During the "How the United Methodist Church Came to be" portion of our New Members Class, (while a disclaimer is always added) we identify Charles Wesley as the "music man" of the great Methodist Revival. While it is true the younger brother of John Wesley was a prolific song writer, there was much more to him than music.

Charles arrived at Oxford four years after John and, like his brother, immediately joined the "Holy Club" that put him in fellowship with a variety of men serious about their faith including the likes of George Whitfield. The work of the Holy Club had a profound influence on him, and, for Charles, as for his brother John, the unsuccessful mission to Georgia unraveled him to great extent.

On May 21, 1738 Charles had a profound conversion event (three days later John experienced a similar event in the famous "Aldersgate Street" experience). Charles recounted regularly that the Holy Spirit that day had freed him and convinced him that he need share the gospel to ordinary people. Influenced greatly by the astonishing success of his friend George Whitfield, Charles went to open air preaching. Often he and John would share a revival, but often Charles would lead one without his brother. Charles felt compelled and argued incessantly with John that the Methodists SHOULD NOT leave the Church of England.

Charles' conversion experience had a deep impact on his doctrine and teaching, especially the work of the Holy Spirit. While a noted preacher, his lasting teaching has come to us today most effectively through his nearly 6,000 hymns, several of which remain in the United Methodist Hymnal today.

Prominent in his hymns are four themes:

- The personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit (if you receive Him God will "be with you.")
- The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (God is always at work to make your life Holy)
- The depravity of humankind (Humanity is sinful)
- Humanity's personal accountability to God. (Each of us are held accountable for our personal sins)

His many hymns have had lasting and significant influence not only on Methodism but on modern theology as a whole. That is why from time to time if you visit a Catholic or Baptist church you will sing a hymn they love and believe is their own. But when your eyes glance to the composer at the bottom of the page, you often will be able to say, "ah Charles Wesley."

If you have attended worship every week and Christmas Eve this year, the hymns of Charles Wesley have been sung by your voice and those near you in the pews at Marion Methodist. Along with me you have sung:

- And Can It Be that I should gain?
- Christ the Lord is Risen Today.
- Come Thou Long expected Jesus
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- O For A Thousand Tongues to sing

These hymns, all nearly 300 years old, by themselves speak of the tremendous influence and impact this one man – Charles Wesley has had on Christianity in and beyond his time.

Pastor Mike
Reflections from Annual Conference

Annual conference provides a unique experience for everyone who attends. This is not surprising because the impression and impact of most events depend on you. Depending on your background, the size of church you represent, your role in your church, your age, how you deal with media devices, how many times you have attended the conference, even where you sit in the auditorium impact how you interpret the conference and the value that you take away from it.

In many ways, the conference this year seemed like a typical conference. Preaching, praying, praising, singing, voting, rules of order, report after report, and more sitting. These are all good things and mostly necessary as a function of a multi-million-dollar organization.

This year, as in my past two years, my table mates provided wise insights into the nuances of the proceedings. My ears particularly perked up when graphs of declining membership, decreasing apportionment revenue and rising operating costs were flashed on the super-sized screens. Discussion and rationalizing followed from the podium which was not entirely convincing. This is not a new trend for the conference, just a sharp contrast to what is happening at our church.

At our church, we have a unique blend of great leaders and great followers. Both sides of that equation are necessary to achieve the success, impact and benefit that we provide and experience daily at Marion Methodist.

John Terry

Thank You

Thank you so much for all the well wishes, congratulations and cards as we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. It made a special day even more fun to share it with our church family.

Ralph and Vicki Standley

Presentation to the Meier Family

Members of the Meier family were presented with the Roy Meier window that had been preserved.

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 our Staff Parish Relations Committee:
James Riley, Chairperson
Chris Hauser, Vice-Chair
Kathi Decker
David Dix
John Collins
Brenda Lindell
Ken Joliffe
Tammy Huckfeldt
Kelly Buckley

Calling all Leaders

If you are interested in becoming a leader in one of our many ministries at Marion Methodist, we invite you to our first ever “Leadership Summit” on August 6th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The event will begin with a brief explanation from Pastor Mike, and Keith about the joys, commitments, opportunities and expectations of our leaders. Following their presentation, ministry leaders from different ministries in the church will hold breakout sessions explaining the details of what leadership looks like for their particular ministry.

Our Discipleship Pathway helps guide us on our journey of following Christ. If you have engaged and are deepening your faith you may be ready to move to the “Centered” spot on the pathway. This means leadership. You don’t have to be a biblical genius or have gone to the church for 10 years. If you have a love for God and others and believe in the mission of the church you should come and explore leadership.

Leadership positions include:
Sunday School
Confirmation
4:12 Youth Ministry
Small Groups
Praise team
Care Ministry
Hospitality team
Haiti team leader
And many more!

Come and prepare yourself to take the next step in your discipleship. Childcare will be provided.

Thanks for your help!

We want to thank all of the volunteers, the people that donated supplies and all who prayed for us during VBS this year. A special thanks to the children and their families who donated the money for the children of Haiti.

Baked Goods Needed

Marion Cares is celebrating 10 years of doing good works in partnership with local churches in the city of Marion, for the people of Marion.

Our celebration is an afternoon of worship on July 29 from 3 - 6 PM in City Square Park co-hosted by many of our church friends.

Would you join us?

We are looking for individually wrapped baked goods to share at the event. A free-will donation basket will be available at the event, and all money raised will go to support the program of Marion Cares.

To donate please contact Laura Campbell at laura@marioncares.org or call 319-377-5344.
Who Decided What We Needed?

As you have looked at the floor plan for our new church facility, you may have asked yourself this question, and wondered if the layout of our future home was determined solely by the members of the building committee. I can assure you that it absolutely was not…

Early on in our journey to get to where we are today, we held a series of about 35 meetings with different ministry and user groups in the church to solicit their input on what they felt they would need in a new facility. As we progressed through the process we continued to receive feedback from members of the congregation on what they felt the building should look like, what it should be able to accommodate in the way of worship, fellowship and educational opportunities and what we should think about as we dreamed about the “next phases” of what a building project might entail as we go forward.

Most recently, as the floor plans were being finalized, we asked four final groups to provide input on the plans our architect had put together. We solicited input on the kitchen, the education area, and from the worship team with a special emphasis on our music and performance programs. Some of the people that were willing to help and be a part of those user group meetings were:

- **Kitchen** – Mike Richmond, Barry Soukup, Kay McGuire, Cheri Dickey, Lois Shindoll, Sherry Kneeland
- **Music/Arts** – Diane Beach, Mary Lee Parks, Peggy Rosenkranz, Jason Alt, Simon Campbell
- **Worship/Technology** – Simon Campbell, Walker Kelley, Pastor Keith Nester, Gene Gerber
- **Education** – Luann Byerly, Jen Digmann, Amelia Echols, John Terry, Pastor Keith Nester

We have also been very fortunate to be able to tap into the knowledge and experience of many other members of our congregation for input on the plans we are working with. We are truly blessed as a congregation to have a lot of folks with a lot of practical and career experiences that have proven to be valuable resources for the building committee as we continue to work on finalizing the last details.

So to summarize, the planning for our new facility has truly been a “congregational” effort and the folks involved up to this point go well beyond the building committee. And so, as the chairman of the committee, I just want to say thank you for all those who have helped up to this point, and to those of you who will help before we are all done. Your input has helped us immensely and we are truly blessed to have your help in this endeavor.

Schoolbag Sewing Day

The next schoolbag sewing day is set for Friday, August 4 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Many hands are needed to complete as many bags for UMCOR as possible. You don’t need to be a sewer to help with these bags. Ironers, cutters, and pinners are also needed to make them. Instructions are given to those who haven’t done it before, or for those who need a refresher course. Mid morning and mid afternoon snacks are provided, as well as a taco salad lunch with all the trimmings. Much fun and fellowship is a product of the day as well as completed schoolbags to fill with school supplies.

To join in the fun, email me at jandickinson1@mchsi.com, call at 573-2350 or call the church office at 377-4856, and let me know what you want to do.

Thank you.

Jan Dickinson

Remembrance Prayer Service

As a Christian community, we have many opportunities to celebrate and worship together. One of the more poignant times is when we celebrate the life of someone near and dear to us at a funeral or memorial service. With friends and loved ones scattered throughout the country, though, it’s not always possible to attend a funeral, and oftentimes, there is no service held.

Maybe you were not able to attend a funeral for someone close to you, or it’s the anniversary of the death of a loved one, or perhaps you would like to spend some time in prayer to reflect on the loss of one dear to your heart. If so, the Remembrance Prayer service is for you!

On the 3rd Sunday of each month a Remembrance Prayer Service is held in the Chapel at 11am. Come for a time of prayer, scripture and quiet reflection as you remember and honor the life of one you know and love.

The next Remembrance Prayer Service will be Sunday, July 16 at 11:00 am.

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!

**July 16 at 9:45 AM and 11:00 AM in the Library & Hospitality Room**

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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DEATHS:
July 4: Becky Wilkinson, mother of Becky Cravens

BIRTHS:
June 20: Tucker Alexander Little, son of Katie Jo and Troy Little. Grandparents are Chuck and Sherry Alexander.
June 29: Dax Andrew, son of Emily and Bryan Ellingson

BAPTISMS:
July 1: Maryn Lorraine, daughter of Cassie and Jesse Parcher

WEDDINGS:

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

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

Christian Education At Our New Church

Please join us to learn about our plan for adult and children’s education at our new facility.

Sunday, July 23
9:45 and 11:00
Room 202

We will have a wonderful new building and we have a plan to put it to good use!

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

July
Job: Reverent, Wrestling, Revelation and Reversal
Suffering

August and September
Prayer: How, What, Why?

September, October, and November
Sharing your Faith

November and December
Don’t Mess up your Christmas

January and February
The BIG Move