Dear Friends,

At this writing (8/11) I still have one sermon left to preach. That will happen on August 13th. Pastor Mike asked me the other day if I'd prefer to preach "Keith's Greatest Hits" or something like that instead of what we had planned to do. I have chosen to do that and will preach the first sermon of a new series on prayer as previously planned. I appreciate Pastor Mike's flexibility and graciousness to allow me to have some latitude that day. However, I believe that the Sunday sermon is not supposed to be about anything other than Jesus (and maybe motorcycles once in a while). While I feel a sense of sacredness around the preaching ministry, I feel a little more freedom with the newsletter articles.

In this issue of the Marion Methodist I am scheduled to write an article about a man named Thomas Eden. I'm not going to. Instead I am going to use this article as my opportunity to write out some reflections of my 6 years working in ministry here at Marion Methodist Church. As most of you know, I have recently announced my resignation (or "retirement" as I sometimes call it) from the ministry here.

I recently had a conversation with a young pastor who was beginning his first "real job" in a church where he likely won't have a long stay or the ability to implement his own vision. He is the new guy and will be there supporting the vision of the others on the staff until it's time for him to move on. My advice to him was to plan to "leave well." God would use him as he could and give him to prepare him for his next step in his ministry. As far as I can tell this, young pastor is doing exactly that.

This leads me to consider my own imminent departure from Marion Methodist, fulltime vocational ministry and from Protestantism. That's a lot of departure! Many of you have sent me kind words and support. I appreciate that more than you can imagine. This is tough stuff. It means so much to me and my family to know we are of you have sent me kind words and support. I appreciate that more than you can imagine. This is tough stuff. It means so much to me and my family to know we are still loved and will be missed. It makes us feel good to know that when we see you out and about in town we will be greeted warmly with friendship and love! So...how to say goodbye? How do I "leave well"?

This church should be 5 times the size it is. People come here and love it. Challenge yourself to invite more people to come with you. They will be welcomed and nurtured in the faith. They will be served and challenged. They will be shown the grace and love of God. It's time for everyone here to make it their personal mission to bring at least ten new people to Marion Methodist in the next year. The new building is a great time to spread the excitement for what God is doing here, but the ultimate excitement in your life is about Jesus! Spread that to those around you and they will be blessed!

1. Thank you! To everybody, I have learned so much being here. I have grown as a person, a preacher, a leader and a Christian because of being here. I don't regret a second of my time here. It has been amazing. Our staff is a great team of hard working talented servants. Keep showing them appreciation. Spoil them. Let them know how much you love them. When they ask to help, be the first to volunteer. When they seem overwhelmed- bless them. When they do something you appreciate- tell them. When they do something you don't appreciate- give them grace. Working in the church is amazing and it's also very demanding. Thank you to those of you who have gone the extra mile to bless my family since we have been here. You are loved in return! I will miss being on this team.

2. Whatever your commitment to Jesus is, increase it! Keep moving forward and growing in truth.

3. Whatever your commitment to Jesus is, increase it! Keep moving forward and growing in truth.

4. Tell more people in your life about Jesus.

5. Love each other well.

Marion Methodist excels at this. One of my favorite things about being here has been watching you love each other all the time. Whenever there is a need broadcast, there is an abundance of help and support. Continue to make this your life. For those of you who have been on the sidelines- jump in! For those of you who have found the joy of serving, keep doing it! Your love for each other is what Jesus said would show the world that you are his disciples and it is working. Keep it up!

There is much more I could say about my love for you and all for our time here, but for now this know: You have blessed me and my family greatly. We are better for having been here. I know that the person who fills my shoes will be blessed as well. Love him/her the way you have loved me and they too will be so happy to have come here.

May God bless you all! May you continue in the faith and may God grow you and keep you. Our family will continue in friendship and love with you. Thank you all so much for all you have done for us and for your continued prayers as we step into what God has next.

In Christ,
Pastor Keith
God Bless!  
Laura Campbell  
Executive Director  
Marion Cares
Audio, Visual and Lighting (AVL) System in the New Church Building

If you are like me, audio visual equipment isn’t the primary thing that I’ve considered when thinking about a new building. But, the audio portion of a Sunday service is fairly critical, lighting can be very important and more and more, the visual aids enhance our worship, with projected song lyrics, videos to share, and bullet points of a sermon on the screen to add emphasis. The building committee and a subcommittee dedicated to AVL have spent a fair amount of time discussing the needs and wants for audio, visual and lighting in the new building.

Perhaps you are thinking this would be an upgrade to the current projectors, some more efficient lighting, maybe we could expect a little better sound quality? It’s much more than this.

Early on, at the recommendation of staff, the building committee hired an AVL integrator, to assist with purchasing the right equipment, to coordinate the installation of the equipment and if there are not adequate funds for the ”wish list”, the AVL integrator will ensure that necessary infrastructure planning is done so the wish list options can be efficiently added in the future.

Our AVL integrator is a member of The National Association of Church Design Builders. They have done this type of thing before. For more information and examples, look at their website: www.csdus.com. They will handle the audio, video, lighting and acoustics in the new building, working with the architect, general contractor and electrical contractor. One of the things I am most excited about is the “inductive hearing loop system” which will integrate with most hearing aids.

One of my concerns with the new church was, will the sanctuary feel like a church? How modern will the sanctuary feel? Will it look like a church without the stained glass windows? The AVL system as planned, could allow for creation of environments that would look and feel as though stained glass windows are in the sanctuary. It could allow for the creation of a jungle theme for vacation Bible school. The lighting for the puppets has been considered in the quote. I believe the “feel” of the worship service will be limited only to our creativity in the atmosphere that we can create with the audio, visual and lighting system.

Meal Schedule:

9/6 Pizza Hut

Powerhouse meets every Wednesday. From 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm we have a Family Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm we have activities for all ages.

Preschoolers: Kids may forget what you say - but they remember what they discover on their own. Get them “Hands On” with God’s Word. (Room 205)

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant in your everyday life! Discover Jesus in you. (Room 303/305)

4:12 Youth Group: Junior High Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Sanctuary). High School Worship 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Sanctuary). Games will be in the alley

Adult Classes: Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marionmethodist.org

Nursery: Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators

COME JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

It’s time for our fall choir activities to start and this is an invitation for you to join us this year! Do you love to sing? Do you enjoy having the choir as part of the worship service? Do you want a personal involvement with the music ministry at Marion Methodist? …..Then we urge you to give the Chancel Choir a try this year.

Benefits of being a member of the Chancel Choir are:

• A more personal and rewarding involvement in the worship service.
• A deeper spirituality and relationship with God through the music.
• Being a part of the group who helps set the tone for the worship service and enriches the service both through the music and the message of the lyrics of what they sing.
• Opportunity to praise God through songs of a variety of musical styles.
• Being a part of weekly rehearsals. What an enjoyable way to spend an evening with people who love to sing!

Come try out the Chancel Choir…you don’t even have to audition! Chancel Choir (High school through Adults) rehearse Wednesday evenings during the school year starting on August 30, 6:30 to 8:00pm, and we lead the worship singing at the traditional music service at 8:30am on Sundays.

Our first event is a Choir Workshop on Saturday, August 26 (….a day with no home Hawkeye game) from 9:00am to noon in the choir room. We start at 8:30am with treats of yummy home-made sticky buns created by Mike Richmond and you won’t want to miss them!

For more information contact any Chancel Choir member or Peggy Rosenkranz, Chancel Choir Director, at peggyr@frii.com or 319-364-0441. We are looking forward to welcoming some of you to the Chancel Choir this fall.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES STILL NEEDED

School sales are still going on in most stores. If you haven’t been able to get some supplies for Ingathering, now’s the time to buy! Last year we donated 300 sets with schoolbags, and we’re currently at 180. Needed for each set are:

• 3 - 70 page spiral notebooks (wide ruled)
• plastic or wooden ruler with inches and centimeters
• 6 pencils (not sharpened)
• full sized eraser (not pencil top)
• pencil sharpener
• a box of 24 crayons
• one pair of BLUNT scissors

Items may be dropped off at the Church Office, in the cubby in Fellowship Hall, or in a marked box in the Narthex.

Thank you for your donations. Marion Methodist is certainly a generous church!

GriefShare - Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

GriefShare is a video-based seminar/support group for anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one. Whether it’s been months or years since your loved one’s death, meeting with others who have walked the same path will bring healing to your journey.

Beginning August 23, GriefShare will be offered on Wednesdays, from 6:15-7:30 pm. We will meet in Room 104 in the main church building. Please register by calling the church office at 377-4856 or email stanleyl@marionmethodist.org.

Celebration for Pastor Keith Nester

August 27, 2017

During coffee hour in Fellowship Hall

Help us keep our children secure! We need everyone with children (from birth to 6th grade) to complete a new registration for their family. This is a one-time need to get our data base up to date. This will help us keep our children safe and secure while in church activities.

You can find the forms in our check in area in Room 206.

They can be returned to Room 206, the Church Office, or given to the Nursery or Sunday School teacher.

Please do this before September 3.

TV Broadcast

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Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love... 

**DEATHS:**

**BIRTHS:**

**BAPTISMS:**

**WEDDINGS:**

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**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:

- **Date Arrived in Mail**
- **Date Articles Due**

| 9/8 | 8/30 |
| 9/22 | 9/13 |
| 10/6 | 9/27 |
| 10/20 | 10/11 |
| 10/25 | 11/3 |

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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.

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

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**Bishop Ough Issues Statement on Charlottesville**

Bishop Bruce Ough, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, issued the following statement on Charlottesville:

My shock, dismay and grief over the clashes between white supremacy advocates and counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, continue to grow. I grieve for the lives lost, and pray for the family of Heather Heyer, the families of the two state troopers killed while monitoring the Charlottesville demonstration from the air, and for the healing of all the injured. I am shocked by the blatant resurgence of white nationalism, neo-Nazism and racially motivated domestic terrorism in the United States. I am dismayed (and frightened) by the animosity, division, extremism and evil that is spiraling out of control in the U.S.

Let there be no excuses or political justification for the evil that was on full display in Charlottesville last Saturday. Nor, let us forget that many such displays of white supremacy, racism and hatred go un-reported or under-reported in many places. White supremacist and neo-Nazi ideologies are abhorrent and entirely inconsistent with the Christian faith.

Jesus called his followers to “love your neighbor.” It is clear this key spiritual imperative means all neighbors without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. And, Paul taught that “enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions and factions” are among many works of the flesh that are antithetical to the kingdom of God. “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5: 22-23) These works of the Spirit lead to peace-making and the kingdom of God.

The Social Principles of our United Methodist Church are a clarion call and powerful witness in times such as these. “We affirm that no identity or culture has more legitimacy than any other. We call the Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities.” (Para. 161A, The Nurturing Community, page 110, 2016 Book of Discipline). And, from Para. 162A “The Social Community, page 120: “Racism, manifested as sin, plagues and hinders our relationship with Christ, inasmuch as it is antithetical to the gospel itself... Therefore, we recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons ... We commit as the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. echoed a similar sentiment when he challenged the United States to transform the thin paper of the Declaration of Independence that affirms the self-evident truth “that all men are created equal, are endowed with certain inalienable rights” into thick action.

I pray that the shock, dismay and grief of Charlottesville will be a turning point for the U.S. and even our global United Methodist church. We share collective responsibility to turn our thin words into thick action. We share collective responsibility to break our silence. We share collective responsibility to restore health to the communities and relationship out of which extremism, hatred and racism grow. We share collective responsibility, as followers of the Prince of Peace, to create non-violent communities where people with different political and religious views respect each other. We share responsibility to articulate the vision of the Beloved Community where no person feels endangered on account of their social, racial or cultural identity.

This collective responsibility begins by each of us examining our own hearts for the prejudice that contributes to attitudes of supremacy or hatred, or to violence, or silence or fear. Peacemaking and reconciliation always begins within.

This is the moment for The United Methodist Church and all peoples of faith to be bold in our witness against racism and white supremacy. The vision of the Beloved Community lies not behind us, but before us. I urge us to pray for the Holy Spirit to break through and work through The United Methodist Church to heal our broken world and make tangible, visible the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President of the Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church