Craig and I were both young, athletic, and fully embracing physical challenges of a wide variety. Though a Western Colorado native, during the four years we lived in his town, he enjoyed exposing me to challenges that involved mountain biking, skiing, hiking and scrambling. On our various experiences, when things really got interesting (read: harrowing), in his laid back Western Colorado way he would often say, “Boy, we’re standing at the edge.” He would say that when we were still three miles from the top of a pass on our bikes and our heart rate was high and oxygen low. He would say that as we walked across the knife’s edge of the Cragcrest trail and when we were trying to get our youth group off a ski slope at the end of the day. He thought it was funny.

One Saturday he asked if I would like to walk the trail from the rim of the Black Canyon down to the Gunnison river. His request was couched like this, “It’s not a long trail but it has a couple of challenging spots that will get your attention.” “Sounds like fun,” I said. “Let’s go.” This was something I later wished I could undo.

To say that the four-mile trail down the canyon was harrowing would be a dramatic under telling of its reality. This one-way trail is a natural ledge that gradually slopes down the wall of the canyon at a slope of 3 to 15%. Generally, it is 2-3 feet wide. However, and this is the big however, there is one spot about 30 feet in length where the trail is only 9 inches wide. The good news is this spot is level, fairly near the bottom (the drop would only be about 800 feet) and some brave soul has drilled handholds about 30 inches apart. The bad news is that the updraft is considerable and of course the brief fall would not end well.

When we arrived at the spot we sat down and put our daypacks on and let us boldly move forward with the One whom we can trust! Marion Methodist, as we experience these last two weeks in worship in our historic sanctuary, let’s embrace the experience, let’s praise the Lord for the edge we stand on and let us boldly move forward with the One whom we can trust!

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.

Please be in prayer for all our graduates, high school, college, technical schools and others. May it be a time of great celebration with family and friends, as they look towards their future plans of college, the military, careers – wherever God is leading them.

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

VBS Volunteer
Fun Shop
Sunday, June 10
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
5050 REC Drive

Training and Tour of upcoming VBS
Dinner and childcare provided

RSVP to Luann Byerly at lbyerly@marionmethodist.org

JUNE HAITI TRIP DONATIONS
WE ARE IN NEED OF:
PEANUT BUTTER
SOCCER BALLS
FRISBEEs
CANNED CHICKEN
JUMP ROPES

Thank you to Maddie Knapp, our Marion High School organizer, for bringing 20+ MHS students to WORK at Marion Methodist on the ONE DAY IN MAY this past Monday. The students (8 of which and one Mr. Martin are Marion Methodist members) worked hard, worked joyfully and saved us many sore muscles and trips up and down our many stairs. In preparation for our move, they reduced the size of the stage in the Carnegie, tore out the “celestial cinema,” carried all kinds of old records, puppet props, chairs and cleansed the third floor of our building. They made many repairs and boxed many things. Thank you MHS!

Thank you to the many Marion Methodist Volunteers who led crews on MONDAY. Jan Dickinson and Deb Liscum, Gene Gerber, Joan Padley and the entire staff of the church. Thank you to all who baked, bought and put out the wonderful snack spreads and thanks to all who gave $ for the Pizzas.

DATE CHANGE FOR NURSERY SHOWER REVEAL PARTY

JUNE 3, 2018

One Day in May

Safety Team Meeting

As part of our exciting move to 5050, a new Safety Team is forming at Marion Methodist. In a nutshell, this team will be responsible for coordinating with all the various missions at Marion Methodist, along with Church leadership, to ensure members, regular attendees, and visitors have a safe and welcoming environment in which to praise the Lord.

The first major meeting of the Safety Team is scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd, beginning at 7:30 am out at 5050. If you are interested in being a part of the Safety Team, please plan to attend this meeting or reach out to one of the Team Captains if you have questions. You do not need to have a background in a related field to be part of the Team.

Sincerely,
Dan Morgan, Craig Liscum, and Mike Henle

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.

Marion First United Methodist Church

VBS Volunteer
Young at Harp and Ridgerunners
Are putting on a concert to benefit the Feeding Lunch to Youth ($1.50) program on
June 3, 2018
Concert begins at 7:00pm in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church
800 12th St.
Marion, IA 52301

One Day in May
Thank You

Many thanks to all involved in A Joyful Noise, Jubilation, Bell Canto, Touch of Brass and the Friendship Ringers, who participated on our 2018 spring concert, A Final Note Before We Go! The support received from each of you, plus family, friends, and bell lovers is appreciated more than you can know!

We have had wonderful “behind the scenes” helpers, and I know I would miss someone if I tried to name them all. But, I would like to acknowledge two “non-ringers” for all the projects they “took on” in support of our ministry to glorify God!

When we needed tables that would fit over the pews in the balcony, Mel Campbell designed and built twelve tables for us. The length of the “back” table legs are the same to give us the correct height for ringing, but the front legs had to be longer since they went over the pew and to a lower step. And, the two steps were not the same, so the front table legs had to be different for each row – definitely not interchangeable! He also gave us two extra legs (same height as the back shorter leg) for each table so the tables could be used over the pew or on a flat floor!

When we needed some type of stand to hold our BIG chimes (there are eleven with the tallest being 5’7”), Mel designed and made 6 wooden stands for us. Other choir directors in the state have taken note of these stands and one director took one home to try it and liked it! She now has the pattern!

We have five more octaves of smaller chimes and, in a small rehearsal space, it was difficult to get the cases out every week (and NOT have someone trip on them), so Mel provided a shelf unit and he designed and built five different trays (since the chime sizes vary) to hold these chimes. It’s like a parking ramp for chimes! Mel also took a broken Manhasset (metal) floor music stand and by adding two “arms” converted it into a bell tree stand, where bells are hung and rung by striking them with a mallet.

When we needed a place to store our corduroy covered foam pads, Walker Kelly, added some “wood work” to our storage area.

When Joyful Noise needed some music folder risers, Walker stepped in and made a riser for everyone!

When we needed some “scrap” wood to be used for percussion instruments, Walker deliberately cut and made “scrap” wood for us! (It wasn’t scrap to start with…) When it came to taking down tables in the sanctuary after ringing in church, Walker immediately jumped in and helped take the tables down and moved them to storage.

Walker was always setting the recording mics to get good recordings of our handbell music. This was no easy task since the sound from the bells decays so quickly.

Thank you both, Mel and Walker, for all your support to the handbell ministry! It was much appreciated. You did all this for us, and I had understood both of you were retired!!! You have blessed us many times over! Thank you!

Marion Methodist Builds for the Future

The Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church wrote a piece about Marion Methodist and our plans for the future. Pastor Mike Morgan was interviewed for this piece and a representative was able to tour our new building. Video and article can be found at https://www.marion-methodist-builds-for-the-future-11386683

The late spring snows haven’t stopped construction on the new 32,000 square-foot facility for Marion First United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Church.

Set to open on Father’s Day Sunday – June 17, the new building is being built in a rapidly-growing section of the town and will address the many needs of the growing congregation.

“The first and primary decision was that we believed Marion First U.M. Church needed to be within Marion,” said Pastor Mike Morgan. “We picked this location because that’s where all the people are going. Sure enough, about 4,000 people have moved into the neighborhood since we’ve begun building up the property.”

The current building is in downtown Marion. Pastor Mike and his team lead worship services four times every Sunday to accommodate everyone in the sanctuary. A small fellowship hall is located in the basement. Parking is also a challenge because there are only about 20 parking spots for “the 2,200 souls that call Marion Methodist home,” Pastor Mike added.

The new building will include The Center (literally the center of the building) – an ample gathering space for small groups, a dining area that can fit up to 400 people, a commercial kitchen, an education wing which includes a conference room that can accommodate 80, and a nearly 900-seat sanctuary built with rear curved sound-enhancing walls.

“The Education Wing is a sea of technology,” said Pastor Mike. “Video screens in every room, wireless internet, and there is miles of wire in there for everything from speakers to electricity.”

The new sanctuary space will also be full of technology, but Pastor Mike says the focus is on individual worship experience.

“The concept is kind of based on a baseball diamond where the walls angle out and the back wall is arched primarily for acoustics, but also for aesthetics,” he said. “It’s got that sense of closeness where 89 percent of the seats are within the optimum hearing range. Even if we put all 860 seats in there the people will be able to see and hear well.”

The church won’t lose its downtown presence once the move is completed. The church offices and community ministry center will continue to be located in the old Carnegie Library building. “Many people come to that location when they need help,” said Pastor Mike.

For Marion First United Methodist Church, the building is the next step in a greater mission. “Our dream is to bring people to Jesus Christ and nurture them in the kingdom,” said Pastor Mike.

CHURCH ITEMS FOR SALE

JUNE 23

In preparation of our move to the new building, the individual ministry areas have sorted their physical assets as to what will move versus what can be sold. Therefore, the Board of Trustees is sponsoring an all church sale for items that will not be moving to the new facility. Please join us for this ONE DAY SALE, JUNE 23, FROM 8AM to 12PM to see if there are any church treasures that you would like to purchase. Prices will be marked on a majority of the items, and some of the more valuable items will be sold via silent auction. Cash and checks will be accepted. (Note: intact church windows and intact pews will not be a part of this sale as we are still in the process of trying to sell the building.) COME JOIN US FOR THIS HISTORICAL OPPORTUNITY!

Retirement

Dear SPRC,

After a lot of prayer, I have decided to retire from my position as Director of Children’s Discipleship and Education. My plan is to retire on August 1, 2018 so that I can feel confident that we will make a smooth transition to the new church building. I also have hope that someone will be hired earlier so that we can work together to have a smooth transition.

I have appreciated the opportunity to work with the children and young families of our congregation. God called me to this position 5 years ago and God has led me to this decision. It is time to have someone with new ideas to lead us into the next chapter.

I look forward to being an active member of this congregation as I move forward.

Luann Byerly

Looking for a Christian Education Director

Marion Methodist is seeking someone who desires and dreams for the children and youth in our area to know Jesus Christ.

Requirements for this position include planning children’s programming and recruiting volunteers. This position is part-time, approximately 20 hours per week.

Please submit a letter of intent and resume to jerry@marionmethodist.org.

Complete job description can be found at www.marionmethodist.org.

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 multiday week between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:
May 16: Irene Grimm, mother of Arlene Loerch

BIRTHS:
May 16: Irene Grimm, mother of Arlene

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 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
6/15 6/16
6/29 6/30
7/13 7/14
7/27 7/28

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.
June: Soup
July: Macaroni and Cheese
August: Peanut Butter
September: Soup
October: Toilet Tissue
November: Cake Mix

These Years at 12th and 8th
A Note from the Composer
My husband, Gerry, and I have been members of this congregation for over 40 years. Our twin children, Angela (Terry) Stockert and David (Morgan) Kneeland were baptized, confirmed, and married here. Our grandchildren, Tanner, Cassidy, and Lucy, were also baptized here. So you see, we have deep ties to and a deep love for this congregation. We’re so grateful for God’s blessings we have received here.

A few months ago in worship, Pastor Mike was explaining that the workers would be coming soon to remove the three stained glass windows in the sanctuary that are being taken to the new church site. As I sat in worship reflecting on the beauty of the windows, I wondered how many other people over the years had been touched by their beauty. I wondered how many hundreds of families had been blessed by worshipping at Marion Methodist over the almost 125 years at the 12th and 8th location. I felt inspired to thank an awesome God for his many blessings to this congregation. My prayer of thanksgiving evolved into the composition, “These Years at 12th and 8th.”

As you listen to this piece I hope you, too, will count your many blessings received at this place on 12th and 8th. We, as well as future generations, can look forward to many more blessings as God leads us on to serve and worship Him at 5050 REC Drive.

Sherry Kneeland

“How can we thank you, Lord, for this beautiful church on 12th and 8th? Her steeple standing tall and bright windows call us to this place, Through the years thousands have come and felt Your love and grace. How can we thank you, Lord, for these years at 12th and 8th? How many vows and rings were exchanged at the altar here? How many babies baptized, proud parents standing near? How many souls have passed, celebrated with our tears? How many babies baptized, proud parents standing near? How many vows and rings were exchanged at the altar here? How many babies baptized, proud parents standing near? How many souls have passed, celebrated with our tears? How can we thank you, Lord, for these years at 12th and 8th? Through it's time to go, our memories will not be erased. We know you lead us on to make new disciples. And as we go, Lord, we say thank you for this place. We thank you, Lord!”

Three IMPORTANT “WE ARE ON THE MOVE” dates
Wednesday, June 13th
All Church Open House
5050 REC Drive
4:00 - 7:00 PM

Sunday, June 17th
8:15 and 10:15 AM Worship Ministry
begins at 5050 REC Drive

Sunday, June 24th
Service of Decommissioning our buildings at 12th and 8th
Our last worship service in the building
4:00 PM