In a world of 6 second sound bites, a thorough discussion on any item is difficult. In the last issue and next few issues of the Marion Methodist, I will share with you a few subjects that need “more than a sound bite.”

Our culture still uses a Bible to swear in Presidents, to declare an oath in court in some states, and to swear on a stack of when we are trying to get people to believe what we are saying. These uses are a compliment to the respect and honor the Christian church has paid to the scriptures over the centuries. This honor and respect is shrinking every day in America. The value of, and our competence in Holy Scripture has been challenged – mostly within the church.

To a great measure this can be traced to well meaning Christians’ decreasing knowledge of Scripture and our lessen ing of its value in our own lives. The corresponding reality is that in places where the Bible has taken a diminished role in the life of the church and her people, the importance of the church and its influence on people and society is shrinking.

Paul in 2 Timothy writes: “All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” The heirs of John Wesley need to understand and embrace the words of our founder who frequently said about the Bible: “I follow it in all things, great and small.”

Wesley advised his followers then and now against rejecting those parts of the Bible that seem rough or critical of the common practices of our time and culture. I believe these to be the words we need to hear most regarding the Bible today.

The leadership of Marion Methodist will continually lift before the congregation the high value of Scripture and the admonishment that the work of Christ in our metro area broadens and deepens along with our engagement in Holy Scripture. So, if you have gotten to this part of my letter, you have proven your ability to read. Before you go to bed tonight – pick up the Really Good Book and drink in the Word God has for your life today.

Pastor Mike
Discipleship in Our New Space

What will Adult Programming look like?

Our goal is to meet the needs of our children, youth, and adults while we celebrate our Lord and the wonderful new church He has blessed us with. The adult discipleship plan will provide many opportunities throughout the week which will coincide with the church schedule on Sunday, along with the Wednesday evening activities. Bible studies are typically scheduled for one hour unless specifically noted in the class description.

The first thing on our Sunday schedule will be an 8:15AM church service. At that time there will be four classrooms available along with three areas of the gathering space available to host adult discipleship studies.

In between the services we have an opportunity to bring the members of our church together for our ‘one service smash’. We have scheduled a majority of our adult Sunday School classes at this time. We believe this will allow the greatest number of adults to join in discipleship together. There will be five classrooms on the West side of the education wing that will be designated for adult discipleship. As previously noted by Pastor Mike when he outlined the schedule at our new church, the ‘smash’ time will start when the earlier service has been completed between 9:15 – 9:25AM. These classes will plan to meet from 9:25 – 10:25AM.

During our final service on Sunday morning starting at 10:15AM, the children’s Sunday School will be in full swing. To allow the children’s ministry to function at its fullest, we invite adult Bible studies that would like to meet, to meet at one of the three comfortable seating areas of the gathering space from 10:15 – 11:15AM.

For those wishing to gather with their small group or Bible studies after the 10:15AM service, there will be five education rooms available along with three comfortable seating areas of the gathering space.

As you can see there are discipleship opportunities available throughout your Sunday morning. Our Wednesday night PowerHouse program will continue. There will be a family meal from 5:45 to 6:15 and then we will have adult Bible studies taking place in four of our education rooms from 6:30 to 7:30 on the west side of the education area of the church. In addition to those four rooms we will have access to the gathering space to create additional opportunities for adult discipleship to occur.

As we excitedly prepare our move to the new church facility we have found that our opportunities for discipleship times have expanded and have given us a greater chance to meet and invite others within and outside of our church to join us.

There will be additional opportunities to gather for adult discipleship throughout the week as well. You can register for our Bible studies at our website at www.MarionMethodist.org or by contacting me at the church office.

I invite you to join us by participating in our Bible studies. If you feel you are called to lead or co-lead in adult discipleship, I would be happy to speak to you more about those opportunities. Please feel free to contact me at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org or (319) 329-9635.

Thank you,

Jen Digmann
Director of Adult Christian Education & Discipleship

Meal Schedule:

3/28 - Kettle House
4/4 - Tomaso’s

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

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 all the events and services during Holy Week. May we draw closer to God, and truly know the power of his redeeming love. May the cross and Jesus’ resurrection become real for those who are seeking Him.
What’s Next?

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.

Construction Update - Day 257
30 Acres

Our new building sits on almost 30 acres that are all within the city limits of Marion. Marion building codes require a certain number of trees per foot of street right-of-way. We will also have shade trees in the islands of our parking lots. These requirements add up to over 90 trees to be planted!

This will be a stark contrast to the 3 trees we take care of today. We plan to plant 14 different species; including hardwood, evergreens, and ornamental trees. Along with trees we are required to plant bushes – 60 bushes are in the planting plan.

This is the minimum requirement from the city. The building committee is also considering trees for wind breaks and some to block the snow from drifting. Part of our 30 acres will be neatly trimmed and mowed grassy areas and some will be left undisturbed from the building process.

30 Acres – Wow!

John Terry, Construction Coordinator

3 things about our current building

1. Decommissioning – a service of decommissioning will happen (likely) in the afternoon or evening of our last Sunday in the downtown sanctuary. This is a worship service where the building is transformed from “a building set aside for the worship of God Almighty and the service of men and women” and will be “deconsecrated and released for any honorable use… and declared that it is no longer the place of meeting of a United Methodist congregation.” (Quotes from the Book of Worship United Methodist Church). This will be a service not to be missed. Shortly after Easter when an occupancy date of the new facility is clearer, the time and date of this service will be announced.

2. Is the building sold – while several entities have toured our facility, at this time it has not been sold. It is typical for a church property to be on the market 10-20 months. We officially listed the property for sale in July of 2017.

3. When will the building fully close – our historic sanctuary, Wesley Hall and the annex (not Carnegie) will close for all purposes other than cleaning for sale and showing on a date to be determined by the Trustees shortly after we take possession of our facility on REC Dr. All activities will be held either there or in the Carnegie Center from thence forth.

Check-Ins
Sunday School Child Check-In located in Room 206

Vacation Bible School
June 25 to June 29
Register, volunteer, or donate
www.MarionMethodist.org/VBS2018

Keep up to date with our Student Ministries by subscribing to their weekly email.
Sign up online at http://www.marionmethodist.org/learn/youth

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

**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>4/6</td>
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**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.

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

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

**DEATHS:**

- March 1: Donald "Don" Sills, son of Bernita Sills
- March 12: Darrel Andre

**BIRTHS:**

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**Lenten Moments 2018**

**MONDAY, MARCH 26**

**Kathi Decker**

I’ve been a member of Marion Methodist for 10 years. During this time I’ve been involved in teaching Sunday School, serving on the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and sharing the love of Jesus with non-believers. I believe that John 3:16 is a 100% true Bible verse. I have lived in Texas for 41 years, 20 of which I was a stay-at-home mom. I have two wonderful sons, Tim (36) and Jason (34). I have a passion for volunteering in various ways...I’m excited about the possibilities... I look forward to each Lenten Moment with the expectation of learning more about our faith.

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**TUESDAY, MARCH 27**

**James Riley**

I’ve been married for 24 years to my wife, Nicole. We have two daughters, Madison & Kaitlin. I have been with Handy Happenings since 1987. Over the last 30 years, I have participated in United Methodist Women, Mom’s Club, the Marion Church Ladies Auxiliary, and the Marion Congregation. I have also volunteered with the Marion Youth Club, Revolutionary Girls, the Marion Community Food Pantry, the Marion Methodist Children’s Home and the Marion Methodist Bazaar. I enjoy traveling, playing golf, and being with my family.

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28**

**Andrea Kearns**

My name is Andrea Kearns. I have been a member at Marion Methodist for about 10 years. My husband Matt and I enjoy going to the 8:30 or 11:00 am service. We have three boys, our Cumberland family. We have two brothers (Tyler and Tim) who graduated from the University of Kentucky and are now in the Army. We joined Marion Methodist after our son Grant kept coming home from 6:12 saying how amazing this church was. After he went to Xavier Grammar School, we couldn’t stay away from the experience, so we had to go for ourselves. When a church gets the youth so excited and passionate about the Lord, we know that the right place for us. We enjoy traveling, working out, spending time with my family, and Bible study on Wednesday nights.

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 29**

**Greg Chylust**

My name is Greg Chylust and I have been a member of Marion Methodist for 2 years. I moved to the area 20 years ago from Lancaster, Kentucky to take a job in Lexington. I have now been married for 35 years to my wife, Cheryl, and we have two sons. Tyler just graduated from the University of Kentucky and is currently a seminarian at Eastern Kentucky University. We joined Marion Methodist after our son Grant kept coming home from 6:12 saying how amazing this church was. After he went to Xavier Grammar School, we couldn’t stay away from the experience, so we had to go for ourselves. When a church gets the youth so excited and passionate about the Lord, we know that the right place for us. We enjoy traveling, working out, spending time with my family, and Bible study on Wednesday nights.

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**FRIDAY, MARCH 30**

**Caleb Moody**

I’ve been attending Marion Methodist my entire life and I am looking forward to being a Lenten Moments speaker. Marion Methodist has long been my home and it is, as well as the congregation, has always been the shining exemplar of what it means to be... I am currently a student at the University of Kentucky and have been blessed with the opportunity to lead a baccalaureate service at the University’s Student Government. I look forward to learning more about our faith... I look forward to being a Lenten Moments speaker and hope all attending will be able to attend.

**Join us in the Chapel from 7:00 am - 7:25 am Light Breakfast following in Fellowship Hall**