



The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 24 December 21, 2012



The Pride of Telling a Birth Story

Mike Morgan

Early in December, I was asked to read the Christmas story from Luke Chapter 2, something I had done many times before. The dynamic of this reading was different, it was to be the last thing at the Caring Corner Pre School Christmas Program. The material was great, consider though if you would the dynamic.

The sanctuary was filled with three hundred plus parents and grandparents which means well over 500 digital recording devices of every size, make and model. Every little child that the "crowd" had come to see and hear sing the songs of Christmas had performed and taken their seat in the front two pews. The digital devices were being taken from their tripods, zipped into coat pockets or held on laps. Coats were being gathered and put on, the fellowship hall awaited, cookies were lined in perfect rows on the snack tables, the punch was ready to be served.

There was joy, there was hub bub and there was the general adult disposition that the program was over and it was time for the next thing. Nevertheless, the pastor was assigned to a task and would be faithful to it. On my way up the steps it hit me and these words came out of my mouth: "Oh how we love our children, do not they bring rich joy to our hearts?"

Continuing I said; "You know I have been around many of you who have small children and one thing that I have found that you never grow tired, especially you mothers is telling your 'birth' stories. It does not seem to matter how old your child is when you gather, it is part of the joy you share as parents to tell that story over and over because this child means so much to you.

Our Lord loves to hear your stories and he has a birth story of his own that He revels in telling and in

your hearing. The story of Jesus' birth is the story of his only son's coming into the world and it is a birth story that changes your lives and mine." Then I read Luke 2:1-20.

No one in my generation is so eloquent that they can still the restlessness of several dozen preschoolers who are awaiting cookies and punch on a Friday night after a big program, but the message was received. One mother came to me afterward with tears she could not conceal and said "thank you for reminding me of the most important birth story, I had forgotten."

Whether you have forgotten and need to be reminded or simply revel in hearing it told again and again, on behalf of our team, I invite you to come and drink it in again at our Christmas Eve Services.

Pastor Mike

Prayer Focus for December

This new 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. In addition, check in the Prayer Room for ways you can pray specifically for some of the people or groups mentioned here.

This month, please be in prayer for:

Families who are in need
Christmas Eve services and those who will be attending

Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one this Christmas

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

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



*Join us on Christmas Eve, as we celebrate Christ's birth!
Worship will be at 1, 4, 5:30, 7, and 11 pm.
Communion will be at
1 and 11, carols and candlelight at 4, 5:30, and 7.*

Guests "see" differently

A handful of years ago one of our dedicated volunteers was tasked to fix a small hole in the plaster just inside our main entry. Unfortunately, the slight tap of his hammer brought down a chunk of wall 10' high and 4' wide exposing the studs and the century old construction brick behind it.

This new "hole" would require the trustees to drywall the entire stairway and repaint, a \$50 problem had become a multi-thousand dollar project – there was no money. So, the eyesore was left unattended. We became used to it, it was our church, we loved it, it didn't offend us, and surely it would get fixed eventually.

One Sunday, about four months into our not fixing the problem, leaning against the banister facing it was a young family who had begun to attend our church. I invited them to the membership class that was about to commence. The man smiled and me and said; "No offense Pastor, we love worship and our kids love the children's program" and pointing then to the huge chunk of ugliness in front of him said "but we really don't want to join a church that doesn't notice something this big is wrong." Of course we gathered a few thousand bucks in the next budget year and repaired the entry way.

To the same point but inversely, one Sunday morning this summer a fellow walked into our church and introduced himself as a graduate of Marion High School from years ago who was home for his reunion. His

one instance of being in First United Methodist Church was his high school graduation and he remembered with awe in his heart the magnificence of our "Jesus" window. He asked if he might take some pictures of it and we obliged.

The counsel of these anecdotes cannot be lost on us. The fact is, sometimes when you are "inside" n organization you can't see what a guest might see. While none liked it, neither did any of us panic when the "wall fell down" or think that we needed to rush to fix it or we would lose a portion of our evangelistic edge. Sadly, it is also likely true that few of us gaze in awe at the beauty of the message or the art in the Jesus window because for us, it has always been there.

The same can be true about how we live as a worshipping and instructing body. We are so imbedded in the worship service, the coffee time, the UMW or other programs we see the church as our home and it can be hard to see it with the eyes of a guest. So from time to time we need strangers to help us with perspective lest we fall prey to habits or practices that are not conducive to a church desiring to serve the King.

We find this exact thing described in the New Testament. Paul certainly addresses practices that are unwelcoming and admonishes churches to stop them straightaway. More indicting of course are the second and third chapters of the Revelation wherein

several churches are seen to be insufficient and thus needing to change their ways dramatically.

Our prayer of course is that as a church we are not found to be lacking in zeal for God or kindness for people. Sometimes it is useful to call upon strangers to coach you in ways that can accentuate assets that we sometimes overlook and address faults that we might not even see.

To this end, Pastor Keith, Vicki, myself and Mission Control have been engaged for the past year or so with the Healthy Church Initiative of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church. We have studied nearly a dozen books and attended at least that many class sessions, all of which are guiding us to become for the Kingdom and our community a more Healthy Church.

The next leg on our journey is an all church consultation which will be held February 15-17 for which preparations are already underway. Between now and then, "mystery worshippers" will be coming to look at us with new eyes. Between now and then you are asked to make an effort during worship or other programs to take a look at us with new eyes. Between now and then you are asked to pray with sincerity that First United Methodist Church Marion will be open to see its great assets and faults and willing for Christ's sakes to do what we need to do to grow towards our potential for him.

Powerhouse

get connected



Get ready to
Get filled up!!
Join Powerhouse



No Powerhouse December 26.
We will resume on January 2

January Menu:

Jan 2: Walking Tacos, rice & toppings

Jan 9: HyVee Chinese

Jan 16: Chicken Noodle Soup
& Sub sandwiches

Jan 23: Baked Potato Bar, rolls,
fresh veggies

Jan 30: Breakfast for dinner –
pancakes, sausage & fruit

5:30 – 5:45 Lemonade & Fellowship

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

4th – 6th Graders



Put your faith into action!!
Join us as part of the CIA!!
(Christ in Action)



- > The CIA is about learning to serve Christ as a Disciple! Take a step beyond Sunday School!
- > We meet the last Sunday of the month at 9am in room 303/305
- > Serve as greeters, follow up on our missing friends, send out notes to visitors and MORE.
- > For more information contact vlawrence@marionmethodist.org or call Val at 377-4856

Take charge of your own journey with Christ as you draw closer to the Holy Spirit through study and fellowship. Check out these exciting Adult Life Growth opportunities at FUMC.

Sundays

Study Name	Lectionary Bible Studies
Leader, Room,	Peg Boss, 9:45 AM, Room 107,
Cost, Contact	no cost, contact 435-2158

Study Name	New Testament Study
Leaders, Room,	Greg and Becky Tallman, 9:45 AM,
Cost, Contact	Room 106, no cost, contact 378-4208

Study name	Old Testament Studies
Leader, Room,	Virginia Jensen, 9:45 AM, Room 104,
Cost, Contact	no cost, contact 377-4729



We celebrate the Advent season and remember ones we love. Poinsettias have been donated by the following...

Carol Christensen in memory of Jim Christensen
Ralph & Vicki Standley & family in memory of Jeane Robinson, Carroll Robinson & Glenn Standley
Mary, Bill, Nate & Abby Hoefle; Nancy Mueller; and Dana, Laurie, Kyle & Scott Mortensen in memory of Ron Mueller & Adelyne Mueller
The Lawrences in memory of Sandra Kirkland
The Tchons in memory of Joan Radloff & honor of William Radloff & Roz & Joe Tchon
Pam Couser in memory of husband, John and parents Paul & Florence Shriver
Melanie & Chris Donohue & family in memory of Marcia Dieleman (Melanie's mother)
Barb & Henry Schmoll in memory of Willard and Vera Briggs & Lois Schmoll
Paula Johnson, John Biggs, Anna Lentz & Alan Biggs in memory of Alan Johnson
Bill & Lorie Bramley in memory of Marie Carsner
Norman Wright in memory of Betty Wright
Brian & Karen Schmitz in memory of Christy Ernst, Reynold & Marie Schmitz, and Catherine Bachman
Donna J. Wolmutt in memory of Wendy Wolmutt Blackburn & Don Wolmutt
Mona Morgan in memory of Lowell Morgan
Gary Frederick in memory of Sandy Frederick
Peg Pierce in memory of Ray Pierce & Susan Gray
The Armstrong & Braun families in memory of Bill Armstrong
Kathi Decker in memory of her father, Clifford Decker
Connie Jirouch in memory of George Finn and Kevin & Jason Hyduk
Angi Dunkel in memory of Matthew Dunkel
Chuck & Sherry Alexander and family in memory of Jim & Mary Thomas
Corrine Dvorsky in memory of Leo Hutchins
Sincha Yi
Kory, Amy & Kendall Tersinar in memory of Maddeson Tersinar & Ed Staskal
Jen & Dave Digmann in honor of Lucas Digmann, Eloise Digmann, & Calvin Digmann
Ken & Connie Leahy in memory of Gene & Betty Gabbard, J. Rober & Geraldine Leahy
Angela Sanders in memory of Blaine Sanders.
Kim & Tim Michels family & Ruth, John & Lori Collins in memory of Hadwen Collins
Anita Schons in memory of George Finn, Dennis Pesek, Jason Hyduk & Kevin Hyduk
Lori & John Collins in memory of Sandy Wilker & Pete Meyer
Ron & Peg Boss in memory of their parents



4:12 is up and running at full speed!

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. Come check out our vintage arcade also!

Experience the Beauty of Advent

Are you seeking a time of quiet in the busyness of the holidays? Do you feel like you're missing something in all the hustle and bustle? If you are searching for something more meaningful in the midst of your Christmas preparations, come and experience an Advent Quiet Moments service.

Allow yourself to soak in the words and music of timeless Advent hymns, to take time to be in moments of silent reflection, and to receive communion using timeless liturgy. Each Saturday evening will be a service of music, prayer and reflection followed by fellowship over a light meal.

Discover the depths and richness of the Advent tradition as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. You are welcome at any or all of the services held in the chapel at 5:30pm each Saturday evening of Advent, beginning December 1st. Come and be blessed!

Advent Quiet Moment: December 22 at 5:30 pm in the Chapel.

Advent & December Events

Sunday, December 23

Worship services at 7:45, 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 AM

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services

1:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, & 11:00 PM
Join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior with carols and candlelight.

(Communion at 1:00 & 11:00 PM)

Sunday, December 30

Worship services at 7:45, 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 AM





UMM

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

Volunteer with Marion Cares

- 4:30-5:30 Monday, Tuesday or Thursday
- Lead or assist a Bible story for
- 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.

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.

When Someone in Our Church Family is Hospitalized

the purpose of pastoral care is to surround them with Christian prayers, love and presence. In order to do our part, we need help from you. When you or a family member need to be hospitalized, please make sure that your registration is current and specifies Marion First United Methodist Church as your home church. Without that information, we do not receive notification that you are in either of the hospitals. Providing spiritual care during hospital visits is a crucial part of healing. Please help us supply that support by calling the church office, 377-4856, Vicki or the pastors any time you are hospitalized. We have missed people recently because of this.

Summer Ministry Internships Available

Three full time paid summer positions are available at First United Methodist Church in Marion.

- **Summer Ministry Intern** – a position that gains experience in a number of areas of ministry. This job is perfect for persons considering full time ministry.
- **Feeding Lunch to Youth (FLY) Intern** – two positions that assist in volunteer management, advertising, fund raising, food ordering, meal preparation and deliver.

Full job descriptions are available at www.MarionMethodist.org Persons interested in applying should get materials mail or email a letter of interest and resume no later than January 15, 2013 to the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Staff Parish Relations Committee
c/o First United Methodist Church
1298 7th Ave.
Marion, Iowa 52302

Questions should be directed to Craig Liscum
CLiscum@MarionMethodist.org or 319.377.4856.



Month of Sundays Breakfast

The next Month of Sundays Breakfast will be January 6, 2013. Yes, December 30 is technically the fifth Sunday, but that day is just too busy for many, thus, January 6. The usual fare will be available: French Toast, sausage, scrambled eggs, sticky buns, cereal, juice, milk and coffee. We will be ready to serve by 7:30AM and will continue until just prior to the 11:00AM service or until the food runs out - whichever comes first. The money from this breakfast will go to help the young adults who are taking a mission trip to Jamaica, working with Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Kingston.

PANTRY PARTNERS for Marion Food Pantry for 2012

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.

December is Gelatin & Pudding Mixes.

Pantry Partners for 2013

January Peanut Butter	July Peanut Butter
February Soup (Souper Bowl)	August Boxed Potatoes
March Macaroni and Cheese	September Macaroni and Cheese
April Canned Fruit	October Canned Fruit
May Hand Soap and Toilet Paper	November Cake Mixes
June Gelatin and Pudding Mixes	December Gelatin and Pudding Mixes



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

Thank You

I want to thank all who supported the handbell ministry at First United Methodist by attending our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 2! We give a special thank you to Sam Dwyer who did a marvelous job on the Little Drummer Boy (snare drum), Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (suspended cymbal) and Sleigh Ride (temple blocks – he was the horse of course)! We also thank Diane Beach for joining us (the "whipper" snapper) on Sleigh Ride and Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (synthesizer). Her spirit can't be beat!

And a BIG thank you to all the ringers, chimers, helpers and subs who gave all they had, the best they had to celebrate the birth of Jesus in music!

Thank you, Angie, for all your work with A Joyful Noise and Jubilation! The kids love you and you will be missed.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and look forward, with hope and expectation, to the second coming of Christ!

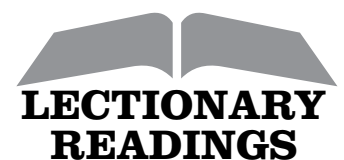
Merry Christmas!
Mary Lee

End of the Year Contributions

Per the Internal Revenue Service, in order for you to get credit for your end of the year contribution to the Church, it needs to be in the Church office by Noon on December 31, 2012 (office closes at noon) or it must be mailed to the church with a postmark of December 31, 2012 or before. Thank you for your generous giving to the ministries of Marion First.

It is Coming

The annual Adult Library Souperbowl lunch is not too far away! Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 3rd, and bring a crockpot of your favorite homemade soup or chili for a chance to carry the "soup champion" title for the next year! If you don't make soup, we are taking dessert donations again this year, too. Freewill offerings will benefit the Adult Library. More details soon.



December 23

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

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 5:00 pm**. 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
Jan. 2	Dec. 27 (Thursday after Christmas, by 10:00 AM!)
Jan. 16	Jan. 9 (Wednesday at Noon)
Jan. 30	Jan. 23
Feb. 13	Feb. 6
Feb. 27	Feb. 20
Mar. 13	Mar. 6
Mar. 27	Mar. 20
Apr. 10	Apr. 3
Apr. 24	Apr. 17
May 8	May 1
May 22	May 15

Church Information

First United Methodist Church **Fellowship Hall**
Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue 377-4252
Church Office, 1298 7th Avenue
Marion, Iowa 52302 **Caring Corner**
Office 377-4856 377-8490

Staff

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Food Service Manager, Kathy Scritchfield

Custodian, Alan Arduser

Assistant Custodian, Gary Barr

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 DECEMBER 23	MONDAY DECEMBER 24	TUESDAY DECEMBER 25	WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26	THURSDAY DECEMBER 27	FRIDAY DECEMBER 28	SATURDAY DECEMBER 29
7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00p A Joyful Noise (Handbells) (Choir Room) 2:00p Puppet Rehearsal (Black Light Room, Room 303/305) 3:00p Jubilation (Handbells) 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)	1:00p Christmas Eve Service 4:00p Christmas Eve Service 5:30p Christmas Eve Service 7:00p Christmas Eve Service 11:00p Christmas Eve Service	<i>Merry Christmas</i> Office Closed	Office Closed 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:15a Sowers Circle (Room 104) 6:30p Building Committee (Room 105)		
DECEMBER 30	DECEMBER 31	JANUARY 1	JANUARY 2	JANUARY 3	JANUARY 4	JANUARY 5
7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00p Puppet Rehearsal (Black Light Room, Room 303/305) 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 IV (Room 104) 6:00p Disciple IV (Room 106) (Room 104)	12:00p Office Closed	<i>Happy New Year</i> Office Closed	8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:15a Sarah Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:00p Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Cafe is Open (Carnegie-LL) 6:15p Men's Fraternity (Rm 104) 6:30p Powerhouse 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)	6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 6:30p Building Committee (Room 105) 7:00p Bookends Circle (Adult Library)		5:00p Rehearsal Dinner - Tyler Huckfelt (Fellowship Hall)