We "the unknown? movement of the " must be answered by each of us: Am I going to be a part of this great As we face the unknown that is 2018 at Marion Methodist a simple question We cannot go it alone. "Nope, I couldn't get the ball in bounds. " Likewise, the church is a powerful is a statement of mass – there is more than one of us and more than one of move we are on. There is not likely room in this column to hit everything so let me simultaneously address several aspects of the spiritual and physical of the move we are on. The church is always a "we." Christianity is a socialized faith and our "We" is a statement of mass – there is more than one of us and more than one of us is needed. Michael Jordan (one of the better basketball players of all time) was once asked if he could singlehandedly beat the worst team in the NBA. "Nope, I couldn't get the ball in bounds." Likewise, the church is a powerful and potent "we" when we work and strive together for the Kingdom of God. We cannot go it alone. As we face the unknown that is 2018 at Marion Methodist a simple question must be answered by each of us: Am I going to be a part of this great movement of the "we," or am I going to protest or detest this movement into the unknown? We "are." That little word that indicates our current state has an intention that links the first and the second together. The current state of the church is that it exists; we are. Marion Methodist is a living breathing organism that is part of the body of Christ. What we do with that life, is again up to us. We have chosen it to be: "we are on the move." Our choice and understanding of the church is that it does not exist to be stationary. The Christian Church was first addressed as the "Way" which indicates either we are moving or a direction in which we are to get moving. Our dear Lord Jesus doesn't call his disciples by saying "Hey boys, agree with me." No. His call is to movement, he says "Follow me" and they go. I write all of this to remind you of this – the church has always been on the move. It's the nature of the church and the church has no meaning without movement. Our movement is simply to follow our Leader, Jesus himself. When we hear him either through loud voices or nebulous nudging, telling us to make lunches for youth, throw all our effort into rebuilding Cedar Rapids after their historic flood, grow our knowledge of the scriptures, invite our friends to church or build a bustling Vacation Bible School, we will seek to do EXACTLY as we believe He is leading us to do. We never really know how things will turn out; we just know that we will do them together and for His sake we will never stop moving. On Christmas Eve I began our services with a declaration of perspective that many of you have asked I repeat. Instead, I will let it close my first Marion Methodist article of 2018: The legacy of the Methodists in Marion began in 1840 not far from where you are seated this evening. Though our steeple has stood above downtown Marion for over 100 years, we have worshipped in an old courthouse, three sanctuaries, both high schools, the theater and various other locations. In fact, the people known as Methodists in Marion have always been on the move. This specific place is a holy place for many of us, and, as you might know, this is our last Christmas in it. What a wonderful space this has been – every inch of it has special meaning – - - many of you have experienced life changing moments through God's Spirit in this building. Like many of you, for my family, this has always been holy space. We love it. Tonight, as the candles burn, the songs are sung, and the Word proclaimed, embrace the wonderful history, and praise God for the many souls that have been touched by the Holy Spirit here. And, tonight, as the candles burn, the songs are sung, the Word proclaimed, pray that God shall do the very same and more in the church currently being built to His glory on REC Dr. … Since we are on this move together, undoubtedly this much of our future I know will come true. Pastor Mike
Marion Methodist is Praying for:

Thank you so much for the outpouring of support at the handbell Christmas concert. It was truly amazing to see God’s house so full to worship His Son through music. We rang our hearts out and were blessed by the audience’s response. We hope you, too, were blessed by our ministry.

During the month of December, the handbell choirs take a short break and resume their rehearsals in January. We will be holding a Handbell Open House on Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 2:30 in the Chancel Choir Room, 2nd floor, just off the elevator, and wish to invite everyone interested in the handbells to join us. Come review the music for all levels of ringers, try some of the techniques, and explore the giant chimes. You’ll also get answers to all your questions, like, why do bell ringers wear gloves?

If you’re interested in joining a handbell group, now is the time to get further information. If you’re unable to commit to a choir, but are still interested, please stop by: You may find a new appreciation for this unique ministry. If you’re unable to come to the Open House, we can set up a time to meet that works for you.

Contact me, Mary Lee Parks, at mparks@marionmethodist.org or call (leave a message if I am not able to take your call) 319-310-8216.

Interested in Handbells?

Marion Methodist Small Groups

What is a small group?

A small group is a gathering of people who have the desire to grow spiritually while supporting others to do the same.

People connecting in small groups provide:

- Love
- Support
- Encouragement
- Spiritual Strength

When do the groups meet?

We have groups that meet at different days and times throughout the week. There are current groups in place that are looking for new members as well as new groups starting soon. Let us know what day and time works best for you.

How do I join a group?

Complete the registration form at www.MarionMethodist.org/small-groups. Let us know when you are available and what type of group you are seeking. We will find the right spot for you.

If you have any questions please contact Jen Digmann at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org or (319) 329-9635.

Meal Schedule:

- 1/17 - Taco Bell
- 1/24 - Zio Johnno’s

Powerhouse meets every Wednesday. From 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm we have a Family Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm we have activities for all ages.

Preschoolers: Kids may forget what you say - but they remember what they discover on their own. Get them “Hands On” with God’s Word. (Room 205)

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant in your everyday life! Discover Jesus in you. (Room 303/305)

4:12 Youth Group: Junior High Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Sanctuary). High School Worship 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Sanctuary).

Adult Classes: Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marionmethodist.org

Nursery: Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators

New Member Class – Sunday, January 28, 2018

Have you been attending Marion Methodist for a few months, or maybe a few years? And have you decided it’s time to become an official member of our church?

Then please join us for our next New Member Class on Sunday, January 28 at 12:15 pm. We’ll start with lunch in Room 106, then move to Room 104 for the class. We’ll finish the afternoon with the Membership Service in the Chapel at 3:15 pm.

If you’re interested in being part of this class or have questions, please contact Karen Schmitz at 377-4856 or kschmitz@marionmethodist.org.

Child care will be available upon request.

Mission Breakfast

January 28
7:30 - 11:00 AM Fellowship Hall

Proceeds to support the “Honey-Do” Project.

Fill Your Body • Fill Your Heart • Fill Your Head

Meal Schedule:

- 1/17 - Taco Bell
- 1/24 - Zio Johnno’s

Powerhouse meets every Wednesday. From 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm we have a Family Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm we have activities for all ages.

Preschoolers: Kids may forget what you say - but they remember what they discover on their own. Get them “Hands On” with God’s Word. (Room 205)

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant in your everyday life! Discover Jesus in you. (Room 303/305)

4:12 Youth Group: Junior High Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Sanctuary). High School Worship 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Sanctuary).

Adult Classes: Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marionmethodist.org

Nursery: Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators

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.

Prayers for a blessed new year and for the ministry and mission opportunities that God has in store for us in this church and community in 2018.
What's Next?

Chancel in the New Church Building

Our new Sanctuary will have a Chancel much larger than what we have in our current building. This presents us with the opportunity to set up and configure the Chancel area for our various ministries so that things do not need to be torn down and set back up, then left in place during the week. We will continue to have a cross, altar, baptismal font and pulpit on the Chancel. But we will now have a new grand piano on the Chancel. The new sound system along with the musical instruments for both the Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Praise Bands will also be set up. Additionally, a section of the Chancel will be dedicated to our Chancel choir where there will be risers. Another section of the Chancel will be dedicated to our handbell choirs. Plans are still in progress regarding the details of the tables that are needed to accommodate the large number of handbells and chimes. While items for Praise and Worship can remain in place during the week, these items can also be moved to allow special events, such as the Puppet performance, to utilize the Chancel. As plans are finalized for what items will be purchased and where things will be placed on the Chancel, we continue to focus on how we can use this new opportunity to praise and glorify our Lord.

Construction Update - Day 187

Winter is Here!

As you all know – Winter is Here! – along with very cold temperatures and a bit of snow. The weather has been wicked for working outside on our building project. All our progress has been inside the building which is being heated with huge gas fired blowers.

The floor of the building is flat – all on one level. The educational south end of the building has been prepared and the concrete has been poured. The rooms have been measured and marked, walls will be next.

The building will be heated with a forced air system. The duct work for this system will be visible in our large open areas and above a drop ceiling in the education rooms. Much of the duct work is on site and is being installed.

So even in the dead of winter – progress continues.

Clockwise from upper left
Preparations for the floor
Concrete being poured
Finished sanctuary stairs
Heating ducts ready to install

John Terry, Construction Coordinator

Marion Methodist!

YOU ARE THE BEST COOKIE MAKERS
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Due to the generosity of the members of Marion Methodist, we supplied Christmas Cookie treats to brighten many tables this year. We furnished cookies to the Marion Food Pantry (150 dz.), Marion Senior Living (30 dz.), Marion Cares Christmas Party (25 dz.), Mission of Hope (20 dz.), Willis Dady Shelter, and Higley Mansion (nursing home). They were tasty, decorative and Oh, so many!

Lois Novak, for the United Methodist Women of Marion Methodist

Do you receive the weekly 4:12 e-newsletter?
Sign up at www.MarionMethodist.org/learn/youth to keep up to date with activities related to youth at Marion Methodist.

Check-Ins

Sunday School Child Check-In located in Room 206

Hello my name is Newcomer

Don’t miss our next Newcomer Orientation where you can find out who we are, what we do, and how you can get connected!

January 21 at 9:45 AM and 11:00 AM in the Library & Hospitality Room

TV Broadcast

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcasted on Mediacom or ImOn Channel 4 at 7:00 PM on Monday evenings. There is a multiweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
### January 2018 Adult Discipleship Opportunities

#### A Firm Foundation – Room 103 – Sundays at 9:45AM
Led by Pam Fox – Beginning on January 7

What does the future hold for The United Methodist Church? It is the question being asked all around our denomination. What should be the response to the competing visions and notable division within contemporary Methodist in North America? Can we explore the issues confronting us in a post-Christendom era without rupturing our relationships?

This carefully curated volume engages the deep heart questions of United Methodists and casts a compelling vision by trustworthy authors. This class is placed at the Deepening and Centered area of the Discipleship Pathway.

#### Financial Peace University – Room 107 – Wednesdays at 6:30PM
Led by Ron Noble and Corey Miles – Beginning on January 10

We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. In this nine-week class, you’ll learn Dave Ramsey’s seven easy-to-follow Baby Steps to create a budget, get out of debt, and make a plan for your money!

Plus, your FPU membership includes 16 weeks of online access to view each lesson anytime! The Financial Peace University kit is $79 and includes everything you need for this course as well as materials that will keep you going for the year to come. This class is open to all and a wonderful destination for those traveling through the Engaging, Deepening, or Centered portion of the Discipleship Pathway.

#### Grace is Greater – Room 103 – Wednesday at 6:30PM
Led by Judy Schnittjer – Beginning on January 3

We’re saturated with a knowledge of grace. But when Jesus walked here on earth, He lived grace, sharing it through countless stories and real-life examples. In Grace is Greater, Kyle Idleman seeks to do the same—to shake us out of our comfort zone with grace and to again be amazed, shocked, and enthralled as we experience Jesus’ radical way of living and forgiving. By hearing stories of lives transformed, you’ll grasp God’s love in a fresh way and find new freedom and joy in your own life. This class is open to all and a wonderful destination for those traveling through the Engaging, Deepening, or Centered portion of the Discipleship Pathway.

#### Beyond Basic Bible – Room 104 – Wednesday at 6:30PM
Led by Chris Hauser – Beginning on January 3

Are you ready for the next step? This study is designed for those who have completed our Basic Bible and are ready for something more. The work of the Church is that of faithfully echoing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the saving grace of the whole world. Thirty Questions: A Short Catechism on the Christian Faith translates the historic faith of the Church into a basic training resource for both believers and those yet to believe. Here you will find the very core and essence of the Gospel set in the framework of short questions and thought provoking responses. This class is open to all and a wonderful destination for those traveling through the Engaging to Deepening portion of the Discipleship Pathway.

#### Disciple I Fast Track – Room 107 – Thursdays 6:30-7:45PM
Led by Mike Richmond and Judy Schnittjer – Begins January 4

Prepare yourself to be immersed into the Holy Bible. Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original, Disciple Bible Study, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement over time with the entire biblical text. This group meets for 12 weeks and will be focusing on the New Testament. Participants read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes. This class is placed at the Deepening and Centered area of the Discipleship Pathway.

#### Precept Upon Precept: Revelation Part 4 – Room 105
Led by Tina Southard – Begins January 11 & 12

Thursdays 5:30–7:30PM or Fridays 9:30–11:30AM

Revelation Part 4 - Interpreting Revelation in the Light of Biblical Prophecy

Explore the relationship of the book of Revelation to the Gospels—realize the prophecies and teachings they contain about the last days. Passages concerning biblical prophecy, especially from the Old Testament, are included in this final study of Revelation to complete your study of eschatology. This class is placed at the Deepening and Centered area of the Discipleship Pathway.

#### Basic Bible – Room 105 – Wednesday at 6:30PM
Led by Pastor Mike Morgan – Beginning on January 3

Designed for beginners to the Bible, who have likely never taken a Bible Study, this January we will start with Romans, move onto James, and THEN start over again next fall. You are invited to get on and stay on for the whole ride, join at any time and or move to a class at the next level at any time. This class is located at the Engaging area of the Discipleship Pathway.

#### 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 one of the grocery carts located in the Narthex or at the 8th Avenue glass doors, or in the Mission Depot in Fellowship Hall or the Church Office.

**January:** Macaroni and Cheese
**February:** Canned Fruit
**March:** Peanut Butter
**April:** Macaroni and Cheese
**May:** Toilet Tissue
**June:** Soup

Register for classes online at www.MarionMethodist.org or by emailing Jen Diggman at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org