



April 24, 2026

# GROWING IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE WORLD

## CORNERSTONE



We live in an age when we are more connected to the world than ever before. We can chat with people on the other side of the world. We have access to information almost immediately about anything, anywhere. We can watch sermons by the best Christian speakers

and attend online church from the comfort of our home, and yet we are living through a loneliness epidemic. Although cities are crowded, and you might have hundreds of friends on Facebook, people still struggle to build community. However, the church should not be that place.

When we look at the scripture, more specifically the book of Acts, we can read about the start of God's church. We have this beautiful picture of what the Church looked like, described as a community of believers, as people that had everything in common, not in their social status, nor in their way of thinking, or even a political view or ethnicity, but in their love of God and each other. To the point that if anybody in that community had a problem or a struggle, the community would step in.

Acts 2:44-46 says, "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

That is why we have just launched a new opportunity for young adults at Marion Methodist to build a

community, to build a family of believers that comes together to break bread. But not just that, also to encourage each other to grow in faith and love for neighbor.

We want to introduce you to "Cornerstone," a community for young adults that gathers every second and fourth Monday of the month at 6 pm to build God's body, share a meal, and grow in faith.

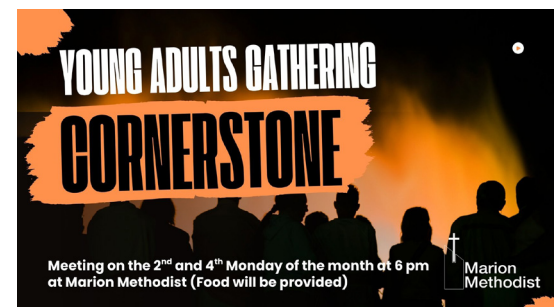
The mission of Cornerstone is to be the Church for this generation and to provide an opportunity for other young people in our church and other communities to belong, to believe, and to become what God intended for us to be: His Church!



Our next meeting will be on April 27th at 6 pm at Marion Methodist (Room 100). We will share a meal together, so make sure to invite your friends and any young adults you may know who might be

interested in joining a great faith community.

Gonzo Santillan  
Minister of Discipleship



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# Marion Methodist Garden

Daffodils are sprouting in the Marion Methodist Garden and will soon be ready to share. Reserve your chance to pick a Mother's day bouquet or to participate in other garden activities at our website [MarionMethodist.org/news/Garden](http://MarionMethodist.org/news/Garden) or scan the QR code:



Marion Methodist Garden SignUp



Marion Methodist

## PUT GOOD INTO THE WORLD

**BLOOD DRIVE**



Marion Methodist Church

Monday, May 4  
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The Center - 5050 REC Dr.

To book your appointment, scan the QR code or call ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401.



Last Date to Donate Elsewhere - 03/09/26  
Group Code: 2436

Marion Methodist

## Prayer Team

Wednesdays  
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM  
Room W40

All are welcome to join!



## Joys and Concerns

### DEATHS:

**April 19:** Barbara (Barb) Campbell, wife of Maury Campbell

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

Churches of Marion  
Food Pantry

## Monthly Food Drive

**APRIL COLLECTION ITEM**  
**CANNED MEAT**

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](http://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](mailto:vstandley@marionmethodist.org).

## Pastoral Care Message – Rule

Just a few days ago, I broke one of my hard and fast gardening rules. Normally I don't plant anything in my gardens until at least Mother's Day, even with warmer weather like we've had recently. But this spring, I got the itch a little earlier than usual, and decided to buy some pansies, one of my favorite spring flowers, and keep them on our enclosed deck. Even if we get

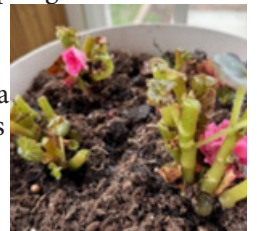
some colder nights, which we no doubt will, I can bring them in or, they'll likely be just fine on the porch.



It felt so good to get my hands in the dirt for a little bit, and even visiting the greenhouse to buy the plants lifted my spirits. I didn't engage in more rule breaking by purchasing plants other than what I planned to get, but I'll be back in a

month or so. I had another surprise when I retrieved the pot that I wanted to use for the pansies. I'd brought in a beautiful begonia last fall so I could enjoy it a little longer. Over the winter it continued to be fairly healthy sitting in a windowsill in our basement. Lately though, it had started looking pretty straggly so I planned to pitch it later this spring.

Imagine my surprise when I brought up the flowerpot and discovered several new starts at the base of each withering begonia plant! Once it was all trimmed back, I was able to transplant the new growth into a smaller flowerpot and hope to enjoy this beautiful begonia for another season right along with my pansies!



Admittedly, breaking my personal rule about early spring planting isn't really a big deal, but honestly where do we draw the line when it comes to breaking the rules? Early on we're taught at home and school that following the rules is important, and between my brothers and me, I was the absolute rule follower. But even the Bible has accounts of many people who didn't always follow the rules. Adam and Eve started the whole rule-breaking pattern by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Also, the chosen people of God, the Hebrews, broke away from God numerous times over the centuries, following other gods instead and not obeying God's commandments. In most cases, however, the rule breakers eventually repented and turned back to God, receiving his forgiveness.

We have the ultimate privilege and joy of living in the days since Jesus walked the earth, providing the Holy Spirit to guide us through all circumstances of our lives, and reminding us all the time of God's love, as well as his expectations and directions for us to follow. Because of that hope and promise we have, we're reassured that "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

Our best route is always to follow God and his teachings in the best ways we can. But when we fall short, and we will, we receive the precious gift of his forgiveness, just like my unexpected gift of a new begonia plant. Thanks be to God!

God's blessings to you,  
Vicki





# BAPTISM SUNDAY

## One Service at 9:15 AM in the Sanctuary Sunday, April 26

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



SGU

# one thing.

Summer Games University 2026



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

The Cost:  
\$479 after March 1

*Sign up early to get your first pick of satellite!*

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



## Spring Handbell Concert

Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 PM  
 Marion Methodist Church  
 5050 REC Drive, Marion  
 Bring a nonperishable food item to benefit the  
 Marion Food Pantry.  
 Cookie & Punch reception immediately  
 following the concert.

*A Joyful Noise    Jubilation    Bell Canto    Touch of Brass*




## ADOPT A STUDENT

April 26 & May 3

Donate \$300 to send a student to Summer Games University this Summer.

**Pick up a "student" from the display to send to camp and pray for their camp experience.**

Free will donations can be made online or by placing a donation in Joy Box marked "Camperships"




# HATS OFF GRADUATES

SENIOR RECOGNITION  
 SUNDAY, MAY 10 AT 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM

### Hy-Vee Receipts

We Did It - Reached and went over our Goal!

A very big thank you to all for your participation in this mission to assist both of our local school districts. We had wished for a total of receipts to reach \$200,000 but with our grocery prices so high right now, we not only reached our goal but we received **\$217,067.74**.

Not only did our congregation work at collecting and turning in Hy-Vee receipts, but you went above and beyond to ask your friends, family, neighbors, and everyone to help us in this mission.

Now we start over again as of April 1, 2026 and will collect this year's receipts until March 31, 2027. First it is our hope that prices could come down somewhat in the coming year, however we will continue to collect receipts from home delivery, groceries, prescriptions, gas, and gift cards from all Marion and Cedar Rapids stores.

Again, thank you to all. It is still the easiest mission that our church works on and both schools greatly appreciate our help.

Marion Methodist Women



## Online Directory Photos

**• The Center •**  
 May 3  
 8:00 to 11:30 AM

If you do not have your picture in the Online Marion Methodist Directory come to have your individual and/or family photos taken during these times

## You Are Invited

# X, Y, Zers

(eXtra Years with Zest)  
55+ Years

Thursday, May 14 at 5:30PM

Sara Pershing, Mercy Hospital Patient Visitor

Serving: All American Buffett  
Fried Chicken and Roasted Pork Loin

Please RSVP by Sunday, May 10 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)

Please RSVP by Sunday, May 10 to reserve your meal. Register (\$15) on the Church App.



June 22-25 9 AM-12noon

This summer kids will have an opportunity to plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids will experience ways that their faith can grow wild and deep. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Registration is open for participants and volunteers! Kids who register by May 11 receive a gift.

## Celebration Sunday, April 19



# 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

### "Living God's Way"

During April and May, Pathfinders will learn what it looks like to follow God every day.

In this meaningful series, kids will explore a variety of Bible stories that teach God's Commandments—learning to put God first, love others, tell the truth, and make wise choices. Each week highlights a simple truth kids can live out—at home, at school, and with friends. Join us as we learn to live God's way—together!

### Upcoming Lesson Themes/Scriptures

**April 26**

GOD'S NAME  
Exodus 3:13-14

**May 3**

THE SABBATH  
Genesis 2:1-3

**May 10**

HONOR YOUR PARENTS  
Proverbs 1:8-9