



Marion First United Methodist Church

Issue No. 14

July 1, 2016

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

GOOD NEWS IN A BAD NEWS WORLD: WHY WE NEED SUNDAY SCHOOL



You may not be aware, but many churches are no longer having Sunday School. There has been a lot of discussion lately in Christian Ministry publications, blogs, Facebook pages etc., about whether or not we should still have Sunday School in our churches. People talk about it being too expensive, too hard to get volunteers, and that our families are too busy. I am so glad that at Marion First United Methodist we are strong supporters of

Sunday School. I have felt Sunday School was an important part of our ministry since way before I became the Director of Children's Ministry here.

It is important enough that 32 members of our church spend time as Sunday School teachers every Sunday during the school year, not including the people who help with Kid's View, Powerhouse, and VBS. We had over 50 people helping with Vacation Bible School recently, the Super Bowl of Sunday School. It is often a highlight of a child's summer and enjoyed by all. But why is it important enough to dedicate our resources to Sunday School all year round?

Sunday School plants spiritual seeds. Our children may be too young to make the decision to give their life to Christ, but we plant the seeds of faith. They see what a Christian is in the Sunday School teachers and youth helpers that work with them. They can ask questions that can't be asked during church services or in school. As they grow older we hope these seeds will start to grow and our children will become the Christians of tomorrow.

Sunday School is where we teach our children about the Bible. They learn how to navigate the Bible. They discover that the Bible teaches us how to live today and a reverence for God's word. We have a 5 year curriculum that insures that if your child attends Sunday School from kindergarten through grade 4 they will learn about the important people and stories of the Old and New Testaments. They will learn who Jesus is, what he teaches us, and how we should live to be like Jesus.

Sunday School is where they can find a community where being a Christian is important. Our children are not growing up in a Christian world. We have excellent schools, but they are not allowed to talk about being a Christian. They may have many friends who do not attend church or may attend a synagogue or mosque. Sunday School is where they develop friendships with fellow Christians. They learn to openly express their faith and live as a Christian. They need friends with whom they can share their church stories, who will support them when they make decisions that may not be 'popular' at school or on the playground.

Sunday School is where church becomes theirs, not just a place they go to with their parents. They talk about the fun they had and the treats they received. Take the time to also ask them what they learned. You might be amazed by the faith our children share during Sunday School. We plant the seeds and then over the years we watch them grow. I pray that our church continues to support the children of our church and that will we, always have Sunday School.

Luann Byerly

Director of Children's Christian Education and Discipleship

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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.



Upcoming Sermons

July 3 - *Psalm 62 - Stability/Rest*

July 10 - *Psalm 66 - Worship*

 **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

Thanks for your help!

We want to thank all of the volunteers, the people that donated supplies and all who prayed for us during VBS this year. A special thanks to the children and their families who donated the money for the Children of Haiti.

Next year's VBS will be June 26 – June 30. Save the date!

LATIN AMERICA PEOPLE AND FAITH

A United Methodist Women's Mission Study

Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:45 am to 2:30 pm

Come for coffee at 8:30 am

First United Methodist Church Chapel

Guest Speaker:

Nora Tobin, Self-Help International

Hear first hand reports from Haiti and Cuba

Enjoy a typical Latin American Lunch

Bring a friend

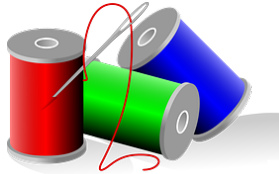
RSVP to your Circle President by July 5

or call 377-2092

or email lgnovak@aol.com

SEWING DAY COMING SOON

Our next school bag sewing day will be Friday, August 5, from 9:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon. We need people to sew, serge, iron, cut and pin in order to get the schoolbags finished so we can fill them with school supplies and send them to UMCOR for distribution. Sewing skills are not necessary, as we have several jobs that don't require sewing. If you've never done this before, it truly is a time of fun and fellowship. Taco salads will be served for lunch as a thank you to all who volunteer to help.



If you are interested in helping, or want more information, feel free to call Jan Dickinson at 573-2350, or email at jandickinson1@mchsi.com. We hope to see many of you there.

Marion Methodist is Praying for:

There are treasures in our United Methodist Hymnal that we seldom sing, or recognize as familiar. In the index, you can look up the topic of "Prayer" and find several hymns with prayer as the theme. The following gem, found on page 492, is a pure definition of prayer for the Christian heart. Here are some of the 6 verses of this beautiful hymn, "Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire":

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed, the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh, the falling of a tear, the upward glancing of an eye, when none but God is near.

Prayer is the contrite sinners' voice, returning from their way, while angels in their songs rejoice and cry "Behold they pray!"

Prayer is the Christians' vital breath, the Christians' native air; their watchword at the gates of death; they enter heaven with prayer.

Ponder these words in your time with God; have them in your heart when you connect with him and when you pray for others. Have them in the back of your mind when you fill out a prayer request or pray for the requests on the prayer wall.

Pray this week for:

All the students and staff that will be participating in Summer Games University.

UMM Problems to be Solved = Volunteer Opportunities

The United Methodist Men (UMM) have several opportunities that need your help. (P.S. you need not be a man for any of these)

VOLUNTEER

1. **Remodeling at Caring Corner's new Facilities** - There are multiple "handyman" and skilled opportunities at the new site with small jobs that can take only hours up to projects that will take days or weeks for all the various skills to complete. Licensed plumbing, carpentry, drywall and painting inside as well as yard work to prepare the playground area make up the short list of skills needed. We are going to help put in a new commercial kitchen and build walls in a larger room to make an office space among several smaller jobs throughout the site. Playground work involves preparing the new site and moving and anchoring the heavy playground equipment. Work has started and will run into early August.

Please email wbkelly@gmail.com and use the title CC Remodel if you would like to help remodel and use *Playground* if you wish to work on that task. Include your name, phone numbers and email as well as if you are licensed in any skills and list what you would be available to do, i.e. painting, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, etc.

2. **Novak Gardens** - About two acres of food are waiting to be cultivated and harvested. Work has been underway to get all the plantings in and tending this large garden is underway. Much of the food goes to area food banks throughout the summer.

If you would like to help with this project email Ken Leahy at ConnieKenL@hotmail.com and use the title *Novak Gardens* to get on the email list to get notified when the work scheduled. Submit your name, email and phone numbers. All you will need are gloves and a hoe or cultivating tool and a "whistle while you work" attitude.

3. **Moving Day for Caring Corner** - August 13 & 14 are the scheduled days for Caring Corner to be moved to the new site. We will need a fleet of pick-up trucks and trailers as well as volunteers at both sites to pack-up, load-up, transport, unload and distribute all the kit and caboodle in a timely manner.

Please email wbkelly@gmail.com and use the title *Moving Day* on your email. Indicate whether you have a truck or trailer to loan or drive yourself or if you just want to be one of the packing and moving minions.

4. **Mission House Repairs** - This mission has been underway since August of 2015 when we refurbished the house and yard of a member and has continued with infrequent handyman tasks at several other houses. Approximately 50 members signed up for the initial house and with that large pool of workers the job went fast.

To get on this roster email wbkelly@gmail.com and use the title *Mission House* and list what you would be available to do, i.e. painting, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, etc.

So if you have been looking for a mission task that didn't involve going to Haiti we have several and all of them need you.

Thanks in advance - Walker Kelly, UMM President

Bringing back an oldie but a goody!!

The Church Potluck

Sponsored by the Joyful Cooks

Sunday, Aug. 28 at 12:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

All are invited to bring their favorite dish to share, along with serving utensils, eating utensils, and plates.

Bring your family, friends, and your hunger to join us in a meal.

We will provide drinks, music, fun along with fellowship

July 3 Services

8:30 AM -

Celebration of Independence Service

Honoring our Veterans and Active Duty Service Personnel

No Communion Service



7:45 AM, 9:45 AM, and 11:00 AM -

Communion Service

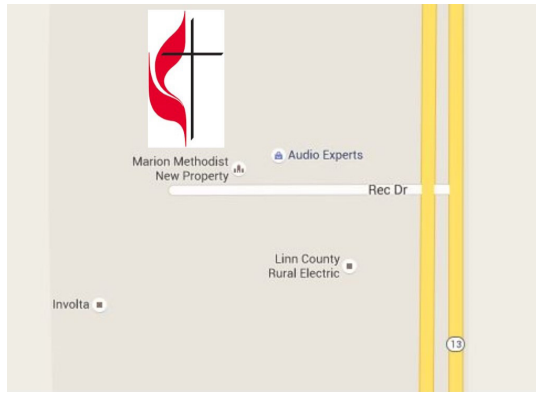


Opening in their new location August 17

What's Next?

Lights, Camera, Action!

One of the goals of the Build Committee is to consider all environmental aspects of the new facility. Included in these considerations, are the audio / visual and related technical capabilities necessary to enable a positive and beneficial experience delivered within a responsible budget. Design, installation and support of high-quality and affordable custom audio, video, lighting, broadcast and control system is quite involved. The most obvious may be the requirements of the primary worship area, however the fellowship area, classrooms, etc. are also very important audio / visual requirements.



This topic was one of several reviewed during the 4/11/2016 Building Committee meeting, when Marion Methodist staff members were in attendance to bring forward requirements and hopeful expectations for several functional areas. Simon Campbell, Director of Worship and Technology at Marion Methodist, was present and discussed the audio / visual / technology topic. Simon has direct experience in this field and also had spent considerable time researching the topic. This included visits to other church families in the area and meeting with persons of similar responsibility at their respective facilities.

It is without doubt that the audio / visual collective system needs to be well planned. For example, there are methods that can be employed to allow for future expansion and enhancement, etc. Among many of the potential solutions discussed by Simon, were the common recommendations expressed by peers involved with similar projects and that was to consult with a professional audio/visual integrator. An Audio/Visual Integrator is a contracted person who handles all audio visual aspects of the process, from concept to design to final installation to training. This person is responsible and accountable to all aspects of sound, video, projection, and lighting in the sanctuary and other parts of the facility and would be the point of contact on these things with our Build Committee, Architects, and Construction Company. Anyone that has past experience with building or renovating a home or other living area can understand how important it is to plan necessary utilities as part of the overall project, not as an afterthought. Partnering with an A/V Integrator is seemingly imperative as part of our overall build project, as they been used in all of the recent builds of comparable-sized churches Simon consulted with in the Cedar Rapids area. This was also the recommendation of our architect.

The build committee is considering this recommendation.

Brad Schuver, on behalf of the Build Committee

Marion Methodist Receives "One Matters" Award



Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church has selected Marion Methodist as a recipient of the "One Matters" Award for 2015. Sara Thomas, Deputy General Secretary of Discipleship and Ministries and Chief Strategist for Vital Congregations says; "we want to lift up the importance of discipleship in our denomination." More than 70% of the United Methodist congregations in the US did not baptize anyone over the age of 13 in 2014 and 55% did not baptize anyone. Half of the churches had no professions of faith (new Christians) in 2014 either.

In nominating us for the award; Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko wrote: "the past three years, Marion First United Methodist Church has received over 100 members through profession of faith, which reflects their clarity around discipleship in this church; in fact, they have a discipleship pathway for the youth as well as for the adults. People develop their faith in small groups.

During Holy Week this year they had prayer meetings at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday which were led by youth and adults and had an average attendance of 65 people. Testimonies were shared. Several people committed themselves to Christ.

Recently, District Superintendent Kiboko was invited to speak at the '4:12 knockout' event for youth which was sponsored by the youth. The church was packed, and 200 youth were prayed for individually by laying hands on each one of them.

The attendance in this church has been going up every year."

Rev. Mike Morgan and Church Council Chair Marty Labs proudly received the award at the June session of the Iowa Annual Conference on behalf of Marion Methodist. The "One Matters" is accompanied by a \$1,000 check to be used in disciple making ministries.

Open Position - Director of Music

Marion Methodist Church supports the spiritual growth of its 2,200 members in Marion, Iowa. As part of its ministries Marion Methodist is seeking qualified applicants for a part time Director of Music to serve the congregation during 4 Sunday worship services, and to be a leader within the church's 14 member staff. This is a unique opportunity for a qualified person to assume responsibility for a strong music ministry with 75+ year history within a church that has committed to constructing new, state-of-the-art facilities within its rapidly growing community.



The Director has responsibility for managing the spectrum of activities within the church's music ministries. The position has direct responsibility for musical planning for the church's two traditional Sunday worship services, and for supporting the church's two contemporary Sunday worship services as required. The Director also supervises the church's piano accompanists, organists, handbell ensemble director, and children's music program director.

For more information visit our website www.marionmethodist.org/available-positionsjobs.

IT IS TIME TO DOWN-SIZE AND GET RID OF SOME OF YOUR 'STUFF' AND SHARE IT WITH OUR UMW BAZAAR ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2016!

The Wesley General Store

a very full room with a little bit of everything!

"Gently Used" Items means items that are not new and not junk. The items need to be clean, in good condition, and appropriate for our store. **All Marion Methodist members, families, and friends** can contribute gently used items. We will price the items to sell and all the money goes for UMW missions. Please note: If your gently used items are not sold, they will not be returned, but instead will be donated.

Rada Cutlery makes wonderful gifts for wedding showers, birthdays, weddings, and Christmas! These items as well as some soup mixes sell quickly on bazaar days so get to the Wesley General Store!

Quality Bagged Nuts are a delicious purchase for your own use or also as gifts. Peruse your holiday recipes and purchase these delectable nuts early on Saturday morning before they sell out!

Miscellaneous Items: The Wesley General Store welcomes donations that are unlike the items in the other bazaar rooms. Some of these hot sellers have been homemade dog bones, jams, money plant branches, and squash!

WHEN CAN I BRING MY DONATIONS?

If you wish to donate your items now, please contact one of the cochairs; Deb Liscum (deb.liscum@gmail.com) or Diane Beach (auntyd88@aol.com) and we can arrange to pick up your items. Or, you can bring your items to the UMW room on the 3rd floor of the church.

Providing Spiritual Care

When you or someone you love is receiving medical care, your pastoral staff endeavors to provide the best in Christian love and spiritual care through personal visits and prayer support. The hospitals are endeavoring to protect your personal information, and for that reason, the intake process has changed significantly in the past few years. More times than not, we learn of a hospitalization when someone has already gone home, which diminishes the spiritual care that we truly desire to offer. In order to provide that high level of care we must have your assistance. When you have been admitted or if you are scheduled for surgery please do the following:

- Upon registration make it very clear to the person taking your information that you are a member of **Marion** First United Methodist Church and would like to have your pastoral team notified.
- When a hospital chaplain visits you, re-iterate that you are a member of this church and would appreciate a visit from your pastors or ask to speak to one of the hospital chaplains and explain to them that you would like to have your church notified.
- Have a family member or trusted friend call the church office at 377-4856, or email the Director of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley, at vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:

June 14 - Marjorie Davis

June 19 - Barb Marcus

June 20 - Imogene Snell, sister of Novella Cunningham

BIRTHS:

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

June 18 - Mick Dickinson & Susan Johnson

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
7/15	7/6
7/29	7/20
8/12	8/3
8/26	8/17
9/9	8/31

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.

July: Macaroni and Cheese and Soup

August: Peanut Butter

September: Soup

October: Toilet Tissue

November: Cake Mix

December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes

July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Communion 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship - Veterans Service (Sanctuary) 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Sunday School for all ages 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room))	4 Office Closed. Have a Happy & Safe Fourth of July! 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	5 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL)	6 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 9:15am Sarah Circle (Carnegie - LL) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	7 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm UMW - Bookends (Library)	8	9 1:00pm 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)

July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 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))	11 6:30pm Caring Corner Board Meeting (Room 106) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	12 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL)	13 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 9:30am Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	14 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 8:30am UMW Mission Day (Chapel, Fellowship Hall) 9:30am Needle Designers (Room 104)	15	16 No Weddings