Freedom is important, We crave it, desire it and even work to extend it to others – knowing that someone – often us - must pay the price for freedom. Therefore, it makes no sense that when freedom has cost so much to "grant," a recipient of it would choose to enslave themselves.

One pillar of the Christian faith is "Christ has set us free." This sentence comes from the first portion of Galatians 5:1. The second is "... make sure that you stay free." Humanity is so important, so central to the heart and mind of God, that the Lord sent his Son to pay the price for our freedom from sin and to give us eternal life. Humanity is completely set free, and it seems foolish that anyone would choose to give up their freedom by placing the shackles of slavery on their own wrists and ankles. Yet, spiritually and emotionally many do.

Many of us have experienced deep grief, sinned ourselves into slavery, or are bound by some difficulty either imposed upon us or chosen by us. For these things, Christ has come to set us free. He has removed or are bound by some difficulty either imposed upon us or chosen by us. For these things, Christ has come to set us free. He has removed the shackles of slavery on their own wrists and ankles. Yet, spiritually and emotionally many do.

The secondary truth is that anyone reading this newsletter is a privileged person, and yet some of us have chosen slavery. If you have a home, car and enough clothes to wear a different outfit for 5 consecutive days, you are privileged, in fact you are in the top 5% of the wealthy in the world. You can say, "I'm not rich!" which is how you may feel, but factually against the 7+ billion humans in the world you are incorrect.

With the privilege we received, most likely just by being born here, we have ability to claim our freedom and use it for tremendous good in God's work, or we have the freedom to shackle ourselves. Many in our community have shackled themselves by either poorly managing or being undertrained in how to manage the privilege and resources we have been granted.

For that reason, Marion Methodist is throwing a great deal of time, effort, prayer and our human resources at sponsoring the FREEDOM campaign that launches in just a few weeks’ time. A compelling case has been made to me and the church leadership that one of the ways Christ's church can serve our middle-class community is by offering a pathway to freeing ourselves financially from the shackles we are experiencing.

You have been hearing about it all summer. Now is the time to claim your freedom. Please sign up for one of the classes and encourage a sibling, child, friend, neighbor to come with you.

Pastor Mike

For any information needing to be published in the Marion Methodist newsletter, please contact the church office.

(info@marionmethodist.org)
Opportunity for Singers

Marion Methodist Chancel Choir is a music ensemble of mixed voices who get to serve the Lord through singing!

Do you enjoy singing? Have you sung in the past and are interested in starting again? Check us out on Wednesday nights!

Chancel Choir rehearsals will kick-off for the fall on Wednesday, August 28, from 6:30-8:00 PM in Room 100.

We welcome anyone willing to make a joyful noise! No previous musical experience is necessary. We hope to see you on August 28!

Questions? Contact Gina Klein, Director, via e-mail at: gklein@marionmethodist.org

RTS missions are our partners and missionaries in Haiti. RTS stands for Reaching, Teaching, and Sending. Led by Greg and Maria Shepherd, their mission is to raise up a generation of children devoted to Christ with the hope and confidence needed to understand they can impact and change the nation they live in and beyond. They are making these changes through RTS academy schools, food box programs, water filters, missions teams, senior saints program and many more life changing opportunities. Please join us in continuing to pray for Greg, Maria, and the RTS missions staff.

On Saturday, September 21 we are hosting the National Day of Volunteer Youth Ministry Training. For more information go here: https://trainmyvolunteers.com/
Marion Methodist is Praying for:

Prayer is a powerful way of caring for each other in our Marion Methodist family. There are several avenues open to everyone – the prayer cards on Sunday morning and the prayer wall which is available 24/7, are two that are used most often. You can have a more active part in entering into prayer for each other. Check out the prayer wall frequently as prayers are submitted there often. Each time you visit, and pray for one of the requests found there, click the “I Prayed For This” tab; more prayers are always better.

Please be in prayer for all the teachers, administrators, support staff, children, and families as they head back to school. Pray for the safety of all concerned and that school will be a nurturing environment for all with lots of learning and fun.

Providing Spiritual Care

When you or someone you love is receiving medical care, your pastoral staff endeavors to provide the best in Christian love and spiritual care through personal visits and prayer support. The hospitals are endeavoring to protect your personal information, and for that reason, the intake process has changed significantly in the past few years. More times than not, we learn of a hospitalization when someone has already gone home, which diminishes the spiritual care that we truly desire to offer. In order to provide that high level of care we must have your assistance. When you have been admitted or if you are scheduled for surgery please do the following:

Upon registration make it very clear to the person taking your information that you are a member of Marion First United Methodist Church and would like to have your pastoral team notified.

When a hospital chaplain visits you, re-iterate that you are a member of this church and would appreciate a visit from your pastors or ask to speak to one of the hospital chaplains and explain to them that you would like to have your church notified.

Have a family member or trusted friend call the church office at 377-4856, or email the Director of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley, at vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

Marion Methodist feasts on Scripture

Beginning in August 2018 our leadership has encouraged us to memorize scripture. Each month a memory verse has been presented to us to learn. Recently, our leaders took four weeks to “review” what we have learned. One of those exercises had a scripture verse printed on a card and the beginning of the sentence “this verse is important to know because…” Nearly 500 of you returned cards – all of which had wonderful responses to the phrase.

The following are a few that are representative of your responses for Romans 8:28 

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Being on this widow journey has not been easy. I’ve turned to God for strength and this verse is reassuring. He has been and will be with me every step of the way. He will help guide me according to His purpose if I continue to listen to Him.

When we struggle, God is there. We may not like the situations in our lives, but God’s plan is bigger and better than ours.

To me this means that those that know and follow God, will be held up no matter what they face.

God loves all and will do good and turn bad into good. He has a purpose for all of us and calls each of us to that purpose. We need only to listen and follow that purpose.

When I was going thru cancer treatment, this verse assured me that God was with me, of His love for me, and that this experience would be used to help someone else.

Sometimes I wonder why unpleasant and frustrating things are happening in my life and why some of my prayers are not being answered. This verse reminds me that God will always work things out for good in my life.

It assures me that God is present in my life, and that he is actively working in every aspect of my life for my sanctification.

It gives me confidence to live this life and make decisions. I know no matter what happens God will make good from it.

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Watch JIVE at 10:15 AM

Go to our 🎥 YouTube channel or online at MarionMethodist.org/watchlive

TV Broadcast

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcast on Mediacom or ImOn Channel 4 at 7:00 PM on Monday evenings. There is a multiday delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
**Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...**

**DEATHS:**
- July 30: Ardyc Quimby, mother of Jay (Carolyn) Quimby

**BAPTISMS:**

**WEDDINGS:**
- August 10: McCall Meade & Jordan Atwater

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**The Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule**

Articles for our Marion Methodist need to be submitted by due date at 12:00 PM. You may email them to: wildman@marionmethodist.org with newsletter in the subject line. Please send any information or images as an attachment. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call or bring to the office items to be published. We ask that you honor the deadlines listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
<th>Date Articles Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
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**Pantry Partners for Marion Food Pantry**

We help folks in need by supplying items for the Marion Churches Food Pantry. You may bring the following items to church any time during each month. Please put your contributions in the Mission Depot in The Center or the Church Office.

- **August:** Peanut Butter
- **September:** Soup
- **October:** Toilet Tissue
- **November:** Cake Mix
- **December:** Pudding and Gelatin Mixes
- **January:** Macaroni & Cheese

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**FREEDOM**

Ask yourself the following questions, **Answer Yes or No.**

1. **Do you have enough life insurance? What about health, home, or auto insurance?**
2. **Is ALL your personal debt including student loans, credit cards, car loans etc. paid off?**
3. **How would you pay for an unexpected emergency?**
4. **Do you have money saved for children’s college education?**
5. **Do you have 3-6 months of expenses saved up in case you lost your job or could not work?**

If you answered NO to the majority of questions, you need to sign up for Freedom and get control of your money to learn financial biblical principles in a Financial Peace University class.

If you answered YES to the majority of questions, you need to sign up for Freedom and help mentor your class to apply financial biblical principles in a Financial Peace University class.

**Everyone needs FREEDOM!! Join for you, your family and your Church!!**