

Prayer Focus for April

This feature is an invitation to prayer for the people, programs and missions of First United Methodist Church. Each month highlights people and events to be praying for.

This month, please be in prayer for: Safety and well-being of our youth as prom season begins.

Formation of the teams to work on the Healthy Church prescriptions
Guidance from the Holy Spirit as we begin the work of the 5 prescriptions

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. –

EPHESIANS 6:18

Volunteer with Marion Cares

- 4:30-5:30 Monday, Tuesday or Thursday
- Go to marioncares.org and click on Volunteer, call 377-5344, or email joe@marioncares.org
- Materials provided
- Director Joe available on site
- Classroom rules established
- Two People work as a team
- 90 or less minutes each week – We have substitutes
- Training – We also have a volunteer handbook.

Let the Angels Sing!!!



Our preschoolers will be singing at the beginning of the 9:45 worship service on Sunday, April 14.

For any information needing to be published in the *Marion Methodist* or the bulletin, please contact Chris Scholtens at the church office. (cscholtens@marionmethodist.org)

Visit Marion Methodist online:
www.marionmethodist.org

First United Methodist Church of Marion

12th Street & 8th Avenue

Sunday Worship –

7:45am

Early Worship – Chapel

8:30am

Spirited Traditional – Sanctuary

9:45am

Contemporary Praise – Sanctuary
Church School for children and adults

11:00am

Blended Praise – Sanctuary

Tuesday Morning
Prayer Service –

7:00-7:30am

in the Chapel



Issue No. 8

April 12, 2013



The Internal Memo - Part 4 Why do we sing?

“Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven”.

On how to sing hymns -
John Wesley

Have you ever read John Wesley's Directions for Singing? It's printed near the front of our blue hymnal. In these directions, Wesley gives some pretty interesting insight on how the church should sing. Some of his directions are incredibly pragmatic – “Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep it.” Other instructions are much more about the spiritual component of singing- “Have an eye to God in every word you sing”.

I'm no Wesley. Having cleared this up I would like to offer my own take in this “internal memo” on how we at FUMC should approach our singing.

In addition to the 11th commandment – “Thou Shalt Not Clap on 1 and 3”, here are my thoughts on the matter.

How are we to sing?

1. Think deeply about the words.

This goes without saying. If you don't engage with the words, your singing means nothing to God. Chew on those words. Sometimes

I like to read hymns without singing them just so I can reflect on what they are saying without connecting them to the music. Then when I sing them, I understand the meaning a little better.

2. Focus your attention on God.

Singing is not a warm up for the sermon. Focus your entire attention on God. Don't be distracted. Don't think about what other people are doing. Direct your mind, heart and soul on God.

3. Sing as a prayer.

I believe the best hymns and worship songs are those which are directed toward God as a prayer. The truth is, most of them are written that way. Turn your singing into praying and see how meaningful it becomes.

4. Be sincere.

If you don't mean it, what is the point? Truly bring these songs to God with the most sincere heart. Dig deep. If it's a struggle, that's ok, but be real about it. Your singing must come from the heart. Your singing doesn't mean anything to God if you don't mean it.

5. Be unafraid.

Quit worrying about how well or how poorly you sing. Nobody cares. It's not a performance. Don't worry about how you look either. If you are moved to raise your hands, then do it. If you are moved to fall on your knees, then do it. We worship in community. For some that's helpful, for others it's intimidating. Let's not let fear of looking or sounding a certain way keep any of us from engaging with God completely and unashamedly.

Jesus summed it up best in John 4:23-24

“23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Truth is required for worship that pleases God. Our worship of God must be scriptural and not of our own invention, but rather as a reflection of how God has revealed himself to us. At the same time, we must worship with all of our heart, soul and mind fully engaged. Additionally, we worship by the inward witness and power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us giving praise to God. The words we sing must be true words, and the power behind our singing must come from the deepest part of who we are.

Musical styles and preferences come and go. Technology is both helpful and unhelpful. What matters at the end of the day is that we as God's people gather together to sing truthful sincere praise to God. In this, we experience God's presence, and allow God to work in us to form us more and more into his likeness. Through our singing we declare the gospel. Through our singing we declare our submission to God. Through our singing we unite ourselves with the angels and all the saints everywhere.

That's the memo for this issue.
May our praises ring!

Pastor Keith

Where Did the Announcements Go?

Beginning April 7, 2013 the announcements for church community events will be found in our printed and digital outlets. Outside of the servant ministry moments, announcements during worship will be replaced with a few more moments to give attention to and be in relationship with the Lord.

Powerhouse

*Faith, Fellowship,
Friends, Food & Fun!!*



Powerhouse Meal & children's activities will conclude on **Wednesday April 24**
Thanks for a **GREAT YEAR!!!**

Get ready to
Get filled up!!
Join Powerhouse



April Menu:

April 17: BREAKFAST FOR DINNER (come in your PJs) Scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, sausage, pancakes & fruit

April 24: LAST POWERHOUSE FOR SCHOOL YEAR: Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips & fresh veggies

5:30 – 5:45 Lemonade & Fellowship

5:45 – 6:15 FUMC Family Meal
FREE WILL OFFERING

What will you do
with Jesus?



4TH - 6TH GRADERS

CIA is learning how to live out our faith in every day things....

We will meet
Sunday, April 28 at 9am
in room 303/305.

Please contact Val if you are able to join us.

For more information contact
vlawrence@marionmethodist.org
or call Val at 377-4856

ENTER THE EPIC ADVENTURE
THAT EMPOWERS KIDS TO
STAND STRONG.



Vacation Bible School
June 17 – 21 9am-noon
(Early bird drop off available at 7:30am)

Everyone, no matter what your age!

All kids are welcome to attend. Bring your friends.

Youth & adults, we need you too. Please volunteer to help with this awesome week as we discover How Kids Can Stand Strong for God!

Contact the church office 377-4856 if you can help.

Registration forms are available online at marionmethodist.org, the church office or at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

We'll see you there!

WE NEED YOUR CREATIVITY!



Help us design and create Kingdom Rock!!
We need someone to design and create our sanctuary Backdrop for VBS. Contact Val for more information! 377-4856 or vlawrence@marionmethodist.org



march  of dimes
march for babies™

Meet the Mercy Medical Center
Ambassador:
The Wittkowski Family



We weren't expecting anything out of the ordinary with our second pregnancy, and never expected to need the NICU services we learned about during our Mercy hospital tour. But just before 35 weeks gestation, things changed very quickly.

Nora was born January 23rd, 2013 weighing 5lbs, 5oz – which was great, but her underdeveloped lungs and Respiratory Distress Syndrome were a concern. She received surfactant therapy, and was on a respirator for a day. We remained in Mercy's NICU for 3 weeks, waiting for Nora to learn to regulate her temperature, gain weight, and get stronger.

We are so grateful to Mercy Medical Center and the NICU staff for Nora's excellent care, and to the March of Dimes for their research. Together, it's a great team. We're so honored to be walking with Mercy Medical Center, and for the March of Dimes.

Join us at March for Babies on April 28th, and sign up at:
www.marchforbabies.org/team/mercymedicalcentercr
Paul, Erin, Lauren & Nora Wittkowski

3 year olds - 3rd graders
Join us in February at the
11am Worship Service
for



Children will join their families in church for opening praise and then join the other children & volunteers as we exit the sanctuary and head up to room 350 (the old black light space) for Church from a Kid's View.

There will be puppets, lesson, worship & prayer time and time for question & answers! Parents will pick up their children in room 350 immediately following 11am worship. For questions, please contact Val at vlawrence@marionmethodist.org or 377-4856.

4:12
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

If you have a 6th -12th grade student in your home who has not attended 4:12 this year, please encourage them to check it out. We are seeing lots of growth and excitement. We don't want anyone to miss out.

5:45 Café opens
6:30-7:30 Jr. High
7:30-9:00 Sr. High

Our café is a full service snack bar complete with snacks, drinks and some hot food at prices lower than stores. Make sure to check out our vintage arcade too!

3RD - 6TH GRADERS....



Join Us For A
SPRING
JAM!

Sunday, April 21
5:30-7:00

It's Food, Fun & Fellowship!!!
Don't miss it!
?? Call Val at 377-4856 or
vlawrence@marionmethodist.org



UMM

United Methodist Men meet on the 2nd Saturday at 8am in Fellowship Hall for breakfast and a meeting from September-May.



UMW Board Meeting April 23

United Methodist Women

Circles

April 15

Hannah

7:00 PM Susanne Haehlen's home, 3390 Willowridge Rd. Unit B, 350-9951

April 18

The Page Turners

1:30 PM Church Library

Women's Friendship Group

Women's Friendship Group meets at 11:00am on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Pizza Ranch in Marion. Contact Idella Hogan, 377-1382, for more information.



Puppets are looking for Milk Crates:

We need more sturdy plastic milk crates, popular with students heading off to college.



Thank You

Thank you to Rebekah and Hannah UMW Circles for remembering me during Easter. - Anita Schons

Congratulations!

Dr. Dawn Hodge-Alitz, daughter of Dick & Donna Hodge, who was baptized, confirmed, and married at FUMC was ordained Wednesday April 3 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Stillwater, MN.

Transitions

On behalf of our church, SPRC would like to thank Val Lawrence for her service as Director of Children's Education & Discipleship. Because she has received a full time position with benefits, Val has stepped down from the position and will transition out in the coming month. Val has had a very successful tenure in the position. Her passion, energy, and enthusiasm for our children will be greatly missed.

SPRC is will be actively looking to rehire this very important ministry position. If you have a passion for children and teaching them about our Lord, please consider this opportunity.



Your Spiritual Care

When you or someone you love is receiving medical care at one of our local hospitals, we endeavor to provide the best in Christian love and spiritual care through personal visits and prayer support. Our medical communities strive to provide you with excellent medical care and strict compliance with HIPAA regulations to protect your personal information during your hospital stay and beyond. Subsequently, recent changes in hospital admittance procedures have altered how we receive information on our church members during their hospital stays.

In order to ensure that we are able to provide you with the best in spiritual care, you can help in one of the following ways:

- 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.
- Have a family member or trusted friend call the church office at 377-4856, or email Vicki Standley at vstandley@marionmethodist.org.



Attention Ministry Leaders!!!

On April 1st, a LARGE Dumpster was delivered to Marion First, and will be onsite until April 15th. It is located between the Wesley Education Wing and the Mission & Education Building. Please take this time to rally your ministries and clean out the clutter in your ministry areas!

- Here is a list of items that CANNOT be placed in the dumpster
- NO Cardboard - Place in white dumpster in alley
 - No Tires
 - No Batteries
 - No Large Appliances
 - No Yard Waste
 - Nothing in liquid form (paint)
 - Computer, Monitors, etc.
- Let's clean up Marion First!

Where is UMCOR now?

Over the course of the last five months, UMCOR has "been there" for the victims of "Sandy". UMCOR volunteers have mucked out 1000 homes, served 70,000 meals and invested more that 60,000 hours of volunteer labor. UMCOR has trained more than 200 volunteers and provided more than 23,000 cleaning buckets. Long term recovery ministries have been established to help hundreds of families in New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Connecticut.



Marion First United Methodist Church

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

www.marionmethodist.org

for information about the church, current activities, organizations, scripture and sermons and the Marion Methodist newsletter. Delayed broadcast of church services is available on Mediacom 18 at 7 PM on Monday. Full service recordings of services are in the FUMC library on DVD.

Articles for the newsletter can be submitted by email to cscholtens@marionmethodist.org

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 contribution in the grocery cart in the narthex or at the 8th Ave. door.

Pantry Partners for April is Canned Fruit

Mark your calendars!

The annual sewing day is on the church calendar for Thursday, August 1st! Be sure to mark your personal calendars and plan to sew, cut, iron, or serge with us. More information to follow.

Welcome

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce to you that the position of Director Adult Discipleship has been filled. We are excited to welcome Sue Tull to our team in that capacity.

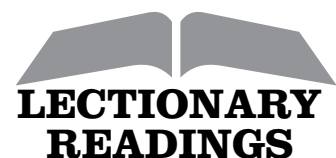
Sue has been part of First United Methodist Church Marion for several years. She is a 4:12 leader, volunteers for FLY, attends the lectionary Church School class and the 11am service among other things. Sue is married to Mark and has two daughters; Emily and Ashley. Sue will begin her work on the church staff on April 15th.

Coffee Time Hosts Needed

We are in need of servers for our very popular coffee, juice, and donut time on Sunday mornings. We currently have wonderful dedicated workers who would like to share the "joy of serving" with you. Your commitment would be only 6 times per year! Please consider serving on this very important ministry of our church. Write "Coffee Time Host" on the sign in sheet, or call Diana Anderson at 361-6400.

Marion Marathon for Shoes

On Sunday, April 21, the Marion Marathon for Shoes will be running through town, and right by our doors. To facilitate parking for worship, please know that the runners will be running down 8th Avenue. Parking at the bank will be much more difficult, so plan accordingly!



LECTIONARY READINGS

April 14

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
Psalm 30 (UMH 762)
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

April 21

Acts: 9:36-43
Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

FLOWERS: April 7, in memory of Maddeson Tersinar's 11th birthday

You're invited to join us at "Carnegie Corner" any Tuesday morning from 9:00-11:00am.

We play cards & games:
500, Bridge (some weeks)
Dominoes & Table Games

Coffee Refreshments Devotions

Contact Doris French or Sherry Murray for more information.

Using the Computer to search for:

- Christian websites
- Hearing the Bible
- Reading Large print scriptures
- Finding & Playing hymns
- FUMC website
- How to use free clipart
- Making greeting cards
- And more!

While this group is geared toward our Senior Citizens, anyone is welcome to attend at anytime. We occasionally have potlucks and take short trips also.

The Marion Methodist deadline schedule

Articles for our Marion Methodist need to be submitted by **Wednesday at noon**. You may email it to cscholtens@marionmethodist.org and send any information 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 to Printer	Date Articles Due
Apr. 24	Apr. 17
May 8	May 1
May 22	May 15
Jun. 5	May 29
Jun. 19	Jun. 12
Jul. 3	Jun. 26
Jul. 17	Jul. 10

Church Information

First United Methodist Church
Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue
Church Office, 1298 7th Avenue
Marion, Iowa 52302
Office 377-4856

Fellowship Hall
377-4252

Caring Corner
377-8490

Staff

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

Business Administrator, Craig Liscum

cliscum@marionmethodist.org

Director of Hospitality and Membership Connections, Karen Schmitz

kschmitz@marionmethodist.org

Communications Manager and Receptionist, Chris Scholtens

cscholtens@marionmethodist.org

Director of Children Christian Education & Discipleship, Val Lawrence

vlawrence@marionmethodist.org

Director of Adult Christian Education & Discipleship, Sue Tull

stull@marionmethodist.org

Director of Music, Mike Ransom

mransom@marionmethodist.org

Organist/Keyboardist, Diane Beach

dbeach@marionmethodist.org

Handbell Choir Director, Mary Lee Parks

mparks@marionmethodist.org

Children's Choir Director

Director of Worship and Technology, Simon Campbell

scampbell@marionmethodist.org

Caring Corner Daycare Director, Dawn Blair

dblair@marionmethodist.org

Food Service Manager, Kathy Scritchfield

Custodian, Alan Arduser

Assistant Custodian

Maintenance, Leon Smock

This newsletter is made possible by the Grace of God and is intended to lift up the interests and ministries of First United Methodist Church of Marion that are dedicated to His Wonderful Name.

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LABEL HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 14 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00a Kids' View (Room 350, former Blacklight Room) 2:00p A Joyful Noise (Handbells) (Choir Room) 3:00p Jubilation (Handbells) 3:00p What's Next Task Force (Room 106) 4:00p Bell Canto (Handbells) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL, Carnegie - UL) 6:00p Disciple I (Room 106) 6:00p Disciple IV (Room 104)	APRIL 15 8:00a Tax Preparation (Carnegie - Youth) 10:00a UMW Bazaar Planning (Adult Library) 11:30a Staff Meeting (Room 106) 6:00p Joint Committee Chairpersons (Room 105) 6:00p Caring Corner Staff Meeting (Chapel) 6:30p Foundation (Room 105) 6:30p SPRC (Room 104) 6:30p Trustees (Room 107) 6:30p Finance (Room 106) 7:00p GPS (Carnegie - UL) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	APRIL 16 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Handbells)	APRIL 17 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 5:00p Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Cafe is Open (Carnegie - LL) 6:15p "Raising a Modern-Day Knight" (Family Room) 6:30p "Woman of God" Bible Study (Room 106) 6:30p Gospel of Mark (Room 105) 6:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 6:30p Powerhouse 6:30p Junior High Youth Group 7:30p Senior High Youth Group 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	APRIL 18 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 1:30p Page Turners Circle (Adult Library) 5:30p Grief Share (Mission & Education - ULNorth) 5:30p Turning Your Heart Toward God (Room 104) 6:30p Building Committee (Room 105)	APRIL 19 8:00a Ingathering School Bag "Cutting Party" (Fellowship Hall) 9:30a Turning Your Heart Toward God (Room 104)	APRIL 20 8:00a Library Board Meeting (Adult Library)
APRIL 21 Bells Set-Up (Sanctuary) 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00a Kids' View (Room 350, former Blacklight Room) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Room 107) 2:00p A Joyful Noise (Handbells) (Choir Rm) 3:00p Jubilation (Handbells) 4:00p Bell Canto (Handbells) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL, Carnegie - UL) 6:00p Disciple I (Room 104) 6:00p Disciple IV (Room 104)	APRIL 22 Bells Set-Up (Sanctuary) 6:30p Memorials Committee (Adult Library) 7:00p GPS (Carnegie - UL) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	APRIL 23 Bells Set-Up (Sanctuary) 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 3:30p UMW Executive Board (Adult Library) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Handbells)	APRIL 24 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 5:00p Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Cafe is Open (Carnegie-LL) 6:15p "Raising a Modern-Day Knight" (Family Room) 6:30p Powerhouse 6:30p Gospel of Mark (Rm 105) 6:30p "Woman of God" Bible Study (Room 106) 6:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 6:30p Junior High Youth Group 7:30p Senior High Youth Group 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	APRIL 25 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 9:15a Sowers Circle (Room 104) 5:30p Turning Your Heart Toward God (Room 104) 5:30p Grief Share (Mission & Edu - ULNorth) 6:30p Building Committee (Room 105)	APRIL 26 9:30a Turning Your Heart Toward God (Room 104)	APRIL 27