



Bryan's Blurb

With what should I approach the LORD and bow down before God on high? Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings, with year-old calves? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with many torrents of oil? Should I give my oldest child for my crime; the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit? He has told you, human one, what is good and what the LORD requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

--Micah 6:6-8

In the Scripture above, the prophet Micah is pondering exactly what it is that God requires of us. The time and place that Micah is asking this question happens to be filled with dishonesty, corruption, and injustice. The leaders of the people had gotten so wrapped up in making themselves look better and enriching themselves over caring for the people they were supposed to be serving. They were building up a mightily beautiful city, but it was all just window dressing, hiding the ugliness that was inside. According to him, Jerusalem was going to fall because all of this building up and beautification was done on the backs of, and at the expense of, the people that these leaders were supposed to be serving. There was corruption in the government and cheating in the markets. Basically, everything was favoring the wealthy and the influential. He told the people that, if things were not changed, then destruction was in their future.

His first reaction, of course, is to go to the traditions of old. They are familiar and inviting and do not require anything new of him. They also don't require him to change at all. He simply has to follow the instructions and check off the list of the things he should bring and all is good. A cascade of calves? Check! Rations of rams and oodles of oil? Check and check! Let the child suffer for the sins of the father? Check! Basically, so long as he has something to give in atonement, he doesn't have anything to worry about. This is the attitude that a lot of people took back then and, in some ways, an attitude that carries through to our modern times as well.

Micah decides to take a different approach, though, and answers his own question by looking at things not through human eyes, but through the eyes, the vision, of God. And his answer is one that, quite frankly, makes us uncomfortable. Because gone are the days of atonement by things or faithfulness by merchandising. It requires a change from within. It requires a change of heart and mind, not just pocket and wallet.

God doesn't require things like being able to quote the Bible from start to finish or prescribing to a singular set of beliefs that are "the right ones" and all others are "the wrong ones". No, instead God requires that we do justice for those that are being oppressed and cast out, the poor, and those that are being threatened by positions of power. God requires that we embrace faithful love, embracing those that feel as if they are not deserving of that love and loving those around us, no matter our differences, working together for the common good of all people instead of those in places of privilege. God requires that we walk humbly with our God, never boasting in our own selves or our own accomplishments, never playing ourselves up at the expense of others, and giving glory to God for accomplishments rather than being braggadocious about ourselves.

So, we must ask ourselves, and those in power, as Micah did: Are we really doing that? And this question is not asked to shame us or to bring us down. We all miss the mark. We are all far less than perfect. But, as our founder John Wesley was fond of pointing out, we can strive for perfection. We know that we may never get there, but with God's help and that amazing grace that has been given to us, we can grow in our justice-doing, our faith loving, and our humbleness before God. Our faith is a verb. Our faith is not a set of beliefs on a piece of paper. Our faith is something we live; something that encourages us to live our lives with the kind of love that humbly walks with God, that seeks out justice, and that extends kindness to all. This is what God requires of us.

The only question that remains then is: Will we do that which is required?

Blessings & Peace,

Rev. Bryan Schaefer

ONE CHURCH COUNCIL 1/19/2017

ATTENDANCE: Darryl Pannier, Sue Batchelor, Frank Batchelor, Alex Niswonger, Linda Dedert, Mandy Niswonger, Linda Goodman, Lavonna Biddle, Bryan Schaefer, Fred Leist, Julie Wilson, Ron Wilson, Judy Reilly, Ann Smith, and Clara Engelman.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Darryl Pannier at 6:05 PM. Pastor Bryan opened the meeting with prayer.

The **LEARNING** time was filled by the district superintendent, Rev. Fred Leist. He came to talk about the future direction of Maple Church. He noted that most of the full-time pastors serve churches of about 125 attendees or more. Maple has been on the watch list for some time. The bishop is aware of the struggles that Maple has had with attendance and money. If we had a less than full time pastor (3/4 or 1/2) then it would be a local pastor. He indicated that there are about 5 new local pastors in our area who would be able to fill this opening. He indicated, however there is no part-time to pastoral care. Pastoral care is full time for any appointment. There are expectations and guidelines for pastors, full or part-time outlined by the cabinet. The cabinet will support us if we decide to go full time or part-time. We would be able to go back to fulltime any time we are in better shape. We are not guaranteed that our current pastor would remain for another year if we stayed full time. When asked about apportionments, Rev. Leist reported that the conference frowns on discussions about apportionments. Right now, they are not frowning on Maple. Maple should be a missional-based church. Rev. Leist reported that he needs to know within the next two weeks whether Maple wants to remain full time or wants to go part-time. If we do not make a part-time decision this year we may come to a point where the cabinet will appoint us a part-time pastor. The appointment year runs from July through June of the next year. Darryl promised the DS that we would have a decision to him by 2/1/2017. Rev. Leist had paperwork that would show pastoral report and what we would be responsible for 3/4 time and for 1/2 time pastors. Darryl will have copies prepared to pass out to all who want one on Sunday. If you have a less than full time pastor that would be a local pastor not retired or an elder. Our average attendance for 2016 was 89.2 (Sunday morning worship plus Wired Wednesday worship). There will be a special meeting on this issue on 1/30/2017 at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone will be invited to express their opinions.

REPORTING: The minutes of the previous meeting were published in the January newsletter. Ruth Ellen made a motion that the minutes be approved as published. Frank seconded and motion carried. The Calendar was reviewed and corrections or additions made. Ruth Ellen provided reports from the new treasurer, Becky Hann and from the Special Giving fund. This report was as of 12/31/16. Memorial Fund \$793.25; Lifeline \$598.00; Office Equipment \$1200.00; Office purchases \$100.00; Shawl Ministry \$193.11; FMSC \$193.11; Fish Fry \$202.00; Blessings basket \$702.48; Bereaved Dinner \$580.14. The report by treasurer will be published in the February newsletter. Julie made a motion to accept the treasurer's and special giving reports. Mandy seconded. Motion carried. There was no report for Finance or PPR. Trustees: there was a leak in the ceiling in front of the bathrooms in the sanctuary.

VISIONING: The pastor did not have anything pressing. NOW had no report except that we have a scheduled meeting on 1/24 to plan the next several months. There was no old or new business. There were reminders about the Maple Shoppe and the Fish Fry this month. The next meeting will be the one on 1/30 at 6:00 PM and the next One Council regular meeting will be 3/16 at 6:00 PM, both in the Fellowship Hall. Mandy made a motion that the meeting adjourn and Alex seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Batchelor

Recording Secretary

NOW NEWS

The new year has arrived and things seem to have speeded up once again. Our weather while not like those to the north of us, has been typical Missouri weather. Wait a hour or so and it will change.

Pastor Bryan will be once again offering a Safe Sanctuaries training for those who wish to be involved with the children in anyway only on our local level here at Maple Church. This will be held on April 22nd (Saturday). More information will be coming closer to the time of the training. This lasts about 4 hours.

Our SMALL GROUPS on Sunday are still meeting. If you have been amiss at coming to your Sunday small group, the teachers have missed you. Please come and let us see your beautiful faces. The prayer group has been meeting and utilizing a book with John Wesley's thoughts on prayer. It has been a revealing book. The prayer group has added two more prayers to our list of prayers that we do together. Please pray the following prayer for the next month (first responders):

Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy, who through your Son gave us a marvelous example of charity and the great commandment to love one another. Send down your blessings on these your servants, who so generously devote themselves to helping others. Grant them courage when they are afraid, wisdom when they must make quick decisions, strength when they are weary, and compassion in all their work. When the alarm sounds, and they are called to aid both friend and stranger, let them faithfully serve you in their neighbor. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The ladies Monday night group will begin meeting on **3/13/17 at 6:00**. The book we will be utilizing in our study is by Liz Higgs and entitled *The Women of Easter*. See the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table to make sure that a book is ordered for you.

The men are starting a study on Paul, **Thursday 2/2 through 3/9**. Please come and join the men as they study Paul.

MAPLE KIDS MINISTRY: There will be a church Easter Egg Hunt on the **Saturday before Palm Sunday (April 8th) at 10:00 am**. We will again be collecting candy to stuff eggs. For newcomers, our church has eggs and we just need candy. There will be a tote to stuff. Look for more in the next couple of months.

OUTREACH: We have collected another 45 pairs of shoes. Thank you for your continued support. This is for the Shoeman ministry. The FISH pantry count is pending. The group working with Hope Seeds meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10:30 to 1:30 packing seeds. We meet in the fellowship hall and have fun, fellowship and a light meal for lunch. In January we packed 2100 bags of seeds. Please join us. The Angel Tree project did well. We served 10 children and found that Sue and Sue had the most rewarding part which was visiting with the families to deliver the gifts. Thanks to all who participated. The NOW committee has determined that we will add 5 children for next year for a total of 15. Feed My starving children will be packing seeds on April 1st. More information to come. We have collected \$317.40 of the goal of \$800 that we pledged. We will also need 20 people to sign up and work on April 1st. Please be in prayer about both. Watch for our sign about goal for Hope Seeds. We will be collecting in the Blessing Basket for this in March. We also noted that we will be working with Christmas Shoeboxes in October. We will be distributing lists soon for those who wish to shop for bargains.

WITNESS: Workers are still needed for Salvation Army. See Ann Smith if you are interested. After discussion in NOW, it was decided that we will be initiating a program called adopt a Friend. These are those who have health or other issues that keep them home for a lot of the time. When you adopt a friend, you would need to contact them once a month by visiting, calling and/or sending a card. You would need to visit them for their birthday and around Christmas. We want them to know that we have not forgotten them.

Ms. Margie Ervin has been scheduling Greeters for Sunday morning for longer than she can remember how long she has been doing it. She did an awesome job and is hard to replace. Therefore, if you want to be a greeter, please contact Sue Batchelor or sign up on the attendance slip on the side of the bulletin. We would like for you to volunteer for a month at a time like our ushers do. Thank you for your assistance.

The Southeast Missouri Mission Team for Henderson Settlement will have a **free (donations accepted) yard sale on March 25 and will be setting up on 23rd and 24th in the Fellowship Hall**. Please feel free to bring any items that you want to donate on Thursday and Friday of that date. Please do not bring before that date as there is not anywhere to store your items. For more information, please contact Sue Crites and Linda Goodman.

There will be another **Trivia night on Friday February 17th at 7:00**. There will be a snack signup sheet on the Welcome table. Look for it. A table is \$80 for 5 to 8 participants. Please sign up a team. The theme is general except for a few president and Valentine questions. See Dennis or Julie if you have questions. Pick up a sign and post it. Mardi Gras Celebration will be held on February 25th and begins at 5:30. Please look on the Welcome Table for sign-up sheet for count of those attending.

ADDITIONAL DATES IN CHURCH LIFE

FISH FRY—**March 31st, 2017; May 19th, 2017; July 28th, 2017; Sept 29th, 2017; Nov 17th, 2017.**

Fifth Sunday Dinners: **April 30th (April Showers bring May Flowers is the theme); July 30 (Christmas in July), October 29th (pending theme) and December 31st (fun, fun, fun—New Year)**

Church Mardi Gras celebration—**February 25th—Saturday**. Clara Engelman is in charge. 5:30 PM. Sign-up sheet for food.

HOPE SEEDS: 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM--3rd Tuesday of each month. Upcoming dates **2/21/17, 3/21/17, 4/18/17, 5/16/17, 6/20/17, 7/18/17, 8/15/17**.....Be there!

TRIVIA NIGHT—**2/17/17** at 7:00. General theme with some questions on presidents and Valentine's day. There is a plan to have Trivia nights on months without a fish fry.

Mother's Day is **May 14th** and Father's Day is **June 18th**.

June 9-11 is Annual Conference.

Thanksgiving dinner for church: **11/19 after church**

November 26th is the Christmas Parade.

A further editorial remark: We need everyone to participate when an activity is sponsored by the church. We need you to be there to support the mission and ministry of our church and church family. We have folks putting in a lot of energy and effort to organize these events, and when you come and help, you not only make Maple Church look good, but you are uplifting to the organizers as well. We know that no one can make every event, but if everyone could come to at least half of them, it will be an enormous help to the future of our church family. We need you at the Youth events, and we need you at the Fish Frys. Please be in prayer about helping us at as **many** events as you can. Thank you!

MAPLE UNITED METHODIST MEN'S CLUB
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2017
6 MEMBERS PRESENT



Meeting called to order by Frank.
 Prayer offered by Frank.
 No Treasurer's Report.
 Minutes Accepted

Business

Fish & Chicken Fry on Friday, January 27th, 2017 from 4-7:00 PM. Help is requested.

Discussion was held on upcoming craft fairs & possibly using wood pallets.

No further business. Meeting closed.

Submitted,

Sam Conrad

Recording Secretary

Thanks to Bob & Frank for a great Breakfast.

There is an open invitation to all Men of the Congregation to attend our meetings.

The next Men's Club Meeting will take place on February 11th, 2017 at 7:30 AM

SUNDAY SERVICE



<u>DATE</u>	<u>SMALL GROUPS</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
1-1	14	34
1-8	28	66
1-15	18	61
1-22	29	66
1-29	30	65
AVERAGE	≈24	≈58

Your presence is requested for
Dinner and Wired Wednesday
Worship! Dinner begins at 6:00 PM.
Worship begins at 7:00 PM. This
worship is laity led. It will be a
wonderful time for fellowship and
mini midweek worship!!!

WIRED WEDNESDAY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
1-4	25
1-11	26
1-18	24
1-25	26
AVERAGE	≈25



AMEN CENTER
SUPPLIES NEEDED

laundry detergent, fabric softener (dryer)
 sheets, body wash (no bar soap),
 shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet
 tissue, deodorant, combs and brushes,
 ketchup, cleaning supplies, paper towels

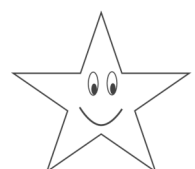
SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Sunday School Classes: January 1-29

LOYAL AIDERS: Bob Lemons, Ann Smith, & Dave Schaffner

BIBLE MONKEYS: Sue Batchelor

YOUTH CLASS: Frank Batchelor



February

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 1 Addisyn Andrews
 Feb. 1 Amanda Radford
 Feb. 2 Bradley Main
 Feb. 3 Rhonda Campbell
 Feb. 3 Wilma Seabaugh
 Feb. 4 Taylor Mayberry
 Feb. 6 Bryan Schaefer
 Feb. 6 Errin Armitage
 Feb. 8 Mark Ervin
 Feb. 9 Zeta Seabaugh
 Feb. 12 Athena Albright
 Feb. 12 Rhonda Ray
 Feb. 12 Jesse Dunavan
 Feb. 13 Richard Biddle
 Feb. 15 Johnie Keene
 Feb. 17 Terry Biddle
 Feb. 21 Lydia Bunch
 Feb. 25 Lucy Scholl
 Feb. 28 Mary Pannier

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 14 Ronald & Jo Ann Ward
 Feb. 14 David & Sue Crites

USHERS

Rodger & Diane Mouser

WORSHIP LEADER

Alex Niswonger

COMMUNION

Gary & Jan Roth

GREETERS

Larry & Harriett George



FISH PANTRY

1 large or 2 small cans chicken and dumplings, 1 can green beans, 2 cans fruit, 1 package cookies or cookie mix

March

BIRTHDAYS

March 1 Aimee Ticer
 March 1 Ron Wilson
 March 2 Hayley Morton
 March 3 Jackson Batchelor
 March 7 Linda Goodman
 March 7 Diane Taylor
 March 8 Beverly Ervin
 March 9 Chelsea Pannier
 March 10 Earl Rhodes
 March 14 Carol Mouser
 March 16 Chris Inman
 March 19 Sue Pewitt
 March 20 Wanda Williamson
 March 20 Ryaan Biddle
 March 22 Kenneth Grayum
 March 23 Beverly Hagerty
 March 23 Tom Taylor
 March 24 Jim Garstang
 March 27 Isaiah Dunavan

ANNIVERSARIES

March 23 Rev. Bryan & Noelie Schaefer
 March 30 Blaine & Jamie Morton

USHERS

Rodger & Diane Mouser

WORSHIP LEADER

Alex Niswonger

COMMUNION

Gary & Jan Roth

GREETERS

Sam & Mildred Conrad



FISH PANTRY

1-16oz. package spaghetti, 1 can spaghetti sauce, 1 box instant pudding, 1 can evaporated milk, 1 box dry milk, 1 can fruit

Homebound

Verna Bingenheimer

Eleanor Brown

Frieda Clark

Frank Crites

Lee Fee

Atlee Fulbright



Joy Grace

Adon Mann

Mildred Miget

Glema Milligan

Andy & Carol Mouser

Mary Pannier

Wilma Seabaugh

Zeta Seabaugh

Howard Thomas

Adele Townsend

Pat Uptain

Wanda Williamson

Pat (Miller) Williams

2017

February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Wired Wednesday Worship-6:00 PM	2 Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM	3	4
5 COMMUNION Small Group-9:00 AM Worship Service-10:15 AM	6	7 Prayer Group-9:30 AM Choir Practice-6:00 PM	8 Wired Wednesday Worship-6:00 PM	9 Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM	10	11 Men's Club Breakfast-7:30 AM
12 Small Group-9:00 AM Worship Service-10:15 AM	13	14 Prayer Group-9:30 AM Day Circle-2:00 PM	15 Wired Wednesday Worship-6:00 PM	16 Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM	17 Trivia Night-7:00 PM	18
19 Small Group-9:00 AM Worship Service-10:15 AM	20	21 Prayer Group-9:30 AM Hope Seeds-10:30 AM	22 Wired Wednesday Worship-6:00 PM	23 Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM	24	25 Mardi Gras Celebration 5:30 PM
26 Small Group-9:00 AM Worship Service-10:15 AM	27	28 Prayer Group-9:30 AM	NEED SUBMISSIONS FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER BY END OF DAY ON FEBRUARY 28TH			

March 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER NEEDED BY END OF DAY ON APRIL 29TH						
5 Small Group-9:00 AM Worship Service-10:15 AM	6	7 Prayer Group-9:30 AM Choir Practice-6:00 PM	8 Wired Wednesday Worship-6:00 PM	9 Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM	10	11 Men's Club Breakfast-7:30 AM
12 Small Group-9:00 AM Worship Service-10:15 AM	13 Women's Bible Study-6:00 PM	14 Prayer Group-9:30 AM Day Circle-2:00 PM	15 Wired Wednesday Worship-6:00 PM	16 One Church Council Meeting-6:00 PM	17	18
19 Small Group-9:00 AM Worship Service-10:15 AM	20 Women's Bible Study-6:00 PM	21 Prayer Group-9:30 AM Hope Seeds-10:30 AM	22 Wired Wednesday Worship-6:00 PM	23 RESERVED Rummage Sale Set-up 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	24 RESERVED Rummage Sale Set-up 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	25 RESERVED SEMO District Ream Rummage Sale 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
26 Small Group-9:00 AM Worship Service-10:15 AM	27 Women's Bible Study-6:00 PM	28 Prayer Group-9:30 AM	29 Wired Wednesday Worship-6:00 PM	30	31 Fish Fry-4:00-7:00 PM	