

## Committees at a Glance

**March 14**  
7:00pm  
**Daycare Board**  
Room 106



Lent Begins with a service of repentance and healing and the imposition of the ashes and oil on Ash Wednesday, March 9th 6:30 PM



### Note now for your Easter Plans

Easter Sunday Schedule is VERY different this year!

## 3 Services!

**7am**  
**OUTSIDE NEXT TO OUR NEW MINISTRY LAND!**

Service will be held on REC Drive and parking will be compliments of our new neighbors (Linn County REC and Involta) More details to come.

**9am and 11am**  
**SANCTUARY SERVICES**

There will not be Sunday School for Children or Youth on Easter Sunday due to these schedule changes.

### 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

Tuesday Morning Prayer Service –

**7:00-7:30am**

in the Chapel



# The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 5

March 4, 2011



PASTOR MIKE MORGAN

## Opportunity to Test your Convictions

None of us have missed the reports on the various news outlets regarding the young man from our community who chose to stand by his convictions in regards to his sport. This was not a publicity stunt. This is a young man who had trained hard to pursue his goal of being a champion wrestler in the state of Iowa. When faced with a choice between his life convictions and an athletic goal he stood by his convictions.

While we all likely have an opinion about this event, three things are clear:

- When he snapped his head gear on for the first practice this season, the deep issues of conviction, faith or worldview testing were likely not at the forefront of his wrestling goals – his purpose in wrestling was to become a state champ.
- Further, it is clear his decision was not a snap decision arrived upon the day the “brackets” were announced but rather something consistent with his world view and historical behavior.
- Thirdly, the dozen or so of his peers I have interviewed embrace the integrity of his character for standing up for his convictions.

The moment or moments when life will demand us to stand up for or forsake our convictions cannot be planned - but - they can be prepared for. Just as an athlete practices and prepares for the tests an opponent brings, the Christian must prepare for the tests that will challenge the convictions of our faith. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 13:5 “Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.”

The Holy Season of Lent (which begins Wednesday, March 9th and concludes on Easter Sunday) has histori-

cally been treated as a time of opportunity in which testing and growing our convictions to Christ is affirmed. Throughout the years, Christians have been challenged to “give something up” or “take up a new spiritual practice” during these 40 days as an act of spiritual growth and discipline. In my role of pastor, I encourage this practice of testing yourself and your convictions as part of your training as a disciple.

Last year, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday I drank the last cup of coffee until Lavern Winchip handed me my next early on Easter Sunday. As a person who drinks 4 or so cups of coffee a day, this was a good spiritual discipline because every day, several times a day for a month and a half, I was tested with the temptation to pour a cup no one would ever know about. Every time an opportunity arose it reminded that if Christ was willing to hang on the cross to commute my death sentence and grant me eternal life, certainly I could grow my conviction to him each time I started “jonesin” for java.

The apostle Peter tells us we won’t be sorry. He writes:<sup>6</sup> *So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while.<sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. (1 Peter 1:6-7)* As Lent begins this Wednesday, I encourage you to embrace the opportunity to test your convictions and grow your faith as part of your journey towards Easter.

Peace, Love, Joy in Jesus,  
Pastor Mike

### Coming: The Classics and the Contemporary

This May through July, our Pastors will preaching two consecutive sermon series that have companion books that are beneficial to building up the body of Christ. One book is a classic of the Christian faith and the other is a contemporary best seller. Orders will be taken for those who desire to purchase the books at reduced prices.



Our contemporary best seller will be *Jesus Manifesto: Restoring the Supremacy and Sovereignty of Jesus Christ* by Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola. The authors say: “Christians have made the gospel about so many things—things other than Christ. Religious concepts, ideas, doctrines, strategies, methods, techniques, programs, and formulas have all eclipsed the beauty, the glory, and the reality of the Lord Jesus Himself. On the whole, the Christian family today is starved for a real experience of the living Christ. We know a lot about our Lord, but we don't know Him very well. We know a lot about trying to be like Jesus, but very little about living by His indwelling life. “Jesus Manifesto” presents a fresh unveiling of Jesus as not only Savior and Lord, but as so much more. It is a prophetic call to restore the supremacy and sovereignty of Christ in a world—and a church—that has lost sight of Him. Read this book and see your Lord like you've never seen Him before.



Our Christian Classic will be *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. In *Mere Christianity*, he aims to explain fundamental teachings of Christianity, for the sake of those basically educated as well as the intellectuals of his generation, for whom the jargon of formal Christian theology did not retain its original meaning. Lewis spends most of his defense of the Christian faith on an argument from morality, a point which persuaded him from atheism to Christianity. He explains various concepts of God and explores the ethics resulting from Christian belief.

### Worship in March:

## What do YOU see?

#### March 6

Perspective  
(Promotion or Protection)  
*Luke 19:11-27*  
Communion

#### March 13

Take What I Need  
*Luke 20:1-19*

#### March 20

Where is my Loyalty?  
*Luke 20:20-26*

#### March 27

Death  
*Luke 20:27-40*

# Powerhouse

*get connected*

## POWERING UP WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

Join us on Wednesday Nights for Faith, Fellowship, Friends, Food & FUN!

### Powerhouse Family Meal Wednesday Evenings

#### MARCH MENU:

**March 2:** Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread

**March 9:** Tacos & toppings, beans & fresh fruit

**March 16:** Roast beef, mashed potatoes, corn

**March 23:** Baked Potato Bar with topping, bread and fresh veggies

**March 30:** Sub sandwiches, chips & fresh fruit.

5:30 – 5:45 Lemonade & Fellowship

5:45 – 6:15 FUMC Family Meal

\$6.00 adults / \$3.00 kids

Family Maximum \$20



## 2 years - 5th Graders Sunday School at 9:45am

Preschool: Room 205

Kdg - 5th grade: 3rd floor

## 4th & 5th Graders and Parents!!



Are you ready to take the next step with Jesus?



Come check out this opportunity to get involved here at FUMC!!

- Be a morning greeter
- Check in with visitors and missing friends
- AND MORE

Give Val a call at 651-6595 or val@fumcmarion.org

## Wednesdays at FUMC Marion Youth

**Jr. High** 6-8pm  
6-6:30pm Hang out/Games  
6:30-7ish Music/ Story of God  
7ish-8pm Life Group

**High School** 7-9pm  
7-7:30pm Hang out/Games  
7:30-8ish Music/Story of God  
8ish-9pm Life Group

# Lenten Bible Study

## “God's Gift of New Life: Interested?”

God promises change: a human community changed according to God's purposes, people transformed into the image of Christ. During Lent, we prepare ourselves for God's promises to be fulfilled, as God works in our lives and hearts to make everything new.

Join us as we immerse ourselves in God's word as we prepare to celebrate the gift of Easter. We will meet on **the six Wednesdays before Easter, from 6:30 to 7:30pm in Room 106.** The first class will be held immediately after the Ash Wednesday service on March 9th. Class will meet in the chapel for 10-15 minutes for a quick introduction, and handouts. Nursery will remain open as needed after the service.

Leaders: John Wilkinson (651-2176 johnswilkinson@q.com) and Christine Brunner Luse (431-5167 christine@brunnerluse.com) Drop-ins welcome at any class! Contact either John or Christine if you have questions.



## Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

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 **Thursday, March 17 from 5:30 to 7pm in the Mission and Education conference room.** 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 contact Vicki Standley, Director of Pastoral Care at 377-4856 or email vicki@fumcmarion.org.



## New Youth Ministry Logo

# PUPPET SHOW

**FRIDAY  
MARCH 4**  
COOKIES & DRINKS  
AFTER THE SHOW

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 5**  
SPAGHETTI DINNER  
4:30-6:30 P.M.



## 7:00 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CORNER OF 12TH ST AND 8TH AVE IN MARION

## The preparation begins...



We will be starting to prepare our recipe by making some AWESOME decorations.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

(no artistic skills are required!!)

**Beginning the week of March 7  
Wed & Thurs mornings**

**9am – 11am**

**Meet us in room 303  
to create our Café!!**

**Questions?? 651-6595**

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY Open House



Come check out the newly redone children's library!

**Sunday, March 6**

**from 7:30am – 12:30pm**

## 3RD - 5TH GRADERS....



*It's a Friend  
JAM!!!*



Bring a Friend, bring a lot!!

**Sunday, March 6**

in Room 303/305



## CARING CORNER DAYCARE BOOK FAIR

**Shop online until March 14.**

Go to [www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs](http://www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs) and then follow the directions to select Caring Corner and choose from a large assortment of books. Orders will be sent to the Daycare. A great time to purchase books for your children and grandchildren.

# Happy Monday!

We know not everyone has email, so we will be including the printed version of our new "Happy Monday" emails in every issue of the Marion Methodist. We hope you will enjoy these inspirational messages on Friday or Saturday, too. If you are not receiving these by email, but would like to be added to our list, please notify Craig Liscum at [craig@fumcmarion.org](mailto:craig@fumcmarion.org).

## Praying for Your Child

One of the greatest things (well, actually an opportunity) I've learned recently is not to limit what God can do for my daughter by clutching her to myself and trying to parent her alone. I chuckle when I think how crazy I was to think it was only my job! Rather than wishing she would do or not do something was getting me nowhere! It is a whole lot easier lifting her up in prayer and surrendering control to God. The difference has been significant for me because I can't be everywhere but God can. I can't see everything but God can.

I can't know everything but God can, so there really is no other option for me than to release my daughter into God's hands. Praying for Lydia has not only made a difference in her life but in mine also. My relationship with God has gotten so much closer because I am constantly talking to him all day about Lydia; she is a teenager and there is just so much to lift up to him!! It's never too late to start praying for your child. Why not start this Monday?

~~Laura Hamilton



## UMM

March 12 • 8 am  
Breakfast and Meeting

in Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome to attend.



## UMW

Circles

March 9  
Susanna 9:30am,  
LLCC

### Mary

1:00pm, Vi Braye's,  
1240 D Avenue 377-5472

### March 10

#### Needle Designers

9:30am, ULCC

### Wesleyan

9:30am, Adult Library

### Joyful Cooks

6:30pm, Susanne Haehlen's,  
3390 Willowridge Rd, Unit B  
350-9951

### March 17

#### Page Turners

1:30pm, Adult Library

## Women's Friendship Group

Women's Friendship Group meets at 11:00am on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Pizza Ranch in Marion. Contact Idella Hogan, 377-1382, for more information.

## Card Stamping to Meet

If you enjoy creating and stamping cards, please join the group on Wednesday, March 16, at 1pm, in the upper level of the office building. For more information, contact Ruth Starr, 373-2405.

## Tax Preparation for Your 2010 Tax Returns at Methodist Church

Three men are volunteering their time to help with tax returns.

- Harold Cramer and Dave Van Gorp are in the church office building on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- John Slusher is in the church office building on Thursday and Saturday mornings. He is at the Hiawatha Library on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.
- Call HACAP at 211 or 739-4211 to make your appointment.

## Thank You

Dear Friends, On behalf of the Marion Churches Senior Living Community Foundation, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the check of \$815. Our donations throughout the year are deeply appreciated. Our three buildings are full of residents and we have a waiting list. – *In His name, Ruth Noth, MCSLCF Corresponding Secretary*

(Note: the donation was the proceeds from the Month of Sundays Breakfast prepared by the United Methodist Men in January.)

Donations from FUMC to the Marion Food Pantry totaled \$1956.33 in 2010. Thank you for your participation in supporting the Food Pantry.

## WANTED: Pregnant Women for FREE Ultrasounds

Aid to Women is looking for pregnant women to volunteer for free ultrasounds so that our ministry can complete our medical conversion and nurse training. The ultrasounds will be performed by medical professionals under the supervision of a registered ultrasonographer.

March 16-24 – Morning & Afternoon Appointments  
Women 6-28 Weeks Pregnant (Due Dates June 8, 2011-Nov. 8, 2011)  
Call Aid to Women @ 319-364-8967



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[www.joyoflivingchurch.org](http://www.joyoflivingchurch.org)

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

Delayed broadcast of church services is available on Mediacom 18 at 7 p.m. on Monday. Full service recordings of services are in the FUMC library on VHS and DVD.

Articles for the newsletter can be submitted by email to [norma@fumcmarion.org](mailto:norma@fumcmarion.org).

## Pantry Partners for Marion Food Pantry for 2011

We help folks in need by supplying items for the Marion Churches' Food Pantry. You may bring the following items to church any Sunday during each month.

Please put your contribution in the grocery cart in the narthex or at the 8th Ave. door. THANK YOU!

March Cake Mixes



## Caring Corner Kindergarten Readiness Program Registration Now Available for 2011-12

Our program helps to develop the skills and knowledge with your four or five year old child that promotes sharing, caring and respect within a safe, Christian environment, which lays a strong foundation for them to enter Kindergarten confident and enthusiastic for learning.

Classes will begin on August 29, 2011 and run through May 24, 2012 Monday through Friday 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Call Dawn Blair, Director, 377-8490, if you have any questions or to register. Please tell all your friends and family, who have a four year old child and are looking for a preschool, about our program.



The current loan payoff balance is at \$53,333!!

## LECTIONARY READINGS

March 6, 2011

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

March 13, 2011

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



## Sunday Morning Coffee Time

We're looking for help on Sunday mornings to continue our Coffee Time ministry. DONUTS WILL NOW BE DELIVERED TO THE CHURCH EACH SUNDAY.

Couples, Families, Small Groups, Any Group that would like to help, please call Karen at 377-4856

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

**BIRTHS:** Feb. 24, **William and Isabelle Kish**, son and daughter of Warren and Brooke Kish, Evergreen, CO. Grandparents are Bob and Dawn Baker.

**DEATHS:** Feb 11, **Eldon McMillen**, family members include his wife, Pat and his children, Cris (Daniel) Cosman and Lisa (Kent) Boese.

**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

*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!

*Coffee Refreshments Devotions*

Contact Myrna Carter or Sherry Murray for more information.

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.

## The Marion Methodist deadline schedule

Deadline dates for the next issue of the Marion Methodist is on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 by NOON**. This issue will cover from March 20-April 2, 2011. Emails are appreciated and can be sent to [norma@fumcmarion.org](mailto:norma@fumcmarion.org)

## Church Information

**First United Methodist Church**      **Fellowship Hall**  
Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue      377-4252  
Church Office, 1298 7th Avenue  
Marion, Iowa 52302  
**Office 377-4856**      **Caring Corner**  
377-8490

## Staff

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**Handbell Choir Directors, Mary Lee Parks**  
[marylee@fumcmarion.org](mailto:marylee@fumcmarion.org)  
and **Angie Moss** [amos@fumcmarion.org](mailto:amos@fumcmarion.org)  
**Children's Choir Director, Angie Moss**  
**Youth Worship and Outreach Leader, Ben Garrett Schwartzhoff**  
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**Caring Corner Daycare Director, Dawn Blair**  
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LABEL HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MARCH 6</b> Communion Sunday 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00p A Joyful Noise 4:00p Girl Scouts (Rm 303/305) 4:00p Bell Canto 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL, Carnegie - UL) 6:00p Disciple Classes (Room 104, Room 107, Room 106)	<b>MARCH 7</b> 8:00a Taxes (Carnegie - Youth) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	<b>MARCH 8</b> 7:00a Prayer Service (Chapel) 7:30a Caring Corner Picture Taking (Room 105) 8:00a Taxes (Carnegie - Youth) 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 6:45p A Touch of Brass	<b>MARCH 9</b> 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:30a Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal - Food, Faith & Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Bible Study (Room 106) 6:30p Pastor's Bible Study (Chapel) 7:00p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library) 9:10p 12th Grade Bible Study (Carnegie - Pastor's Office)	<b>MARCH 10</b> 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 8:00a Tax Preparation - John Slusher (Carnegie - LL) 9:30a Needle Designers Circle (Carnegie - UL) 9:30a Wesleyan Circle (Adult Library) 10a Mom's Club of Marion (Room 105, Room 107)	<b>MARCH 11</b>	<b>MARCH 12</b> 8:00a Tax Preparation - John Slusher (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p FUMC 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)
<b>MARCH 13</b> 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00p A Joyful Noise 4:00p Bell Canto 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL & UL) 6:00p Disciple Classes (Room 104, Room 107)	<b>MARCH 14</b> 8:00a Taxes (Carnegie - Youth) 7:00p Labs Small Group (Room 105) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p Daycare Board (Room 106)	<b>MARCH 15</b> 7:00a Prayer Service (Chapel) 8:00a Taxes (Carnegie - Youth) 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 6:45p A Touch of Brass	<b>MARCH 16</b> 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 1:00p Card Stamping (Carnegie - UL) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal - Food, Faith & Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Bible Study (Room 106) 6:30p Pastor's Bible Study (Chapel) 7:00p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library) 9:10p 12th Grade Bible Study (Carnegie - Pastor's Office)	<b>MARCH 17</b> 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 8:00a Tax Preparation - John Slusher (Carnegie - LL) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 1:30p Page Turners Circle (Adult Library)	<b>MARCH 18</b>	<b>MARCH 19</b> 8:00a Tax Preparation - John Slusher (Carnegie - LL)