



April 25, 2025

GROWING IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE WORLD

ILLUMINATE



This Sunday we will begin a new message series that will take us through the month of May. This series is called *Illuminate*. It is a message series born out of a season of intentional listening, reflection, and prayer. Last

fall, over 300 people from Marion Methodist took part in a survey—sharing their perspectives on what God is doing in and through our church. We listened deeply to what you shared. With the help of a consultant and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our leadership—and many of you—entered into a process of discernment. Together, we asked: *Where is God leading us next?*



As we journey through this series, I hope it will spark conversations, stir your imagination, and inspire you to take your place in the mission God has given us: to be a church that is **growing in Christ to serve the world**.

To give this series and our Illuminate Plan power, I want to invite you to a time of purposeful prayer. Throughout the series, each Sunday we will pray together a prayer of Illumination. This prayer is to help us open up to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If we think we have everything we need to make our Illuminate Plan successful in ourselves, then we have not been visioning big enough. I believe God has a bright future in front of us at Marion Methodist, but only if we lean into his power.

Join me in using this prayer regularly so that God will light the way before us.

In CHRIST,
Pastor James

Out of that bubbling-up process, three clear priorities emerged—three areas where we believe God is shining a light on the path ahead. Now, taskforces are forming, ideas are being shared, and energy is growing as we take steps forward as a church family.

This series will walk us through those three priorities:

Share the Light
Ignite the Light
Be the Light

Each reflects a call to action, a way of living out our faith with intention and joy. And each connects to the deep and powerful image of *light* found throughout Scripture. From Genesis 1, where God's first creative words were "Let there be light," to Jesus calling us the light of the world—light is a symbol of God's presence, guidance, and hope.

Prayer of Illumination

Guide me, O God,
by your Word and Spirit.
Shine your light upon me,
that your Spirit will engage my heart,
enrich my mind,
and transform my life.
Lead me to discover your will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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HONDURAS MISSION TEAM FUNDRAISER

The Mission team will be providing cookies for Sunday morning coffee and baked goods to take home.

MAY 4, 2024 7:30AM - 11:30AM

- ✓ COOKIES
- ✓ BAKED GOODS
- ✓ T-SHIRTS



LINK TO GIVE



Support the Honduras Mission Team!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 4th from 7:30 AM – 11:30 AM! Our Honduras Mission Team will be hosting a fundraiser. Stop by for Sunday morning coffee, fresh cookies, and an assortment of baked goods to enjoy at church or take home. Plus, don't miss your chance to purchase one of our mission t-shirts to show your support!

All proceeds go directly toward supporting the team's travel expenses and efforts in Honduras. Your generosity makes a lasting difference!

Can't attend in person? Scan the QR code to give online.

Hygiene Kits

It's again time to collect items for the Midwest Missions Hygiene Kits. These kits are distributed to people in the midst of a disaster around the world as well as at home. Marion Methodists have always responded generously to this mission. Please purchase as many kits as you choose, place items in a gallon plastic bag, and place them in the Mission Depot in The Center by May 31. Thank you.

- 1 hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Adult toothbrush (no multipacks)
- 1 bar soap - 3-4 oz.
- 1 shampoo -12-19 oz.
- 1 deodorant - 2-3 oz. (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 lotion - 8-10 oz.
- 1 One-gallon resealable plastic bag

DEATHS: Joys and Concerns

April 17: Dr. Donald Cassady, father of Carol (Kirk) McNeil. Grandfather of Kate Marchetti, Bret and Jacob McNeil.

April 17: Robert Birkey, brother of Cal (Rhonda) Birkey

April Food Pantry Item - Macaroni & Cheese

May Food Pantry Item - Toilet Tissue

Churches of Marion
Food Pantry

Monthly Food Drive

APRIL COLLECTION ITEM BOXED

MACARONI & CHEESE

Bring collection item to the
Mission Depot in The Center

*New collection item each month!



May the Fourth be with You!

A handbell concert
Sunday, May 4 4:00 PM

Marion Methodist Church 5050 REC Drive, Marion

A Joyful Noise • Jubilation • Bell Canto • A Touch of Brass

No Admission charge - instead bring a nonperishable food item to benefit the

Marion Food Pantry

Cookie & Punch reception immediately following

Live-streamed at www.MarionMethodist.org/Watch-Live

Online Directory Photos

• The Center •

May 4
8:00 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

BAPTISM NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH
MEAL AT 5:45PM - SERVICE AT 6:30PM

Marion Methodist

REGISTER FOR BAPTISM IN THE CHURCH APP

We want to invite all the students and adults who want to take their next step in faith and go through the waters of baptism by immersion. If you were baptized as an infant you can choose to take this opportunity to remember your baptism.

If you desire to be baptized on May 7, register on the Church App under Events.

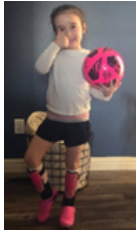
HATS OFF GRADUATES

SENIOR RECOGNITION

SUNDAY, MAY 11 AT 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM

Pastoral Care Message - Change

Five years ago, was an exciting time waiting for the birth of our sixth grandchild, our live-wire Penny Jo, who's been a joy and a delight every moment since her birth. She's been in preschool this year and just started soccer, mastering both and likely showing others how it should be done.



Five years ago, our oldest grandchild Parker was going to school online along with his siblings and countless other kids, in the midst of the pandemic. Next month he'll be graduating from high school and moving on to a world of working and higher education, with a potential future in the Air National Guard. Just where does the time go?

Time has a funny way of crawling when we're anticipating something fun and exciting, and then moving with lightning-fast speed as changes we're dreading come at us right and left. Like many of you, in my early adult years, it was crazy to think of having kids and raising a family let alone having grandchildren. Turning 40, 50 or anything beyond that was beyond comprehension in my twenties. I used to think of the year 2000 as being far off in the future and couldn't imagine how life would be different in a new millennium and yet here we are 25 years past that big changeover.



Through all that life brings I cling to the knowledge that God does not change. The God who spoke to Abraham and told him of the blessings that would come from his lineage is the same God that speaks to us today. The God to whom David cried out in so many of the beautiful and poignant psalms found in the Bible, is the same God that we cry out to when we're aching in the midst of life's difficulties. And the Jesus that walked, talked and taught with his disciples is the same Jesus who walks and prays beside us every moment of every day.

Though it may seem as if everything around us is changing and we can see only turmoil and disruption, God reminds us to "*Be still, and know that I am God*". (Psalm 46:10) When the prophet Elijah, running for his very life, fled to the desert, God sent an angel to provide rest and nourishment for him just as God provides for us in our darkest hours as well.

We don't know from one moment to the next what life has in store for us, but we do know that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the Father of our Lord Jesus will be walking alongside us every step of the way.

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.*

Before the mountains were born

or you brought forth the whole world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:1-2

After Parker's graduation this spring, Coley and Stella will be right behind him in a couple years followed closely by Beckett and Stella. Penny Jo will start kindergarten this coming fall and her little sister Quinn will soon be following in her footsteps to preschool and beyond. Amidst all those big changes, we'll grow older, and hopefully wiser, and walk with God through it all, whatever tomorrow brings.

God's blessings to you,
Vicki

HyVee Receipts

A huge THANK YOU to all for sharing your HyVee receipts to assist our Marion schools!!



We collect from April 1 thru March 31 each year and give them to Marion Independent and Linn-Mar Schools as we compile them. We need the purchase amount and the date of the purchase for each receipt to count. We count groceries, gas, meals, prescriptions and gift cards purchased at HyVee.

We are very pleased to announce that for the year ending March 31, 2025 you have turned in at church \$122,732.15 worth of receipts. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

Our goal is \$200,00.00 for this coming year which is divided evenly between the 2 school districts. We came very close this past year and we can certainly make our goal for this year!!!

Ask your friends, neighbors and relatives to save their receipts for you to bring to the Mission Center at church. They are collected every Sunday audited for amount and date and taken to each school every 3 months.

What an easy way to help our Marion schools who then take them to HyVee and are paid cash as per HyVee's program.

Join Weekly Email List

Every week on Tuesday, Marion Methodist sends out an email update to let you know what is happening at our church in the next seven days. Send an email with your name and email to info@MarionMethodist.org and put "Add to Weekly Email" in the subject line to be added to the email list.



You Are Invited

X, Y, Zers

(eXtra Years with Zest)
55+ Years

Thursday, May 8 at 5:30PM

Ashley Grimm with Caring Transitions,
talking about moving and downsizing

Serving: South of the Border Buffet



**Marion
Methodist**

5050 REC Drive
Marion, IA 52302

MarionMethodist.org/Events

Please RSVP by Sunday, May 4 to reserve your meal.
Register (\$15) on the Church App.

X, Y, Zers Upcoming Speakers:

June 12 ~ Bob Reynolds from Marion Public Library

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.

October 9 ~ Musician Harold Gray



At True North, kids will discover that they can trust Jesus in a wild world! True North is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Kids, along with teen and adult guides, will spend the morning rotating through Glacier Games, Tundra Treats, Wild Bible Adventures, Exploration Station, and Playground Play.

Invite your family and friends, ages 3-6th Grade, to register as a Preschool/Kindergarten or Elementary participant.

Teen and Adults available to help with VBS can register as a Youth or Adult volunteer.



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.

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

PATHfinders

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Kids (Birth-6th Grade) are welcome to join us in the East Education Wing.

8:15 & 10:15 AM Pathfinders: Kids experience a lesson from “Digging into the Heart of God,” where we explore God’s character throughout the Bible. Each Sunday, kids discover more of what it means to reflect the heart of God in everyday life

9:15 AM Fellowship: Nursery & Preschool Kids enjoy free play in their age-appropriate rooms. Elementary Kids enjoy free play at Stations (Coloring, Building, Playdough, and Games) in Room 100 and/or time outside.

**There may be times Pathfinder Kids enjoy the Playground. When the weather cooperates, we will visit the playground from 9:30-9:50 AM during Pathfinders Fellowship. On some Sundays, kids might also take a short trip to the playground during 10:15 AM Pathfinders. Your family is always welcome to visit the playground. It's a fun place for family time on a nice day!*

April 27

God Provides for Elijah
(I Kings 17:1-6)

May 4

A Widow Shares Her Last Bread
(I Kings 17:8-16)

May 11

God Comforts Elijah
(I Kings 19:1-18)

May 18

God Takes Elijah to Heaven
(2 Kings 2:1-18)

May 25

God Surrounds Elisha with an Army
(2 Kings 6: 8-23)

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for a successful Camp Sunday. A special thank you to the Marion Methodist Men and the Youth who worked the breakfast. We were able to raise \$12,075 to send students to camp. The donations were collected at the Camp Breakfast meal, Joy Box donations, and from the Adopt a Student Table.