



Marion First United Methodist Church

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: THE MINISTRY OF ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



What is a disciple? According to the Webster dictionary, a disciple is someone who accepts and helps to spread the teachings of a famous person

For Christians, that is Jesus Christ.

There is a plaque here in the church office giving the Description of a Disciple. This came from the efforts and collaboration of a group comprised of church staff and members.

Description of a "Disciple"

A "disciple" is a person who through faith in Jesus Christ believes the gospel and seeks to center their life on the teachings of Jesus. A disciple is obedient to the scriptures, has a vibrant prayer life, attends worship regularly, practices personal evangelism, loves their neighbor as themselves and lives a generous life. A disciple cares about the needs of all people in the world and seeks to be the hands and feet of Christ as part of God's transforming plan for the world. A disciple is a person growing in grace and in the knowledge of God. A disciple is quick to forgive, quick to repent, and practices gospel centered hospitality and humility.

Simply put, if you believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, then you are a disciple. What does that mean for you? What does discipleship look like? How can you be a part of it? Simple. Help spread the teachings of Jesus Christ. Although the answer is simple, it is not always easy. It takes commitment and discipline. Discipleship is displayed through your everyday life. It shows through the choices you make, by treating others with love and respect, openly repenting of your own mistakes or wrong doings, and having a forgiving heart.

Discipleship is a journey, not just a title. Just because you are a member of the church, does that make you a disciple? No.

Let me share a little story about myself. I have been a member of a gym for the past couple of years. I had good intentions of going faithfully, improving my health, and being a good example for my children. However, that was not my reality. I didn't live out my good intentions. I would go for a few weeks and then stop because life was too busy and I no longer made the time for it. Being a member of the gym didn't make me an athlete. It takes work, sweat, and dedication.

Recently I decided I was going to change that. I wanted to know how to use the equipment, be able to exercise without hurting myself, and improve

my overall health with confidence. Yesterday I had my first session with a personal trainer. Today my muscles are incredibly sore! I knew that would happen, but unless I tell you what I did yesterday (or you see me hobbling up the stairs due to sore muscles), you won't be able to see that I put this effort into bettering my physical condition. It takes time to see the results. Spiritual growth is no different. By committing and maintaining regular work outs, in time the results will be evident to others, but most importantly to myself. I know I will feel better and be healthier.

One key factor in successfully reaching my goal is that I am not doing this alone. The impact of these work outs will be significantly greater because I have someone to support me throughout this journey. It is important to have someone to be accountable to, give you encouragement, and keep you on the right path. They will ensure you don't give up and walk away. Discipleship works the same way. You need a support team to help you with your spiritual growth, questions, and challenges. People don't wake up one day and suddenly become an athlete. It takes daily discipline and long term commitment. Being a disciple is no different. Prayer, worship, reading the Bible, obedience, and fellowship are some of the ways you can "spiritually work out". The best part of this "spiritual work out" is that there is no membership fee and you don't need to pay for a personal trainer. The results are HUGE! You will gain lifelong friendships and support systems as you continue to spiritually grow, all while helping others with their spiritual journey.

We are here to help you with this. Here at Marion Methodist there are Bible Studies and Christian education classes for you to connect with outside of the Sunday morning sermon. However, we know that you need more. Throughout the past several months we have been working to establish small groups to help you with your spiritual growth. Additionally, we want to create an easy way for you to invite others to join you.

On September 18, 2016 we will begin a new sermon series and kick off our 2016 Fall Small Group meetings. Although this doesn't start until September, we are working diligently to set these groups up now. Throughout the months of July and August we will be hosting presentations and trainings for you to attend. The goal of these meetings is to allow you the opportunity to find out what it means to be a small group leader and answer your questions. Here are a few Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that you may be thinking of.

1. Do I need to be a "Bible Expert" to become a small group leader?

Definitely not, the most important things that you need are (1) a desire to serve the group members and (2) to grow in your own personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When you take this step of faith, God's Holy Spirit will give you what you need to be an effective leader. Marion Methodist Church will provide you with a Leader's Informational & Training Packet to assist you in this endeavor. As a leader, you will facilitate discussion with your small group using provided resources.

Continued on Page 2

Visit Us Online

-  Website - Calendars, Church Info, and More
www.marionmethodist.org
-  Facebook
www.facebook.com/marionmethodistchurch
-  Twitter
www.twitter.com/marionmethodist
-  Google+
plus.google.com/100713709205136037587
-  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

July 17 - *Summer Games University Redux*

July 24 - *Psalm 119 - The Kitchen Sink (A-Z)*

 **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

Newcomer Orientation



Newcomer Orientation is Sunday, July 17 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.

Bringing back an oldie but a goody!!

The Church Potluck

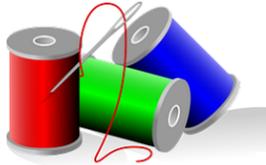
Sponsored by the Joyful Cooks
Sunday, Aug. 28 at 12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

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

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:

Many people think that you have to pray with just the right words and that your heart has to be completely right with God for your prayers to be heard. This notion has stifled more prayers and stopped more honest communication with God than it has ever started. Richard Foster in his book "Prayer" says "We will never have pure enough motives, or be good enough, or know enough, to pray rightly." He continues "What I am trying to say is that God receives us just as we are and accepts our prayers just as they are."

In reality, the most effective prayers that are said are sometimes as simple as "Help me Jesus" while on our way to a family member in need, or "Thank you Jesus" when our heart is overflowing with gratitude for God's goodness. We mustn't get hung up and withhold our prayers until the time or place is just right, or until we think we have the perfect words to pray. That is not to say that having a special time and place to be in communion with God is unnecessary. We desperately need those times when we can set the noise and demands of our days aside and spend them in quiet with the Lord.

Prayer can happen anytime, anywhere, in fact if we are truly communicating with God as he desires, our praise and thanksgiving to him should be on our lips every moment of every day.

Pray this week for
Our tremendous summer interns who are doing incredible work in the name of the Lord.
Lauren Soukup – Music Ministry Intern
Steven Tallman – FLY intern
Abby Isenberg – FLY intern

Continued from Page 1

2. I'd like to be a leader, but should I wait until I have more experience?

If you have a willing heart, fulfill the requirements (see #3), and have a place to host your group, you can lead. We provide a basic Leader's Information & Training Packet to provide guidelines and resources for each leader. In addition, we provide training on a regular basis to ensure that you have the necessary resources to lead your group. As you lead, you'll gain the necessary experience. If you feel called, we can help!

3. What are the requirements to lead a small group at Marion Methodist Church?

Before leading a small group, a few requirements must be met. First, a Volunteer Application must be completed and filed with the church office.

In addition, those that want to lead must be in full agreement with the following statements.

- I confess that Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord.
- I regard the Bible as the authoritative guide to my faith and life.
- I am a regular attendee of Marion Methodist Church.

Please pray with me over this call for small group leaders. May the Holy Spirit guide those individuals to come forward and explore where God is leading them to disciple others. I also call you to pray over your own spiritual discipleship. How are you able to reach out to others, share the love of our Lord, and invite them to join you? This is a lifelong endeavor. There will be no greater reward than knowing you have helped others in their spiritual journey to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. I guarantee that when you help others you are also stimulating your own spiritual growth.

As Jesus went to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 He said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

To inquire about leading or participating in a small group this fall please contact me at jdigmann@marionmethodist.org or (319) 377-4856.

Jen Digmann
Director of Adult Christian Education & Discipleship

Service of Thanksgiving

On Wednesday, June 22 more than 200 people gathered in our sanctuary to hear the testimony of Vano Kiboko. Vano is the brother of our District Superintendent, Kiboko. Vano spent nearly 16 months in a Congolese prison for his advocacy of a woman who was murdered by the government. While in prison Vano led hundreds of men to Christ. He was released a few weeks ago. We were so blessed to have him here. Also present were Bishop Julius Trimble and the United States President of the United Methodist Women.



It was an amazing night of worship and fellowship! Thanks to all who attended.

Caring Corner Transition Fundraiser

On Saturday, July 30 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Marion Methodist and Caring Corner will be hosting a vendor fair, garage and bake sale to benefit Caring Corner and assist in their move to The Church on Northland. We are currently looking for vendors who would be interested in having a table to their products, we are looking for all bake goods and baby/children items to sell in our garage sale that are in good and usable condition. If you have items that you would like to donate, please contact Director Dawn Blair at DBlair@marionmethodist.org 319. 377.8490 or Board Chair Jody Smith at 319-464-4828 and/or jrindels@hotmail.com.



Opening in their new location August 17

What's Next?

Will there be natural light?

As we look towards breaking ground on our new building we must consider all of our needs and all of the options we have available. One of the questions we must evaluate is the ability to have or to block out natural light in our sanctuary. There are large costs associated with adding windows to our Sanctuary. We must balance the costs of the windows with the desire for natural light. There are pros and cons to consider on both sides of these questions.

As we consider our lighting options there are many tools at our disposal for creating light. We can purchase equipment to provide adequate illumination, which will also complement the architecture, be energy efficient, and be easy to maintain. The lighting throughout the sanctuary should be uniform and allow for specialized lighting for events like black light with the puppets or concert performances. These types of performances will be much more effective without any natural light flowing into the space. It is possible to control or block natural light coming into the space, however that also comes with a cost.

While we can purchase tools to assist us in creating a large number of lighting needs and desires, it is impossible to create natural light from any source but the sun. Windows, although costly in our new sanctuary, provide a lighting resource that only God can provide.

One of the choices in our new building will be to evaluate our lighting needs, our desires for natural light and the costs associated for all of these options. As discussed, there are both pros and cons in all of our choices. The Building Committee will continue to consider all ministry needs and balance them with being good stewards of the funds raised for our new facility. We will continue to be transparent with our process in ongoing communications.

Val Lawrence, on behalf of the Building Committee



New Member Class – July 24, 2016



Have you been attending Marion Methodist for a few months or even a few years? And have you decided it's time to become an official member of our church?

Then please join us for our next New Member Class on Sunday, July 24 at 12:15pm. We'll start with lunch in Room

106, then move to Room 104 for the class. We'll finish the afternoon with the Membership Service in the Chapel at 3:15pm.

If you're interested in being part of this class or have questions, please contact Karen Schmitz at 377-4856 or kschmitz@marionmethodist.org.

Child care will be available upon request.

Haiti Mission Team

The "H7" Haiti Mission team will be having a Garage Sale/Bake Sale to raise funds for our August mission trip. The sale will be held at the Fawcett home, 6195 Robinwood Ln, Marion on Thursday and Friday July 21 & 22 from 8:00 to 4:00 both days. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Jan Fawcett at 319-373-3212 to make arrangements for drop off. If you do not have items to donate, please come to purchase items on those dates. Or do both!



Thank You,
The H7 Mission Team

Thank You

We extend sincere gratitude for visits, cards, phone calls, and prayers we have received from our church family, following the death of our daughter, Janice. She has received the ultimate healing, following a long battle associated with Leukemia.

Our earthly closure will be on July 22, when a Celebration of Life service will be held at 6:00 p.m., at Cedar Rapids Family Church, 5335 Midway Dr., NW in Cedar Rapids. Kind words, and caring thoughts/prayers, have been so comforting.

Sincere thank you, from Wayne and Noma Lucas and family.

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:

July 5 – Nancy Vargason, mother of Angi Dunkel and Laura Hamilton Grandchildren include Lydia Hamilton and Brianna and Nicholas Dunkel

BIRTHS:

June 22 - Sloan Sue Chamberlin, daughter of Eric & Sarah Chamberlin, granddaughter of Craig Titler

June 27 - Merida Amelia Echols, daughter of Amelia and Joe Echols, grandparents Gene and Becky Gerber

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
7/29	7/20
8/12	8/3
8/26	8/17
9/9	8/31
9/23	9/14

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
17 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Sunday School for all ages 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Hospitality Room) 11:00am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Hospitality Room) 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room))	18 6:00pm Joint Committee Chairpersons (Room 105) 6:00pm Caring Corner Staff Meeting (Chapel) 6:30pm SPRC (Room 104) 6:30pm Finance (Room 106) 6:30pm Foundation (Room 105) 6:30pm Board of Trustees (Room 107) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	19 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL)	20 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 1:30pm Page Turners Circle (Room 106) 5:30pm Small Group Campaign Meeting (Carnegie - LL) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	21 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	22	23

July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Sunday School for all ages 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 12:15pm New Member Class (Chapel, Room 106, Room 104) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room))	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	26 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 3:30pm UMW Executive Board (Room 106)	27 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	28 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:15am Sowers Circle (Room 104)	29 Set-up for Caring Corner Fundraising Event (Fellowship Hall)	30 Caring Corner Fundraising Event (Fellowship Hall)