The importance of fellowship time in our lives is part of the reason that the people of God are commanded to “consider one another to stir up love and good works…” Every week, on Sunday, Christians gather together both to hear the Word of God taught, and to strengthen each other through fellowship. Our conversations with our spiritual brothers and sisters and the encouragement we share is beneficial to us, can help others and is pleasing to God.

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Thus, “Fellowship Time” means a lot more than just hanging out with others and having a cup of coffee. This is one of the driving forces behind the plan of the building we are currently building. Church/preacher nerds like myself coined a term some time ago regarding what we are planning. It’s known as the “one service smash.” A little weird but here's the explanation.

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One of the online dictionaries defines fellowship as a “community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience.” The church of Jesus is to be that around his mission and ministry. God designed His Church to be a fellowship—not just a community, but a family of brothers and sisters who share God’s ideals and beliefs. Our Church brothers and sisters can help us improve ourselves—for “as iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend.”

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Churches like ours that are considered “large” in our denomination need to find occasions for people to be together, to actually see, support, encourage and love on one other a little bit. Part of that we can accomplish by having a large sanctuary with a small number of services, part of it we can do by the DNA of the congregation and part of it needs to be accomplished by the building.

The “one service smash” is a dedicated time each week when the people of God know that the main programming of the church is simply to be together in the same place for relationship building, friendship and encouragement. This “one service smash” concept is part of the deliberate planning of a gathering space in our new building that is more than 2 ½ times larger than our current fellowship hall. It is built to praise God by sitting with, talking with, simply being with each other in the Lord's house.

I know the Methodists, you probably give a lot of thought to the kind of coffee, donuts, snacks, whatever – but be reminded of this – “there is food at the fellowship, but the fellowship IS NOT the food!” Of course, we have a team planning snacks, a coffee bar and a bunch of other things, but when you walk into 5050 REC Dr. and see this room, your pastor hopes that you see the opportunity to give and receive Christ’s love, to build friendships and bless those who that day have joined you at Marion Methodist.

I am looking forward to the “smash.”

Pastor Mike

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Each week on Tuesday, the church sends out an email detailing the events taking place in the next seven days, and devoting some space to explain a little more about one of the multitude of ministries and missions in which we participate. To sign up to receive this email each week, please contact the church office at (319) 377-4856 or by email at info@marionmethodist.org.

Upcoming Sermons
February 25 - Move into what you don’t know when you are called - Matthew 14:22 - 36

Marion First United Methodist Church
Corner of 12th Street & 8th Avenue
Sunday Morning Worship
7:45 AM
Early Worship - Chapel
8:30 AM
Spirited Traditional - Sanctuary
9:45 AM
Contemporary Praise - Sanctuary
Church School for children and adults
11:00 AM
Contemporary Praise - Sanctuary
Kids View - Room 350
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 for a repentant heart and to draw closer to God during this season of Lent.

Meal Schedule:

2/28 - Firehouse Subs
3/7 - Dairy Queen

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 203)

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

Music for a Mission

McKenna Flood is having a Music for a Mission Concert on March 3 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Marion Methodist Sanctuary. The purpose of this concert is to help McKenna go on a 9 month mission trip to spread the good news of the gospel. This concert will have many local talents including our own Ben DeReus and Cassie Parcher. If you can make it to the concert, the doors will open at 7:00 pm and the cost per ticket will be $10 dollars at the door. If you would like to support, but cannot come to the concert you can donate online at mckennaflood.theworldrace.org. Thank you for your support as a church family and come out to hear some great music on March 3rd!

Building Committee Informational Meeting
Sunday, March 4
Chapel
9:45 am and
11:00 am

Come find out about progress at the new facility.
I was watching a cooking show the other day and the cooking expert said that for a gadget or tool to make it into the space of his kitchen, it usually had to be useful for more than one thing. Sort of like our new facility; the over-riding theme for our new facility is having flexible spaces. Very little space will be dedicated to any one purpose, or label, though the whole building serves one great purpose.

The use of chairs instead of pews will allow flexibility in the worship space. Three of us formed a subcommittee to the building committee to focus on the sanctuary furniture, and much of this time was spent on chairs. We researched, contacted several companies, asked for samples, and realized early on that 2 of the companies had exactly the same product. The congregation, through voting, selected the most popular chair, which then led us to the company.

We talked a lot about the design; we wanted a closed back, no gap for a pencil to fall through. After a few mentioned that this is where dust and crumbs will collect, I noticed the dust in my office chair that does have a closed back. We ordered a sample chair with a plastic note card holder and eliminated that option immediately as it was very small and looked like it could crack/break easily, and opted for a fabric pocket. We debated about the need for book racks on the bottom and after much discussion, settled on half of the chairs to have a book rack and fabric pocket.

We visited another church and looked at the same brand of chairs that had been used for about 7 years. They still look great. The church gave the chairs a good reference.

The architect’s design services helped us with fabric selections.

We received a CAD drawing on how many chairs would easily fit in the sanctuary. We eliminated a couple of rows and came up with a number. We reached the lowest price threshold with the vendor, so that should we want to order additional chairs in the future, our price then would also be at the greatest discount they offer. And we have made a down-payment on the chairs. When we say "go" they will build the chairs and deliver them.

One of the great advantages of our new building is – it will be NEW! All of it – every piece! We will have the best and latest version of heaters, air conditioners, water heaters, boilers, plumbing and drains. This is exciting from a maintenance viewpoint and will dramatically impact the time it takes to monitor and maintain our new building.

P.S. Our building is now locked and secured. This is another important milestone as it provides peace of mind as we continue to add more and more finished detail to the building.

John Terry, Construction Coordinator
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 info@marionmethodist.org with “newsletter” in the subject line. Please send any information or images as an attachment.
- 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.

**February / March**

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<tr>
<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
<th>Date Articles Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
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**Saturday, March 3rd from 10AM – 3PM at the Altoona United Methodist Church**

The Iowa chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (of which Pastor Mike is the President) is holding an inspirational event entitled “A FIRM FOUNDATION.”

United Methodists over the years have both embraced and struggled with what being “united” means. In the most recent times, various groups have been birthed in hopes of helping individuals and churches discern faithful ways to express the Christian faith. The Wesleyan Covenant Association has emerged as the voice of United Methodists seeking to embrace and proclaim the historic orthodox Christian faith in these most difficult times.

Rev. Dr. Keith Boyette, President of the Global Wesleyan Covenant Association and former member of the United Methodist Judicial Council (church version of the supreme court), and Rev. Walter Fenton, Development Director of the WCA, will be the keynote speakers.

Powerful worship led by Marion Methodist’s Simon Campbell and a team of others will call upon God’s Holy Spirit to enter the church and our individual hearts. There is no cost to the event and a free will offering will be taken for the cost of lunch. ALL IOWA UNITED METHODISTS are invited to give that day to the church and attend.