



February 14, 2025

# GROWING IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE WORLD

## BUILDING FUND UPDATE



Did you know this congregation has been working for almost 25 years on a vision—a vision to build and pay for the incredible building we are blessed to gather in today at 5050 REC Drive? It's

a story of faith, generosity, and perseverance. When all is said and done, this project will total over \$10 million. And here's the exciting news: we are almost \$500,000 away from fully paying it off!

Officially, we owe about \$1 million on the loan, but thanks to wise planning and reserve funds, we can bring that number under \$500,000. That's incredible progress!

Our original goal was to pay this off by August of 2026 because that's when our interest rate adjusts—likely doubling. But here's the challenge: what if we finished it earlier? What if we could pay it off by the end of 2025? If we do, we avoid that rate increase and free up resources sooner for ministry and growth. This gives us 11 months. It's bold, but it's achievable.

### Call to Action

Here's how we can make it happen. At the end of 2024, our average giving to the Building Fund was \$27,000 a month. To pay off the loan this year, we need to increase that by **\$9,000 monthly**.

Many of you already support the Building Fund faithfully—thank you for that support! We encourage you to continue that support for this next year. If you are newer, like us, or haven't had a chance to contribute yet, this is a great opportunity to jump in. Could you start giving \$50, \$100, or even \$500 a month to the Building Fund? If monthly giving doesn't work for

you, consider making a one-time gift. Every contribution helps us move closer to that goal.

### Challenge from a Giver

After we announced this in church last month, one family called and said they would cover what is needed for the half a month extra, so \$4,500. And, they have challenged others to match them. If just twenty-three families gave a one time gift of \$4,500 to the Building Fund, we can pay the loan off next year. Let us know if you want to accept the challenge.

To give to the Building Fund, be sure your gift is designated for it. If you give online, simply select 'Building Fund' as the category. We are in the habit of sending separate gifts each month—one for the operating budget and one for the Building Fund—and we encourage each family to do the same. Remember, your first gifts to the church should support the operating budget, which funds the ministries that bless so many people. The Building Fund is above and beyond that.

Imagine what could happen if we finished this phase strongly with one final push. Think about the possibilities! Our church building has been a blessing to us and countless others. Let's come together, meet this goal, and pave the way for the next chapter of ministry at Marion Methodist.

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness over the years. You've accomplished so much, and together, we can finish strong. Let's do this!

*Pastors Helen and James Parks*

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MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

Have you considered becoming a member of the church?

# New Member Class

Sunday, February 16  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM\*

\*Lunch will be provided

If you are ready to take the next step and become a member of Marion Methodist, please sign up on the Church App. Visit one of the Welcome Centers if you have any questions.



# MARION FOOD PANTRY RECEIVED



# 1749 Cans

Churches of Marion Food Pantry

# Monthly Food Drive



**FEBRUARY COLLECTION ITEM**

**CANNED FRUIT**

Bring collection item to the Mission Depot in The Center



\*New collection item each month!

## Joys and Concerns

### DEATHS:

**January 13:** Jerry Grishaber

**January 28:** Janet Von Lehmden, mother of Terry (Kelly) Von Lehmden and grandmother of Morgan (Michael) Redmond and Sydney Von Lehmden. Family includes great-grandchildren Carter and Jace Redmond.

**February Food Pantry Item - Canned Fruit**

### Prayer Requests

1. To submit a prayer concern, request or praise, please use the Prayer button at the end of the weekly email or on the church website, [www.marionmethodist.org](http://www.marionmethodist.org).
2. To be on the email prayer chain to pray for others, email Vicki Standley, Minister of Pastoral Care at [vstandley@marionmethodist.org](mailto:vstandley@marionmethodist.org).

# REGISTER TODAY AT

[MarionMethodist.org/Gather25](http://MarionMethodist.org/Gather25)

MARCH 1, 2025  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

# All are invited to this Church-wide Conference

# Gather 25

The entire global Church gathering together like never before.

I'M IN. ARE YOU?

Free event with lunch and childcare included.

Sponsored by:



SPRING BREAK  
MARCH 17 - 21



# VOLUNTEER

[www.FLYMarion.org](http://www.FLYMarion.org)

## Pastoral Care Corner – Broken

Considering the length of time most of us have been on the planet, we've all had our fair share of ups and downs, successes and disappointments. Some may have been easier to handle while others were more challenging, but no one escapes taking some hard knocks in their lives. Sometimes it may have meant moving from a treasured home, or for others a difficult health diagnosis. It could also have been the loss of a successful career, or the severing of a precious relationship. Each time we face moments of hardship or challenge, we need to make the conscious decision either to salvage and restore what we once had, or perhaps make changes that may lead to the discovery of a path that could be different but better.

A story has circulated for some time about a church that was heavily



bombed during World War II, causing great damage to a beautiful stained glass window. It's said that during cleanup after the bombing, broken pieces of the window were collected and stored until after the end of the war. After

the war, a committee was formed to decide the fate of the broken pieces of the once beautiful window and several ideas emerged. One member suggested hiring an artisan to take the salvaged pieces and restore the window to a near replica of the original design. That idea was dismissed as the window might appear the same, but would not be as good as the original. Another suggestion was to put a whole new window in its place and start fresh.

Finally, a third person, recalling the sight of those shattered pieces on the ground after the bombing, suggested the broken pieces of the shattered building should be used to create a new window in an entirely different design. The old beautiful pieces would still allow light to shine through them, but in a fresh and wholly unique way.

So that's what happened. The rebuilt window looked completely different, even with the same pieces of glass. Instead, the different shape and the new design became something different and beautiful in a whole new way. Some even considered it to be far better than the original.

When our lives have been upended and it seems as though everything's in danger of being lost or drastically changed, we have a choice. As we work to put the pieces of our lives back together, is it necessary for them to look exactly as they did before, or are we willing to let God make something new and even more beautiful out of the brokenness?

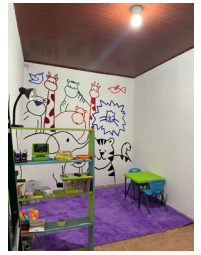


If we truly trust God, and allow ourselves to be guided by his wisdom, his truth and his grace, I believe that what we'll see emerging will be the creation of something filled with so much beauty and creativity, that what once was, will become a treasured but faded memory. Revelation 21:5 says, "And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making **all things new**." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." God is making us new each and every moment of our lives and his creations are a beauty to behold.

Blessings,  
Vicki

## Proyecto Alas

Proyecto Alas would like to thank Marion Methodist for their generous gift sent at the end of December 2024, which has allowed us to move our psychologist, Fernanda, from part-time to a full-time employee this year!



Fernanda, now age 23, graduated from university at the end of 2023 and did her work experience with us at Proyecto Alas. She connected so well with the kids, and with her professional insight we were able to see amazing progress in their emotional development; we knew she would be a great fit for our team! In 2024 we were able to hire



her part-time, and we are so grateful to be able to have her now full-time to provide even more support for the children and young people this year. She has been excitedly preparing her new office/clinic space in order to start attending to the kids as they begin the school year now in February. Thank you again to all who helped make this possible!

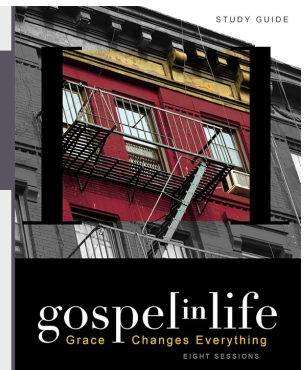


Starting February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Gospel in Life  
A Women's Bible Study  
Sundays at 9:20 AM

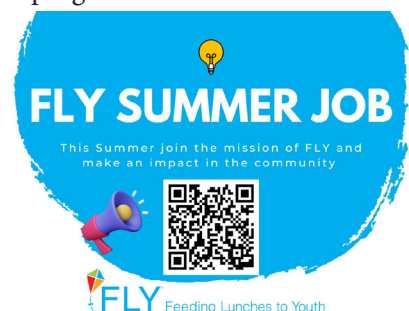
*The Gospel in Life study begins with the city, your home now, the world that is. The final week closes with the theme of the eternal city, your heavenly home, the world that is to come.*

*Throughout this eight-week ascent—from earthly work to the final revelation of grace—you'll learn how the gospel can change your heart, your community, and how you can live as a disciple of Jesus Christ in this world, right now, even as you look forward to the promise we have in him.*



## FLY Summer Job

FLY has opened the application for the Summer Job. Are you looking for an exciting summer opportunity to lead and inspire others? Join Feeding Lunches to Youth with this Summer Job! In this role, you'll train and manage volunteers, making a meaningful impact in our community through our Feeding Lunches to Youth summer lunch program.



FLY Feeding Lunches to Youth

# PATHfinders

CHILDRENS MINISTRY



All kids (nursery through elementary age) are welcome on Sundays during 8:15 or 10:15 AM Service and/or Wednesdays for 5:45PM Meal with Activities following at 6:30PM.

**\*February 16** Kids singing during 10:15AM Service

The song is "Choose to Serve the Lord" and the youtube link is below.

<https://youtu.be/-fDKdtZGCJM?si=uxnK6s176yRF73Pw>

**February 16 & 19** God Sends Manna & Quail (Exodus 16:1-35)

**February 23 & 26** Moses Sees God's Holiness (Exodus 33-34)

**March 2 & 5** God Makes the Sun Stand Still (Joshua 10:1-15)

**March 9 & 12** God Speaks to Samuel (1 Samuel 3)

**March 16** An Idol Bows to God's Ark (1 Samuel 5:1-5)

**No Wednesday Night on March 19 during Spring Break**

VBS SAVE THE DATE: June 23-27

All kids ages 3-6th Grade are welcome!

Teen & Adult Volunteers are needed to help make VBS happen!

During these 5 weekday mornings, kids ages 3-6th grade will enjoy an Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! **MORE DETAILS to COME!**



## Consultation Update

January 25-26 was an eventful weekend for Marion Methodist as we took the next steps in our Consultation process. On Saturday, 80 of us experienced a "Bubbling Up" session to capture the ideas, insights and hopes for our church community. On Sunday, Dave Winner shared the results of our Healthy Church survey from October and spent the afternoon with church staff to help refine our focus and ministry action plan ideas. Look for updates in future newsletters as we continue to set priorities and shape the direction of the ministry of Marion Methodist for the next three years.

