Last issue my article began with these paragraphs:

“During March of 2014 the church sent me on a mission to learn from three midwestern United Methodist Churches that were, in relative terms, roughly 5 or so years ahead of us in building a new church facility on a new location. The hope was to be inspired by their successes, learn from the things they did very well and bring home some “do’s” and “don’ts” from their spiritual and physical processes.

The similarities were significant in these churches. Each had a clear biblical worldview which spawned a strong local and international mission mindset. Each had a clear mission, was middle class, growing younger by the day, had long term lead pastors and a powerful and diverse staff. None “jumped” into building their new facilities but had discerned, planned and fundraised over 3-10 years. They didn’t sound like us, they were us.

Notably, all three lead pastors spent the weekend with me, prayed with me and to a person as I left them offered this simple counsel: “Be ready for the complaints.”

To that, for this issue of the Marion Methodist I add this: Each of them also said something like this, “Your team has worked so hard and been so faithful, make sure you are ready for the complaints.”

To that, for this issue of the Marion Methodist I add this: Each of them also said something like this, “Your team has worked so hard and been so faithful, make sure you are ready for the joy your move will bring.” So to you, as we prepare for the first few days as we become forefathers and mothers to a new generation of Christians in Marion, let’s get ready for the joy!

Many of you have quoted Jesus in your anticipation and excitement saying things about our new opportunity like “Fresh wine for fresh wineskins.” Indeed, this building is a new opportunity for us to discover who we can be as a people of God. As those who have dreamed HUGE things for God before us, this opportunity is ours as we find new ways to worship, fellowship, learn and serve together. Remember too, as we look forward, that the winemaker who uses new wineskins uses the tried and true recipe for making wine. That is, as we enjoy our future we will be built on what we know – Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

More people may come to know Christ because we have positioned ourselves in a new place and have taken a new attitude. One of the greatest joys a pastor has is when a new soul or family enters the worship facility and is warmly greeted – invited into our congregation. Thousands of people have driven by this site and many of them are going to wander in – what joy on earth and heaven if some of them come to know our Savior.

You can meet more people. One of the maladies of the multi-service church is that the congregation can actually meet each other. It is not rare for people in our current congregation to “meet for the first time” a person who has been part of the church for years. Maybe it has been at a committee meeting, or in Fareway because you are wearing your Marion Methodist T-shirt, or on the corner of your block because of the “We are on the Move” sign. With the addition of our “smash time” in the CENTER you have the opportunity to meet more of the folks that call Marion Methodist home.

The kids won’t have to play in the alley. That will be a huge joy! While not likely that our grass field south of the church (about the size of a soccer field) will be in full bloom, the days of 4:12 and VBS in the alley or trapped in the church for games on a great day can be over. Oh my, the joy of space is to be embraced.

I’m ready for these joys and a hundred more – can’t wait to share them with you.

Pastor Mike
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.

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

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Marion Senior Living Community, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your donation. We look forward to your continued support.

At this time our three buildings are full and we have a waiting list for each building. Your donation helps us provide low and moderately priced apartments for the senior citizens of the Marion/Cedar Rapids area.

In His Name,
Janet Lamm
Marion Senior Living Community

Nursery Volunteer Workshop
Saturday, May 19th 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Lunch will be provided

This is a workshop for all people interested in being a Volunteer in the Church Nursery. We will need youth and adult volunteers. This workshop will take place in Fellowship Hall and lunch will be provided.

At this Workshop we will discuss:
- Volunteer Expectations
- Safe Sanctuary
- Times Nursery Volunteers will be needed
- How the new Check-In process will work with the Nursery
- Time to answer any question you have about Volunteering
- Signing up for what time you are available to be in the Nursery
- Information on Planning Center and how we will use it to schedule

Marion Methodist is Praying for:

The Churches of Marion Food Pantry has two NEW opportunities to help! Please contact Cari Redondo at cariredondo@gmail.com if you are interested.

FOOD PANTRY PURCHASING (once/month, flexible timing, 2 hours between Thursday afternoon and Monday evening)
Be part of a purchasing team (generally three people - can be a family) who shops at Aldi for the pantry's weekly groceries. This involves a good bit of lifting. Training is provided. Responsibilities include creating the shopping list, doing the shopping, unloading and shelving the groceries, and logging the purchase.

HACAP PRODUCE PICK UP (Monday or Wednesday afternoons between 1-5pm, approximately 1.5–2 hours)
The food pantry has decided to start offering shelf-stable produce at the pantry. HACAP provides produce free-of-charge that is donated from local businesses such as Sam's Club. HACAP is located in Hiawatha, just off Boyson Road, near the intersection of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Requires some waiting time and some lifting (load produce into vehicle and from vehicle into the pantry). Pickup on Monday and/or Wednesday afternoon. We are working to get enough volunteers to have this be a rotation (once every few weeks).

Volunteer Opportunities

Don’t miss our next Newcomer Orientation where you can find out who we are, what we do, and how you can get connected!

May 20 at 9:45 AM and 11:00 AM in the Library & Hospitality Room

New to Marion Methodist?

Thank You

Dear Friends,

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In His Name,
Janet Lamm
Marion Senior Living Community
Young at Harp and Ridgerunners

Are putting on a concert to benefit the Feeding Lunch to Youth (FLY) program on

June 3, 2018

Concert begins at 2:30pm in the sanctuary at
First Presbyterian Church
802 12th St.
Marion, IA 52302

For some students here in Marion, the only meals they get are the lunches served at their schools. So during the summer months, sack lunches are served to children Monday through Friday. The lunches are prepared and delivered each day with hundreds of volunteers donating thousands of hours. It cost $450 to support FLY for one day and $2,000 for a week. Go to https://www.marionmethodist.org/FLY to find out how to donate or volunteer.

FLY aims to spread the message of Jesus Christ and the joy of providing and giving to children.

Come and join us and help feed the youth of Marion this summer!

Mission continues at 5050 REC Drive

After we move to our new location, donating to the Churches of Marion Food Pantry will still be a constant. The shopping carts we currently have in our Church will be moving with us to 5050 REC Drive. You may be wondering how this food pantry mission evolved.

Many years ago, a UMW member wondered why our church only took collection once a month to benefit the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. Her point being that it is easy to forget on that one Sunday and the next month a different item would be collected. It was suggested that donations be collected all month long.

Signs are made each month to remind the congregation which items are being collected and members are also encouraged and reminded in the Marion Methodist newsletter.

We are truly glad that this Christian mission continues. We hope everyone will joyfully contribute food needed by people “next door”. You can put it in the cart any time, any day.

Memorial Sunday

The Memorials Committee again this year is continuing a tradition on Memorial Sunday to honor and remember all those who have been welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven, this year or in years past, as a member or non-member of Marion Methodist. If you have a memorial/trIBUTE candle for your loved one, we would like to display it on Memorial Sunday. Please feel free to drop off or ship the candle to the church office or bring to the sanctuary before the 8:30am service on Sunday May 27th. You can then pick up the candle after the conclusion of the 8:30am service. If you wish, we would even store the candle to be displayed each year. If you have any questions, please contact the church office, 377-4856.

Haiti Food Boxes

In April a fundraiser was held to raise money to purchase food boxes that were donated to RTS Missions in LasCahobas, Haiti. The original goal was to raise $1000. In total, over $4000 was raised to feed approximately 1,200 people for an entire month!!! As a strong congregation with a heart for Haiti, it is possible to keep this going for the rest of the year and the years to come. More information on how to get involved will be available soon.

Thank you

Dear friends of Marion Methodist,

Thank you for your generous donation and ongoing support! Because of you, local students in need will have full access to the Marion Cares Summer Connections program.

Summer Connection is a free community-wide summer program focused on offering unique opportunities for continued learning through play and mentorship. This program is intended to serve students of families facing social or economic barriers. Transportation is provided for kids living in the two mobile home communities in Marion as well as an MISD pick-up site at the public library.

Participation in summer enrichment programs, such as Summer Connection, has been proven to lead to positive outcomes for students: higher school year attendance and achievement, increased motivation to learn, increased feelings of belonging, and reduced participation in risky behaviors.

Local students who participate in Summer Connections will have opportunities to meet with reading buddies of local clubs, attend Vacation Bible School, and learn new games and athletic activities. They will go on numerous field trips to the splash pad and parks and have educational trips to places like the African American museum and the Nature Center. They will also have opportunity to serve their community by helping serve FLY lunches. All of this is made possible by YOU!

Your support has been instrumental in providing access to these free summer activities to families in need. You are giving the gift of a safe and carefree summer to kids who may not have had a chance at that otherwise. We thank you on behalf of all the lives you will touch this summer.

Yours in Christ,
Laura Campbell
Marion Cares Executive Director

Powerhouse will return this fall to 5050 REC Drive

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.

Next Haiti Mission Trip

We’re asking for prayers and support for our June Haiti Mission Team, Curt and Deb Liscum, Joan and Tom Padley, Alexa Roudabush, and Anna Fox.
Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:
April 26: Connie Albert, wife of Ned Albert
April 28: Jack Ciba, father of Dan (Kay) Ciba
May 3: Pat Kress
May 6: Dawson Brown, son of Tim and Sue Brown, and brother of Lindsay, Sydney, and Brycen

BIRTHS:

WEDDINGS:

BAPTISMS:

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: widman@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
6/1  |  5/23
6/15  |  6/6
6/29  |  6/20
7/13  |  7/3

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.

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

**Marion Methodist - We Are On The Move**

**“We are on the Move” Three Important Dates**

**June 13th – All Church Open House**

On Wednesday, June 13th from 4:00 - 7:00 PM you are invited to come and see what God has done through our faithfulness at 5050 REC. This is a "first look" Open House for us. Later when all of the outside work is done and our project is complete we will have a community-wide open house.

**June 17th – First day of worship at 5050 REC Dr.**

Sunday, June 17th, Marion Methodist will begin its ministry of worship in the fourth sanctuary in the history of the church. Worship will be held at:

- 8:15 AM Holy Scripture, the great hymns of United Methodist and our wonderful Vocal and Bell Choirs set a very spirited environment for this service. (Sanctuary doors open at 8:00 AM)
- 10:15 AM Holy Scripture and one of our Praise Bands shape the environment of this service. (Sanctuary doors open at 10:00 AM)

What does "sanctuary doors open at ___” mean? Our new life gives opportunity to change a few things. One of the things we believe will enhance your worship experience is to close the Sanctuary for preparations (Choir, Bells and Praise team warm up and organization), allow you time to fellowship in THE CENTER prior to worship and let our leaders prepare without feeling self-conscious, thus allowing the worship space to be for “worship” not “warm up” as you enter. Thank you in advance for abiding by this new part of our life together.

**June 24th – Decommissioning of 12th and 8th Buildings**

Sunday, June 24th Marion Methodist will “decommission” our building at the corner of 12th and 8th at 4:00 PM in the afternoon. This service will include the anthem written especially for this occasion by Sherry Kneeland and presented to God before the congregation by our Chancel Choir and Hand Bells. In 1895 (and again in 1967 and 1995) portions of our buildings were consecrated “for the worship of God Almighty and the service of men and women…” During this service we will praise God for the many lives transformed during the course of ministry in this edifice and officially take leave of the building.

Two ways to enter our new facility!

Our new facility is almost ready for us and now you need to begin to plan your route to worship on June 17th and following.

If **highway 13 is the easiest for you** – come 1.2 miles north of the corner of 151/13, turn west at the Linn County REC on REC drive and follow it to our lane and pick a parking lot!

If **City streets are your preference** – come north on 44th Street and turn right/east on 35th Ave. Turn into the west parking lot that connects to 35th Ave. There will be gravel on 35th Ave for a while but no highway traffic.