

GROWING IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE WORLD

NEW EQUIPMENT



In my 3 ½ years here at Marion Methodist as Minister of Worship and Tech, the most frustrating part of my job has been where worship and tech have intersected in its most potent form: the livestream.

Right when I arrived, there were a few people who would let me know that the livestream wasn't sounding quite right on their laptop or their phone. We'd adjust a few things, and that seemed to help a little bit: at least for a while. There were some weeks I'd try to listen back, and the signal was so overdriven and thin sounding I couldn't experience any sort of worship. Sometimes the sound would just drop out for part of the sermon for no apparent reason. We kept adjusting our tech equipment the best we knew how, and nothing seemed to work. It was so frustrating.

Then a conversation was had where it was suggested we replace one of the main pieces of our livestream system. I began looking into it and decided to purchase the newest model of that piece that they sold.

When it arrived, I took it out of the box and began the process of integrating it into our current set of equipment. For some reason it just didn't match what we had going on back there. The ports just didn't match up or math out. I'm a musician first and foremost so tech is not my native language, so I had to take a step back. At one point, I started to crudely diagram out what was what and where it all went. Suddenly, somehow, it all made sense! It looked like with this new piece of equipment I could bypass (tear out) three converter boxes and several cables!

So that's what I did. I shrugged to myself "Here goes nothing!" and tore into it all. A little while later we fired it up and wouldn't you know, miracle of miracles, it worked! Not only that, but the signal was stronger, perfectly consistent, and even allowed us to mix our sound with less guessing and more skill.

The whole situation reminded me of how life is sometimes.

Due to choices and/or circumstances, a system gets built that works for a while. And then at some point it just doesn't. A relationship falls apart, or a job path seems impossible to continue. Perhaps the luster of life just isn't there, and we question our meaning and purpose. We try everything we know how to do and nothing changes. And I get it; it's scary to look under the table at all the dusty cables and cords and try to figure out what's causing the problem. Life can be really complex and daunting sometimes.



It's at those times I pray that we don't forget that we might need to introduce a new piece of equipment. In the spiritual sense, I would say that would be a new revelation of Jesus. See, it's easy to put God in a box where we can understand, predict and even try to control. But if we open our hearts to a new revelation, where a new-to-us part of God can surprise us; where we can once again marvel at the Marvelous, who knows what the possibilities are? We might be moments from a much-needed miracle.

Witnessed miracles inspire trust and that's often part of our growth process: renewed trust that God is who He says He is. I know in my life, there have been times when I've let God be God and He hands me an old converter box and some obsolete cables to throw away and reassures me that a simplified signal is just better.

When Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, in chapter 3 verse 8 he said, *"Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ." (NLT)*

So, my encouragement to you is to take a look around and see what junk God might be wanting you to tear out and throw away. I promise if you trust Him, even though it doesn't fit the familiar grid, that His "signal" in and through your life will be stronger than ever, and your life and the lives of those around you will be better for it.

Jared Edwards



CONTACT US:

Church Office
319-377-4856

info@marionmethodist.org

James Parks
Lead Pastor
913-787-1823

jparks@marionmethodist.org

Helen Parks
Lead Pastor
913-710-4443

hparks@marionmethodist.org

Vicki Standley
Minister of Pastoral Care
319-310-5195

vstandley@marionmethodist.org

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Marion Methodist

CH2 YOUTH CH2 SPARK

No Wednesday Night at Marion Methodist

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Due to Spring Break.

Marion Methodist

Theology of Baptism

taught by *Gonzo Santillan*

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

Please register at
MarionMethodist.org/Events, on the Church App, or scan the QR Code



Joys and Concerns

DEATHS:

February 26: Dick (Richard) Hodge

March Food Pantry Focus - 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!



Prayer Requests

- 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.
- To be on the email prayer chain to pray for others, email Vicki Standley, Minister of Pastoral Care at vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

Pastoral Care Message – Joy of Living

Recently, I was standing in the checkout line at a local store.



The couple ahead of me were older, she was in one of the store's wheelchairs, and a young mom with a baby was just ahead of them. The baby was bouncing in her car carrier and just giggling away at the older gentleman ahead of me

who was making faces at her. At one point he started ducking down a little to play peek-a-boo with her and she'd just erupt in laughter at his silliness. The young mom chatted back and forth with them briefly as we waited in line, and you could just see the delight in her face as this older couple paid so much attention to her baby. As she checked out, she turned, waved and told them thank you as she left the store. All I could think was, "Thank you dear lady for sharing the joy of your little one with us for this brief time today."

It makes a world of difference in our day when we see such simple, kind acts that connect people, even for just a few moments. It's like a breath of fresh air to experience the most basic joyful elements of human nature such as a baby's giggle and the delight of an older person engaging with them. Most of the time we probably don't realize how special that is until we experience it firsthand, and how much it brightens our day to just to see such pure joy unfold in front of us.

Pope John Paul II, a longtime pope of the Catholic church was quoted as saying, "God made us for joy. God is joy, and the joy of living reflects the original joy that God felt in creating us."

Opportunities to experience simple moments of joy are all around us if we simply take the time to look for and recognize them. It doesn't have to be complicated, the most joyful moments are most often unplanned, unscheduled and as simple as someone smiling, saying hello or helping a fellow shopper with an item that's out of reach. All too often we're so preoccupied with what's happening in our lives that we miss the opportunities right in front of us. It's simply a matter of looking past our phones or thinking about all the tasks waiting to be done and paying attention to those around us, no matter where we are.

At the heart of every moment of joy we have in this life, is the joy of knowing Christ as our savior. As his beloved children, we have the joy of salvation and the knowledge that every good thing in our lives comes from him. So whether it's those monumental times in our lives like the joy of a wedding or birth of a baby, or the sweet sound of a baby's giggle, the source of our joy is our love of God and his love for us.



You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Psalm 16:11

God's blessings to you,
Vicki



Meet our New Minister of Connections

The Staff Support Committee welcomes Jamie Ross to the Marion Methodist staff. Jamie will begin on April 1 as our Minister of Connections. The Ross family has been worshipping with us since September 2025 and recently became members of the church. Jamie brings exactly the experience and heart we need, and we're delighted she's joining us. In this role, she will support the church's discipleship ministries by helping individuals move from a first connection into meaningful relationships, spiritual growth, and active participation in the life of the church.

We asked Jamie to share a little about herself, and we know you will enjoy getting to know her even more in the coming months.



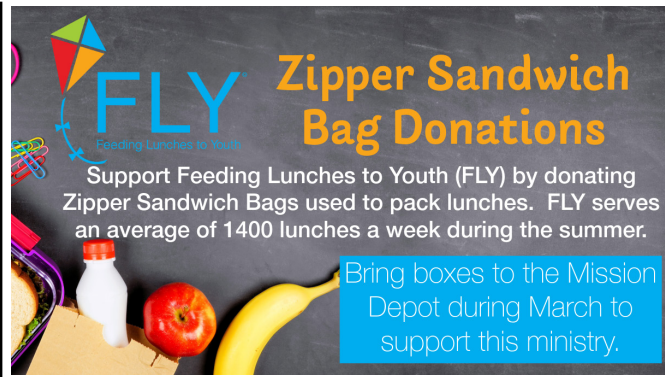
Nothing sets my soul on fire more than walking alongside groups and individuals as they fully connect with the Lord and step into the purpose for which they were created. I am thrilled to step into the role of Minister of Connections here at Marion Methodist.

I answered yes to the call of ministry early in my college experience and have devoted my entire adult life to both vocational and volunteer ministry in a variety of contexts. After earning a BA in Christian Ministries from Indiana Wesleyan University and a MA in Christian Education from Asbury Seminary, I returned home to Iowa to marry the love of my life, Brian Ross.

Just one year following my graduation from seminary, we moved to Mississippi where I served full time in student ministry working with girls, student small groups and confirmation. After nine years and the birth of three children later (Dominic, 17, Olivia, 16 & Noah 12), Brian's career took us through multiple states which meant multiple opportunities for me. These include leading in MOPS, student small groups, women's Bible study groups, adult small groups and even teaching Bible at a Christian School.

Although the years have brought multiple ministries, my lifelong calling, no matter the role or task, is to build community, and that is exactly the opportunity I am called to here at Marion Methodist.

Jamie Ross



A STRONG FOUNDATION AT WORK

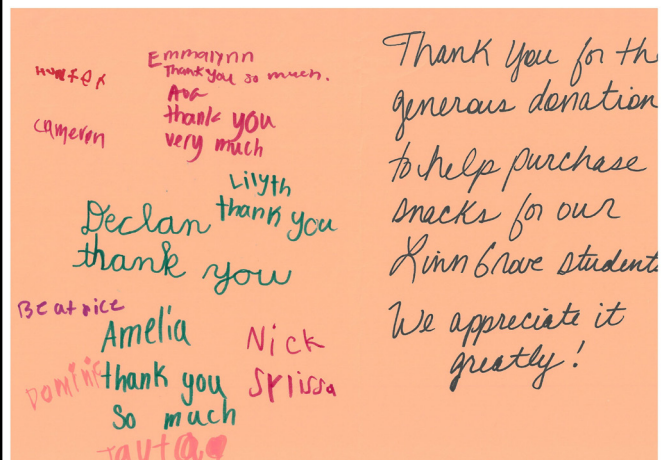
The Marion Methodist Foundation provides funds for needs outside the support of the regular budget. Examples are: "Gather 2025", the worldwide telecast; the "Discipleship Fall Kick-Off"; the "Youth Winter Retreat"; transportation for the mission trip to Texas; several seminary scholarships; playground resurfacing; children's Bibles and much more.

Your contributions to the Foundation help support special ministry opportunities. Bequests to specific ministries of the church are also honored through the Foundation.

If you have a request for funds from the Foundation, please talk to a staff member for a Foundation Request Form available only to church members. All applications need to further our mission of growing in Christ to serve the world.

The Seminary Scholarship Request Form is available to the public on the Marion Methodist Church website under the "Contacts" drop down menu, then click on Marion Methodist Foundation.

Thank You
from
Linn Grove Elementary



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

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=lsf_-oJKEyvmQIDI



PATHfinders

CHILDRENS MINISTRY



Kid's performing
on March 29
during the
10:15 AM Service

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.

LENTEN MOMENTS

BROADCASTING LIVE AT 7:00 AM
MARCH 30 - APRIL 3

ONLINE AT WWW.MARIONMETHODIST.ORG/WATCH-LIVE,
OR MARION METHODIST'S FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE PAGES.

GOOD FRIDAY

IT IS FINISHED

APRIL 3 AT 6:30 PM
MARION METHODIST SANCTUARY

Easter

AT MARION METHODIST

APRIL 5
8:15 AM & 10:15 AM