My dear Marion Methodist friends, what a great month June 2018 has been in the life of the church. After many years of thoughtful planning, intense prayer, motivational conversations and fundraising, we “got there!” We began our ministry with great fanfare: an open house, packed worship services, first wedding, first baptism and a Vacation Bible School serving a volume of children not seen at Marion Methodist in many years. WOW!

We are there – how exciting, Now what?

In my middle thirties I was contacted by the President of my college, Iowa Wesleyan, to serve as a Trustee. It was an incredible honor to receive such a call. I loved my college experience, desired something like that for others and really had an infinity for it. It was a dream to one day help advance it, so when I received a call to join a Board that had an average age of ~ well, mine now ~ I was honored.

The first few minutes of my initial board meeting were magic. Surrounded by others who loved the college and desired its advancement, I just drank it all in. President Bill Johnson moved the election of the two new Trustees and we were unanimously approved. Applause and affirmation all around.

The vote was followed directly by a break, welcomes and congratulations from everyone who had labored to make that day happen. There were many years of thoughtful planning, intense prayer, motivational conversations and fundraising, we “got there!” We began our ministry with great fanfare: an open house, packed worship services, first wedding, first baptism and a Vacation Bible School serving a volume of children not seen at Marion Methodist in many years. WOW!

We are there – how exciting. Now what?

In our first summer here, the work that has been done at Marion Methodist on REC Drive. Looking around The Center, the mylar balloons are gone, the opposition for the future of The Center.

What a joy, what an honor (I might add finally) to “get there” to the church building we have been a part of for nearly two centuries continues and accelerates. While there are many millenions of reasons – the current state of the world situation, the cloudy day, etc. that coax us to NOT praise God, and, through it all we are called to praise. In every circumstance and situation praise God because He created, loves and restores us.

We pray. One of the greatest “works” a Christian can do is pray with and for the church, world and others. James reminds us that Prayer is both an honor and a work of the Christian: “13 Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. 14 Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.” (James 5:13-16)

We provide basic needs for others. One of the honors of serving Jesus is the opportunity to work for the basic needs of those we share the planet with. That is why for years the “Methodists” have made meals and donated food and sewn dresses and provided gasoline, hotel rooms and fought for the equality of all people. King Solomon wrote: “ Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need.” (Proverbs 21:13) The Methodists in Marion work to hear and respond to the basic needs of others.

We propagate the Gospel in our generation. One of the great honors of Christianity is to know our salvation. This honor is paired with the work of sharing it with and contending for it in our generation. Jude 3 says: “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.” From the very first of Christianity, our forefathers and mothers have encouraged us to contend for the faith, to do all in our power during the living of our days to invite, welcome and encourage others to receive Jesus Christ as Lord.

So, as the fanfare of “new church” diminishes, the work does not. Marion Methodist is charged by Christ himself to continue the work began long before our lives in Marion of praise, prayer, provision and propagation. These are the reasons why we are on the move. It’s an honor to be your pastor; I cherish the work we do.

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 the Summer Games staff, pastors, musicians, huddle leaders and support staff as they prepare for Summer Games the week of July 8th. Pray for all the campers, their families, and all who will be touched by the Holy Spirit during this powerful week of worship, fun and faith.

New Yard Signs Available!!
New yard signs with a new community message are available to put in your yard. Invite the community to Marion Methodist at 5050 REC Drive.

Conversational Bible Study of The Book of Ruth
Guided by Jim Sommerville
Sundays at 9:30AM in Room W10

The book of Ruth is the most beautiful love story in the Bible, but unlike all other love stories, it is the story of astonishing love of a daughter-in-law for her mother-in-law. It is also the story of how a young widow, from a nation despised and excluded by the Israelites, plays a major role in Israel’s history by becoming the great-grandmother of King David—and finally an ancestor of Jesus.

Each of the main characters in the story—Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz—exemplify the great Old Testament virtue of Hesed—which includes loyalty, kindness, love, and mercy. It is a story that begins with disaster and ends with joy.

In our study of the four chapters of this little book we will consider its lessons for us.

This class is designed for someone who is anywhere between Engaging, Deepening, or Centered on the Discipleship pathway.

Chrysalis Weekend
Chrysalis is a 3 day weekend retreat for incoming 10th grade students through age 21. Chrysalis is designed as an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that only starts at the three day weekend, but challenges your everyday life. This weekend will be hosted at Salem United Methodist Church Friday, July 27 – Sunday, July 29.

Sign up at https://www.crchrysalis.org/chrysalis-application or contact Kelsie DeReus to get signed up at kdereus@marionemthodist.org or 319-377-4856

Summer Games University
There is still time to sign up! We want all of our youth to know Jesus Christ and we believe that SGU works towards this goal! SGU is a great week of fellowship, worship, and devotion to Jesus Christ. SGU is hosted at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA Monday, July 9 – Friday, July 13. Please sign up at sgu.camp or if you have any questions please contact Kelsie DeReus @ kdereus@marionemthodist.org or 319-377-4856
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.

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

SEWING DAY CANCELLED
Due to UMOR informing churches that school bags will no longer be used for school supplies, our annual sewing day is no longer necessary, so we will NOT be sewing on July 27th as previously planned. I want to thank all the women who have given hours for this mission over the years. I will truly miss it. Thank you so much.

Jan Dickinson

Summer Sunday School
We had a wonderful turnout to all of our children’s education ministries on our first Sunday at 5050! This is a blessing, but we must have more volunteers to run a safe and effective program.

We need more help for both preschool and elementary for the next few weeks. The need is even more dire at the end of July and into August. If you are a parent or a middle school student or older, could you please help with Kid’s View, Smash Kids or Summer Sunday school?

We need the most help in Summer Sunday School as we had 60 students on our first Sunday! Praise God! We still need 2 volunteers on these following dates: July 29th, Aug. 5th Aug. 19th or Sept. 1st. We need 1 more volunteer for August 12th and August 19th.

We need 1 more adult and at least one youth, 5th grade on up, for Preschool Summer Sunday School for the rest of the summer. We would love to have the students who have completed 5th – 6th as helpers, with many preschoolers we need more hands.

We thank you for everything you have done for Marion Methodist and we praise God for all of the little children that attend Marion Methodist. We know that you know teaching them about Jesus is important and we thank you for your dedication to this.

Blessings,
Luann Byerly
Director of Children Christian Education & Discipleship

Kelsie DeReus
Director of Youth and Connectional Missions

Thank You
Dear Volunteers from Marion Methodist,

I wanted to express my deepest appreciation for your commitment of packing lunches this semester of Community Connection at the library. You fed kids who may not have had a meal that evening otherwise. Thank you for giving your time and resources this semester. You are a blessing to us and our kids.

In Jesus,
Laura Campbell

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 multiweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
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: jwildman@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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<tr>
<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
<th>Date Articles Due</th>
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<tr>
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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 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.

July: Macaroni and Cheese
August: Peanut Butter
September: Soup
October: Toilet Tissue
November: Cake Mix
December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes

With the new building bring new growth in all our programs. There are many ways to get involved at Marion Methodist.

Opportunities include:

**Hospitality**
- Be a part of Sunday Morning Usher Ministry
- Serve coffee and cookies before and after our Sunday Morning services.
- Be a welcoming face to everyone who enters our building

**Technical Team**
- Be responsible for the one of the many elements that go on during our Sunday Morning Services and special events. Includes sound board, lights, cameras, and video capturing

**Music Ministries**
- Glorify and worship God through voice or instrument in Choir and Praise Teams on Sunday Morning

**Communion Ministry**
- Communion stewards prepare the communion elements to be served on the first Sunday of each month and at other special services
- Homebound Communion Stewards serve communion to our members who are homebound and in care centers.

Prayer Ministry
- Join with others as we pray for the joys and concerns of fellow members of our congregation

**Children's Discipleship**
- Volunteer to lead one of our many Sunday Morning classes
  - 8:15 AM Kid's View
  - 9:15 AM Smash Time Children's Church
  - 10:15 AM Summer Sunday School
- Check In Station Volunteers
- Nursery Volunteers

**Youth Discipleship**
- Volunteer to help with our Summer 4:12 in the Park on Wednesday nights 6:30 - 8:30 PM

**Adult Discipleship**
- Leaders are always needed to facilitate various class offerings.

For information on any of these volunteer opportunities contact the Church Office at 319-377-4856 or email info@marionmethodist.org