The church of Jesus Christ has never lived in a challenge free environment. That is impossible. The people God calls to Himself are to live and advance his church here on earth amid many challenges. During our generation, several challenges to the church have risen, some have been met, conquered and put away. Others need to be addressed, prayed over and met. In this space over the next five issues I will address Five Issues facing the Church today.

- The Growing Remoteness of the Gospel
- Theological Illiteracy
- Privatization of Belief
- The Misappropriation of Tolerance
- The Fear of Influencing the Culture

The number of Americans who do not identify with any religion continues to grow at a rapid pace. One-fifth of the U.S. public – and a third of adults under 30 – are religiously unaffiliated today, the highest percentages ever in Pew Research Center polling. Many, of which I am one, believe that this is partially a result of mainline Christianity allowing the gospel to become more and more remote.

The very things that grew the church to well over two billion followers are the very things that the Western Church has become skittish in promoting, sharing and encouraging. For the first time in 1500 years, the basic components of Christianity have become culturally strange. While the Gospel is incredibly clear regarding sin, guilt, accountability for your actions, the need to sacrifice on behalf of others, the Divinity of Jesus and life after death, these basic tenets of belief have become “odd thoughts” in the North American context. How did this happen so quickly? Again, there are many explanations. So, to help us move towards an action plan, let me give a simple cultural image. The Gospel is incredibly clear regarding sin, guilt, accountability for your actions, the need to sacrifice on behalf of others, the Divinity of Jesus and life after death, these basic tenets of belief have become “odd thoughts” in the North American context.

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The forty-year-old American learned Christmas carols and secular holiday music at school and during their school Christmas program. While not scandalous, at the time most parents might have thought singing “Frosty the Snowman” a fairly unnecessary addition to the evening. The forty-year-old American learned Christmas carols and secular holiday music at school and during their school Christmas program. While not scandalous, at the time most parents might have thought singing “Frosty the Snowman” a fairly unnecessary addition to the evening.

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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 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 be in prayer for Kelsie and Ben DeRuis and their family as they transition to Marion to become a vital part of Marion Methodist. Also keep in prayer all the 4:12 youth, leaders and helpers in this transition time. Also, be in continuous prayer for all those who have been affected by the devastating hurricanes in the southern and southeastern parts of our country. The rebuilding, relocation and renewal will take a very long time, so we must not forget to be praying for them and all the volunteers who will be spending countless hours helping with recovery.

Volunteers Needed

Marion Methodist is handing out water bottles during the Swamp Fox Parade on September 30 to inform Marion residents of our move to a new location. Volunteers are needed in the following capacity:

- Place labels on water bottles the week before the parade.
- Hand out water bottles before and during the parade.

If you are able to volunteer please call the Church Office at 377-4856 or email jwildman@marionmethodist.org.

Christmas for Haiti

Marion Methodist is collecting bags for the children of Haiti. One gallon Ziplock bags along with the gift suggestion sheet have been available for pickup in the Narthex since Sunday September 10th. Sheets will need to be marked with appropriate age and gender and be placed in the bag. Bags will need to be turned in no later than September 24. There will be a list of suggested items on the sheet but 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 that will be included in the bags.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Fawcett at JLF60@aol.com or 319-373-3212.

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.

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!

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Marion Methodist Joins the Chocolate Walk!!

What could be more delightful than shopping and chocolate? Adding a fall night in Uptown Marion! Enjoy strolling historic Uptown Marion at this after hours shopping event. Visit your favorite stores, discover what’s new just around the corner and savor a sweet treat from participating businesses. That is what the Chocolate Walk is all about!!!

In the Spring of 2017 we participated in “Faith Perceptions” a program where 10 strangers over a 6 week time period visited Marion Methodist on a Sunday morning. As a church we scored pretty high in most marks – our lowest was our community awareness, i.e. people in Marion were asked where our buildings were and very few could tell them. Our response is to get the word out regarding where we are (a church on the move) and we are engaging in community events; Swamp Fox, Chocolate Walk and others to increase our community awareness.

The Chocolate Walk is Friday, October 6 from 8:00 – 10:30 PM and we are asking you for some SPECIFIC chocolate to share with the community.

- Are you willing to make 4-6 dozen chocolate themed cookies or bars that we can share? If YES, please call 377-4856 or email jwildman@marionmethodist.org
- Are you willing to be a HAPPY host willing to greet folks in our Narthex where the chocolate will be? If YES, please call 377-4856 or email jwildman@marionmethodist.org.

Marion Methodist member Brian Eschen delivered a truckload of flood clean up buckets to the Midwest Distribution Center for Harvey and Irma recovery.

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ADA access at our new Church Building

The accessibility of our new facility and, specifically ADA compliant access, has been one of the most important requirements from the beginning. As we review and refine the design of the building, we have continually kept this, and other, most important requirements in the forefront of our review process.

Last week we held a meeting with the builder, architect, interior designer, door supplier, and congregational members to have a virtual “walkthrough” of how the designs will meet our requirements for ADA compliant access.

Al Beach was a key member of the review team and brought great insight and understanding to the meeting. We reviewed and confirmed –

Handicap parking on the East and West side of the building
- On both sides of the building handicap parking is the closest to the building.
- All handicap stalls are van accessible – left and right-hand access available.
- Options are available to add more stalls if necessary

East and West main entrance doors
- Fully ADA compliant
- Door actuator locations (external, vestibule and internal locations included)
- “Buzz-in” system easily accessible

Internal hallways and restrooms
- All hallways and doorways were reviewed
- Direction of door swing was reviewed
- Access to all restrooms, stalls and urinals were reviewed.
- Restrooms (2) adjacent to the sanctuary are single/family use:
  - Paper towels instead of blow dryers
  - Privacy locks on doors

Sanctuary Considerations
- Sanctuary floor is flat – all seating on the same level – no pitch or angle
- Chairs are all free standing – easily movable and/or reconfigured

The team at the meeting all concluded that we had a robust and comprehensive approach to our ADA compliant access.

Meal Schedule:
9/27 Taco Bell
10/4 Firehouse Subs

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

Sunday School
- Nursery: Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators
- Preschool: 9:15 - 10:15 am
- Kids: 9:15 - 10:15 am
- Youth: 9:15 - 10:15 am

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, specialty 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!

Allison Padley-Shapira News

Allison (Padley) Shapira who grew up in our church and served as our Summer Ministry Intern, shared with us the good news that she has become the Christian Education Director at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Sioux City.

Allison attended Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. During her time there she convinced her husband Elad that Iowa was especially awesome, and, even though he is from the sunshine state of Florida he is pursuing ordination in the Iowa Annual Conference. He is the pastor at Community United Methodist Church in Sergeant Bluff near Sioux City and we celebrate these ministry beginnings with both of them.

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!

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcasted 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.
Benjamin and Josephine Kamm
September 17: Levi Reid Kamm, son of De’Veon and Molly Harris
daughter of Lucas and Amber Tierney.

BAPTISMS:

DEATHS:

 Concern & Christian Love...
Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

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.

September: Soup
October: Toilet Tissue
November: Cake Mix
December: Pudding and Gelatin Mixes
January: Macaroni and Cheese
February: Canned Fruit

News from 4:12 Youth Ministry

On September 13th, our 4:12 youth ministry had their Kickoff Event, called The Younger Games. The students divided into 12 small group teams led by their adult small group leaders and competed in 10 different games over the course of the night. Around 90 Jr. High and Sr. High students attended the event. The event’s closing ceremonies involved dropping Pastor Mike in a dunk tank.}

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 information or images 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:

**Date Arrived in Mail** | **Date Articles Due**
--- | ---
11/8 | 11/17
10/25 | 11/3
10/11 | 10/20
9/27 | 9/10

BIRTHS:

Recent...

- **Date: Wednesday, October 11th**
  - **Time:** 7:30-8:30pm
  - **Location:** Sanctuary

**The 4:12 Knockout**

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!

**About Our Guest Speaker**

Carl Christiansen is the Founder and President of a non-profit organization called Beauty Amidst The Ashes. His organization exists to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by advocating for and educating individuals and families about adoption.

As a boy, Carl developed an urgency to share the gospel message with those around him. Adopted as an infant, he grew up learning he was chosen and special. Over the years he began to see the Father heart of God for him as an adopted child. Carl sees the powerful connection between his own adoption and how God adopts us into His family.

Recently...

Coming Soon...