



Marble Memorial United Methodist Church

January 2022

Aid in Milan: Stock the Pantry in the New Year

When we called Aid in Milan pantry coordinator, Jennifer, a few days before Christmas you could hear in the background the busy-ness of the work that this pantry does. This community is blessed beyond measure to have this resource available for households struggling with food insecurity and for those unable to meet basic needs.

Heading into the new year: Aid in Milan is already low on the following pantry items:

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

cereal

soups (especially stews and hearty soups)

canned pasta meals (like spaghetti & ravioli)

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

Aid in Milan Giving Tree Thank You

To everyone who contributed gift cards, made a monetary donation, prayed for local families and supported Aid in Milan in other ways this Christmas Season: THANK YOU!
Marble was able to donate \$825 in gift cards to Aid in Milan for families this Christmas.
GOD IS GOOD – ALL THE TIME!

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!

Happy New Year! As we transition from Advent and the celebration of Christ birth, we move into the twelve days of Christmas. Yes, that's right. The twelve days of Christmas do not actually begin until after Christmas. At the end of the twelve days, we celebrate Epiphany on January 6th. For those that thought everything wrapped up on December 25th, this joyous season continues for a little longer to kick off the New Year.

Last month, I spent some time reflecting on all that God blessed us with in 2021. I believe there are even bigger things on the horizon for us in 2022. One of the challenges still in front of us is the pandemic and its continuation into this next year. I know that 2020 and 2021 have been difficult for many, and it seems unclear when this struggle to end the pandemic will end. Again, I will encourage those who have not been vaccinated to do so. If you are vaccinated, then please get the booster. Please consider others health and wellbeing when making these decisions on how to be good neighbors to those around us. One of the blessings since my arrival, we have not had to close the church due to a reported case of Covid. I certainly would like to keep that gift intact going into the next year.

A couple of thoughts go through my mind as I sit down to write this piece. First, I wrote a couple of months ago about having an inward focus. Second, I think about the townhall meeting we had in December. Despite the pandemic and the challenges that have come with, we have overcome a lot of things. I think some of the struggles we still experience came before the pandemic, but it doesn't mean we cannot get past them. Changing culture is not easy and presents a whole other set of problems. In the Bible, we read about how God creates covenants with the people and launches the start of something new. During times where a new covenant is created, it's like an epiphany showing us that something better is awaiting us and that we can overcome any issues in front of us.

As we move into 2022, let us continue to meet new neighbors, and not only nurture their relationship with Christ but love on them as we transform the world together. Although loving our neighbors seems like a simple message, we must in order to help turn things around in and at Marble. Engage with those around you, love on them as God loves you, and may our neighborhood grow spiritually and physically. I thought our town hall meeting provided an opportunity to talk about those things on our mind, and also a chance to continue moving forward. God is with us, and Christ is working through us, when we let them. I am your neighbor, and I love all of you even when it might be difficult to believe. Won't you be my neighbor, and continue to walk with me on this journey? If so, then nothing can stop us from building the neighborhood of God's kingdom.

Let me leave you with a couple of questions to discern during the twelve days of Christmas:

What are you most looking forward to in 2022?

Also, what direction do you truly believe God is leading us in for the New Year?

Let us continue to engage in healthy conversation, show respect to each other, and build the neighborhood as part of God's kingdom here on earth. Happy New Year, neighbors!

Peace be with you.

Pastor Matt



Wrapping Up Christmas: Well Done, Neighbors!

Did you read the Good News?! Did you?

Marble collected and donated **\$825 in gift cards** to Aid in Milan in support of local families this Christmas. Thank you, neighbors!

Visit with Santa on December 4th was a great success for Marble and for the Chamber of Commerce. It is reported that we had over 50 children visit with Santa in our sanctuary (it could have been closer to 75 kids!) Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to making this a great community event. Be on the lookout in 2022 for a chance to host Santa again! Thank you to our coordinator, Aby Cryderman!

Milan Christmas Parade: Thank you to our parade coordinators Andy Charter and Rod Hill and Thank you to everyone who helped!

Congregants Rang the Bell for Salvation Army at our local Kroger on December 10 and 17. Thank you to all of the volunteers!

Neighborhood Study: Starts Jan 9

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

Marble Meetings

Trustees: Tue, Jan 4, 7:00 p

SPRC: Tue, Jan 11, 7:00 p

Finance: Tue, Jan 18, 7:00 p

Outreach: Wed, Jan 19, 7:00 p

Church Council: Tue, Jan 25, 7:00 p

UMW Circles:

Sarah Ruth: Tue, Jan 11, 1:00 p @ Wanda K's

Susanna Wesley: Mon, Jan 17, 7:00 p

Happy New World! -Rod Hill, Lay Rep. to Annual Conference

Mariners speak of feeling changes in the progress of their ship before they can actually "see" or measure them on the surface. On the water, you do what you think is right and necessary to get where you want to go and then you wait and see what happens. "Answering the helm," means that your reality has caught up with your hopes and expectations. Sensing a "sea change" is an ancient concept but it's an important part of plotting a course and measuring ones progress.

This is something that we here at Marble are familiar with. We've been hoping for such change and altering our course for a long time now. We've been trying to change from a direction of loss and decline and pending disaster for years. And, like being caught in a turbulent stream, our efforts have seemed to make no difference at all in changing that progress.

We've worked, and continue to work hard, Praise God. All of us, including some who have lost heart along the way, have done everything we could think of to make a turn to take us in a better direction. But a thing we tend to forget is that God's course and vision for us may not be the same one we've been trying for. All we can do is our best, to be patient, and to value that change when it happens.

I've been feeling small course corrections for a while now. Hallelujah! And I felt another turn last Sunday when we were singing carols downtown. It wasn't just the singing or the props (although those were a great addition. Thanks Justin!). It was the sharing of Love and Joy between each other and all the neighbors that we met along the way.

Love and Joy! Rod

Join our Neighborhood Groups!



Neighborhood Study: **Sundays**, 10-11a – Room #25. Explore the Adam Hamilton book, “Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White”. Themes are: religion, morality and politics.

Sassy Sisters: Meeting on **Monday**, January 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Social House in Dundee for a meal between Sisters. This group is a “book study- hanging out- catching up outside of work and home”, relaxing place to be. Other dates will be announced later.

Beer & Bibles: **Every other Monday**, 8:30-10p. Dates in January are: Jan 17 & 31 – at The Owl. 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: **Every Tuesday** at 10 a.m. The first date in January is, Tuesday, January 11th at 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: Dates for January are: **Wednesday**, January 12 and 26th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. A safe and confidential space to share your challenges and joys as a caregiver. Learn how Jesus walks with us all.

Pray and Go: **Every Thursday** at 10 a.m. The first date in January is Thursday, January 13th at 10:00a – at the church. We will join together to walk around the neighborhood and pray for our neighbors. If you would like to participate by being indoor, at the church, come by around 10 a.m. before the group steps off.

Neighborhood Coffee Talk: “Evening Version”: **2nd and 4th Thursdays**, 8:30-9:30 p.m. 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 dates yet for January but, leadership will notify the congregation when these are set to resume in 2022.

Game Night: **Second Fridays**, Jan. 14, 7-9:00p at the church. An evening of playing games and a chance to fellowship. Bring a snack to share.

If you have a group you would like to start, please let us know and we can add it to our catalog.

Outreach @ Marble:

The Outreach Team will meet again January 19th to discuss plans for 2022.

We have been told there will be no “Let’s Chill Winter Fest” – but, keep an eye out for other Milan community activities that pop up because Marble will jump in and participate!

On Christmas Eve, Outreach Team coordinator, Brian Foster, delivered 7 tins of cookies for local businesses that were open and staff was working while we were worshipping and heading home. Thank you to Brian for being the soul of this great gesture!

New Sermon Series to begin January 9th:

