Christmas is the biggest happening in human history. People that had been promised presence. At Christmas we declare "It's happening" "He's doing it now!" in the eyes of humanities, it is happening. Christmas is the realized joy of God's presence. (Matthew 1:21b -23) Just like that, right in front of the entire world, Jesus is born, and he is called Immanuel. The angels sing to the shepherds in the fields "He's doing it now!" The star beckons to the wise "He is doing it now!" The angel tells Joseph, He is going to do it. "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20b-21a)

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Christmas is the biggest happening in human history. People that had been cut off from God for hundreds of years can now be in his presence. The voice of God mute for four centuries now begins to speak so that men and women, boys and girls can hear it. The unseen God, the seeing of which would cause certain death now, allows himself to be seen. He's doing it – it's happening now in the person of Jesus the Christ – God is with us in three dimensions to give us a clear view of who God is and what he is like. It happens just like the prophets said it would. The impossible becomes possible – the virgin becomes pregnant.

It happens just like the prophets said it would. The blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the mute find their voice.

It happens just like the prophets said it would. The supernatural happens. Water is walked on, turned into wine, used to wash sins away. Bread is multiplied for the thousands and broken for every single one.

It happens just like the prophets said it would. Death could not kill him and a grave could not hold him, he is loose and in the world today.

It happens just like the prophets said it would. It is happening now, the promise of God's joy embodied in Immanuel. And….just as HE promised, he will never leave us, he is with us forever. At Christmas, that's what's happening – it's happening now. Praise the Lord!

Merry Christmas
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.

Pray in these days ahead for all the extra opportunities we have in this church to celebrate the coming of Jesus – the Bell Choir concert, the children’s Christmas program, and the Chancel Choir cantata. Pray that these times may be used to invite others to attend these events, to share the Christmas message, and welcome them to Marion Methodist. Pray for all those who are members of these groups, who have been working hard to prepare for each offering to the church and community.

Handbell Ministry Thank You
I, along with the chimmers and ringers of Marion Methodist, thank you, Marion Methodist, for your continued support of this ministry. Thank you to all, and there were many of you, who attended our Christmas concert, Go Tell It on the Mountain, and allowed us to share our love for the Lord through music. You are a true blessing to this ministry.

A big thank you to the parents of the youth who chime or ring in our music ministry, who get their youth to and from rehearsals! We couldn’t do it without you!

And a special thank you to all our chimmers and ringers who give from 45 minutes to 90 minutes (or more) of their time every week – to come together and worship through music. We thank God for the love of music He has placed on our hearts and for the opportunity to love Him back with the music we ring to His glory! Thank you and God’s blessings to all who ring and all who hear!

Mary Lee Parks, Handbell Director

Thank you!
Words cannot express how much I appreciate all the food we received as well as the cards, phone calls and inquiries about my progress during my recent health issues. Knowing so many of you were thinking of me and praying for me, was a great comfort. Thanks to Pastor Mike for his phone calls and to Vicki for the hospital visits. Thank you! Thank you! and may God continue to bless all of you!

Eloise Larson

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New Furniture For Education Rooms
A set of furniture that will be used in the new education rooms has arrived. This particular design was selected as it gives us the most versatility throughout the age ranges of children and adults that will be sharing the education rooms in our new church. We will be using this furniture in the adult education rooms throughout the month of December and rotating to different classrooms, starting in room 105. Starting in January this set will be moved up to room 303/305 so the children’s ministry can tryout the furniture through their different grade levels. Please stop by to check it out.

Construction Update - Day 159
Getting Ready for Winter
The Fall and early Winter weather has been wonderful for the construction of our new facility. But as we all know, Winter will come, along with brutal cold temperatures and snow. As Winter will slow the outside construction, we plan to continue inside, so we need to get the building “winterized”.

The final precast panels are being placed at the East and West entrances. Temporary windows are being installed. The roof is nearing completion and temporary heaters will be on-site. Temporary lighting and electricity has been installed. These activities have been in our plan from the beginning to allow work to continue through the cold winter months.

Our progress is on schedule and with the building winterized, we plan to stay on schedule.

John Terry, Construction Coordinator

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Eloise Larson
The roof is in the process of being installed on the new church building. The roof structure is made from steel girders and joists covered with a ribbed steel deck. On top of the deck is a Firestone approved foam core insulation product. On the portions of the roof that appear to be flat, this foam core insulation layer will be slightly tapered to allow water to run off. The next layer on top of the foam core insulation is a high density cover board insulation. This is a strong durable material designed to protect the roof system. The total thickness of these two layers of insulation is 5”. These two layers are fastened down to the roof using small (approximately 4” diameter) plates with screw fasteners extending through the plates, both layers of insulation, and into the metal deck. The final layer on top of all this is a Firestone membrane. This membrane is fused to the circular plates by a process called induction welding. This is a good quality roof system, having the highest available fire rating, high insulation properties, and the ability to resist the weather, keeping our building warm and dry.

Inside the building, some people have wondered what’s going to be “above their heads,” and will the spaces be noisy. Looking at the ceiling in the narthex and sanctuary, we will see exposed girders, joists, and the metal deck. These will be painted a dark gray/black, making the ceiling nearly unnoticeable. Several things are being done to help attenuate the sound in these spaces. The curved wall with inset doorways between the sanctuary and the narthex helps to break up and muffle sound transmission in both areas. In the sanctuary, there will be acoustical treatments on the walls and ceiling. There will also be carpet and upholstered chairs, all of which will help absorb sound. The narthex will have the curved sanctuary wall on one side, acoustical treatments on the walls, and soft seating areas to help absorb sound. The kitchen and education areas will have a drop ceiling with acoustical ceiling panels to help control sound.

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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!

**December 17 at 9:45 AM and 11:00 AM in the Library & Hospitality Room**

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**Meal Schedule:**

12/20 - Dairy Queen
12/27 - No Powerhouse

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**Gift Card Giving Tree**

As part of our Advent tradition, a tree has been placed in the hallway by the Chapel with tags on it for Kum & Go, Fareway and WalMart gift cards. As you are doing your shopping in the next month, please consider purchasing a gift card, for any amount you choose, from these businesses. These cards are used throughout the year to assist many people in our church and community who are in need of help. The cards can be used to purchase food, clothing items, household items, or gas to get to work, look for work and go to appointments.

The cards can be turned in at the church office or placed in the offering plate. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by those who are struggling to make ends meet.

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**Candy for the TRANSFORM Campaign**

Connie Leahy is making candy to help the TRANSFORM Campaign! Plan ahead for your holiday get-togethers. Peanut Brittle is $8.50, Coconut Peanut Brittle is $9.00, and Cashew Brittle is $10.00. Each bag of candy is approximately 16 ounces. $5.00 from each item sold will be donated to the TRANSFORM Campaign. If you would like to purchase some, please contact Connie Leahy at (319) 215-5906, or by email at conniekenl@hotmail.com. Orders need to be place by December 18, 2017.

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**Church Office will be closed**

Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26

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**Sarah Circle**

will not meet on Wednesday, January 3, 2018

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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 multiweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
**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: jwildman@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>12/29</td>
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**BAPTISMS:**
November 26: Colin Arthur Vargas, son of Arthur and Jennifer Vargas

**DEATHS:**
November 27: Patricia Dunkel, mother of Mindy (Matt) Thornton and grandmother of Jensen and Jemma Thornton

**WEDDINGS:**

**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.

**December:**
- Pudding and Gelatin Mixes
- Macaroni and Cheese

**February:**
- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Macaroni and Cheese
- May: Toilet Tissue

**CHANCEL CHORUS CHRISTMAS CANTATA**
**November 17,** 2017 (8:30 and 11:00am services)

The Chancel Choir will be presenting their Christmas cantata on December 17 at the 8:30 and 11:00 am services at Marion Methodist. “I Have Seen the Light” starts with a monologue by a stressed TV producer as he tries to put together a television special on the birth of the baby Jesus. His intro will be followed by the Christmas story being told with scripture and music (including guest musicians), as well as narrations by people who could have been present for these important events so long ago.

Please plan to join the Chancel Choir for this uplifting musical presentation for the Christmas season. We hope you will enjoy the music as well as examine whether you, like the innkeeper, have room for the Christ Child!