Welcoming and affirming all persons has not in the order of the church translated directly to agreeing with every inclination and behavior. This also we believe to be the way of Jesus.

Jesus consistently throughout the scripture welcomed everyone and invited them into his ministry and frequently he disagreed with their inclinations and behavior. Jesus disagreed with the Rich Man hoarding his wealth, the Disciples for not receiving Mary Magdalene's gift as valuable, the woman at the well misusing her sexuality, and others. This has been a hard principle in our generation to understand – acceptance of a person for who they are. How they act and believe does not need to mean agreement with their lifestyle.

This in its simplest terms is where we are at in the United Methodist Church. Kind hearted and smart people see the proclamation of scripture regarding human sexuality in nearly opposite terms. On the one hand, many feel that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons are and should be welcomed into the church of Jesus while understanding that Scripture informs us that expressions of sexuality outside of heterosexual marriage are not to be affirmed. On the other hand, many feel that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons are and should be welcomed into the church of Jesus understanding that God in the Scripture affirms expressions of sexuality that are broader than heterosexual marriage.

Unfortunately, like the world around us, the positions have polarized many within the church. That is a sad commentary and while I and many others had hoped we would be ‘better than this’ the reality is, the drift apart – especially among the clergy has grown. All the energy and money United Methodists have spent discussing and debating human sexuality, while important, has weakened our witness for Christ in the world. We need to make steps forward. The Special General Conference was called for that purpose.

In February, the 864 delegates of the General Conference, representing four continents (North America, Africa, Europe, Asia) will gather in St. Louis to decide on next steps for the church. Three plans have been presented (see the last issue of the Marion Methodist at www.marionmethodist.org or pick one up in the church office or office to read them) for amendments and ultimately a vote. The results are yet to be seen, and we do know that United Methodism will be different after General Conference than it is today.

So, as your pastor I ask four things:

Please pray for the delegates to vote as they believe God informs them.

Pray for me as an alternate delegate (required and grateful to be present at this historic meeting) that God will bless me with the discernment I will need there and to guide Marion Methodist after General Conference.

Please pray that whatever outcome any vote has, that United Methodism and Marion Methodist continues to welcome and reach out in Christian ministry to every person in our sphere of influence.

Pray that Marion Methodist witness for Jesus Christ in our community grows exponentially in the years to come.

God bless you,
Pastor Mike
Bishops Send Pastoral Letter to the Church

January 24, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ in the North Central Jurisdiction,

We, the bishops of the North Central Jurisdiction, greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit. Together we all stand on the edge of the special called session of General Conference in St. Louis in February. We are grateful that you have been praying with us in the months and days leading up to this significant gathering of the people called United Methodist, and we remain grateful for your continuing prayers.

During the past months, we each have written and shared about this General Conference and the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. We have traveled throughout our areas teaching and listening, responding to your questions, sharing information and perspectives, and standing with you in this time of uncertainty.

As we approach this General Conference we invite you to trust that God’s Spirit will be at work. The God of Jesus Christ is a God at work “making all things new” (Revelation 21:5), and often in surprising ways. “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit” (John 3:8). Pray that fresh winds of God’s Spirit will be at work and trust that God will answer this prayer.

Know that whatever decisions the General Conference makes, the ministry to which we are called in our churches, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, will continue. The day after General Conference there will still be hungry people needing food, those mired in poverty needing help, addicted people needing freedom, frayed relationships needing mending, broken lives needing healing, lost lives needing saving, injustices needing to be righted, and this work of God in Jesus Christ will still call to each of us and to our churches. If the decisions of General Conference lead to changing structures for engaging this ministry we commit ourselves to work with you to make grace-filled responses.

Finally, know that the entire Council of Bishops takes seriously the demands of presiding at General Conference. Bishops have undergone additional preparation so that we are better equipped to preside with the grace and acumen needed to help the General Conference do its work well.

As we approach General Conference we find ourselves in Epiphany, a season rooted in the story of magi who follow a star to find Jesus and when they do “they were overwhelmed with joy” (Matthew 2:10). May we each continue to see the light that draws us closer to Jesus and fills us with joy, so that we might share this joy with the world.

Grace and Peace,
Bishop David Alan Bard
President of the North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishop, on behalf of the College

SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

Registration is open

Summer Games University is a Christian Summer Camp for students who have completed 6-12 grades. This one-week camp is an experiential, relationship-focused camp where students will have the opportunity to learn more about who Jesus is and build relationships with other Christian students.

July 8-12, 2019 at Grinnell College
Register at www.sgu.camp

TV Broadcast

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcasted on Mediacom or InsOn Channel 4 at 7:00 PM on Monday evenings. There is a multweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.

Donations Needed

GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES NEED HATS, EAR MUFFS AND MITTENS!!! Many General Conference Delegates coming from Africa, the Philippines and other warm weather places do not have mittens, hats or ear muffs appropriate to St. Louis in February. Please bring any you have to the Mission Depot no later than February 17. Thank you.
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 of those in our community this time of year who struggle to find a warm place to stay, and a hot meal. Pray that they find the help they need to be safe.

Meal Schedule:

2/13 - Tomaso’s Pizza
2/20 - Kettle House Bakery

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 - 9:00 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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Nursery: Offered in the Nursery

Thank You!

Dear Marion Methodist,

Thank you for your generous support in Giving Cycle 2017-2018!

We had an amazing year! Our overall number of donors increased by 54% this year. We also saw a jump in our volunteer hours to 1,129 total documented hours (462 of those hours were mentoring children). On top of that, over 700 lbs of food, 378 backpacks full of supplies, 1,174 Christmas gifts, and hundreds of winter clothing items and hygiene items were distributed in 2018 alone!

In 2019, we are seeking new ways to resource families facing hard times or are in crisis. Our ambition for this year is big but we know that God's plan is BIGGER! We need you this year to help us be positioned to hear that call and to respond with bold action. Your prayers, time, and gifts are so appreciated and necessary to our mission to share Christ's love with the families of our community!

Yours in Christ,
Laura Campbell
Executive Director
Marion Cares

GriefShare - Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

GriefShare is a video-based seminar/support group for anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one. Whether it's been months or years since your loved one's death, meeting with others who have walked the same path will bring healing to your journey.

Beginning February 20, GriefShare will be offered on Wednesdays, from 6:15-7:30 pm. We will meet in Room W30 in the church at 5050 REC Drive. Please register by calling the church office at 377-4856 or email vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

The Sweetheart Supper will be held at the Marion Legion starting at 6:30 on February 14. The fare will be: salad, choice of pork chop or chicken and ham, twice baked potato and a vegetable. Dessert will be Texas Sheet Cake and there will be various beverages. This year entertainment will be provided by Cal Birkey’s Barbershop Quartet who will be singing a few Valentine's day songs and some Barbershop Gospel. The price is $18.00 per ticket. All are invited. If you don't have a sweetheart, come anyway and enjoy the food, fellowship and entertainment. Tickets are for sale in The Center on Sunday.

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. We also saw a jump in our volunteer hours to 1,129 total documented hours (462 of those hours were mentoring children). On top of that, over 700 lbs of food, 378 backpacks full of supplies, 1,174 Christmas gifts, and hundreds of winter clothing items and hygiene items were distributed in 2018 alone!

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Yours in Christ,
Laura Campbell
Executive Director
Marion Cares
BAPTISMS:


DEATHS:

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love... Concern & Christian Love... Our Congregation Shares Its... needed.

VBS planning has already begun! We are looking for a Decorating Director for VBS 2019! Please contact Dani Showalter for details dshowalter@marionmethodist.org

Diane Beach has been involved with the Marion Methodist music ministry for over a decade! Her part-time job is full of variety as she plays hymns and accompanies the adult Chancel Choir for the 8:15 service and also plays a keyboard instrument for the 10:15 service.

Diane says she is never bored. She plays any instrument with keys and on our chancel we have a beautiful rebuilt 7ft. Steinway piano, a Yamaha Montage synthesizer, and a one manual Dexibel organ with a set of Nord pedals! Diane also accompanies soloists, various musical ensembles, bell selections, Sunday School children, and plays for whomever and wherever she is needed.

You will find Diane on Wednesday evenings, rehearsing with the choir, Sundays rehearsing at 7:40 then playing at the 8:15 service, rehearsing at 9:15 with the Praise Team, and playing at the 10:15 service.

Diane and her husband Al have 3 cats and 2 dogs which, as you would imagine, keep them quite busy. Diane is an avid gardener and can be found outside in her backyard tending to her flower and vegetable plants spring, summer, and fall. Diane is a woman of many talents and we are blessed to have her on staff at Marion Methodist.

Happy Retirement, Peggy! On Sunday, January 27, we celebrated the retirement of Peggy Rosenkranz as Marion Methodist’s Choir Director during SMASH Time. Thank you Peggy for your time at Marion Methodist.

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love... 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.


Meet the Staff

Diane Beach, Organist

The Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule

Date Arrived in Mail Date Articles Due
2/22 2/13
3/8 2/27
3/22 3/13
4/5 2/27

Pantry Partners for Marion Food Pantry

February:

10:00am-11:00am: 6th Grade Sunday School (W20)
11:30am-12:00pm: Boy Scouts (Lower Level Carnegie)
5:30pm-7:00pm: Touch God Says Wait Bible Study (W10)
7:00pm-9:00pm: Boy Scouts (Lower Level Carnegie)
9:30am-10:00am: Linn Mar FCA Meeting (The Center)

March:

6:30pm-8:00pm: Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study (Lower Level Carnegie)
6:30pm-7:30pm: 4:12 (Sanctuary)
9:00am-9:30am: TMC (Lower Level Carnegie)
10:30am-12:00pm: Bible Study (Lower Level Carnegie)
11:30am-12:00pm: Girls’ Council (Lower Level Carnegie)
5:30pm-7:00pm: 4:12 (Sanctuary)
6:30pm-8:00pm: Disciple Class (W10)
9:00pm-10:00pm: Linn Mar FCA Meeting (The Center)

April:

6:00pm-7:00pm: Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study (Lower Level Carnegie)
9:00am-9:30am: TMC (Lower Level Carnegie)
10:30am-12:00pm: Bible Study (Lower Level Carnegie)
11:30am-12:00pm: Girls’ Council (Lower Level Carnegie)
5:30pm-7:00pm: 4:12 (Sanctuary)
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9:00pm-10:00pm: Linn Mar FCA Meeting (The Center)

May:

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11:30am-12:00pm: Girls’ Council (Lower Level Carnegie)
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9:00pm-10:00pm: Linn Mar FCA Meeting (The Center)

June:

6:00pm-7:00pm: Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study (Lower Level Carnegie)
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10:30am-12:00pm: Bible Study (Lower Level Carnegie)
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July:

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August:

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