

Committees at a Glance

January 12

7:00pm

Daycare Board, Rm 306

January 19

6:00pm

Joint Committee Chairs,
Pastor's Office

6:30pm

Trustees, LLCC
SPRC, Pastor's Office
Foundation, MLCC
Finance, ULCC



The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 1

January 9, 2009



PASTOR MIKE MORGAN

What Constitutes Whatever?

Seminary students as they prepare to lead congregations, become chaplains or teachers love to involve themselves in theological discourse. Often times these conversations, because they involve many who are passionate for the Lord and ministry are transforming to those involved. Other times they are a simple bantering of ideas and splitting of theological hairs.

Many years ago, I remember a discussion that included both. As we sat around the fireplace in Skaggs Hall, a classmate asked if Jesus ever gave a theological exam to his disciples. Uniformly we agreed that he seemed to give just one. It is found in a parable known as the "Sheep and the Goats" or the "Last Judgment" (Matthew 25:31-46 which incidentally is the gospel reading for New Years Day).

The parable is simplistic. Jesus explains his second coming and explains how human beings will receive their eternal inheritance in regards to whether they helped those who were hungry, thirsty, a stranger, without clothes, sick or in prison. While it is often a topic among rising church leaders to really banter about the idea of the second coming, this discussion took a different direction. It focused upon two words "whatever" and "when."

For an hour or so, the banter was around the concept of Jesus' statement "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." The interest seemed to be around what "whatever" meant. Does "whatever" mean you can help folks in the way you think they need it? Does

"whatever" include preaching the gospel? Calling for repentance? Serving all or just the types of needs listed here? Definitely as teachers of congregations, leaders of students, witnesses to those in the armed forces or hospital bed can we define what for Jesus constitutes "whatever?"

Today it seems like common sense for us to have defined "whatever" as whatever a person needs physically, spiritually and emotionally to make them whole and allow them to grow closer to Christ and his Kingdom. Of course, that wouldn't have taken much time and in hindsight, some of these discussions had as much to do with procrastination as they did with theological inquiry.

The second prong of the discussion was more vital and useful for teaching and building up the church. In the parable, the Lord commends the righteous for providing him food, drink, a welcome, a healing hand and visit in prison when he needed it. Their (paraphrased) response is "when did we do that?" Jesus reply was, "whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me." This turned our discussion from splitting hairs about the various things we are to do and the types of people we are to accept to a deeper discussion about the role of the church.

As emerging pastors we talked (and talked) about techniques of training people in the church to do courageous, generous and humble acts of service. I think it was Paul Tangonan, a student from Hawaii who said "you know, those who were serving Christ did so because the core of their being was service and humility, not because their church had arranged a program." We thought about that for a long time.

Paul's comment had a transformative effect on my understanding of the zeal for reaching beyond itself the body of Christ must have. The preaching, worship, and discipleship ministries of our church must always be focused on forming the core of people's lives around Christ so that we will naturally serve others, not simply offering service or mission programs. We will have programs (like "Shine in 09") that help us organize and mobilize to serve the least of Christ's brothers but they will only be genuine if we are so immersed in Christ that serving is as natural to us as breathing. This seems to be our Lord's command, and it is my prayer for you, me and our church in this new year and always.

Rev. Mike

Wednesday Evening Service Deleted

Beginning in January 2009 the Wednesday evening worship service will be deleted from our schedule. While the few that attended appreciated the ministry and were loyal, the small goals set for consistent attendance and participation has not been met. Participants in this ministry are encouraged to keep their Wednesday night spiritual life alive by joining one of the small group learning experiences held at the same time.

Flood Recovery

We have some options for you to help with Flood Recovery.

January 16-23 - We are in need of cookies and brownies for incoming teams.

January 16-24 - Can you eat breakfast with the team to share from your perspective how the Flood has changed our city?

January 16th around 9:00 pm - Are you able to come and welcome a team to FUMC, show them the facilities, and provide a schedule for the next day? If hospitality is your gift, welcoming teams is a job that is needed often.

We have several houses that are just about done, can you help with the punch list? Finish trim, hang fire detectors, touchup paint, and more.

URGENT NEED for local licensed plumbers. If you are one or know of one who could donate some time to flood recovery, please let us know.

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

A New Worship Opportunity Begins at FUMC

"PRAISE for Him"

A Monthly, Interactive Worship Service

The Last Sunday of each Month
Beginning Sunday evening, January 25
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.

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

January 14

Tacos with ground beef
Chopped onions/peppers/tomatoes/lettuce
Sour cream, shredded cheese
Salsa & Chips
Tropical fruit cocktail • Cupcakes

January 21

Chicken Nuggets & Sauces
French fries • Peaches
Ice Cream sandwiches

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

Winter Games

WHEN IS IT?

Saturday, January 10, 2009, 6:00 pm
to Sunday, January 11, 2009, noon

WHERE IS IT?

1st United Methodist Church, 1298 7th
Ave. Marion, Iowa 52302

WHAT DOES IT COST?

\$30 if registered after January 1, 2009
Registration cost includes meals

Register online at
www.summertimegamesuniversity.org

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 2009

“Nooma” is concise and to the point, 10- to 14-minute DVDs that tackle topics like forgiveness, discipleship, and unconditional love, making biblical truths vivid and relevant for today's generation.

Starts: Sunday, January 11, 2009

Time: 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Enrollment: Open – Just Drop in

Room: Flood Recovery Office Building Conference Room

A Study of topics like Suffering, Grace, Forgiveness, and the Trinity, all issues raised in the fictional book titled “The Shack”.

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

“Human Commitment” – A series of Character Studies.

The Standard Lesson Commentary (SLC) is the nation's most popular annual Bible commentary.

Starts: Wednesday, January 07, 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 FIRE-PROOF which came out in theaters last September.

Financial Peace University

Wouldn't it be great to know where your money is going instead of wondering it went? Financial Peace University, Dave Ramsey will teach you, on video, to systematically get out of debt, how to save, invest, and develop a spending plan that really works. During the 13 week class you will learn how to gain the financial control that most people never achieve. First United Methodist Church in Marion is offering a class starting January 21st. Attend a free preview on Sunday, January 11th & 18th at 9:45 AM or Wednesday January 14th at 6pm in the Parlor. Cost of the class is \$100 or \$7.69 per week, per family. Call Craig at 377-4856 with questions. Register at www.daveramsey.com/fpu.

Online giving is now available

You may now give your offering to the general budget, building fund, foundation, and flood relief by logging on to www.fumcmarion.org and selecting the “Give Online” button. After a very short and one time registration you may give to the previously listed ministry areas. We at First United Methodist Church, Marion are excited to offer this as a giving option to help meet the changing and ever dynamic needs of our congregation. The preferred methods of online giving are ACH Direct Debit (e-check) (coming soon) or Debit Cards. We strongly discourage debt as a means to give, as does the Bible: “the borrower is slave to the lender.” Proverbs 22:7.

Note: Credit cards are accepted on this site for those that use them as part of their financial management process, but again we do not want our congregation members to go into debt to give to FUMC. If credit card debt is weighing in your heart, please consider our Financial Peace University class.

"Soup"er Bowl



Chili & Soup
Cook-off

January 25, 2009

\$4 Entry Fee per crock pot

Chili, broth based soup, or cream based soup. Enter 1 or all categories.

Help us beat last year's turnout!

Register by January 20th. To register, please email Shelby Roth (fumc.library@gmail.com) or phone church office (377-4856) or Shelby (389-5029). Please give name, phone number and email address so we can verify your entry.

*We are also looking for judges for the cook-off.
If you would like to be a judge, please contact Shelby.*

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.

Caring Corner Fundraiser

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 on Tuesday, January 20 and support the 3 year old classroom (Miss Teri and Miss Kim).



Altar Flowers

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. Cost is \$20. Contact the church office, 377-4856, with details. Take the flowers home after the 11:00 service to enjoy.

The Marion Methodist deadline schedule

Deadline dates for the next issue of the Marion Methodist is on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14** by 5:00pm. This issue will cover from **Jan. 25 through February 7, 2009**. Emails are appreciated and can be sent to norma@fumcmarion.org

Wesley Library

The Wesley Adult/Youth Library is going to change the book classification system in February. We will be using the Dewey Decimal System instead of the current classification system. **To do this, we need all books back in the library by January 31.** Please look on your bookshelves, on your dresser, or anywhere that you may have a book that you checked out and didn't return to the library. We appreciate your assistance in finding all the missing, overdue books. We will be publishing a list of missing books in the next Marion Methodist.



Stewardship Corner

January 11, 2009

Greeters: 8:30 8th Ave Doris Hoth
12th St Bob & Sherry Murray
11:00 8th Ave Kay McGuire
12th St Warren & Luann Byerly

Ushers: 8:30 Jack Barker, Ken & Nancy Jolliffe,
Lee Coppock, Debbie Hahn
9:45 Cara Soukup, Kelsey Labs, Michael Buh
11:00 Chris & Mary Blanchard, Jean Hammill,
Janeen Fink, Susanne Haehlen

Acolytes: 8:30 Tristan Bennett, Duggan Trenary
11:00 Wendy Hamer, Clarissa Clinton

January 18, 2009

Greeters: 8:30 8th Ave Deb Charlier
12th St Ralph & Vicki Standley
11:00 8th Ave Dawn Blair
12th St Doug & Marilyn Byal

Ushers: 8:30 Jack Barker, Ken & Nancy Jolliffe,
Lee Coppock, Debbie Hahn
9:45 Matthew Tribble, Casey Cram, Carissa Goemaat
11:00 Chris & Mary Blanchard, Jean Hammill, Janeen
Fink, Susanne Haehlen

Acolytes: 8:30 Crystal Zimmerman, Brooke McMorran
11:00 Shelby Powers, AJ Bernauer



UMM

Sat., January 17

All Church Indoor Mini Golf

8:00-10:00am in the Fellowship Hall Clubhouse.

Prizes awarded, breakfast served. Everyone welcome, including kids



UMW

Circles

January 12

Faith at 7:00pm at Olive Garden

January 14

Susanna at 9:30am, LLCC

Mary at 1:00pm, Barb Marcus',
3025 Yorkshire Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, 364-5891

January 15

The Page Turners at 1:30pm,
Wesley Library

January 19

Hannah 5:30 Dinner and 7:00 Meeting. Check with chair on locations

Agape at 7:00pm Check with chair on location

January 22

Sowers at 9:15am, Fellowship Hall

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.

We thank the following people for sharing their poinsettias with us this Christmas:

Chuck & Sherry Alexander in honor of our granddaughter, Charlie Jo Stevens
The Armstrong family, Bev, Gary & Becky Braun in memory of Bill Armstrong
Bob & Dawn Baker in memory of George & Thelma Kofron
Mark & Marilyn Beebe in memory of Paul O. Beebe
Richard & Carolyn A. Bice in memory of Harry & Zilpha Bice, Richard's parents and Lloyd & Rose Wineinger, Carolyn's parents
Peg Boss in honor of the Lectionary class
Carol Christensen and family in memory of Jim Christensen
Eldon & Debbie Clouse in memory of Rowena Clouse and Diane McClain
Ruth Collins, John Collins and Tim, Kim, Cam, Adam & Beth Michels in memory of Haddie Collins
Sharon, Brian, Christine & Dylan Davis in memory of Steve Davis
Evelyn Fisher in memory of Doyle Fisher and Maxine Cannady
Matt & Lisa Friday, Garrett & Alisa in memory of Hazel Friday
Kim, Wendy & Sarah Hamer in memory of Great Gram Sharpe
Kay Hedding in memory of Harold Hedding
Evelyn Hollister in memory of Richard Hollister
Catherine Larson and family in memory of Ray Larson
The Lawrence family in memory of Sandra Kathleen Kirkland
Judy Luke in memory of John & Nita Reeser
Joy Luko in memory of William Luko
Denny & Sherry McDonnell in memory of our parents and granddaughter Hope
The McFarland family in memory of Alva O. Boyer, Jr and Harry Lees
Mona Morgan in memory of Lowell Morgan
Dana, Laurie, Kyle, & Scott Mortensen and Bill, Mary, Abby, & Nate Hoefle in memory of Ron Mueller
Dana, Laurie, Kyle, & Scott Mortensen and Bill, Mary, Abby, & Nate Hoefle in memory of Adelyne Mueller
Sandy Ochs and family in memory of Ted Ochs
Ray & Peg Pierce and family in memory of our daughter Susan L. Gray
Marilyn Rech in memory of my parents, Lillian & Walter Rech
Brian & Karen Schmitz for the chapel
Anita Schons in memory of Jason Hyduk, George Finn and Dennis Pesek
Ralph & Vicki Standley and family in memory of Jeane Robinson
Ralph & Vicki Standley and family in memory of Glenn Standley
The Tchon family, Joe, Kim, Blake & Jordan in memory of Joan Radloff and in honor of William Radloff and Joe & Roz Tchon
Lois Waller and family in memory of Clayton Waller
Don & Donna Wolmutt in memory of Wendy Wolmutt Blackburn
Norman Wright in memory of Betty Wright
Annette Zink in memory of Bob Zink, Col. & Mrs. Jesse Johnston and in honor of Dr. & Mrs. R.N. Masson

Tax Preparation for Your 2008 Tax Returns

John Slusher will be volunteering again to do tax returns. He will be doing tax returns in the Methodist Church office basement on Thursday and Saturday mornings starting January 31. John will also be doing tax returns at the library in Hiawatha on Monday and Wednesday afternoons starting February 2. He is doing this volunteer service as an AARP tax volunteer. You don't have to be a senior citizen or a member of this church to obtain his help. This will be John's 27th year of doing tax returns as an AARP tax volunteer. The returns will be filed electronically for both the federal and state returns.

Harold Cramer and Dave Van Gorp are also AARP tax volunteers and again will be doing tax returns at the Methodist church office basement on Mondays and on the 3rd floor on Tuesdays. They start working on Monday February 2. So there are 4 days during the week that you can get help for filing your tax returns at your church.

Please make your appointment by calling HACAP at phone number 211. Any of these 3 men can help you with your tax returns.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone that has sent me cards, visited me at the nursing home and hospital, and who have especially kept me in their prayers. I know that without family, friends, and the body of Christ, I would not have come through some of the trials I have recently endured. May God bless all of you in 2009. - *Sherley Joritz, (mother of Jennifer Ruppert)*

Dear Marion First UMC, Thank you so very much for your prayers and support through this most unusual year. Your gift has arrived as I refurbish the new parsonage and will go towards furniture. Your thoughtfulness truly fills my heart with joy this blessed Christmas. - *In Christ, Betsy Piette, Parkersburg UMC*

Televised Services

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

LECTIONARY READINGS

January 11, 2009

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 18, 2009

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

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 • Devotions Refreshments

Contact Myrna Carter or Doris French for more info.

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.

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!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 11 12:00a Winter Games 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carn-UL) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00p Majesty Puppets (Room 303 & Black Light Room) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 2:00p Joyful Noise Chimers (Rm 310) 3:00p Jubilation Handbells (Rm 310) 3:00p Youth Praise Team (Sanct.) 4:00p Bell Canto Handbells (Rm 310) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL & UL)	January 12 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p Daycare Board (Room 306)	January 13 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Adult Library) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Room 310)	January 14 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:30a Susanna 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 Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 6:30p Powerhouse Classes 6:30p Adult Classes 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	January 15 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 1:30p Caregivers at Summit Pointe 6:00p Divorce Care (Flood Office Upper Level) 7:00p Building Committee (Adult Library)	January 16	January 17 8:00a UMM - All Church Indoor Mini-Golf
January 18 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carn-UL) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00p Majesty Puppets (Room 303 & Black Light Room) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 2:00p Joyful Noise Chimers (Rm 310) 3:00p Jubilation Handbells (Rm 310) 3:00p Youth Praise Team (Sanct.) 4:00p Bell Canto Handbells (Rm 310) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL & UL)	January 19 11:00a Women's Friendship Grp - Pizza Ranch 6:00p Joint Committee Chairpersons (Carnegie - Pastor's Office) 6:30p Trustees (Carnegie - LL) 6:30p SPRC (Carnegie - Pastor's Office) 6:30p Finance (Carnegie - UL) 6:30p Foundation (Carnegie - Main Level) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p Veterans Group (Adult Library)	January 20 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Adult Library) 5:00p Caring Corner Night at Pizza Ranch 7:00p Touch of Brass (Room 310)	January 21 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 Adult Classes 6:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	January 22 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 9:15a Sowers Circle (Fellowship Hall) 6:00p Divorce Care (Flood Office Upper Level) 7:00p Building Committee (Adult Library)	January 23	January 24 10:00a Clergy & SPRC Training 10:00a Library Board - set-up for soup cook-off (Fellowship Hall)

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

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

BAPTISM:

Dec. 28, **Olivia Lily Dunbar**, daughter of Larry & Lisa Dunbar.

DEATHS:

Dec. 28, **Don Braye**. Family members include his wife, Vaneta (Vi), and daughters, Patricia (Steve) Cavanaugh and Pam Braye. Services were held on Dec. 31.

Dec. 28, **Lorraine Sweet**, wife of Robert Sweet. Services were held on January 3.

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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1298 7th Ave., Marion, IA 52302-3405
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1298 7th Ave., Marion, IA 52302-3405

Postal Requirements

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
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The Marion Methodist

THE MARION METHODIST (USPS 877-620) is published bi-weekly by FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1298 7th Ave., Marion, IA 52302-3405. Periodicals postage paid at Marion, IA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1298 7th Ave., Marion, IA 52302-3405.