



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Dakotas-Minnesota Area

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October, 2018

*But Jesus called the children to him and said,  
"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."  
Luke 18:16*

Dear Faithful Followers of Christ -

One Sunday morning at Grace UMC in Marion, ND, pastor Mark Turner began his children's word by inviting the children to join him at the front of the church. That morning, 36 children came forward to learn about Jesus. Yes, with a city population of 133, and an average worship attendance of 60, 36 children came running to the front of the church. It was an amazing day and that amazement continues in worship each week as individuals and families make Grace UMC their church home.

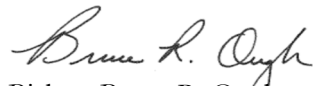
District superintendent Kermit Culver was in worship to see the excitement of these children. It was a day for the church to celebrate their centennial. Kermit took part in their celebration and learned through conversation that these children were present because of the prayers of one individual. He asked for this person to please identify themselves if they were willing. An elderly woman raised her hand. A long-time member, she believed so strongly in their church that she turned to prayer. As a result, 36 children are worshipping at Grace UMC. Kermit went on to invite the church to join this dear woman in her prayers for the church, and to continue spreading the good word of Jesus in hopes that generations to come will be able to celebrate the bicentennial of Grace UMC.

To continue ministry in Marion, they understand work needs to be done to create a welcoming and inviting atmosphere. This Builders Club call will help replace the outside siding and mend the crumbling sidewalk. There are also plans to install a multimedia system to enhance worship, Bible studies, and adult and children's ministries. The new equipment will also help the congregation reach out to the community by inviting youth and children to the church for movies and discussion. Casey Ketterling, project coordinator shares: "We hope and pray that in faith we will be able to continue this mission to share God's love with others in our community."

We ask that you prayerfully consider a gift of \$20 or more to the Dakotas Conference Builders Club. The gifts for this call will be received until December 31, 2018. Please send your gift to: Builders Club, Dakotas Conference Center, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301. Or donate through the Foundation's secure website at [www.dakotasumf.org](http://www.dakotasumf.org).

We hope you will support our current call to Marion, ND Grace UMC and invite you to encourage others to join the Builders Club by going to our website [www.dakotasumf.org](http://www.dakotasumf.org). Your support will help Grace UMC as they continue to grow, serve, and build connections throughout the Marion community. Grace United Methodist Church will continue to fulfill their mission of welcoming all God's children and sharing their love for Jesus.

Blessings!



Bishop Bruce R. Ough

P.S. Sioux Falls Sunnycrest UMC received our last Builders Club call and they have been presented with a check for \$10,000. Thank you for your continued generosity and ongoing support.

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*If you would prefer to receive your Builders Club Call notices by e-mail, send your name and e-mail address to [info@dakotasumf.org](mailto:info@dakotasumf.org) to be added to the e-mail call list. Write Builders Club in the subject line. Thank you for helping us conserve postage and paper for this important ministry.*