



220 South Elm
Marshfield, MO 65706

Office: (417) 859-2472

WORSHIP LEADERS

MARCH 05
Greeters: Ann Owen & Charlotte Biddle
Ushers: Ken & Bridget Harmon
Liturgist: Maggie Melvin
JAM: Family Sunday - NO JAM
Online Host: Jean Benzen

MARCH 12
Greeters: Rosie Maybee & Tommy Hoffman
Ushers: Justin & Natalie Erb
Liturgist: DeAnne Rader
JAM: Susan Foglesong & Dena Weaver
Online Host: John & Bethany Buckler

MARCH 19
Greeters: Jennifer & Brock Ahrens
Ushers: Clay Robertson & Darrell Ragsdale
Liturgist: Amanda Robertson
JAM: Delene McAnarney & Jackie Scott
Online Host: Becky Choate

MARCH 26
Greeters: Mary Gilmore & Sherry Bowers
Ushers: Paul & Kris Chadek
Liturgist: Elmerie Marlin
JAM: Jennifer Ahrens & Jinger Wright
Online Host: Karen Johnson

BLESSINGS BOX

Dear Reverend Kim and the MUMC Congregation,
Thank you for adopting Safe Harbor for your Advent devotions project and Christmas Eve offering. In addition to the baskets of supplies that I collected from church, we have received several donations at the office consisting of laundry kits, pampering kits, and kids comfort kits. All of this will go to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children.

Your Christmas Eve offering was a whopping \$1996.00, which is especially impressive considering how cold it was that night. We truly appreciate the generosity of your members. As a non-profit organization, we depend on donations from our community. We use those donations to help victims of domestic and sexual violence create safety plans, write orders of protection, provide emergency shelter and counseling, and operate a 24-hour emergency hotline.

As you know we are also raising funds to build a much-needed domestic violence shelter here in Webster County. The shelter will not only provide a safe escape for those fleeing abusive relationships, but will allow us to serve their needs better by providing them group counseling, support groups, and a host of classes designed to equip them with the skills needed to move forward.

Thanks again for partnering with us in taking a stand against domestic violence. We truly appreciate your support.

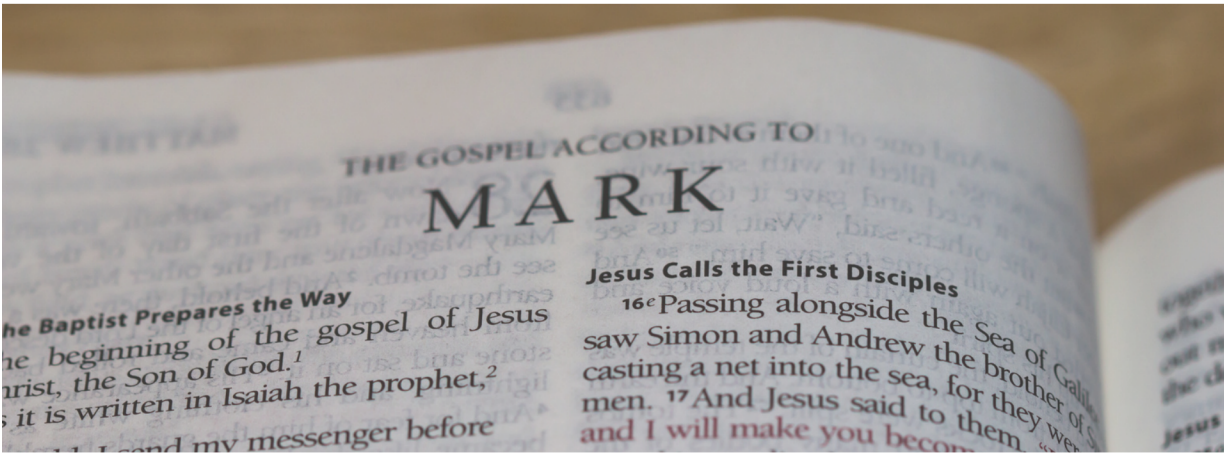
DeAnne Rader
Director - Safe Harbor



**MARSHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST**

March 2023

MEMO



BIBLE STUDIES PROVIDE NEW PLACES FOR NEW PEOPLE

One of Bishop Farr's initiatives is to encourage churches to create new places for new people. New faces at Marshfield UMC help me appreciate that initiative. When new people arrive, they want to know when the next new study/group is starting. It is easier to join a new group as a new person than to walk into an existing group as the new person. With that in mind, we're stirring up how/when we offer Bible Studies this year, so when someone new asks when the next group or study is starting, we can always say "soon."

We have several teachers planning Bible studies for various points in the year. We will share their class information as decisions are made. I have four planned for the year, and we tried different schedule options for each. Every class I teach will have two times -- one online and one in person. A group of MUMC leaders is involved in a MO United Methodist Foundation learning cohort in Digital Discipleship, where we are getting lots of good information on how to do online classes better to meet the needs of homebound students and those who live outside of Marshfield.

Later this year, I will be teaching David & Solomon, Having Men for Dinner: the Bible's Murdering Women, and Revelation & Apocalyptic Literature. Beginning March 12, I will be teaching The Gospels. There is no prior reading for this class. Each class will equip you to read one of the gospels as a singular account of Jesus Christ. It will help us understand how the accounts are related and why we need all four.

We will begin with the Gospel of Mark on March 12 from 3:30-5:00 for in person and 5:30-7:00 for online. We will learn what we need to know about Mark, and then students will be encouraged to go home and read it as a book, sending in any questions they have along the way. Then we'll dive into Matthew, Luke/Acts, and finish up with John the week of Easter. This is a great study for Lent because it makes it possible for students to read and understand the Gospels of Jesus Christ in new ways as we walk toward the events they describe, the Passion and Resurrection. I look forward to connecting with you in class, either in person or online! - Kim



NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT IN SW MISSOURI

Our current District Superintendent, Rev. Alice Fowler, has announced her retirement in June. The MO Conference announced the appointment of Rev. Mary Rodgers-Weaver (pictured) as the incoming Southwest District Superintendent. She is currently lead pastor at Concord Trinity in the NE District. We ask you to pray for Rev. Alice and Rev. Mary during this transition.

IN THIS MEMO

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OUR MISSION

To make new disciples
of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world

OUR VISION

Renew: Body,
Mind, Soul

Photo Credit: Rob Foster



And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Our church shifted several years ago to a leadership structure we now call Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS). In this model, everyone one has their own lanes in which to operate, and we hold each other accountable for the work we do to fulfill our mission of making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

UMM NEWS

On Monday, February 6th, we held our second monthly fellowship meeting of the year at 5:30 in the ARK. After a super tasty meal of taco soup and many delicious sides, we had a very informative and quite interesting program about the history of the Civil War Battle of Mine Creek by Mardellya Troyer. Mardellya talked about the significant history of Fort Scott and how it was built on a three-hundred foot cliff for protection against marauding Native Americans and cannon balls. We were given pictures of several Victorian and Federalist houses,

Each year, the Church Council sets SMART (Specific, Measurable, etc.) goals for the church, and it is my job to help the staff meet those goals. This year I brought the Council concerns I've heard in the congregation and possible SMART goals we could set to address them. I thought I'd use this space to share our goals for 2023 and the concerns behind them.

-Concern #1: We need to keep adding young people. **Goal #1: Hold four activities specifically for children and their grown-ups. Extend invitation to families in the daycare.**

-Concern #2: We need more opportunities to just be together in fellowship. **Goal #2: Hold four church-wide meals. The Chili Cook-Off started us on our way. Goal #3: Host a Homecoming Weekend for online and in-person church family.** We'll say more about this in the future. This goal generated the most excitement at Council.

-Concern #3: When does the next new group/study begin? This concern is discussed in some detail on the front page of this Memo. **Goal #4: Offer seven new Bible studies spaced out through the year.**

-Concern #4: Every time we go through a pastoral change, we seem to come to a standstill. Is there a way to keep the church moving forward even through pastoral transition? **Goal #5: Start five people in lay ministry training.**

The National Cemetery Number One, and Oak Panel Artwork in the Fort Scott stables done by Mardellya in 1981!

We discussed our scholarship fund, budget, a general clean-up to be performed sometime before Easter, and weather permitting-burning the brush pile by the Parsonage. Our devotionals and sharing are becoming quite meaningful, bringing us all closer to God and attentive to each other.

Our nest meeting will be held March 6th at the usual time and place. The program will be about "The History of Banking in Webster County" presented by Larry Rost. Please come and join us for some fun and great fellowship.

Pat Blinzler

This should strengthen leaders and connect them to Conference and denominational resources so that ministries can move forward with confidence even in times of transition, providing leadership continuity to the church.

When I came to Marshfield UMC, I realized one of your struggles was transitioning to a new form of governance at the same time you had a pastoral transition. How tricky for you and your pastor! I spent a lot of last year focused on administration, the functioning of our council, figuring out which lane is whose, etc. Our Council runs so smoothly now, another UMC has asked if they can come watch how our council functions. If you have a moment, please note the council members listed in this Memo (plus last year's members, Jim Hartley, Jim Page, and Pat Blinzler) and thank them for the great work they've done making SAS work well for our congregation.

I am now a big fan of SAS, as I love the extra layers of accountability it provides. At the end of the day, we are all accountable to each other and to Jesus Christ for the work we do together to grow God's kingdom inside and outside our building. Thank you for sharing your concerns with me, for being supportive of your pastors, staff, council, and each other. You made it *very easy* to ask to the MO Conference to let me stay another year at Marshfield UMC.

Love,

Kim

BOOK REVIEW

I recently read "A Light in the Darkness" from the UMC Library fiction section. Changes in Priscilla's life after her husband passed away and a surprise in the unexpected notification of an inheritance from an Aunt she hadn't seen since childhood took her, in her mid-fifties, from the Kansas farm she grew up on to Martha's Vineyard and her own cottage and lighthouse built in the 1700s. Throw in rumors of Revolutionary War treasure and hints at other historic activities and you're hooked! This is only one of the many redeeming and wholesome stories available to feed your escape fiction appetite in the MUMC Church Library. Happy reading.

Mary Geise

WANDA'S wheelhouse



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

WANDA HEIDEMANN
Associate Pastor

Wow, God can show up in many ways. I don't know about you, but winter has been strange. Winter is really not my favorite time of year. I don't like the cold. A couple of weeks ago though, I woke up to the most beautiful snowfall that I had seen in a long time. There was about seven inches of snow on our deck and the lights looked like beautiful white snow

caps. I stopped and thanked God, because this was His handiwork. It was just beautiful as the snow glistened. But on the flip side, shoveling was no fun. Honestly, though, I am anxiously waiting for spring.

The other day as I was walking into the church, I was amazed to see little daffodil shoots starting to burst from the ground. It amazes me that bulbs can lie dormant for the entire winter and then, by some miracle, know when to spring up. They get taller by the day and soon these new sprouts will have buds that will form the beautiful flowers that we enjoy so much.

Now mind you, winter is still here and I pray for these little buds that stay strong. As we prepare our hearts and souls for Lent, what is hidden, dormant within you that can spring forth this season and become a beautiful thing? Unlike flowers, we have to give these hidden treasures a nudge sometimes. Paul tells us that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation - just like the flowers that appear in the springtime.

This Lenten season, I challenge you to look hard into the recesses of your soul and gently nudge something within you to burst up through the ground of your life. Try something different in your spiritual life. If you are are accustomed to praying on a regular basis and don't do too much studying of the Bible, add that. Take a step out of your normal comfort zone and that might provide the force for your flowers, your hidden treasures, to grow.

Ash Wednesday is February 22, and as we begin this Lenten journey together, I hope you will join me in inviting God into our lives as we continue to celebrate and commit to the life of Jesus Christ. Through Lent, together we will cultivate our season and deepen our faith walk. Instead of saying no to the calling of the church, because we are too busy, take the time of Lent and through the rest of this year to say yes to all that God has in store for us. Say yes to our journey together. This is an exciting season.

God Bless each of you!



Love, Wanda

CHURCH STAFF

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Brenda Sommerville, Organist
Susan Foglesong, Children's Ministries
James McAnarney, Youth Director
Nichole Pooley, Asst. Youth Director
Joan Ireland, Treasurer
Connie Hutchins, Nursery

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Susan Newcomb, Chair
Jennifer Ahrens, PPR Chair
Deb Drane, Secretary
Curt Weaver Molly Laverty
Ann Owen Jane Henson
Paul Jones Darrell Ragsdale
Cara Melvin Clay Robertson
Elmeree Marlin Paul Chadek

LIBRARY NEWS

If you are looking for a good book to read, please come visit the church library. There are a wide variety of categories including reference, prayer, parenting, biographies, fiction, and books for children and young adults. To check out a book simply fill in the information on the sheet on the clipboard which hangs on the wall to the left of the computer. When you are finished with the book(s), place it/them in the wooden "Book Return" box outside the library doors. You can also access the library catalog online at <https://www.librarysoft.com/HOSTED/MARSHSEARCH/MARSHSEARCH.html> When logging in, your user name is your seven-digit phone number (without area code) and your password is the last four digits of your phone number. If you encounter any problems, you can email the library at: marshfieldumclibrary@gamil.com