Every Ash Wednesday from the pulpit I encourage members and friends to observe a Lenten Discipline. This is a long-standing tradition in the church. As part of our spiritual preparation for Easter, we subtract something from our lives that is damaging or give something up that we enjoy as a way to vicariously embrace the suffering of Jesus as we crave, want and desire that which we have pledged to not have or do. Others “add” something; a daily deed to help another, a Bible reading or prayer plan and other things of that nature.

These things are great to add to our spiritual life because the holy season of Lent is passed on from generation to generation as something far more important than a kick-starter to our newest exercise regimen or diet plan. During the issues of the Marion Methodist you will receive during Lent 2019 allow me to influence your holy season by suggesting “Three Things Lent Can Mean.”

- Lent can be about living the Gospel every day.
- Lent can be a time when we redefine what sacrifice means.
- Lent should be a time for spiritual “spring cleaning.”

Lent can be living the Gospel every day. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John often are described as the good news. This good news is seen and defined as the life, teachings, passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. To get at the heart of its message, we must examine how Jesus lived.

To examine something, one must really look at it – see what is good about it, what difficulties it might raise up and how it might benefit you. For instance, to examine a Bible reading or prayer plan and other things of that nature. We should. He chose suffering and punishment over calling the very armies of heaven to defeat his foes. He chose living with flawed people and encouraging them towards knowing the flawless God over living the difficulty free life. He chose to come to earth – be tempted, tried, convicted and killed so that when we face similar events (or feelings) we will have an example of strength, kindness and faithfulness.

If our Lent is about living the Gospel every day, it should initiate our awareness of those who need the most attention. We, of course, have an eye towards the suffering of the world, and, there are many in the shadow of our homes that require our immediate care. The lonely need to hear the voice of compassion. The sick demand of immediate care. The alienated call out for friendship. Our broken relationships need the assistance that only the love of Christ can repair.

Living the Gospel every day simply means, because of Jesus’ example and our careful examination of his life and ministry, that we have determined his way must be our way. Thus, we are made able to step into the needs all around us and cannot stop ourselves from helping.

Pastor Mike
**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.

**Registration**

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.

- **8:15 AM** Kid's View
- **9:15 AM** SMASH Time
- **10:15 AM** Sunday School Classes
  - Preschool – 6th Grade

**United Methodist Women**

- **1842** Women’s Benevolence and Sewing Society made warm clothing for needy children in the community.
- **1862** Flags and bandages were made for use in the Civil War.
- **1915** Knitted scarves and mittens were sent to soldiers in World War I.
- **1924** The Methodist Episcopal Ladies’ Aid Society has 551 members. The Women’s Foreign Missionary Society was formed.
- **1930** Quilts were made for families during The Great Depression.
- **1940** The Women’s Society of Christian Service (WSCS) was formed.
- **1958** $1,200 was given to missions.
- **1960** Women started making school bags filled with school supplies.
- **2007** There are 200 UMW members in 15 Circles.
- **2015** $5,000 was given to missions. There are 16 Circles.
- **2019** $800,000 Christian women in fellowship sharing love in God’s name.

**Marion Methodist’s Way Forward**

The Congregation of Marion Methodist is invited to a discussion regarding our Way Forward in light of and in response to the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This conversation will include:

- A review of the work of our local commission on a way forward submitted to Church Council a year ago.
- A review of the actions of the General Conference including: What actually passed and what it means to be reviewed for “Constitutionality” by the Judicial Council.
- Time to share your faithful reflections in a safe, kind and loving place where more than one view on any matter will be embraced.

This meeting for the congregation of Marion Methodist is scheduled for Sunday, March 24th in Room 100 from 5-6:30 PM.

**United Methodist Women’s 150th Birthday 1869-2019**

On March 23, 1869, two wives of missionaries to India were home on furlough and spoke to a group of 8 women at the Tremont Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts. They talked about the desperate needs of women in India. A male doctor cold not treat women. Schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Single women doctors and teachers were sorely needed. These women organized the Women’s Foreign Missionary Society which would eventually become United Methodist Women. They raised enough money to send Clara Swain, a doctor, and Isabella Thoburn, a teacher, to India as missionaries to serve women and girls. They established a hospital and a school in India.

In the last 150 years, United Methodist Women has evolved to become the largest women’s faith-based service and advocacy organization supporting programs that provide life changing opportunities, helping to address injustice and alleviate suffering for women, children and youth. We celebrate the dedication and foresight of these strong women who have gone before us and helped to create a promising tomorrow for future generations of United Methodist Women to answer God’s call to serve!

But our story in Marion began 177 years ago, four years before Iowa became a state. Follow the growth of our Marion United Methodist Women’s organization in the following historical timeline.

- **1842** Women’s Benevolence and Sewing Society made warm clothing for needy children in the community.
- **1862** Flags and bandages were made for use in the Civil War.
- **1915** Knitted scarves and mittens were sent to soldiers in World War I.
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**SHE Seeks**

**Saturday October 12, 2019**

8:45-9:30AM Registration and Refreshments
9:30AM-10:00PM Worship and Featured Speaker
Catered Lunch Provided Gifts for Each Guest

Purchase tickets at www.SHEWomensConference.org
The Last Window for Sale
This last Stained glass window is for sale. It is large – nearly 9’ tall and in excellent shape. It likely came from the east wall of the old church when the education building was added on in the 1960’s or when the annex was added in the 1990’s. It was in a crate when the current Trustees came upon it this summer.

It is now for sale to the highest bidder. Bidding will close on Sunday April the 7th at 10:15 AM. There will be a clipboard available at the west welcome center upon which to write your bid every Sunday until then. If you forget to bid at church, you can call John Terry 319.377.4856 or email him at jterry@marionmethodist.org to place a bid.

Because the window is large and in its original wooden frame, it is located and can be viewed in the lower level of the Carnegie Building.

Check out the Care Notes!!
Care Notes have been a staple in the MM Care Ministry for a long time and have been very popular with our church family and visitors for several years. Care Notes are insightful and meaningful booklets on a variety of subjects such as Grieving and Loss, Prayer, Spirituality, just to name a few. Many folks have taken these wonderful little booklets to help guide them through a season of their life or to give to a family member or friend who might be going through something critical in their lives.

The Care Notes displays are located on the columns near the east and west Welcome Center and are available to anyone to have or share. Stop by soon and check out all the wonderful titles and help yourself to one or more. If there is a topic or need that you don’t find there, please contact Vicki Standley at vstandley@marionmethodist.org and we’ll check to see if something is available.

Church Kitchen Tutorial
Have groups that meet at the church? Need to know how to make coffee, find the cups, a spoon or a spatula in the kitchen? If that is you, we offer a brief workshop entitled: “Coffee and Kitchen”. A tutorial on how to make coffee under different circumstances and a complete tour of the kitchen with instructions and advice on how to run and care for the equipment. Includes a Q and A. One weekday and one weekend session. Times would be:

April 2nd 10:45
April 7th 11:22 AM

Fill Your Body • Fill Your Heart • Fill Your Head
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

Meal Schedule:

3/27 - Tomaso’s Pizza
4/3 - Kettle House Bakery
Meet the Staff

Jen Hungate, Nursery Coordinator

Jen Hungate is the coordinator of our nursery at Marion Methodist. Jen is on duty from 7:45-11:30 Sunday mornings and 5:45-7:30 Wednesday evenings. Jen supervises nursery volunteers making sure children are happy and in a safe, Christian environment. Our nursery accepts babies and toddlers from birth to 4 years of age. Jen is in charge of staffing with volunteers each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Jen’s favorite part of her ministry is spending time with children and getting to know them.

Marion Methodist travels to Israel in 2020

Pastor Mike and Theresa Morgan invite you to consider and pray concerning traveling with them to Israel in January 2020.

For Pastor Mike, the scriptures literally “came alive” as he walked many places that Jesus walked. “Several of the most potent “holy encounters” in my life have happened in Israel; communion at the garden tomb, a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee, prayer in Gethsemane and standing in the synagogue in Capernaum on a stone floor that was installed 400 BC so my feet literally were stepping where Christ had many years prior.”

The trip we are taking is known as the “Holy Land Classic” trip arranged by Educational Opportunities. Mike and Theresa have traveled with them before and they provide safe, first class travel, meals and tour guides. Here are a couple of things to know as you consider the trip:

• We have selected the “Masada included” trip so the cost is $3073 (if you register early, that day trip is “free” via your savings).
• Note the fine print. In addition to publicized cost; tips, gratuities, meals in transit will add several hundred dollars to your trip.
• We have chosen the January 20, 2020 Chicago O’Hare departure

If you would enjoy this rich and powerful travel experience you are invited to share it with us.

Pamphlets are available at the church and the Carnegie building. Feel invited to contact mmorgan@marionmethodist.org for more information or questions.

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love... DEATHS:
February 28: Priscilla Bieretzer, mother of Tim (Lori) Bieretzer, and grandmother of Michael and Noah Bieretzer
March 8: John Vernon, husband of Mary Vernon
March 8: Dwayne Ellwood, great uncle to Melissa (Tim) Lewis, Stacie (Steve) Rarske and their families and Dustin Pollard

BAPTISMS:

Weddings:

Vernon Michael and Noah Biertzer
February 28:
Concern & Christian Love... Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

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

Date Arrived in Mail Date Articles Due
4/5 3/27
4/19 4/10
5/3 4/24
5/17 5/8

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.

March: Peanut Butter
April: Macaroni & Cheese
May: Toilet Tissue
June: Soup
July: Macaroni & Cheese
August: Peanut Butter

Save the Date!
June 24 - 28, 2019
Register at MarionMethodist.org/VBS/

Jen Hungate, Nursery Coordinator

Jen is a special education teacher with Center Point Urbana Schools. She is a mother of 3 children ages 19, 17, and 14. As you can see Jen wears many different hats and we are thankful to have her on staff at Marion Methodist.