Most of us are asking rudimentary questions regarding our faith and how we are to faithfully respond to the world in which we live. In these next few issues of the Marion Methodist, my intention is to use this space to respond to some of the more rudimentary questions we have about faith. The best place to start this is the baseline for Christian faith and living: Who Am I? Why do I matter?

The first page of the Holy Scriptures answers the question “Who am I?” in this way. Genesis 1:27 (NLT) “So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” According to the Word of God, who you are is a beautiful and distinct being made with an eternal personality, in the image of the Creator of all things. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. According to the Word of God, who you are is a beautiful and distinct being made with an eternal personality, in the image of the Creator of all things.

Roger Betsworth, my mentor while on the faculty at Simpson College, frequently reminded us less experienced instructors, “Remember, students learn at the end of THEIR questions not our lectures.” Day after day, leading classes, worship and discussions, this bore itself out to be true.

Dr. Betsworth’s wisdom comes through my mind frequently when preparing to lead Marion Methodist, whether it be in the creation of sermons or other aspects of our ministry. Here is what I know: most people who are part of Marion Methodist are not as enamored regarding whether we are Calvinist or Arminian theologically (the interested will look it up), as their pulpit leaders might be. Most people are not interested in which Creed is most “right”; the Apostles or the Nicene, or whether it is theologically appropriate to sing Christmas Carols during the season of Advent or must we wait until Christmas Eve.

There is a chorus we sing from time to time at Marion Methodist and at camp that clearly states the truth of who we are and why we matter. It goes like this:

I am who You say I am
Not against me
You are for me
I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am

We are what God says we are, and he says we are: his chosen, beloved, never abandoned creation, destined for an eternity with him. He has already decided this for us, and it’s all ours if we receive it.

Pastor Mike
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 our Stewardship and Finance committee and all the hard work they do to manage the expenses and income for our church. Keep the members of this group in your prayers as they prepare for the coming year.

Alex Mussman  Corey Miles
Paula Fields  Dan Morgan
Bill Stevens  Cassie Parcher
Jean Hammill  Kim Poston
Regan Huckfelt  Matt Friday
Jan Dickinson, church treasurer

Christmas at Marion Methodist

We know your family is already planning for the holidays. Make a Christmas Eve service part of your holiday plan. This year we will be worshiping God four times on Christmas Eve.

2:00 PM service of Carols, Candlelight and Communion
4:00 and 6:00 PM service of Carols and Candlelight
8:00 PM service of Carols and Candlelight with the 4:12 band

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Methodist Men (and a few other helpers) for cleaning the historic church top to bottom last week. All 42,000 square feet are “realtor” ready! That’s good because we have a couple of groups showing some interest (no offer or a check yet) and asking critical questions. A clean building really helps. Thank you!

Decorations Committee Requests Donations

We have a beautiful new church with a lot of space to decorate and the new decorating committee is ready to start with the Fall season and the upcoming holidays. We will periodically be asking for donations that will help with the decorations.

For our Fall decorating, we are looking for donations of the following items:

- Gourds – various sizes and colors
- Pumpkins – various sizes
- Hay bales – full size – Need 5
- Cornstalks – need a lot
- Pampas grass – need a lot

If you have any of these items and would like to donate them, please bring them to church on Sunday, October 28th.

Please direct any questions to:
Echo Wecker
echo.wecker@gmail.com
501-620-0480

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News regarding 1277 8th Avenue Church Building

On Sunday, October 14th Pastor Mike Morgan made an announcement regarding our downtown facilities. Here is exactly what the pastor said:

“I have the privilege of making an announcement on behalf of the Board of Trustees this morning. Earlier this week we received an offer to purchase our downtown property – that is the Church building, not the Carnegie Center. All 9 Trustees, the Church Council Chair, Pastor and Church Business Administrator agreed that we should accept the offer and, on your behalf, we have signed the offer sheet. Now what?

The buyer now has several months to perform due diligence with the city of Marion, inspectors and their financial institution. Once the building no longer belongs to us, the buyer of course can do as they wish, however, we are excited about this offer because their intention is to remodel not tear down the building. This is truly all the information we have at this time and we will tell you more when it is prudent to do so.”

Schedule:

9:00 AM: 8K Run (chip timing ONLY with 8K Run); 5K Family Fun Run/Walk
10:00 AM: Awards presentation – Marion High School, 675 S 15th Street, Marion

Location:

Marion High School, 675 S 15th Street, Marion
Start: Marion High School, 675 S 15th Street, Marion
Finish: Marion High School, 675 S 15th Street, Marion

Packet Pick-Up:
Friday, November 9th at 4:00 – 7:00 PM
Marion High School
675 S 15th Street, Marion, IA
OR
Saturday, November 10th at 7:45 – 9:00 AM
Marion High School
675 S 15th Street, Marion, IA

For more information and to register for the race: www.trottt.com
Volunteers signup: turkeytrot.horizons.volunteerhub.com
**Haitian Meal**

Sunday
October 21
11:30 AM
The Center

Experience an authentic Haitian meal like the one school children would receive as their 1 meal a day.

Free will offering will be taken to benefit the November Haiti Mission Team

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**Meal Schedule:**

10/24 - Kettle House Bakery
10/31 - Firehouse Subs

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**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 E30)

**Kindergarten - 5th Grade:** Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant in your everyday life! Discover Jesus in you. (Room E10 & E60)

**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

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**GriefShare**

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Are you dreading the holidays because the loss of a loved one is making it hard to look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas? If so, make plans to attend an encouraging seminar that will help you get through the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them again.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend:

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays
Sunday November 11
2:00 to 4:00 pm
5050 REC Drive, Room W10

To register for this session please call the church office, 377-4856, or email Vicki at vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

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**Like to Play the Card Game Called 500 or Want to Learn?**

The church’s fellowship group that plays the card game called 500 welcomes new players anytime. Individuals and couples can be regulars, substitutes, or “sometimes” players. Rusty or want to learn? They teach. And laugh. And share finger-food snacks and good fellowship. It’s a fun way to meet new “church people.”

The group plays the second Saturday afternoon, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, of each month, year round. Always at Lower Level of Carnegie Building

If anxious to play or simply want more information, call Karen Alderson 393-5829. Because 500 is a game for four players, it helps to know in advance who is coming so tables of four can be planned. But the group is flexible: sometimes tables may have three or five. Everyone who shows up gets to play.

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**New to Marion Methodist?**

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

**October 21 at 9:15 AM**

Administrative Office at the Church

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**New Member Class** – Sunday, October 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, October 28 at 11:30 am. We’ll start with lunch in Room W10. We’ll finish the afternoon with the Membership Service at 2:45pm.

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.

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**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 multaweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
The Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule

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 the office items to be published. We ask that you honor the deadlines listed below:

Date Arrived in Mail  Date Articles Due
11/2  10/22
11/16  11/7
11/30  11/21
12/14  12/5

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.

October: Toilet Tissue
November: Cake Mix
December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes
January: Macaroni & Cheese
February: Canned Fruit
March: Peanut Butter

Wesleyans.org/unashamed
Because this is a GLOBAL event being held in many locations, registration is open to all. The Wesleyan Covenant Association invites you to stand unashamed for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Some of the “lines” we will pray in this consecration are:

Bishop Haller to Consecrate Marion Methodist

When a congregation moves into a new site, it is part of our Christian tradition to consecrate the building. There are many places in scripture when our forefathers and mothers of the faith took time to worship and praise God for what the Lord had allowed them to accomplish. A service of consecration asks God to bless and sanctify a building for purposes in accordance to God’s will.

Our simulcast site will be the church at 5050 REC Dr with registration near Atlanta. In the midst of great uncertainty in these days leading to the special called General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Wesleyan Covenant Association invites you to stand unashamed for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Marion Methodist Selected!

Marion Methodist has been selected as one of the seven simulcast sites across Iowa for UNASHAMED, The 2018 Global Gathering of the Wesleyan Covenant Association. This is a significant opportunity and you are invited to join with others from eastern Iowa that will be coming to the church on Saturday, November 3rd to participate in this faith enriching event.

UNASHAMED will be broadcast from Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church near Atlanta. In the midst of great uncertainty in these days leading to the special called General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Wesleyan Covenant Association invites you to stand unashamed for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Our simulcast site will be the church at 5050 REC Dr. with registration opening at 8 AM and the event running from 9AM-3PM with a catered lunch. Speakers will be clergy and laity including Bishop Scott Jones, Bishop Mike Lowery, Rev. Dr. David Watson, Rev. Dr. Joy Moore, Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory, Rev. Madeline Carasco-Henners, Dr. Carlos Alarcon and worship will be led by Mark Swazy.

Because this is a GLOBAL event being held in many locations, registration is through the global office of the Wesleyan Covenant Association. Please go to: Wesleyancovenant.org/unashamed to register.

Save us from that failure of vision which would confine our worship within these walls, but send us out from here to be your servants in the world, sharing the blessings of Christ with the world he came to redeem.

and many more. United Methodist Congregations are led by a Bishop who oversees many congregations and our Bishop Laurie Haller will come to Marion Methodist, Sunday, November 18th to celebrate this service with us. Please make special effort to attend.