

Prayer Focus for January

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:

A prosperous, happy new year

Joy for Epiphany

Remembering the birth of Christ throughout 2014

The BUILD Campaign

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.marionmethodist.org
for information about the church, current activities, organizations, scripture and sermons and the Marion Methodist newsletter.

Sunday services are usually rebroadcast on Mediacom channel 18 at 7:00 PM on Mondays, with a multi-week delay. Full service recordings of services are in the Marion Methodist library on DVD.

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

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

Wednesday Evening
Prayer Service –

6:15pm

in the Chapel



Issue No. 1

January 3, 2014

Marion First United Methodist Church

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



“A new Era or a new error”

“I’m 61 and it feels like I have been down the road of the “new thing” seven or eight times in my ministry. Every time I see something I think – here comes Ecclesiastes again.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9 says: *What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.*)

He has been a colleague a long time so I began to offer a word of encouragement but he beat me to the punch. “On the other hand the Lord says: Behold, I make all things new” he said referencing Revelation 21:5. I nodded appropriately.

The he asked me what most Americans love to be asked. “What do you think?”

The tool or “new thing” my friend was considering is the Healthy Church Initiative. He and I have both seen so many church growth fads come and go, we have seen the latest and greatest way to improve the church and our emails daily are littered with kind souls willing to sell us the “most important program your church can ever do.”

Knowing that, at this moment in ministry, I am particularly encouraged about something new and potent, so I said, “Bruce, Marion Methodist is on the edge of a new era; let me tell you about it.” My soliloquy focused around the opportunities that are before us, opportunities that have been forged in prayer, vision and we believe God guided hard work.

The message of Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and the church is always charged with imagining

and creating methodologies that communicate that eternal message in ways that penetrate the hearts and ears of the generation in which we live. We have chosen the Healthy Church Initiative as an appropriate methodology to pour ourselves into.

A favorite arrow in my scriptural quiver finds Jesus saying: “*No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.*” (Matthew 9:16-17) Simply, this means to me, if the people of God are truly trusting in Him and willing to risk letting go of a few old wineskins, a great new era will be ushered in at Marion Methodist.

Throughout 2013 your pastors and over a hundred of you have been involved in portions of the preparatory work on the Healthy Church Initiative. Prayer and visioning has been done, a consultation was held and prescriptions as to pathways we might take to make Marion Methodist a healthier church were prescribed. This was followed by more prayer, more visioning, a 12 week sermon series and lots and lots of small group work. Now we stand at the edge of a new era.

I won’t steal anyone’s thunder in this article; far too much work has been done to announce prematurely or poorly that which many have done. Rather, let this be an announcement that challenges you to be ready to

embrace and usher in this new era. Be ready to hear a lot from our:

- **CONNECTIONS** team that will help us see how we can practically, faithfully and efficiently engage and embrace each other and folks not yet a part of Marion Methodist for Christ’s sake.
- **COMMUNICATIONS** team that has already moved all of our publications to a same voice methodology; we will be emphasizing our brand that you have already seen everywhere and rolling out a few new things.
- **DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY** team that is constructing a comprehensive pathway that one can take to grow in Christ. Much attention is being given to how one starts in the faith and how a person can “jump in” at various points in life.

So, during the early portion of 2014 your pastors and leaders will be systemically working to implement a new era by transforming the DNA of Marion Methodist. I encourage you to embrace this transformation and do all in your prayers and power to speed it up and help it gain strength. To your pastor, it seems pretty clear that this is no error and that indeed a new era for Christ is at hand at Marion Methodist. 2014, I am looking forward to you.

Pastor Mike

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

Powerhouse

get connected 

5:15 – 6:15: Family Meal (Free Will Offering)

6:30 – 7:30: 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 208)

KDG – 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 6:30 -7:30,

High School 7:30 – 8:30

Adult Classes: Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marion-methodist.org.

Nursery Provided in Room 203

POWERHOUSE MEAL SCHEDULE

January 8	KFC
January 15	Taco Bell
January 22	Maidrite
January 29	Pizza Hut
February 5	Zio Johno’s – spaghetti & garlic bread
February 12	KFC
February 19	Taco Bell
February 26	Maidrite
March 5	Pizza Hut
March 12	Zio Johno’s
March 19	KFC
March 26	Taco Bell
April 2	Maidrite
April 9	Pizza Hut
April 16	Zio Johno’s
April 23	KFC

Missional Giving at Marion Methodist

As we approach the end of year, we can reflect on a year of generosity. As you read in the last Marion Methodist Newsletter, in the past year you gave over \$100,000 towards missions outside of the walls of Marion Methodist, along with supporting our ministries with in the walls. As we are financially stable and the “sky is not falling”, during this last month of the year, we hold the opportunity to end financially strong while also preparing our financial coffers for the beginning of the New Year.

As a reminder, it is never too late to turn in your pledge card for 2014. Your pledge allows for the Finance Committee to plan for the financial needs of the Church during the year.

Thank you all for your continued generosity to the missions and ministries of Marion Methodist.

Old Testament Field Trip

Virginia Jensen's Old Testament Class will be going to the Putnam Museum in Davenport to view the 3-D Imax film "Jerusalem" on Saturday, January 11th. We will meet at 1 pm at the church and car pool to the museum for the 3 pm showing. Anyone who is interested is welcomed to make the trip with us. Cost will be \$7.50 for those under 60 years of age and \$6.50 for the 60+ Senior rate. Please contact Virginia ASAP at vajensen@mchsi.com or 377-4729 if you are interested in going so travel arrangements can be finalized.



The Adult Library's Annual Souper Bowl Contest

will be here on Sunday, February 2nd. In order for it to be successful, we need your yummy soups. So get out those recipe books and start planning your winning soup now! We'll fill Fellowship Hall dining room and the Sanctuary with the wonderful aroma of homemade soups. Call the church office (377-4856) to sign up. Proceeds benefit the Adult Library.





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.



This is the view from the front window.

One week in a Two Bedroom Condo in Winter Park, Colorado

Available for \$700 donation.

All proceeds will be used for missions, locally, or within locally, or within our own church.

Times are available any time of year Whether you want to ski in the winter, or hike in the summer. Or enjoy the beautiful colors in the fall.

Just call the office to place your reservation!



Picture Directories Arriving in January

We are currently in the proofing stage of our Church Picture Directory. If all goes well, the completed directories should be arriving by the middle of January. Everyone who had their picture taken will receive a free directory. We will let you know as soon as they arrive, so stay tuned...

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.

January is Macaroni and Cheese.

The Marion Food Pantry is in need of clothing, infant to adult sizes, and also bedding; sheets and blankets, and towels. If you have any of these items or are doing fall cleaning and cleaning out those closets, please bring these items to the Marion Food Pantry. The pantry is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-3 pm. Your donations would be very much appreciated.

UMCOR's Prayer for Displaced Children

There are more than 45 million forcibly displaced people in the world, and children below 18 years of age constitute 46 percent of the refugee population, according to UN High Commission on Refugees. Whether they are refugees, internally displaced or asylum-seekers, children are at a greater risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, and more. During this holiday season, when we celebrate family and togetherness, please pray for safety, refuge and peace for children around the world and in the United States who are without a home and a family.

Thank You

Thank you everyone who helped me celebrate my 80th birthday on Nov. 30th! It was a wonderful day with family and friends. I was delighted by the whole event! May God bless you all. – *Esther Lees*

Entrance Change:

The main entrance to the Carnegie Building is the 7th Avenue entrance. If you have needs which require the use of the elevator, there is an intercom available at the 13th Street door, which will call the office staff to "buzz" the door open for you.

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:

December 15, **Marge Ferris**, mother of Katie Feldman, Ruth Armstrong; grandmother of Laura and Kim Feldman;

Delmar Spickermann, father of Diane (Jim) Bys.

BAPTISMS:

December 22 **Wyatt Charles Smith**, Child of Charles & Jody Smith; **Elizabeth Francis Kennedy**, Child of Philip & Lynn Kennedy

BIRTHS:

December 14 **Mason Michael**, son of Derek and Karen McCusker

Carnegie Corner

Carnegie Corner is a group of seniors who meet every Tuesday morning in the lower level of the church offices. We always have coffee and goodies at 9:00 AM. We play bridge and Mexican train dominoes. We would welcome other games and players. We have a short program every week, celebrate birthdays and have potlucks occasionally. We adjourn promptly at 11:00 AM. COME and join in anytime. Inquiries call Sherry Murray 377-1921 or Doris French 377-0512.

Church Information

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

Caring Corner Daycare
377-8490

www.marionmethodist.org

Staff

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mmorgan@marionmethodist.org

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Handbell Choir Director, Mary Lee Parks

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Children's Choir Director

Director of Worship and Technology, Simon Campbell

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Caring Corner Daycare Director, Dawn Blair

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Food Service Manager, Kathy Scritchfield

Custodian, Alan Arduser

Assistant Custodian, Misti Grimm

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
JANUARY 5 Communion 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Sunday School for all ages 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00p Disciple 2 (Room 107) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Room 105) 2:15p Joyful Noise (Choir Room) 3:00p Jubilation (Handbell Room) 4:00p Bell Canto (Handbell Room) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL & UL)	JANUARY 6 11:30a Staff Meeting (Room 106) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	JANUARY 7 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Handbell Room)	JANUARY 8 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:30a Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:15p Prayer Service (Chapel) 6:30p Powerhouse 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	JANUARY 9 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:30a Needle Designers (Carnegie - LL) 9:30a Wesleyan Circle (Adult Library) 5:30p Grief Share (Adult Library)	JANUARY 10 8:30a Cutting School Bags (Fellowship Hall)	JANUARY 11 11:00a Children's Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00p 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)
JANUARY 12 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Sunday School for all ages 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00p Disciple 2 (Room 107) 2:15p Joyful Noise (Choir Room) 3:00p Jubilation (Handbell Room) 4:00p Bell Canto (Handbell Room) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL, Carnegie - UL)	JANUARY 13 6:00p AG Report Meeting #2 (Carnegie - LL) 7:00pm Orientation Meeting - CG Team Captains (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	JANUARY 14 7:00a Campaign Cabinet Meeting (Carnegie - LL) 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Handbell Room)	JANUARY 15 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:15p Prayer Service (Chapel) 6:30p Powerhouse 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	JANUARY 16 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 9:30a Women of the Bible (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Page Turners Circle (Adult Library)	JANUARY 17	JANUARY 18 1:00p Children's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)