This month’s feature is an invitation to prayer for the people, programs and missions of First United Methodist Church. Each month highlights people and events to be praying for.

This month, please be in prayer for:

- **Remembering the birth of Christ**
- **Joy for Epiphany**
- **throughout 2014**

The BUILD Campaign

Visits our website at

www.marionmethodist.org

for information about the church, current activities, organizations, scripture and sermons and the Marion Methodist newsletter.

Sunday services are usually rebroadcast on Mediacom channel 18 at 7:00 PM on Mondays, with a multi-week delay. Full service recordings of services are in the Marion Methodist library on DVD.

Articles for the newsletter can be submitted by email to cscholtens@marionmethodist.org

---

“I’m 61 and it feels like I have been down the road of the “new thing” seven or eight times in my ministry. Every time I see something I think – here comes Ecclesiastes again.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9 says: “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”)

He has been a colleague a long time so I began to offer a word of encouragement but he beat me to the punch. “On the other hand the Lord says: Behold, I make all things new” he said referencing Revelation 21:5. I nodded appropriately.

The he asked me what most Americans love to be asked. “What do you think?”

The tool or “new thing” my friend was considering is the Healthy Church Initiative. He and I have both seen so many church growth fads come and go, we have seen the latest and greatest way to improve the church and our emails daily are littered with kind souls willing to sell us the “most important program your church can ever do.”

Knowing that, at this moment in ministry, I am particularly encouraged about something new and potent, so I said, “Bruce, Marion Methodist is on the edge of a new era; let me tell you about it.” My soliloquy focused around the opportunities that are before us, opportunities that have been forged in prayer, vision and we believe God guided hard work.

The message of Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and the church is always charged with imagining and creating methodologies that communicate that eternal message in ways that penetrate the hearts and ears of the generation in which we live. We have chosen the Healthy Church Initiative as an appropriate methodology to pour ourselves into.

A favorite arrow in my scriptural quiver finds Jesus saying: “No one seeds a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” (Matthew 9:16-17) Simply, this means to me, if the people of God are truly trusting in Him and willing to risk letting go of a few old wineskins, a great new era will be ushered in at Marion Methodist.

Throughout 2013 your pastors and over a hundred of you have been involved in portions of the preparatory work on the Healthy Church Initiative. Prayer and visioning has been done, a consultation was held and prescriptions as to pathways we might take to make Marion Methodist a healthier church were prescribed. This was followed by more prayer, more visioning, a 12 week sermon series and lots and lots of small group work. Now we stand at the edge of a new era.

I won’t steal anyone’s thunder in this article; far too much work has been done to announce prematurely or poorly that which many have done. Rather, let this be an announcement that challenges you to be ready to embrace and usher in this new era. Be ready to hear a lot from our:

- **CONNECTIONS** team that will help us see how we can practically, faithfully and efficiently engage and embrace each other and folks not yet a part of Marion Methodist for Christ’s sake.
- **COMMUNICATIONS** team that has already moved all of our publications to a same voice methodology; we will be emphasizing our brand that you have already seen everywhere and rolling out a few new things.
- **DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY** team that is constructing a comprehensive pathway that one can take to grow in Christ.

---

“**A new Era or a new error**”

For any information needing to be published in the Marion Methodist or the bulletin, please contact Chris Scholtens at the church office.

cscholtens@marionmethodist.org

Visit Marion Methodist online:

www.marionmethodist.org

---

**First United Methodist Church of Marion**

12th Street & 8th Avenue

Sunday Worship –

7:45am Early Worship – Chapel

8:30am Spirited Traditional – Sanctuary

9:45am Contemporary Praise – Sanctuary

Church School for children and adults

11:00am Blended Praise – Sanctuary

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service –

6:15pm In the Chapel

---

**Prayer Focus for January**

This feature is an invitation to prayer for the people, programs and missions of First United Methodist Church. Each month highlights people and events to be praying for.

This month, please be in prayer for:

- **A prosperous, happy new year**
- **Joy for Epiphany**
- **throughout 2014**

**The BUILD Campaign**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

— Ephesians 6:18
**Missional Giving at Marion Methodist**

As we approach the end of year, we can reflect on a year of generosity. As you read in the last Marion Methodist Newsletter, in the past year you gave over $100,000 towards missions outside of the walls of Marion Methodist, along with supporting our ministries with in the walls. As we are financially stable and the “sky is not falling”, during this last month of the year, we hold the opportunity to end financially strong while also preparing our financial coffers for the beginning of the New Year.

As a reminder, it is never too late to turn in your pledge card for 2014. Your pledge allows for the Finance Committee to plan for the financial needs of the Church during the year.

Thank you all for your continued generosity to the missions and ministries of Marion Methodist.

**Old Testament Field Trip**

Virginia Jensen’s Old Testament Class will be going to the Putnam Museum in Davenport to view the 3-D Imax film “Jerusalem” on Saturday, January 11th. We will meet at 1 pm at the church and car pool to the museum for the 3 pm showing. Anyone who is interested is welcomed to make the trip with us. Cost will be $7.50 for those under 60 years of age and $6.50 for the 60+ Senior rate. Please contact Virginia ASAP at vajensen@mchsi.com or 377-4729 if you are interested in going so travel arrangements can be finalized.

**Powerhouse Meal Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Meal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>KFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Taco Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Maidrite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pizza Hut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Zio Johnno’s – spaghetti &amp; garlic bread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>KFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Taco Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Maidrite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pizza Hut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Zio Johnno’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>KFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Taco Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Maidrite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pizza Hut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Zio Johnno’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>KFC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coming Soon**

**The Adult Library’s Annual Souper Bowl Contest**

will be here on Sunday, February 2nd. In order for it to be successful, we need your yummy soups. So get out those recipe books and start planning your winning soup now! We’ll fill Fellowship Hall dining room and the Sanctuary with the wonderful aroma of homemade soups. Call the church office (377-4856) to sign up. Proceeds benefit the Adult Library.
Your Spiritual Care

When you or someone you love is receiving medical care at one of our local hospitals, we endeavor to provide the best in Christian love and spiritual care through personal visits and prayer support. Our medical communities strive to provide you with excellent medical care and strict compliance with HIPAA regulations to protect your personal information during your hospital stay and beyond. Subsequently, recent changes in hospital admittance procedures have altered how we receive information on our church members during their hospital stays.

In order to ensure that we are able to provide you with the best in spiritual care, you can help in one of the following ways:

» 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.

» Have a family member or trusted friend call the church office at 377-4856, or email Vicki Standley at vstandley@marionmethodist.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 contribution in the grocery cart in the narthex or at the 8th Ave. door.

January is Macaroni and Cheese.

The Marion Food Pantry is in need of clothing, infant to adult sizes, and also bedding; sheets and blankets, and towels. If you have any of these items or are doing fall cleaning and cleaning out those closets, please bring these items to the Marion Food Pantry. The pantry is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-3 pm. Your donations would be very much appreciated.

UMCOR’s Prayer for Displaced Children

There are more than 45 million forcibly displaced people in the world, and children below 18 years of age constitute 46 percent of the refugee population, according to UN High Commission on Refugees. Whether they are refugees, internally displaced or asylum-seekers, children are at a greater risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, and more. During this holiday season, when we celebrate family and togetherness, please pray for safety, refuge and peace for children around the world and in the United States who are without a home and a family.

Thank You

Thank you everyone who helped me celebrate my 80th birthday on Nov. 30th! It was a wonderful day with family and friends. I was delighted by the whole event! May God bless you all. – Esther Lees

Entrance Change:

The main entrance to the Carnegie Building is the 7th Avenue entrance. If you have needs which require the use of the elevator, there is an intercom available at the 13th Street door, which will call the office staff to “buzz” the door open for you.

Entrance Change:

The main entrance to the Carnegie Building is the 7th Avenue entrance. If you have needs which require the use of the elevator, there is an intercom available at the 13th Street door, which will call the office staff to “buzz” the door open for you.

One week in a Two Bedroom Condo in Winter Park, Colorado

Available for $700 donation. All proceeds will be used for missions, locally, or within locally, or within our own church. Times are available any time of year Whether you want to ski in the winter, or hike in the summer. Or enjoy the beautiful colors in the fall.

Just call the office to place your reservation!

Picture Directories Arriving in January

We are currently in the proofing stage of our Church Picture Directory. If all goes well, the completed directories should be arriving by the middle of January. Everyone who had their picture taken will receive a free directory. We will let you know as soon as they arrive, so stay tuned...
Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:
December 15, Marge Ferris, mother of Katie Feldman, Ruth Armstrong; grandmother of Laura and Kim Feldman;
Delmar Spickermann, father of Diane (Jim) Bys.

BAPTISMS:
December 22
Elizabeth Francis
Child of Charles & Jody Wyatt
Charles & Jody Wyatt

Carnegie Corner
Carnegie Corner is a group of seniors who meet every Tuesday morning in the lower level of the church offices. We always have coffee and goodies at 9:00 AM.

Share its Concern
5:00p Friendship Ministry
4:00p Bell Canto (Handbell Room)
3:00p Jubilation (Handbell Room)
7:45 a Worship (Chapel)
8:30a Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45 a Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45 a Sunday School for all
11:00a Worship (Sanctuary)
1:00p Disciple 2 (Room 107)
2:00p Girls Scouts (Room 105)
2:15p Joyful Noise (Choir Room)
3:00p Jubilation (Handbell Room)
4:00p Bell Canto (Handbell Room)
5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL & UL)

January 5
8:30a Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45 a Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45 a Sunday School for all
11:00a Worship (Sanctuary)
1:00p Disciple 2 (Room 107)
2:00p Girls Scouts (Room 105)
2:15p Joyful Noise (Choir Room)
3:00p Jubilation (Handbell Room)
4:00p Bell Canto (Handbell Room)
5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL, Carnegie UL)

January 6
11:30a Staff Meeting (Room 106)
7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

January 7
9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL)
7:00p Touch of Brass (Handbell Room)
8:00a Quilters (Room 104)
9:00a Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL)
9:30a Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall)
9:30a Needle Designers (Carnegie - LL)
6:15p Prayer Service (Chapel)
6:30p Powerhouse (Fellowship Hall)
8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)
9:00a TMCC (Adult Library)
9:30a Women of the Bible (Carnegie - LL)
1:30p Page Turners Circle (Adult Library)

January 8
6:30p AA Support Group (Fellowship Hall)

January 9
6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
9:30a Needle Designers (Carnegie - LL)
9:30a Wesleyan Circle (Adult Library)
5:30p Grief Share (Adult Library)

January 10
6:30a Cutting School (Fellowship Hall)

January 11
11:00a Children’s Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:00p 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)

January 12
7:45a Worship (Chapel)
8:30a Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45a Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45a Sunday School for all ages
11:00a Worship (Sanctuary)
1:00p Disciple 2 (Room 107)
2:00p Joyful Noise (Choir Room)
3:00p Jubilation (Handbell Room)
4:00p Bell Canto (Handbell Room)
5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL, Carnegie UL)

January 13
6:00p CG Report Meeting #2 (Carnegie - LL)
7:00pm Orientation Meeting - CG Team Captains (Carnegie - LL)
7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

January 14
7:00a Campaign Cabinet Meeting (Carnegie - LL)
9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL)
7:00p Touch of Brass (Handbell Room)
8:00a Quilters (Room 104)
9:30a Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL)
9:00a Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:15p Prayer Service (Chapel)
6:30p Powerhouse (Fellowship Hall)
8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)

January 15
8:00a Quilters (Room 104)
5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:15p Prayer Service (Chapel)
6:30p Powerhouse (Fellowship Hall)
8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)

January 16
6:00a Men’s Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
9:00a TMCC (Adult Library)
9:30a Women of the Bible (Carnegie - LL)
1:30p Page Turners Circle (Adult Library)

January 17
1:00p Children’s Rehearsal (Sanctuary)