The Thrill of Christian Baptism

Every week America’s Funnest Home Videos seems to have a hilarious or embarrassing baptismal moment on just about every program. Just last week as a little boy was about to experience full immersion and standing waist deep in the font, the Pastor continued to ask him the appropriate questions to which little Jordan cried out “Just do it!” and immersed himself.

For we who experience most of our baptisms by sprinkling there was the video of the pastor asking parents “Do you reject the work of Satan?” while the baby vigorously shook her head no! Another captured a pastor holding a 2-year-old who emphatically refused to let him put any water on his head. Then, of course (the one I have most experienced), the child who just as he was handed to the pastor had one of the atomic blasts against which no “Huggie” or “Pamper” can defend.

They are funny because they don’t fit at such an important and solemn moment for us. Baptism is a big deal in the church. Baptism is the moment when we celebrate who we really are. “T

Therefore, when we celebrate baptism, it is a very holy moment for a family and church community. Our Book of Worship states: “Baptism is an act that looks back with gratitude on what God’s grace has already accomplished, it is here and now an act of God’s grace and it looks forward to what God’s grace will accomplish in the future.” The future for the one being baptized is pristine and filled with opportunity to live out their lives in God’s overwhelming grace.

I love that in the three or four weeks surrounding the time in which this article will be printed, we will have experienced the baptism of an 18-year-old and two infants. For our 18-year-old his baptism is ripe with commitment. He has not been raised in a Christian home and, through camp and our 4:12 ministry, he has come to know Christ and the loving community of God and really desired to celebrate his adoption into God’s grace in the act of baptism.

For the two infants being baptized, the moments are also ripe with commitment, but from a different perspective. The little boy and girl both are unable to come alone. Neither can walk yet and frankly both spend the majority of their days eating, sleeping and you know…. The commitment is being made for them. It is the parents and the community of faith that pledge to raise these two in the way of the Lord. The collective “we” pledge to influence these children in such a way that hope cascades upon their souls, that truth is inserted into their minds and the way of love that God prescribes into their hearts.

The baptized infant will grow, they all do, and as they grow, their parents and church will unapologetically seek to influence them for Christ in such ways that, as they do their own theological inquiry, they will have solid Christian foundations upon which to work and live. Then, as they have opportunity, through confirmation or other teaching moments, we pray they will choose to live a life immersed in the grace that God is pouring on them.

Lastly, the thrill of Christian baptism and being part of a church where we get to “see” it frequently, is that at baptism we all have opportunity to recommit our lives to Christ, confess our sins and pledge to live a life worthy of the grace God has adopted us with. Pay attention, the “thrill” of baptism is coming again soon to Marion Methodist.

Pastor Mike
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.

Registration 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.

July 8-12, 2019 at Grinnell College
Register at www.sgu.camp

Congratulation!
Leandra Martins graduated from the Duke University Divinity School on May 12th. Leandra received a call to ministry during her high school years as a participant in Marion Methodist, 4:12 and Summer Games University. That call was fortified during her undergraduate years at Creighton, while she served as our Summer Ministry Intern and accelerated after she met Rev. Dr. Craig Finnestad, a friend of Pastor Mike's who is lead Pastor at The Water's Edge (a United Methodist congregation) in the far western edge of Omaha. Craig immediately hired Leandra (though she wasn't applying for a job) and she interned there for several years. Now, she is blessed after her years at Duke to have been appointed as the Associate Pastor in this booming church that moved into their building at the same time we moved into ours. She also is getting married this summer, so she has a few things going on.

Leandra was a significant financial beneficiary of the Seminary Scholarship portion of our Marion Methodist Foundation. She is very grateful for the prayer, emotional and financial support she received from Marion Methodist. Please pray for Leandra as she begins her new ministry this month.

Congratulation!
Patrick Dayton graduated from Boston University Divinity School on May 19th. Patrick grew up at Marion Methodist, was active in 4:12, Senior Bible Study, Mission Trips, Summer Games and served as a Summer Ministry Intern. He has joined the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church and is currently discerning a ministry opportunity. Patrick was a recipient of the seminary scholarship funds from our Marion Methodist Foundation.

Communion on June 2
The sacrament of communion will be served at the 8:15 service on June 2nd. Please note it will be served only at the 8:15 service on June 2nd, not the 10:15 service.

Register at www.sgu.camp

MISSION BREAKFAST
Proceeds benefitting the Maton Caras SHINE Program

June 30
7:30 - 11:00 AM
The Center

Summer Sunday School
Join the Fun!
Sign-up to be a Teacher!
Contact Dani Showalter at dshowalter@marionmethodist.org
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.

Congratulations to all our graduates! Prayers for the next chapter of their lives and prayers for God’s guidance and wisdom as their future unfolds. Also in your prayers include all those who are already working on Vacation Bible School and also pray for the volunteers, leaders, helpers and supplies that will be needed to be in place when VBS starts.

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, reiterate 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.

Join the Choir for Celebration of Independence Service

On June 30th at the 8:15am service, Marion Methodist has its Celebration of Independence service. “Battle Hymn of the Republic” will be sung by the Chancel Choir and the choir invites and welcomes anyone who would like to join us on this special Sunday! We will be rehearsing “Battle Hymn” on Wednesday, June 26th at 6:30 in Room 100 if you are available to join us. If you are not available on Wednesday, you are still welcome to join us on the chancel on June 30th for this special celebration!

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On Sunday June 30, at the 8:15 Celebration of Independence service, we will be honoring all veterans and active duty service personnel. Each veteran in attendance will be introduced by Pastor Mike.

At this service, your picture will be displayed on the screens at the front of the sanctuary as you are introduced. If you plan to attend, please get the following information to the church office by June 21:

- A service photo
- Your branch of service and rank at discharge
- Years served
- Location of service

Your pictures will be scanned and returned to you. We already have scanned photos of many veterans that we saved from last year. If we don't have yours, please make sure that we do!
Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love... DEATHS:
May 9: Mary Owens, mother of Brian (DeDe) Eschen, grandmother of Abbie and Bree Eschen
BAPTISMS:
May 9: Bree Eschen (DeDe) Eschen, grandmother of Abbie and May 9:
DEATHS:
Concern & Christian Love... Our Congregation Shares Its
Handbell Director
Mary Lee Parks,