

JULY 19, 2026

Marion weekly update

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church!

Thank you so much for a wonderful community breakfast and worship on Sunday! For those who were unable to attend, I'd like to share what we did and offer it to you for reflection. Rather than a standard service or performance the congregation was invited to actively share from their own experiences with one another. Each table began with a question, and then after each question one person from the table was asked to switch tables so that by the end of the service every table had different participants than when they began. The experience was designed to encourage reflection on how God works in our lives and at the same time strengthen the bonds of our community through sharing with people we might not ordinarily hang out with. It was a great joy to wander and hear what was being discussed around the tables by both regular members from our church as well as the people from the community who came in to share the time with us.

Following are the questions that were asked through the morning:

What is your fondest memory of being in church (any church)?

What is the silliest thing you've ever done?

What is the most significant way God has worked in your life?

What is your favorite place you've ever lived or visited and why?

If you could change one thing in the world immediately by snapping your fingers, what would it be?

Who has influenced your life the most, and what did they teach you?

Each of these questions relates directly to our journey of faith. Whether the experiences shared seem directly connected to God or otherwise, we are reminded of many things. Our personal experiences of church and God are important to cling to and share. Where we live and the people who surround us are instruments of God to shape and form us. The unique perspectives that they bring shows us personal images of God and grants unique history from which our faith grows and shows us God at work in the world. What we would change reflects our passionate values. Even our silliness is part of how we have expressed that singular to us spark of joy the Spirit gives.

Take a little time and answer the questions for yourself. Better yet find someone to share back and forth with. If you've ever been skittish about faith sharing because you're not sure what to say, these questions are a great way to get a foundation to work from to let others know why you are the person of faith that you are!

Brent