

The MARTENSDALE MESSENGER

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A publication of Martensdale Community Church

Six Key Truths for Battling Sin & Growing in Holiness

With this month's **Pastor's Pen** I will highlight some crucial truths recently taught in the first half of our eight week spring series on 'Sin, Salvation, & Sanctification.' I hope they prove to strengthen and encourage us all in our pursuit of Christ and struggle against indwelling sin:

1. Growing in holiness and love for God is not optional for a Christian. If we willingly choose to walk in darkness, we remove ourselves from fellowship with the Lord and consequently from His people (1 John 1:5-10). If we continue in unrepentant sin, we give stronger and stronger evidence that we have never truly come to know Him, for "no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him" (1 John 3:3:6). We must be willing to get radical in our fight against our indwelling sin (Matt 5:29-30).
2. God freely offers to forgive and restore his children when they repent and confess their sins. Repentance has in view an inward turning of the will and mind from sin towards God. Confession is the act by which we agree with (literally 'to say the same thing as') God about our sin (1 John 1:9). While we were being disobedient we inwardly disagreeing with God about what was good and best for us, but repentance once again positions us in agreement with Him and His Word.
3. Not all sorrow over sin is pleasing to God. While Godly sorrow produces a repentance that leads to life we are warned that the sorrow of the world produces death (2 Cor 7:10-11). Many a person has been very sorrowful for the consequences of their actions without ever being truly repentant (just think of Judas). True repentance always becomes visible with the fruit that it bears in our lives. It is earnest and zealous for change; it speaks truly about its sin and does not attempt to shift the blame; it longs for restoration, and is willing to do whatever it takes to make right any wrongs done.
4. The Biblical process of change always involves 'putting off' old sinful behavior, being 'renewed in the spirit of our minds', and 'putting on' new Christ-like behavior (Eph 4:20-24). A thief has not stopped being a thief until he has learned to work with his hands and to give to those who are in need (Eph 4:28). In our struggle to grow in grace we must learn to focus on both what we are doing that is wrong, and also on what the Lord would have us 'put on' in its place.
5. The Word of God is our greatest tool in our fight for holiness. Jesus relied upon it in the wilderness to resist the devil (Matt 4:1-11). It teaches and rebukes us, it corrects and trains us in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16-17). It brings us to repentance, informs our confession of sin and shows us what needs to be put off and put on. By it we learn the fear of the Lord (Ps 34:11).
6. Seeing and delighting in the glory of the Lord is what ultimately fuels and motivates our struggle against sin. Only the power of a greater pleasure will enable us to say 'no' to the deceitful desires of sin. Unbelievers perish because they fail to see anything beautiful in the gospel of Christ (2 Cor 4:4-5). God's children are changed from one degree of glory to another as they behold His glory (2 Cor 3:18). We must continually call upon the Lord to open our eyes and show us His glory in His Word and in His world around us (Ps 119:18) if we are to grow in His grace and holiness.

Pastor Jeremy

AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE

AND THE
TRUTH
SHALL MAKE YOU FREE!
JOHN 8:32

**Martensdale Community
Church**
P.O. Box 200
Martensdale, IA 50160

(641)764-2491

Senior Pastor Jeremy Kidder
Associate Pastor Daniel Moore

Sunday Service – 9:00 AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible
Fellowship – 10:30 AM

Ladies "In Stitches" Friday, July 25th & August 8th

Ladies, mark these summer "In Stitches" dates on your calendar!

You are invited to join us from 6:00pm to midnight in Room 203. Bring any unfinished craft project to work on, or just stop in for fellowship. Consider scrapbooking, crocheting, sewing, quilting, or even folding your laundry! "In Stitches" is a great informal way to get to know other ladies from MCC, as well as finish a project, or learn a new skill. Be sure to invite a friend! See Holly Johanson for more information.

R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Thursday, July 17th

R.O.M.E.O. will meet Thursday, July 17th at 9:00am at Bread & Breakfast in Norwalk. Any retired man (yes, it's a man thing) of MCC who enjoys a good breakfast and good old fellowship and camaraderie is invited! If you are an "old guy" over 50, or not retired and want to come along anyway, feel free to do so. However, be advised that this is an informal get together of old men, that probably nothing will get accomplished, and there is no agenda! R.O.M.E.O. meets the third Thursday of each month at 9:00am at the Bread & Breakfast in Norwalk. Contact Wendell Starmer for more information.



Congratulations!
Kevin and Jennima Wenck
were married on June 7th.
Welcome, Jennima, to the
MCC family!

Mark Your Calendar: August 3rd, 6pm Jason Nightingale – Wordsower International

Please join us August 3rd, at our Sunday Evening Service beginning at 6:00pm, to hear Jason Nightingale, an accomplished "Scripture teller" from Wordsower International. Using Scripture alone as script, he powerfully portrays the Biblical authors without use of costume or props letting the Word of God speak for itself as he dramatically recites entire books of the Bible from memory and in faith. He will be presenting the book of Revelation for us. A free-will offering will be taken for Wordsower International ministry during the service. Be sure to invite friends and family! It would also be great to invite any AWANA students you have contact with! See Pastor Jeremy for more information.



MCC Library – Recent Additions!

Summer breaks are a great time to relax with a good book. The MCC Library has a lot of good books to prosper your soul! Some of our new arrivals in the MCC Bookstore are also available for check out in the library, such as, *Christian Living in the Home*, by Jay Adams; *Creative Counterpart*, by Linda Dillow; *Stepping Up*, by Dennis Rainey; *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands are Full*, by Gloria Furman; and *What's Your Worldview*, by James Anderson. Take this summer to learn more on a subject you are unsure of; read a missionary biography with your kids; or just kick your feet up and enjoy a Christian fiction novel. If you have questions or need help finding a resource, contact Denae Vetterick.

MCC Janitor Services

Our MCC janitors clean on Thursdays at MCC to prepare the building for our Sunday Services. If you are in charge of an MCC event or function after Thursday afternoon, such as Bible study, bridal or baby shower, committee meeting, special event, etc..., then please be sure that when you leave the building is the way you found it. There is no fee required for MCC family to use the church building for personal use,

however, if your event is after Thursday, you will need to do whatever it takes to leave the building the way you found it. All building usage must be cleared with the office calendar as well. An MCC member must be present at all times during the function. Janitor services are available after Thursday for a fee of \$100 per floor. If you would like to schedule an event, or janitor services, please see Renee Simmerman.

MCC Sunday Morning Announcements

If you have event details you would like highlighted in the morning announcements, the details of the event must be submitted to the office no later than Thursday of the week to be presented. Also, if you will be using a video to promote an event, the video must be submitted to the office no later than Thursday of the week to be presented. This will insure your event is appropriately represented and all video/sound needs are met without a Sunday morning scramble! ☺ We appreciate your adherence to this policy and helping serve the MCC body with excellence!

MCC Bookstore – New Arrivals: Church Discipline & Church Membership

For further study on church discipline and church membership, as referenced in our recent Sin, Salvation, and Sanctification sermon series, *Church Discipline: How the Church Protects the Name of Jesus*, and *Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus*, both written by Jonathan Leeman, are now available for purchase in our bookstore for \$12.00. These short, concise books provide a theological framework to better understand these two topics. The books are part of the 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches series, which includes: Preaching, Biblical Theology, The Gospel, Conversion, Evangelism, Membership, Discipline, Discipleship, and Leadership.

The MCC Bookstore is located just outside the MCC Library, Room 202. To purchase a book from the bookstore, just leave your check or cash clearly marked “bookstore” in the box on the secretary’s desk, or place it in the offering.



“Share a Pair” - July Shoe Collection for Hope Ministries

The Women’s Ministry is collecting used shoes of all sizes for Hope Ministries in Des Moines. You can bring the shoes to MCC and place them in the donation box located in the foyer on Sundays through July.

Support Freedom for Youth this summer

Freedom for Youth students will be at the **Beaverdale Farmer’s Market** every Tuesday this summer from 5:00-7:00pm selling Freedom Blend Coffee and produce grown from their garden at the center. Freedom Blend Coffee is a business venture at Freedom for Youth to help empower teens and young adults teaching them valuable job skills.

The coffee is sourced from Costa Rica, Columbia, Brazil, Guatemala, and Ethiopia. Freedom for Youth young adults roast and blend the beans into Extra Bold, Bold, Decaf, and Mild varieties. Coffee can be roasted to order, to ensure freshness! It would be an encouragement to stop by their booth and support them!

Encore Thrift Store – 4640 Merle Hay Road, Urbandale

All revenue supports Hope Ministries’ mission of serving homeless men, women, and children. So whether you are shopping at the store or donating items that can be sold, you’re helping support the Hope emergency shelter and long-term, residential life-recovery services! Donations are accepted during business hours at the retail location. Some donations make their way to shelter and recovery facilities to be distributed to shelter guests. Other donations are distributed free of charge through social service agencies and churches who are a part of the King’s Closet program. Other donations are placed on the shelves for sale at Encore. Your donations, whether given away or sold, help Hope Ministries help those who are homeless and in need! The Hope Encore Store even has a recycling program! Worn out shoes, clothes that cannot be worn, books, belts, purses, bags, hats, stuffed toys, and metal are baled, boxed, and sold to recycling companies. Dollars generated by the sale of unusable items cycle right back into the ministry in Des Moines. The thrift store is staffed by paid employees, but relies on volunteers to help operate the store. Youth groups, church small groups, and individuals are all welcome to help sort, hang, pickup, or deliver items at the store. You can call [515 226-7272](tel:5152267272) or email info@hopeiowa.org for more information on volunteering. If you need help getting your donations to the Encore Store, contact Linda Archer at (515)962-9229.



Save the Date!

MCC Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 19th, 3:00-7:00pm



MCC Quarterly Congregational Meeting July 20th

Mark your calendar for our Quarterly Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, July 20th, during the ABF hour. If you would like to be added to the voting roster, please see Pastor Jeremy or Jeb Brewer. We hope to see everyone there!



BIRTHDAYS

7/1 Jeremy Kidder, Sheri Sammons
 7/3 Judy Cole
 7/7 Laura Suckow
 7/9 Michael Lovelace
 7/11 Vivian Phares
 7/13 Tena DeVore
 7/16 Debbie Doty, Judy Kolczyk*
 7/17 Kyle Barth
 7/18 Collin Keller, Kim Suckow
 7/19 Dustin Ostrander
 7/20 Alissa Robinson
 7/22 Scott Kern, Bill Moore, Michele Septer

7/24 Ethan Carpenter
 7/25 Jerry Cole
 7/26 Virginia Petersen
 7/27 Blanche Ludwig, Susan Trca*
 7/28 Curt Mackie, Dave Thomas
 7/29 Catherine Gerdes
 7/31 Richard Keller, Aubrey Sullivan

***Indicates MCC Supported Missionary**
 If your birthday is this month and you do not see it listed, or your birthday is incorrect, please contact Linda Archer or Renee Simmerman



Women's Ministry Accessory Swap



Wednesday, July 23rd, 6:30pm

Ladies, it's time to clean out your closets! We are having an Accessory Swap! We all have items, that for one reason or another we just don't wear anymore. So how about sharing them with someone who would wear it?!

Here's how it will work: Bring purses, jewelry, scarves, hats & belts that are in good condition, and still in style to our drop off box in the foyer on Sunday, July 13 & 20. Then, attend the Swap Event on Wednesday, July 23 at 6:30pm here at MCC. There will be fun, games, food, prizes and lots of swapping! No one will go home empty handed!

Any leftover items will be donated to Hope Ministries.

Ladies! Mark your calendar for the...2nd Annual Women's Retreat at Camp Appanoose, Sept. 19-20

This year's theme is "Spiritual Treasure" with guest speaker, Sharon Jaynes. For ten years Sharon served as Vice President of Proverbs 31 Ministries and co-host for their daily radio feature. Sharon is the co-founder of Girlfriends in God, Inc., a non-denominational ministry that crosses generational, denominational and racial boundaries to bring the Body of Christ together as believers. *Don't miss early bird registration!* Before Aug. 1st register for just \$55.00, add an additional \$5.00 to stay at the camp! Watch for more details coming soon!



MCC Softball – Monday Nights through July 21st

The season is nearing the end! Come on out to Pickard Park in Indianola on Monday nights and cheer on the MCC softball team! Be watching for end of the year tournament information coming soon.

July MCC Softball Schedule:

July 7th – 6:30/7:40; Field 3
 July 14th – 7:40/8:50; Field 3
 July 21st – 7:40/8:50; Field 2



Richard & Virginia Petersen - 50th Anniversary Open House August 3rd, 2:00-4:30pm

The MCC family is invited to an open house celebrating Richard & Virginia Petersen's 50th Anniversary on August 3rd from 2:00-4:30pm in the MCC gym. Please join them in celebrating this joyous occasion in their life!



Princess in Training July 20th

Young ladies of MCC, grades 4th thru 8th, are invited to attend "Princess in Training" classes, once per month during Sunday School in the Fireside Room. Hosted by the MCC Women's Ministry, this month's topic will be "Public Behavior," taught by Renee Simmerman. If you have any questions, please contact Marion Ostrander.

JUNIOR HIGHERS

SENIOR HIGHERS



Upcoming Youth Events...



- July 6th – No Youth Group - Youth Mission Trip
- July 13th – Combined Jr/Sr High Youth Group, 6pm
- July 20th – Combined Jr/Sr High Youth Group, 6pm
- July 27th – Community Night, 6pm – Location TBD

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2014 Coffee House a success! Without the generous donations, skilled performers, and hard workers the night would not have been possible. The Youth Group collected over \$1,000 for their mission trip to Camp Good News, NH!

Summer Camp is in Full Swing!

Please be in prayer for our kids who are attending camp this summer, that it will have an eternal impact on their life!

June 29th–July 2nd: Camp Appanoose: Cowboy Camp – Aden & Jonathan Moore
Hidden Acres: K-1st – Shelby Gideon, Trenton Johnson, Bethany Meyer, Natalie Septer
2nd & 3rd Grade – Holden Dukes, Tristan Ostrander, Kori Vos, Elijah Wheeldon

July 6 – 11th: Hidden Acres: 4th – 6th: Baize & Emery Gibson, David Rawls, Grace Sutcliffe

July 13th – 19th: Camp Appanoose: Performing Arts – Naomi Olsgaard

July 20th – 26th: Camp Appanoose: Extreme Sports – Esa Johanson

Be in prayer for our camp leaders too: Sarah Braun, Emma Johanson, Anna Littlejohn, Alissa Robinson, Kimmie Suckow

