



Marion First United Methodist Church

Issue No. 4

February 12, 2016

The **mission** of the Church is to make Disciples of **Jesus Christ** for the **transformation** of the world.

OUR LINE IN THE SAND - HOLY SCRIPTURE



Since August (if you have been reading) your church staff has been sharing inspirations gained from a study of the Primitive (original) Methodists in England of a few centuries ago. The lessons learned by our ancestors are germane to any movement that seeks to fulfill the mission to which we are called. Today you read of “**holding a high view of the Bible as God’s Revelation**” as a necessity to reaching a new generation for Christ.

Clarity is one of my strengths. Holy Scripture as God’s revelation is the absolute line in the sand we must draw. The Scriptures are what every behavior, action, policy and word spoken must be based on and tested through.

In our generation, human reason seems to have become the ultimate reference point, because as the Primitive Methodists knew, a lost world turns to a variety of sources to validate their behavior. JB Philips in the middle of the last century identified four moralities that will replace scriptural authority, in any Christian church or community that does not hold a high regard of the Bible as God’s revelation.

The first is “statistical” morality. Statistical morality depends on the premise that what most people are doing is the right thing. Obviously this practically guarantees that you can do just about anything you want to do and claim that you are a “good person.”

“Emotional” morality is the approach that lies heavily on feelings. What feels good is right and what feels bad is wrong. Emotional morality rejects almost any action that involves personal sacrifice and encourages you to just follow your heart.

Philips describes “situational” morality as basically a do-what-you-think-is-right in the moment. This of course eliminates any chance of being wrong.

Lastly, “sensitive” morality accepts that there are no absolute standards of right and wrong. Each person has a right to his/her own personal morality and not even God should dare interfere.

Our Apostle Paul writes in Romans “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” To remind us that these are all wrong! It is not our good ideas, emotions or sensitivities that are to drive our lives but the Word and will of God.

This friends, is why Marion Methodist holds the scriptures in highest regard as God’s revelation; if we do not the world around us will squeeze us into its mold. This is catastrophic for the human soul because it has no absolute truth, no potent hope, no unshakeable unbreakable, love to shape, hold, and guide us. We are truly on our own at the mercy of this world of one darn thing after another – that is, we are doomed.

Marion Methodist believes Scripture is the ultimate reference for all of life and breathes hope into a world in need of hope. We hold in highest regard the Scriptures in which Jesus is revealed as the one who substitutes himself to take the punishment of our sins and breathes mercy into thousands of lives that are clamoring for mercy.

Marion Methodist proclaims confidence in the eternal future the Scriptures promise to believers in a world that fears that what we can see is all there is. We believe the Scriptures breathe life into a lifeless generation. We claim the authority of Scripture comes from the movement of God’s Spirit in times past, and, in our reading today offers ultimate answers to a generation ripe with questions.

Friends, we are Marion Methodists who believe that the Scriptures record the timeless truths of God and in our reading afford us timely insight as to how we are to live for Him in the world. This is our line in the sand, thus, to enable us in our mission, I admonish each of you to saturate your minds with God’s word.

Pastor Mike

Visit Us Online

- Website - Calendars, Church Info, and More
www.marionmethodist.org
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- YouTube - Sermon Videos
www.youtube.com/marionmethodist
- iTunes Podcast - Sermon Audio
itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/marion-methodist/id562893153

Each week on Tuesday, the church sends out an email detailing the events taking place in the next seven days, and devoting some space to explain a little more about one of the multitude of ministries and missions in which we participate. To sign up to receive this email each week, please contact the church office at (319) 377-4856 or by email at info@marionmethodist.org.

Marion First United Methodist Church

Corner of 12th Street & 8th Avenue

Sunday Morning Worship

7:45 AM

Early Worship - Chapel

8:30 AM

Spirited Traditional - Sanctuary

9:45 AM

Contemporary Praise - Sanctuary
Church School for children and adults

11:00 AM

Contemporary Praise - Sanctuary
Kids' View - Room 350

Upcoming Sermons

February 14 - *Gospel of John* - John 19:1-16a

February 21 - *Gospel of John* - John 19:16b - 30



Marion First United Methodist Church
1298 7th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302
Return Address
Service Requested

For any information needing to be published in the Marion Methodist newsletter, please contact the church office.
(info@marionmethodist.org)

LABEL HERE

Camp Breakfast

Join us for **CAMP BREAKFAST** on Sunday, February 28 from 8:00-11:30am in Fellowship Hall.

A free-will offering will help send our children and youth to Summer Games University and other Methodist camps. Please come and help make someone's summer camp experience one they will never forget!



Pantry Partners for Marion Food Pantry

We help folks in need by supplying items for the Marion Churches Food Pantry. You may bring the following items to church any time during each month. Please put your contributions in one of the grocery carts located in the Narthex or at the 8th Avenue glass doors, or in the Mission Depot in Fellowship Hall dining room or the Church Office.

February: Canned Fruit

March: Peanut Butter

April: Macaroni and Cheese

May: Toilet Tissue

June: Soup

July: Macaroni and Cheese and Soup

Hospitality Center

The Connections and Hospitality Team at Marion Methodist invites you to use the Hospitality Center. During normal weekday business hours the 8th Avenue (Overhang entrance) church doors are open. The Hospitality Center is located right inside the doors and has a Keurig individual serving hot drink machine and lots of "K-Cups" from which to select. You are invited to come into the church and meet with friends in the Hospitality or Family Room, pray in the Prayer Room. Use the free WiFi to do your devotions or just have some quiet time.

In addition, all of these things are available to you on Sunday afternoons while you wait for your child in bell choir or 19:14 puppets. Take advantage of your church facility as a welcoming place for your friends and family.

Palm Sunday Cantata



Please consider this your invitation to join the Marion Methodist Chancel Choir as they sing their spring cantata during morning services on Palm Sunday, March 20th.

The chancel choir's interim director, Jonathan Dyrland, wants lots of new voices to help fill the sanctuary as we sing "Whispers of the Passion" by Joseph Martin. Can you help make Jonathan's wish come true?

You don't have to be able to read music; it's only important that you find joy in sharing God's love through singing.

Cantata rehearsals will be held in the 3rd floor choir room on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 starting February 3rd through Palm Sunday. (Note that the February 10th rehearsal will start an hour later due to Ash Wednesday services).

Please pray and think about this opportunity. We know you will be blessed by participating and so will the congregation on Palm Sunday!

To confirm your interest, just join us on Wednesday evening in the choir room. If you have questions, please contact any of the choir members such as Dan Ciha at dannykay85@mchsi.com or Mary Lee Parks at mparks@marionmethodist.org.

New Member Class



Welcome to the New Members who joined our church on January 24!
Front row: Jensen Thornton, Blythe Biberdorf, Brody Biberdorf
Middle row: Matt & Rachel Bailey, Mindy Thornton, Shannon Booth Biberdorf, Alicia Buckley
Back row: Matt Thornton, Tyler Hungate, Chase Brisel, Paul Biberdorf, Pastor Mike

**Fill Your Body • Fill Your Heart
• Fill Your Head**

Powerhouse 
get connected 

Meal Schedule:

2/17 Dairy Queen
2/24 Taco Bell
3/2 Pizza Hut

Powerhouse meets every Wednesday. From 5:45 PM - 6:15 PM we have a Family Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM we have activities for all ages

Preschoolers: Kids may forget what you say - but they remember what they discover on their own. Get them "Hands On" with God's Word. (Room 205)

KDG - 5th Grade: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant in your everyday life! Discover Jesus in you. (Room 303/305)

4:12 Youth Group: Junior High 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, High School 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM

Adult Classes: Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marionmethodist.org

Nursery: Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators.

Phun Philanthropic Phebruary XIII

One of the ways we at Marion Methodist “fight off winter” is Phun Philanthropic Phebruary. Phun Philanthropic Phebruary is an opportunity to resist the dreariness of February in Iowa by having a little fun in church while worshipping, serving God and his people.

FEBRUARY 14

Phun: “It’s a Love Haiti Relationship”

Philanthropy: Opportunity to sponsor a Haitian Child through RTS mission (Reach, Teach, Serve)

FEBRUARY 21

Phun: United Methodist Women Sunday

Philanthropy: Health Kits for United Methodist Commission on Relief – toothbrushes and \$1 for toothpaste

FEBRUARY 28

Phun: Wear Camp T-Shirts or “camping” clothes

Camp Breakfast all morning in Fellowship Hall

Philanthropy: Camp Offering helps fund Camp Scholarships and every \$ helps pay for a week of Summer Games University, which is \$295 per week

FUMC Foundation News

Last year the FUMC Foundation disbursed over \$33,000 in support of the following:

- Mission projects
- Youth programs
- Camperships
- Music ministry
- Seminary scholarships
- Special ministry areas with in the church.

The foundation also supported capital projects of the trustees and part of the church’s 175th anniversary celebration. We thank all of the donors! Without your support these disbursements would not be possible.

Needed Items for Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is going to need empty wrapping paper tubes and white icicle lights this summer. This seems like the perfect time of year to save them. If you have any this season, please save them and bring them to the church. There will be a spot for them on 3rd floor and in the Preschool Sunday School rooms. You can also drop them off at the church office. Thank you!

United Methodist General Conference May 10-20

Every four years the General Conference of the United Methodist Church meets to pray for, discern and decide the way forward for our Church. The General Conference is composed of elected delegates from every Annual Conference in the world and will meet May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. There are six elected clergy delegates and six lay delegates from Iowa. Pastor Morgan is one of the two clergy alternate delegates from Iowa elected to attend.

Several issues regarding what we believe, how we are structured and how we will speak into the world today will come before the Conference. The four or so issues following will introduce to you some of the legislation coming before General Conference. The legislation in the form with which it will go to the General Conference floor has not yet been released to the delegates but since our last General Conference (2012) a great deal of work on the following has been done and legislation is expected.

- Discerning how United Methodist is a worldwide church.
 - o Shall we break into a “continental” form of governance?
 - o Shall we stay together for governance and find a universal path?
- How we can advance the “four areas of focus”
 - o Engaging in Ministry with the Poor
 - o Improving Global Health
 - o Developing Principled Christian Leaders
 - o Creating New and Renewed Congregations
- Discerning how we can do “Christian Conferencing”
 - o Discussing how scripture, tradition, reason, experience forms our official “positions” regarding the cultural issues/narrative of our day.
 - o Discerning how the “Wesleyan experiment” of plurality and diversity in theological expression can go forward peacefully in the name of Jesus or whether the church should be divided congregationally by theological orientation.

These obviously are broad summaries since the conference is 10 days in length. When specifics become more available they will be printed here. You will be encouraged to read them on the world wide web – because – as you might guess from sitting in our pews there is a “left – right and middle” to most of these discussions. The work the General Conference will be doing is plotting a course forward in the mission of the church.

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:

January 22 - Velma Hamdorf, wife of Harlan Hamdorf

January 26 - Norma Rust, mother of Cindy (Dana) Ditzenberger. Grandchildren: Brianna and Alex Ditzenberger

BIRTHS:

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

The Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule

Articles for our Marion Methodist need to be submitted by due date at 12:00 PM. You may email them to:

jwildman@marionmethodist.org with [newsletter] in the subject line. Please send any information or images as an attachment. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call or bring to the office items to be published. We ask that you honor the deadlines listed below:

Date Arrived in Mail	Date Articles Due
2/26	2/17
3/11	3/2
3/25	3/16
4/8	3/30
4/22	4/13

Church Information

Marion First United Methodist Church
 Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue
Church Office
 1298 7th Avenue
 Marion, IA 52302
 Office: (319) 377-4856
 Fax: (319) 377-5392

Caring Corner Daycare
 Office: (319) 377-8490

Kitchen/Fellowship Hall
 Phone: (319) 377-4252

www.marionmethodist.org

Staff

- Lead Pastor, Mike Morgan**
mmorgan@marionmethodist.org
- Pastor of Youth and Mission, Keith Nester**
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- Director of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley**
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- Church Business Administrator, John Terry**
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- Director of Hospitality and Membership Connections, Karen Schmitz**
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- Director of Worship and Technology, Simon Campbell**
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- Director of Music, Jonathan Dyrland**
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- Organist/Keyboardist, Diane Beach**
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- Handbell Choir Director, Mary Lee Parks**
mparks@marionmethodist.org
- Nursery Volunteer Coordinator, Amelia Echols**
aechols@marionmethodist.org
- Custodian, Alan Arduser**
- Maintenance, Leon Smock**
- Assistant/Evening Custodian, Gary Barr**

Visit our Prayer Wall

Strengthen your personal prayer time by visiting the Marion Methodist Prayer Wall. Pray for the requests that have been posted and submit your own joys and concerns. Many are visiting the prayer wall, and it is becoming a powerful piece of our prayer ministry. Visit the prayer wall often to pray over newly posted prayers! Remember you can access the Marion Methodist Prayer Wall anytime, anywhere, so make it a part of your regular prayer time!
<http://www.marionmethodist.org/prayer-requests/>

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Sunday School for all ages 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room)) 1:00pm Puppet Practice in Sanctuary (Sanctuary) 1:00pm Disciple 1 (Room 105) 2:15pm Joyful Noise Handbells (Choir Room) 3:00pm Jubilation Handbells (Handbell Room) 4:00pm Bell Canto Handbells (Handbell Room) 5:00pm Friendship Ministry (Fellowship Hall)	15 8:00am Tax Preparation (Carnegie - Youth) 6:00pm Joint Committee Chairpersons (Room 105) 6:00pm Caring Corner Staff Meeting (Chapel) 6:30pm Trustees (Room 107) 6:30pm Foundation (Room 105) 6:30pm Finance (Room 106) 6:30pm Building Committee (Room 333) 6:30pm SPRC (Room 104) 7:00pm Turkey Trot Meeting (Library/Hospitality Room)	16 8:00am Tax Preparation (Carnegie - Youth) 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00pm Touch of Brass Handbells (Handbell Room)	17 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 1:30pm Page Turners Circle (Room 106) 5:00pm Confirmation (Carnegie - Conference) 5:30pm Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Powerhouse - 3yrs to 5th grade 6:30pm Choir Practice (Choir Room) 6:30pm 4:12 Junior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 6:30pm The Caring Congregation (Room 106) 6:30pm Basic Bible Class (Carnegie - UL) 7:15pm 4:12 Senior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	18 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Precept Bible Study (Room 107)	19 9:30am Precept Bible Study (Room 107)	20

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Sunday School for all ages 9:45am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Hospitality Room) 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Hospitality Room) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room)) 1:00pm Puppet Practice in Sanctuary (Sanctuary) 1:00pm Disciple 1 (Room 105) 2:00pm Girl Scouts (Room 104) 2:15pm Joyful Noise Handbells (Choir Room) 3:00pm Jubilation Handbells (Handbell Room) 4:00pm Bell Canto Handbells (Handbell Room) 5:00pm Friendship Ministry (Fellowship Hall)	22 8:00am Tax Preparation (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30pm Connections Team Meeting (Carnegie - UL)	23 8:00am Tax Preparation (Carnegie - Youth) 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00pm Touch of Brass Handbells (Handbell Room)	24 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 5:00pm Confirmation (Carnegie - Conference) 5:30pm Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Basic Bible Class (Carnegie - UL) 6:30pm Powerhouse - 3yrs to 5th grade 6:30pm Choir Practice (Choir Room) 6:30pm The Caring Congregation (Room 106) 6:30pm 4:12 Junior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 7:15pm 4:12 Senior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	25 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Precept Bible Study (Room 107)	26 8:00am School Bag Cutting Day (Fellowship Hall) 9:30am Precept Bible Study (Room 107)	27 12:00pm Camp Breakfast - prep (Fellowship Hall)