



Marion First United Methodist Church

Issue No. 10

May 6, 2016

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

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016 - THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE AND A WAY FORWARD



The United Methodist Church began at a point in history that parallels the emerging government of the United States of America. As the early Methodists considered a way to govern the expanding church, it was a natural fit to allow it to parallel the system in the country in which it was flourishing. Thus, United Methodists have an "executive"

branch which is constituted by our elected Bishops, a "judicial" branch consisting of our 9-member Judicial Council and of course a multi-layered "legislative" branch. The top layer of the legislative branch is General Conference which meets every 4 years and meets this May in Portland, Oregon.

The **Daily Christian Advocate**, the legislative manual for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, currently exceeds 1500 pages and deals with many, many issues that are aimed at "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Most have to do with church structure, our witness in the world and how to live as a global church. Like most legislative groups, if there is a legislation "for" something, there is also one "against" that same thing and likely several things in the "middle."

Since most issues have more than one petition: for/against/middle the first week of General Conference is consumed with (assigned not chosen) legislative committees working to combine legislation to a workable number and clear documents. Remember, as a worldwide church, there are language barriers to be overcome, *cultural concerns to be addressed, as always human ego to be diffused and the Holy Spirit to be invoked.

All that leads you back to one of the most discussed, difficult and potentially divisive issues before our worldwide church in this moment: where the church stands in regards to affirming homosexual persons, and how we will proceed or not regarding same sex union and the ordination of homosexual persons. Much legislation has been brought forward representing most every possible angle a person or congregation could look through at these issues.

The Connectional Table was created at the 2004 General Conference to serve as both the visioning body of the church and the steward of resources to carry out the vision of the denomination worldwide. The purpose of the Connectional Table is to discern and articulate the vision

for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church as determined by General Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops. The 2004 General Conference made clear that "the Connectional Table is to be motivated by faithfulness to the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ; global in scope and holistic in understanding; inclusive in nature and collaborative in style; and while being efficient in the stewardship of resources, be transparent, accessible, and accountable in all relationships."

Recently the Connectional Table proposed a "Third Way" for the 2016 General Conference in Portland. The "Third Way" purports to be a middle ground between maintaining the current position of the church on marriage and homosexuality on the one hand, and completely endorsing same sex marriage and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals on the other.

The Connectional Table endorsed legislation that would:

- Redefine marriage as "monogamous" but not "heterosexual," and replace "a man and a woman" with "two people" (while acknowledging that marriage is "traditionally between one man and one woman").
- Make the statement that "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching" a "historical" position, implying that it is no longer the case.
- Give to each annual conference the authority to determine whether or not to ordain a self-avowed practicing homosexual to ministry, deleting "being a self-avowed practicing homosexual" as a clergy from the chargeable offenses.
- Permits clergy to "celebrate marriages between two persons committed to one another" and deletes the prohibition against celebrating a homosexual union or performing same sex wedding ceremonies.
- The only aspect of the current position of the church that would remain unchanged is the stipulation that annual conference or general church apportionments could not be used to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or given to any gay caucus or group.
- It does not take any imagination to see that the work of General Conference on this particular issue will take great faith, tremendous powers of discernment, loving people and kind tempers. Please pray for your 12 Iowa delegates that they will be faithful to God and the mission of the church as we consider, discuss, debate and pray our way forward.

*See elsewhere in this Newsletter to see where the United Methodist General Conference delegates come from.

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- YouTube - Sermon Videos
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- 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

May 8- *Psalm 1 - Righteousness*

May 15 - *Psalm 8 - Creation*



 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

Spring Clean Up Day Success!!

Thank You!! To everyone who helped to clean our buildings inside and out.



Twice a year we take time to pamper our buildings with a deep oil massage (Murphy's Oil) and some fresh paint. We manicure the lawn, chase away the dirt and leaves from last fall and add mulch to just the right spots.

This year we added an inventory to our efforts. We now have a list of everything inside of our building which will help us plan for our transition to a new building.

Please consider joining us in the fall for another day of pampering our buildings.

The Trustees

United Methodists around the world

Our worldwide connection includes approximately 12.8 million members.

- 58% are from the United States
- 30% are from Africa
- 4.6% are from Europe
- 5.8% are from the Philippines

Where are the United Methodists in the United States

- Western Jurisdiction 351,719 members
- North Central (us) 1,245,169 members
- South Central 1,694,538 members
- Southeastern 2,794,512 members
- Northeastern 1,235,815 members

United Methodists in the US are 90% white by ethnicity

Marion Methodist is Praying for:

Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with him, whether the heart is full or empty.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Do you find it easier to talk to God at some times more than others? When our hearts are full of joy or sadness it seems easier to pour out our praise or despair to God. But God wants to hear from us all the time, even when things seem to be going just fine. It's not so much what we take to God in prayer, but that we go to him in prayer with everything. Scripture says it all: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". AND here's the most important part: "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ". Philippians 4:6-7

It is not so much what we pray or why we go to God in prayer, but when we do, his peace will protect our hearts and minds and wrap us up in the love of Christ. Every single day there are people and circumstances to pray for in our church family, workplaces, and neighborhoods. We cannot carry that burden ourselves and are not meant to do so. That's why we have prayer cards, the prayer wall, and why we pray for each other in our Bible studies, Sunday school classes, circles and small groups. Prayer is a powerful thing, but in order for it to work, it must be done often, sincerely and with a heart that loves God and loves his people.

Please be in prayer for:

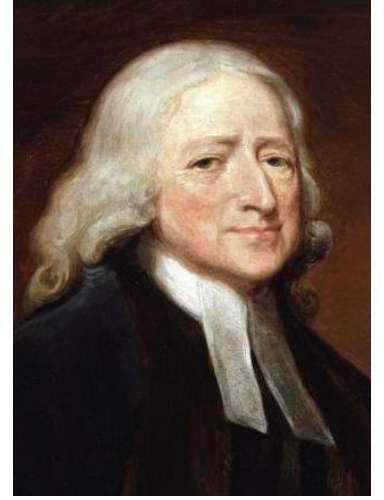
The members of the Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee:

Melanie Donohue – Chairperson
James Riley – Vice-Chair
Gregg Tallman Brad Peyton
Kathi Decker John Collins
David Dix Ken Jolliffe
Chris Hauser

Seven of John Wesley's Practices Can Change Hearts Today

by Roger Ross

As a priest in the Church of England, John Wesley was distraught by the powerlessness of the church to reach the vast majority of British people. God's spirit created such a holy discontent in Wesley's heart that he abandoned conventional modes of ministry and experimented with several innovative approaches. To everyone's surprise, spiritual revival broke out in England and beyond. If you're like me, you may wonder, "If God could do that then, why not now?"



Seven practices emerged as characteristic of the early Methodist movement. (#4 and 5)

4. Use the Music of the Culture

Gregorian chants in Latin and heavy German music were standard fare in church services in Wesley's day. Although the words were meaningful, the music was a complete disconnect with the common people. It didn't speak their heart language. In his travels, Wesley found that pre-Christian people connected most easily with the gospel when it came through their native culture. He encouraged his brother Charles to put gospel words to the popular tunes of the day, and it caught people's hearts. Speaking in terms people could understand was part one of cracking the cultural code; music that touched the modern day soul was part two.

5. Place Everyone in a Small Group for Spiritual Growth

As Wesley began outdoor preaching in various sites around England, he soon noticed a troubling pattern. Without intentional support and encouragement, people who had moving, even ecstatic experiences of God while he was preaching would soon fall away from their newly awakened state. To provide responsible spiritual care, Wesley would only preach in venues where spiritually awakened people could be placed in small groups or "classes." His goal was not to see people have a single encounter with God but to have them experience real, lasting life change through faith in Christ. Such transformation of heart and life happens best when people do life together with a handful of others who become a spiritual family.

Roger Ross is senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Springfield, Illinois. This article is adapted from his book Meet the Goodpeople: Wesley's 7 Ways to Share Faith (Abingdon Press, 2015) and used by permission. The book is available through Amazon or Cokesbury. Used by permission.

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

Powerhouse 
get connected 

Meal Schedule:

5/11 Taco Bell
5/18 Dairy Queen

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

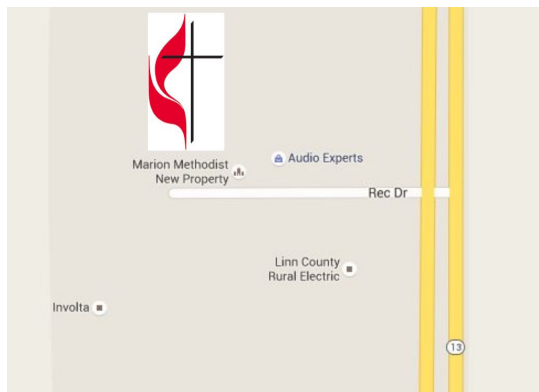
Adult Classes: Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marionmethodist.org

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

What's Next?

Will there be enough storage?

Is there ever enough storage? I don't know about your family but we have a two stall garage that we can generally get one vehicle into because of the stuff we have chosen to store there. For years we rented a storage unit to hold other stuff we didn't want to get rid of but didn't use or need at the time. I also have an "office" in the house that has stuff stacked and crammed everywhere. This is all important stuff that has, for the most part, not been used or accessed in years. So, will there be enough storage? I think that the immediate answer has to be, of course not. There is no such thing as "enough storage".



But the question is valid and there are legitimate concerns about having sufficient and suitable space for those things that we value greatly but do not use all of the time, or that we use frequently but value too highly to just leave out when not in use. Examples that come up frequently include, but are not limited to, puppets, handbells, music, and Christian Ed supplies.

The question of storage is one that the building committee and the design/build team take very seriously. It is also a question that does not have easy answers as the dedication of space for storage means less space for programing. As we have reviewed storage needs we have discussed the possibility of a separate building for some of the storage. In response to this we have heard less than enthusiastic comments regarding the storage of bells and puppets in a garage and I want to be very clear, that is not what we are looking to do. We know that high value items need to be both physically secured and environmentally protected from the effects of extremes of heat, cold and humidity. We also know that for some items, storage needs to be easily accessible if it is to be useful. With these things in mind, we are continuing to work to balance storage and program space requirements. So if the question remains "Will there be enough storage?" the answer will probably still be no. But if you are asking "Will there be sufficient and suitable storage for the items we treasure?" the answer is we're working on it. We do not know what the final answer will look like, but we do know that this is an important question, one that we are committed to addressing as we move from concept to design and ultimately, to building our new facility.

Gene Gerber, on behalf of the FUMC Building Committee



Welcome to our New Members on April 24, 2016
Judy Schnittjer, Greg & Deandra Chlystun and Lawrence Ficek.

"CHANGE A CHILDS STORY"

ONE MILLION BOOKS AND ONE MILLION HOURS OF READING WITH CHILDREN.
THIS IS THE GOAL FOR IOWA UNITED METHODISTS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

PART ONE: Our share is 6860 books (We have already gathered 580 books!)
Thus far these organizations have already received a share of these books:

Marion Cares	Matthew 25
Helping Hands	Foster Care Program
Willis Dady Shelter	Human Services

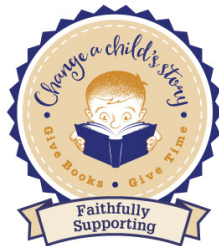
Please continue to bring new or gently used books to the box in the Narthex or the Mission Depots for Pre-School through 3rd Graders

No time to shop? Please donate money. Others will shop for you.
(Just mark Books on your checks or envelopes)

PART TWO: Give time reading with children. Opportunities are coming up.

One is the Marion Cares' Summer Reading Program starting Tuesday June 7th
Contact Rachel Morris -319-202-8082 or rachel@marioncares.org

PLEASE WATCH FOR UPDATES & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES
Or Contact Lorie Bramley-319-550-8844 or bramley62@hotmail.com



Newcomer Orientation

Newcomer Orientation is Sunday, May 15 at 9:45 am and 11:00 am. Join Jen Digmann in the Library & Hospitality room to find out a little more about who we are and what we do here at Marion Methodist



Come Hang Out at VBS!

June 13 - 17, 2016
3 years to 5th Grade
Marion First United Methodist Church
1277 8th Avenue, Marion IA 52302

Register on our website:
www.marionmethodist.org
If you have questions email
vbs@marionmethodist.org or call 319-377-4856

Volunteer Opportunities:

Crew Leader
Assistant Crew Leader
Nursery Worker
Help with making decorations
Station Leader
Assistant Station Leader

To volunteer visit our website:
www.marionmethodist.org

Hospitality Center

The Connections and Hospitality Team at Marion Methodist welcomes 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.

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:

BIRTHS:

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

May 30 - Sami Sylvester and Jeremy Carter

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
5/20	5/11
6/3	5/25
6/17	6/8
7/1	6/22
7/15	7/6

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**
knester@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley**
vstandley@marionmethodist.org
- Church Business Administrator, John Terry**
jterry@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Hospitality and Membership Connections, Karen Schmitz**
kschmitz@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Worship and Technology, Simon Campbell**
scampbell@marionmethodist.org
- Caring Corner Daycare Director, Dawn Blair**
dblair@marionmethodist.org
- Communications Director, Jennie Wildman**
jwildman@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Children Christian Education & Discipleship, Luann Byerly**
lbyerly@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Adult Christian Education & Discipleship, Jen Digmann**
jdigmann@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Music, Jonathan Dyrland**
jdyrland@marionmethodist.org
- Organist/Keyboardist, Diane Beach**
dbeach@marionmethodist.org
- 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**

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.

May: Toilet Tissue

June: Soup

July: Macaroni and Cheese and Soup

August: Peanut Butter

September: Soup

October: Toilet Tissue

May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 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 The Daniel Plan (Room 105) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room)) 5:00pm Friendship Ministry (Fellowship Hall)	9 6:00pm Creative Artists (Carnegie - LL) 6:30pm Caring Corner Board Meeting (Room 106) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	10 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL)	11 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 9:30am Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:30pm Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Powerhouse - 3yrs to 5th grade 6:30pm 4:12 Junior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 6:30pm Choir Practice (Choir Room) 7:15pm 4:12 Senior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	12 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:30am Needle Designers (Room 104)	13	14 1:00pm 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)

May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Hospitality Room) 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Sunday School for all ages 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Hospitality Room) 1:00pm The Daniel Plan (Room 105) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room)) 2:00pm Girl Scouts (Room 104) 5:00pm Friendship Ministry (Fellowship Hall)	16 6:00pm Caring Corner Staff Meeting (Chapel) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	17 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL)	18 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 1:30pm Page Turners Circle (Room 106) 6:30pm Choir Practice (Choir Room) 6:30pm Powerhouse - 3yrs to 5th grade 6:30pm 4:12 Junior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 7:15pm 4:12 Senior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	19 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	20	21 4:00pm Mission Breakfast Prep (Fellowship Hall)