The Thrill of Holy Communion

Month after month we take holy communion at Marion Methodist and it is important to not allow us to relegate it to mere ritual. Holy Communion comes with a thrill, the potent movement of the Holy Spirit and great opportunity for us.

Holy communion awakens a holy mystery of what Jesus Christ has done for us and the whole world. It fixes our minds on the fact of our sin and on our need for forgiveness. It communicates God’s love for each soul. And, we United Methodists believe that through the bread and juice, the Holy Spirit moves into our midst to make clear to us the effects of the great work of Christ on our behalf.

In fact, for me, the enduring value of holy communion is its unalterable focus on Jesus Christ and his crucifixion as central to our Christian faith. The preacher might be able to draw us towards this, same with music, a bible study or even an article in the Marion Methodist. But, without exception, at Holy Communion God’s action in Jesus is the central reality.

The thrill of holy communion within the United Methodist Church and Marion Methodist in specific has some distinctive features that are particularly exciting to me.

First, the ideal that is without exception in the United Methodist Church is that all who call Christ theirs or who desire to receive him in Jesus is the central reality.

Second, the flexibility each congregation has to “eat the meal” as is useful to their faith and in accordance with their custom. For many years, Marion Methodist communion was quite formal. Prior to receiving the sacrament, the entire rail was covered with white cloths, then at the pastor’s direction, the cloths were carefully removed and purposely folded. Then the entire rail would be filled with congregants and the pastor would deliberately call upon us to eat the bread (which we took from a small glass dish and it was more like a pellet than bread) followed by his direction to receive the cup and we would all drink from the ½ ounce glass cups and then return them to their place on the rail itself.

Somewhere along the line as a congregation you shifted to monthly communion (which I love) and Intinction as your method. This has allowed lay persons to bless each other by holding cup and bread and saying the words “the body of Christ” “the cup of salvation” or others as we receive communion. This (in my sense of holy) has opened us more fully to God in the sacrament as we appreciate the “priestly” function of our pastors and have opportunity to kneel in the presence of God unabated by the sensibilities or limitations of the clergy.

Third, our communion does not stop at the south doors of the sanctuary. A host of committed volunteers take, representations of the body and blood of Christ, a summary of the morning’s sermon and their hearts to share with the many who are unable to attend worship when we gather due to restricting physical conditions. This act of Christian Community is such a thrill to any who have participated, seen or received it.

Lastly, we receive communion with such regularity that if – and we shouldn’t – but if we have allowed it to fall into the category of dry ritual in our lives, it isn’t so long in between servings that the thrill can’t be recovered.

Pastor Mike
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.

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

Thank You
Dear Friends,
On behalf of the Marion Senior Living Community, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your donation of $5700. We look forward to your continued support.

In His name,
Janet Lamm
MSCL Corresponding Secretary

Thank You!
Dear Rev. Morgan and the Marion Methodist Church Family,

Thank you very much for your generous gift of $800, which is designated for the Africa University Direct Scholarship Fund for scholarship support for the 2019-2020 academic year. Because of your faithfulness and generosity, the young men and women of Africa are being given the precious gift of a first-rate university education which will enable them to transform their lives, communities, and nations. Thank you!

I am also pleased to share with you that all is well on the Africa University campus, which is now abuzz with activity as students, faculty, and staff prepare for the 25th commencement ceremonies on June 8th. We anticipate a graduating class numbering approximately 600 graduands hailing from 17 of the 55 nations of Africa. Our graduates now number approximately 9,400 inclusive of the 2019 class! Thank you for believing in the future of Africa University and the worth of its mission.

Peace!

Save the Date!
F.L.Y. (Feeding Lunches to Youth) Started June 6th
FLY is a nonprofit organization that was founded by the Marion Methodist congregation, and since has grown to be a collective partnership with other local churches. The mission of FLY is to provide lunches to students who may not otherwise get one. There are many students on the free or reduced lunch program that miss meals when they are not in school. FLY seeks to bridge the gap for our students and families living in low income neighborhoods throughout Marion.

Volunteers are needed to make and deliver lunches on Tuesdays and Fridays through August 22. Please visit www.MarionMethodist.org/FLY to sign up. If you have questions email the interns at FLY@marionmethodist.org.

Watch LIVE at 10:15 AM
Go to our YouTube channel or online at MarionMethodist.org/watch-live

Hello my name is
Newcomer

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

June 16 at 9:15 AM
Administrative Office at the Church

MISSION BREAKFAST
Proceeds benefitting the Marion Cares 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.

Please pray for all the children who will be attending Vacation Bible School, that they will come to know and love Jesus in a whole new and exciting way. We pray for all the fun and activities as well as for all the volunteers, leaders, and helpers that will be guiding the children through the week.

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, re-iterate 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 the Sanctuary 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!

BBQ Donation

On Monday Mornings a couple of groups of men meet at the church for Bible Study, and life and faith growth. Recently one of the groups sponsored a bar-b-que dinner to support the S.H.I.N.E program of Marion Cares. Marion Methodist showed its love for kids, pork and chicken by raising $1750 through the dinner for this wonderful ministry. Pictured are Aaron Vargus, Nick Bray and Dana Goshon of the morning group presenting a “check” to Laura Campbell, Executive Director of Marion Cares.

Sunday Mornings
at 9:20AM in Room W10
Starting June 16

Register in The Center or at www.MarionMethodist.org

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!

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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:

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<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
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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.

**June**

- **Soup**
  - July: Macaroni & Cheese
  - August: Peanut Butter

- **September**
  - Soup

- **October**
  - Toilet Tissue

- **November**
  - Cake Mix

Meet the Staff

**Vicky Standley, Director of Pastoral Care**

A very pleasant person you always see around the church is our Director of Pastoral Care, Vicky Standley. She has held this position for 12 years and is working on her 13th. The definition of her job is the basic care of the congregation and sharing Jesus’ love with all. A special way that she becomes involved with people is when she performs a funeral. Sometimes she doesn’t know the person very well but by talking with family members she learns more about them and becomes more connected with the family members. She will share her time with the family and ease their fears about death. You will also find Vicky visiting members of our church in the hospital and at care centers to make them feel that they are still part of the church.

Wednesday nights find Vicky teaching Care Ministry classes. Sunday mornings she’s at church early to pray for that day’s service with the worship team, getting communion bags ready to go to Homebound Communion members and just visiting with people who might have a problem or joy to share. It’s also a good time for members to let her know about anyone who might be in the hospital, ill at home, and just needing a kind person to lend their ear.

When Vicky has spare time she likes to read and when the weather cooperates she likes both flower and vegetable gardening. She cans green beans and tomato juice to enjoy later.

Vicky and Ralph have 3 adult children and five grandchildren between the ages of 6 and almost 12. She had all five with her last New Year’s Eve. It was a contest to see who could stay up the latest. She didn’t say if she won or not.