Weekly Update
March 25, 2020

Not a New Idea – Just the Right One (part 3)

Sunday morning, I stood for a few moments in front of those glorious stained-glass windows on the east side of our building. It was breezy, gray and blustery and that did not matter to my spirit, it could only engage in the truth of the words printed on the “Jesus” window.

Many of you may not know, but I was raised in the church downtown that housed these widows since the artist installed them 125 years ago. As we all know, the average child is not fully engaged in every word a pastor might say, every note from the lips of a singer or all of the announcements regarding the ministries that embody the life of the church.

Every kid needs something in the flat moments of worship to stimulate their mind – at least enough to resist the urge from pinching his brother. The Jesus window was it for me.

Year after year as I waited for a sermon or parental conversation to conclude, there he was, beautifully crafted in stained glass standing (seemingly to me) on the words from the gospel “I am the way, the truth and the life.” That image, those words, were of such great comfort and inspiration to this congregation and her preacher, unquestionably it had to come with us to our new home.

To fortify this, one Sunday morning a handful of years ago, our worship leader Mike Ransom directed the congregation’s attention fully to this wonderful piece of art and gave an inspiring interpretation. “When I look at Jesus with his hand held high, what I see is him saying to us, ‘I’ve got this!’ whatever is troubling you, Jesus says, ‘I’ve got this!’”

That new way of saying an old idea seared my soul. It is a perfect interpretation of where we are and what we need right now. COVID-19 troubles our souls, sparks fear and has added “pandemic” into our daily lexicon. We have more questions than answers. So, we look for a source of hope. I find this again and again in Jesus who reminds us – “I’ve got this.”

Of course, we who plan worship did not know back in January why the Bonhoeffer prayer “I cannot do this alone” (see below) was important to lead our worship services, but it has become abundantly clear. This old idea is the right one for such a time as this. The Jesus who seems to say “I’ve got this” has our troubles in his heart and hands and we will be best served spiritually, emotionally and physically to trust and stay with him.

Writing this on Tuesday the 24th we cannot know what greater restrictions for physical distancing might emerge so the following might be moot. If we can still move around safely and lawfully, I invite you to drive out to the church and gaze at those beautiful windows and repeat the prayer written in a very troubling time by Bonhoeffer prior to his execution by the Nazi’s.

Maybe you can follow Vicki’s prayer instruction (below) and drive out at 6:18 one morning or evening and drink in the truth, while separated physically we are not alone. Thank you, Jesus.

Pastor Mike Morgan

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LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

**Wednesday Nights at Marion Methodist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Christian Education Lesson for Children (and Parents) led by Dani Showalter, Director of Children’s Discipleship</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Pastoral Message and Bible Study led by Pastor Mike Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>4:12 Student Ministries led by Kelsie DeReus, Director of Youth and Connectional Missions and 4:12 Leadership Team</td>
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**Sunday Morning**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 am</td>
<td>Live Worship with Children’s Education Moment</td>
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Watch online at www.marionmethodist.org/watch-live or subscribe to our YouTube Channel www.YouTube.com/MarionMethodistChurch

CONTACT US:

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Lead Pastor

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**Vicki Standley**

Director of Pastoral Care

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vstandley@marionmethodist.org
I Cannot Do This Alone
By Dietrich Bonhoeffer

O God, early in the morning I cry to you.
Help me to pray
And to concentrate my thoughts on you;
All: I cannot do this alone.
In me there is darkness,
But with you there is light;
I am lonely, but you do not leave me;
All: I cannot do this alone.
I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;
I am restless, but with you there is peace.
In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;
All: I cannot do this alone.
I do not understand your ways,
But you know the way for me….
Restore me to liberty,
And enable me to live now
That I may answer before you and before all people.
All: I cannot do this alone.
Lord whatever this day may bring,
Your name be praised.
All: Amen

Marion Methodist is Praying
There is tremendous power in prayer, especially when God’s people come together and pray. In the days ahead I invite and challenge you to pray in a slightly different and exciting way. Scripture says:

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Ephesians 6:18

So here’s the challenge: at 6:18 am or pm PRAY. Pray for your family, your neighborhood, your co-workers, your church family, pray for those who are sick, who are alone, who are hurting. There are so many things to pray for but if we all pray at 6:18 in the morning and/or evening, the power of God will be unleashed in ways we can’t even imagine. God is waiting for us to pray for each other so let’s join him at 6:18 every day!!

Let’s unleash the power of prayer!
God bless you all, Vicki Standley

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, Director of Pastoral Care at vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

PALM SUNDAY IS APRIL 5TH...
If permitted we have a very special and unique idea for a palm parade...
More in this space next week.
Our Ministry to Other Churches in difficult times

Marion Methodist needs to be a flagship church. During these trying times members of our Marion Methodist Team are doing what they can to “help” other churches in their Ministry.

• Youth Director Kelsie DeReus and her team will lead a digital conversation on “How to do Youth Ministry in Difficult times”
• Several on the team have been assisting less technologically able churches broadcast their worship services or plug into ours.
• Rev. Morgan was on a conference call with Governor Reynolds encouraging her if/when greater restrictions occur to allow religious workers ability to deliver some ministry to the public.
• Rev. Morgan has been appointed as Chaplain to a number of Pastors who are, like all pastors working hard to keep their church community a community in a time of physical separation.

Administrative Update

John Terry

During this time, our buildings – 5050 REC Drive and the Carnegie building – will remain closed to the public. Your church staff is predominately working remotely from home to stay physically distant. Staff and technical production volunteers will produce our live stream content at the Church on Wednesday and Sunday.

The Stewardship and Finance committee is monitoring the trends in our current offerings and comparing to previous years. Currently, we have enough data to tell that things are different, but not enough data to make any decisions or conclusions.

This mailing contains an envelope addressed for you to mail offerings directly to the church. Our website has provisions for you to make electronic offerings, both one time and recurring transfers. The home page of our website has a link to the GIVING page. You can process electronic offerings directly or download a form to authorize electronic offerings. Simply follow the instructions on the form and mail to the church at 1298 7th Ave, Marion, IA.

Adult Discipleship: Staying Connected Through ZOOM

Jen Digmann
Director of Adult Discipleship & Christian Education

The church has selected ZOOM as the easiest platform to access and use for our Bible studies and small groups to stay connected. This week I have connected with our current Bible study and small group leaders to introduce them to this technology. They should be in touch with your group soon to explore the option of meeting in this way.

If you are a small group leader and you have not been contacted yet, please email me at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org. I would be happy to help you get started and reconnect with your group through ZOOM.

All are invited to join Pastor Mike Morgan for the Wednesday Night Bible study at 6:30PM through our website www.MarionMethodist.org/Watch-Live or YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/ MarionMethodistChurch.

About Joining worship on your devices

Because we are physically distanced, our worship services are broadcast at 10:15 AM on Sunday and on Wednesday night we broadcast three separate ministries. 6 PM Children’s Ministry, 6:30PM Pastors Bible Study and Conversation, 7:30 our 4:12 Youth Ministry. This is new, so a few questions have arisen.

1. Why do things not start exactly on time? The “live” activity is happening exactly on time. The delivery to you can be as much as a minute and a half delayed because of your technology, our technology and both our internet providers.
2. Can we watch services later? Yes. If you can’t watch them live, go through our website to the recorded sermons portion and when given the opportunity, click on “YouTube” and select the service, class or ministry you desire. (You can even watch a few years of sermons there if you want too)
3. What else should we know? Among preachers and some laity “Binge worshipping” has become a thing. Take a stroll around the internet, see what preachers and churches across the world are doing. It can be a blessing.
4:12 Student Ministry will be using many different platforms to connect during this time of Physical Distancing. Our weekly large group meeting will be at 7:30pm on Youtube or the “Watch Live” function on the website. During our large group meeting there will be a sermon, a game, and other interactive pieces. We will use Zoom for weekly game time, small group meetings, and hangouts. We will use Instagram live for daily morning encouragement and devotions throughout the week. We will also be using other platforms like Tik Tok, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and texting for updates.

**Our Weekly Calendar looks like this:**
- **Every day @ 8:00 am** will be daily encouragement via Instagram Live.
- **Mondays:** Game Hour via Zoom 4:00pm and Tik Tok Challenge Released
- **Tuesdays:** Instagram Live Devotion 10:00am
- **Wednesdays:** Large Group Meeting 7:30 pm and Small Group meeting (Your small group leader will have your zoom information)
- **Thursdays:** Instagram Live Devotion 1:30pm
- **Friday:** Tik Toks due
- **Saturday:** 4:12 Tik Challenge Posted and Zoom Live Hangout 8:00pm
- **Sunday:** Instagram Live Devotion 8:00pm

All Zoom hangout codes and links will be sent out via text reminder from the Remind App. Parents to receive the Link/Code please text 81010 and use this message: @412PAlerts

For your students to get notifications about upcoming gatherings have them text 81010 and use this message: @412hsms. If you have any questions, please contact Kelsie DeReus at kdereus@marionmethodist.org.  

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Hello families of Marion Methodist!

You’ve likely seen our Children’s Programming has gone VIRTUAL on Wednesday Evenings and Sunday Mornings. I need YOUR help bringing the message of Jesus to our congregation, and beyond…each week has a Bible passage, a Bible point, music videos and more to reinforce the message for that week. My goal is for a different family each week to “adopt” a lesson and provide the necessary elements (all virtual, of course). These elements would include: A picture of your family/kids holding a homemade poster with the Bible point, a couple of videos of your family/kids reading the assigned Bible verses, and possibly a picture or video of an accompanying Bible activity. I would coach you on how to take these pictures/videos, and how to send them to me so I can include them as a part of our lessons each week. If your family is interested in getting involved, please let me know by email at dshowalter@marionmethodist.org and I can plug you in! I look forward to hearing from you all!! Thanks in advance!

Dani Showalter  
Director of Children’s Discipleship