God entered all that it means to be human: birth, the passing of years, love, to teach us how to live and to save us from our sins. We believe that Orthodox Christian doctrine holds that God came to us personally, out of to be one of us. The Nicene Creed says of Jesus:

"to aspire to be 'godlike' or attain a higher plane of consciousness, he chose who claims to have loved people so much that rather than allowing them available for them to spend their spirituality on, there is only one God The proclamation of the Christian disciple is that while many choices are available for them to spend their spirituality on, there is only one God

The truth is that most religions teach people to be good to each other, not steal each other's stuff or take each other's life and many teach of a higher power. Those moralistic truths most (not all) teach, but, to say all religions teach the same thing is completely incorrect, thus untrue.

All religions do not teach the same thing. David Watson writes "The oldest statement of the Christian faith is, "Jesus is Lord," and only Christians believe this." People of other faiths say many nice things about Jesus, but none say that he is Lord.

The proclamation of the Christian disciple is that while many choices are available for them to spend their spirituality on, there is only one God who claims to have loved people so much that rather than allowing them to aspire to be 'godlike' or attain a higher plane of consciousness, he chose to be one of us. The Nicene Creed says of Jesus:

"We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God made from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and our salvation he came down from heaven…"

Orthodox Christian doctrine holds that God came to us personally, out of love, to teach us how to live and to save us from our sins. We believe that God entered all that it means to be human: birth, the passing of years, joy, love, friendship, betrayal, pain, and death. God knows personally what it means to be human. God came in person and suffered for us out of love. That is the character of the God we love and serve. This is a God of self-giving love, expressed most perfectly in the Incarnation of the Son in Jesus Christ. No other religion believes that God will suffer for people, but Jesus' coming to sacrifice himself for us is central to our belief – all religions do not teach the same thing!

Humankind has been deeply affected by sin. It affects our thoughts, our attitudes, our words and deeds. It affects what we want and how we go about getting it. There is no part of our life that is not affected by the power of sin. But in Christ, God took on every aspect of human nature, and therefore redeemed every aspect of human nature. There is no sin that cannot be forgiven. There is no sinful desire or behavior that cannot be overcome. We are redeemed—entirely redeemed—by the atoning work of Jesus Christ, the incarnate God. Redemption through Incarnation is a particular and specific Christian belief – all religions do not teach the same thing.

Jesus' coming, then, is really about love. It is about how God has come to us in person out of love to give us new life in the present and eternal life in the age to come. Properly understood, Christians believe that we serve a God of self-giving love, a God who would take on even our flesh, and all that goes with it, for us and for our salvation. This is distinctly Christian - all religions do not teach the same thing.

During this Holy Season of Lent I encourage you to dive deep into the teachings of our Christian faith and see why so many before us took Jesus as Lord and offered their complete selves in obedience, trust and love to him.

Pastor Mike
Providing Spiritual Care

When you or someone you love is receiving medical care, your pastoral staff endeavors to provide the best in Christian love and spiritual care through personal visits and prayer support. The hospitals are endeavoring to protect your personal information, and for that reason, the intake process has changed significantly in the past few years. More times than not, we learn of a hospitalization when someone has already gone home, which diminishes the spiritual care that we truly desire to offer. In order to provide that high level of care we must have your assistance. When you have been admitted or if you are scheduled for surgery please do the following:

Upon registration make it very clear to the person taking your information that you are a member of Marion First United Methodist Church and would like to have your pastoral team notified.

When a hospital chaplain visits you, re-iterate that you are a member of this church and would appreciate a visit from your pastors or ask to speak to one of the hospital chaplains and explain to them that you would like to have your church notified.

Have a family member or trusted friend call the church office at 377-4856, or email the Director of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley, at vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

Fill Your Body • Fill Your Heart • Fill Your Head

Powerhouse 8

Meal Schedule:
3/14 - Zio Johno’s
3/21 - Pizza Ranch

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)

Junior High Group: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant to their age! Bible study in a hands on environment. (Room 203)

4:12 Youth Group: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant to their age! Bible study in a hands on environment. (Room 303/305)

4:12 Youth Group: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant to their age! Bible study in a hands on environment. (Room 303/305)

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 a repentant heart and to draw closer to God during this season of Lent.

5 things to know about our New Building

1. Hearing Loop – Our sanctuary is being equipped with a hearing loop system that includes a telecoil installed under the flooring. The hearing loop is designed to enhance sound from our system DIRECTLY to your hearing device or cochlear device.

2. Sanctuary Chairs – Though our Sanctuary will be able to seat well over 800 persons comfortably, we have purchased 765 chairs which is a few more seats than our average attendance. According to church growth experts a new facility aimed at growth should be built to accommodate your average worship attendance in ONE service thus providing plenty of room to grow! We are aimed to grow.

3. Kneeler Rails – Our current sanctuary has 153’ of kneeler on each side of the aisle. Our new sanctuary will have 72’ of kneeler. They will be comprised of twelve 6’ kneelers that can be easily moved to enhance worship. Coupled with moveable chairs, opportunity for variety in worship abounds.

4. A Concrete stage – The sanctuary stage is constructed of the hardest of surfaces – concrete. Hard surfaces are best for music projection which is why concert halls, theaters and many churches have hard wood or concrete as their stage surface.

5. Environmental lighting – A primary feature of the new sanctuary is the environmental lighting which allows the entire sanctuary to be digitally transformed. If our Bible School has a “jungle theme” our sanctuary can be digitally transformed to become a jungle. If during Advent we desire to project a Advent wreath with 12 foot high candles, we can. The possibilities are endless.

Donations Needed

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides basic hygiene products to those who have been hit with disasters. We are asked to provide supplies as we can to help them.

If you are willing to help, you can provide the following items:

Hygiene Kit

- Hand towel
- wash cloth
- bath sized bar of soap (not Ivory or Jergens)
- toothbrush (individually wrapped)
- toothpaste (or $1.00 for toothpaste, as UMCOR can buy in bulk)
- fingernail clippers
- comb with at least 6” of teeth
- 6 bandaids – 3/4” - 1”

If you see a good deal on one or more items, those can be donated too. For example, a two pack of towels or six pack of wash cloths was recently on sale for $5.99, with a rebate of $5.00. Good deal! Or some people included a whole box of band-aids with their kit, or a double pack of soap. Many people give money for kits, and extra items can be used to fill items purchased with their gift.

The first week of returned kits brought in 55 kits already! Thank you for your generosity. All items will be bagged as a kit and boxed, to take to Cedar Falls for delivery by UMCOR to Louisiana on the first Saturday of November. All donations will be accepted until then. Last year we provided 300 Health Kits to UMCOR. Let’s get close this year with Hygiene Kits!
WELCOME CENTERS

When visitors walk through the doors of Marion Methodist, the Building Committee wants them to know, “You are welcome here! We’re glad you came to check us out.” We liked the idea of a focal point or Welcome Center at each of the main entrances in the Gathering Space. It will have an area that is handicapped accessible, a monitor, and one or two Connection Team Members present. It will be a space that allows visitors, as well as current members, to find information they need in order to have the greatest experience possible. The information may be about current classes, future events, upcoming meetings, mission projects and ministries. It also gives the church the opportunity to put our best foot forward and welcome all who enter our beautiful church. The Welcome Center will also be portable. During large events in the Gathering Space, or when the space is needed, the desk can be easily moved and then returned to its spot after the event.

First impressions are everything, and the Building Committee wants to make sure our first impression is one of a warm welcome and easy access to information.

Construction Update - Day 243
Staying Warm

One goal for our new building is to be energy efficient so that we can reduce our utility bills. At first glance, this would seem to be a no-brainer, when you compare a 125-year-old building to new construction. And you would be right!

Every element of our building, from floor to ceiling, and everything in-between, will take advantage of 125 years of engineering innovations and improvements. However, the goal is still the same – stay warm – in the winter.

This picture is of our air duct system. It takes advantage of the latest advances in computer design and analysis of airflow, heat transfer, and materials science. Improvements in insulating materials and evaluations of occupancy loads were also incorporated into the design of our heating system.

Stay warm!

John Terry, Construction Coordinator

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!
March 18 at 9:45 AM and 11:00 AM in the Library & Hospitality Room

Hello my name is Newcomer

Marion First United Methodist Church

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 multweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.

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

4:12
Marion Methodist Student Ministries

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

UMM Spaghetti Supper
Saturday, March 10
4:30 pm
Fellowship Hall
Spaghetti, sauces, bread, salad, and dessert.
Puppet Show following at 7:00 pm

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

Keep up to date with our Student Ministries by subscribing to their weekly email.
Sign up online at http://www.marionmethodist.org/learn/youth
Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...  

DEATHS:  
February 16: Carol Yesley, sister of Gene (Lois) Novak  
February 17: Bud Loerch, husband of Arlene Loerch  
February 20: Robert Bachman, father of Karen (Brian) Schmitz  
February 22: Velma Armstrong  
February 24: Jerome Bullis, brother of Tom (Sue) Bullis  

BIRTHS:  
March 11: Paisley Rae and Gavin Allyn Schaver, children of Kevin and Katelynn Schaver  

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: wildmanmarionmethodist.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:  

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<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
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<tr>
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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  

**HOLDY WEEK**  
Monday, March 26—Friday, March 30  
Lenten Moments  
7:00-7:25am  
A 25 minute devotional service held every weekday during Holy Week in the Chapel.  
The service begins at 7am and includes a few hymns and features a testimony by a congregation member.  
Light breakfast following in Fellowship Hall.  

March 29, Maundy Thursday  
1:00pm – Holy Week Communion Service in the Chapel.  
7:00pm - Holy Week Communion Service in the Sanctuary. Choral Anthem by the Chancel Choir.  

March 30, Good Friday  
7:00pm in the Sanctuary  

Spring Puppet Show  
“It Gets Better”  
Friday, March 9  
7:00 pm Sanctuary  
Saturday, March 10  
7:00 pm Sanctuary  

Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!