

St. Peter's PROVERBS

MAY 2023



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR JANICE



Church on the Move!

We (St. Peter's) had a word from God several years ago: that we need to be a '**church on the move**'. As leaders, the elders and I have been seeking to understand how we can do this. One of the ways I see that we can do it is by moving "**Out of the 4th Place**". That's the title of a book by Matt Browleit and Dudley Callison which posits that churches are operating in the wrong place in our society—in the **4th place**.

- The first place is the home—private life.
- The second place is work or school—productive life.
- The third place is where we go to unwind—informal

public life. A favorite tavern or coffee shop or park.

Church buildings don't fit in any of these categories. **Churches are part of the fourth place. And that's not a good thing for the church. It's actually quite a large problem.**

If the third place is informal public life, then there must be a fourth category, formal public life—the fourth place. The fourth place, then, would include such institutions as country clubs, temples, stadiums, and yes, churches. They are fourth place, formal public institutions—*places of insiders and outsiders*, those with tickets and those without. If you have ever wondered why your church felt like a country club, this is likely the reason.

Why is being in the fourth place the wrong place for the church? For starters, because **Jesus intentionally moved church out of the fourth place**. Remember the Old Testament temple? It was a big building that people went to in order to worship God. The temple was a fourth place. Jesus changed that. Jesus is the temple. Remember, when he said, "Destroy this temple and I'll raise it in three days" (John 2:29), Jesus wasn't talking about a building. He was talking about his body. In other words,

LOOKING AHEAD!

- ◆ Confirmation Dinner May 6
- ◆ Confirmation May 7
- ◆ Mother's Day Worship, 9 am thru Sept. 10
- ◆ Outdoor worship June 4

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(MOVE continued from Page 3)

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KAY



Do Christians have to go to church?

The short answer is no... but keep reading!

Summer is coming and summer schedules really do fluctuate, but can we get away with not making going to worship a priority?

Christians are never explicitly commanded to attend church in scripture, but as you can see from [Hebrews 10:24-25](#), we are encouraged to do so.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Not attending church isn't a sin or something that will keep you from being a Christian, but church is a highly influential part of your walk with God. So here are three reasons you should go to church:

Worship - When we go to church, we have the opportunity for worship with other believers, something we can't do alone at home. *“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”* ([John 4:24](#))

Fellowship - As Christians, it is so important that we surround ourselves with strong believers who will encourage our relationship with God. If you are only surrounded by non-believers (for example at school) all the time, they may eventually drag you down or slow down your faith, no matter how strong you are.

Fellowship (or sharing in community) with other Christians will build you up in your walk with God, and also give you the opportunity to encourage others.

God calls us to be part of His family, and to bring our spiritual gifts together to further glorify Him. If we aren't in church, we can't do this. We're not only missing out on blessing others with our gifts but also being blessed. *“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”* ([1 John 1:7](#))

Growth - By going to church, you also strengthen your relationship with the Father. By setting aside time to worship Him, you are showing Him that your relationship with Him is important. *“Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.”* ([Psalm 65:4](#))

What if I can't make it to church?

Worship Music - Listening to worship music is very helpful in turning your heart towards God, and it can be a good substitute to the worship you are missing at church.

Fellowship - Find a Bible Study community, or find a local youth group to have fellowship with others your age. If you need help with this, ask. We can always work to help you stay connected.

Growth - If you can't attend church, make an effort to spend time in God's Word and in prayer daily. By reading God's word, you're allowing God to speak to

(CHRISTIANS continued on Page 4)

(MOVE continued from Page 1)

Jesus took something that used to be a fourth place, the physical temple, and he moved it right into the normal rhythms of his culture. The temple became human and walk around the neighborhood.

Not only did Jesus move the church out of the fourth place, so did the early church. The early church didn't have their own place. They had no temples or other religious buildings. They self-identified as exiles, strangers, a people without a place of their own. The early church lived and gathered within culture, not separate from it. They met in first places—homes. They met in second places—work spaces, farms, shops, military camps. They met in third places—riverbanks, theaters, catacombs. Solomon's Colonnade, where they met in Acts, was a busy place full of people coming and going. It was both a second and a third place. **If Jesus and the early church avoided the fourth place, why is it so normal for us?**

Why is church in the fourth place such a big problem? Here is why: the fourth place is preaching messages to our world that we would never want to say with our mouths. Our mouths are preaching the greatest messages in the history of the world: reconciliation with God, restored community with each other, purpose in the world. Our forms, however, are often preaching the exact opposite messages: separation from God, separation from each other, separation from the world.

Whenever you put religion in the fourth place it will automatically start speaking for itself. And it will sound just like a temple. Remember, Jesus moved the church out of the temple—out of the fourth place. Unfortunately, the church moved back in. When did that happen? How did we move back into the fourth place? The short answer is that in fourth century Rome, Constantine helped to rebuild the temple of stone that Jesus had turned to flesh. When Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, he rebuilt Christianity not as a living temple scattered throughout all of the cultures of the world, but instead as a place of its own religious culture. Rather than expressing the beauty and diversity of the cultures of the world, the church would express the culture of the fourth place.

I encourage you to reflect on this! How is God calling us to be a **church on the move**? And how might we move St. Peter's **out of the 4th place**?

Blessings, *Pastor Janice*



Marion Food Pantry Needs

The Marion Food Pantry needs for May are hamburger helper and cereal or any non-perishable food items. The Food Pantry wants are laundry detergent and dish soap. Items may be dropped off at church or at the House of Hope in Marion.



you. Again, if you need help, ask. There are Bible apps like YouVersion and others that provide plenty of free Bible readings plans and prayer prompts. And a good prayer journal is always a wonderful investment.

Please, make the conscious decision now before our summer schedules get in the way and commit to not letting your faith weaken this summer. Jesus never loses His love for you, so make sure you also are making your love for Christ and other believers a top priority.

Praying for you all to feel the blessings of God this summer!--Kay

through our congregation and community! Then ask each family member to identify one person they want to share Jesus with this week. Why? "Because it ain't revival until it spills into the streets!"

And if you can't find the time to see the movie, but others in your family want to see it, let me know. I will definitely go to see it again! Have a blessed and safe and healthy spring! --Kay

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RAFFLE

Have you purchased your tickets yet? The Men's Group is selling raffle tickets to win one of three prizes. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Grand prize is a 2023 Polaris Sportsman 450 H.O.



ATV, provided by Caroline Motor Sports, Caroline; 2nd prize is a Barnett Whitetail Pro Star Crossbow and 3rd prize is a \$100 Shell gas card. Tickets are available from Pete Fannin or any of the men's group. Drawing will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10, 12 p.m. at St. Peter's. Need not be present to win. Funds will be used for area benevolence needs.

Joe & Missy Stuhr
May 16, 20 years

Happy BIRTHDAY
MAY BORN

Charles Petersen	May 9
Pete Fannin	May 15
Octavia Phillips	May 16
Adam Stoltz	May 20
Kylie Peebles	May 23
Diane Beyersdorf	May 25
Elizabeth Enoch	May 25
Ciara Peebles	May 27
Jaxson Peeters	May 28
Louine Malueg	May 29
Karagan Miller	May 29
Brystal Miller	May 30
Andrew Hintz	May 31

COUNCIL MINUTES

JOINT TRUSTEES & ELDERS MEETING March 19, 2023 – 8:00 am

Trustees present: Krista Enoch, Brian Knight, Tom Anderson, Pete Fannin, Patty Beck
Ex-Officio present: Pastor Janice Kuder, Jackie Baldwin
Elders present: David Schmidt, Lee Rambo, Pastor Kay
Opening prayer was led by Pastor Janice.

Old Business:

The report of the HVAC system was presented by Anderson. We are waiting for the third bid to make a decision.

Lee Rambo presented an update on the replacement of the technical support system. There are some items to be completed and he added that security cameras could be installed for about \$1,000. He has put in 238 hours of time so far on the system.

The generator fund is growing and the estimates are \$40,000 to \$70,000 to complete the project.

The serving tables for the church will be black. We will be purchasing 10 tables at a cost of \$130 per table.

President Fannin received a call from Fred Zimmerman Jr. to follow up on the memorial of new stoves for the kitchen. Knight motioned to purchase two gas ranges from Hein's Appliance, Shawano, at an approximate cost of \$2,200 each, Beck seconded. Motion carried. Beck will take place the order with Hein's. Pete will take care of the gas line needed for these ranges.

The trustees are still working on recovering church keys from members that do not need a key at all times.

The Men's Ministry raffle is underway and when the ATV is available it will be on display.

The stage floor needs to be completed and Brian brought up the need for new curtain rails.

New Business:

Trustees and elders will be installed on March 26.

Pastor presented the Lenten worship services that highlight and promote the idea of God sightings to try new ways of worship and discussing spirituality with each other. This is being done in individual table settings.

April 2 we will reaffirm our membership in God's family and welcome new members: Joe and Pam Anklam, Rob and Kim Karski, Lauren Detert and Don and Amber Beechy and family. Members released were Jen Reinke and Tom & Sherri Laatsch.

Easter decorations were discussed. Anderson will talk with Sharie to see if she would like to do the decorations.

The minutes were presented. Knight motioned to approve; Enoch seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Janice presented her report. Beck motioned to approve; Knight seconded. Motion carried.

Financials were presented. Enoch brought up the situation that the Sunday School is not self-sustaining in that offerings do not fund the supplies needed. Would it be possible to add it to the church budget? Motion to approve the financials was made by Enoch, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried.

Knight then brought up the idea of beginning a pastor search as it is very hard to recruit a new pastor and Pastor Janice is near retirement.

Next meeting will be held on April 30, 8 a.m.

Knight motioned to adjourn, seconded by Beck. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Anderson, Secretary

2023 Budget at a Glance

2023 Budget \$145,442.79

Budgeted For March	Income Received	Expenses	Net Income/ Loss
\$12,120.24	\$10,744.97	\$11,490.63	-\$745.66

