The once literate laity has stood idly by allowing people to believe whatever has led to discord. For its part, church leaders did little to stop the slide and the theological free-for-all that has flooded (and watered down) the Protestant world.

This vacuum of instructed and agreed upon universal truths has led to the other religions at the same time be given more emphasis. While most Americans know and regard the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 42% of those surveyed in the United States in 2010 knew and even the unChristian respondent would have both known they were from Jesus and agreed that maybe while not believing in the divinity of the sacred law, nearly 96% of those polled believed they help build a better world.

Further, Jesus stories like the “prodigal son” and “good Samaritan” once widely known are now generally unknown. A recent poll in an eastern state recorded that when the meaning of the “good Samaritan law” and the “golden rule” were printed and read without knowing they were a Jesus teaching, nearly 96% of those polled believed they help build a better world and had no reservation to them being lawfully upheld. However, on page two of the same study when asked the question: “Do you think that Christian teachings like the Golden Rule and the Good Samaritan should be lawfully upheld?” well over 50% of the respondents said “no.”

Four decades ago, these teachings and stories would have been universally known and even the unChristian respondent would have both known they were from Jesus and agreed that maybe while not believing in the divinity of Jesus these are good moral and social principles to uphold for the health of society.

In 2010 most people surveyed in the United States knew and regarded Easter as a religious holiday, but only a minority of adults associate it with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While most Americans understand that Christmas is a celebration for Christians regarding the birth of Jesus, more than half wish that emphasis be lessened and the concurrent celebrations of other religions at the same time be given more emphasis.

This vacuum of instructed and agreed upon universal truths has led to the theological free for all that has flooded (and watered down) the Protestant church today. Unparalleled theological diversity and inconsistency of thought has led to discord. For its part, church leaders did little to stop the slide and the once literate laity has stood idly by allowing people to believe whatever they felt drawn to as personal and relevant truth. The result has of course been the slow movement towards hospice of mainline Protestantism. (United Methodism has experienced 42 consecutive years of decline in net membership in our 49 years of existence.)

Since we are not planning to give up or give in to theological illiteracy, what is the plan?

Paul Nixon wrote a book to preachers I read years ago entitled “I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church” and later came by to meet with a number of pastors in our church chapel. The key sentence of the book and that day were simple “CHOOSE LIFE!” We do and did. Here is where we are embracing, and a few tactics we are using to grow literate disciples:

1. The leaders of the church agree there is a theological literacy crisis. We admit that many people lack the basic knowledge to practice the Word of God in our lives.
2. We are seeking to evaluate what our disciples know. Years ago, I quizzed assuming members knew the “basics” of the faith because many simply do not. We can feel terrible about that but it is more important to act. This is the reason for the Discipleship Pathway, an assessment tool that helps you understand where your theological and biblical strengths and weaknesses are.
3. Powerful ways to instruct the people of God in the faith must be deployed. Rather than giving sermons of spiritual truth, our preaching and teaching plans (at every age level) are systematic and aimed at enabling people to understand and build into a biblical worldview that transforms their life.
4. The pastor and other church leaders must alert members to unbiblical worldviews and philosophies that have crept into the church. Diligence is necessary because often basic truths can be pushed to the side even in the church by believing that culture is more correct than Christ.
5. We encourage the diligent and gifted in the church to go deep into the well of Christian theology. The church must be consistently and persistently about the business of identifying men and women who have the gift of teaching and have high intellect to pursue their gifts. When the gift of teaching and more “doctors” of the church appear, the rebirth of informed faith in North America will bloom.

Friends, while the crisis in theological illiteracy hurts my soul; this church and its pastor have chosen life and we shall do all in our power to enliven that life through theological inquiry and growth so that Christ’s name and the basics of his teaching plans (at every age level) are systematic and aimed at enabling people to understand and build into a biblical worldview that transforms their life.

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Friends, while the crisis in theological illiteracy hurts my soul; this church and its pastor have chosen life and we shall do all in our power to enliven that life through theological inquiry and growth so that Christ’s name and the basics of his everlasting gospel and truth may be once again known!

Pastor Mike
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 in prayer the at-large members of your Church Council:

Ron and Kim Knapp              Jamie and Brianna Wilson
Susan Hartung                                            Dave Marsden
Matt and Andrea Kearns                            Lori Bierter
Becky Cravens                                                   Eddie Rose
Keith Musser                                                Katie Feldman
Joey and Sarah Svejda                                           Jeff Lam
Shari Foster                                                  Cara Matteson
Abby Martin

Want to get rid of the “stuff” now? Email Diane Beach, auntyd88@aol.com, or Deb Liscum and we will make arrangements to help you get it to our storage room!

Down-sizing at home or just too much clutter?

Our UMW has the answers! The Wesley General Store is looking for all of your items to sell in their 2 rooms at the time of the Fall Bazaar, Saturday, October 14! All proceeds benefit UMW missions.

Just a reminder: We do the pricing and we do not return any items back to its original owner. Items that do not sell are given to charity.

Bible Studies for our Preaching Series

For the seven weeks beginning September 24th we will be walking through a sermon series entitled “Sharing your Faith.” To grow you in the area of sharing your faith with others, Pastor Mike encourages you to engage in these studies on your YouVersion App or at www.Bible.com. If you don’t have YouVersion on your phone simply download the app and search for these studies and begin!

The Case For Christ

We all know someone who is a spiritual skeptic. Lee Strobel was once a skeptic as well. His bestselling book, The Case For Christ, detailed his up-and-down journey to faith, and now a major motion picture based on his story is coming to theaters on April 7. This new devotional, featuring clips from the forthcoming movie, will encourage you and help you point your friends to THE CASE FOR CHRIST.

How To Share Your Faith

Would you say you’re good at sharing your faith with your friends? It can be a scary thing to do. If you want to gain courage in sharing your faith and learn how to do it without coming across as weird, then this Bible Plan’s for you.

Four Ways To Share Jesus

Jesus made a way for us to be friends with God. That’s Good News, and everyone needs to know about it! Accept your mission Jesus gave to you: know God’s Good News, show God’s love, live like Jesus, and tell your story!

Prayers For The Lost

Do you feel a burden for those in your life that don’t know Jesus as Lord? This reading plan is a collection of scriptures and prayers you can pray over your loved ones for them to be called children of God.

Evangelize, Don’t Fossilize!

Have you ever led someone to Christ? If not, why not? Maybe you think that God can never use you in this way, that you’re just not gifted in that regard, and it is only for a privileged few to lead others to Christ. But if this were the case, why was the Great Commission given to every Christian? Every believer is called to “go and make disciples of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:19). That means we are all called to evangelism.

How To Share Your Story

As believers, we always need to be ready to give a defense for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15). Sadly, many of us are crippled by fear and self-doubt when it comes to sharing our faith. In this 7-day video devotional, Pastor and Evangelist Miles McPherson will teach you to share your powerful story of faith with confidence.
Real estate value used to be closely linked to, “location, location, location.” Today, a realtor would advise that people want “access, access, access.” When the building committee was searching for a suitable future home for Marion Methodist, ease of access was foremost on our minds. Marion Methodist will be accessible from two roads: R.E.C Drive and 35th Avenue. R.E.C. Drive, along the south boundary of our property, is already paved up to the location of our drive. However, that road will only be accessible from Highway 13 for the foreseeable future. 35th Avenue, which forms our north boundary, will be accessible from both Highway 13 and from the west. Access from town will make this road a good choice for those members of the congregation who want to avoid the high-speed traffic on Highway 13.

Today, 35th Ave is gravel over the ½ mile stretch from Highway 13 to 44th Street. At this moment, a small stretch of 35th is being paved just to the east of 44th. When we begin worship services in our new facility, most likely there will be ¼ of a mile of gravel from 44th St to our drive on 35th.

The City of Marion requires that contractors pay for the construction of new roads as the adjoining property is developed. As such, Marion Methodist is responsible to pay half the cost of R.E.C Dr. and 35th Ave. We have already made good on those commitments. However, since there are no current plans to develop the north side of 35th Ave, the city does not have the funds to pave our section of the road.

Eventually, 35th Avenue will be a very nice, wide, paved road all the way from Highway 13 to the north, South arterial, 35th Street. Until that time, our congregation will be able to access the street. However, that road will only be accessible from Highway 13 for the foreseeable future. 35th Avenue, which forms our north boundary, will be accessible from both Highway 13 and from the west. Access from town will make this road a good choice for those members of the congregation who want to avoid the high-speed traffic on Highway 13.

Marion Methodist Building Committee

Meal Schedule:
10/11 Zio Johno's
10/18 Tomaso's Pizza

Powerhouse meets every Wednesday. From 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm we have a Family Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm we have activities for all ages.

Preschoolers: Kids may forget what you say - but they remember what they discover on their own. Get them "Hands On" with God's Word. (Room 205)

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant in your everyday life! Discover Jesus in you. (Room 303/305)

4:12 Youth Group: Junior High Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Sanctuary). High School Worship 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Sanctuary). Games will be in the alley

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

Nursery: Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators

Sweet Buy & Buy Needs You!
Bakers wanted to fill our Bazaar shop with delicious baked goods on October 14, 2017!

What to donate:
Plates of six cookies or bars, small loaves of bread, 6-inch to large-sized fruit pies, caramel popcorn in sandwich bag, peanut brittle, cupcakes, cakes, speciality cakes, breads, cinnamon rolls, individual treats, and specialty items (like kolaches).

When to donate:
You may drop off donations on Friday, October 13 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, or from 8:00 am to 8:30 am on October 14 Bazaar 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 will 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).

Thank you for donating baked goods in support of UMW Missions!

Second Chance Opportunity to be part of our Lifetouch Picture Directory

If you weren't able to have your picture taken when Lifetouch was here in May and June, now you have a second chance.

Lifetouch Photography Sessions will be Wednesday, November 1 from 2:00 – 8:30pm.

So if....
….you are new to our church
….you've added to your family since June
….you just missed out having your picture taken
….you'd like a new picture (maybe for Christmas cards or gifts)

then NOW IS YOUR CHANCE. To sign up go to www.marionmethodist.org or call Karen at the church office 377-4856.

Book Donations Needed
The UMW Fall Bazaar will soon be here. We will again be having our “Novel Approach” book sale. Please bring donations of used books in good condition to the Church Office, the UMW Storage room in the church basement, or the marked box in the Fellowship Hall. Please, NO TEXTBOOKS, INAPPROPRIATE BOOKS, RECORDS, OR VHS TAPES as they do not sell. Organization of the books will begin at 7:00 pm Monday October 9 in room 104. If you are so moved, please help any day or evening that week, up until the Bazaar on October 14 to organize the books in the room.

Thanks!

Bazaar
Sunday, Oct 14th
8:30 AM - 2 PM

SHOPPING
Sweet Buy & Buy
Candies & baked goods
Winley's General Store and Annex
A little bit of everything
Novel Approach
Previously enjoyed books, CDs, DVDs, etc.
Abundant Creations
Handcrafted gifts

Gift Baskets
Fair Trade, Rado, Nuts

LUNCH
11 AM - 1 PM
- Plate lunch
- Soup
- Sandwiches
- Salads
- Desserts

Coffee Shop
8:30-10 AM
Serving homemade rolls

TV Broadcast
Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcasted on Mediocom 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.
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 one of the grocery carts located in the Narthex or at the 8th Avenue glass doors, or in the Mission Depot in Fellowship Hall or the Church Office.

October: Toilet Tissue
November: Cake Mix
December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes

January: Macaroni and Cheese
February: Canned Fruit
March: Peanut Butter

Bible under the foundation letter
September 14, 2017

Friends in Jesus Christ,

The foundation for this sanctuary was poured on Friday, September 15, 2017. The foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ is laid upon his good news. The legacy of Marion Methodist has as its foundation that good news.

We laid them here because:

1. The foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ is laid upon his good news.
2. The legacy of Marion Methodist has as its foundation that good news.
3. We are being transformed day by day by Christ who is our foundation.

So, we place these things here – under the foundation of this building built to the Glory of God and service of men and women. Our desire is that when we preach, sing, pray and serve in this building we will literally be standing on the word of God and the legacy of our forefathers and mothers in the faith who, like us desire the world to be transformed in Jesus Christ. With them we pray and endeavor for that great day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Sincerely on behalf of your predecessors in the faith,

Rev. Mike Morgan

The Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule

Articles for our Marion Methodist need to be submitted by due date at 12:00 PM. You may email them to: wildman@marionmethodist.org with newsletter in the subject line. Please send any image or information as an attachment. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call or bring to the office items to be published. We ask that you honor the deadlines listed below:

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<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
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October

- Wednesday: 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary)
- Thursday: 10:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- Saturday: 11:00am Remembrance Prayer Service (Chapel)

November

- Wednesday: 9:45am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Fellowship Hall)
- Saturday: 10:30am UMW Bazaar

December

- Wednesday: 9:45am Susanna Circle (Carnegie-LL)

News from 4:12 Youth Ministry

4:12 Knockout

Date: Wednesday, October 11th
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Sanctuary

The 4:12 Knockout is an open-house evangelism event for our youth ministry. We encourage everyone of all ages to attend the event and bring friends! Come and join us for an amazing night of worship, testimony, and preaching!

Guest Speaker: Carl Christiansen, Founder and President of Beauty Amidst the Ashes

Alley Additions

While driving past the church or looking for parking on Sunday mornings, you may have noticed some strange-looking contraptions in the alley. Though it may look like, Marion Methodist is not about to start their own petting zoo. This summer the Trustees approved the use of alley parking spaces to house the 9-square and gaga pit games that you see in the alley, as well as the repair of the basketball hoop. They were assembled and constructed by groups of our dedicated 4:12 youth leaders. These games are used by our 4:12 youth on Wednesday nights and will remain until the cold weather prohibits their use.