



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



Dear Friends,
 At this writing (8/01) I still have one sermon left to preach. That will happen on August 13th. Pastor Mike asked me the other day if I'd prefer to preach "Keith's Greatest Hits" or something like that instead of what we had planned to do. I have chosen to not do that and will preach the first sermon of a new series on prayer as previously planned. I appreciate Pastor Mike's flexibility and graciousness to allow me to have some latitude that day. However, I believe that the Sunday sermon is not supposed to be about anything other than Jesus (and maybe motorcycles once in a while). While I feel a sense of sacredness around the preaching ministry, I feel a little more freedom with the newsletter articles.

In this issue of the Marion Methodist I am scheduled to write an article about a man named Thomas Oden. I'm not going to. Instead I am going to use this article as my opportunity to write out some reflections of my 6 years working in ministry here at Marion Methodist Church. As most of you know, I have recently announced my resignation (or "retirement" as I sometimes call it) from the ministry here.

I recently had a conversation with a young pastor who was beginning his first "real job" in a church where he likely won't have a long stay or the ability to implement his own vision. He is the new guy and will be there supporting the vision of the others on the staff until it's time for him to move on. My advice to him was to plan to "leave well." God would use him as he could and grow him to prepare him for his next step in his ministry. As far as I can tell this, young pastor is doing exactly that.

This leads me to consider my own imminent departure from Marion Methodist, fulltime vocational ministry and from Protestantism. That's a lot of departure! Many of you have sent me kind words and support. I appreciate that more than you can imagine. This is tough stuff. It means so much to me and my family to know we are still loved and will be missed. It makes us feel good to know that when we see you out and about in town we will be greeted warmly with friendship and love!

So...how to say goodbye? How do I "leave well"? There are a few things that come to mind as my parting words of wisdom. This is a great church made of great people. Great days are ahead. Here are some things I'd like to share:

1. Thank you! To everybody.

I have learned so much being here. I have grown as a person, a preacher, a leader and a Christian because of being here. I don't regret a second of my time here. It has been amazing. Our staff is a great team of hard working talented servants. Keep showing them appreciation. Spoil them. Let them know how much you love them. When they ask for help- be the first to volunteer. When they seem overwhelmed- bless them. When they do something you appreciate- tell them. When they do something you don't appreciate- give them grace. Working in the church is amazing and it's also very demanding. Thank you to those of you who have gone the extra mile to bless my family since we have been here. You are loved in return! I will miss being on this team.

2. Whatever your commitment to Jesus is, increase it! Keep moving forward and growing in truth.

Paul wrote to young Timothy these words "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." 1 Timothy 4:16

These are trying times for Christians. There is a lot of spiritual anarchy in the church today. People take what they want from the word of God and leave what they disagree with behind. Paul's words to Timothy are just as true to us today. Our lives must line up with holiness and truth. Our doctrine must be pure. Take this seriously. Grow in the faith and seek to live with Christ as your ultimate authority. Submit yourselves to God. Don't become lukewarm. Don't settle for a mediocre faith! Keep growing in grace and truth.

3. Make worshipping God a top priority.

Go to church more. Stop making lame excuses and putting other things first. Stop teaching your kids (and your parents) that other stuff is more important than worshipping Jesus. Stop getting mad because I say that. If you feel convicted- thank God because he loves you and change your life. Jesus needs to be the center of your life and the life of your family. Worship him as often as you can. Put him first. Model that to your family and to your friends. Model that to the community. Stop complaining that the world schedules everything on Sunday morning and live for God and just maybe they will change.

4. Tell more people in your life about Jesus.

This church should be 5 times the size it is. People come here and love it. Challenge yourself to invite more people to come with you. They will be welcomed and nurtured in the faith. They will be served and challenged. They will be shown the grace and love of God. It's time for everyone here to make it their personal mission to bring at least ten new people to Marion Methodist in the next year. The new building is a great time to spread the excitement for what God is doing here, but the ultimate excitement in your life is about Jesus! Spread that to those around you and they will be blessed!

5. Love each other well.

Marion Methodist excels at this. One of my favorite things about being here has been watching you all love each other well. Whenever there is a need broadcast, there is an abundance of help and support. Continue to make this your life. For those of you who have been on the sidelines- jump in!! For those of you who have found the joy of serving, keep doing it! Your love for each other is what Jesus said would show the world that you are his disciples and it is working. Keep it up!

There is much more I could say about my love for you all and for our time here, but for now know this: You have blessed me and my family greatly. We are better for having been here. I know that the person who fills my shoes will be blessed as well. Love him/her the way you have loved me and they too will be so happy to have come here.

May God bless you all! May you continue in the faith and may God grow you and keep you. Our family will continue in friendship and love with you. Thank you all so much for all you have done for us and for your continued prayers as we step into what God has next.

In Christ,
 Pastor Keith

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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

August 27 - *What is an attitude of Prayer?*

September 3 - *How do you Pray?*



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

LABEL HERE

Thank You

Marion Methodist,

What a busy couple of weeks! Thank you for your support of Uplift Uptown and The Backpack to School Project! Both were huge successes and we didn't or couldn't have done it without you! We had 500+ in attendance at Uplift Uptown and prepared over 350 students in need for this upcoming school year! To Him be the glory! Thank you and your generous hearts!

God Bless!

Laura Campbell
Executive Director
Marion Cares

BAZAAR COMING FAST

United Methodist Women's bazaar is coming Saturday, October 14. Our Abundant Creations room is just the place for your handmade items, whether sewn, knitted or crocheted, made of wood or tin, or anything else created! Popular items in the past have been quilted items, dish cloths, scarves, baby items, hats, handmade pens, wooden snowmen, tin men, and many other things. All profits go to help missions, both in Iowa and around the world. Items may be brought in on Friday, October 13 to room 105 in Wesley Hall. Thank you very much.

Down-sizing at home or just too much clutter?

Our United Methodist Women (UMW) has the answers! The Wesley General Store is looking for all of your items to sell in their 2 rooms at the time of the Fall Bazaar, Saturday, October 14! All proceeds benefit UMW missions.

Just a reminder: We do the pricing and we do not return any item back to its original owner. Items that do not sell are given to charity.

Want to get rid of the 'stuff' now? Email Diane Beach, auntyd88@aol.com. or Deb Liscum and we will make arrangements to help you get it to our storage room!

BLOOD DRIVE

First United
Methodist Church

Thursday, August 31
2:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall
12th St. & 8th Ave.

To donate, contact Lisa Sparrow at
lsparrow@mvrbc.org or visit
www.bloodcenterimpact.org

Please eat and drink before donating and bring Photo ID.
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 07/06/17
Group Sponsor Code: 2436

Marion Methodist is Praying for:

Prayer is a powerful way of caring for each other in our Marion Methodist family. There are several avenues open to everyone – the prayer cards on Sunday morning and the prayer wall which is available 24/7, are two that are used most often. You can have a more active part in entering into prayer for each other. Check out the prayer wall frequently as prayers are submitted there often. Each time you visit, and pray for one of the requests found there, click the "I Prayed For This" tab; more prayers are always better.

Please be in prayer for:

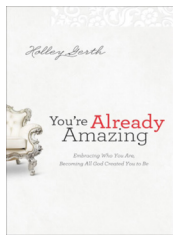
All students, staff and volunteers who are back in school. Pray for a safe, productive and fun school year.

Fall 2017 Adult Discipleship Opportunities

Adult Sunday School ~ Room 105 ~ Sunday at 9:45AM

Beginning on September 10

Sunday School is not just for kids! We are always growing and seeking to learn more about our Lord. Join us on Sunday mornings as we discuss the scriptures and learn together. A Lifeguide Bible Study will be selected for this group and will be announced soon!



You're Already Amazing ~ Room 104 ~ Sunday at 9:45AM

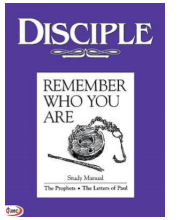
Beginning on September 10

With this heart-to-heart message, licensed counselor and certified life coach Holley Gerth invites you to embrace one very important truth--that you truly are already amazing. Like a trusted friend, Holley gently shows you how to forget the lies and expectations the world feeds you and instead believe that God loves you and has even bigger plans for your life than you've even imagined. We invite you to join us for this wonderful women's Bible Study.

Disciple III ~ Room 106 ~ Sunday at 9:45 AM

Beginning on September 10

Disciple III Remember Who You Are is the third study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program. The driving idea in this study is the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. The word You in the title is meant to be heard both in its singular form (the individual) and its plural form (the community). We are a community of memory. Participants in this 32 week study will spread over a two year time frame. You will read the major and minor Old Testament prophets, with the exception of Daniel, and will read the thirteen Letters traditionally attributed to Paul. To establish the historical context in which the prophets spoke for God, daily reading assignments draw also on the books of Deuteronomy through Chronicles



Old Testament Studies ~ Room 107 ~ Sunday at 9:45 AM

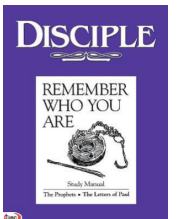
Beginning on September 10

This year we will be continuing our study of the "History Books" of the Old Testament. We will begin with the Book of 1st Kings, which tells the story of the life and reign of Solomon, David's successor to the throne of Israel. We will discuss how internal dissent and external hostilities eventually led to dividing the kingdom into Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

Disciple III ~ Room 106 ~ Sunday at 12:30PM

Orientation on August 27 at 12:30PM (Classes start Sept. 10)

Disciple III Remember Who You Are is the third study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program. The driving idea in this study is the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. The word You in the title is meant to be heard both in its singular form (the individual) and its plural form (the community). We are a community of memory. Participants in this 32 week study will read the major and minor Old Testament prophets, with the exception of Daniel, and will read the thirteen Letters traditionally attributed to Paul. To establish the historical context in which the prophets spoke for God, daily reading assignments draw also on the books of Deuteronomy through Chronicles.



CONFIRMATION

Adult Confirmation Bible Study ~ Room 107 ~ Wednesday at 6:30PM

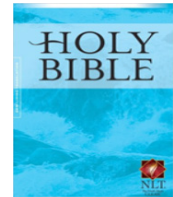
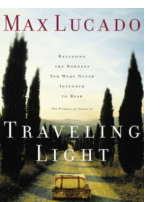
Beginning on September 6

Are you ready for the next step? Our adult confirmation class is a great place for those that have gone through our introductory Basic Bible class and are ready for something more. This is an opportunity to be immerse in the teachings of the Christian faith and be trained in the way of discipleship. Our desire is to lead others towards being active residents of the kingdom of God, those who are willing to serve Him faithfully all of their days.

Traveling Light ~ Room 103 ~ Wednesday at 6:30PM

Beginning on September 6

Wear travelers. You've seen them -- everything they own crammed into their luggage. Staggering through terminals and hotel lobbies with overstuffed suitcases. Backs ache. Feet burn. Eyelids droop. We've all seen people like that. At times, we are people like that -- if not with our physical luggage, then at least with our spiritual load. We all lug loads we were never intended to carry. Fear. Worry. Discontent. No wonder we get so weary. We're worn out from carrying that excess baggage. Wouldn't it be nice to lose some of those bags? With the Twenty-third Psalm as our guide, let's release some of the burdens we were never intended to bear. May God use this Psalm to remind you to release the burdens you were never meant to bear.



Basic Bible ~ Room 105 ~ Wednesday at 6:30PM

Beginning on September 6

Designed for beginners to the Bible, who have likely never taken a Bible Study, this fall we will begin with Matthew, Romans, and James and THEN start over. You are invited to get on and stay on for the whole ride, join at any time and or move to a class at the next level at any time.

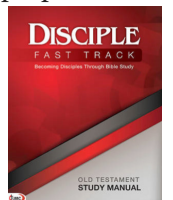
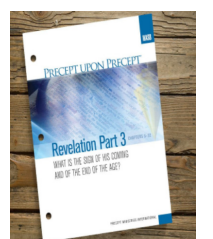
Precept Upon Precept: Revelation Part 3 ~ Room 105

Begins September 7

Thursdays 5:30—7:30PM or Fridays 9:30—11:30AM

Revelation Part 3 - What Is the Sign of His Coming and of the End of the Age?

Explore the relationship of the book of Revelation to the Gospels—realize the prophecies and teachings they contain about the last days.



Disciple I Fast Track ~ Room 107 ~ Thursdays 6:30-7:45PM

Begins September 7

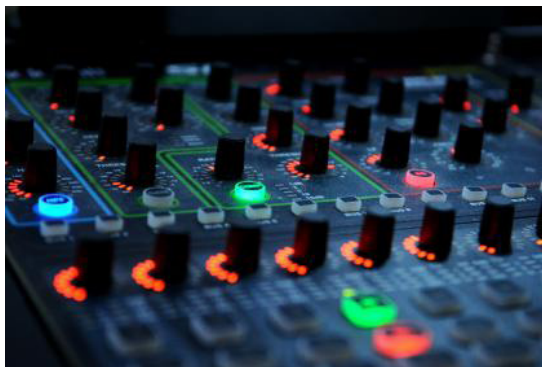
Prepare yourself to be immersed into the Holy Bible. Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original, Disciple Bible Study, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement over time with the entire biblical text. Fast Track groups meet for a total of 24 weeks, devoting 12 weeks each to the Old Testament and the New Testament. Participants read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes.

Register for classes online at www.MarionMethodist.org or by emailing Jen Digmann at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org

What's Next?

Audio, Visual and Lighting (AVL) System in the New Church Building

If you are like me, audio visual equipment isn't the primary thing that I've considered when thinking about a new building. But, the audio portion of a Sunday service is fairly critical, lighting can be very important and more and more, the visual aids enhance our worship, with projected song lyrics, videos to share, and bullet points of a sermon on the screen to add emphasis. The building committee and a subcommittee dedicated to AVL have spent a fair amount of time discussing the needs and wants for audio, visual and lighting in the new building.



Perhaps you are thinking this would be an upgrade to the current projectors, some more efficient lighting, maybe we could expect a little better sound quality? It's much more than this.

Early on, at the recommendation of staff, the building committee hired an AVL integrator, to assist with purchasing the right equipment, to coordinate the installation of the equipment and if there are not adequate funds for the "wish list", the AVL integrator will ensure that necessary infrastructure planning is done so the wish list options can be efficiently added in the future.

Our AVL integrator is a member of The National Association of Church Design Builders. They have done this type of thing before. For more information and examples, look at their website: www.csdus.com. They will handle the audio, video, lighting and acoustics in the new building, working with the architect, general contractor and electrical contractor. One of the things I am most excited about is the "inductive hearing loop system" which will integrate with most hearing aids.

One of my concerns with the new church was, will the sanctuary feel like a church? How modern will the sanctuary feel? Will it look like a church without the stained glass windows? The AVL system as planned, could allow for creation of environments that would look and feel as though stained glass windows are in the sanctuary. It could allow for the creation of a jungle theme for vacation Bible school. The lighting for the puppets has been considered in the quote. I believe the "feel" of the worship service will be limited only to our creativity in the atmosphere that we can create with the audio, visual and lighting system.

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

Powerhouse
get connected

Meal Schedule:

9/6 Pizza Hut

Powerhouse meets every Wednesday. From 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm we have a Family Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 pm to 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)

Kindergarten - 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 Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Sanctuary). High School Worship 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Sanctuary). Games will be in the alley

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

Nursery: Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators

COME JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

It's time for our fall choir activities to start and this is an invitation for you to join us this year! Do you love to sing? Do you enjoy having the choir as part of the worship service? Do you want a personal involvement with the music ministry at Marion Methodist?Then we urge you to give the Chancel Choir a try this year.

Benefits of being a member of the Chancel Choir are:

- A more personal and rewarding involvement in the worship service.
- A deeper spirituality and relationship with God through the music.
- Being a part of the group who helps set the tone for the worship service and enriches the service both through the music and the message of the lyrics of what they sing.
- Opportunity to praise God through songs of a variety of musical styles.
- Being a part of weekly rehearsals. What an enjoyable way to spend an evening with people who love to sing!

Come try out the Chancel Choir.....you don't even have to audition! Chancel Choir (High school through Adults) rehearse Wednesday evenings during the school year starting on August 30, 6:30 to 8:00pm, and we lead the worship singing at the traditional music service at 8:30am on Sundays.

Our first event is a **Choir Workshop** on **Saturday, August 26** (...a day with no home Hawkeye game) from 9:00am to noon in the choir room. We start at 8:30am with treats of yummy home-made sticky buns created by Mike Richmond and you won't want to miss them!

For more information contact any Chancel Choir member or Peggy Rosenkranz, Chancel Choir Director, at peggyr@frii.com or 319-364-0441. We are looking forward to welcoming some of you to the Chancel Choir this fall.

GriefShare - Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

GriefShare is a video-based seminar/support group for anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one. Whether it's been months or years since your loved one's death, meeting with others who have walked the same path will bring healing to your journey.



Beginning **August 23**, GriefShare will be offered on **Wednesdays, from 6:15-7:30 pm**. We will meet in **Room 104** in the main church building. Please register by calling the church office at 377-4856 or email vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES STILL NEEDED

School sales are still going on in most stores. If you haven't been able to get some supplies for Ingathering, now's the time to buy! Last year we donated 300 sets with schoolbags, and we're currently at 180. Needed for each set are:

- 3 - 70 page spiral notebooks (wide ruled)
- plastic or wooden ruler with inches and centimeters
- 6 pencils (not sharpened)
- full sized eraser (not pencil top)
- pencil sharpener
- a box of 24 crayons
- one pair of BLUNT scissors

Items may be dropped off at the Church Office, in the cubby in Fellowship Hall, or in a marked box in the Narthex.

Thank you for your donations. Marion Methodist is certainly a generous church!

**Celebration for
Pastor Keith
Nester
August 27, 2017
During coffee hour
in Fellowship Hall**

Help us keep our children secure! We need everyone with children (from birth to 6th grade) to complete a new registration for their family. This is a one-time need to get our data base up to date. This will help us keep our children safe and secure while in church activities.

You can find the forms in our check in area in Room 206.

They can be returned to Room 206, the Church Office, or given to the Nursery or Sunday School teacher.

Please do this before September 3.

TV Broadcast

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcasted on Mediacom or ImOn Channel 4 at 7:00 PM on Monday evenings. There is a multiweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:

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
9/8	8/30
9/22	9/13
10/6	9/27
10/20	10/11
10/25	11/3

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 or the Church Office.

August: Peanut Butter

September: Soup

October: Toilet Tissue

November: Cake Mix

December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes

January: Macaroni and Cheese

August / September						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm Puppets - All Troupes (Room 350) 4:00pm Bell Canto (Handbell Room)	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	29 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00pm Touch of Brass (Handbell Room)	30 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 5:30pm Confirmation Parents Meeting (New Class) (Chapel) 6:15pm Grief Share (Room 104) 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	31 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Blood Drive (Room 105, Room 107)	1	2
September						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Communion 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 4:00pm Bell Canto (Handbell Room)	4 Church Office Closed	5 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00pm Touch of Brass (Handbell Room)	6 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 9:15am Sarah Circle (Carnegie - LL) 6:15pm Grief Share (Room 104) 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	7 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 8:30am TMC Meeting (Carnegie - LL) 7:00pm UMW - Bookends (Library/Hospitality Room)	8	9 1:00pm 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)

Bishop Ough Issues Statement on Charlottesville

Bishop Bruce Ough, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, issued the following statement on Charlottesville:



My shock, dismay and grief over the clashes between white supremacy advocates and counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, continue to grow. I grieve for the lives lost, and pray for the family of Heather Heyer, the families of the two state troopers killed while monitoring the Charlottesville demonstration from the air, and for the healing of all the injured. I am shocked by the blatant resurgence of white nationalism, neo-Nazism and racially motivated domestic terrorism in the United States. I am dismayed (and frightened) by the animosity, division, extremism and evil that is spiraling out of control in the U.S.

Let there be no excuses or political justification for the evil that was on full display in Charlottesville last Saturday. Nor, let us forget that many such displays of white supremacy, racism and hatred go un-reported or under-reported in many places. White supremacist and neo-Nazi ideologies are abhorrent and entirely inconsistent with the Christian faith.

Jesus called his followers to "love your neighbor." It is clear this key spiritual imperative means all neighbors without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. And, Paul taught that "enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions and factions" are among many works of the flesh that are antithetical to the kingdom of God. "By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5: 19-23) These works of the Spirit lead to peace-making and the kingdom of God.

The Social Principles of our United Methodist Church are a clarion call and powerful witness in times such as these. "We affirm that no identity or culture has more legitimacy than any other. We call the Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities." (Para. 161A, The Nurturing Community, page 110, 2016 Book of Discipline). And, from Para. 162A The Social Community, page 120: "Racism, manifested as sin, plagues

and hinders our relationship with Christ, inasmuch as it is antithetical to the gospel itself ... Therefore, we recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons ... We commit as the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access."

Martin Luther King, Jr. echoed a similar sentiment when he challenged the United States to transform the thin paper of the Declaration of Independence that affirms the self-evident truth "that all men are created equal, are endowed with certain inalienable rights" into thick action.

I pray that the shock, dismay and grief of Charlottesville will be a turning point for the U.S. and even our global United Methodist church. We share collective responsibility to turn our thin words into thick action. We share collective responsibility to break our silence. We share collective responsibility to restore health to the communities and relationship out of which extremism, hatred and racism grow. We share collective responsibility, as followers of the Prince of Peace, to create non-violent communities where people with different political and religious views respect each other. We share responsibility to articulate the vision of the Beloved Community where no person feels endangered on account of their social, racial or cultural identity.

This collective responsibility begins by each of us examining our own hearts for the prejudice that contributes to attitudes of supremacy or hatred, or to violence, or silence or fear. Peacemaking and reconciliation always begins within.

This is the moment for The United Methodist Church and all peoples of faith to be bold in our witness against racism and white supremacy. The vision of the Beloved Community lies not behind us, but before us. I urge us to pray for the Holy Spirit to break through and work through The United Methodist Church to heal our broken world and make tangible, visible the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President
Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church