

GROWING IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE WORLD

THE FISHERMAN'S VIEW



I have not read too many biographies. I can only think of a few: for example Kurt Warner's, but the ones I have read have stayed with me. The most powerful was the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a German Christian who escaped to America during Hitler's rise to power, only to feel God calling him back to Germany to oppose the evil he saw unfolding. He was eventually killed in a concentration camp.

What makes biographies so compelling is that you see the ordinary life of someone who becomes extraordinary—or sometimes you discover the extraordinary hidden inside an ordinary person.

That is exactly how I think about the disciple Peter.

During this season of Lent, we are going to look at the life of Jesus through Peter's eyes. Each week we will read a passage of scripture where Peter is present and consider what his experience with Jesus teaches us. Peter had a close, firsthand relationship with Jesus. He witnessed the miracles, heard the teaching, asked the questions, made bold statements, and made painful mistakes. After the resurrection, he even became a leader in the early church.

It is easy to see Peter as extraordinary. But before all of that, he was simply a fisherman—one of many. There was nothing particularly remarkable about his

background. And yet, God did remarkable things in and through him.

Peter reminds us that God often does his greatest work through very ordinary people who simply choose to follow Jesus with passion and determination.

My hope for this Lenten series is that we will see ourselves in Peter. We may feel ordinary and common, but God can still do extraordinary things in us and through us as we follow Jesus. I hope you will join us each Sunday of Lent for *The Fisherman's View*.

I also encourage you to use the study guide for this series and gather with a small group of friends to discuss it for these seven weeks. Lent is a meaningful season to grow in faith together as we look at the life of Jesus through Peter's experience. Our world needs more ordinary people living out the extraordinary love and grace of Jesus.

In CHRIST,
Pastor James



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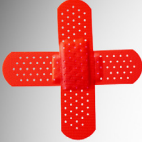
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Thank you to all who donated cans of soup for the Souper Bowl drive. The 8:15 AM service brought in **653 cans** of soup and the 10:15 AM service brought in **558 cans** of soup. It was a close race!



HOSPITALIZED?

**We would love to visit!
Make sure someone lets us
know when you are in the
hospital!**

We Need Your Help

In order to provide the best spiritual care possible for our Marion Methodist family, we need your help. Should the need arise to be admitted to the hospital, it is our desire to visit and pray with you and share the love of Jesus and the encouragement of your church family during your stay. If you are hospitalized or are going in for surgery or a procedure and wish for a pastoral visit, please help us out by doing the following:

- Upon pre-registration, admission or in the ER, make it very clear to the person taking your information that you are a member of **Marion Methodist** and would like to have your church notified.
- When a hospital chaplain visits you, also let them know that you are a member of **Marion Methodist** and would appreciate a visit from your pastors. **Ask the chaplain to call us and they will.**
- Have a family member or trusted friend call the church office at 377-4856, or email the Minister of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley, at vstandley@marionmethodist.org or text Vicki at 319-310-5195.

We would greatly prefer to be told 3 times that you are in the hospital so we are able to provide spiritual care, than to find out that no one ever came to visit you during your stay. Please help us provide the caring, comprehensive spiritual care that you deserve!

Illuminate Moment- Being the Hands and Feet of Christ

In Matthew 25:34–40, Jesus reminds us that when we notice those in need and respond with love, we are serving Him. This sacred calling invites us to look beyond ourselves, prayerfully observe the needs around us, and offer our time, gifts, and compassion in Jesus' name. At Marion Methodist, this call comes alive through our commitment to community outreach and missions.



To help us live more fully into this calling, Marion Methodist Church Council has approved the formation of an **Outreach Team** to strengthen and coordinate the many ways our church serves—both locally and globally. This team, led by Colton Valenta, will act as a connecting point between outreach ministries, community partners, church staff, and Church Council. By sharing updates, discerning emerging needs, coordinating communication and volunteers, and ensuring alignment with the mission of Marion Methodist, the Outreach Team will help us respond faithfully and effectively to where God is at work.

This ministry reflects Christ's love in action through two vital expressions: Hands of Christ through Community Outreach and Feet of Christ through Missions. Representatives from our existing ministries will serve on the team, including:

- **Community Outreach:** Marion Cares (Sandy McNeal), Marion Food Pantry (Sara Pershing), FLY—Feeding Lunches to Youth (Jennie Wildman), Marion Senior Living (Ken & Kay Stanford, Ryan Baranowski), and Community Schools at Linn-Mar and Marion (Vicki Standley).
- **Missions:** Proyecto Alas (Gonzo Santillan), Disaster Relief (Adam Britton), and Mission Trips (Lee Ann Dielschneider).


Together, these leaders—and the many volunteers who serve alongside them—help Marion Methodist be the hands and feet of Christ in our neighborhoods and beyond. As we continue to listen for God's leading, may we joyfully step forward, trusting that even small acts of love can make a lasting difference.

Ash Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:30 PM

SANCTUARY OR ONLINE




HyVee Receipts Mission for Marion Area Schools

Now is the time for all of you to double check for Hy-Vee receipts you have not yet turned into our church. Remember they must be within these dates.

APRIL 1, 2025 – MARCH 31, 2026

We are so close to meeting our goal of \$200,000.00, divided equally between both schools, and the next 10 weeks are critical for us to succeed. We want you to bring all your receipts from April 1, 2025 if you have saved them at home. At the current time, with weather affecting us, we still have received **\$149,929.91**.

This is such an easy project for us to do with great rewards for both schools. Remember we can turn in receipts for groceries, prescriptions, gasoline, home delivery and gift certificate purchases. Once again, please ask your family, neighbors and everyone so we can make our goal. Thank you all for your participation in the mission!!!!




New Member Class


Sunday, February 22
11:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch & Childcare Provided

If you are ready to take the next steps 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.



NEW MEMBER CLASS



Churches of Marion Food Pantry

Monthly Food Drive

FEBRUARY COLLECTION ITEM

CANNED VEGETABLES

Bring collection item to the Mission Depot in The Center

*New collection item each month!




FOOD PANTRY

Camp Sunday

Sunday, March 8
7:15 AM to 10:15 AM



ENJOY BREAKFAST PREPARED BY MARION METHODIST MEN AND SERVED BY OUR YOUTH
FREE WILL DONATION GOES TOWARDS CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Currently Hiring:

Director of Adult Connections

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY VISIT:
MARIONMETHODIST.ORG/AVAILABLE-POSITIONS



Join our Team as Director of Adult Connections (Part-Time)

After a season of prayer and discernment, the Staff Support Committee is excited to share that Marion Methodist Church is seeking a part-time **Director of Adult Connections** to join our Discipleship Team. This role focuses on helping adults move from first connection into meaningful spiritual growth, with special attention to our developing **Connect Groups** ministry.

If you have a growing relationship with Jesus and a heart for discipleship, we invite you to prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Learn more and apply at marionmethodist.org/available-positions or scan the QR code.

Applications are due March 1.

2026

one thing.



Summer Games University 2026
Register at SGU.CAMP

The Basics:
June 29 – July 3, 2026
For students completing grades 6–12

The Cost:
\$459 early bird (register by March 1)
\$479 after March 1

Save \$20 per camper by registering early!

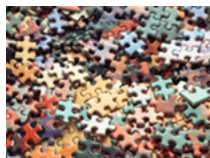
Use code **MARION2026** to get \$300 off your total registration.

Pastoral Care Message - Puzzled

This time of year, I love being in our basement on chilly afternoons or evenings, turning on the fireplace, lighting a candle and going to work on a jigsaw puzzle. It's nice and cozy down there, and especially if it's snowy and the wind's howling, it's a warm, comfortable space to hang out for a few hours.

Puzzles with 1000 pieces are my favorite, activating my brain to see patterns and connections culminating in a beautiful picture. I've completed some of my favorites more than once, and enjoy a great sense of accomplishment each time, but I also enjoy finding a couple new puzzles each season. I've only been completely



stumped by one puzzle and to this day I haven't completed it. Even worse are the occasions when I'm missing a piece or two at the very end. I've realized that every so often I unknowingly brush pieces off the table, then blame the dogs for eating those missing pieces. I'm hoping my recently purchased puzzle trays for sorting and organizing pieces will be the end of that.

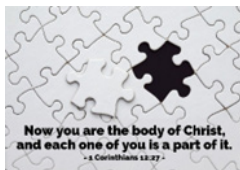
Jigsaw puzzles are also drawing a younger crowd these days, calling them an "analog hobby". Instead of being on their phones or social media, analog hobbies forego technology and engage youth in things like puzzles, crafts, and board games in their leisure time. My older grandkids enjoy all those things, especially board games. One of our granddaughters even bought some puzzles, needlework kits, and books over Christmas break, so she's definitely giving this trend a shot.



In the broader sense, a puzzle perfectly represents the body of Christ. In a church body, we all bring different things to the table with our varied interests and gifts. If each of us represents a puzzle piece, and if the church is working together, allowing each one of its members to use their gifts and talents, the pieces snap together perfectly to create a beautiful picture of God's kingdom at work. Therefore, it's up to all of us to help each other find a way to use our gifts, skills and interests for the benefit of the church, as part of our discipleship path.

⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5

Whether you're good at working with children or youth, teaching a Bible study class, taking meals to someone, or serving on the trustees for our buildings and grounds, we're all needed to do God's work both at Marion Methodist and in the community around us. As each piece



snaps into place – singing in the choir, volunteering at FLY, making funeral luncheons, or planting the garden – it all results in a beautiful array of colors and patterns, representing the many ways in which God is at work through his people. *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.* 1 Corinthians 12:27

God's blessings to you,
Vicki

PATHfinders

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

SUNDAYS

8:15 AM – All-Together Sunday School

9:15 AM – Fellowship Time

- **Nursery & Preschoolers** (Infants through 4-Year-Olds)
- **Elementary Kids** (PreK – 4th Grade)

10:15 AM – Pathfinders Bible

- **Nursery** (Infants–2-Year-Olds)
- **Preschool** (3- & 4-Year-Olds)
- **Elementary** (Pre-K–4th Grade)

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM

Pathfinders Club

Fruits of the Spirit

During Pathfinders, our students are currently learning about the Fruits of the Spirit and how they apply to our everyday lives. Galatians 5:22–23 reminds us: *“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”*

Each week, a Bible story will guide our kids as they explore one of these fruits and what it looks like to live them out. We encourage you to continue the conversation at home by talking through these stories together as a family and looking for ways to practice the Fruits of the Spirit in daily life.

Upcoming Lesson Themes/Scriptures

Feb 15/18

FAITHFULNESS (David and Jonathan's Friendship)
I Samuel 20

Feb 22/25

GENTLENESS (Jesus and the Sinful Woman)
John 8:1–11

March 1/4

SELF-CONTROL (Jesus on the Cross)
Matthew 26:47–56; 27:32–44)

Mark your Calendars:

Sunday, March 29 10:15 AM Worship
Pathfinder Kids (Toddler– 4th Grade) will be waving palm branches and singing during the 10:15 AM Service on Palm Sunday. We will start preparing for this special music on Sundays and Wednesdays.