

**Time Margin**  
**October 9, 2016**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

<sup>9</sup>All our days pass away under your wrath;  
we finish our years with a moan.

<sup>10</sup>Our days may come to seventy years,  
or eighty if our strength endures;  
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,  
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

<sup>11</sup>If only we knew the power of your anger!  
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.

<sup>12</sup>Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalms 90: 9-12 NIV)

Have you heard the expression “I am busier than a one armed paper boy?” Just talking about our schedules can sometimes leave us feeling exhausted and overwhelmed. We don’t allow space in our day to slow down and take notice of the vast array of opportunities God provides for us to love each other in practical ways. To quote Ferris Bueller, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

**Digging Deeper**

Everyone needs **FAMILY** time.

- One of the first areas of our lives to suffer when we over commit is family time. Why do you think this is true? If we want to create a family that points to God, we must regularly communicate with each other about the priority of loving Him. Do you have a dedicated "family hour" each day? Or perhaps one night a week?

Everyone needs **SHARING** time.

- Hopefully you have a friend or two that you can count on to provide encouragement, correction and a good laugh when needed. Strong relationships are cultivated from honest, enjoyable and consistent interactions. Why do you think it was so important to God that we be in regular fellowship with one another? Do you think strong friendships can impact your overall health and well-being?

Everyone needs **GOD** time.

- Richard Swenson said in his book Margin (on which this sermon series is based) that, “Speed does not yield devotion.” Are you too busy for God? You can’t expect to have a meaningful relationship with someone you never talk to. If you don’t already, try scheduling time each day for prayer and studying His word. Making God a priority will strengthen your ability to discern His will and determine what the right yeses are for your life.

How do we create margin in time?

Expect the **UNEXPECTED**.

- The definition of “expect the unexpected” is to not be surprised by unusual events. Some of life’s richest lessons are taught in those unexpected moments when life throws you a curve ball. How can you prepare yourself for the unknown? In what ways do you think being caught off guard can reveal our true nature?

Learn to say **NO**.

- Yes, we are called to serve. However, we are not required to say yes to EVERY service opportunity. It is important to make wise decisions about how to spend our time since we are faced with endless demands to occupy it. How can you know what you should cut out or stop doing so that you have more margin in your life?

Be available to **GOD**.

- While God certainly loves us and desires a relationship with us, we have to meet Him halfway. Consider the following: Are you available to God? Are you searching for His fingerprints in all areas of your life? Is your schedule open to God’s management?

### **Conclusion**

Teach us to number our days O Lord. We recognize the need for margin in our time. Please help us to slow down and see people the way that you see them; to love them the way you love them. Give us boldness to share Your Truth with those we encounter. It is our heart’s desire to spend our time honoring You in everything we think, say and do. We realize each moment is a gift and tomorrow is not promised. Thank you for the gift of today. May we live it fully and all for your glory. Amen.