

# **GROWING IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE WORLD**

## **MORE THAN JUST WORDS**



Many of us learned the Lord's Prayer by heart at a young age. We can recite the words easily—but Jesus never meant for it to stop there. The Lord's Prayer is not just something to memorize; it is something to live (Matthew 6:9–13).

When

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he gave them more than a set of words. He gave them a way of life. Calling God “Father” invites us into a relationship of trust and dependence. Asking for daily bread reminds us that everything we need comes from God and that we are called to care for others who are in need. Praying for forgiveness—and offering it to others—shapes how we live and love each day.

The prayer also turns our hearts toward worship. When we pray, “Hallowed be your name,” we are choosing to live for God's glory rather than our own. And when we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are asking God to work in our world and in our lives—and opening ourselves to be part of what he is doing.

During the season of Lent, the Lord's Prayer takes on special meaning. Lent invites us to slow down, reflect, and realign our lives with God's will. As we pray these



familiar words, we are invited to examine where we may be relying on ourselves instead of God, holding on to resentment instead of offering forgiveness, or placing our own priorities ahead of God's kingdom. Lent calls us back to prayer that shapes not only what we say, but how we live.

The Lord's Prayer uses words like *our* and *us* because faith is not meant to be lived alone. It reminds us that we belong to one another and are called to love, forgive, share, and care for one another as we walk together in faith.

The Lord's Prayer is short, but it is powerful. When we truly pray it, it moves from our lips into our lives. Jesus didn't just teach us how to say this prayer—he taught us how to live it.

In March, our children will be learning about the Lord's Prayer during Pathfinders. Preschool through fourth-grade students will explore why prayer matters in their relationship with God. Together, they will learn how Jesus taught his disciples to pray and how prayer helps us talk with God, listen for his guidance, and grow closer to him.

As we pray the Lord's Prayer throughout this Lenten season, we are invited to live it out each day—trusting God for what we need, forgiving as we have been forgiven, seeking God's will in our choices, and sharing Christ's love wherever we go. When these familiar words shape our daily lives, they become more than a prayer we recite—they become a way of life that points others to the hope of God's kingdom.

*Pastor Helen*

---

### **CONTACT US:**

**Church Office**  
319-377-4856  
info@marionmethodist.org

**James Parks**  
Lead Pastor  
913-787-1823  
jparks@marionmethodist.org

**Vicki Standley**  
Minister of Pastoral Care  
319-310-5195  
vstandley@marionmethodist.org

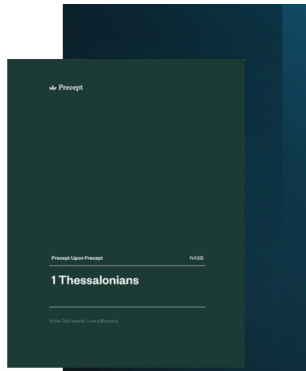
**Helen Parks**  
Lead Pastor  
913-710-4443  
hparks@marionmethodist.org

**1 Thessalonians Bible Study:  
Blameless at His Coming**

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 4:40 PM  
STARTING MARCH 11 IN ROOM W20**

Are you an example to others? Learn the principles of exemplary Christian living. Understand the spiritual warfare, sparked by the presence of the gospel in the world, and the rapture of the church—God’s ultimate rescue.

- **Observation:** In our study on 1 Thessalonians, observe Paul’s encouragement to the young church in Thessalonica, focusing on themes of faith, love, hope, the importance of holy living, and the anticipation of Christ’s return.
- **Interpretation:** Discover the meaning of 1 Thessalonians in the context of Scripture.
- **Application:** Apply what you’re learning to your life as you discover the truth for yourself.



Register online at [MarionMethodist.org/AdultBibleStudies](http://MarionMethodist.org/AdultBibleStudies)

**Theology of Baptism**  
taught by  
*Gonzo Santillan*

Sunday, March 29  
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Please register at  
[MarionMethodist.org/Events](http://MarionMethodist.org/Events), on the  
Church App, or scan the QR Code

**Joys and Concerns**

**BIRTHS:**

**February 7:** Grayson Beck Moody, son of Sam and Alicia Moody. Grandparents are Tim and Ronda Moody.

**DEATHS:**

**February 14:** Connie Zamastil, sister of Carolyn (Larry) Munson.

**March Food Pantry Focus - Peanut Butter**

**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).

**Pastoral Care Message – Differences**

As long as there have been refrigerators, people have loved to cover the doors with colorful magnets, their kids’ drawings, reminders of appointments, and photos of their children and grandchildren. For years now, ours has been adorned with our grandkids’ pictures at various ages, or from the many activities they’ve been involved in from time to time. We love having all those colorful reminders of vacations and special events where we can see them often, and show our love for family in this way. But consider this quote: “If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.” (Max Lucado)



We are God’s special creation, the only creature with the very breath of God filling our lungs, and we’re created in the image of the Creator. He made us out of pure love and his love shines through us every day of our lives. But he also made us to be entirely unique from one another, no matter how closely related we may be.

Our daughters are fraternal twins, born with dark hair and brown eyes, and very similar physical features. As babies, there was a slight difference in their size, and a couple of distinct differences in their appearance. As they got older, it was more challenging to tell them apart, and most people wouldn’t believe they weren’t identical.



Even with their similar appearance, there were still a few things that gave away which girl was which, but to this day I get tripped up looking at old pictures, or even sometimes when I hear their voices. In their teen years they purposely had their own clothing styles and hair and makeup choices, but even now, living hours apart, they will often buy the same article of clothing or some random item within days of each other. And oftentimes if I’m on the phone with one, the other will call or text at the same time.

One of my favorite scripture passages comes from Psalm 139: “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” (vs 13-14 )

We’ve each been uniquely created by the Master, with our own set of strengths, flaws, quirks and gifts. We’re not exact copies of anyone else, and are known and loved by God merely because we’re his precious child. We all have a particular purpose for this time and place in which we’re living, and, with God’s help, it’s up to us to find the ways that we can use what he’s given us to share his love with others. What works for me may not work for you, and I know full well that many of you are very gifted in being welcoming, loving and kind to everyone you encounter.

I pray you’ll allow God to use you to help make our church a place where people want to belong and share themselves with us as we build God’s kingdom in our homes and neighborhoods.

God’s blessings to you,  
Vicki

## Welcome New Members- February 22, 2026



**Front Row (L-R):** Leia Nelson, Robert Lee, Heather Lee, Linda Morrison, Caitlin Caris, Donna Steiner, Roberta Caris, Brittany Martin, Kristin Biedermann

**Back Row (L-R):** Jamie Ross, Brian Ross, Julie Kohlmann, Alex Kohlmann, Conrad Kohlmann, Todd Sheehy, Kayla Sheehy, Tina Southard, Ryan Potter, Drew Martin, Hyeun (James) Yoon, Jamie Biedermann, Diane Espenes, Mike Espenes

## 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

## one thing.

2026

Summer Games University 2026  
Register at [SGU.CAMP](http://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!*

Summer Games University 2026

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

Register



## PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29  
8:15 AM AND 10:15 AM

**SPRING BREAK**  
MARCH 16-20

**VOLUNTEER**

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

## Zipper Sandwich Bag Donations

Support Feeding Lunches to Youth (FLY) by donating Zipper Sandwich Bags used to pack lunches. FLY serves an average of 1400 lunches a week during the summer.

Bring boxes to the Mission Depot during March to support this ministry.

## You Are Invited

### X, Y, Zers

(eXtra Years with Zest)  
55+ Years

Thursday, March 12 at 5:30PM

**Mark Konzett, Sleep in Heavenly Peace**  
A local group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need.

**Serving: St Patrick's Day Dinner**  
Shepherd's Pie and Soda Bread

Please RSVP by Sunday, March 8 to reserve your meal. Register (\$15) on the Church App.



**Marion Methodist**

5050 REC Drive  
Marion, IA 52302  
[MarionMethodist.org/Events](http://MarionMethodist.org/Events)

X, Y, Zers Upcoming Speakers:

April 6 ~ Rich Smith, Prison Ministry

May 14 ~ Sara Pershing, Mercy Hospital Patient Visitor

June 11 ~ Tom Ultich, Linn County Emergency Mngmt

# PATHFINDER PACKS

KIDS ARE INVITED TO GRAB A PATHFINDER PACK TO USE DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. LOCATED OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE SANCTUARY DOORS IN THE CENTER.

PLEASE BE SURE TO RETURN THE BAG BEFORE HEADING HOME.



# 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

### The Lord's Prayer

In March, Pathfinders will be learning about The Lord's Prayer and the importance of prayer in our relationship with God. Together, we will explore how Jesus taught His disciples to pray and how prayer helps us talk with God, listen for His guidance, and grow closer to Him. Through Bible stories, discussion, and hands-on activities, our kids will learn that prayer is not just words we say, but a meaningful way to build a daily relationship with God.

### Upcoming Lesson Themes/Scriptures

March 8/11

PRAISE  
Psalm 100

March 15

GOD'S WILL

Jesus seeks God's will: Matthew 26:36-46

Wednesday, March 18

No Wednesday Night during Spring Break

March 22

ASKING

Looking to God for Help: Psalm 121

March 25

FORGIVENESS

David's Prayer: Psalm 51

*\*Kids will practice on Sundays and Wednesdays to prepare for singing on March 29.*

Their song is "Follow Jesus" inspired by the New Testament Scripture Matthew 4:19-20. "As Jesus passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Then they left their nets and followed him."

Use the video below to practice:

[https://youtu.be/28TR-DBS\\_FM?si=ISf\\_-oJKEyvmQIDI](https://youtu.be/28TR-DBS_FM?si=ISf_-oJKEyvmQIDI)



Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday Branches & Special Music

10:00 AM Kids practice in Room 100

Pathfinder Kids (Toddler- 4th Grade) will be

waving palm branches and singing during the 10:15

Worship Service on Palm Sunday.