God led us to build this facility because we love and are called to
in the world.

worship gatherings strengthen and encourage us to do these acts of worship
in Loscahobas, Haiti and volunteering as Christians in a wide number of
various ministries of the United Methodist Men and Women, our friends
supporting the United Methodist Commission on Relief (UMCOR) the
we do in praise of God. This congregation worships God by filling the
Worship

believe that as we pray in worship and offer our gifts to God he is praised and

enjoy worship. Psalm 103 begins: "Let all that I am praise the LORD, with
my whole heart, I will praise his holy name." Anyone who walks into the
Marion Methodist building will immediately notice that our featured room
is a worship facility. We love reading and hearing the Scripture read, bells,
guitars, pianos, and voices “singing” praises to the One and only God. We

my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.

The “REAL MOTIVATION”

While grabbing my bananas at Fareway this week a
long-time friend bumped his cart into me (an alleged
accident) and said, “The church you guys built looks
awesome Mike!” I agreed that God is doing a wonderful
thing through Marion Methodist and then he asked,
“What is the real motivation behind it?”

Great question, particularly since he worships with
another tribe of Christians and has not read 10 years
of Marion Methodist articles, attended any user group
meetings, one of the four charge conferences or been part of the Believe,
Build or Transform campaigns. My answer was simple, and by way of
reminder, I am sharing why it was important for us to follow God’s lead
in this project and I encourage you to borrow my answer as part of your
invitation to friends and colleagues.

God has led us to build this new facility because we believe and profoundly
enjoy worship. Psalm 103 begins: "Let all that I am praise the LORD, with
my whole heart, I will praise his holy name." Anyone who walks into the
Marion Methodist building will immediately notice that our featured room
is a worship facility. We love reading and hearing the Scripture read, bells,
guitars, pianos, and voices “singing” praises to the One and only God. We
believe that as we pray in worship and offer our gifts to God he is praised and
we love gathering together to praise.

Worship is more than a gathering; it is also a doing. Worship is the work
we do in praise of God. This congregation worships God by filling the
Food Pantry with food, Feeding Lunches to Youth (FLY), Marion Cares,
supporting the United Methodist Commission on Relief (UMCOR) the
various ministries of the United Methodist Men and Women, our friends
in Lescahobas, Haiti and volunteering as Christians in a wide number of
community missions and organizations across our community. Our weekly
worship gatherings strengthen and encourage us to do these acts of worship
in the world.

Take a step inside the east or west doors (both FRONT DOORS) and the visitor
quickly concludes – these people like being together. The coffee station, snack
counter and various places to sit or stand for conversation is a sign that this group
takes people and relationships with people very seriously. Of course, fellowship
in the Christian tradition is more than happy conversation, eating a sticky bun
or cookie and being with folks as we conclude or wait for our Sunday morning
worship to begin.

Fellowship based on “sharpening and burping” as one of my colleagues calls it, falls
short of our aim in fellowship. Jesus says in Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three
gather together as my followers, I am there among them.” As Christ followers, our
motivation for getting together runs much deeper than simply getting together. Our
motivation is that when we are together, we are able to come to know each other
and come to genuinely and authentically care for each other. Christian fellowship
and the purpose behind the “Center” at REC Dr. is to provide a vessel for this.

God led us to build this facility because we take making disciples very seriously.
The south end of our facility and the space beyond it all the way to the drive that
connects our parking lots (our future addition) exists to train, lead and guide boys,
girls, men and women to become disciples of Christ. Making a disciple begins with
a point of reference, generally a person.

I watched with glea (a word I infrequently deploy but “happy” doesn’t fully capture
the depth of expression I want to convey) as men, women and youth provided the
boys and girls of Vacation Bible School an example to follow as to what a disciple
looks like. Jesus tells us disciples are made when people have a good point of
reference to aspire to: “I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to
you.” (John 13:15) So, we seek to fill those rooms, our small groups, 4:12 and more
with folks that are striving daily to follow Jesus’ example who can guide others to do
the same. Through this we make disciples.

These three things are our real motivation for building. Tell everyone.

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.

Prayers for all those on the Chrysalis team and the youth who will attend as they prepare for the Chrysalis flight July 27-29 at Salem UMC. Pray for hearts to be opened as those on the flight draw closer to God and strengthen their relationship with Him.

**UMCOR School Kits**

We are looking for donations of these items so they can be put together at a later date into school kits that will be sent to UMCOR. Below is a list of the items needed for the school kits. Please have your donated items dropped off at the Church Office or the Mission Depot in The Center by Sunday, August 5.

- Pair blunt scissors
  - Round tip only
  - No plastic scissors
- Box of 24 crayons
  - Only 24-count boxes are accepted
- One-subject notebooks (3 per School Kit)
  - No marble composition books
  - No 3 or 5-subject notebooks
- Pack of loose-leaf paper
  - 100-200 page packets are acceptable
  - Wide or college rule accepted
- Hand-held pencil sharpener
  - 1-inch or longer
  - Remove from packaging
- Ruler
  - 12 inches or 30 centimeters long
  - Sturdy or flexible material accepted
- Unsharpened pencils
- One eraser
  - Two inches or larger
- Two-gallon re-sealable plastic bag
- Sandwich size reusable plastic bag

**The MOVING PARTY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!!**

Thank you to nearly 40 of you Marion Methodists ranging from 8th grade to 80 that came and really worked to get our things to 5050 REC Dr. It was fun, sweaty, nothing and no one got broke – so, as moves go, a tremendous success. Please note it will take a few weeks to SETTLE and get everything to their right spots (and maybe thin down even a bit more).

**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.

**Hello My Name Is Newcomer**

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

**July 15 at 9:15 AM
NW corner of The Center**

**4:12 IN THE PARK @ THOMAS PARK WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 8:30PM**

**Mission Breakfast**

July 29th 7:30 - 11:00 AM
The Center

**New Yard Signs Available!!**

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**JOIN US AT 5050 REC DRIVE**

www.MarionMethodist.org
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.

Thank You!
A big THANK YOU from the Board of Trustees for your patronage at the church items sale June 23! We were able to sell or silent auction off many historic building treasures that are momentos and memories for our parishioners to cherish for many years to come. Also, we were blessed with around 30 energetic and positive volunteers that willingly pitched in for a variety of tasks. We could not have done it without your help!

New Member Class – Sunday, July 22, 2018
Have you been attending Marion Methodist for a few months, or maybe a few years? And have you decided it’s time to become an official member of our church?

Then please join us for our next New Member Class on Sunday, July 22 at 1:30 am. We'll start with lunch in W10, then start the class. We'll finish the afternoon with the Membership Service at 2:45 pm.

If you’re interested in being part of this class or have questions, please contact Karen Schmitz at 377-4856 or kschmitz@marionmethodist.org.

Child care will be available upon request.

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY AT 5050 REC Dr.
Marion Methodist has long had a great ministry to the food pantry of Marion. Typically, each Sunday we would fill 2 grocery carts of the “monthly” item and other nonperishables. This ministry, we hope, will grow and grow as more folks come to Marion Methodist, so you need to know a few things:

WHERE DO I TAKE THE FOOD IN THE NEW BUILDING?
Take your food to the “Mission Depot” at the North and west entrance to the sanctuary from the center. Place your items in one of the “cubbies” for Monday pick up.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?
The requested item for July is macaroni and cheese and you can also bring other nonperishables. We have plenty, many in our community do not. Let’s not let our “month of move” stop our generous hearts. The food pantry needs you!

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CHILDREN’S DISCIPLESHIP
8:15 AM SPIRITED TRADITIONAL SERVICE
KID’S VIEW – CHILDREN DISMISSED FROM SERVICE BEFORE SERMON
9:15 AM SMASH TIME
SMASH TIME CHILDREN’S CHURCH
10:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL – CHILDREN DISMISSED FROM SERVICE BEFORE SERMON

ALL CHILDREN NEED TO BE CHECKED IN AT ELECTRONIC CHECK IN BEFORE ATTENDING SERVICE

TV Broadcast
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Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:
June 22: Ben Jackson, father of Jean Jackson
June 24: Otto Essington, father of Brenda Essington

BIRTHS:

WEDDINGS:

BAPTISMS:
July 1: Jasmin Marie Behnke, Courtney Joei Behnke, Adyson Fayth Behnke, and MaKenzie Rae Behnke, children of James and Alysia Behnke

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
<th>Date Articles Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>7/18</td>
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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.

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

Thank you from VBS

Marion Methodists’s Shipwrecked

VBS was a great success! We had over 250 children registered and over 90 volunteers. We sang and danced to some wonderful songs. We played games, experienced dramas and explored science activities and crafts, watched videos about kids like us and had delicious snacks. Through all of this we learned that Jesus rescues us even when we are lonely or worried, when we struggle, when we do wrong or when we feel powerless. The children also donated $1,572.51 to be sent to RTS missions in Haiti to feed the children hot lunches throughout the school year. This will provide over 15,000 meals. They were living their faith by emptying their piggy banks.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this VBS a great success. It is the volunteers who helped during the week, those who helped put our decorations together, and everyone who provided donations who made it so successful. We never could have had such a successful week without all of the support from our congregation, including all of your prayers.

A special thanks go to our VBS Directors: Betsy Bushlack, Jen Digmann, Gwyn Erb, Chris Hauser and Sabre Hauser.

I hope you all had a chance to see the fabulous decorations our team put together to give it a special atmosphere. Those decorations are now at Salem UMC in Cedar Rapids, then they will go to Prairie Chapel UMC and finally return to Marion at Christ Community UMC. They will be well used.