

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.

Prayer Focus for November

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: Pray for our newly elected officials and our nation.

Pray for those affected by the storms on the East coast.

November 18, Believe It Celebration out at the Farm.

November 19, Church Charge Conference of Celebration.

November 22, Thanksgiving, families, and travel.

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

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)



Marion Methodist has a new home on Facebook! Come check us out and give us a "Like." www.facebook.com/marionmethodistchurch



Follow our latest endeavors on Twitter with our brand new twitter feed [@marionmethodist](https://twitter.com/marionmethodist)

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

The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 24 November 23, 2012



Keith Nester

Maximizing Energy for the Ride!

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, [a] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

The first motorcycle I ever owned was gift given to me by Estelle. It was a total surprise. We went to a friend's house for something and when they opened the garage door, there it was! I was totally caught off guard. It was so awesome. I rode that bike (1982 Yamaha Maxim 550) everywhere I could. I was loving every minute of it (although I was puzzled why the dudes on Harley's never waded back to me).

After a couple weeks, a friend of mine took it for a spin and noticed that the engine wasn't quite running at its full potential. In fact, according to my buddy, the carbs were so clogged that half the cylinders weren't firing. I'm not a gear head, so I could have this all confused. Here's what I knew to be the case- after he cleaned some stuff and adjusted a few things the bike ran faster and more smoothly than I ever thought possible. The way he put it to me was, "you aren't firing on all cylinders". I had heard that expression from several of my middle school teachers, but never understood what it meant until that day.

Indeed, if whatever mechanism we need to get us from here to there isn't "firing on all cylinders" our progress will be impeded, and our energy will be wasted. More tragically we will burn out without reaching our goals.

This isn't just true with motorcycles. I find it to be the case with life in the church as well. The progress we make as a congregation to get "from here to there" is certainly compromised if we are being bogged down and misfiring. So what are the things that rob us of power? What causes our cylinders to misfire, or not to fire at all? According to the Apostle Paul, it all boils down to disunity and divisions. The church in Corinth (like all of us) had their share of disunity. Some folks preferred to follow Paul, others Apollos and so on. Paul recognized that when believers spend their energy in disharmony with one another it takes away valuable energy resources needed to accomplish the vision of the church. Therefore, Paul urged the Corinthians to unite themselves under the banner of Christ and not to focus on disagreements and such.

Where might we take this approach with regards to our church? In the year I have been here, I can say I have seen very little conflict (that's a good thing!). However, that doesn't mean there aren't areas of our church that are not quite func-

tioning up to full speed. What might we do to rally behind the cause of Christ together? Where have we not had unity? I'm not here to answer these questions. I'm here to get each of us individually to examine our own hearts to root out areas of disharmony and disunity where ever they lurk within us.

These areas may not be easy to spot. To the untrained person (me) my motorcycle seemed to be fine. It wasn't until a master (well, sort of) took control that I realized all the power I was missing.

The motorcycle in this analogy represents our hearts. The "master" in this analogy is the Holy Spirit. Will you let the Holy Spirit adjust and clean you out? Will you go through the difficult and sometimes painful work of a spiritual "tune-up", if it means that our church can become unified in our purpose and process toward authentic discipleship? I pray that for myself and for all of us. Let there be nothing in me that hinders the work of the kingdom that I haven't allowed God to work on.

With God's help (and a little time in the shop), we achieve our maximum potential for the transformation of the world as disciples of Jesus. Once we start down this road, we'll be amazed we got by any other way.

Happy riding!
Pastor Keith

Staffing for Our Church Growth

Staff Your Church for Growth, a book by Gary L. McIntosh, holds some very helpful insights into decisions about church staffing—focusing on how, why, who and when to add staff in a way that encourages growth. McIntosh lays out a model consisting of six areas in which staff will serve the church. The first three focus on growing the church by finding/keeping new members, while the last three concentrate on caring for members inside the church:

- Finding new people (evangelism)
- Keeping new people (assimilation)
- Celebrating with people (worship)
- Educating the people (Christian education)
- Overseeing the people (church ministries)
- Caring for the people (weddings, hospital calls, funerals, etc.)

Using the six areas in this model, we took a solid look at our current staff and which positions serve the top/bottom portions of the list while also discerning if they drive us toward the mission of the church.

We came to the conclusion that the current strengths of the church are to take care of people already within FUMC. Now we are ready to do more to bring in people from outside the community of faith.

Each staff position we currently have at the church was reviewed; it was determined that we need to keep those positions. In addition, we discussed growth and came to the following plan listed in priority:

1. GROW/TRANSFORM the position that is now Youth Praise and Worship to full time Worship Pastor.
2. GROW/TRANSFORM Christian Education to a Full Time Pastor/Director of Christian Education who can teach/direct rather than lead/organize.
3. GROW the Maintenance Department in ways necessary to growing facilities.

At this time, SPRC is excited to announce that funding has been approved for fulfillment of step 1 – a full-time worship pastor beginning in 2013. We feel strongly that this position will staff our church for growth and help in attaining the FUMC mission.

Powerhouse

get connected



Get ready to
Get filled up!!
Join Powerhouse



November Menu:

Nov 14: HyVee Chinese

Nov 21: NO POWERHOUSE –

Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov 28: Turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, corn & rolls.

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 651-6595



Sunday, December 9 5:00 – 6:30

NOTE CHANGE IN TIME!

It's Food, Fun & Fellowship!!!

Don't miss it!

Questions? Call Val at 651-6595
or val@fumcmarion.org



“Responding to the Promise”

The children's response to Christmas!!

Kid's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec 9 during the 11am worship service.

Please join us as the kid's share their message of Christmas.

(All Sunday school kids are involved – if your child does not have a speaking or non-speaking part whatever they normally wear to church is appropriate)

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

Direct Debit Giving

Marion First United Methodist Church invites you to consider our new electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offering.

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. We anticipate that electronic giving will appeal to many church members—from longtime worshippers who will appreciate an alternative to frequent check writing to younger members and others who prefer to pay or donate by electronic means whenever possible.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. If you are already using direct debit to make mortgage and car payments or to pay utility bills, then you know how it works. An authorization form for giving by direct debit can be obtained in the Church Office, in the Narthex, or can be downloaded at www.marionmethodist.org/serve/giving. Return these forms to the church office.

Online Giving lets you go to the church website at www.marionmethodist.org, and click on the “give” link at the top of the page, to make one-time donations or to set up a schedule of automatic donations. By setting up a password protected profile, you will be able to log in at any time to make donations, change a recurring donation plan or view your personal giving history. This method allows you to utilize Credit & Debit Cards or your checking & savings account to make your gift.

As you contemplate your future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

Thank you for your generous giving to the ministries of Marion First.

The Committee on Finance & Stewardship

If you have any questions in regards to the electronic giving program at Marion First, please contact Craig Liscum at cliscum@marionmethodist.org or call the Church office at (319) 377-4856

4:12

STUDENT MINISTRIES
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MARION

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!



The Giving Tree

Beginning Sunday, December 25 there will be a Giving Tree located in room 303/305 on the 3rd floor of Education Wing.

Tags will be on the tree with children, their ages and a gift they are hoping for this Christmas. Families are encouraged to give children an opportunity to earn money so they are able to shop and purchase this gift for another child this Christmas.

Gifts are to be returned to our Giving Tree (wrapped with the tag showing) by Sunday, December 9.

Questions? Contact Val at vlawrence@marionmethodist.org or 377-4856.

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.**



UMM

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



UMW

Circles
December 3
Bunny Bridges
5:30PM LLCC

December 4

Elizabeth 11:45AM Mr. Beans

December 5

Sarah 9:15AM LLCC

Miriam

11:30AM Catherine Larson's, 6603 Limestone Ct. NW Cedar Rapids - Potluck Dinner

Rebekah

12:00PM Marcella Sharp's, 5960 Kacena Ave. #201 - Potluck Dinner

December 6

The Bookends
7:00PM Adult 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.

Advent & December Events

Saturday, December 1, 8, 15, 22 - 5:30 PM

Advent Quiet Moments Services Music, prayer, and reflection followed by a light meal

Sunday, December 2 - 4:00 PM

The First Noel Handbell Concert Soup supper following

Friday, December 7 - 6:30 PM

Caring Corner Christmas Program

Sunday December 9 - 11:00 AM

Responding to the Promise Children's Program

Sunday, December 9 - 7:00 PM

Compassionate Friends Service at Marion Methodist
A candlelight service to remember children who have died

Monday, December 10 - 6:30 PM

Caring Corner 4&5s/Kindergarten Readiness/Wrap Around Christmas Program

Sunday, December 16 - 8:30 & 9:45 AM

Handel's Messiah with Chancel Choir

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

Dear Family & Friends of FUMC:

Many of you know who I am. For those of you who have come in the last few years, my name is Carissa Fields and I have been a member of this congregation since I was a freshman in high school. It was during my time at FUMC that I discovered a passion for ministry that would eventually lead me to accepting a call and going to seminary. As you may know I graduated this past June from Iliff School of Theology and am doing a 9 month chaplain residency in Des Moines, IA. Through my studies at Iliff and experiences over the last few years I have discovered and claimed theological understandings that differ from those upheld by the UMC. To honor myself and to honor the beliefs of the UMC I have ended the ordination process in the UMC and am beginning the ordination process in the Unitarian Universalist Association.

As I make this transition I want to say a HUGE thank you to the members and the church as a whole. I have been humbled by the support - spiritual, emotional and financial that I have received over the years. You have showed me what community can be like and have taught me about the love of God. I have many wonderful memories of my time at FUMC and relationships that have continued even when I have been away. This may be the end of my official relationship with the church, but I hope to stay connected with many of you. You have been a blessing to me!

With much love!
Carissa Fields

Qualified Charitable Distribution

There have been a few members that have asked if those over the age of 70 1/2 can utilize their Required Minimum Distribution for a charitable gift.

This excerpt from the website www.counselprotect.com explains.

In 2011, under the Qualified Charitable Distribution provisions of the tax code, you could make an IRA distribution to a qualified charity and not include the distribution as income. IRA owners age 70 1/2 or older could contribute up to \$100,000 of IRA funds to a qualified charity and not recognize income on the distribution. The donation was not tax deductible, but the distribution was not included as taxable income.

Congress let this provision expire on December 31, 2011.

Beginning January 1, 2012, any IRA owner 59 1/2 or older can make an IRA distribution to a qualified charity. But, like other IRA distributions, you will have to report the distribution as income and then claim a corresponding charitable deduction. This will increase your adjusted gross income on your tax return.

We will be watching for changes in this tax law, and will inform you if there is a change. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Liscum at cliscum@marionmethodist.org, call the church office at (319) 377-4856, or contact your financial planner.

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 Moments: December 1, 8, 15, 22 at 5:30 pm in the Chapel.



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

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.

November is Cake Mixes
December is Gelatin & Pudding Mixes

Power Clubs November Family Activity Night

Join us as we celebrate families and serve together on **Wednesday, November 14**. We will be packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child.



If you would like to donate items for our shoeboxes, start watching for sales / clearance on items that you can bring to include in our boxes...

- School supplies
- Small toys
- Hygiene items
- Hard candies
- T-shirts, hair clips, flashlights (with batteries)
- Etc.

Please bring your filled shoe boxes to church on Sunday or deliver to the church office during the week. All boxes are due Sunday November 18th. Thank you for helping to bring joy to poor children and introducing them to Jesus! Questions call Diana @361-6400.

Save the Date 2013 Spring Clean-up Day

April 6, 2013
8am - Noon



LECTIONARY READINGS

November 25

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12 (UMH 849)
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

December 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS: Nov. 13 Marj Reynolds Winterset, IA

BIRTHS: Nov. 13 Henry Matthew Dickinson, son of Matt & Meg Dickinson, grandson of Steve & Jan Dickinson

FLOWERS: Nov. 18 In memory of Jim Christiansen's 86th birthday, by Carol Christiansen

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:

Due by	Dates Covered
November 28	December 9-22
December 12	December 23-January 5

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, Chris Scholtens

cscholtens@marionmethodist.org

Director of Children Christian Education & Discipleship, Val Lawrence

vlawrence@marionmethodist.org

Director of Adult Christian Education & Discipleship, Paul Wagner

pwagner@marionmethodist.org

Director of Music, Mike Ransom

mransom@marionmethodist.org

Organist/Keyboardist, Diane Beach

dbeach@marionmethodist.org

Handbell Choir Directors, Mary Lee Parks

mparks@marionmethodist.org

and Angie Moss, amos@marionmethodist.org

Children's Choir Director, Angie Moss

Youth Worship Leader, Simon Campbell

simonpearce.campbell@gmail.com

Caring Corner Daycare Director, Dawn Blair

dblair@marionmethodist.org

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 NOVEMBER 25	MONDAY NOVEMBER 26	TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28	THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29	FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30	SATURDAY DECEMBER 1
Bells Set-up (Sanctuary) 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 12:00p Decorate for Advent & Christmas 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)	Bells Set-up (Sanctuary) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p GPS (Carnegie - UL)	Bells Set-up (Sanctuary) 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 3:30p UMW Executive Board (Adult Library) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Handbells)	Bells Set-up (Sanctuary) 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 Wesleyan Academy Cohort Training (Rm 106) 6:15p Men's Fraternity (Rm 104) 6:15p Beth Moore Study (Room 106) 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)	Bells Set-up (Sanctuary) 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 6:30p Building Committee (Room 105)	Bells Set-up (Sanctuary)	Bells Set-up (Sanctuary) 10:00a UMW Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall) 5:30p Advent Service (Chapel)
DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 3	DECEMBER 4	DECEMBER 5	DECEMBER 6	DECEMBER 7	DECEMBER 8
Communion Bells Set-Up (Sanctuary) 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 Handbell Concert (Sanctuary) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL, Carnegie - UL) 5:30pm Reception (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Disciple IV (Room 106) (Room 104)	5:30p Bunny Bridges Circle (Carnegie - LL) 6:30p SPRC (Room 104) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p GPS (Carnegie - UL)	9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Handbells)	8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:15a Sarah Circle (Carnegie - LL) 1:00p Miriam Circle (Adult Library) 5:00p Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Cafe is Open (Carnegie-LL) 6:15p Wesleyan Academy Cohort Training (Room 106) 6:15p Men's Fraternity (Rm 104) 6:15p Beth Moore Study (Room 106) 6:30p Powerhouse 6:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 6:30p Prayer Service (Chapel, Prayer 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)	6:30p Caring Corner Christmas Program (Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary)	5:30p Advent Service (Chapel) 7:00p FUMC 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)