years ago, at the Billy Graham School of Evangelism, we were taught by a woman named Millie Dineart: “The Church of Jesus has three significant gifts a Christian can experience by the Holy Spirit. Still, like many of you, I don’t want to cry and I have spent significant effort NOT CRYING in my life. In Scripture, John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”) The Apostle Paul lists tears among the corresponding outer expression, the early church saw tears as the outward manifestation of the spiritual experience of penitens, a term we might translate “to puncture with.”

Tears in the early church were marks of our recognition of sin, human weakness and the brokenness we experience because of what we today call “our life situation.” In this light, tears expressed by the “punctured” condition of the human heart are seen by the Christian as the beginning and the dynamic of our journey with Christ.

In the gospels, we see many men (Peter, those healed, Paul, et al) and the Lord Jesus himself crying. (Every boy ever required to memorize a Bible verse reached for the shortest passage: John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”) The Apostle Paul lists tears among the gifts a Christian can experience by the Holy Spirit. Still, like many of you, I don’t want to cry and I have spent significant effort NOT CRYING in my life. Time to get over it, it denies our reality.

Years ago, at the Billy Graham School of Evangelism, we were taught by a woman named Millie Dineart: “The Church of Jesus has three significant marks — broken hearts, bent knees and wet eyes.” I know that to be the truth, it is when we let tears roll (and we belly laugh) that the essence of who we really are and what means the most to us is exposed to the world. It is when tears creep from our eyes down our cheeks that the authentic, genuine person we are — the one God knows — makes his or her appearance. Marion Methodist aspires to be such a church, a church where people can be embraced, healed, lifted up as we are and towards what God desires us to become.

J.S. Mogabgab writes: “Tears of grief and joy often mingle together in a single moment of enhanced vision, endowing us with new eyes that discern traces of the God who suffers with us silently in the pure vulnerability and power of divine love. There is comfort in such tears. They bring fresh understanding that God is nearby, sharing to the full our humanity in all its bitterness and blessedness.” So, my friends with “punctured hearts,” when the tears come, don’t try to stop them. Embrace them, they are making a statement of your full humanity.

Sunday, September 9th at our morning worship services, your leadership team will be guiding the liturgical experience of a healing service. It will be ok to let tears flow and it will be ok if none come during the moment when personal, physical and spiritual healing is offered by God’s power. I tell you this so that you might look and pray forward to coming and if you know a person who has been broken for a long time, overcome with grief, anxiety, depression, anger, estrangement, or physical pain and tears have become their constant companion, please, bring them to worship Sunday. Use every kindly means available to you, the Lord may take this opportunity to heal punctured hearts.

I close with this simple prayer: Gracious God, you know what is confined and hidden in the depths of our hearts. Do not be far from us, we cry out to you, O God. Amen.

You are beloved.

Mike Morgan
We pray for an exciting, fun active part in entering into prayer for each other. As before, lunch will be served, as well as snacks in the morning and afternoon. I hope to see you there.

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.

Kids View Change

During the 8:15 service we have a wonderful children’s disciple building program called “Kid’s View.” Beginning September 9th a slight change will be made regarding how children leave worship for “Kid’s View.” During the last verse of the song preceding “Kid’s View” the color of the words on the screen will change indicating to parents and children it is time to go to Kid’s View. Watch the screens for further instructions.

Stained Glass Windows Update

Our contractor has now “promised” an installation date of the third Sunday in November for the stained glass windows. We look forward to this beautiful addition to the east side of our building.

United Methodists Continue Discussions on Holy Sexuality

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church (the only body that can speak authoritatively for the church) of 2016 in a time of difficulty asked the Bishops to appoint a Commission on the Way forward to make a recommendation for a specially called session of the General Conference. This session will be held in February and the Commission itself could not come to agreement on one plan, but rather will bring three to the General Conference.

Our Bishop, Laurie Haller, will be coming to Cedar Rapids to share the three plans which are as follows:

1. One Church Plan: The one-church model would allow different United Methodists in different places to make different decisions regarding ministry with or by LGBTQ persons rather than maintaining a single standard that operates everywhere throughout the worldwide church. This plan would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline and give conferences, churches and pastors the flexibility to “uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.”

United Methodists in central conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe would retain the authority to adapt the Book of Discipline and could continue to include their traditional language and values.

This plan would also protect the rights of United Methodists whose theological convictions will not allow them to perform same-sex weddings or ordain LGBTQ people.

2. Traditionalist Plan: This plan would affirm the current language about homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and seek to strengthen enforcement for violations of church law.

3. Connectional-Conference Plan: This plan would create three connectional conferences based on theology or perspective, each having clearly defined values (accountability, contextualization and justice). The three connectional conferences would function throughout the worldwide church and the five existing U.S. jurisdictions would be abolished.

Adaptations to the Book of Discipline would be allowed by each connectional conference. Annual conferences would determine their affiliation with a connectional conference. Local churches who choose a branch other than the one chosen by their annual conference could vote to join another conference. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination’s constitution.

Marion Methodist is a congregation that has a stake in the outcome and you are encouraged to attend the special meeting in September at the Salem Church. Bishop Laurie Haller will be present to worship, answer questions, and be in dialogue together around the pros and cons of each of the three plans. You are invited and encouraged to attend our District meeting September 23, Salem United Methodist Church, Cedar Rapids, – 4:30 – 6:00 pm.

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 the launch of fall programs in children and adult discipleship, for 4:12, music ministry groups and everyone that is needed for all these areas: for teachers, helpers, and volunteers. We pray for an exciting, fun and worship-filled time of fellowship and learning.

Kids View

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It’s a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare you’ll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life.

If you have experienced the loss of someone you love, please consider attending this next session of GriefShare. GriefShare will be offered beginning Wednesday, September 5 from 6:15 to 7:30 in Room W40. GriefShare runs for 13 weeks and you are welcome to join at any time.

If you have questions or would like to register for this session, please call the church office at 377-4856 or email vstandley@marionmethodist.org.

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You can contact Mary Lee at mparks@marionmethodist.org or at 319-310-8216. Please join our Tuesday evening during the school year, either on Sunday afternoon or a child in the chime program. Rehearsals are weekly past your “ringing prime,” perhaps you could assist are welcome. If you can read music but think you're to the group that may fit you best. Ringers of all ages to speak with Mary Lee Parks and she can direct you each group. Music lovers of all levels are encouraged and chime choirs; however, we do have openings in just kidding! There are no tryouts for the handbell and chime choirs; however, we do have openings in each group. Music lovers of all levels are encouraged to speak with Mary Lee Parks and she can direct you to the group that may fit you best. Ringers of all ages are welcome. If you can read music but think you’ve past your “ringing prime,” perhaps you could assist a child in the chime program. Rehearsals are weekly during the school year, either on Sunday afternoon or Tuesday evening.

You can contact Mary Lee at mparks@marionmethodist.org or at 319-310-8216. Please join our ministry!
Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:

WEDDINGS:
September 13: Stacy Postier & Mike Cannoy

BAPTISMS:

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: wildman@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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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.

September: Soup
October: Toilet Tissue
November: Cake Mix
December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes
January: Macaroni & Cheese
February: Canned Fruit

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September 28, 29 & 30, 2018
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ALL MARION SCOUT TROOPS, CUB PACKS, THEIR ALUMNI AND MEMBERS OF THEIR CHARTER ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVITED.

CAMPAIGN, COOKING, COMPASSING, POPCORN, ROPES & MORE!!

For more information & registration:
www.troop35.net

Presented to the Scouts and Scouters of Marion, Iowa by BSA Troop 35 in celebration of their 90th birthday.
Chartered by the Marion Methodist Church since 1928

Support Our Seniors

Marion Senior Living Community

PANTRY PARTNERS FOR MARION FOOD PANTRY

October 2018: 10% OFF ALL LOCAL GROCERS AT THE COLONIAL MALL IN MARION, IOWA

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