

## Committees at a Glance

**December 4**

7:00pm

Building, Adult Library

**December 8**

7:00pm

Daycare Board, Rm 306

**December 11**

7:00pm

Building, Adult Library

**December 13**

10:00am

Library Board, Adult Library

## Advent Quiet Day 2008

**December 6**

**4:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**in the Chapel**

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.

The Advent Quiet Day consists of five 30 minute meditative services. Each has a time of devotion, music and reflection. You can pick one session or attend as many as you want.

Our focus for these sessions will be the A.C.T.S. prayer model.

**Adoration**

**Confession**

**Thanksgiving**

**Supplication**

Service 1 4:00 PM

Adoration

Service 2 4:30 PM

Confession

Service 3 5:00 PM

Thanksgiving

Service 4 5:30 PM

Supplication

Service 5 6:00 PM

Getting Started - reflection & communion

Make this part of your family's Advent tradition.

*See you there! Keeping Christ in your Christmas.*

### 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

Wednesday Worship –

**6:30 pm** - Chapel



# The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 24

November 28, 2008



PASTOR MIKE MORGAN

## Our 101(k)s

Bishop Trimble, newly appointed Bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recently met with the lead pastors of the large membership\* churches in Iowa. During his opening comments he made reference to the economic times in which we find ourselves by pointing out that things were not going well for his 101(k). One of the pastors asked; “what is a 101(k)?” to which the Bishop replied, “that’s all that is left of my 401 (k).”

In the midst of painful or frustrating situations, a little comic relief is helpful to break the tension, acknowledge a reality that we all share, call us to seek solutions and remind us that our hope as Christians is beyond that which we can touch. The writer of Proverbs proclaims “*When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous have a refuge.*” The meaning is clear, when the difficult comes, no matter how bad it gets, those whose life is in the Lord can be hopeful because God is with us in the midst of the strife.

During these past few weeks, after our local economy was already teetering in the aftermath of the most costly natural disaster in Iowa’s history, and after several industries had already elected to close or leave town leaving hundreds of people without employ, things got worse. Investment portfolios began to shrink jeopardizing the economic security of many retired people and the future dreams and plans of others. Local companies began to constrict so that they could

weather the storm and now a handful of you have lost your employment with seemingly more to follow.

Times are tough. There can be no denial of that.

There can be no denial that in faith, we as a church are prepared as best we can be to meet the challenging days that we are living in the midst of. Fellowship: to uplift the community, offering support at all times” is one of the pillars of our church mission. Caring for each other in the next few years needs to be one of our main things so that we may survive and maybe even thrive in these days of peril, disaster and calamity.

The Sunday that follows your reception of this newsletter is the first Sunday of the Holy Season of Advent. Advent begins with the acknowledgement that calamity exists – that people are often in great peril and will be thrown into an even worse condition if they do not trust in the Lord.

As your pastor, during these very real and very tough times, I invite you to

engage in the hope of the Advent message. The gospel tells us that at the right time, when people felt furthest from God, God came in the form of Immanuel (God with us) Jesus. That old and current story, the hope of all times and every generation will be told and celebrated in worship, prayer opportunities and our programs during this holy season. Don’t miss the blessing offered; the hope that can be downloaded into your soul in the Advent season at your church.

Advent is not a season in which we evade the realities of our days but rather claim them and receive hope that is beyond what we can see and touch for facing them. My admonition for you as this season begins, amidst the difficulties we all face is this: “*Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord*” (Psalm 31:24) – Rev. Mike

\* According to the statistical report in 2008 *Journal of the Iowa Annual Conference* only Ankeny First and Davenport St. John’s have a higher weekly worship attendance than Marion First UMC.

### THE BIG IDEA SERIES:

## Preparing for Christ en masse

**November 30** Luke 21:25-36

The Invitation is printed and sent

**December 7** Luke 3:1-6

Rolling out the red carpet  
Homecoming

## Annual Charge Conference Held

The Annual Charge Conference of the Church was held at Christ Community United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 16th. Rev. Jim Hanke, Superintendent of the East Central District of the Iowa Annual Conference, presided. After completing the annual reports, the congregations of Living Water and Christ Community were dismissed so that our congregation could discuss the future of our facilities. Dr. Lynn L’Abbe offered the following motion: *We move to release the “Capital Fund” to the Board of Trustees so that the Building Committee can work to secure an option to buy property for a new church facility on behalf of the Trustees.* The motion was seconded.

Jerry Van Dyke, chair of the building committee, reported on the committee’s diligence to this point. This report is available at [www.fumcmarion.org](http://www.fumcmarion.org) or in the church office. A period of questions, answers, and discussion regarding the motion and what it means ensued. The following is a summary report for congregational information:

The Building Committee and Finance Committee agree that land will be bought with cash and pledges. It is not in the best interests of FUMC to take on debt at this time. The Building Committee has researched, with the help of a realtor, a large number of properties and is currently focused on a few. In the interest of protecting price and negotiating leverage, the committee believes it is not prudent to publicly discuss specific properties until an option is secured.

The motion allows the Trustees, on the advice of the Building Committee, to exercise an option on a particular property. An option would allow FUMC adequate time to perform any testing, surveying, etc. Meanwhile, the property could not be sold to any separate party.

The motion gives Trustees (and through them the Building Committee) access to the monies currently in the “Capital Fund” as well as ongoing gifts to this fund. Expenditures will require Trustees approval and will be

limited to those required to acquire an option and complete the diligence specific tasks.

Once all due diligence is complete, the purchase of a property would need approval from each of the following groups, in the order listed:

- Finance and Trustees
- The East Central Committee on Church Building and Location
- Church Council
- Charge Conference

The question was called, and votes were cast by written ballot among the full members of the church present.

The motion passed with 131 voting “Yes” and 17 voting “No.”

The Finance and Building Committees are firmly committed to acquiring land for the new facility without taking on debt. For now, the capital fund is growing the “Methodist Way”, slow but steady. For those passionate about this effort, please consider a contribution.

# 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

## December 3

Macaroni & Cheese  
Green Beans • Fruit Cocktail  
Ice Cream Sandwiches

## December 10

Beef Noodles & Vegetable Soups  
Crackers • Mandarin Oranges

### 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).

## Plan Now for These Upcoming Events:

December 6 4:00pm, Advent Quiet Day, a Time of Reflection & Preparation

December 7 4:00pm, How Great Our Joy Handbell Concert

December 9 6:30pm Caring Corner KRP Program

December 11 6:30pm Caring Corner Daycare Program

December 14 11:00am, Children's Christmas Program

December 21 8:30 & 11:00am, Christmas Cantata

December 24 1:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 & 11:00pm, Christmas Eve Services

## YOUTH

Mark your calendars

# Winter Games

January 10-11

JOIN THE CHILDREN OF FUMC FOR

# RADIO J-O-Y!!

"Where the Best Songs are Songs about Christmas"

The children at FUMC will share their annual Christmas program on Sunday, December 14 during the 11am worship service. Come early and get the best seats!

## Pizza Ranch Fundraiser for Caring Corner Daycare

Once a month through next May, a classroom at Caring Corner Daycare will be the recipient of a fundraiser at Pizza Ranch in Marion. Enjoy a pizza and support the classroom of your choice.

Month	Classroom	Date
December	Toddlers (Miss Suzanne & Miss Stacie)	Mon., Dec. 15

## A New Worship Opportunity Begins at FUMC "PRAISE for Him"

A Monthly, Interactive Worship Service

Beginning Sunday evening, December 14th  
6:00 PM in the FUMC Sanctuary

Growing deeper in Christ through powerful praise and worship  
Experiencing spirit-filled worship along with prayer and testimony  
Becoming better disciples through a deeper understanding of God's word in music  
Going forward to serve with a heart for God in Christ-like clothes  
Format could include (and will vary each month): Request a song, prayer, testimonies, drama, a deeper look into God's powerful words transformed into song, Communion, open forum and real-time discussions, and did we mention....Lots of Music!

## People Rejoicing And In Service Everyday

"Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord..." -Psalm 150:6

If you have questions or would like to participate in leading ANY aspect of the service (music, testimony, devotions, scripture), please contact Lynda Braksiek at 431-1621.

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Remembering to share the Reason for the season of Advent with your children.

Join us for an

# Advent Family Celebration!

Life as we know it these days is SO busy – and then add to that the list we all have to do to prepare for Christmas. I want to encourage you to please take time to help your family, your children to prepare their hearts for this advent season....

**Join us on Wednesday, December 3.  
from 5:30 – 6:30pm**

We will join together in a Powerhouse meal in Fellowship Hall. 6:30 - Stick around then as we create family Advent Wreaths and other ornaments to adorn your home for Christmas. We will need lots of hands for helping and hearts to help the children prepare for Christmas!

Why did God choose to enter the world as a child?

He could have come as a professor – but only to offer us education.

He could have come as a scientist – but only to offer us technology.

He could have come as a politician – but only to offer us earthly solutions.

He could have come as a warrior – but only to offer us war.

He could have come as a salesman – but only to offer a way to buy our salvation.

He could have come as a prophet – but only to offer more promises of a future Messiah.

He could have come as an old man – but only to offer us the need for new life.

But...

He chose to come as a child!

To offer us re-birth into a New Life!

He chose to come as a child!

To offer us salvation regardless of age!

He chose to come as a child!

To invite us to come to Him as a child!

He chose to come as a child!

To show that He came for everyone!

BY KARL BASTIAN – KIDOLOGY.ORG

## Christmas Giving Suggestions

**Christmas Families** are ready to be adopted. Tags on the tree in the fellowship hall need to be returned by December 14th. Please contact Pastor Melisa if your small group wants to adopt a family.

**Christmas Eve Offering** helps our community anytime during the year when in need of food, clothing, and assistance. Christmas Eve is our only collection for the Friendship Fund.

**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 to order.

## Can you Help?

**FLY** help needed the last two weeks in December to make sandwiches and deliver food. Please let Pastor Melisa know if you can help.

**Flood Recovery** is collecting the Crystal Light Containers with Lids to store nails and screws. Please bring them to the Flood Recovery Office.

## Caregiving Support Group

Caregiving Support Groups are open to anyone who is a caregiver or soon to become a caregiver.

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.



3RD - 5TH GRADERS

# A Holiday Jam!!!

Deck your halls – for a JAM in December!!

**Sunday,  
December 14  
5:30-7:00**

We'll meet in room 303/305  
Join us for food, fun, & fellowship!! Friends are always welcome! Please RSVP to Val so we know how much food to have!!  
373-8623 or mail to:  
val@fumcmarion.org



# Stewardship Corner

## November 30

**Greeters:** 8:30 8th Ave Glen & Virginia Goehring  
12th St Charles & Pat Kress  
11:00 8th Ave Kim Tchon  
12th St Bill & Billie Werner

**Ushers:** 8:30 John & Louise Nieland, Ned & Connie Albert, Bob Shireman  
9:45 Michael Buh, Matthew Tribble, Casey Cram  
11:00 Chad Walker, Mark Atwater, Jordan Atwater, Kirk McNeil, Bret McNeil

**Acolytes:** 8:30 Daly Quinn, Lydia Hamilton  
11:00 Jakob Kehoe, Sarah Chevalier

## December 7

**Greeters:** 8:30 8th Ave Debbie Hahn  
12th St Dean & Norma Baughman  
11:00 8th Ave Karen Ultis  
12th St Jack & Shirley Cromer

**Ushers:** 8:30 Roger & Barb Flint, Neil & Eula Wood, Rhonda Birkey  
9:45 to be scheduled  
11:00 Larry Atwater, Larry Witzel, Nate Witzel, Dave Pederson, Jacob Pederson

**Acolytes:** 8:30 Willis Fulmer, Mikalah Applegate  
11:00 Natalie Peyton, Tommy Schmitt

## UMM Saturday, December 13 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Breakfast is served before the meeting/program. All men are invited to attend at any time.

## UMW Circles December 3

**Sarah and Susanna** 9:15 am, LLCC  
Sarah Circle will provide a brunch. Bring a Christmas card to share.

**Miriam** 11:30am Potluck at Dorothy Potter's, East Post Road 377-8146

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

**December 4**  
**The Bookends** 7:00pm, Java Creek Café

**December 8**  
**Faith** 7:00pm, Panera Bread

**December 10**  
**Mary** 12:00 noon - Potluck lunch at Betty Spearman's, 2845 Winchester Dr, 377-3097

**December 11**  
**Needle Designers** 9:30am, LLCC  
**Wesleyan** 9:30am, Wesley Library  
**Joyful Cooks** 6:30pm, Check with circle chair for details

**December 13**  
**Hannah** 9:00am, Christmas Brunch  
Potluck at Kate Goshon's, 3155 Stanley Cup Drive, 373-0013

## 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.

## A Well-Kept Secret Revealed

For several years there has been a treasure tucked away in the prayer room. In a couple of pouches on the back wall have been something called **Care Notes**. What are they, you ask? **Care Notes** are wonderful little pamphlets on a variety of subjects such as grief, illness, caregiving, divorce, just to name a few. They have practical, down-to-earth information presented in a clear and loving manner and also contain additional resources to get more information. But, they haven't been utilized as well as they could have been, because many people probably didn't even know they were there.

Now the **Care Notes** have been moved out into the hallway across from the chapel, and are in a new display rack which is easy to see and easy to access. Please stop by and look through the assortment. If you find something that fits a situation that you or someone you know is dealing with, please help yourself. There is no charge for the **Care Notes** – they are there as just another tool to help our church family and community get through the challenges of life.

How Great Our  
**JOY**

Jubilation Joyful Noise  
Touch of Brass Bell Carols

First United Methodist Church  
Handbell Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7 at 4:00pm  
in the church sanctuary  
Corner of 8th Ave. and 12th St., Marion

No Admission charged - Suggested donation of a non-perishable food item to be donated to Mission of Hope

Chili/Soup Supper following  
to benefit Mission of Hope

## Televised Services

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

## Cardstamper to Meet

Card Stamping Group will meet on **Thursday, December 11th** at 1:00pm in the Upper Level of the Carnegie Building. Anyone interested in stamping cards is welcome to come.

## Memorial Consideration

Maybe you are asking yourself, "Is there something special my family can do to remember a loved one who has passed on?" Giving a memorial in their memory to the church is a wonderful way to remember them.

Or perhaps you are thinking about how you could honor someone who is special to you. It may be a special anniversary, birth of a child/grandchild, special thanks or someone's birthday.

The Memorial Committee will administer funds, either designated or undesignated, that are to the First United Methodist Church, Marion, in memory or honor of loved ones (family or friends) or special occasions. If you have an idea for a memorial that you would like to have for your loved ones, please contact Craig Liscum, Business Administrator. The committee would be happy to work with you and your family.



## 2009 Flower Chart

Honor a loved one or commemorate a special day in your family by placing flowers on the altar any Sunday. The 2009 flower chart is posted on the bulletin board by the Chapel. Dates are available in November and December as well. Cost is \$20. Contact the church office, 377-4856, with details. Take the flowers home after the 11:00 service to enjoy.

## LECTIONARY READINGS

**November 30**  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1  
Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

**December 7**  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>November 30</b> First Sunday in Advent 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) 1:00p Majesty Puppets (Black Light Room & Room 303) 2:00p Joyful Noise Chimers (Rm 310) 2:00p Bells (Sanctuary) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 3:00p Jubilation Handbells (Rm 310) 4:00p Bell Canto Handbells (Rm 310) 5:00p Friendship Ministries (Carn-UL) 5:00p Friendship Ministries (Carn-LL)	<b>December 1</b> Bells (Sanctuary) 6:00p Parent Advisory Committee (Room 205) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	<b>December 2</b> Bells (Sanctuary) 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Adult Library) 6:30p Emmaus Dinner (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Room 310)	<b>December 3</b> Bells (Sanctuary) 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:15a Sarah & Susanna Circles (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 Worship Service (Chapel) 6:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 6:30p Powerhouse Classes 6:30p Adult Classes 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	<b>December 4</b> Bells (Sanctuary) 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 1:00p Thursday Morning Club - Christmas Party (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Caregivers@ Summit Pointe 6:00p Divorce Care (Flood Office Upper Level) 6:00p FACS - Cheri Dickey (Carnegie - LL) 6:30p Girl Scouts (Rm 302 & 303) 7:00p Building Committee (Adult Library)	<b>December 5</b> Bells (Sanctuary)	<b>December 6</b> Bells (Sanctuary) 4:00p Advent Quiet Day
<b>December 7</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00p Majesty Puppets (Room 303 & Black Light Room) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 3:00p Youth Praise Team (Carnegie - UL) 4:00p Handbell Concert (Sanctuary) 4:00p Girl Scouts (Room 303) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - UL & LL) 5:00p UMM - Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)	<b>December 8</b> 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p Daycare Board (Room 306)	<b>December 9</b> 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Adult Library) 6:30p KRP Christmas Program (Sanctuary) 6:30p KRP Christmas Program (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Room 310)	<b>December 10</b> 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 5:30p Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Powerhouse Classes 6:30p Worship Service (Chapel) 6:30p Adult Classes 6:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	<b>December 11</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) 6:30p Caring Corner Daycare Program (Sanctuary) 7:00p Building Committee (Adult Library)	<b>December 12</b>	<b>December 13</b> 8:00a UMM (Fellowship Hall) 10:00a Library Board (Adult Library) 10:00a Church School Christmas practice (Sanctuary) 1:00p Girl Scouts (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p FUMC 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)

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

**BIRTHS:** Nov. 7, **Grady Josiah Blanchard**, son of Ben and Stephanie Blanchard, Des Moines. Grandparents are Chris & Mary Blanchard.  
Nov. 17, **Jessica Lea Ribble**, daughter of Tony & Jamey Ribble, Cedar Rapids. Grandparents are Ron & Jan Fawcett.

**BAPTISMS:** Nov. 16, **Ryan James Koelker and Audrey Elizabeth Koelker**, children of Jason & Jodie Koelker.

**WEDDING:** Nov 15, **C.J. McDonald & Jen Hogan**

**DEATHS:** Nov 13, **Marjorie Reth**, wife of Earl Reth, services were on Nov 17.

Nov 15, **Harry Lees, Jr**, family members include his wife, Esther Lees and daughter, Yvonne Shackelford, services were on Nov 17.

Nov 16, **Georgina Chalstrom**, wife of Don Chalstrom, services were on Nov. 19.

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  
Marion, Iowa 52302  
**Office 377-4856**

**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 **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 by 5:00pm**. This issue will cover from November 30-December 13. 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.