



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 • MARCH 2023
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
Saturday March 18
5 - 7:00 pm

This month's meal:
Baked Potato Bar
Dessert and Beverage



Hosted by
Marble Memorial
United Methodist
Church
8 Park Lane, Milan
Reservation not required

Be YOU tiful

MAKE-UP & SKINCARE WITH FUDGE BEAUTY

- 🍯 **WHEN: MARCH 25 @ 11AM**
- 🍯 **WHO: TEENS AND TWEENS OF ALL GENDERS**
- 🍯 **COST: NO COST**
- 🍯 **WHERE: FUDGE BEAUTY (INSIDE INK & DYE)**




**RESERVE YOUR SPOT BEFORE MARCH 24TH
BY EMAILING: OFFICE@MARBLEUMC.ORG**

Lent Series

DRINK FROM THE

Fountain of Grace



**Marble Memorial
United Methodist Church**

Matt West, Pastor
8 Park Lane, Milan, Michigan 48160
10:30 a.m. Worship In-person
Facebook and YouTube

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!

The season of Lent has begun, and I want to share this message from the President of the Council of Bishops speaking to the future of The United Methodist Church. There is a lot that is still unknown about what is ahead, but this spoke to me, and I pray it does for you as well. – Pastor Matt

Lent Message: Time to Reclaim, Revive and Renew our United Methodist Church

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. - Psalm 51:10

Friends, the journey to Easter has begun today as we once again mark Ash Wednesday. These forty days (not including Sundays) have traditionally been focused on repentance, prayer, fasting, and reflection in preparation for the celebration of Easter and the risen Christ. It is a time to pray that God will create within us a clean heart and a renewed spirit.

There is no doubt that as we absorb the realities of splintering, disaffiliation, and post-Covid, it is time for us as United Methodists to make the pivot away from what was into new and concerted efforts to reclaim, revive and renew The United Methodist Church throughout the world.

The approach to this season of Lent varies from person to person. Some see it as a time to “give up something.” Others see it as a season to “take on something new.” Perhaps in this unique season of our lives as a church, it is time for us to do both. Could it be that it is time for us to discipline ourselves and to breathe out that which has consumed us and breathe in that which will renew us?

As we reflect and pray fervently this Lent, let's breathe out anger and disappointment, and breathe in once again our calling and identity as United Methodists. Let's **Reclaim** that we are a people called to love all; a people called to serve all; and a people called to openly worship our loving God with joy and anticipation. (John 13:35)

Let's breathe out hesitations and apathy and breathe in a desire to **Revive** our belief in the love of God, our creator; the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior; and the communion we have with the Holy Spirit, our ever-present guide and inspiration. (2 Corinthians 13:13) Let's revive our belief in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Let's revive our belief in one another and the power of God to use even us to transform a broken world.

Let's breathe out any focus on our ourselves and breathe in a deep desire to **Renew** our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let's renew our commitment to reach out to all who need the saving grace and love of Jesus Christ with joy and enthusiasm. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Friends, this is the time for The United Methodist Church to **pivot** away from old behaviors into a new vision for how God can use this church to be a beacon of God's love for all. It is time to move from division and focus on the unity of the beloved community given to us by our loving God.

It is time to move from a rhetoric that tears down and focus on the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ. It is time to move from paralysis and fatigue and focus on the life-giving mission and ministry we are called to offer as guided by the Holy Spirit. It is time to move from sadness over what has been and focus with anticipation on the future with the hope that God will open to us.

It is time.

This Lenten Season, may we let go everything that has discouraged us and held us back and pray that God will guide us as we Reclaim, Revive, and Renew our beloved United Methodist Church.

We, in the Council of Bishops, renew our commitment to pray for you as we journey through the days that lie ahead. In turn, we ask for your prayers as we attempt to faithfully lead in your midst.

It is time to once again reaffirm our belief that God has not left us alone and will walk with us as we move forward. So as the liturgy for Ash Wednesday so simply states, *“I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent.”* This is my prayer for you.

May it be so.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

Ministry for Children and Teens

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. Contact Joy Whitenburg with questions and to sign up: joylandinhabited@gmail.com or (734) 819-2341



Safe Gatherings Training is available to anyone who has not yet been certified. Please contact the church office for information.

Neighborhood Outreach – Brian Foster

Monthly Free Community Meal:

Our next meal is Saturday, March 18, Serving 5-7:00 pm

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

Postcards for Refugees:

A purple rectangular graphic with white text. On the left is a drawing of a green vine with yellow flowers. In the center, the words "LOVE" and "BELIEVE" are written in large, colorful letters. To the right is a small white card with a handwritten-style message. On the far right, the text "Postcards for Refugees NEW DATE!" is written in white on a purple background. Below the graphic, the text "Saturday, March 11 • 10am to 1pm Marble Church Lounge" is written in white on a purple background.

Good things come and it will get better. There is good in bad and there is love in the world. Put it together and you get life. Stay strong, everybody loves you.
- From your grand in the U.S.

**Postcards for Refugees
NEW DATE!**

**Saturday, March 11 • 10am to 1pm
Marble Church Lounge**

Aid in Milan: IMMEDIATE PANTRY NEEDS

- Hearty Soups/meal style (stew etc.)
- Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Sliced Bread

Drop off donations at Marble or directly at Aid in Milan.

Neighborhood Groups: Group coordinators included

Sundays:

Worship Team: Music, Technology, Kidz Zone, Nursery. Contact: Pastor Matt pastormattwest@gmail.com

Hospitality Team: Greeters, Ushers, Coffee Fellowship Contacts: (greeters) Tammy Balk coachbolz@gmail.com (coffee fellowship) Rose Timbers rotimbers@aol.com

Neighborhood Study: "Christianity and World Religions" study meets at 9am in room #25 (upstairs). Books provided. Contact: Rod Hill rhill@provide.net

Mondays:

Sassy Sisters Women's Group: Mondays at 7:00 pm at The Owl on Main Street. This group meets weekly. [Join the discussion anytime.](#) Led by Melissa West: mdwest622@gmail.com

Tuesdays:

Neighborhood Coffee Talk with Pastor Matt: You will find Pastor Matt at The Owl on Tuesdays at 10a- 11:30a. If you prefer, you can make an appointment for a different time. Pastor Matt: pastormattwest@gmail.com

Beer & Bibles Men's Group: Meeting 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Original Gravity brewery on County Street. *Beer not required. Dates in March: 14th and 28th. Bring your own Bible.

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

Wednesdays:

Neighborhood Coffee Talk with Pastor Matt: Arrange to meet Pastor Matt at Bobby's Kitchen! Give Pastor Matt a call at (269)967-4444 or email him at: pastormattwest@gmail.com

Fridays:

Young Family Group: 2nd and 4th Fridays, March 10 and March 24, 6-8:00pm. Childcare provided. Contact Pastor Matt: pastormattwest@gmail.com

MMUMC , Leadership Team News, March 2023

Hello Neighbors!

The Marble Memorial UMC Leadership Team under the new SAS (Simplified Accountability Structure) continued adapting in February to the new leadership framework with a focus on short- and long- term business and aspirations.

The leadership team held a retreat over February 10th and 11th graciously accommodated by the First United Methodist Church of Saline. The activities at this retreat included:

1. Team-Building activity
2. Leadership Covenant development
3. Drafting goals for 2023
4. Drafting an aspirational goal 2030
5. Drafting a congregational communication plan

The Leadership Team held its monthly meeting on February 15, 2023. At that meeting, we:

1. Finalized our Leadership Covenant
2. Engaged in leadership education/formation (Leaders Eat Last by Simon Sinek)
3. Consulted w/ Sherry Parker-Lewis (retired UMC pastor), Sr. Director of Church Relations, United Methodist Foundation of Michigan on strategic and tactical financial sustainability actions.

Looking ahead, the Leadership team will sign and post the Leadership Covenant.

All are invited to attend a Town Hall meeting on March 22, 2023 at 7PM. At that meeting, the Leadership Team will share progress to date, share goals and seek input, feedback and respond to questions.

The Leadership Team is excited about the new SAS and all that it entails. We look forward to engaging all our friends and neighbors to realize our vision and mission as we live our core values:

<https://www.marbleumc.org/marbles-vision.html>

The Leadership Team asks for your continued prayers and thanks you for your engagement in our shared ministry journey.

In God's Service,

MMUMC Leadership Team:

Tammy Balk • Kent Cox • Vicky Engelbert • Tim Kartje • Jim Nagle
Erin Tellas • Paul Salow, Chair • Pastor Matt West



Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, March 22 • 7pm

Meetings @ Marble

Leadership Team Meeting:

Wed, March 15, 7:00 pm (in person)

Outreach: Wed, March 29, 7pm (in person)

United Women of Faith:

Tues, March 14, 1:00 pm @ MMUMC
Program plus refreshments.

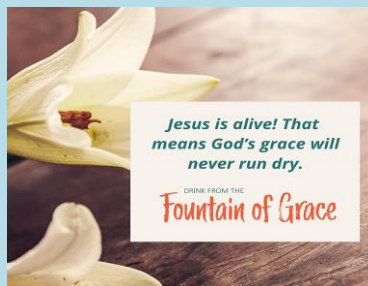
Town Hall for All:

Wednesday, March 22, 7:00pm @ MMUMC



Town Hall Meeting

Looking Ahead to Easter:



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday – April 2, 10:30a

Maundy Thursday – April 6, 7p

Good Friday – April 7, 7p

Easter Sunday – April 9

Sunrise Service 7a

Easter Morning Worship 10:30a

March Monthly Mission

Aid in Milan is experiencing an increase in requests for food support. Benefits for many households have recently been reduced by \$95/month. That's a significant amount for any household on a tight budget.

We are asking for pantry donations. See page 3 above for details.

If you make a monetary donation, it will be forwarded to Aid in Milan.
THANK YOU!