Logos, signs and t-shirts don’t make us free

Years ago, my family received a “free trip” to spend some days in Las Vegas. The trip included a number of gifts and several nights of free lodging. It was a simple invitation, “Come enjoy a week on us!”

We adults know that there was nothing “free” about it. While my kids frolicked about in that winter-busting climate, we were subjected to a sequence of high-pressure sales meetings. Las Vegas was presented as if it was the American version of Eden, hardly cost a dime to own property and of course taxes were nearly non-existent. Each salesperson was followed by another, twisting the grip tighter to “buy” on those who had the courage to accept the “free” vacation.

To not buy in a situation like that takes laser-like focus; discipline that is agreed upon before you sit in that comfy chair to hear the “brief” (read 3 hour) presentation. These are professional salespeople and they can make the desert with its wonderful breezes, dry climate and modern amenities sound like the best place on earth to vacation and own a condo.

Going in we agreed that living in Vegas would be like living in Ninevah (Bible reference: look up Jonah) and there was no circumstance under which we would EVER buy. Yet, they made it so attractive – no cash down, only 120 EZ payments, free use of the pool, golf, etc… Clarity of purpose, strict financial discipline was necessary to keep ourselves free from what would have been for us a big mistake. Still it was hard.

By now, you have no doubt seen the FREEDOM logo everywhere related to Marion Methodist. Sunday mornings you are seeing the t-shirts and now the lawn that signs are beginning to be planted around town. Much thought was put in to our promotional materials – they look cool – they are very invitational and they express our unapologetic hope that many in our community will join the majority of the church family in the FREEDOM campaign.

That said, logos, yard signs and t-shirts won’t set us free. Freedom costs us something. Legendary Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi wrote “Success is like anything worthwhile. It has a price. You have to pay the price to win and you have to pay the price to get to the point where success is possible. Most important, you must pay the price to stay there.”

The main ideal and teachings of the Freedom Campaign are found in Holy Scripture. These will be featured in worship and unpacked through our weekly gatherings known as Financial Peace University. Just as Coach Lombardi said, there is a price to pay to get to the point where success (freedom) is possible. In the Scriptures Paul writes: No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. (Hebrews 12:11) It is not easy, in fact, putting yourself and/or family in a place where you are living, spending and giving in ways that honor God takes discipline, hard work, and it is doable – very doable.

To that end, I invite you to join us in the FREEDOM campaign. We often are called by God to do the hard things. To resist what we want at the moment for that which we desire the most. I truly believe that we all need freedom in faith and finances. So, register for Financial Peace University right now. Call, email, text, snap chat, etc., a friend to come and join you. It is not the panacea of all things financial but, if one attends the classes, lives by the principles and holds to discipline, many can be set free.

Pastor Mike
Leave of Absence
Pastor Mike will be gone July 15- August 11th. He will spend his time touring several holy and historic sites in Italy and on renewal in America’s west. This is a self funded sabbatical encouraged by SPRC and others to renew our pastor for his last leg of ministry after guiding a successful campaign, project and congregational move.

Grieving the death of a spouse?
Or do you know someone who is?
If you have lost a spouse, you feel that your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can sometimes seem too hard to bear.

Find help at a “Loss of a Spouse” seminar.
You’ll hear:
- Practical advice from others who’ve been there.
- What to expect in your grief.
- How to cope with life without your spouse.
- Why it won’t always hurt this much.

If you or someone you know has lost a spouse, please plan to attend this one-time session of “Loss of Spouse”. It will be held on:

Sunday August 11 from 2-4 pm
Marion Methodist Church Room W10
5050 REC Drive, Marion, IA

Call 377-4856 to register or email vstandley@marionmethodist.org

Opportunity for Singers
Marion Methodist Chancel Choir is a music ensemble of mixed voices who get to serve the Lord through singing!

Do you enjoy singing? Have you sung in the past and are interested in starting again? Check us out on Wednesday nights!

Chancel Choir rehearsals will kick-off for the fall on Wednesday, August 28, from 6:30-8:00 PM in Room 100.

We welcome anyone willing to make a joyful noise! No previous musical experience is necessary.
We hope to see you on August 28!

Questions? Contact Gina Klein, Director, via e-mail at: gklein@marionmethodist.org

On Saturday, September 21 we are hosting the National Day of Volunteer Youth Ministry Training. For more information go here: https://trainmyvolunteers.com/
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.

Let’s be in prayer the next few weeks for those who are on vacations, visiting friends and family, attending family reunions or vacationing at home. Pray for safe travel, for relaxation and restoration and some fun times reconnecting with others.

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 multweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.

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 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

It means that a poor sinner like me can still find a way to the Father.

It says it all... Belief in Jesus is the only way to life eternal. Amen!

The fact that God sacrificed his only son is the base that everything including eternal life is offered to us - if we believe.

Eternal life is the ultimate goal and it’s important to realize the sacrifice that was. It shows the grace, love, and care our God has for us.

This verse was the first verse I ever memorized, my dad insisted we memorize it. But really this sums up what being a christian is all about the basis of our faith.

God has a plan - he sent his son. He loves us and we can spend eternity with him - we just need to believe! He's there and is calling us to come to him - and believe in him.

This verse is important to know because... It shows the never ending love of God.

It's the ultimate goal and it's important to realize the sacrifice that was. It shows the grace, love, and care our God has for us.

This is also the first verse I learned as a small child.

God has a plan - he sent his son. He loves us and we can spend eternity with him - we just need to believe! He's there and is calling us to come to him - and believe in him.

This verse was the first verse I ever memorized, my dad insisted we memorize it. But really this sums up what being a christian is all about the basis of our faith.

Jesus is the only one who can give us salvation.

THANK YOU!!

A big thank you to everyone who signed up to help in any way for the funeral luncheons. We had a tremendous response so our team coordinators will be able to contact their helpers the next time we have a funeral luncheon. Since there is no way to predict how often volunteers will be needed, please don't be discouraged if you don't get called right away. With so many wonderful volunteers it may take a while but you WILL be contacted.

If you haven't had a chance to sign up yet, it's not too late. Call the church office (377-4856) and let us know if you're available to bring a salad or dessert, help setup or cleanup or serve, or call when a luncheon is needed. You can also add this to your yellow slip and put it in the offering plate. Make sure we have your contact information. Again, thank you so much!

Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close.

It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare you’ll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life.

If you have experienced the loss of someone you love, please consider attending this next session. GriefShare will be offered beginning Thursday August 22 from 6:15 to 7:30 in Room W40. GriefShare runs for 13 weeks and you are welcome to join at any time.

If you have questions or would like to register for this session, please call the church office at 377-4856 or email 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.

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New to Marion Methodist?

Hello

Newcomer

Don’t miss our next Newcomer Orientation where you can find out who we are, what we do and how you can get connected!

August 18 at 9:15 AM

Administrative Office at the Church

Watch LIVE at 10:15 AM

Go to our YouTube channel or online at MarionMethodist.org/watchlive

TV Broadcast

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4 Ways to Deal With Financial Regret

by Chris Hogan: The #1 national best-selling author of Retire Inspired; Everyday Millionaires and host of the Retire Inspired Podcast.

For me, a Ford Expedition is the ultimate picture of regret. When I was young, I just had to have one. I was young and I was successful, so why not? I did what everybody else does (the first clue that I was making a BIG mistake), and I took on a $600 car payment. Ouch.

Let me tell you what those five years of $600 payments cost me. If I'd invested that money in my 20s instead of paying the bank, I'd have more than $1 million extra sitting in my retirement account in my 60s. If I'd taken that money in my 20s instead of paying the bank, I'd have more than $1 million extra sitting in my retirement account in my 60s. Therefore, if I'd taken that money in my 20s instead of paying the bank, I'd have more than $1 million extra sitting in my retirement account in my 60s.

Let the mistakes you made serve a greater purpose. What can they teach you? Use the lessons you learn to create new goals in your life. Your past mistakes can be the inspiration you need to get serious and make a plan.

3. Let it Motivate You
Regret is a useless emotion unless you respond to it with action and a willingness to change. What are you going to do to make sure it doesn't happen again? When regret rears its ugly head, use that feeling to kick your retirement planning into high gear. Recommit yourself to getting out of debt. Increase how much you put away each month. Alter your vacation plans so you can catch up on your retirement savings.

4. Tell Your Story
Mama Hogan taught me lots of life lessons. I plan to do the same with my boys. When it's time, I'll tell them my Expedition story. I want them to build on my victories and learn from my failures. You can tell your story too. I know that's a little scary, but God can use you to influence others. And wouldn't it feel great to know you kept somebody from making the same mistake?

Think about regret like the rearview mirror in your car. Check it every once in a while to remind you to make better financial decisions. But remember why the rearview mirror is so small compared to the windshield—you drive by looking forward, not backward! See that big windshield as a symbol of hope for what lies ahead. And hope is what you need to keep driving toward your retirement dream!