

## Upcoming **February** Events



Ash Wednesday  
Worship Service  
Wed. February 14  
7:00 p.m.

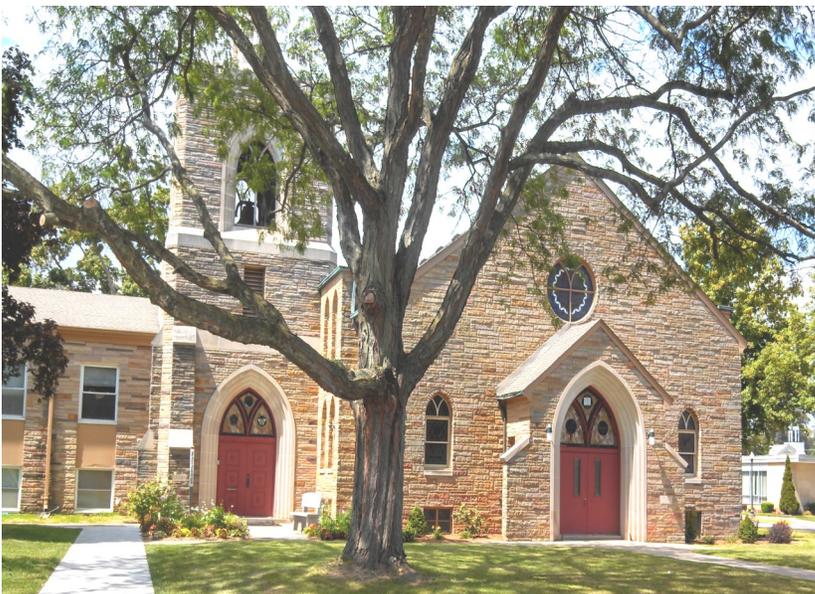


**Marble's Book Study Series of:  
"Who Stole My Church?"  
is Underway!  
Check out Book Study  
Details Inside this Newslines.**



## February 2018 Newslines

A publication of Marble Memorial United Methodist Church  
We have a new website: [www.marbleumc.org](http://www.marbleumc.org)



"Our vision is to be an *inviting community* of God's love and grace, *sharing our faith* in Jesus Christ, *celebrating diversity*, while being empowered by the *Holy Spirit* to live the truth of the Bible."

**Marble Memorial  
United Methodist Church**

**Rev. Robert Miller, Pastor**  
8 Park Street, Milan, 48160

**Church Phone:**  
(734) 439-2421

**Pastor's Emergency Contact:**  
(810)-623-0985

**Church E-mail Address:**

[marblemumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marblemumc@sbcglobal.net)

**Church Website:**

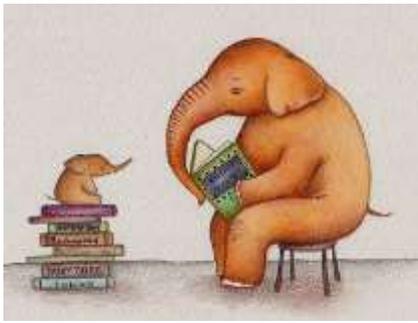
[www.marbleumc.org](http://www.marbleumc.org)



**Check us out on Facebook:  
"Marble Memorial UMC"**

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.  
Closed Holidays



***“No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”***  
*(Romans 4:20-21, NRSV)*

You know that metaphorical idiom: “The elephant in the room.” It speaks to the obvious that no one wants to discuss. These such elephants present themselves in virtually every aspect of human life—the work place, social institutions, family dynamics, and even churches. They also can be found at almost every level, from the most serious, to even the lighthearted. The problem is, wherever and however they exist, by not discussing those things, by not acknowledging their existence, by refusing to name them, we ultimately give those things power over the things we truly want.

I have been privileged to witness and recognize one such *elephant* that is particularly pertinent at this time in our communal faith walk and journey here at Marble; and that is our church-wide book study of author Gordon MacDonald’s work, Who Stole My Church. Interestingly, this book has generated a wide range of initial reactions, ranging from curiosity to irritation to amusement to even anger. Some of us were unable to put the book down once started, and others of us had to set the book aside after only a few chapters unable to keep reading.

Here is what I have learned in experiencing the many initial reactions to this book both in myself and from many of you ... every one of those reactions is valid and relevant. Admittedly, I was surprised at my initial reaction, and I never would have predicted such a range of reactions in others. But I believe each one is a result of combining where we personally have come from, our life’s experiences, the values and lessons we have learned, the particular stage of life we are in, our past and present struggles and successes and failures, our comfort zones, and our likes and dislikes. Wow! That is quite a list. And what’s more, no two of us share the same specifics of that list. With all of that, it should be of no surprise that we have such a range of initial reactions. But more than that, I’m thinking it is actually a good thing.

But it is only a good thing if we do something *good* with it. What I mean is, we have a choice as to whether our diverse initial reactions become a basis for division and separation, or a foundation upon which to build mutual understanding, dialog, respect, and trust. As a personal illustration, I can tell you that my marriage has benefited more from working thru initial disagreements than it has from the easy walk of shared opinions (I hope Rochelle agrees). From the context of our church, our unique initial individual reactions set us up to respectfully share how we feel, what resonated with us either harmoniously or with dissonance, and the passions and dreams behind our feelings and thoughts. But if you are like me, it can take a bit of conversation before we can really articulate all those thoughts and feelings, not to mention realize and identify what’s really behind them. It is my prayer that our small group discussions of the book provide that safe and respectful place where each and every one of us can engage in such conversation, as well as the invaluable self-discovery and disclosure.

And so, let me encourage you to *stick with it*. If you were one of the ones who couldn't put the book down ... great. If you are struggling with either the book material or the group discussions ... push through. The book really does have an amazingly good ending ... well worth the journey. But even more, your response to the readings, and to the conversations, is vital to our discerning and realizing the plan that God has for our church and for our individual lives. And I can tell you with unwavering certainty, God has amazing plans for each of us and for this church. That certainty fortifies our faith, convincing us that God is able to follow through on God’s promises; and as such, God is looking for our buy-in. I say, let’s name that elephant, and make it a tool for building trust and strength here in this place. I’m in ... how about you?

***Blessings and peace to you always ... Pastor Bob***



- 4 Rick Kettenstock
- 5 Naida Albin
- 5 Janis Birchmeier
- 6 Kelli Knight
- 8 Luke Karr
- 8 Deb Wieringa
- 15 Lisa Nienhuis
- 18 Marshall Jorgensen
- 18 Mike Williams
- 20 Tim Kartje
- 21 Paul Emerson
- 21 Tom Zilke
- 23 Rochelle Miller
- 28 Max Jenness



## Lessons in February

### Feb 4

Isaiah 40:21-31  
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
 Mark 1:29-39

### Feb 11

2 Kings 2:1-12  
 Psalm 50:1-6  
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
 Mark 9:2-9

### Feb 18

Genesis 9:8-17  
 Psalm 25:1-10  
 1 Peter 3:18-22  
 Mark 1:9-15

### Feb 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
 Psalm 22:23-31  
 Romans 4:13-25  
 Mark 8:31-38



### February 4

Mike Sweet

### February 11

Jim Nagle

### February 18

Vicki Zilke

### February 25

Karen Bolz

### Liturgist Program @ Marble

New in 2018, our Worship Leader and Scripture Reader roles are now combined into one volunteer role:

*“Liturgist”.*

If you are interested in helping in this way please talk to Pastor Bob.



*Happy Anniversary* ♥

February 14  
 Marilyn and Dan Wisner

February 22  
 Margaret and Ben Grant

February 29  
 Laurie and Mike Williams



### *To Say Thank You...*

Throughout the past few weeks, our small family has truly experienced the “extended family” here at Marble. We thank you all for your emails, calls, cards, memorial gifts, visits, thoughts, and prayers. Your thoughtfulness and care during my father’s (Robert Watson) illness and recent passing has been such a blessing. My mother (Loretta) has mentioned several times the amazing support she has felt from so many people in our congregation.

*Thank you!*

*Molly, Kurt, and Konrad Jeppesen*



### February 4

Brenda & Terry Kempher  
 Mary & Dale Karr

### February 11

Tammy & Gary Zajac  
 Karen & Jim Bolz

### February 18

Mary Beth & Dave Ludwig  
 Kelli Knight & Tim Kartje

### February 25

Need volunteers

We have many Sunday morning welcoming and hospitality volunteer roles:

Greeters (at our outside doors)  
Ushers (assist at sanctuary doors)

See Barb or Dan Bachant or email Barb with questions or to sign up:  
[bbachant13@gmail.com](mailto:bbachant13@gmail.com)



ASH WEDNESDAY  
 Worship Service  
 February 14  
 7:00 p.m.



\*BOLD IS CHURCH EVENT\*

**Thursday, February 1**

10:30 a.m. Book Study with Barb B and Rochelle M: Lounge  
7 p.m. Wmns Creative Fellowship Valentine Craft @ Early's home  
7 p.m. Book Study w/Erin T: lounge

**Saturday, February 3**

12-2:00 p.m. Chili Cook Off: part of Milan WinterFest  
7 p.m. Book Study w/Paul & Mary: @ Karr home 12295 Stony Creek Rd.

**Sunday, February 4**

9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Ed  
9 a.m. Book Study w/Carol M: Lounge  
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
*Fellowship Time following worship*  
11:30 a.m. Choir: Join us!  
12:30 p.m. Book Study with Mike Williams: Lounge  
6 p.m. Book Study w/Pastor Bob: Fellowship Hall

**Monday, February 5**

5-7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts-1 rm

**Tuesday, February 6**

7-8:30 p.m. Boy Scouts-FH  
9:30 a.m. Book Study with Sharon E and Amanda T: Lounge

**Wednesday, February 7**

6:30-7:30 p.m. Cub Scouts-FH+4rms  
6:45 p.m. Milan Garden Club-lounge

**Thursday, February 8**

10:30 a.m. Book Study with Barb B and Rochelle M: Lounge  
1:00 p.m. Sarah Ruth Circle at Sheila L. 802 Valley Cir. #102, Saline  
6:00-7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts  
7 p.m. Book Study w/Erin T: lounge

**Friday, February 9**

7:00 p.m. Book Study w/Paul Salow and Mary Karr @ church



**Sunday, February 11**

9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Ed  
9 a.m. Book Study w/Carol M: Lounge  
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
*Fellowship Time following worship*  
11:30 a.m. Choir: Join us!  
12:30 p.m. Book Study with Mike Williams: Lounge  
4:00 p.m. Book Study @ Nagle's  
6:00 p.m. Book Study with Pastor Bob: Fellowship Hall

**Monday, February 12**

3:30-8 p.m. Girl Scouts – 4 rms  
7 p.m. Sister's Aglow Circle- Lounge  
7:00 p.m. Prayer Team with Julie Z.

**Tuesday, February 13**

7-8:30 p.m. Boy Scouts-FH  
9:30 a.m. Book Study with Sharon E and Amanda T: Lounge

**Wednesday, February 14**



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
Worship Service  
7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 15**

10:30 a.m. Book Study with Barb B and Rochelle M: Lounge  
6:30-7:30 p.m. Cub Scouts-FH  
7 p.m. UMW Executive Team  
7 p.m. Book Study w/Erin T: lounge

**Saturday, February 17**

7 p.m. Book Study w/Paul & Mary: @ Karr home 12295 Stony Creek Rd.

**Sunday, February 18**

9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Ed  
9 a.m. Book Study w/Carol M: Lounge  
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
*Fellowship Time following worship*  
11:30 a.m. Choir: Join us!  
12:30 p.m. Book Study with Mike Williams: Lounge  
4:00 p.m. Book Study @ Nagle's  
6:00 p.m. Book Study with Pastor Bob: Fellowship Hall

**Monday, February 19**

5-7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts-1 rm  
7:00 p.m. Susannah Wesley

**Tuesday, February 20**

7-8:30 p.m. Boy Scouts-FH  
7:00 p.m. SPRC  
9:30 a.m. – Book Study with Sharon E and Amanda T: Lounge

**Wednesday, February 21**

6:30-7:30 p.m. Cub Scouts-FH+4rms

**Thursday, February 22**

10:30 a.m. Book Study with Barb B and Rochelle M: Lounge  
6:00-7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts  
7 p.m. Book Study w/Erin T: lounge

**Friday, February 23**

7:00 p.m. Book Study w/Paul Salow and Mary Karr @ church

**Sunday, February 25**

9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Ed  
9 a.m. Book Study w/Carol M: Lounge  
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
*Fellowship Time following worship*  
11:30 a.m. Choir: Join us!  
12:30-5 p.m. – Use of FH: Dennison  
12:30 p.m. Book Study with Mike Williams: Lounge  
6:00 p.m. Book Study with Pastor Bob: Fellowship Hall

**Monday, February 26**

3:30-8 p.m. Girl Scouts – 4 rms

**Tuesday, February 27**

7-8:30 p.m. Boy Scouts-FH  
9:30 a.m. – Book Study with Sharon E and Amanda T: Lounge

**Wednesday, February 28**

10 a.m. Prayer Team with Julie Z.  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Cub Scouts-1rm

**Thursday, March 1**

10:30 a.m. Book Study with Barb B and Rochelle M: Lounge  
7 p.m. Book Study w/Erin T: lounge

**Saturday, March 3**

7:00 p.m. Book Study w/Paul Salow and Mary Karr @ church

**Sunday, March 4**

9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Ed  
9 a.m. Book Study w/Carol M: Lounge  
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
*Fellowship Time following worship*  
11:30 a.m. Choir: Join us!  
12:30 p.m. Book Study with Mike Williams: Lounge  
6:00 p.m. Book Study with Pastor Bob: Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, March 6**

9:30 a.m. – Book Study with Sharon E and Amanda T: Lounge

**Thursday, March 8**

7 p.m. Book Study w/Erin T: lounge



## Missions @ Marble

### February Mission Jar:

#### Adv # MM1351: United Methodist Retirement Communities Foundation:

Dedicated to benevolent care for seniors who have outlived their resources. More than \$14M in charitable donations have been used to help the residents remain under care where they are loved and treasured.

#### Adv #MM1109: Environmental Health and Accessibility Grant

Helps Detroit Area United Methodist Churches to fund environmental health upgrades such as room adaptations, ramps and listening devices. These upgrades help make programming available to all persons.

To contribute to these missions, mark your donation "Mission Jar"



### Aid In Milan

We collect donations every week during Morning Worship.

grape jelly  
baking ingredients  
condiments  
cereal  
rice and pasta  
healthy snack items  
crackers  
meal helpers  
canned pasta  
soup  
tomatoes (canned)  
fruit (canned)  
beans (canned)  
toothpaste & brushes  
shampoo  
laundry detergent  
hand soap  
Lysol spray and wipes  
dishwashing liquid  
feminine products  
diapers size 3 & 4  
baby care items  
adult incontinence:  
sm & med brief/pad



## The Call

I got my new UMCOR Early Response Team badge today and the first thing my wife said was that in my picture, I looked like I was melting, pretty sad. It's true. I'm not exactly the muscle man that will be needed for a lot of what Early Responders are called to do. But UMCOR was happy to take me on and I know I can be helpful for some of the work. I can climb a ladder (most days), handle important documents and rubbish, and even turn a good egg in a pinch when needed. And I can also pray.

So it's been four months since Hurricane Maria, recorded history's tenth most intense Atlantic hurricane, scrubbed over Puerto Rico, pretty much wiping out that piece of American territory as well as everything else in its path. Four months to that day, UMCOR has now put out the general "invitation" for ERTs to join in the work to be done. Four months to stabilize the basic infrastructure and now begin on the thousands of houses with not just damage but in many cases utter destruction of people's lives, livelihoods and families. Four months. The Puerto Rico invitation included some additional details that I missed in my recent training. Working above 3,000 ft. elevation, zero power, and new tarping guidelines for houses where there's no roof structure left, nothing whatsoever to hang a tarp on. This is dire. Four months and I'm guessing that they haven't exactly had a dry rainy season since that blast. God's folk, plus four months, and ERT says the goal is preserving what's left. What can possibly be left after four months?

Doesn't matter, God's folk. "There's need" is all my Amish ancestors needed to hear, so I'm told, for them to pack a kit and head down the valley for a spell. That story was an early inspiration for me. There've been many others, most of whom are connected to my church. Praise God!

There's need, is of course what mission is all about and yes, there is always need, somewhere, in some form, everywhere. It's not a question of need and not even a question of ability. With so many opportunities to serve, there's always going to be something to do, even for half-deaf, walled fat man. And we don't even have to leave town for some missions.

We have a few needs right here in Milan, and some right here at Marble. We're building (well, rebuilding) our church or at least trying to confirm that it's worth rebuilding. The next step to learning God's path for us is a common book study. *Who Stole My Church?* is a clever narrative that illustrates both the conflicts and consensus that we need to face as we ponder our work here. Praise God!

Another need, this one for our Community, is a good deal more straightforward. Hosting the Milan Winterfest Chili Cook-off will comprise a couple of days. This seems much easier. Welcoming, we do that pretty well. Providing basic needs, seating, heat, power and coat racks, again, is something we have covered. Set up and clean up should just about do it and I can push a mop. (Praise God!)

There is need. And God's People, all of us, are equipped to respond to the call. All we need to do is pack a kit and get on down the road.

**Praise God!**

**-Rodney Hill**



Happy Valentine's Day



UMW @  
Marble

**The Vision of United Methodist Women**  
Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

**Living the Vision**

We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action. We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action.

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches.

We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

**Interested** in learning more about the United Methodist Women here at Marble?

Have **ideas** about how to include more women in Christian fellowship and do more to help others in Milan and beyond?

**YES? Great! We need your help.** We have some amazing women who have lead spiritually and physically for many years. They are willing to mentor the rest of us. Let's grow and learn together.

**Please plan to attend our next Executive Team Meeting.**

We will look at projects and programming for 2018. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend.

The meeting will be:

Thu, February 15 at 7:00 p.m.

**Please mark your calendars!**  
Sunday, March 11- UMW Sunday

Saturday, April 7- Spring Prayer Brunch at Ypsilanti First UMC. Early Registration: \$12 through March 12. \$15 after that date.

Please see Molly Jeppesen for registration information.

**UMW Donations:**

If you would like to make a donation to UMW it would be appreciated. Please write checks to "UMW".



Christian Education @ Marble

**9 a.m. Sunday Morning Adult Classes are offered.**

- The Class in Irma's Room: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor between the stairs and church office.
- Adult Study in the Lounge: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, across from the church office.

**Classes encourage drop-in and new attendees any time!**

**Marble has a "Small Group Study & Potluck" meeting once or twice monthly (year-round) on Sunday afternoons. If you are interested please contact Nancy or Jim at: [innagle@comcast.net](mailto:innagle@comcast.net)**



**Church Email Blasts:**

If you would like to receive our "Congregational Notice" and/or "Prayer Network" emails, please notify Lisa in the office.



**Prayers for Members & Friends in the Armed Forces**

- A.J. Bezemek
- Brandon Clark
- Rob Eaton
- Jesse Karr
- Jason Loomis
- Nate Myyra
- James Nagle
- Pat Riley
- Katie Rodriguez
- Carolyn Vilona
- Joshua Wieringa



Monday,  
February 19<sup>th</sup>



**Blood Drive Thank You!**  
Many thanks to our volunteers and our donors for a successful January Blood Drive.

**Our Next Blood Drive is: July 18**

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Lisa in the office for information.



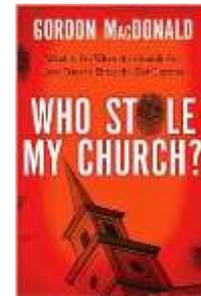
### Choir @ Marble:

Choir practices on Sundays after Morning Worship: 11:30 a.m.- 12:00 noon EVERYONE is invited to join in and see how much fun YOU can have in the Choir!

You may also contact Mike at: [MWilliams40@comcast.net](mailto:MWilliams40@comcast.net)



Marble Memorial is hosting the Chili Cook-off for Milan's "Let's Chill Winter Fest" Sat, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 12-2:00 p.m.



### Church-Wide Book Study:

There are many book study options! Please choose a class that works for you.

Childcare\* available on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. (\*contact church office if you will be using childcare)

#### SUNDAYS

- at 9:00 a.m. at the church w/Carol McCrae: Lounge
- at 12:30 p.m. at the church w/Mike Williams: Lounge
- at 4:00 p.m. at the home of the Nagle's (began 1/7)
- at 6:00 p.m. at the church w/Pastor Bob: Fellowship Hall

#### WEEKDAYS

- Tuesday - 9:30 a.m. at the church w/Sharon Early and Amanda Thornton: Lounge
- Thursday - 10:30 a.m. at the church w/Barb Bachant and Rochelle Miller: Lounge

#### WEEKNIGHTS

- Thursday - 7:00 PM at the church w/Erin Tellas: Lounge
- Alternating Friday & Saturdays – 7:00 p.m. w/Mary Karr and Paul Salow: Fridays at church: 1/26, 2/9, 2/23 Saturdays at Karrs: 2/3, 2/17, 3/3 - 12295 Stony Creek Rd

If you have questions about the days and times please don't hesitate to contact the church office: 439-2421 or, Barb Bachant: 439-7596.



### March Deadline: February 20th

\*Teachers, committee heads, group leaders, volunteers... send your items, dates and events to the church office [marblemumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marblemumc@sbcglobal.net)

### February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Groundhog Day...



Hoping for more winter? Or, are you ready for spring?!



is February 11<sup>th</sup>

Marble hosts one Boy Scout Den plus, five Cub Scout Dens which comprise the Pack for this area.



Thank you to our Scouts & Leaders who help with our Blood Drives in January and in July! Your service is much appreciated!



ASH WEDNESDAY  
Worship Service  
7:00 p.m.  
February 14

