God did not need this exercise, he already identified with us. There human flesh in the person of Jesus that we might identify with him. Identify our very being with Jesus Christ. The Lord himself took on the idea.

Three things.

First is identification. The journey of Lent is a time when we are to identify our very being with Jesus Christ. The Lord himself took on human flesh in the person of Jesus that we might identify with him. God did not need this exercise, he already identified with us. There was nothing God would learn of us through the Incarnation of Himself, but there is a great deal that humanity can learn of God through the window to himself that God provides in Jesus.

During Lent, we are to read the story of the Passion of Christ which you can find in the last few pages of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. In those pages we are to see the agony, the suffering and pain that Jesus allows to fall on him so that we might identify with him. As we face agony, suffering and pain we can see that for us, he has endured the same and more.

Second is honor. As we embrace the narrative of Jesus willingly taking the end of the whip, suffering many humiliations including wearing a crown of thorns and being nailed to the cross, we must honor Jesus for what he has done. His sacrifice means we are to honor him by making those of our own. Honoring Jesus means our sacrifice should be comprehensive of body, mind and spirit. Our question must be, “Is what I am sacrificing of myself to the Lord comprehensive of my body, mind and spirit?” When we can say yes to that, our sacrifice truly honors God.

Last is cost. Every sacrifice costs a great deal. Jesus’ sacrifice caused God the Father great angst, the Spirit groaned, and of course Jesus himself paid with his earthly existence. Our sacrifice for the Lord needs to cost a lot. We need be willing to part with that which means a great deal to us. If time is our most important commodity, our sacrifice that identifies with Christ and honors him will cost us a lot of time. If money, or a hobby or insert your important thing here is our most important commodity, our sacrifice that identifies with Christ and honors him will cost us a lot of it.

As one of my friends once brilliantly put it; “You can’t sacrifice without sacrificing” simple and true. You just need to be clear what sacrifice is and what you need to sacrifice because of Jesus.

Pastor Mike

Visit Us Online

Website - Calendars, Church Info, and More
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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

Marion First United Methodist Church
5050 REC Drive

Sunday Morning Worship
8:15 AM
Spiritual Traditional
Kid’s View - Room R60

9:15 AM
SMASH Time Fellowship - The Center
Church School for children and adults

10:15 AM
Contemporary Praise - Sanctuary
Children’s Sunday School

Each week on Tuesday, the church sends out an email detailing the events taking place in the next seven days, and devoting some space to explain a little more about one of the multitude of ministries and missions in which we participate. To sign up to receive this email each week, please contact the church office at (319) 377-4856 or by email at info@marionmethodist.org.

For any information needing to be published in the Marion Methodist newsletter, please contact the church office.
(info@marionmethodist.org)
**TV Broadcast**

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcast 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.

**Register 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.

**Join us in the chapel at Carnegie from 7:00 am - 7:25 am.**

Light Breakfast following

**What is your purpose? God is always working in the affairs of His creation, even when we are unaware. This study shows us how Esther attained royalty to fulfill God’s purpose in her life and the lives of His people. Can God use you for such a time as this?**

**Lenten Moments**

**Monday, April 15**

Matt Wildman

My wife, Jennie, my oldest son, Hayden, and I moved to Marion in 2007 and became members of Marion Methodist. Since then our family has grown to include Hunter, Haylie and Harper. We love spending time with our church family and are currently very active in Sunday School, Confirmation, Powerhouse and small group activities. I work at HR Green in Cedar Rapids as a project manager. I have a passion for coaching my kids sports teams and in the past year have coached football, softball, basketball and baseball. When I can find a little free time, I enjoy spending time outdoors hunting and fishing.

**Tuesday, April 16**

Craig Collins

I am originally from Bettendorf Iowa. My parents worked at International Harvester, and with my father working a lot for work. My family did not attend church regularly. I came to know Jesus in the fall of 2018, at the age of 46. I am the father of two children, Connor, 16, and tori, 14, and find it extremely important in life to witness to a witnessing of God’s true strength and love. I am involved in many ministries, including being a 6th grade small group leader, Sunday school teacher, VBS team member, chozer, and a Men’s Group member. I am also the SEAP Administrative Coordinator for the newly formed local Lutheran Church. I also enjoy being the President of the CR Kennedy High School Booster Club. My biggest passion is serving the Lord, teaching children and young adults, as well as working with individuals with special needs.

**Wednesday, April 17**

Jill Ackerman

I grew up in Marion, IA and graduated from Marion High School and the University of Iowa. My husband Jerry and I have four children, Brock, Hanna, 13, and Hunter 20 (at home), Bri 25 (Charlie) and Taylor 24 (Aaron). We also enjoy spending time with our 18-month-old grandson, Cami. I use my passion for community development and the City of Marion in my role as President of the Marion Chamber of Commerce. I am a member of Marion Methodist where I attended Basic Bible Study on Wednesday evenings and have recently begun serving on the Marion Methodist Missions Council. I also serve on the Board of Directors for Iowa Chamber of Commerce Facilitators, Marion Library Foundation, Marion Carnegie, House of Hope and the Marion Economic Development Corporation as well as the steering committee for the Marion YMCA project and Prospect Meadows.

**Thursday, April 18**

Jan Fawcett

My name is Jan Fawcett. My husband Ron and I have been members of Marion Methodist for about 22 years. We’ve raised four children; James, Stacey, Seth, and Dillon, who are all married and have seven adorable grandchildren. Our oldest daughter, Natalie, Tristan, Jessica, David, Cambren, Kyren, and Jace. When our children were younger, I was involved in our Wednesday night Powerhouse program, VBS, Fly, and led several book/bible studies. More recently, I was a member of the H7 Mission team to Haiti and was in charge of the Christmas for Haiti program, where we sent bags of necessities and gifts to the children of Haiti who are in need. I am currently a member of the Care Ministry Team, and I am usually taking one of the many classes offered on Wednesday evening. Also I still volunteer for Fly when time allows. We love to travel and go camping. You can often find me in my craft room creating the latest craze in the crafting world. I’m so glad spring is here because I am ready to cheer on my favorite baseball team, the St Louis Cardinals. Go Cards!”

**Friday, April 19**

Michael Bierzer

My name is Michael Bierzer. I am 17 years old and a junior at Linn Mar High School. I compete in swimming and baseball, and I come to church every Sunday and 4:12 every Wednesday.

- **SGU Summer Games University**
- **Lenten Moments**
- **Join us in the chapel at Carnegie from 7:00 am - 7:25 am. Light Breakfast following**
- **What is your purpose? God is always working in the affairs of His creation, even when we are unaware. This study shows us how Esther attained royalty to fulfill God’s purpose in her life and the lives of His people. Can God use you for such a time as this?**
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.

During this Holy season of Lent, may we as a people humble ourselves in prayer, seeking to hear God’s voice as we consider those things that set us apart from God. Lord, give us a spirit of confession and repentance so that we may be restored in your sight, and our souls forgiven and reconciled with you. Amen

Meal Schedule:

4/10 - Dairy Queen
4/17 - Zio Johno’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 E10 & E60)

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

Care Givers Support Group

Care Givers Support Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 in Room W10. We welcome all current caregivers and their loved ones to join us for an hour of speakers, discussion, and fellowship. Light refreshments will be served. Our next meeting will be April 18.

Please contact Vicki at 319-377-4856 or vstandley@marionmethodist.org if you would like more information.

Children’s Discipleship

Hey, Parents! Want to stay up to date with our Children’s Ministry? Sign up with SeeSaw for the latest pictures and information. Contact Dani at dshowalter@marionmethodist.org for more information!

Landscape Committee Update

Whew, what a lot of changes in the past year for Marion Methodist! With the new church location, we have a new venture of establishing and maintaining the grounds (roughly 10 acres). A landscape committee was formed to come up with a concept plan on how we can best utilize the grounds to align with the church’s mission: Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

The outdoor space is a huge asset to the church and has the opportunity to be turned into multi-functional spaces. Some of the planned uses include the following:

- Traditional landscaping immediately around the building
- Turf grass/trees on northwest portion of property. This will be a more traditional park-like setting that can be utilized by the youth.
- Turf grass soccer field in the SW portion of property. This field can be used for various activities.
- Prairie grass along all other spaces.

Prairie has numerous beneficial uses that will be highlighted in our space. These include providing habitat for numerous small creatures and insects, stormwater management, water quality improvement, natural stress/anxiety reliever, and educational opportunities for churchgoers and the community.

There is a plan to include a path through the prairie that can be used as a meditative-prayer walk. The congregation and community will be encouraged to enjoy this new space and feel God’s presence. I think we can all agree those sound great but with a large portion of the land-use plan being planted into native prairie it warrants some education and aesthetic expectation during the establishment period.

Typically, prairies take 3-5 years to be fully established and can look shoddy in the interim. The first phase will be to kill any weeds and make sure the seedbed is destroyed before planting prairie. So starting this spring through summer the grounds may end up looking worse before they look better.

Please rest assured, there IS a plan! This fall we will plant the prairie seed and begin to see it sprout the spring of 2020. We are going into this venture with our eyes wide open and plan on standing firm on our commitment for being stewards of our new land. “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Genesis 2:15

Watch LIVE at 10:15 AM

Go to our YouTube channel or online at MarionMethodist.org/watch-live

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 24 - 28, 2019 Register at MarionMethodist.org/VBS

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During this Holy season of Lent, may we as a people humble ourselves in prayer, seeking to hear God’s voice as we consider those things that set us apart from God. Lord, give us a spirit of confession and repentance so that we may be restored in your sight, and our souls forgiven and reconciled with you. Amen
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: 
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: 4/19
- Date Articles Due: 4/10
- 5/3: 5/8
- 5/17: 5/22
- 5/31: 6/17

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.

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

BAPTISMS:
March 23: Hudson Pierce Smalley, son of Matthew Smalley and Megan Spencer

WEDDINGS:
Matthew Smalley and Megan Spencer

DEATHS:
March 22: Lois Winchip, mother of Lavenn (Garnett) Winchip

Meet the Staff

Overheard one Sunday morning, “Boy, these floors look beautiful!” Well, the person responsible for keeping them that way, and so much more is our custodian, Alan Arduser. Alan works hard to have the building spic and span and ready for Sunday services as well as all the special events; weddings, funerals, PowerHouse, circle meetings, conferences, etc., and cleaning up after them. Many of his tasks may go unnoticed, like filling soap and paper towel dispensers. Did you know that Alan is the one who gets the coloring pages ready for the kids to use during worship services and fills the altar candles with oil? This very paper you are reading is one of the many Marion Methodist newsletters he delivers to the post office twice a month to keep us informed about the happenings of our church.

Alan’s favorite part of his ministry at Marion Methodist is getting to know the members and newcomers who attend here. He appreciates people who ask questions or tell him about things that need to be taken care of so nothing gets neglected.

He started working for Marion Methodist in 2008 right before the flood. Even with all the flood recovery volunteer groups eating and sleeping there, and the big move, Alan stuck with us, driving in every weekday from Monticello where he lives with his wife.

When not at work, Alan enjoys following the New York Yankees and the Green Bay Packers. He has followed the Yankees since the days of Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris.

While chatting with Alan, we sensed how much pride he takes in preparing this building for the worship of God and the service of others, and we thank him for all he does to keep our church ready for its many activities.

Come spring, we’ll find him washing all the windows, high and low, but don’t ask him to come do yours. He thinks he has quite enough of them here.

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 I 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 nmorgan@marionmethodist.org for more information or questions.