



March 14, 2025

# GROWING IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE WORLD

## “CONFIRM” YOUR FAITH



In the Methodist tradition, Confirmation is a significant step in a young person’s faith journey. This is when youth are invited to claim for themselves the name Christian and then can choose to join the church.

This winter, our 7th-grade students started meeting with Pastors James and Helen on Sundays at 9:15 AM. Along with this Confirmation class, these students are participating in Sunday morning worship and 4:12 youth ministry while also engaging in other ministries, including Summer Games Camp.



A vital part of this Confirmation



experience is meeting monthly with a mentor. It was a blessing to see conversations take place on Sunday, March 2, when they met for the first time.

Please keep these mentors and students in your prayers as they build relationships that will nurture their faith walk.

You may have also experienced Confirmation. As you pray for these students, I encourage you to remember your experience and think through the ways God has been present throughout your life.



The definition of “confirm” is to make stronger and strengthen. Confirmation should be something that doesn’t ever end. This should be the start of a lifelong experience of being a disciple of Christ.

Matthew 28:16-20

*“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the*

*Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

This all takes place after Jesus’ death and resurrection. Jesus has been with his followers for 40 days, and this is the great commission that he gave to his disciples. A lot of people think the main verb here is “go,” but the focus of his message is “make disciples.”

If you research the Greek translation, you discover that go, baptize, and teach are participles modifying the imperative verb “make disciples.” A better way to say this verse would be, “Therefore, as you are going along your daily life, make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them as well”.

This means that God calls us to make disciples wherever we are: at home, at work, or in school. Wherever we go, we need to keep our eyes open for opportunities to help others to become devoted followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The point that Jesus was making here was that we are to “make disciples.”

As we pray for our Confirmation students to strengthen their faith in Christ, may we all “confirm” the relationship we have with God and live this out by making disciples.



**Confirmation Students** (Front row L to R): Lou Kneeland, Lucie Cahalan, Maddyn Steward, Cassidy Stockert, Isabel Budzinski, Noah Kelley, Harper Wildman, Macie Dirks, Kayla Dighton, Millie Stevens, Parker East (Not pictured-Cole Hunt)

**Mentors** (Back Row L to R): Carolyn Quimby, Courtney East, Aaron-Marie Thoms, Bri Baranowski, Sarah Kelley, Andy Cutler, Sherry Alexander, Sandy Schneekloth, Jenny Colerick, Gina McConahay, Tim Schneekloth, Andrew Cahalan

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# Camp Sunday

Sunday, April 13  
7:30 AM to 10:30 AM



ENJOY BREAKFAST PREPARED AND SERVED BY THE CONFIRMATION CLASS  
FREE WILL DONATION GOES TOWARDS CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS



## Online Directory Photos

• The Center •  
March 30 & April 6  
7:30 to 11:30 AM

Members and friends wishing to be added to the Online Marion Methodist Directory come to have your individual and/or family photos taken during these times

## Join the Marion Methodist Holy Heat Softball Team

- Tate Cummings field
- Games every Monday night
- May thru August season
- Must be 16+
- Coed league



To get involved contact Cassie Parcher at cparcher23@gmail.com.

# Wednesday Night @ Marion Methodist

Meal | ADULT CLASSES | PATHFINDERS CHILDRENS MINISTRIES | 4:12

No Wednesday night at Marion Methodist on March 19 due to Spring Break. Chancel Choir is still rehearsing at 6:30 PM.

## Hy-Vee Receipts



Please remember to turn in your Hy-Vee receipts to the MMW spot in the Mission Depot in The Center by

March 31st. Every receipt helps support our Marion and Linn-Mar School Districts, so be sure to gather yours and drop them off soon.

Thank you for your continued support!

## Joys and Concerns

### DEATHS:

March 5: Garnet Winchip, wife of Vern Winchip

March Food Pantry Item - Peanut Butter

## Churches of Marion Food Pantry Monthly Food Drive

### MARCH COLLECTION ITEM PEANUT BUTTER




Bring collection item to the Mission Depot in The Center

\*New collection item each month!

## MARION METHODIST GARDEN SPRING GARDENING DAY!

March 31 | 9 AM to Noon



### You are needed:

It's spring gardening day!  
Drop in anytime between 9 and noon  
Everyone is welcome—including kids out of school that day  
Help get the garden ready for the growing season  
Gloves and snacks will be available

## Garden Wish List

As we look forward to Spring Gardening Day on March 31, we are gathering materials for the season. If you have gardening talent or garden resources to spare, please consider sharing with the Garden Ministry. The items we can use most, including the kinds of things you see here, can be viewed by visiting [MarionMethodist.org/news/garden](http://MarionMethodist.org/news/garden) and clicking "volunteer".



## Pastoral Care Message – Remembrance

We've been so blessed to have been created with our 5 senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell. For me, the sense of smell especially evokes very strong sensory memories or recalls. For example, certain foods simmering on a stove will spur memories of coming home from school as a youngster and smelling a delicious meal being prepared. Or particular floral scents will call to mind the peonies and lilacs that profusely bloomed in my grandma's yard. I've even kept a dusting powder container filled with my mom's favorite Avon bath powder because just a whiff of it reminds me of her.

Recent warmer temperatures have reminded me how wonderful sheets smell that are hung out to dry on a sunny day, and how good it feels to crawl into bed at night with the sheets smelling fresh like the outdoors. And what about the smell of bread baking? You can imagine how good it smells even if there's none baking at the time.

Perhaps for you it's sight or hearing that bring certain memories to mind, but taste can also provoke both distinctly good and bad memories. It may have been a bitter tasting medicine or a meal that was not at all appealing to our taste buds. You can imagine those tastes sometimes just by mentioning the word itself! And touching a warm, soft blanket right out of the dryer just might remind you of being lovingly cuddled by someone you hold dear.

There are many of these kinds of reminders in the Bible also, not just sensory experiences, but certainly reminders of how God has provided for his people, reconciled and forgiven their sins and been faithful in his love and protection. Ultimately there is the overarching theme of redemption that is told from the story of Noah's ark and the flood to the completion of redemption through the saving grace of Jesus.

Throughout the Old Testament, in Deuteronomy and the Psalms as well as many other books, God told his people over and over how he saved them from slavery and brought them out of Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey. Each time the Hebrew people started to fall away from their love and devotion to God, they'd be reminded of how he always provided and cared for them, so when they repented and returned to him he would be ready: *"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land"*. 2 Chronicles 7:14

The season of Lent is our opportunity to concentrate on remembering God's faithfulness, his great love for us then repent and receive his forgiveness once again. Whether we let go of a distraction or pattern in our life that fills time better spent with God, or take on a practice that draws us nearer to him, we are remembering that God desires that we call on him and restore our relationship with him through repentance and forgiveness.

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* I John 1:9

Have a blessed Lent!  
God's blessings to you,  
Vicki



## Summer Games is Open for Registrations!

Get ready for the **best, most unforgettable week of your child's summer!** If you have a 6th-12th grader, this is the camp experience they won't want to miss. **Summer Games is packed with fun, friendships, and faith-filled moments** that will leave a lasting impact.

### Why Summer Games?

Marion Methodist has been sending students to this incredible camp for years because we believe it plays a powerful role in shaping the spiritual lives of teens and preteens. This is a week of growth, adventure, and life-changing experiences!

### Huge Discount Alert!

Marion Methodist is once again making it even easier for your student to attend by covering \$300 of the camp tuition! That means instead of \$449, your cost is just \$149!

### Don't Wait—Spots Fill Fast!

If you have any questions, reach out to Gonzo at [gsantillan@marionmethodist.org](mailto:gsantillan@marionmethodist.org).

Tell a friend, spread the word, and register your child for the best week of the summer!

## You Are Invited

### X, Y, Zers

(eXtra Years with Zest)  
55+ Years

Thursday, April 10 at 5:30PM

"Around the World Flight to End Polio"

Peter Teahen and John Ockenfels

Serving: Soup and Wrap Buffet



5050 REC Drive  
Marion, IA 52302

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

Please RSVP by Sunday, April 6 to reserve your meal.  
Register (\$15) on the Church App.

## X, Y, Zers Upcoming Speakers:

May 8 ~ Ashley Grimm with Caring Transitions

June 12 ~ Details coming soon!

July 10 ~ Jamie Henley from Giving Tree Theatre

August 14 ~ Game night ~ Bring a favorite game to share

September 11 ~ Chris Smaby, Cedar Rapids Police Dept.



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

**March 16** An Idol Bows to God's Ark (1 Samuel 5:1-5)  
**No Wednesday Night on March 19 during Spring Break**

**March 23 & 26** David Values Saul's Life (1 Samuel 24;26)

**March 30/April 2** David Celebrates (2 Samuel 6)

Kids can request and be assigned a solo for the song, "Always Remember" Link is below <https://youtu.be/kBkQnlnSK9I?si=00AMGvaMcLj7bhwT>

**April 6 & 19** David is kind (2 Samuel 9)

**April 13** 10:00 AM Kids in Room 100 to practice song & be ready for waving Palm Branches at the beginning of the 10:15 AM Service. Invite friends and family for worship and church-wide breakfast.

**April 13 & 16** Jesus's Triumphant Entrance (John 12:12-16)

**Wednesday, April 16**  
**Easter Egg Hunt at the end of Pathfinders**

**April 20 & 23** Jesus has Victory over Death (John 19:16-20:18)



As a parent of four kids, all seven years old and under, I know firsthand how chaotic, hectic, and busy family life can be. Juggling work, school drop-offs, extracurricular activities, and the countless other demands of a modern family can be exhausting. However, I believe God wants to transform the way we live and interact within our households—to shape our families and make them a blessing to the world.

That is why I want to invite all parents and guardians with children still at home to join me on this transformational book study journey.

*Habits of a Household* is a book that has helped thousands of families build rhythms that lead to a deeper connection with God. Life with children at home is full of challenges, but what if we shifted our perspective on the time we have with our families? Even amid chaos, we can leverage these moments to build meaningful habits that draw our marriages and families closer to Jesus.

Starting on **March 30**, join me for this **five-week book study**, and come alongside other parents as we grow together in faith.

Gonzo Santillan  
Minister of Discipleship and Missions



**FLY** Feeding Lunches to Youth