Is love in action, loving God with an undivided heart. By grace through faith, not faith, becomes the final goal of salvation. The essence of Christian living is justification, made right with God, not because of anything we have done but because of God's grace. Justification is what God does in us and once we receive that love, then love, because of God's grace.

That work begins here by pursuing holiness. Holiness begins with repentance. Repentance means that we are convinced and convicted of our sins, are genuinely (really and fully) sorry, and accept by faith what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. When we respond in faith to God's grace we are justified, made right with God, not because of anything we have done but because of God's grace.

Justification is what God does in us and once we receive that love, then love, not faith, becomes the final goal of salvation. The essence of Christian living is love in action, loving God with an undivided heart. By grace through faith, we are given newness of life and our life is no longer dominated by sin.

The Apostle Paul calls us to personal holiness in this way: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.” Receiving that call we understand that holiness of heart equips us for ministry.

Unquestionably, John Wesley spoke of “inward holiness” (i.e. knowing God loves us and being certain of it) and he also speaks persistently of “outward holiness” which means love of neighbor and works (good deeds) of kindness as critical elements of holiness. More than a dozen of his sermons (yes, Pastors are required to read them in seminary) have this line: “Christianity is essentially a social religion and to turn it into a solitary religion is to destroy it.” Subsequently, how is holiness best known? Through others seeing it in you!”

John Eldridge in his book “Wild at Heart” recommends a T-Shirt he once saw at a Christian event to become our standard operating practice. The T Shirt says, “Make your Christianity so attractive that your nonbelieving friends start to question their non-belief.” That is social holiness.

Social holiness cannot grow away from community, it cannot shrink from confronting social injustice. This is the DNA of the Methodist movement – the faithful and holy confrontation of injustice. Throughout the years the social impact of the Wesleyan revival spawned many reform movements. Methodists have confronted poverty, slavery, prison conditions, substance abuse, sex trafficking, racial equality, women's rights and a myriad of others. This has been our movement not because we are good people but because Wesleyans are to reflect the character of Christ, pursuing social holiness with an undivided heart, loving our neighbors sacrificially. This, the Wesley brothers would say, if done in faith is moving towards Christian perfection.

So, I will end with a second sound bite. To live towards Christian perfection, I must:

1. Exercise faith.
2. Not give up pursuing freedom from sin.
3. Be willing to be equipped for ministry.
4. Embrace experiences that require me to grow.

Pastor Mike

Visit Us Online

Website - Calendars, Church Info, and More
www.marionmethodist.org

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YouTube - Sermon Videos
www.youtube.com/marionmethodist

iTunes Podcast - Sermon Audio
itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/marion-methodist/id562893153

Upcoming Sermons

April 22 - Revelation 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13; Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12

For any information needing to be published in the Marion Methodist newsletter, please contact the church office.
(info@marionmethodist.org)
New Yard Signs Available!!

New yard signs with a new community message and stronger stands are available to put in your yard. Share with the community that Marion Methodist is moving to 5050 REC Drive.

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

Thank You
Thank you Pastor Mike, Vicki, Sarah Circle, UMW, Communion Ladies, Linda Jensen and Linda Liston, and all who sent Easter cards and birthday cards for my 98th birthday. Thank you Leon Smock and Alan Arduser for the surprise party with the Quilters for my 98th birthday.

Sincerely,
Olive Port

Thank You
Dear Friends,
Thank you all so much for the outpouring of cards and messages of sympathy on the death of my Mother. Your support and love have been a source of healing and strength to us all. It is so nice to know that even though I am not a "Pastor" with you anymore, I am still a brother in Christ and a friend. The entire Nester family is grateful to you all. My Mother loved worshipping at Marion Methodist. It means a lot to know that you all remembered her.

Much love to you all,
Keith Nester (and family- Estelle, Devon, Jesse and Drew)

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.

As opening day at our new church facility draws closer, pray for possibilities – for all the new people who will come to worship and call Marion Methodist home, for all the new opportunities that will open for us to reach out and make disciples for Jesus Christ, and for our continued faith in God’s plan and the work to be done in Jesus’ name in our community.

Remembering Our Loved Ones
Every year around Memorial Day, the Memorial Committee organizes a special service to honor our loved ones that have passed away within the year. We acknowledge the members who have passed away by lighting a candle on the altar. We also recognize new memorial gifts and formally dedicate them to the church.

Memorial funds are not used for general operating expenses. Instead, they are used in a way that they may enhance our potential for sharing in God’s ministry. Some families designate a specific ministry for their gift based on their family member’s personal interests or activities while others will allow it to be used where it is most needed.

As the building phase of the new church is coming to fruition, we may find some “needs” that were missed. These needs may be fulfilled with the use of Memorial Funds if it is determined by the Memorial Committee that it would be appropriate. Please consider giving a gift in memory of your friends or family members. If you have any questions about giving a memorial donation in honor of your loved one, please contact the church office or Irma Pearson, Memorial Committee Chair.

Mission Breakfast
April 29
7:30 -11:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

Proceeds to support the new Memorial/History wall at 5050 REC Drive.

A Spring Handbell Concert
Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 4:00pm
Reception immediately following
No Admission charged
Bring a canned food item for the Marion Food Pantry

Sewing Day For Haiti
Sowers Circle will have a sewing day on Thursday, May 24, at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall to make feminine hygiene products for girls in Haiti. All church members are invited to join us in this cause. We will need people to sew (bring a sewing machine), cut (bring scissors), and layer.

We also are requesting donations of light-colored flannel fabric and 100% cotton fabric (bright colors, florals, etc.). All fabric must be prewashed. We also need girls’ underwear in small and medium sizes.

Sowers will provide snacks and lunch – come join the fun!

Please RSVP to Louise Nieland at 377-1056 or nieland1390@mchsi.com by April 30.
The process to build our new building started many years ago. Many sketches, drawings, meetings, and many changes to the sketches and drawings. Then more meetings, sketches, and drawings. And more changes. Until finally, we came to our building.

Talented people took all of our input and created the pictures below. Many talented construction and trades people are working everyday to create a building that looks "Just Like The Picture!"

Amazing and true – our building does look – Just Like The Picture!

John Terry, Construction Coordinator
Clockwise from upper left
The Center
Classroom Colors and Tiles
The Sanctuary

Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication
Date: Saturday, April 21
Address: 282 22nd Street, Marion
Time: 2:00 PM

Jean Bosco and Suzana Ndayisenga Family
Jean Bosco and Suzana Ndayisenga started their journey in Tanzania before moving to Iowa in 2008. The couple has five children that range from 1 to 13 years old. This family of seven currently resides in an overcrowded apartment in an unsafe neighborhood. Jean Bosco and Suzana wanted more opportunity in which their family could thrive, better education for their children and a stronger economy, so Cedar Rapids became their new home.

The family learned about Habitat's affordable housing program through some of their friends. Jean Bosco and Suzana often close their eyes and envision a safe and decent place to call home without having to worry about their children's safety. They regularly participate in family dinner and game nights, along with walks to the park.

They are extremely grateful for an opportunity to have adequate and affordable shelter and believe it will give them the space, safety and encouragement to live a better life together. This family is so excited to be living in the city of Marion and calling it their forever home!

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 205)

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

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.
Meet the Summer Interns

Summer Ministry Intern

My name is Jacob Sandholm and I have a wife named Sarah. We just got married in July of 2017 and that is also the same time when we moved to the Cedar Rapids/Marion area. Sarah’s father was our pastor in Sheldon, Iowa before we moved, and he suggested that we try out the Marion Methodist Church. Both Sarah and I are beyond happy that we did try it out because we absolutely love it! The reason that I decided to go for the Summer Ministry Internship is because I have a passion for our Lord and I feel called to help lead others to Him as a pastor. I feel like this internship will be an incredible experience for me and it will also give me a very good idea of what life as a pastor is really like. I am looking forward to working with everyone on the church staff and as the entire congregation as I go into this internship in the new church! All in all, I am simply pursuing what God wants me to do and I will use his love more than anything else as I go through this amazing opportunity that has been given to me this summer.

Summer Worship Intern

My name is Devon Nester, I am a junior at UNI studying elementary education. I am very excited to be the worship intern at Marion First this summer. This church taught me what real worship is, and I’m overjoyed that I get to help others learn that too. I am also excited to be at 4:12 again and in the new building.

I love leading students to feeling God’s presence through music, and being able to do that the whole summer is a dream! (and Simon is my boss, ‘that’s pretty neat’)

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.

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

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