We Have Church in the Summer?

Yes, that is a real question. It is a real question posed by one of our Confirmation students a few years ago at Marion Methodist. He was stunned to find that indeed services were held all 52 Sundays of the year because his family had never come to worship in the summer.

I get it. Summer is filled with fun opportunities to take a break from our routine. We have time on the lake, at the cabin or some fun vacation adventure. Your church staff is blessed with vacations too, and in fact, from June 1 to August 15 there are only 12 days when we are all here at once and 6 of those days have already passed – so, we get it.

We all need a break. Being away often means we will miss worshipping with this group AND that does not mean we need to have a summer without worship.

Year after year, testimonies are given by our students who have attended camp. They testify how God really grabbed them – or how they became more open to the Lord grabbing them in an environment very different from Sunday School, 4:12 or puppets at their church. These testimonies excite and invigorate our desire to grow our relationship with the Lord, and I am here to tell you that you can do that this summer, even in a week where you might not make it to Marion Methodist for worship.

Let me proselytize for a moment. Your pastor encourages you to seek out experiences that engage you with the ministry of Jesus Christ outside the walls of Marion Methodist. I advocate you finding a worship experience that brings you something different than what you encounter at 5050 REC Drive.

With a couple billion Christians in the world, it is most difficult for you to find a place where there is no Christian influence, opportunity or happenings. Just about every place you might travel, there will be Christians gathering for worship, fellowship or learning. So, as you travel or staycate and miss a Sunday or three, make yourself aware of what is happening in your area.

In my family life, we have been deeply enriched by Christian ministries outside the walls of a church. We have enjoyed a Skillet Concert following a Memphis Grizzlies NBA Game, and worshipped with 10th Avenue North on the beach at Myrtle Beach. When we camped, almost always, we worshipped with the campers at the National Parks hearing a seminary or college student preach and more than once in places like Pigeon Ford, TN and Petoskey, MI, we wandered into a church or tent meeting to hear the gospel. Every one of these experiences were free, drew us closer to the Lord and grew our family closer to each other.

There are praise and worship festivals in local parks, concerts at places like the US Cellular Center, Jones County Fair and many others in the summer that will grow you in Christ. Facebook, YouTube and other online sources offer many sermons and opportunity to worship – you simply need to make yourself aware.

Equal to being aware, you must be willing to be blessed in trying something different. I remember entering a “tent revival” at a little church in Ridgeway, CO with an open mind and a little fearful that under this circus tent, with 6 inches of wood shavings as a floor with my young girls and wife I might be entering some sort of weird cultic activity. We were not, and something I had never before considered is a wonderful memory of a beautiful message and music.

So, yes friends, we have worship every time it is Sunday at Marion Methodist and I encourage you and everyone you know and love, and plan to know and love, to come. But, if your kayak, camper, or vacation day calls you away – be aware and willing to try something different in the worship and praise of your God – it may just catapult you forward in your relationship with the Lord in very exciting ways.

Happy Summer – see you in worship.

Pastor Mike
**Leave of Absence**
Pastor Mike will be gone July 15 - August 11th. He will spend his time touring several holy and historic sites in Italy and on renewal in America's west. This is a self-funded sabbatical encouraged by SPRC and others to renew our pastor for his last leg of ministry after guiding a successful campaign, project and congregational move.

**SEWING DAY SCHEDULED**
Girls in underdeveloped countries miss a week of school every month due to a lack of proper supplies for their periods. Disposable pads aren't a solution, so washable, reusable pads were designed.

Sowers Circle plans to have a sewing day on July 26th from 9-3 in Room 100 to make these pads. If you are willing to cut, pin or sew, please contact Elaine Coppock (319-826-1118) or Jan Dickinson (319-573-2350) and tell us what you'd like to do. Bring a salad to share for lunch. It will be fun and very rewarding. If you can't come but would like to help, donations of bright cotton, flannel, PUL material, or cash would gladly be accepted.

All finished pads will be included in a one-handled bag with a bar of soap, washcloths, underwear - girls size 10, 12, or 14, or women's size 5, 6, or 8 (briefs not bikinis) - and two one-gallon Ziplocks. These items also may be donated.

**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

**FLY (Feeding Lunches to Youth) Volunteers Needed**
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.

**Opportunity to Serve**
There are new opportunities all the time at Marion Methodist for you to serve and get involved. One of our more established volunteer opportunities is undergoing some big changes and many of you are needed to help get this accomplished.

For many years at Marion Methodist, families have been lovingly served with a luncheon following the funeral of a friend or loved one. For decades, the United Methodist Women have been faithfully providing a wonderful meal and time of fellowship for the families of our church, which has been greatly appreciated by the families served. Now that we are at 5050 REC Drive, we are seeing even more opportunities and possibilities for expanding and enriching the funeral luncheons and enhancing the experience of families in new and exciting ways.

So, we need YOU – men, women, teens – to commit to helping, when you are available, by providing food, helping with setup, serving or clean up, or calling volunteers to help when a funeral luncheon is needed. If you missed signing up on Sunday, June 23, call the church office today at 377-4856 and let us know how you would like to be part of this very special ministry which touches lives in a very unique way at an otherwise difficult time in the lives of our church family.

**MISSION BREAKFAST**
Proceeds benefiting the Marion 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

**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 multweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
Marion Methodist feasts on Scripture

Beginning in August 2018 our leadership has encouraged us to memorize scripture. Each month a memory verse has been presented to us to learn. Recently, our leaders took four weeks to “review” what we have learned. One of those exercises had a scripture verse printed on a card and the beginning of the sentence “this verse is important to know because…” Nearly 500 of you returned cards – all of which had wonderful responses to the phrase.

The following are a few that are representative of your responses for John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God:

- God is our only constant, True Love, True Forgiveness, True Salvation
- It shows me that the trinity is and has been forever.
- The Bible is the truth
- God has always been and always will be. He does not change with the times.
- God always has been there - and I am part of His creation plan. I draw near to Him to be in truth.
- It’s all in the Bible - All the answers, help, guidance we need - it’s our food for our soul - He spoke in to being - and the Bible has his word to complete us.
- It is a reminder that God is and has always been - will always be. This is something I can count on. God’s sovereignty is an incredible blessing. God is our creator, he is everything!

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.

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.

If you have been involved at Summer Games this year: for the campers, the staff, the volunteers, the musicians. May the Holy Spirit be powerful and present in the midst of the fun, the study and huddle time and in all the worship services. We pray for changed lives, for those who will come to know Jesus for the first time, and for those who already know and love Jesus to have their faith deepened and their love for Jesus to grow even stronger.

Marion Methodist is Praying for:

- Summer Games campers
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Musicians
- Changed lives
- New believers
- Deepened faith
- Stronger love for Jesus

It’s all in the Bible - All the answers, help, guidance we need - it’s our food for our soul - He spoke in to being - and the Bible has his word to complete us.

God always has been there - and I am part of His creation plan. I draw near to Him to be in truth.

Thank you for hosting.

Tickets $55 Through August 31, 2019.
Register Today and SAVE $10!
Late Registration Tickets $65 starting September 1, 2019

Featuring Margaret Feinberg

SHE seeks
Saturday October 12, 2019
8:45-9:30AM Registration and Refreshments
9:30AM-3:00PM Worship and Featured Speaker
Catered Lunch Provided Gifts for each Guest
Register Today at www.SHEwomensConference.org

Watch LIVE
at 10:15 AM
Go to our YouTube channel or online at MarionMethodist.org/watchlive
Karen’s roles and responsibilities center on our congregation. She leads the following groups: Hospitality, Connections, and Ushers. She loves meeting people! Karen always finding those people new to our Church and introducing them to others.

How can we locate Karen on Sunday? She is in the Church Center talking to our congregation and connecting people that haven't met each other. She's also making sure the ushers know where they need to be. On Wednesday she is learning more about the Bible by attending Bible study. Monday–Thursday she works at the office.

Karens favorite part of her job is meeting new people in the New Member Class and visiting with people to reconnect.

If you have a question for Karen it would probably be about information on the church, membership or volunteering. She also would be a person to ask about the location of anything at our Church at 5050 REC Drive. People are welcome to come see her any time. Her office door is always open in the church office building.

Karens favorite hobby outside of work is her family. She loves spending time with her husband, 5 children and 6 grandchildren!