

GROWING IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE WORLD

HOLY WEEK



During this season of Lent, we have focused on the disciple Peter. Peter was an ordinary man that lived an extraordinary life as a follower of Jesus. We mostly focused on scripture passages that tell us about Peter's experience with Jesus. These are written by someone else

about Peter. (Tradition says that the Gospel of Mark was Peter's sharing of the story of Jesus with Mark who wrote them down.) However, we also have some scripture that was written by Peter himself. The books of 1 and 2 Peter. To me, it is significant, as we focus on Peter, to know that we can hear his actual words from these books.

I want to point out a few verses from 1 Peter 4. It is believed that this book was written by Peter while he was in Rome. Christians are being highly persecuted and he will soon be executed. This book is an encouragement to followers of Jesus to keep the faith and be encouraged even in the midst of difficult times. Listen to what he says in verses 8-11.

1 Peter 4:8-11

⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Peter was experiencing very difficult times and yet his focus was on helping others bring praise to God. As we love, offer hospitality, speak and serve, we do so in order to bring praise to God. Peter calls us to turn our attention to others. Through our words and through our actions others will have an experience of God's love.

As we prepare to complete our Lenten journey with Peter I think about the terrible experience Peter had during the last week of Jesus's life. He thinks things are going well, and then Jesus is betrayed, arrested, and killed. Yet, through all of that Peter persevered to experience the resurrection and then leadership in the new Christian church.

As followers of Jesus, we too will experience those hard and difficult times. And we too can persevere to be encouragers of others to grow in love and service. May we see Peter's life as a beacon that points us towards the great love and grace found in Jesus.

I hope and pray our Holy Week opportunities will bless you in this final portion of the journey of Lent. The Lenten Moments and Good Friday service lead into the great celebration of Easter. Join us as we remember that the love and grace of God overcomes all things, even death.

Pastor James

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Harvest Market Donations

Marion Methodist Women are very pleased to have had the task of selecting nonprofit organizations to share our Harvest Market profit of \$10,000. After discussing several organizations, we voted and selected the following 9 nonprofits to receive donations as listed below:

- \$1,500 to Matthew 25, His Hands Free Clinic and Waypoint.
- \$1,000 to Proyecto Alas-Honduras, Community Health Free Clinic, Willis Dady, Marion Schools Student Lunch Fund and Linn-Mar Schools Student Lunch Fund.
- \$500 to Marion Cares

Donating to these worthy nonprofit organizations is a result of your support of the Harvest Market. Thank you!

Are you interested in learning more about our Church softball team? Stop by the Ministry Table on Sunday, March 29th to learn more about how you can get involved!

Joys and Concerns

BAPTISMS:

March 15: Brecken Renee Cutler, daughter of Lauren and Andrew Cutler

March 15: Jack Jonathan Kearney, son of Cara and Christopher Kearney

March 22: Hayes Michael Moore, son of Jamie and Corey Moore

DEATHS:

March 19: Ronald "Ron" Kelly, brother of Walker (Linda) Kelly

April Food Pantry Focus - Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, salmon, sardines, ham, etc)

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.
2. 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 – Fears

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1*

We all have our own set of fears and concerns and I bet our lists would overlap in a lot of ways. The older I get, the more complicated my list has become, with fears and concerns about family, my health and Ralph's health, and just the fears about what's going on in the world around us.

When I was a kid, my brothers and I had bedrooms upstairs in one of our parsonages. Every night I had to walk down a long hallway to my bedroom, passing by a door leading into a huge walk-in attic. I knew everything that was in that attic – in the daylight.

But at night, my imagination would run wild and when bedtime came, I'd hustle as fast as I could past that door and run for the safety of my bed. Nothing ever jumped out and grabbed me, but I was sure something could, and that fear kept me moving quickly past that door all the years we lived there.

As a mother and grandmother, my fears have centered around my family. When my kids were growing up, I constantly worried whether we'd have enough to provide for them, or if they'd be safe and healthy. The first days of school – the first anything, was always laden with doubts, concerns and fears that something would or could happen to them when they were out of my sight.

Now that our children are adults, with families of their own, grandchildren have been added to the mix as well. I pray often for my kids and my grandkids, for my family in general. Even though they're not in my constant care as my kids are scattered from here to northwest Iowa, I'm fully confident they're always in the safety and protection of God. Even with that knowledge and assurance, my fears often overpower what I know and trust.

Eventually I've come to realize that my fears are not so much doubts that God can handle things, but rather my lack of faith that he will. I'm constantly reminding myself that it's not that he can't and won't, but my confidence that he always will. Once you're able to turn that corner from fear to faith; faith in God's power and his ability to handle all your fears and concerns, peace will fill your heart and mind. Now when my fears begin to overtake my mind and my heart, I turn to the One who I know can and will take care of me and those I love.

Prayer: *Dearest Lord, you created me with a spirit of faith not fear. Help me to remember and believe in your power and love which will provide for all my needs and for those I love. Our lives, everything we know and cling to is safe in the mighty strength of your loving hands. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

God's blessings to you,
Vicki



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

Upcoming Lesson Themes/Scriptures

March 29
PALM SUNDAY
(Luke 19:28–40)

April 1
HOLY WEEK
(Psalm 148:7–9)

April 4
EASTER SUNDAY
(John 19:16–20:18)

April 8
RESURRECTED JESUS
(Romans 5:8)



Marion Methodist is launching a Young Adult Ministry for ages 18–29. The plan is to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month, with the kickoff being at 6 PM on April 13th at Marion Methodist (room TBA). Our gatherings will include fellowship and spiritual conversations, a great place to invite your friends. Any questions, please reach out to Gonzo (gsantillan@marionmethodist.org) or Colton Valenta (cvalenta44@gmail.com)



LENTEN MOMENTS 2026

MONDAY, MARCH 30

Melinda Gallagher



I have been a member of Marion Methodist Church since May 2025. I grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, and now live in Marion with my husband and my two daughters. I am also a proud stepmom to two step-daughters. I teach 6th grade at Anamosa Middle School, where I love encouraging students both academically and personally. In addition to teaching, I serve as a youth leader with 4:12 and lead a Youth for Christ after-school club at the school. I enjoy spending time outdoors, reading, and playing board and card games with family and friends. I'm grateful for opportunities to share how God has been working in my life and to encourage others in their faith.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Lisa Kenyon



Lisa was born and raised in the Detroit area on the music of Motown. After graduating from the University of Michigan, she headed to Connecticut where she worked as a staff floor nurse at Yale-New Haven Hospital, specializing in surgical patients. Lisa moved to Iowa in 1980, and continued surgical-care nursing at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She then attended the University of Iowa College of Law, receiving her JD in 1984. She practiced law with the firm of Lynch, Dallas, Smith and Harman for several years, retiring to raise horses, cattle, and her human kids on a farm she shared with her then-husband. Lisa now lives in town. She has 4 children plus 2 grandsons (one's in college, one's a newborn). In addition to hanging out at church and with family and friends, Lisa enjoys singing, swimming, sewing and studying.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Colton Valenta



My name is Colton Valenta, and I've been a member of Marion Methodist Church since 2021. My wife Shelby and I have been married for a year and a half, and our only "kid" is our 8-year-old goldendoodle Cadence. I love being involved at the church and currently serve as a 4:12 adult leader working with the 5th and 6th grade boys, as well as the team lead for the newly organized Outreach Team and I also try to join as many mission trips as I can. Outside of church, I enjoy playing soccer in a local adult league with Shelby, working on cars with friends at our shop and traveling whenever we get the chance.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Joan Padley



Tom and I moved to Marion in 1989 with our three little (at that time) girls. We moved in on Thursday and attended our first service at Marion Methodist on Sunday. Within a few months, we became members. Since then, I have served as a Sunday School, VBS, and Midweek Miracles teacher, a member of the FLY board, have participated in mission trips to Haiti, as well as other activities. I retired from the Marion Independent School District after 21 years as an elementary special education teacher, and now spend my time in Bible studies, Sunday morning hospitality, and tutoring students in English at the Catherine McCauley Center. Tom and I also enjoy travelling and visiting our three grandchildren.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Morgan Goshon



My name is Morgan Goshon, I am 16 years old and a junior at Linn-Mar High school. I participate in Show Choir and Yearbook at my school. I am part of the Student Leadership Team at 4:12.

Join us online at 7:00 am

www.MarionMethodist.org/Watch-Live, Marion Methodist's Facebook page
or www.YouTube.com/MarionMethodistChurch