

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Liturgical Color: White

†Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE A Channel of God's Love (*B. Harlan*) Brenda Brent, piano

INTROIT On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (*Puer Nobis Nascitur*)

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES Rev. Dr. Julie Boone

INVOCATION Rev. Amber Lea Gray

HYMN NO. 248 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart MORECAMBE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed Rev. Gray

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* *universal*

GLORIA PATRI
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

ANTHEM On Jordan's Stormy Banks (*arr. K. Berg*) Singers

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Dr. Julie Boone

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Chad Loucks

LORD'S PRAYER NO. 895

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Standing on the Promises (*arr. Larry Dalton*) Brenda Brent, piano

†DOXOLOGY Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

†SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 1:4-11 Rev. Dr. Boone

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Boone

HYMN Baptized In Water BUNESSAN

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Boone

†SUNG BENEDICTION On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand (*Promised Land*) Singers

POSTLUDE Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (*arr. A. Krentz*) Brenda Brent, piano

*To protect our most vulnerable attendees, we graciously request that you please cover your
mouth and nose with a mask during the entire duration of our worship service.*

GIFTS TO MFUMC

In Memory of

William D. "Bill" Smith by Pamela Newton, Carol and Charles Franzman
Keith Nanstreele (Good Samaritan Fund) by Pat and Bill Evans
Harold S. Brannen (Organ Fund) Conley Ingram, Gene Jerrell, Bob Arrants and Branyan Sauls (Good Samaritan Fund) by June Brannen
Robert "Bob" Sheldon by Lucrette Hammons
Pat Towler, William D. "Bill" Smith, Lucy Chiles (Organ Fund) by John Strother Sunday School Class
Dr. Henry D. Meaders by Norma Jean and Sam Harman

In Honor of

Susan Schweitzer, Jamie Shew, Derith Pearl, Carlene Tutweiler (Good Samaritan Fund) by Pat Evans
Joy Sunday School Class by Phyllis Armistead
Bonnie Shrock by Steven Fisher
Bebe Meaders, Connie Meaders Kone and Susan Meaders Young by Norma Jean and Sam Harman

This week at MFUMC

FLOWERS: The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Barbara and Jerry George in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary by Cindy, David and Josh Orso.

HOSPITALIZED: Jerry Mann

OUT OF THE HOSPITAL: Charlotte Guest, Edna Jefferson, Mary Carlson, Charline Race, Nancy White

SYMPATHY: To Anna Gray Hart and family on the death of her mother on December 26, 2020.

To Ann and Lindell DeJarnett and family on the death of his brother, Omer Wayne DeJarnett, on January 1, 2021.

Upcoming Dates From Children's Ministry

- Power 45 - all 4th & 5th graders are welcome to join us for a fun night out on January 17.
- 5th Grade Retreat to Camp Glisson! On the weekend of January 30-31, spend time in fellowship and faith formation as part of the journey from Children's to Youth.
- Contact kellyduncan@mariettafumc.org for more information and sign-ups!

From Youth Ministry

- Fusion Sunday School - Students will have the opportunity to participate in Youth Sunday School this Sunday from 10:10 am-10:50am in the Lower Room. Make sure you register in advance, bring a mask, and get ready to dive into the word we study and fellowship together. We are excited to be back in action for 2021!
- Fusion Bonfire Night - 8th-12th Graders - join us tonight for our annual Bonfire Night! Students will kick off 2021 with worship, great food, and fellowship around the fire with their friends. Registration is required. Details and signups can be found on our website (www.mariettafumcyouth.com/youth-events)
- Fusion Fun Night - 6th and 7th graders need to make sure they mark their calendars for Jan. 17th for a Fusion Fun Night at the church! Registration is required and you can find more information on our website (www.mariettafumcyouth.com/youth-events)

Sermon by Phone - If you don't have access to the internet to Livestream our services, you can call

770.203.1123 after 5:00 p.m. on Mondays to hear an audio playback of our scripture lesson & sermon!

Book Club - Join Rev. Amber Lea Gray for a monthly book club starting in January! Our first book will be *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. We will use Facebook to discuss as we read, and then we'll meet for casual conversation of the book towards the end of the month. Contact Rev. Gray for more details at amberleagray@mariettafumc.org.

Men's Bible Study - Join the Men of the Church and put your faith in action with service projects and meet weekly for small group Bible study. Please visit mariettafumc.org/mensgroup.

Upper Room Zoom Study - Each Wednesday at 10 a.m., gather together on Zoom to share prayer, devotions from the Upper Room magazine, and fellowship. For more information and to register, please visit mariettafumc.org/upperroom.

The Extension Dinners - Monthly opportunities are available to prepare a dish to provide a complete meal to either The Men's or Women's Extension, a rehabilitation program for homeless and addicted Cobb County residents. To sign up to prepare a dish, please visit mariettafumc.org/extensiondinners.

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Always We Love

Over the years, I have fallen into the social pressure of taking on New Year's resolutions, and like most, I fail at them within a month or two. Most of the resolutions are of the common variety, eat better, exercise more, be more disciplined. But last year, I learned of a new way to begin the year, one that could potentially be successful. It was choosing one word that would guide my priorities and actions. For 2020 I chose the word "Discipline." Throughout the year, I would like to say that I gained great discipline over my life and became truly John Wesley-like and methodical. But alas, full confession, I did not experience great success. Not one to give up easily, I decided to choose another word that would guide my life and actions for 2021 and so I chose the word "Love."

What do I mean by love? Surely the words of Jesus come to mind, "love God," "love your neighbor as yourself." So too, do the words of Paul, "Love is patient, love is kind..." But what about loving your enemy, do good to those who hate you, turn the other cheek? What about that kind of love? The love that Jesus taught and embodied was not an idealistic, warm-fuzzy kind of love. It was a hard, messy, practical kind of love. The kind of love that spoke of mercy, compassion, and peace even in the face of opposition, hate, and difference.

The kind of love that Jesus calls each Christian and Christian community is a love that takes deep faith and conviction. A love that says, the gospel message of Jesus Christ is the center of my life. Not my politics, not my job, not the differences I have with others, only Jesus and the love to which he calls us, regardless of what is happening in our world. I am shocked and deeply saddened by what we witnessed at our nation's Capitol this week. I am saddened for those who lost their lives, for our government officials who feared for their safety, for our nation which is broken and in need of healing.

Love is not lived out in violence. Love is not shared with words of hate. Love is not harming someone because they choose to think or believe differently than we do. Love is about acknowledging our differences and loving even despite those differences. Love is uttering words of kindness, compassion, and mercy, even...even when we are mocked and reviled. Don't be fooled by this word love. Love is not easy, but if we call ourselves a Christian then the only choice we have is to love like Jesus. So, whether we like it or not, always we must love. I hope that you will join me this year in choosing love.

Peace and grace,



Worship Leaders

Senior Minister:
Rev. Dr. Julie Boone

Associate Minister:
Rev. Amber Lea Gray

Associate Minister:
Rev. Chad Loucks

Organist/Interim Director of Music:
Brian Parks

Director of Youth Choir/Associate:
Catherine Moulton

Pianist
Brenda Brent

Interim Director of Chancel Choir
Lynn Swanson

Marietta First UMC Giving

There are four ways you can give to support the mission and ministry of our church:

1. Online at mariettafumc.org/give
2. Text any dollar amount to 84321
3. Through the Offering Plate
4. By mailing your gift to the church office