves, I hope that God's hand gives you strength.

— Hallelujah!

Looking Ahead to February:

Sermon Series February 5, 16 and 22:
"Releasing God's Blessings"

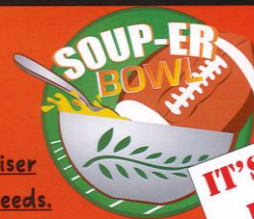
Ash Wednesday: February 22

Sermon Series for Lent:
"Drink from the Fountain of Grace"



Marble Memorial UMC PRESENTS

FIRST ANNUAL
SOUP
COMPETITION



This is a Fundraiser
for Community Needs.
Vote for the Pastor
to be the
"Soup Champion!"

**IT'S A PASTOR
DISASTER!**

8 Park Lane • downtown Milan
At the traffic triangle

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 18 • 5:00PM - 7:00PM