Do you attend church? This question is often asked in surveys with the following implication: a person who attends church is a person who is involved in a faith community. That assumption has validity and can be misleading at the same time. Come with me and let's dive deeper into it.

Large church pastor, Carey Niewhof of Toronto, in his weekly blog wrote: "during his earthly life, you didn't attend Jesus – you followed him." The greater point he encourages pastors to see is that church is not something you attend, it is something you engage in. That resonates with my experience here at Marion Methodist, most recently embodied in two faithfully engaged followers of Jesus, who recently transferred from Marion Methodist to the Church Triumphant.

Connie Albert was in worship most every week of her adult life because she was engaged in following Christ. She was engaged in the United Methodist Women, particularly her Circle (small groups of women that meet regularly for study, prayer, missions and fellowship), as well as an usher and very active in leading Church School and Vacation Bible School. These are but a few of the places in which she engaged her life and family in the following of Christ. For Connie, following Jesus was far more than attending an hour of worship, it was about engaging her entire life with him.

Neil Wood was a Marion Methodist from his birth to his burial – over 89 years. He walked the two blocks from his home to worship literally thousands of Sunday mornings. He loved attending worship yet his following Jesus was far more than attendance. Neil was engaged in following Christ through the United Methodist Men, serving on the Trustees, working with the Emmaus community and a wealth of other groups and ministries. For Neil, following Jesus was far more than attending an hour of worship, it was about engaging his entire life with him.

So, what is all this supposed to mean to us? The simple truth is, we are most passionate about the things we are engaged in. Today, I invite you to engage more deeply in your following of Christ through one or many of the ministries offered at Marion Methodist and to share your engagement with others.

Engagement is what will fuel the church of this age. Did you know that 30 years ago, the average United Methodist attended worship 3 times before becoming a member? Do you know that today, the average United Methodist attends worship for nearly a year and is typically participating in more than one ministry of the church BEFORE they join? (This has been true in our Membership classes as well.)

Engagement is what fuels attendance, not the other way around. As Marion Methodist walks the first few steps in our new age, I appeal to you to intentionally focus on those who may be new to the church or those who are looking to engage (and if they don't find something to engage with, they will go elsewhere looking to engage) and purposely take on an attitude of invitational engagement.

Invite those you meet at worship or even persons who have not attended worship, to the ministry, program or group you are involved with. Modeling your passionate engagement is simply being who you are and is inspiring to those seeking a place to engage.

Invite people who are not engaged with any church to a special event you love such as: SheBelieves, to help with the Marion Cares Trunk or Treat, a Christmas Concert, delivering FLY lunches, or even to go with you to Haiti. You will be astonished by the responses of your friends, relatives, and neighbors when they are invited to engage with you.

Invite people to engage with something in the sphere of Marion Methodist’s ministry that you KNOW they would love. Music people love music – kid people love VBS – construction people like building stuff – etc.

I guarantee you this – because it has been proven in every generation – if you help another person become engaged in the church, they will attend. If you do this, not only will our worship gatherings grow, you will be deliberately and faithfully pursuing our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.
SEWING DAY RESCHEDULED

When UMCOR informed churches that schoolbags were no longer needed, we canceled our scheduled sewing day. But we have since discovered that Midwest Missions has a pattern for one handled schoolbags, and have decided to finish up our supplies on hand and make school bags for them. Therefore, we’ll be making the bags one more time, on Friday, September 14th, from 9:00 to 3:00 in Room 100 of the church.

As before, we’ll need people to serge, sew, pin, press, and cut. If you are willing to help, please contact Jan Dickinson at jandickinson1@mchsi.com or 573-2350 and let me know what you’d be willing to do. As before, lunch will be served, as well as snacks in the morning and afternoon. I hope to see you there.

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 and receive lunches through FLY this summer, and for developing all the volunteers and distribution of the lunches. Also keep in prayer all the people who are working hard to restore and rebuild in the areas hit by tornadoes a couple of weeks ago. Many prays, hard work and supplies are needed to help all the homes and businesses affected by these storms.

Please be praying for the families who have been receiving lunches through FLY this summer, and for our FLY interns who have been doing the hard work of managing all the volunteers and distribution of the lunches. Also keep in prayer all the people who are working hard to restore and rebuild in the areas hit by tornadoes a couple of weeks ago. Many prays, hard work and supplies are needed to help all the homes and businesses affected by these storms.

MEETING THE SPIRIT
Sundays at 9:20AM in Room W30 ~ Starting September 9
Lead by Judy Schmitzer

Prayer, the Great Adventure gently encourages us to take the first steps toward fostering a rewarding relationship with God. Drawing from his prayer journals and decades of work, Dr. Jeremiah shares his experiences - blessings, struggles, and insights. Find answers to the questions, “How can I find time to pray when I’m so busy?” Discover the detailed roadmap for prayer that Jesus gave us — the Lord’s Prayer. Read reflections from Dr. Jeremiah’s personal journal on his prayer journey. Get ready to embark on the most satisfying of trips, the great adventure of prayer.

This Bible study is designed for someone who is anywhere between Discipling, Deepening, or Centered on the Discipleship pathway.

Thursday, October 25th
Sundays at 9:20AM in Room W50 ~ Starting September 9
Lead by Gregg and Becky Tallman

The phase DISCIPLE program. The driving idea in this study is the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. The word You in the title is meant to be heard both in its singular form (the individual) and its plural form (the community). We are a community of memory. We will study in the New Testament and read the thirteen Letters traditionally attributed to Paul.

This Bible study is designed for someone who is anywhere between Discipling, Deepening, or Centered on the Discipleship pathway.
**BLOOD DRIVE**

Marion Methodist Church Blood Drive  
Tuesday, 08/14/2018  
2:30-6:00pm  
5050 REC Dr.  
The Center  
Sign up with Lisa Sparrow at lsparrow@mvrbc.org or 319-361-8971

We will have our first blood drive at 5050 REC Drive on August 14th. Our blood drive will provide a critical resource that helps save lives at hospitals in Linn County.

Please eat before donating and bring Photo ID.

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**100 DAYS OF SUMMER**

Every Day Every Donor Every Patient Counts

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER**

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**CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY**

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM ~ Starting in October 2018  
Led by Vicki Standley

We have established a Care Ministry team to help serve our church and congregation. During this time, we have ongoing training for this ministry group. We are excited for this ministry to grow and we are welcome to join us at any time. Please contact Vicki Standley at (319) 377-4856 or email her at vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

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

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**DISCIPLE II FAST TRACK—INTO THE WORD, INTO THE WORLD**

Thursdays at 6:30PM in Room W30 ~ Starting September 6  
Lead by Judy Schnitjer and Mike Richmond

Into the Word helps readers deepen their understanding of Scripture and make connections between what they already know and what they are reading. Each week you will encounter three spiritual disciplines, learn what they are, and how you can engage those disciplines. The first discipline varies from week to week, then moves into Sabbath and prayer. Into the World identifies some needs in the world for which ministry is needed and suggests possible responses, then invites participants to summarize the scripture message that will shape their ministry and to decide what response and commitment to make to that message. Each week you will be guided in experiencing the gift of Sabbath rest and renewal.

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

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**THE COOKIES ON THE LOWER SHELF**

Thursdays evenings at 6:00-7:30PM OR Friday mornings 9:30-11:00AM  
Lower Level Carnegie Building at 1277 7th Avenue  
Starting Thursday September 6 OR Friday September 7  
Lead by Tina Southard

Journey through the entire Bible in just 30 weeks - 10 weeks at a time! A study format designed to flex to the needs of each student, "Cookies on the Lower Shelf Part 1" provides a step-by-step guide beginning with God’s beautiful creation in Genesis to the table-busting days of the Judges of Israel. Meet Adam and Eve, weather the flood with Noah, and sojourn with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Go from the land of Canaan into Egypt with Joseph, then back out again as Moses and the children of Israel travel to the Promised Land. See tremendous victories under Joshua and chilling defeats during the time of the Judges.

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

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**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.

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**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 multweek 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
<th>Date Articles Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
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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.

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

August

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>6:30am Sunday Worship (5050 REC DR.)</td>
<td>8:15am Worship (5050 REC DR.)</td>
<td>9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL)</td>
<td>1:30pm Blood Drive (The Center)</td>
<td>8:00pm AA Support Group (Carnegie - LL)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>6:00am Men's Breakfast &amp; Bible Study (Carnegie - LL)</td>
<td>6:00pm Joint Committee Chairpersons (W10)</td>
<td>6:30pm Finance (W20)</td>
<td>6:30pm Board of Trustees (W30)</td>
<td>6:30pm Foundation (W40)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>8:00am Quilters (Carnegie Quilters Room)</td>
<td>8:00am TMC Meeting (Carnegie - LL)</td>
<td>9:15am Sowers Circle (W10)</td>
<td>7:30am Safety Team Meeting (Room 100)</td>
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Feeding Lunches to Youth (F.L.Y.)

Goal is to collect 11,500 Ziploc Sandwich Bags

Five Seasons Ringers Day
Sunday, August 26th
2:05 PM (Gates open at 1:00 PM)

Free Food, Painting and FREE Award Announcements

KIDS EAT FREE ON SUNDAYS!

Saturday, October 13, 2018
9:30AM - 3:00PM

Register today at www.SHEWomensConference.org

OVER 100 TICKETS SOLD!

Get-up-Sunday on August 19
Stop by our SHE believes Table in The Center

Tickets available for $55 from 8/1/18 - 9/25/18

Late Registration of $65 from 9/26-10/13/18

Registration and refreshments from 8:45-9:30AM

Worship will begin at 9:30

Catered lunch is provided

Special gifts for each guest

Like our Facebook page for updates

Find out more at our website: www.SHEWomensConference.org

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.

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

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:
July 24: Doris Miles, mother of John (Deb) Miles. Family includes grandson Corey (Renée) Miles and great-grandsons Bronson, Dylan, and Gavin
July 28: Neil Wood, husband of Eula Wood

BIRTHS:
August 12: Rowland Lowell Morgan, son of Daniel and Allison Morgan

WEDDINGS:

BAPTISMS:
August 12: Rowland Lowell Morgan, son of Daniel and Allison Morgan