The eulogy began with the words: "Frank was one of a kind – an individual – God never has or ever will make another one exactly like him." Many true words have been spoken in the history of the world and these are among them – but - not just about Frank – the same is true of each of us.

One of the most significant things about God's creation is that though we may be similar (yes, you may look like your mom or dad) we are all unique, individual, God-born, of infinite value and worth. The Scriptures say we are born in the image of God, which is to say we are of eternal value, and each of us are individually formed in our mother's wombs in the knowledge and care of God, which is to say we are "one of a kind."

Fingerprint and DNA technology tells us we have scientific similarities and decisive differences. Emotionally, we are certain that "no one feels exactly as we do." Spiritually, we are all on an individual quest to become at one with God. These marks of unique individuality make each of us crave ways to "tell our story" in the living of our days. Thus, it seems to me, one of the four basic needs we each need our church to meet (alongside of support and stability and I will name a fourth next issue) is the opportunity for self-expression.

God made us all a unique mix of gifts, passions, abilities, personalities and life experiences, and planted within us an irrepressible desire to express our uniqueness. When we can't express that uniqueness, it produces frustration, dissatisfaction and boredom.

The vast majority of men and women who walk into Marion Methodist, and the vast majority of people we are trying to reach, are bored out of their minds. They find no opportunity in their daily lives to express their uniqueness. Social media, our jobs, even our family and friends tend to stuff us into a box that makes everyone the same.

Let me give you a difficult visual image. Once on vacation I came upon a "one size fits all" souvenir shirt. As a social experiment, I had 5'1" 100lb Lisa try it on and then Pastor Mike (not those measurements) also put it on. Could I stuff myself into it – well mostly. Was it comfortable or attractive? Nope. The two of us are NOT the same size and shape – nor are we the "same" in many other ways never though because our gene pools causing intersect many of our characteristics to be similar. Church is like that – we are similar but not the same. When we come, we are longing to find someone that can help us express our uniqueness, our individual gifts, loves and joys. The best sentence I heard in a recent workshop was "Listening is so close to loving that we can't really tell the difference." Marion Methodist should be the kind of place where listening is one of our "things" and, in being listened to, we express ourselves and have a basic need met.

Take a real look as you enter the Center this week and embrace the unique group of individuals you see that make up Marion Methodist that day. Give some thought to how you might help one of those wonderful spirits express their spiritual gifts, abilities, personality and life experiences during the time you are together. When you meet that basic need for another person, you will see their spirit soar.

Pastor Mike
**TV Broadcast**

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcast on Mediacom or ImOn Channel 4 at 7:00 PM on Monday evenings. There is a multiweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.

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**Meal Schedule:**

- **10/23** - Dairy Queen
- **10/30** - Zio Johno’s

**Wednesday Night at Marion Methodist**

**Pathfinders Worship & Outreach (Preschool - 5th Grade):** Focuses on praise and worship for kids. Children will also learn how they can make a difference for the people in our community.

**4:12 Youth Group:** Junior High Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Sanctuary). High School Worship 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Sanctuary).

**Adult Classes:** Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marionmethodist.org

**Nursery:** Offered in the Nursery

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**How to Grow a Foundation for $5**

A foundation grows by receiving donations. A small donation of $5, given by a group of people, over several years, grows into a large endowment for the future of Marion Methodist.

- **$5 per month**
- **200 people**
- **20 years**

**Marion Methodis Foundation**

The Marion Methodist Foundation was created in 1998 as an endowment foundation for accepting donations by gift or bequest. The Foundation funds are maintained separately from all other funds and property of the Church. It provides a business-like method of administrating current and future gifts and donations and turns them into long term financial stability for our church.

The success of the Foundation will determine the success of the Church to carry on its ministry for years to come. Investing in the Foundation is a great investment not only for today but for tomorrow's generation. Your gift can be cash (Electronic Fund Transfer), securities, personal property, life insurance monies, real estate, trust, stocks, and bonds.

Your Foundation has provided support to many areas of Marion Methodist:

- **Music -** replacement bells for the Bell Choir
- **Technology -** iPads for Sunday school kids
- **Education -** Seminary scholarships, conference registrations
- **Capital improvements**
  - Carnegie Office Building
  - New gutters
  - Rebuilt restrooms and kitchenette
  - Legacy stained-glass display at 5050 REC Drive
  - Youth – Camperships, missionary work weeks

Please consider giving every month toward your Foundation to ensure the sustainability of our Church and to generate funds for the support of our activities.

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**Are You Ready to Become a Member of Marion Methodist?**

Our next New Member Class will be Sunday afternoon, October 27.

We invite you to join us for lunch at 11:30am in Room W10, followed by a fun-filled and informative class.

We end the afternoon with our Membership Service at 2:45pm.

To register for the class, please contact Karen Schmitz at kschmitz@marionmethodist.org or (319) 377-4856. Childcare is available upon request.

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**GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays**

Weekly seminar to help people cope with the holidays after a loss. Topics include:

- **10/23** - Dairy Queen
- **10/30** - Zio Johno’s

**Pathfinders Children’s Ministry**

Volunteer to teach on Sundays at 8:15, 9:15, & 10:15 AM and Wednesday Evenings

Contact Donnie or Beth at dandb@marionmethodist.org or 727-2673.

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**School Kits**

Thank you to all who have donated supplies for the school kits and hygiene kits this year. We’ve collected 100 hygiene kits and about 150 school kits. They will be taken to Ingathering in Cedar Falls the first Saturday in November. If you missed donating, never fear. We will gladly accept any and all items for either kit. Marion Methodist truly is a generous church!

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**Are you dreading the holidays because the loss of a loved one is making it hard to look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas? If so, make plans to attend an encouraging seminar that will help you get through the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them again.**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend:

- **GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays**
  - Sunday, November 17
  - 2:00 to 4:00 pm
  - 5050 REC Drive, Room W10

To register for this session please call the church office, 377-4856, or email Vicki at vstandley@marionmethodist.org
Marion Methodist is Praying for:

Prayer is a powerful way of caring for each other in our Marion Methodist family. There are several avenues open to everyone – the prayer cards on Sunday morning and the prayer wall which is available 24/7, are two that are used most often. You can have a more active part in entering into prayer for each other. Check out the prayer wall frequently as prayers are submitted there often. Each time you visit, and pray for one of the requests found there, click the “I Prayed For This” tab; more prayers are always better.

Please keep all the people involved in Financial Peace in prayer as well as all the programs and ministries which are practicing, studying and serving at Marion Methodist.

Harmony Hawks Chorus

The Harmony Hawks Chorus presents its annual Gospel Concert Friday, November 15, 7:00 pm, at New Covenant Bible Church, 3090 N Center Point Rd, Cedar Rapids. This annual fall tradition brings together many outstanding vocal & instrumental groups and soloists performing a variety of gospel and religious music. The Harmony Hawks chorus will anchor the show performing Gospel and patriotic songs.

Admission is free with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m. There will be a free-will offering taken to benefit His Hands-Free Clinic. For more information, please contact Mary Aldrich at 362-1587 or Cal Birkey at 350-1977.

We hope you’ll join us this year to experience a fun and inspirational evening.

Sweet Buy & Buy Needs You!

*Bakers Wanted to fill Harvest Market shop with delicious baked goods on October 26!*

What to donate?
Plates of six cookies, small loaves of bread, 6-inch to large-sized fruit pies, caramel popcorn in sandwich bag, peanut brittle, cupcakes, cakes, specialty cakes, breads, cinnamon rolls, individual treats, specialty items (like kolaches). Whatever your heart desires!

When to donate?
You may drop off donations on Friday, October 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., or from 8-8:45 a.m. on October 26 Harvest Market day! Please sign in your donations when you arrive and provide a phone number if you wish to take your donations home if they do not sell on Saturday.

Special Requests:
Please package your donations ready to sell. You can price your own, or we'll price according to a general price sheet. Clearly label any items that are sugar free, gluten free, or nut free. Label your donation so we know what it is (example: banana nut bread).

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Please keep all the people involved in Financial Peace in prayer as well as all the programs and ministries which are practicing, studying and serving at Marion Methodist.
**WEDDINGS:**  
- September 28: Jerry and Deb Van Dyke and great-grandson of Jen and Kyle Van Dyke. Family

**DEATHS:**  
Concern & Christian Love... Our Congregation Shares Its

**BIRTHS:**  
- Roger and Megan Abel

**DATES:**  
- 11/29: Date Arrived in Mail  
- 11/28: Date Articles Due  
- 11/27: Date Arrived in Mail  
- 11/26: Date Articles Due  
- 11/25: Date Arrived in Mail  
- 11/24: Date Articles Due  
- 11/23: Date Arrived in Mail  
- 11/22: Date Articles Due

**PANTRY PARTNERS FOR MARION FOOD PANTRY:**  
We help folks in need by supplying items for the Marion Churches Food Pantry. You may bring the following items to church any time during each month. Please put your contributions in the Mission Depot in The Center or the Church Office.

**October: Toilet Tissue**  
**November: Cake Mix**  
**December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes**  
**January: Macaroni & Cheese**  
**February: Canned Fruit**  
**March: Peanut Butter**

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**October**

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**FREEDOM**

This is why we are so passionate about FREEDOM here at Marion Methodist. Our current Financial Peace University classes are reporting:

- $1,880,886.00 in non-mortgage debt
- 293 Credit Cards

FREEDOM is a journey we are dedicated to bringing to others.