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 “dos” 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 missional 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.”

That comment set me back a bit. After spending a weekend each with these bustling churches in Illinois, Michigan and Missouri, at which I witnessed hundreds of children and youth excitedly entering their ministry areas, dynamic inspiring worship in full sanctuaries, a multitude of happy conversations and an astonishing amount of coffee consumed and so much more that any church pursues; the last words were “Be ready for the complaints.”

The drive home gave me a lot of time to think, be a little sad for my new-participate. To sign up to receive this email each week, please contact the church office.

Each of the pastors I mentioned earlier at one point or another emailed me a short list of “complaints” they experienced. Here are three:

1. I joined THIS church… Every pastor understands the value of a particular place where specific and powerful moments in a persons or family’s life have occurred. As our past Building Committee chair frequently said, “every inch of this building has special meaning.” That is true for many of us. My family of origin viewed Marion Methodist as an extension of our home, and, short of athletic fields, I spent more time at the corner of 8th and 12th growing up than anywhere else. Potent moments in our family’s life; my siblings, children, nephews and I were confirmed here, my siblings, children and nephew were married here and my father’s resurrection to eternal life was celebrated here.

This church building is important to us, and, it is and has been a conduit for the Holy Spirit, not a container for the Spirit. Already in front of us, the Spirit has gone and you are encouraged to see and embrace the broad reach of our God that extends to 5050 REC Dr.

2. I really hate that we don’t… From the youth of the church to we adults, there will be things that we will miss about our longtime location. The students are grieving that the new place won’t have an abundance of nooks and crannies to hide in. Many adults will miss the stained glass windows that set the environment for worship, the cathedral like style sanctuary and other things that we no longer have. This is natural. Growth requires change, and it is okay to grieve that which once inspired and calmed your spirit. It is also appropriate to see that many times in your life, God has moved in what was new, different, refreshing.

3. Nobody asked what I wanted… While the Building Committee over its decade of existence has had a wealth of meetings, invited everyone to town hall situations, listening groups and sought to make every effort to hear the concerns, ideas and inspirations of the congregation, we won’t all get what we want. (I know I am not.) The committee worked hard to keep fidelity of focus on the mission of the church and be wise stewards of the congregation’s wishes and finances. Through the thousands (literally) of hours spent on building committee business, it is simply true that EVERY idea was considered and EVERY concern discussed, none taken lightly. Then, after great prayer, discernment, discussion and deliberation, a plan was made and it is being executed.

We have done the very best we could have given our human frailties and economic limitations.

Now, we get ready to move, and I ask this. In times that were difficult, my former Bishop Roy Sano once requested; “Friends, these things we are doing are hard right now, so in the name of God, I ask this. When you feel like heckling, please just come and help. When you are inclined to pick, please pray.”

Pastor Mike

For any information needing to be published in the Marion Methodist newsletter, please contact the church office.

(info@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.

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.

Marist is fundraising to replace their current school van. If you are interested in donating please contact Dawn Blair, Director at 319-377-8490.

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

Marion Methodist T-Shirt Day
Wear your t-shirt all day on May 6!

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 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, medium and large sizes. We need women’s 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.

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

Nursery Shower
Purchase items for our new Nursery at 5050 REC Drive
www.MarionMethodist.org/Nursery-Shower
Items due in the Church Office by Tuesday, May 15

Nursery Shower Reveal
Saturday, May 19th 10:00 am
Tour the new Nursery, read a story, and have a snack in The Center.

Nursery Volunteer Workshop
Saturday, May 19th 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
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 right after the Nursery Shower Reveal, so please stop by to see the new nursery and then stay for lunch and the workshop.

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:
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.

New Yard Signs Available!!
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.

Meal Schedule:
5/9 - Tomaso'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 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

Welcome New Members!
April 22, 2018

Front Row: Lauri Becker, Jordan Sherwood, Candice Mullnix, Deb Barchard, Michelle Humphreys
Back Row: Pastor Mike, Jim Brust, Justin Mullnix, Rick Barchard, Chris Humphreys

RESCHEDULED
Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication
Date: Saturday, May 9th
Address: 282 22nd Street, Marion
Time: 5:00 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!

Construction Update - Day 299
Perspective and Texture
Perspective and Texture - these are words that we have heard many times during this building process. I know that they are important concepts when designing spaces where people will come for many generations to gather and worship.

My problem is – I don’t know how to create them. I guess I am a little too left-brained for that. So I rely on others to use words to describe them. That often isn’t very helpful either.

So - I resort to pictures.

John Terry, Construction Coordinator

Clockwise from upper left
Creating Texture on the sanctuary wall
Pure Texture
Perspective to the West – moving the dirt
Perspective from the top

Powerhouse
Fill Your Body • Fill Your Heart • Fill Your Head
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Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:
April 10: Harold Kolda, brother of Sandy Ochs
April 23: Bette Hampton, mother of Bob Hampton

BIRTHS:
April 21: Jack Lee Tiede, son of Dave and Jen Tiede. Grandparents Dennis and Corinne Nebraska

WEDDINGS:

BAPTISMS:
April 22: Lucy Elnora Kneeland, daughter of Bryan and Emily Ellingson
April 29: Dax Andrew Ellingson, son of David and Morgan Kneeland.

Baptism:
April 29: Eloise Kathryn Kron, daughter of Laura and Alex Kron

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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  Date Articles Due
5/18  5/9
6/1  5/23
6/15  6/6
6/29  6/20

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

Friendship Ministry

In September 1998, a new ministry began, unique among church ministries in the immediate area. It would serve the intellectually disabled and provide a Sunday school-type experience for folks in this population, some of whom had no other church related experience. The group was called Friendship Ministry, and at the first meeting that year, there were 5 young adults in attendance, with 4 leaders or helpers to guide them.

5 young adults in attendance, with 4 leaders or helpers to guide them.

Over the years, Friendship Ministry has grown to include as many as 30-35 members at any given meeting, and during that time at least that many teachers or helpers have helped with the ministry for as little as a few weeks or months, to many years. Friendship Ministry has met for an hour every Sunday, from September through May, and for 20 years has provided an opportunity for those with a variety of disabilities to come together to sing God’s praises, to learn basic Bible stories and concepts, and to share the love of God with one another. We have supported each other through good times and bad – celebrating victories at Special Olympics and weeping as some among us have passed.

One of our greatest joys has been to reach out and serve others, not always being the recipients of help, but knowing the joy of giving to others as well. We have collected money to buy milk for the women and children at Waypoint, donated money to buy books for children in need, given donations of food to the Marion food pantry, put together boxes of all kinds of treats to send to servicemen overseas, and have provided crayons and other supplies for our Haiti mission teams to take with them on mission trips, just to name a few of our efforts.

Friendship Ministry has been included in some wonderful opportunities here at Marion Methodist as well, and the group cherishes its relationship with the United Methodist Men, who years ago invited our group to help serve the soup supper following the December bell concert and the spaghetti supper on the nights of the puppet performances. And of course, we mustn’t forget being asked to ring at the spring bell concerts, which has been a true joy and a lot of fun for Friendship Ministry – members and teachers alike!

So, it is with some sadness, and yet with immense gratitude, we take this opportunity to announce that when we meet for our final time in May of this year, the era of Friendship Ministry will come to an end. This group has been going strong for 20 years and has been a blessing in so many ways to our members, all the wonderful teachers and helpers that have been such an important part of this ministry, and to the Marion Methodist church family. It is time to move on to other opportunities, to give our wonderful teachers the chance to spend their Sunday afternoons in different ways, and for our time together to draw to a close. Many of our members work together, attend Special Olympics together and our lives will continue to cross in other ways, but our time together at Friendship Ministry will soon end. A huge thank you to all at Marion Methodist who have supported us with your prayers, your encouragement and helping with treats, music and all the other things necessary to our ministry. It’s been a fantastic 20 years!!