Four Basic Needs We Need Our Church to Meet

Two weeks ago, for the first time in this series, I posed the question: What do you get out of church? Then, as now, I do not have a singular definitive answer but am suggesting four. Last issue I suggested (and believe) that persons need to find support in the church and return it to others.

The second basic need I believe folks need their church to meet is stability. Most people are looking for a strong foundation upon which to build their lives. Jesus tells a brief parable that expresses why: “All who listen to my instructions and follow them are wise, like a man who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents, and the floods rise and the storm winds beat against his house, it won’t collapse, for it is built on rock.” But those who hear my instructions and ignore them are foolish, like a man who builds his house on sand. “For when the rains and floods come, and storm winds beat against his house, it will fall with a mighty crash.” (Matthew 7:24-27 Living Bible)

Many of the once-assumed strong foundations of life, philosophy, faith, government, and morality have withered under constant attack or have been so diluted by relativism that it does feel as if one can stand upon them. Into this the church can and must speak in Jesus’ name.

People desire stability in their life and one path to stability is to announce absolute truths upon which a person can build their lives. With no absolutes, with no principles to guide us, how can a person live any other way except mired in anxiety, stress, depression?

Most people want to express their own thoughts on a particular matter and we also know how our ideas and thought processes came to be. When it is found there exists a higher realm of truth and that our perceived world of the senses is merely a reflection of the greater one.

Plato contended there was one universal truth which a human being needed to recognize and strive to live in accordance with. This truth, he claimed, was embodied in the realm of Forms. Plato’s Theory of Forms states, simply put, that there exists a higher realm of truth and that our perceived world of the senses is merely a reflection of the greater one.

Four hundred years after Plato, knowing that humanity’s search for truth was as old as humanity itself, God embodied truth in Jesus Christ. Jesus simple claim “I AM the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6) makes clear he is the higher realm of truth and, if a person desires stability in their life, all they need do is claim it in the person of Jesus.

The beauty of this truth is that it is stable and absolute. It is an absolute upon which billions have built their lives and does not change. The apostle Paul affirmed this truth writing, “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:7-9a) That is stability – a Savior that NEVER changes.

Marion Methodist endeavors to offer stability to her members and friends by agreeing with and teaching that God’s Word, as found in the Old and New Testaments, is where the absolute truth of God is found and that this authority can be trusted to make sense of life. Teaching the Word of God, as the authority in which it was presented to us, casts an anchor that allows us stability in the various storms of life.

Pastor Mike
Thank You
As many of you know, over the past two years Brian and I have faced many health challenges. We both still have long journeys ahead, but we wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation to all of our church friends and family.

The cards, flowers, meals, hugs, prayers, and concern have gone a long way in helping us manage our days. And to those of you who have jumped in to help while I’ve been away, you are appreciated more than you will ever know.

We feel God’s love every day through your prayers, gifts and service.

I hope to be back in the office on Monday, October 7, and back to my Sunday morning routine on October 13.

With deepest gratitude and love,
Karen and Brian Schmitz

The Coffee Shop
Studies show there are many benefits to drinking a cup of coffee. The benefits range from boosting your metabolism, to increasing your energy level as well as providing high antioxidant power and anti-inflammatory effects on the body. For your own health, you should stop by The Coffee Shop at the Marion Methodist Harvest Market on Saturday, October 26, 2019. Not only can you enjoy a cup of Joe but, you can pair it with a delicious cinnamon roll. Rejuvenate your mind and soul before shopping at the Harvest Market.

Fall Clean-Up Day
October 5, 2019
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Rain or Shine)
5050 REC Drive
Come ready to work inside or outside
We need your help to make our church look its best.

Wednesday Night at Marion Methodist is every Wednesday. From 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm we have a Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm we have activities for all ages. 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
Marion Methodist feasts on Scripture

Beginning in August 2018 our leadership has encouraged us to memorize scripture. Each month a memory verse has been presented to us to learn. Recently, our leaders took four weeks to “review” what we have learned. One of those exercises had a scripture verse printed on a card and the beginning of the sentence “this verse is important to know because…” Nearly 500 of you returned cards – all of which had wonderful responses to the phrase.

The following are a few that are representative of your responses for John 14:6 “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

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**Without belief in Jesus, we will not enter heaven!**

**We tend to rely on our own way and truth but it’s a good reminder that we are not in charge. He is!**

**Accepting Jesus as my savior means that I get to be with God when it is my time to go.**

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**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 tools 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.

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**Wesleyan Covenant Association announcement**

The Wesleyan Covenant Association has announced that Marion Methodist has been selected as the East Central District site for their Global Simulcast “Transformed” on November 9th. The Wesleyan Covenant Association arose following General Conference 2016 amidst the denominations struggle regarding biblical authority, the lack of resolution regarding holy sexuality, shrinking demographics, and the size, cost and (perceived) ineffectiveness of United Methodism’s bureaucracy.

Following the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2019, several “plans” have been offered as to the best way forward for the United Methodist Church. Most include some sort of multiplication of “strands” of the denomination that would include Marion Methodist (and all churches) making a decision as which strand to affiliate with.

The Global Simulcast “Transformed” will include a number of lay, pastor and academic speakers (see the roster here: https://wesleyancovenant.org/transformed/) that will present one way forward. The day should be inspiring, informational and filled with fellowship as other United Methodists from nearby will be coming. This is a great way to be informed – even if you do not agree with or affiliate with the WCA. The cost for the day is $20 and you are to register at the website.

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**Marion Cares Executive Director**

Laura Campbell

Thank You

Dear Friends of Marion Methodist,

Thank you so much for participating in Backpack to School 2019! Your efforts made for an AWESOME couple weeks helping over 400 students with backpacks and school supplies for the school year! With each backpack full of supplies averaging at about $90 each, there was over $35,000 worth of school supplies donated to help students in need RIGHT HERE in OUR community!

We had pick up events at the Marion Public Library, Marion Village, and Squaw Creek mobile home parks. Each child picked up their backpack with supplies that was purchased specifically for them and got to enjoy a free Kona Ice. Then, we attended MISD Start School Right event to help cover 150 families. The event had our school supplies available as well as free haircuts, hygiene supplies, and other resources. Finally we made care packages for local teachers to serve students in need in their classroom.

We appreciate your partnership in this project and thank you for your dedication to ensure all students have the right tools they need for a great start to the school year. Check out our Facebook page to see the photo album we tagged you in with all the pictures from the events!

Yours in Christ,

Laura Campbell

Marion Cares Executive Director

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**Christmas for Haiti**

All bags are due by October 6. Sheets will need to be marked with appropriate age and gender and be placed in the bag. There will be a list of suggested items on the sheet and will include items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, washcloth and bar of soap, travel size shampoo, school supplies, such as pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, crayons, etc. Small toys, socks, and many other items are also on the list and can be included in the bags. New this year, RTS is asking us to double bag the toiletries. A smaller bag will be included in the gallon bag for the toiletries.

These bags will go to the children of Haiti that many of our church members have met and worked with during our mission trips to Haiti.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Liscum at debb.liscum@gmail.com or 319-560-8667.
**Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...**

**DEATHS:**
- September 13: Jody Sloan, sister of Jostah (Betsy) Bushlack. Family includes nephews Syler, Eliah and Jonah Bushlack.

**BAPTISMS:**

**BIRTHS:**
- September 29: Jonathan Patrick and Sharon Davis.

**Toilet Tissue**

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

**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.

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“For you have been called to live in FREEDOM...” Galatians 5:13

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