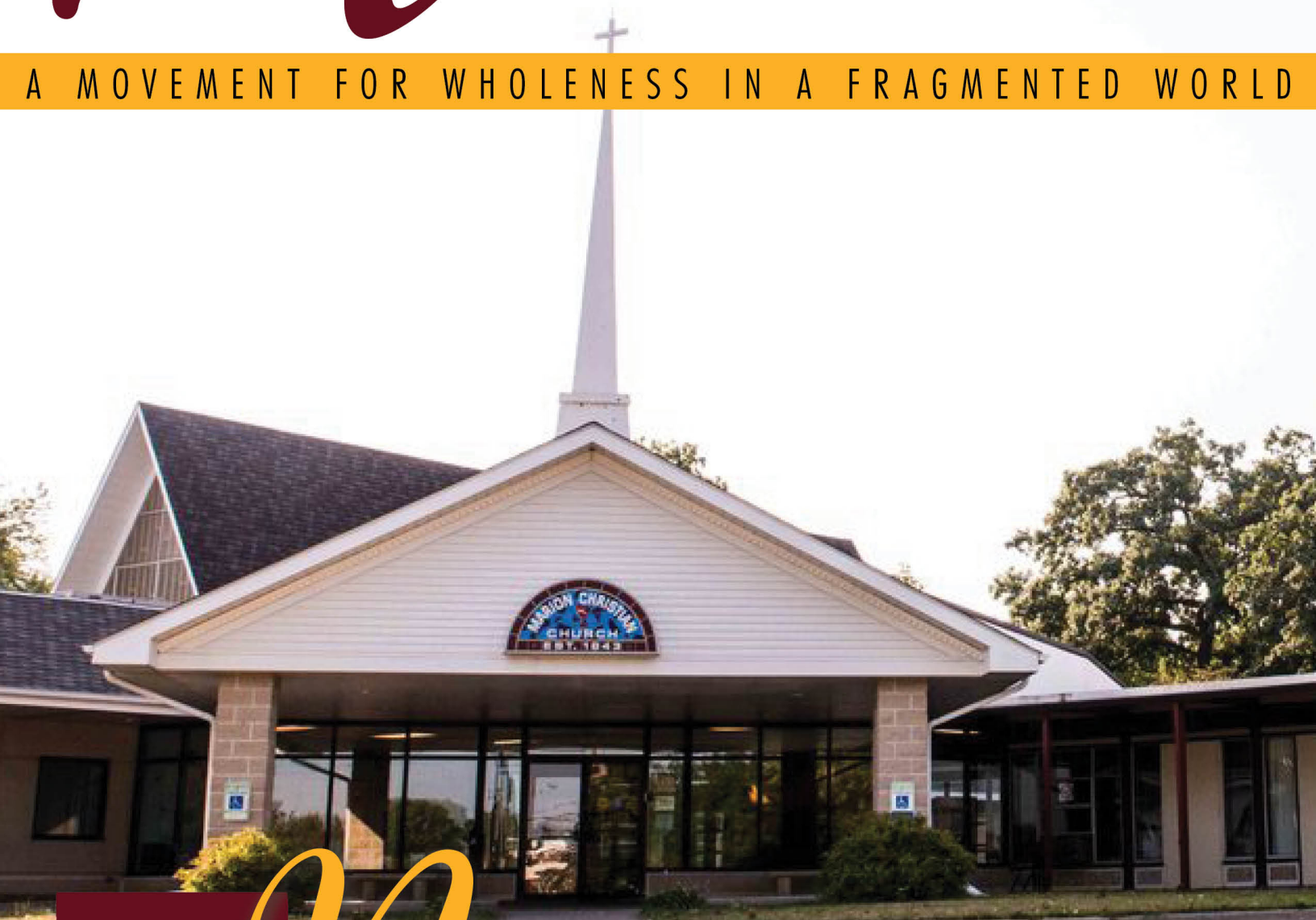


THE *Marion* CHRISTIAN

A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD



Marion

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

MARION CHRISTIAN STAFF

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INTERIM MINISTRY

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Pictured from left to right: Rev. Liz Woodward (Partner Regional Minister, Christian Church in the Upper Midwest); Rev. Gary Sneller; Rev. Tammy Cameron Buseman; Rev. Josh Patty (Regional Minister & President, Christian Church in the Upper Midwest)

This past Sunday, Tammy and I were installed as Co-pastors of Interim Ministry at MCC. For some time, both Tammy and I, as ordained clergy members of the congregation, had been individually sensing a call to provide interim pastoral leadership for the congregation that we love, but we knew that we could not each do it alone. Fortunately, the Spirit of God prompted us to speak to one another about our sense of call and after much prayer and deep discussion (especially with our spouses), we humbly offered the idea for consideration to the Regional staff and Marion Christian Church leaders. Gary and I met with the Pastoral Search Committee to discuss in detail how we envisioned working together in a unique collaborative ministry to meet the full scope of congregational needs with a clear understanding that we each had limits on the number of hours we could give per week. After due consideration, the Pastoral Search Committee sensed God's leading in the idea that Gary and I could serve as co-pastors of interim ministry for MCC and submitted the proposal to the Church Council at its March 19 meeting. The Council approved the proposal and since we were eager to begin our ministry with the congregation, it was decided to schedule our installation for the next Sunday, March 26. And what a joyous day of commitment and celebration it was!

Tammy and I each have pastoral gifts and skills that we feel will greatly benefit the congregation during this time as we search for a new settled pastor. You will see those gifts and skills at work in preaching and leading worship, in pastoral care for all members of the congregation, in coordinating and communicating different aspects of congregational life and ministry, and in encouraging current and new church members to be actively engaged in congregational life and outreach to the community and the world.

We continue our commitments to our callings outside of Marion Christian Church, Tammy as a full-time chaplain at Mercy Medical Center and Gary in his community social justice ministries. Keep in mind, our ministry collectively at MCC will be part-time, about 30 hours per week. That said, Gary and I are making a commitment to the congregation to provide pastoral leadership, but we cannot do the work of ministry alone. Marion Christian Church is blessed with a host of capable lay leaders and active congregation members. And so together, may we do the work of ministry that God has called us—Marion Christian Church—to do.

Watch the weekly connection and monthly newsletter for ongoing updates from us.

Your Co-pastors for Interim Ministry,

Tammy & Gary

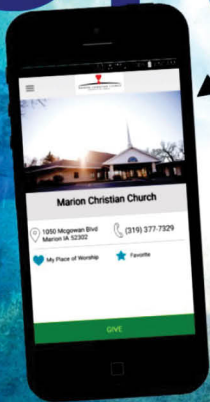
What's happening!

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FIND MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON THE MAP & YOU ARE READY TO GIVE!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**10AM
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**AFTER CHILDREN'S
TIME
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR
K-5**

SAT., APRIL 1

**8AM
CHURCH CLEAN-UP**

SUN., APRIL 2

**9AM
LENTEN BOOK STUDY**

WED., APRIL 5

**6PM
THE OASIS**

THURS., APRIL 6

**6:30PM
MAUNDY THURSDAY
SERVICE**

SAT., APRIL 8

**11AM
EASTER EGG HUNT**

WED., APRIL 12

**6PM
THE OASIS**

WED., APRIL 19

**6PM
THE OASIS**

WED., APRIL 26

**6PM
THE LAST OASIS
OF THE YEAR!**



**Celeste & Simon Downs
welcomed their beautiful
baby girl,**

*Penelope Jean
Olivia Downs*
on March 23rd, 2023

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Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

EASTER STORY AND EGG HUNT AT 11 A.M.

Group 1 -Toddlers through age 3

Group 2 - ages 4-7

Group 3 - ages 7-10

The Easter eggs are empty,
but all children leave with a bag of candy.

Remember to bring your Easter Basket!

All parents and grandparents are welcome

MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1050 MCGOWAN BLVD, MARION, IOWA



Upcoming Events

MAUNDY THURSDAY

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 6
6:30PM
SANCTUARY**



**SIMPLE
SERVICE
SCRIPTURE
PRAYER
COMMUNION**

MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH | 1050 MCGOWAN BLVD, MARION

easter sunday

**WE WILL HAVE A
BAPTISM!**

WE ARE ALSO PLANNING
ON BAPTISMS ON MAY 7TH
SO IF YOU WOULD STILL
LIKE TO BE BAPTIZED
CONTACT TAMMY BY
APRIL 12TH

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 9
10:00AM
SANCTUARY**

MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH | 1050 MCGOWAN BLVD, MARION

RUMMAGE SALE

SET UP DATES MAY 14-17

Sale dates Thursday, May 18 | 8-5

Friday, May 19 | 8-5

Saturday, May 20 | 8-12

With the soon to be finished education wing we hope to have a room available for people to bring in their rummage sale items early. Items will be accepted until 10:00 Wednesday the week of the sale.

We will keep you posted if items can be brought in ahead.

If transportation is needed call John McIntosh or Darrell Boatwright.

If you are available to help with set up or sales it would be appreciated.

Any hours you can work greatly help. Lunch is provided each day.

Building Update

March, 2023 MCC Building Recovery Update

As of Feb. 20 we signed the final three contracts that will finish work on remodeling and derecho recovery. The next day we had the HVAC contractor back in the building and working.

Since then we have had contractors working on:

- Insulating duct work, completing duct work and connecting up air conditioners
- Plugging holes in the ceiling holes added to add support structure for new roof
- Ceiling grid installation
- Electricians installing lights and getting them to work

There is also a team investigating the playground replacement and another focused on replacing lost building content (furnishings) in the ed wing.

Things yet to do:

- Repair and repainting of stucco on the fellowship hall – when the weather warms up
- New gutters for the portico
- Install fascia and gutters
- New siding for ed wing and portico: contractor will come early April to do this
- Finish electrical work: outlets, new light fixtures
- Finish install of ceilings and HVAC work
- New carpet tile flooring, new vinyl flooring in two bathrooms
- Complete bathrooms : ADA compliant, partitions and grab rails

So we are hoping that sometime in May we can have both recovery and remodeling complete (subject to getting all needed supplies when we need them). We are very happy how work is moving along now!

Any questions or comments, please let us know.

Darrell Boatwright, Dee Tjaden, John McIntosh



New classroom with ceiling grid and working LED lights!

SNACKS FOR WILKINS SCHOOL

Please sign up at Information Central to provide 25 prepackaged snacks for Wilkins Elementary Students
Or go to sign up genius and use the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fafa92dabffc34-wilkins>
We need 4 people each week to sign up!



MCC Council Meeting

Marion Christian Church Council Hybrid Meeting Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:30pm

Present: Becky Clemens, Gary Sneller, Marilyn Rambo, Carrie Hendricks, Cathy Fuller, Mike Kibler, April Evers, Deanna Long, Krystal Monawar, Gloria Waltke, Laura Brade, Justin Lightfoot, Sue Boatwright, Darrell Boatwright, Sharon McIntosh, Patty Wise, Joe Hamilton

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becky Clemens with prayer.

STANDING BUSINESS:

Deanna Long moved and Sharon McIntosh seconded to approve the February Council minutes. Carried.

The February Financial report approval was tabled until the April 16th meeting.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

UPREACH: Worship, Music/Arts & Media

- Kari and Ryan Wilcox, Elders; Sue Thompson & Joyce Talley, Deacons

No report

UPREACH: Spiritual Growth and Formation – Laura Brade, Elder; Tim Feldmann & Jenna Holmes, Deacons

No Report

INREACH: Congregational Care & Evangelism Team – Sharon McIntosh, Elder; April Evers & Jill Law, Deacons

We were asked to provide a reception for Phil Hendricks since he has resigned as our Media Tech and his last day is March 26th. It was decided to provide homemade treats for Fellowship that day and ask the congregation to join us in fellowship hall to say thank you to Phil. I said I would email Becky & Justin regarding one of them to be responsible for recognizing Phil during worship and ask congregation to join in Fellowship Hall after the service on March 26th. I will also ask Marilyn to prepare some kind of sign recognizing Phil to put on the Fellowship table.

Jill brought up an idea for Easter, which was to order plantable Easter heart seed shapes to hand out to everyone on Easter Sunday. This would be in recognition of our New Beginnings, Love, and Open & Affirming congregation. She is going to order 4 bags of 54 at \$8.25 each. We will need to place each heart in a very small plastic bag with a label on it. Jill is going to come up with a phrase to put on label with instructions.

Jill also thought it would be a nice idea for

our team to send out Easter cards to our church shut-ins. We thought that was a great idea, so I will check with Susan Boatwright to get list of shut-ins.

For Easter Sunday fellowship Jill & I will work and April is going to bake items for the day and we can also provide something baked. (Rather than store bought treats.) We all just didn't have the strength to do a breakfast this year with me being gone for the past month and a half.

The team is requesting that each Ministry Team again begins being responsible for the Better Together Fellowship time. She will send out an email to the teams.

INREACH: Guardianship: Tom Fuller & Mike Kibler, Elders; Joe Hamilton & Dean Decious, Deacons

We're still planning on having a work day April 1st. There have been some very good suggestions, though some may take a little longer.

1. Yard cleanup and replace sod that was torn up by the snow plow
2. Wash windows
3. Clean the chairs in Fellowship hall
4. Build a mini library
5. Build a mini food pantry.

There's been quite a bit of interest in the last two. There isn't a food pantry at the Azure apartments. Thanks to Krystal for these two suggestions.

6. Stu Cole has agreed to mow the grass again this year. Thanks, Stu.

OUTREACH: World and Local Missions - Sue Boatwright & Cathy Fuller, Elders; Gloria Waltke, Deacon -No report

Outreach: Community Growth and Formation – Gary Sneller & Kiley Harris, Elders; Deanna Long & Krystal Monawar, Deacons

- We are continuing to work on the Lenten book study, the Chains Interrupted (human trafficking) Lunch and Learn event on March 26, the Easter Egg Hunt (with Spiritual Growth and Formation Team) on April 8, and considering helping to sponsor a Peace Camp (racial reconciliation) for children this summer in Marion.

April Evers moved and Mike Kibler seconded to approve the reports. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building Report: Darrell Boatwright reported

that the HVAC is almost complete and that the electrical work is progressing nicely, as well as the dropped ceiling work. April 1st is when the contractor will begin putting on the siding and they will be on this project at that time until all work is finished. He indicated that Erin Wittkowski is working on furniture acquisition. He also indicated that some playground equipment has become available and that Guardianship needs to check with the insurance company about needing additional liability insurance or not.

Media Technician: Becky Clemens reported that interest in the position has come from a member of the congregation, but that we will receive applications and do interviews to be thorough in the search.

NEW BUSINESS:

Search Committee Report: Deanna Long, Chair of the Search Committee, presented the following motion: "The search committee for the senior pastor recommends that Tammy Cameron Buseman and Gary Sneller be hired as Co-Pastors of Interim Ministry beginning April 1, 2023, as per the conditions outlined in the contract."

Sue Boatwright seconded. During the discussion, Deanna explained that the contract for each is specific, but some features of the financial package and the church's budget would need to be addressed if the Council votes to hire them. The Co-Pastor Interim Ministry would be for a six month time frame, with a reassessment following. Also, Tammy and Gary would be commissioned during a service at the beginning of their tenure, as well as be de-commissioned at the end of their service. The vote to hire them was unanimous. An announcement to the congregation will take place March 26th.

Gary Sneller recognized the great leadership and outstanding speakers we have had serving the church since mid-January.

Phil Hendricks will be recognized during worship and fellowship time on March 26th.

Becky reminded the Council members that Easter candy is still needed for the Easter Egg Hunt.

The next Council meeting will be April 16th at 1:30pm. Gary Sneller closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Rambo, Church Clerk