



Advent Quiet Day

is Saturday

December 5, 2009

4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

The Advent Quiet Day is a time that we set aside to quiet ourselves in meditation and prayer as part of our preparation for Advent. We all know how busy the holidays can be and this is a moment that you can take to refocus on what the season is all about.

Make this a part of your family's Advent tradition.

Keeping Christ in your Christmas,

Plan Now for These Upcoming Events:

- December 5** 4:00pm, Advent Quiet Day, a Time of Reflection & Preparation
- December 6** 4:00pm, Nowell Christ is Born! Handbell Concert
- December 8** 6:30pm, Caring Corner KRP Program
- December 11** 6:30pm, Caring Corner Daycare Program
- December 13** 11:00am, Fear Not Factor, Children's Christmas Program
- December 20** 8:30 & 11:00am, A Festival of Lessons and Carols, Christmas Cantata
- December 24** 1:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 & 11:00pm, Christmas Eve Services

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. 24

November 27, 2009



PASTOR MIKE MORGAN

Living with a Sound Track

During Confirmation and our New Members class, the question is asked: “now, while John was out preaching, what was Charles Wesley doing?” While Charles was in fact an outstanding preacher (likely more engaging than older brother John) the simplistic answer is “raising a family and writing hymns, thousands of hymns.”

There was a clear and important message in the early stages of the Wesleyan revival; music moves our hearts and if done well with appropriate lyrics, moves those hearts closer to God. Charles wrote the words “Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore; mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.”

While preachers spend hours pouring over the scriptures and sermon, the main point of a sermon is hard to whistle, difficult to repeat as we shampoo our hair, and rarely do we actually want to hear it again and again. A melody has an entirely different power. A melody can captivate our heart, raise our spirits beyond a momentary gloom, allow us to repeat a timeless truth over and over in our mind as we whistle as we work, tap our foot as we read emails or sing an oratorio as we shampoo.

Many times I have said to others, “my life has a sound track” because I listen to music non-stop and appar-

ently it comes out from time to time. Not so long ago our good church custodian Ardyce Port said; “that must be Pastor Mike” as I approached her from around the corner.

“How did you know?” I asked.

“Because you are always whistling” she replied.

With apologies to all that the whistling might annoy, since being made aware of it, most of what seems to be being whistled are hymns, choir anthems and praise songs from our worship. In the last few weeks I have been fixated in a rotation of “All Hail the Power” “Are you ready?” (8:30 you know) “God of the City” (9:45) and “He Lives” (11). Over and over these songs bless my soul, praise our God and keep me right focused.

David wrote in Psalm 98: “Sing to the Lord a new song” and in Psalm 100 “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful Songs.” Coupled with hymns from

our own book like “There’s within my Heart a Melody” to speak a deep and rich truth, whether we have any training, expertise or ability; music is an important part of personal and corporate worship. It simply has the power to set an environment in which our hearts can be drawn closer to God.

This is the reason we strive to have excellence at every level of our worship music teams at First United Methodist Church. Whether it is a bell choir rouser, a sacred choral anthem, a praise team chorus, a great hymn of our tradition or the voices of our wee ones, the intention is to build an environment for faith growth. From time to time, applause rises out of the pews and while our leaders are grateful for the affirmation, each of them points to the God who deserves the glory and pray that their work places within your heart a melody that will renew you and draw you closer to Him and keep you right focused. – Mike



Idea: The Advent is Jesus

Starting in November, our pastors and leaders are going to preach all the way through Luke. This will take the better share of a year and we will read EVERY verse and story.

November 29

Luke 1:26-38

Mary – the Ideal Believer

December 6

Luke 1:39-56

Good News – Jump for Joy?

Noelle NoEL NOEL

Nowell Christ Is Born!

Touch of Brass Joyful Noise Bell Carols Jubilation

First United Methodist Church
Handbell Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 6 at 4:00pm
Corner of 8th Avenue and 12th Street, Marion

No Admission charged - Suggested donation of non-perishable food items for Mission of Hope

Chili/Soup Supper following to benefit Mission of Hope



Christmas 2009 at FUMC Marion

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Music by McEney, Kodaly, Clausen, Chapman, Gawthrop, and Fleming with traditional Christmas carols

FUMC Chancel Choir and instruments

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services
Sunday, December 20, 2009



The Resurrection

Music by Simon McEney,
Composer-in-Residence
Salisbury Cathedral, England

The combined choirs of
Westminster Presbyterian Church Cedar Rapids
and First United Methodist Church Marion
Cedar Rapids / Marion area orchestra
Diane Beach, piano

Professor Richard Hoffman, conducting
Sunday, May 23, 2010

10:30am Worship Service
Sinclair Auditorium

Coe College, Cedar Rapids Iowa

A worship service of hymns, prayer, scripture and music involving the combined congregations of FUMC and Westminster Presbyterian churches.

POWER UP!!

Praise Our Wonderful and Everlasting Redeemer

Where are you getting connected?

We fellowship through games and activities
We grow as we dig into God's Word
We connect with one another
and with God!!

Powerhouse

get connected

Wednesdays

Elementary kids:

6:15 – 7:30pm Room 303/305

Preschool kids:

6:30 – 7:30pm Room 206

Thank you to all who participated in **NOVEMBER FAMILY NIGHT!!** We had a great time, had a wonderful Turkey Feast and wrapped and prayed for 56 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes! Don't miss out on the next Family Night – December 16!



DECEMBER FAMILY NIGHT Wednesday, December 16

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

6:00pm - Birthday dinner

It's a Christmas Feast (PIZZA!)

6:30 – 7:30pm Birthday games & cake
If you would like to bring a birthday gift for the King, gift cards from HyVee & Walmart would be appreciated. (No gifts are required). The gift cards will be given to the Friendship Fund that is used by the church to help those in need.

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.

Please Do Not Park

We are fortunate enough that our neighbors allow us to park in their lots on Sundays. However, the businesses in the Progress Point building (across 12th Street from the sanctuary) still have a need for parking spaces on Sundays. We have been asked please do not park against the Progress point building or the tenants will have your vehicle towed.

Baby/Toddler Clothing Shower

Sponsored by Senior High Girls

The Senior High girls are sponsoring a Baby/Toddler Clothing Shower for Helping Hand (a part of the Marion Food Pantry). So add an outfit to your after-Thanksgiving Shopping list or find those clothes that your children have outgrown and please bring them to church on December 6, 2009. The new or gently used clothing may be placed in the crib in the entry. Thank you for helping meet this need of the youngest members of our community.



Elementary Kids....

Fear Not Factor

Mark your calendars for our 2009 Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 13 11 am worship service

(Parents – Dress rehearsal Wednesday, December 9 at 6:15pm)

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3RD, 4TH & 5TH GRADERS....

Candy Cane JAM

Sunday, December 13 5:30 – 7:00

• FEATURE ARTICLE •

Music

The ancient Greeks had it pretty well figured out, I think. Just like students do today, Greek students went to school to read, to speak, to reason. You would recognize most of their subjects: mathematics, philosophy, law, rhetoric, and music. But there is one aspect of Greek educational philosophy that has always intrigued me: astronomy and music were treated as basically the same subject. The Greeks considered astronomy and music as opposite sides of the same coin. Astronomy was the study of external, observable objects; music was the study of the internal and the invisible. Both astronomy and music involved the study of movement; one measured the movements of the observable universe while the other considered movements of the human heart and spirit.

Fast forward to the 21st century where pace and distractions too often push us to the visible and measurable at the expense of the internal and invisible. The economic conundrum in which we find ourselves has laid bare now more than ever the raw nerves of rationalizing the value and worth of music. Despite what the Greeks thought, is music still a necessary part of the human experience?

Picture this: Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker dueling aboard the Death Star with no sound other than their hissing light sabers. Your favorite college football team runs onto the field to the cheering of thousands of fans, but there is no marching band...no rousing singing of your school's alma mater. The bride walks down the aisle past pews filled with smiling relatives and friends...in silence. A worship service takes place with no voices or instruments sounding God's praises. Something is missing. Something somewhere deep inside of us isn't moving.

I've had the good fortune of participating in many hundreds of musical events in my lifetime. I've sung Bach's Mass in b Minor six times; it's considered the greatest work of art anywhere, anytime. My wife and I sang together in Mahler's Eighth Symphony – the "Symphony of A Thousand". Four Messiahs. Several Brahms Requiems. Elijah. Great music was presented in places that seemed important at the time, led by seemingly important men and women whose names would be imprinted in my memory forever. These experiences generate a lot of adrenaline for listener and participant. The Greeks would love it.

But the most important concert of my life wasn't in a concert hall or cathedral. It was at a retirement home right here in Marion. FUMC's Chancel Choir finished a fine concert of choral music and an audience sing-along. We were mingling with the audience members after the concert when a man walked up to me with tears in his eyes. I try my very best to be humble, but when a concert goes as well as ours did I un-humbly expected him to congratulate us on our music. I wasn't ready for what happened next. He told me his mother had not spoken a word to anyone since she had moved into the retirement home a year ago. During the sing-along portion of the concert her son saw her perk up, begin mouthing words to familiar Christmas carols, and then she started to sing with the choir and orchestra.

The Greeks were right. The invisible relationships inside us – mother, son, and then me, were stirred that afternoon in the retirement home. Something inside this woman moved toward a Greater Harmony. And that's what we are all about at FUMC, isn't it? To move people everywhere to the Greater Harmony that is Jesus Christ. St. Augustine probably felt something like the woman at the nursing home when he wrote in Book IX of the Confessions, "how I wept to hear your hymns and songs, deeply moved by the voices of your sweetly singing Church! Their voices penetrated my ears, and with them, truth found its way into my heart; my frozen feeling for God began to thaw, tears flowed and I experienced joy and relief."

That's precisely what FUMC's musicians are here for. We work hard to move those invisible, internal parts within us – pastors, congregation members, and ourselves – into harmony and rhythm with God. The opportunities are endless, and are being explored weekly in FUMC's handbell choirs, praise and worship teams, instrumental groups, children's choirs, and Chancel Choir.

What moves you? What music would bring you closer to the God of Wonders? Being musicians, we are "all ears". Please let any of our music leadership team know what we can do to help make your musical worship experience richer and deeper.

Our Music Team consists of:

Diane Beach: Organist and Accompanist

Matt German: Youth Praise and Worship Teams

Angie Moss: Children's Choir and Handbell Choirs

Mary Lee Parks: Handbell Choirs

Michael Ransom: Chancel Choir and Adult Praise Team

Visit our website at www.fumcmarion.org for information about the church, current activities, organizations, newsletter, etc. Articles for the newsletter can be submitted by email to norma@fumcmarion.org.





Stewardship Corner

November 29

Greeters: 8:30 8th Ave Mark & Marilyn Beebe
12th St Eldon & Pat McMillan
11:00 8th Ave Pam Couser
12th St Mike & Diana Anderson

Ushers: 8:30 Henry Schmoll, Mona Morgan,
Soukup family
9:45 Kehoe family, Karen Ultis
11:00 Roth family, Janice Vogel

Acolytes: 8:30 Jacob Winter, Sean Conner
11:00 JP Grissel, Nathan Twedt

December 6

Greeters: 8:30 8th Tom & Joan Padley
12th St Ralph & Vicki Standley
11:00 8th Lori Strasburger
12th St Courtney family

Ushers: 8:30
9:45
11:00

Acolytes: 8:30 Jacob Winter, Sean Conner
11:00 JP Grissel, Nathan Twedt

Attention all friendly, happy, helpful people:

We are looking for individuals, couples or families to help usher, especially for the 9:45 service. If this is something you would love to do at our 8:30, 9:45 or 11:00 services, please talk to Karen email Karen@fumcmarion.org or call 377-4856



UMM December 12 8:00am

Breakfast & meeting in Fellowship Hall.



UMW December 12 Christmas Party Fellowship Hall

Circles

December 2

Miriam

12:00noon Potluck at Barb Campbell's, 2090 Stratford Drive 377-4208

Rebekah

12:00noon Potluck at Eula Wood's, 1000 12th St 377-1073

December 3

The Bookends

7:00pm, Java Creek Café

December 9

Sarah and Susanna, 9:30am
LLCC

Mary/Agape

1:00pm at Betty Spearman's,
2845 Winchester Drive 377-3097

December 10

Needle Designers

9:30am, LLCC

Wesleyan

9:30am, Adult Library

Joyful Cooks

6:30pm at Marlys Knott's, 3305 Willowridge Rd, Unit A 377-3326

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.

Power Up

Can your small group use a little pick me up or better yet, a *Power Up*? There are times when you want to try a little something different to reenergize your small group and attending the Pastors Bible Study could be just the thing you need. While this study is really directed for members of our congregation in general your small group could benefit by taking the class together.

It will be starting **January 13th from 6:30 - 7:30** in the chapel and we will be studying the book of Acts. There are more details in the article below.

Contact Pastor Jon at jonmoss@fumcmarion.org or call the church office, 377-4856, to sign up.

Pastors Bible Study

Pastor Mike and Pastor Jon will be teaching the Book of Acts on Wednesdays, January 13-March 24. You will learn about: the early church, how the disciples' ministry really changed, how the church grew, and how all of this applies to us today. A New International Version (NIV) of the Bible or study bible is recommended with additional materials provided. The cost to cover this class is \$15 per person or \$25 for a couple. Contact Pastor Jon at jonmoss@fumcmarion.org or call the church office, 377-4856, to sign up.

Starts Wednesday January 13th from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM in the Chapel

Pantry Partners

Here's an easy way to do a very good deed:

Beginning in January we will bring an item of food each month to be used in the Marion Churches' Food Pantry.

It will be so easy to just pick up an extra can or package when you do your grocery shopping for your family. Bring it to church any Sunday and put it in the food cart you'll find near the door.

January's item is Peanut Butter. You'll find the list for all the months of 2010 in an upcoming issue of the Marion Methodist.

United Methodist Women's Christmas Party

Soup and Sandwich Lunch

Saturday December 12th, 2009

10 am – 12 pm in FUMC Fellowship Hall

Musical Entertainment and Special Mission Recognition Awards

Open to all UMW members (at large and circle members). Guests are welcome. Bring 1.5 dozen cookies. Will use 6 for dessert and will use 1 dozen for a cookie exchange. You will be able to take home 1 dozen assorted cookies.

Take a few hours from this hectic season to enjoy the fellowship of your sisters in faith and prepare for the wonders and joys of celebrating the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Contact Billie Werner, 462-6773, or b2werner@msn.com, by Wednesday, Dec 9, if you would like child care.



Many Ways to Give

Here at FUMC, there are many ways to give your offering. The well known route is through the offering plate during worship. However, you are also able to give to the General Budget, Capital Campaign, and Foundation via automatic withdrawal and online. If you are interested in giving using these electronic routes, please call Craig at the church office or at craig@fumcmarion.org.

Offering Envelopes

The time is coming near to pick up your 2010 offering envelopes. If you do not currently have envelopes, but would like them, or would like to switch from monthly to weekly, or vice versa, please call Craig at the church office or at craig@fumcmarion.org

Thank you

Thank you for your cards, phone calls, visits, prayers and the beautiful prayer shawl. I cherish each of them and will keep all of you in my prayers! I am so blessed with so many thoughtful Christian friends! God Bless each and every one of you. "Down but not Out!"
— Love and Prayers, Norma Jean Cole

Poinsettias for the Christmas Season

Fill the Sanctuary, Chapel and parlor with the beauty of Poinsettias! Help beautify the church by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. Cost is \$12. Proceeds benefit the Children's Library. Watch for the bulletin insert to order or call the church office, 377-4856, to order.

Gift Card Christmas Tree

The Gift Card Christmas tree will be in the narthex beginning Sunday, November 22. If you would like to donate a gift card, please take one of the gift tags, then return the cards to the church office on or before Dec. 20. The Wal-Mart and Hy-Vee cards that are purchased will be used to help members of our congregation as well as others in the community who need help with food, gas and personal items. They are a great way to reach out to many others who have needs throughout the year and your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Vicki at the church office, 377-4856 or email vicki@fumcmarion.org.

Televised Services

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

LECTIONARY READINGS

November 29, 2009

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

December 6, 2009

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

BAPTISM:

Nov. 22 9:45am, **Lauren Margaret Wittkowski**, daughter of Paul & Erin Wittkowski.

DEATHS:

Oct 24, **George Votrobeck**, Elberon, IA. Family members include daughter, Brenda (Terry) Kerr and grandchildren, Gina, Sara, Lukas and Holly and spouses.

Nov. 12, **Lynn Rothe**, Weeping Water, NE, brother of Idella Hogan. Services were held on Nov. 17.

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.

The Marion Methodist deadline schedule

Deadline dates for the next issue of the Marion Methodist is on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 by NOON**. This issue will cover from Nov 29-Dec 12, 2009. Emails are appreciated and can be sent to norma@fumcmarion.org

Church Information

First United Methodist Church

Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue
Church Office, 1298 7th Avenue
Marion, Iowa 52302
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Fellowship Hall

377-4252

Caring Corner

377-8490

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Handbell Choir Directors, Mary Lee Parks

marylee@fumcmarion.org

and **Angie Moss**

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LABEL HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 29 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) 12:30p Praise One Practice (Sanctuary) 1:00p Puppets (Black Light Room) 1:00p Puppets (Room 303/305) 2:00p Joyful Noise 3:00p Jubilation 4:00p Bell Canto 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - UL) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL)	NOVEMBER 30 7:00p Boy Scouts (3rd Floor Education Rooms & Black Light Room) 7:00p Young Adults Small Group (Room 104)	DECEMBER 1 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Room 105) 6:45p Touch of Brass	DECEMBER 2 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00p Small Group - Fawcett (Room 106) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p GriefShare (Flood Office Upper Level) 6:30p Powerhouse Classes 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library) 9:00p 12th Grade Bible Study (Carnegie - Pastor's Office)	DECEMBER 3 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 10:30a GriefShare (Flood Office UL) 1:30p Caregivers @ Summit Pointe 6:00p Girl Scouts (Room 104)	DECEMBER 4 6:00a Men's Fraternity (Fellowship Hall)	DECEMBER 5 9:00a Youth Life Coach Meeting (Carnegie - LL) 4:00p Advent Quiet Day (Sanctuary)
DECEMBER 6 Communion Sunday 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) 2:00p Joyful Noise 3:00p Jubilation 4:00p Bell Canto 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - UL) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL)	DECEMBER 7 7:00p Young Adults Small Group (Room 104) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Black Light Room) 7:00p Boy Scouts (3rd Floor Education Rooms)	DECEMBER 8 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Room 105) 6:30p KRP Program (Sanctuary) 6:45p Touch of Brass 7:30p KRP Program (Fellowship Hall)	DECEMBER 9 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:30a Sarah and Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00p Small Group - Fawcett (Room 106) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p GriefShare (Flood Office Upper Level) 6:30p Powerhouse Classes 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library) 9:00p 12th Grade Bible Study (Carnegie - Pastor's Office)	DECEMBER 10 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) 10:00a GriefShare (Flood Office Upper Level)	DECEMBER 11 6:00a Men's Fraternity (Fellowship Hall) 6:30p Caring Corner Program (Sanctuary) 7:30p Caring Corner Program (Fellowship Hall)	DECEMBER 12 8:00a UMM (Fellowship Hall) 10:00a UMW - Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p FUMC 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)