There are many issues facing the Christian Church today and during this sequence of articles in the Marion Methodist I am presenting five. Today; The Invisible Influence of Christianity on Culture.

Christianity has arguably added more value to American culture than any other religion, philosophy, ideology or community. Yet, contemporary Americans are hard pressed to identify any specific value added.

In a period of history where image is reality, and life changing decisions are made on the value of such images, the Christian Church is in desperate need of a more positive and accessible image. The primary obstacle is NOT THE SUBSTANCE of the principles on which Christianity is based. The most influential aspect of Christianity in America is how believers do or do not implement their faith in public and private.

The fact is, the influence of Christianity on the North American culture and on individual lives has become largely invisible. Fortunately, we are here to make disciples and transform the world, so the optics can be changed. Three obvious adjustments we can all make, are as follow.

1. Know how your faith already is "mainstream" (and be able to explain it).

Children, youth and adults across America adhere to and proclaim the ‘GOLDEN RULE’ "Do to others what you want them to do to you" as an appropriate teaching upon which to build a culture. The Christian needs first to know these are Jesus’ words (Matthew 7:12) and second, be willing to teach it as a Jesus statement even in your adult coffee groups – sadly most adults are unaware this comes from Jesus and why.

Like many other states, Iowa has a "Good Samaritan Law" which requires people to help those in certain circumstances. Christians need to be able to teach their friends that Jesus himself in Luke 10 is the origin of the Good Samaritan. In fact, Jesus links emulating the Good Samaritan to eternal life. The Ten Commandments, of course, have several that are overtly religious, but they also are the baseline for most societies. Don't take other people's stuff, don't kill someone, don't lie, have strong families, etc. Most people agree with these things. Christians need to know and claim them as primary.

2. How you react shapes other impressions and interest in Christianity.

People watch people. They observe the integration of a believer's faith into how s/he responds to life’s opportunities and challenges. These observations of your behavior substantially shape the impressions of people nearest you regarding what Christianity is. Many people report they see no difference in the reactions of their Christian and non-Christian friends to tragedy or joy. In our society that is without a default or absolute, exposing the heart and soul of the Christian faith in your behavior is a primary evangelistic (or not) barometer.

3. Culture is shaped by people who influence other people – so be an influencer.

Culture is shaped by people, and people are influenced by other people, either for good or bad. Because the basic truths of Christianity are not being taught in our culture, and won’t be again until WE reverse the trend, our truth must be taught. The simplistic way to say this is as one of my friends says, “You have to live your faith out loud and in living color.”

Many of us learned the little Christian ditty "Hide it under a bushel – NO! I'm gonna let it shine" and yet we have spent most of our life with a powerful, but invisible to the world, trust in Jesus. But, if we're reading this, our story need not end there! Invisibility can move to influential.

Being an influencer of people for the Lord is a choice people make. Most over the past century have chosen the private non-influential die with me brand of faith. This type of faith doesn't get rejected by many, but it rejects the opportunity to win anyone to the Lord who tells us to do exactly that.

It is impossible to read the Word of God and think "it's ok to be an invisible Christian." It's past time for us to be OK with that too.

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.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the many blessings that God has bestowed on this church – our ministries, people, our future serving God in a new place with new possibilities, and the opportunity to share the love of Christ with our community.

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:19b-20

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all who left their touch on our lives as we faced the loss of our son, Chip. We sincerely appreciate the many prayers, inspirational cards, thoughtful notes and comments, floral tributes, and memorial gifts, as well as the presence of so many joining us at the visitation and as we celebrated Chip’s life. We especially give thanks to Pastor Mike, Vicki, Diane and the Methodist Women for all they did to make Chip’s service and time of fellowship so very memorable. May God bless you for your love and kindness toward us.

Jim and Cheryl Dickerson

Adult Discipleship Opportunities

The Magic of Christmas
Sundays at 9:45AM
Led by Tim Bieritzer
Room 103
Starting November 19

25 Days
For some, Christmas is a time of joy and celebration. For others, it’s a painful reminder of what has been lost. No matter what you’re experiencing this holiday season, Christmas is an opportunity to focus on the source of our hope.

You’re Already Amazing
Sundays at 9:45AM
Led by Val Lawrence
Room 104
Starting November 19
If your life isn’t perfect . . .
If you’ve ever been disappointed . . .
If you feel stressed or tired . . .
This is for you.

Through encouraging truth and practical insights, she’ll show you how it really is possible to live with resilience, strength and even joy no matter what life brings. Yes, there will be hurt and hard times but God wants to help you find ways to survive, grow stronger, and even thrive—no matter what happens. You really are going to be okay.

Mark Your Calendars!
Dave Ramsey’s
Financial Peace University
Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM Room 107
Starts on Wednesday
January 10.

To register for any of our adult Bible studies please visit our website at www.MarionMethodist.org or contact Jen Digmann at (319)377-4856 or jdigmann@marionmethodist.org.

**GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

A Christmas Handbell Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 4:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CORNER OF 8TH AVENUE AND 12TH STREET
MARION, IOWA

NO ADMISSION CHARGED
BRING A CANNED FOOD ITEM TO BENEFIT THE MARION FOOD PANTRY
SOUP SUPPER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
A lot happened in a month

THANK YOU FROM THE TRUSTEES TO ALL THE FALL CLEANUP DAY VOLUNTEERS!!

Welcome New Members!
Welcome to the New Member class who joined the church on November 5, 2017

Front row: Megan Spencer with Audrey & Cooper, Donnette Hutchins, Ida Wade, Mary Oakley, Pam Melick.
Back row: Matthew Smalley, Joe Hutchins, Pastor Mike, Nick Oakley, Tammy Haynes.

Meal Schedule:
11/22 - NO POWERHOUSE
11/29 - Zio Johno's

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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

We sent 381 bags to Haiti this year! We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas for Haiti program this year. Whether you donated items, money, or bags, helped sort and box, picked up boxes or took boxes to the post office, or anything else, all was appreciated. Many children of Haiti will be blessed by the effort put forth by all. We can't say it enough. THANK YOU!

“We are On the Move” Yard signs
The FREE “We are on the Move” Yard signs are popping up all over the metro area. Do you have yours yet? If not, pick them up today in the church office or main church building. Let’s invite our community to know that we love the Lord and His church at Marion Methodist is on the move!

Carnegie Corner
Carnegie Corner is a group of seniors (not all from Marion Methodist) who meet every Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM in the Lower Level of the Carnegie Building. We play Mexican train dominoes, bridge, celebrate birthdays and holidays. We have coffee, treats and just fun and lots of laughs.

Contact Sherry Murray at 377-1921 if you are interested.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!
**Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...**

**DEATHS:**
October 29: Donna Liscum, mother of Curt (Deb) Liscum. Grandchildren include Craig (Johanna) and Chris (Jessica) Liscum, Great-Grandchildren are Caitlyn, James, David, Mary, Alyiah, and Ryder Liscum.

November 7: Dawn Cannon, daughter of Laverne and Shurtle Druker.

**BIRTHS:**
November 5: Matthew Smalley

**WEDDINGS:**
November 11: Kaitlyn Baldwin and Kevin Baker

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**The Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Arrived in Mail</th>
<th>Date Articles Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
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**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.

**November:**
- Cake Mix
- December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes

**January:**
- Macaroni and Cheese

**February:**
- Canned Fruit

**March:**
- Peanut Butter

**April:**
- Macaroni and Cheese

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**November / December**

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<td>11:00am Newcomer Orientation (Library / Hospitality Room)</td>
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<td>12:00 Noon Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)</td>
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<td>1:00pm Puppets - All Troupes (Room 106)</td>
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**Covered in Kindness Project**

During their 4:12 Small Groups, Cassandra Hauser and Carmen Chan, make and tie blankets to give to church members who are in the hospital or who have recently lost loved ones. They use donated materials and work on the tie blankets each Wednesday during discussion time.

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**Marion Cares Trunk-or-Treat**

Thank you for supporting Marion Cares’ Trunk-or-Treat! This two-day drive reached an estimate of over 180 kids in the Squaw Creek and Marion Village mobile home communities. With our help, our kids received winter clothing, socks, underwear, blankets, towels and, of course, candy! We are thankful for your and your generosity to those in need in our community. Our kids and families in these neighborhoods thank you!