



## Family Christmas

Take time to share with your children on Christmas morning the real reason that we get up at 4 am, give one another gifts, gorge ourselves on goodies and go back to sleep by dinner time...

- C** hrist - the Savior
- H** ope - our trust on God for the future
- R** esurrection - Jesus rising from the dead
- I** ncarnation - God's appearance in human form
- S** alvation - God's plan to save people from sin
- T** ruth - God's words in the Bible
- M** essiah - the Savior
- A** dvent - the coming of Jesus
- S** pirit - the third person of God

**The Church Office will be closed on December 25 and 26 and will close at noon on December 31 and remain closed on January 1.**

**Caring Corner Daycare will be closed on December 24, 25 and January 1.**

**First United Methodist Church of Marion  
12th Street & 8th Avenue**

**Sunday Worship –**

**7:45am**

Early Worship – Chapel

**8:30am**

Spirited Traditional – Sanctuary

**9:45am**

Two Songs & A Sermon – Sanctuary  
Church School for children and adults

**11:00am**

Blended Praise – Sanctuary



# The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 26

December 26, 2008



PASTOR MIKE MORGAN

## What to do in Mid August?

For many of us a top item on our lists of things to do in the New Year is likely "writing thank you notes for Christmas." It is always important to tell others that we appreciate their love for us shown through their gifts.

A number of years ago, Theresa and I received a wonderful note for a gift we had given to Angie, one of our church staff members. She was a "gusher" of praise in her daily life and very practical in her faith. Her card of thanks for the gift we had given gushed praise and then summed up well the meaning of Christmas for me. She wrote to the effect (I have lost the card but not my memory of it) *"I plan not to keep the gift for myself but to pass it on by making bread for those in our church that are shut in and I will deliver it to them in mid August."*

Her thinking spurred a question, so I asked her one day: "why mid August." She and her husband felt that passing the love of Christmas to others well into the New Year was a wonderful expression of faith. She went on to say, that most everyone gets something at

Christmas, but, by mid August a lot of people's attention goes elsewhere.

On January 6th the church enters the Holy Season of Epiphany and this season reminds us that God's loving presence shown clearly at Christmas continues beyond Christmas. Somehow as Christmas recedes into our memories and we no longer hear the carols, see the twinkling lights and have boxed our decorations and put them away for a while, it is difficult to remember that. We Christians must work overtime to bring the spirit of love to Groundhog Day or May Day or even August 15th! The real meaning of Christmas depends on our love being passed on to others 365 days a year.

First United Methodist Church of

Marion takes seriously this core value of our faith. As we have used "six in 06" to "seven in 07" and "Ate in 08" and now "Shine in 09" as the marquee for our reach beyond ourselves in Christian love we take this much more serious than a logo or our "branding." It is who we are and are becoming – the church who puts their faith in action by passing off in tangible ways the love and gift God has given to us in every single day of the year.

This is our personality and it is a commitment and it is what has allowed me to enjoy the Christmas season and look with greatest expectation to the New Year that is now upon us.

Peace, Love and Joy in Jesus for 09,  
Rev. Mike

### THE BIG IDEA SERIES:

## Christian Being and Doing

<b>January 4</b>	James 1:17-27 Holy Communion	Being Religious
<b>January 11</b>	James 2:1-17	Doing Mercy

### FROM YOUR COMMITTEE ON

## Stewardship and Finance

As 2008 draws to a close we would like to take this opportunity to review our 2008 budget year and take a quick look at the coming year.

#### A LOOK BACK:

- On Jan 1, 2007 the Capital Loan balance was \$259k. With budgeted annual payments of \$111k we would have been paying on the loan through the middle of 2009.
- On Jan 1, 2008 that balance was \$71.5k
- In April of this year it was paid off!! -- THANK YOU!! --

#### A CURRENT VIEW:

- Many of you have continued to contribute to the Capital Fund and as of November 30, it has a current balance of just under \$50k. -- THANK YOU!! --
- At our Annual Charge Conference, a vote was taken to authorize the release of those funds to the Trustees, and through them the Building Committee, to allow them to start the process of securing land. Please understand that this does not mean that they will be purchasing land. That requires further Charge Conference approval, but it will allow them to put an option on some property that will

allow the completion of the due diligence required before starting the purchase process.

- It is the stated intent of Building Committee, Trustees and Finance to complete the acquisition of land debt free. If you have questions on what that means, please feel free to contact Craig in the church office or ask any member of those committees.
- Year-To-Date Expenses are running \$8k under budget.
- Year-To-Date Income is up \$47k from this same time last year. -- THANK YOU!! --
- Unfortunately, it's not all good news. While income is up, we are running \$26k below budget after 11 months.
- And even though Expenses are under budget, they are running \$97k ahead of this same time last year. This is due in part to the added costs associated with the harsh winter and wet spring.
- Together these result in General Budget running with a Year-To-Date deficit of \$42k.
- While we expect to make up much of this in December, traditionally our biggest giving month, it is

anticipated that we will end the year with a General Budget deficit.

- While this is generating a lot of attention within your committee on stewardship and finance, it does not mean that FUMC is in imminent financial danger. We are still carrying a positive General Budget account balance. What it does mean is that we are already looking at the 2009 budget with intent to find ways to manage expenses to keep them in line with income.

#### A LOOK FORWARD:

- As of November 18, the average pledge for the 2009 General Budget is up 4.7% over the 2008 average pledge. -- THANK YOU!! --
- In recognition that many of us no longer use a check book, relying on debit cards and on-line banking, we are in the final stages of preparation to offer on-line giving. Watch for details in the coming weeks as this is finalized.

Again, on behalf of your committee on stewardship and finance, we want to thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity. It truly speaks volumes about where your heart is.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

## POWER-UP FOR Powerhouse

*get connected*

**Family Friendly Power Meal –**  
5:30 – 6:15  
(Free will offering for the meal)  
Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches always

**Powerhouse  
will not meet on  
Dec. 24 or Dec. 31**

**Preschool classes  
6:30-7:30pm – Room 208**

**Elementary Classes  
6:30-7:30pm – 3rd Floor**

**Adult Classes 6:15 and 6:30pm**

### Children's News:

Join us on Sundays at 9:45 am  
**Sonshine Kids:** 2 years – 5 years  
2 years      rm 207  
3 years      rm 208  
4 & 5 years   rm 205  
**Journeyland:** Kdg–5th Grade  
(3rd Floor).

### YOUTH

Love Summer Games?  
Then you will love  
Winter Games too!

# Winter Games

**Saturday, January 10th  
6 PM through  
Sunday, January 11th at 11 AM –  
ALL RIGHT HERE AT FUMC!!!!**

There will be a Christian Concert,  
a kickin' praise band, great preaching,  
some learning session and of course  
food and games. Cost is \$25. Check  
out [www.summergamesuniversity.org](http://www.summergamesuniversity.org)  
or pick up a registration in the  
church office.

Mark your Calendar

## Youth Ski Trip

**February 28**



3RD - 5TH GRADERS

**It's a  
Bahaha Jam!!**  
**Sunday, January 18  
5:30-7:00**

**Bring your friends!**

3rd Floor, Black Light Room  
Questions? Call Val at 373-8623



## New Classes coming in January 2009



### "Nooma" Class Starting January 11, 2009

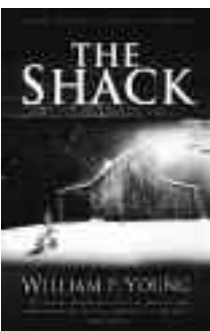
Today's generation demand a new format for getting Christian perspectives. Nooma is the new format. It's short films with communicators that really speak to us. Concise and to the point, 10- to 14-minute DVDs tackle topics like forgiveness, discipleship, and unconditional love, making biblical truths vivid and relevant for today's generation. A great way to spark meaningful discussion in this Sunday morning small group!

Starts: Sunday January 11, 2009  
Time: 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM  
Enrollment: Open - Just Drop in  
Room: Flood Recovery Office Building Conference Room

Starts: Sunday January 11, 2009  
Time: 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM  
Enrollment: Open - Just Drop in  
Room: Flood Recovery Office Building Conference Room

### "The Shack" Class Starting January 18, 2009

Starts: Sunday January 18, 2009  
Time: 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM  
Enrollment: Open - Just Drop in  
Room: Choir Room - 3rd Floor  
Cost: \$15 for the class



A Study of topics like Suffering, Grace, Forgiveness, and the Trinity, all issues raised in the fictional book titled "The Shack". In this book, Mackenzie Allen Phillips's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in this midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend.

Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change his life forever.

### Human Commitment Class Starting January 9, 2009



The Standard Lesson Commentary (SLC) is the nation's most popular annual Bible commentary, used by more than 300,000 teachers and students each year. It combines complete and thorough Bible study with culturally relevant examples and discussion questions.

The curriculum takes students through a six-year plan to survey the Bible. It is richly resourced and is the nation's most popular adult Bible school lessons

based on the International Sunday School Lesson (ISSL) program.

Starting Wednesday evening January 4, 2009 the class will start the study on "Human Commitment" - A series of Character Studies.

Starts: Wednesday January 9, 2009  
Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Enrollment: Open - Just Drop in  
Room: Flood Office  
Cost: \$15 for the class

## Coming Spring 2009!



As part of our effort to support marriages in our church and community we will be offering a class based on the feature length movie FIREPROOF which came out in theaters last September.

Fireproof is an action-packed love story about a firefighter, his wife, and a marriage worth rescuing! At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt (Kirk Cameron) lives by the old firefighter's adage: "Never leave your partner behind". At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own

rules. His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb Holt has to face his toughest job ever, rescuing his wife's heart.

Spend six weeks covering the issues of appreciating our God-designed differences, breaking free from temptation, forgiveness and love? This small group setting class will provide thought-provoking discussion questions that will engage couples at any stage of their relationship. Topics that even unmarried people can benefit from.

### Caregiving Group

The Thursday Caregivers Support Group Meetings will be held on the first and third Thursdays at 1:30pm at Summit Pointe Senior Living, just off of 29th Avenue in Marion. The group will meet in their private dining room. Meetings begin at 1:30 and end at 3:00pm. Respite care will be offering for loved ones.

Join us for support, prayer, information, and free respite. If you have a question, call Vicki Standley at the church office, 377-4856.

### Mission Trips 2009

**June 22-28**

**Intergenerational Students  
completing Freshman Year in  
High School to Wise Adults.**

The Spirit Lake Nation is located in North Central North Dakota just 8 miles from Devil's Lake North Dakota. The reservation is approximately half a million acres and has approximately 6000 people living within its borders. The Ministry Center is 80 acres in the middle of the reservation. We will serve the Spirit Lake Tribe elders and children. We perform work from light construction to a Vacation Bible School experience with the children of the reservation. For More Information see [www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org](http://www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org)

On the way home, we plan Saturday and Sunday to experience Inner City Mission.

Cost is \$250 per person –  
If we don't have to rent vehicles and gas is under \$3.50.  
Deposit - \$100 deposit is due on January 15, 2009 to reserve your place in mission.

Why is FUMC going away on mission, when so many teams are coming here? The FUMC Youth are currently rebuilding a Flood Home. Our desire is to be fully immersed with God in the mission experience. If we stay here for the week, long mission experience tells us doctor visits and ball practice would be an easy temptation to pull us back to "the world". breaking the depth of the Spiritual Experience.

### August 2-7 Adult Mission Trip

To Oakville, Iowa for Flood Recovery. We will help with a Flood Rebuild away from the stress of daily life here. We want to be fully immersed in the experience.

See Pastor Melisa for more information regarding the Mission Trips.



# Stewardship Corner

## December 28

**Greeters:** 8:30 8th Ave Lori Strasburger  
12th St Neil & Kay Turner  
11:00 8th Ave Susanne Haehlen  
12th St Kurt & Terri Musser

**Ushers:** 8:30 Roger & Barb Flint, Neil & Eula Wood, Rhonda Birkey  
9:45 Michael Buh, Matthew Tribble, Casey Cram  
11:00 Larry Atwater, Larry Witzel, Nate Witzel, Dave Pederson, Jacob Pederson

**Acolytes:** 8:30 Dalton Whitcher-Underwood, Blake Canavan  
11:00 Sean Brown, Addi Martin

## January 4, 2009

**Greeters:** 8:30 8th Ave Norma Jean Cole  
12th St Tom & Joan Padley  
11:00 8th Ave Sheri Soukup  
12th St Jim & Debbie Fuller

**Ushers:** 8:30 Jack Barker, Ken & Nancy Jolliffe, Lee Coppock, Debbie Hahn  
9:45 Carissa Goemaat, Alex Ditzenberger, Nathaniel McFarland  
11:00 Chris & Mary Blanchard, Jean Hammill, Janeen Fink, Susanne Haehlen

**Acolytes:** 8:30 Lindsay Brown, Jordan Keeton  
11:00 Michael Moeller, Cassady Klatt



## UMM

Sat., January 17

### All Church Indoor Mini Golf

Watch for details.



## UMW

Circles  
January 7

**Sarah** 9:15am, LLCC

**Miriam** 1:00pm, Barb Campbell's, 2090 Stratford Dr, 377-4208

**Rebekah** 1:15pm Check with Chair on location

## January 8

**Needle Designers** 9:30am, LLCC

**Wesleyan** 9:30am, Adult Library

**Joyful Cooks** 6:30pm at Susanne Haehlen's, 3065 McGowan Blvd 377-6269

**The Bookends** 7:00pm at Java Creek Café

## Women's Friendship Group

The Women's Friendship Group meets on the third Monday of each month at the Pizza Ranch in Marion at 11:00am. All single women of FUMC who are interested in a time of good fellowship and good food are invited to attend at any time. Call Idella Hogan, 377-1382, for more information or with questions.

## Televised Services

Mediacom is televising our church services on Monday evenings at 7:00pm on Mediacom Channel 18.

## Thank You

We would like to thank the entire church family for all of their concern, caring, support, transportation, food, memorials & prayers during the past year of Bob's stroke, related illnesses and his passing!! It was so appreciated and helped sustain our family to the final journey! Also, the lovely cards that were sent from the UMW & cardmaking group. They helped brighten his day and our days!! And the thoughts behind them!!! We appreciated the concern show by the Carnegie Corner folks and Sarah Circle as well. We will always remember our church family and feel very blessed to have had you! And know that you are always in our presence! – *The family of Robert D. Kircher*

## Ate in 08 Report



Our mission goal for 2008 was to feed physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. The recipe was simple, the ingredients many, but with the Holy Spirit as the cook, feeding needs took on a whole different flavor.

**Fed Needs through Preparing Students for an Education.** Local students - 65 backpacks filled with grade appropriate supplies. The packing of the bags celebrated 32 volunteers who helped our children begin right at school.

**Fed Hungry children through Mexico Mission Trip.** 21 departed for Mexico O'Dark Thirty in June. We had the opportunity to build a house, work on a school, play with children, feed a fishing village, do physical therapy, teach crafts to young ones, and learn from the locals. Our experience fed us as we listened to Mexican prayers and witnessed joyful hearts on people who have nothing.

**Fed Hungry Residents of Marion.** FLY – Feeding Lunch to Youth – transformed from being an on-site sit down lunch to a mobile site of sack lunches. The move was made to give more students the opportunity to have a lunch. What we discovered was there are a lot of hungry people in Marion. With over 100 volunteers, we served near 8,500 lunches. God be praised. Please remember this ministry in your Christmas giving. \$250 can sponsor one day of fly and feed 265 sack lunches.

**Fed Needs through Ingathering.** Many sewers made many school bags. By many we mean – 1538 sewn bags with 312 of those filled with school supplies for our sisters and brothers in other countries. FUMC didn't push the filling of school bags, because we were in the midst of collecting needed materials for the FLOOD. Our faithful sewers and supply purchasers still enabled us to stay as a leader in the conference.

**Fed the Need to Recover from the Flood.** Our congregation began flood recovery with sandbagging and continues to help with team deployment, cooking, trailer organization, Christmas help, and cleaning after teams. We have coordinated 233 teams from 31 states accumulating 47,622 volunteer hours through November 30. We have given precious Education room space for volunteer sleeping and celebrated Thanksgiving North Carolinian style. Even though the year is ending, our recovery is not as we have 70 teams already registered for 2009. We applaud all those who helped through their companies and friends the gutting and rebuilding of houses.

**Fed the need to provide families with Christmas.** We continued our tradition to help those needing a little extra help for Christmas. We adopted 7 Marion School District Families, organized adoption for 15 Flood Families, 1 Linn Grove Elementary, and 6 Azure Families. The generosity continued through the receiving of over \$800 in gift cards. Diana Anderson sponsored Operation Shoe Box where we collected 114 shoe boxes for oversee ministries.

**Fed the needs of our community by focusing on local mission by shifting some of our plans.** We thank the adult mission trip scheduled for Wisconsin who changed to help with Flood Recovery in Cedar Rapids on many local teams and a reunion team. We thank the UMCOR mission trip who instead of traveling down south (on a very cold week in November) worked in Cedar Rapids as a local mission team full of fun and fellowship. We thank all the United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Youth, Small Group ministries, Children, and Prayers who do mission by what they do and how they live.

*Ate in 08 was a great year to Glorify God. "Shine in 2009" will continue our passion and desire to Serve God.*

## End of the Year Contributions

Per the Internal Revenue Service, in order for you to get credit for your end of the year contributions to the Church, it must either be in the church office by noon on December 31, 2008 or it must be mailed to the church with a postmark of December 31, 2008 or before.

## Attention Automatic Withdrawal Participants

Did you know that you can enroll in automatic withdrawal at any-time? If you would like to enroll in auto withdrawal to reflect your 2009 pledge, you may turn in your enrollment form (that can be picked up at the church office or at the information table in the Narthex) directly to Craig in the Church Office. Automatic withdrawal provides ease of giving along with levels out the fluxuations in the church income. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Craig at the Church Office.

## Help the Offering Counters Out!

If you are writing a check for your offering, please place the fund that you want it to go towards in the memo line (General Budget, Building Fund, Foundation, etc). If you are writing one check to go towards multiple areas, please express that also in the memo (\$10 General, \$20 Building). This will make sure that you offerings are going where you intend them to go.

## Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes are now available for pick up, until December 28th, in the hallway outside the chapel. If you would like to change your envelopes (monthly to weekly, vice versa, or would prefer no envelopes) please make note of that on the clipboard on the table before December 28th.



## LECTIONARY READINGS

### December 28

Isaiah 6:10-62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40

### January 4, 2009

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December 28</b> 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00p Majesty Puppets (Black Light Room & Room 303) 2:00p Joyful Noise Chimers (Rm 310) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 3:00p Youth Praise Team (Sanctuary) 3:00p Jubilation Handbells (Room 310) 4:00p Bell Canto Handbells (Room 310) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL & UL)	<b>December 29</b> 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	<b>December 30</b> 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Adult Library) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Room 310)	<b>December 31</b> 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 12:00p Office Closes at Noon	<b>January 1</b> 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	<b>January 2</b>	<b>January 3</b>
<b>January 4</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00p Majesty Puppets (Black Light Room & Room 303) 1:30p Girl Scouts - Cookie Rally (Fellowship Hall) 1:30p Girl Scouts (Parlor) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 2:00p Joyful Noise Chimers (Rm 310) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 3:00p Jubilation Handbells (Rm 310) 3:00p Youth Praise Team (Sanctuary) 4:00p Girl Scouts (Rm 303) 4:00p Bell Canto Handbells (Rm 310) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - UL & LL)	<b>January 5</b> 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	<b>January 6</b> 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Adult Library) 6:30p Emmaus Board Meeting (Carnegie - UL) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Room 310)	<b>January 7</b> 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:15a Sarah Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Adult Classes 6:30p Powerhouse Classes 6:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	<b>January 8</b> 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 9:30a Wesleyan Circle (Adult Library) 9:30a Needle Designers Circle (Carnegie - LL) 6:00p Divorce Care (Flood Office Upper Level)	<b>January 9</b>	<b>January 10</b> 10:00a Library Board (Adult Library) 12:00p Winter Games 7:00p FUMC 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)

## Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

### BIRTH:

Dec. 15, Alexander Joe Thompson, son of Kayle & Karen Thompson.

### BAPTISMS:

Dec. 14, Alexavier Robert Slaymaker and Savannah Leigh Slaymaker, children of Keith & Meredith Slaymaker.

### WEDDING:

Dec. 15, Weldon Cady & Idee Hines.

### DEATHS:

Dec. 13, Mary Mardell Emig. Services were held on Dec. 18.

**You're invited to join us at  
"Carnegie Corner"  
any Tuesday morning  
from 9:00-11:00am.**

*We play cards & games:*  
500, Bridge (some weeks)  
Dominoes & Table Games

*Coffee  
Refreshments  
Devotions*

Contact Myrna Carter or  
Sherry Murray for more  
information.

*Using the Computer to  
search for:*

- Christian websites
- Hearing the Bible
- Reading Large print scriptures
- Finding & Playing hymns
- FUMC website
- How to use free clipart
- Making greeting cards
- And more!

While this group is geared toward our Senior Citizens, anyone is welcome to attend at anytime. We occasionally have potlucks and take short trips also.

## Church Information

**First United Methodist Church**  
Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue  
Church Office, 1298 7th Avenue  
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**Fellowship Hall**  
377-4252

**Caring Corner**  
377-8490

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# The Marion Methodist

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## The Marion Methodist deadline schedule

Deadline dates for the next issue of the Marion Methodist is on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 29 by 5:00pm**. This issue will cover from January 10 through January 24, 2009. Emails are appreciated and can be sent to [norma@fumcmarion.org](mailto:norma@fumcmarion.org)

This newsletter is made possible by the Grace of God and is intended to lift up the Interests and Ministries of First United Methodist Church of Marion that are dedicated to His Wonderful Name.