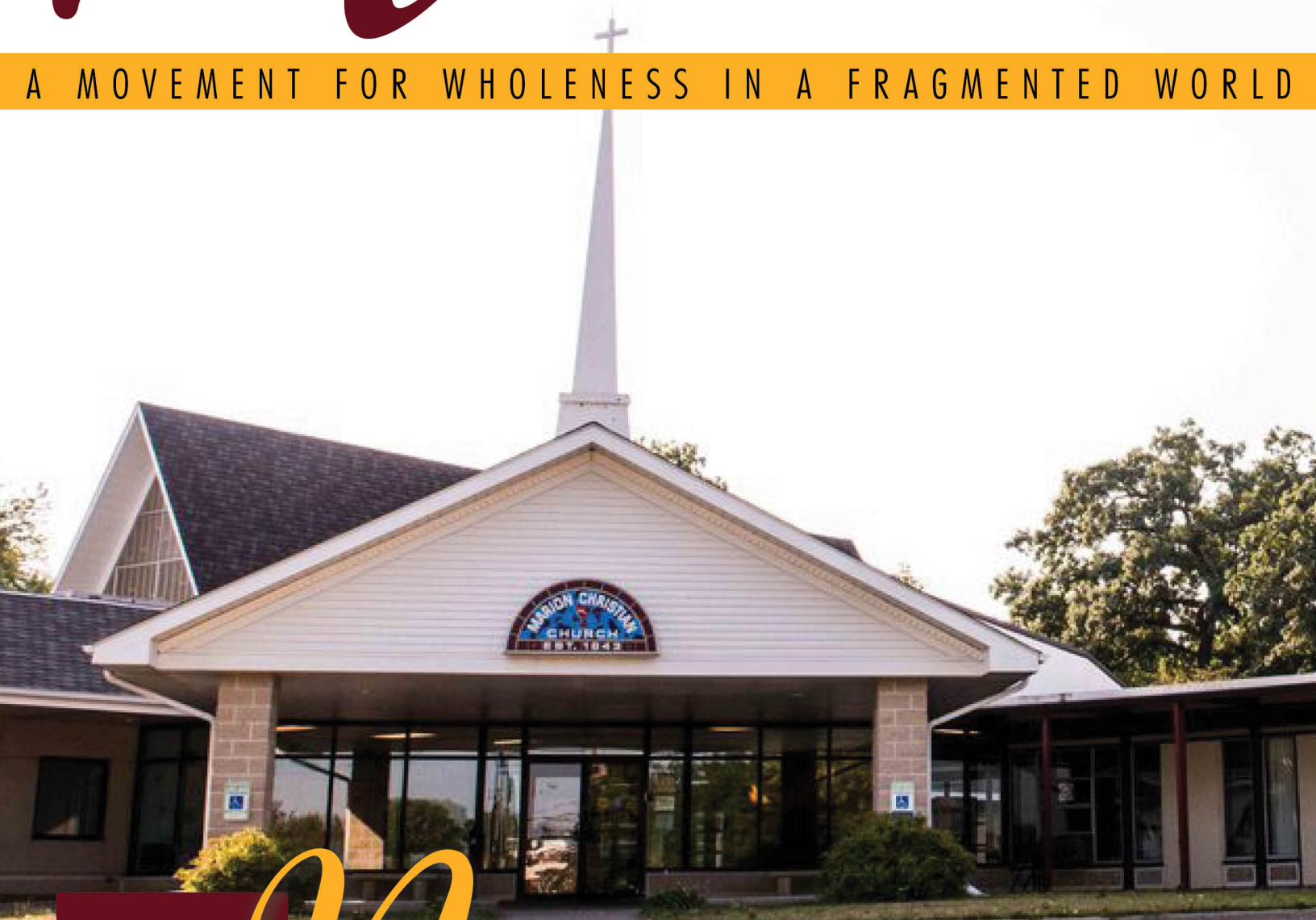


THE *Marion* CHRISTIAN

A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD



Marion

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

MARION
CHRISTIAN
STAFF

Mike Miller
SENIOR MINISTER
mike@marionchristian.com

Carrie Hendricks
DIRECTOR OF
FAMILY MINISTRIES
carrie@marionchristian.com

Lindsay Sitter
OFFICE MANAGER
office@marionchristian.com

Benjamin Laur
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ben@marionchristian.com

**Allison WT
Everman**
ORGANIST

Mike Kibler
CONTRACT MEDIA
TECHNICIAN

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

-Psalm 27:13

This scripture has followed me through every aspect of my ministry journey. I was singing this phrase when I felt the initial tug of the Spirit into ministry. When I said yes to following this tug, I did not imagine that I would be serving a church in Iowa! With that being said, I am honored and humbled to have been called as the Senior Pastor of Marion Christian Church.

As Christians, our lives are full of covenants to one another, to the church, and to all those around us. Marion Christian Church, we are beginning the journey of our covenant together. Our covenant to walk with one another, care for one another, support one another, and, most importantly, pray for one another. I hope you will join me during the Lenten season as we explore covenants and just how important they are to our communities.

As Disciples of Christ, we are called to do the work of the Gospel. We are called to be the light when others cannot see, to give voice to the marginalized and oppressed. To proclaim the healing goodness of Christ. This is not something we can do alone, but something we do in community. I am looking forward to walking on this journey with you all as we continue to spread the Light of the Gospel in all aspects of our lives.

As we journey through Lent, I would love to get to know each and every one of you on a more personal level. I hope to set up time for us to gather over food or coffee and chat.

My door is always open.

Shalom,

Pastor Mike

GOD'S COVENANTS

REV. MIKE MILLER

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

FIND US ONLINE!



facebook.com/MarionChristianChurch



@MarionCCDOC



@marionchristianchurch
@marionyouth



youtube.com/Marion Christian Church

Thank you!!

Thank you to everyone who supported our holiday mission events. Thank you to those who provided food for holiday family baskets. Thank you to those who used the advent calendar and provided for the Marion Pantry. Thank you to those who purchase gifts from the Angel Tree. We are a blessed congregation and such actions help to enrich our community and each other.

Outreach: World & Local Missions Team

Dear Church,

We are so very honored to have had the opportunity to lead this remarkable congregation during this interim period as Co-Pastors. We have been richly blessed! We have been humbled by the incredible, generous support from each of you and the very kind words and encouragement along the way. Most importantly, we want to express our gratitude for the way you all prayerfully considered opportunities to serve and lead and chose to rise to the occasion. Please continue to seek opportunities to be involved and serve. There is so much important ministry to be done. We look forward to taking a step back and joining all of you in whole-heartedly supporting Pastor Mike in this new chapter of shared life and ministry at Marion Christian Church.

With Gratitude,

Tammy Cameron Buseman and Gary Sneller

Thank you for the wonderful gifts we received for Christmas! The staff is truly grateful to work with such wonderful people at this church! We appreciate everything you do for us!
-MCC Staff

OFFERING ENVELOPES

We have received the 2024 offering envelopes. Many of you are now paying through automatic bill pay set up at your bank, through Givelify, or mailing in a check to the church. With these changes, I didn't feel that every giver needs a box of envelopes, so the order was placed with a significant decrease in the number of boxes.

If you would like to have a box of envelopes for next year, please call the church office or email me at pwise@ncsei.com

Thank you!

FIND US ONLINE!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**10AM
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**AFTER CHILDREN'S
MOMENT
SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOR PK-5TH GRADE**

**TUES., FEB. 6 1PM
ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**WED., FEB. 7 6PM
OASIS**

**TUES., FEB. 13 1PM
ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**WED., FEB. 14
6PM
OASIS**

**6:30PM
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**THURS., FEB. 15
6:30PM
LENTEN BOOK STUDY**

**TUES., FEB. 20 1PM
ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**WED., FEB. 21 6PM
OASIS**

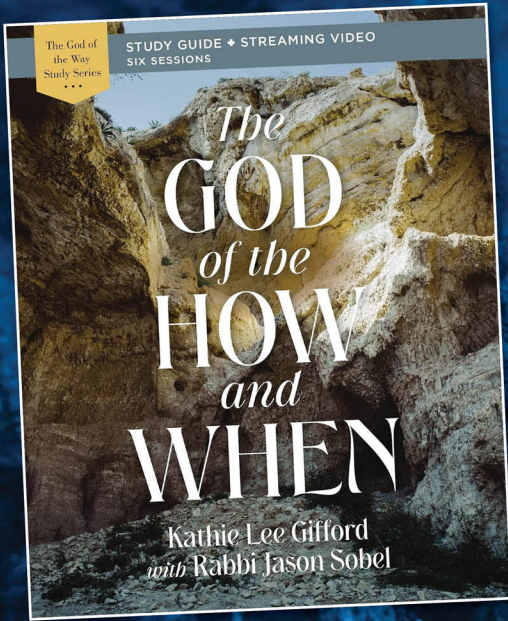
**THURS., FEB. 22
6:30PM
LENTEN BOOK STUDY**

**TUES., FEB. 27 1PM
ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**WED., FEB. 28 6PM
OASIS**

**THURS., FEB. 29
6:30PM
LENTEN BOOK STUDY**

Upcoming Events



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

LED BY PASTOR MIKE MILLER

BEGINS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

POTLUCK DINNER (BRING A DISH TO SHARE) 6:30PM | DISCUSSION 7PM

SIGNUP SHEET IS AT INFORMATION CENTRAL. THE STUDY GUIDE IS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON FOR \$13.
IF ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING IS NEEDED, CONTACT MARILYN RAMBO AT 319-310-5598



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14TH | 6:30 PM
MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH - SANCTUARY

Congregational Care

FELLOWSHIP

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SET-UP OR PROVIDE TREATS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME AFTER SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE?

If so, please contact Sharon McIntosh, Elder; Alindsey Kramer, Elder; Jill Law, Diaconate; or Lori Law, Diaconate. You may also contact Lindsay at the church office and one of us will get back to you.



PHOTO BOARD

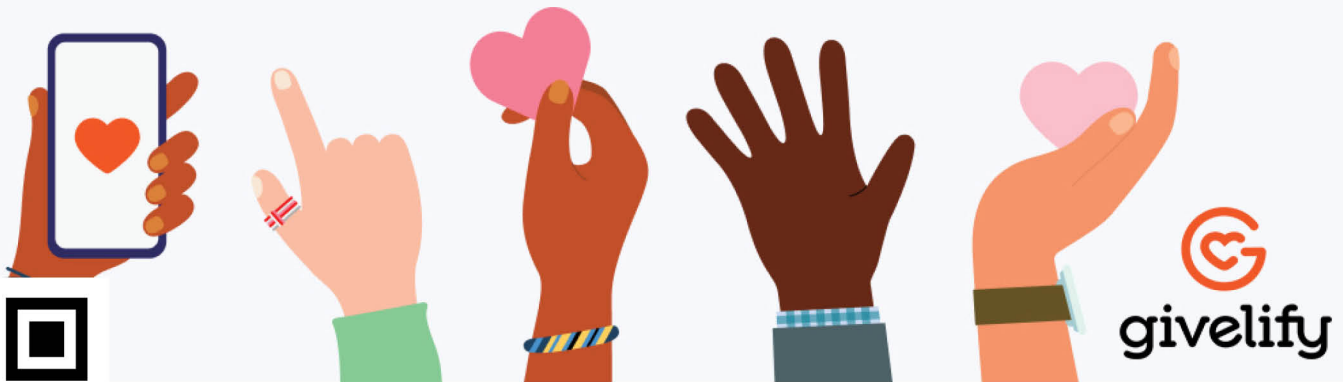


Please don't forget to submit your photo for our photo board in the Narthex. This is our way of helping our new minister, Mike Miller, to put names to faces. It also helps new and old members (or attendees) of Marion Christian Church to put names to faces. Thank you to all that have your pictures up on the photo board and thanking those who will provide soon!

GIVING ONLINE TO MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH HAS BEEN MADE SAFE AND EASY BY USING THE GIVELIFY APP.

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONE AT A TIME OR FEEL FREE TO ESTABLISH REGULAR WEEKLY OR MONTHLY OFFERINGS.

Thank you for your generosity!



JUST SCAN THIS CODE TO GO RIGHT TO THE GIVELIFY APP!

SUNDAY GREETERS NEEDED

PLEASE CONSIDER
VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME

SIGN UP IN THE SANCTUARY

RESPONSIBILITIES: GREETING, HANDING OUT BULLETINS, AND TAKING A HEAD COUNT OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AFTER WORSHIP BEGINS.



THE OASIS

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT**
PROGRAMMING FOR
**PRESCHOOL-
12TH GRADE**

MEAL AT 6PM | ACTIVITIES AT 6:30PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL



PRESCHOOL - GRADE 5
AFTER CHILDREN'S MOMENT DURING 10AM SERVICE

MCC Council Meeting

Hybrid Council Meeting - Provisional Sunday, January 14, 2024 2pm via Zoom

Attendance/Introductions: Justin Lighfoot, Tammy Buseman, Gary Sneller, Sharon McIntosh, Angela Munier, Marilyn Rambo, Chris Hack, Lori Law, April Evers, Dave Law, Jill Law, Erin Wittkowski, Patty Wise, Genny Davis, Mike Kibler, Nikki Kibler, Ryan Wilcox, Jana Madsen, Krystal Monawar, Mark Long, Sue Boatwright, Zach Cooper, Joy Talley, Joyce Talley, Sue Thompson, Vanessa Renaud

Discussion and updates regarding council and committee process

Justin led the discussion. Information given regarding dates/times, key cards, mailboxes; location and purpose, ministry report due dates for meetings, committees should meet and make preparations and plans outside of council and report, Elder meeting information and reporting events in order to schedule, plan and advertise.

Treasurer overview and updates

Erin discussed the importance for new council members to familiarize themselves with financial reports and expenses. First two pages of the report will list the most important information including cash flow and encumbered funds. Previous month financials are sent out prior to meetings, each team should be familiar with expenses, Expense voucher form and approval for reimbursements. It's important to know what encumbered fund applies to your ministry team.

Tammy requested the donation template be available to email and hard copies near mailboxes for easier access/usage. Suggested new members ask questions regarding financials if not understanding. Questions are welcomed.

Standing Business

Council Minutes: Motion: Mike Long Second: Dave Law Motion Passed

Financial: Capital Campaign Report

Discussion: Patty discussed the approximate amount in the account and there have been more pledges to report. Some of these dollars can be spent on the parking lot but there are other items that need to be honored first.

Motion: Ryan Wilcox Second: Marilyn Rambo Motion Passed

Agenda Items

Ministry Reports

Congregational Care

Sharon discussed Coffee Fellowship. They are set up on Sundays through March and will need more volunteers. Committee plans to assist Pastor Mike with grocery items/necessities upon his arrival. Deanna Long will deliver the items. Still need pictures of the congregation for the picture board. Planning on meeting with Pastor Mike in February regarding upcoming events including Easter/Holy Week activities. Lindsay is working on safety manuals for keeping at the church, will update when we know more.

Worship

Patty reported looking for communion servers and greeters until need is met. Discussed possibility of a bible study during Lent and Good Friday prayer breakfast.

Guardianship

The new year has started off and Guardianship is ap-

proving the utility and snow removal bills as they arrive. We are also beginning work to organize a committee to handle the scholarship application, and award process. As a former Scouting volunteer with both organizations Mike has also been working to recognize current and former Scouts, volunteers and others connected to either Scouting organization on Scout Sunday which falls on February 4th this year. Welcome to new members of Guardianship, David Law - Elder, Mark Long - Deacon, Nikki Kibler -Deacon. Ongoing members Dean Decious - Deacon, and Mike Kibler - Elder are happy to have you as part of the team!

Mike Kibler, Elder

Spiritual Growth & Formation

Thirty-nine children and youth participated in the Christmas program "The Greatest Gift." Afterward all enjoyed crafts and goodies in Fellowship Hall. Sunday school classes for preschool through grade 5 are continuing to meet after the Children's Moment at the 10am worship services. The children first meet for a Gathering, then separate off into classrooms. Teachers are on a rotation schedule. Oasis resumes at 6pm January 10 for preschool through high school. After the meal and a gathering, age groups split up for a rotation of story, crafts and games. We are incorporating monthly theme nights this year. Also, Pat Knight begins his adult Bible study group with approximately 10 participants. Thank you to all of our leaders! We will have our first official meeting with the team and Carrie when the new minister arrives.

Marilyn Rambo, Elder

World & Local Missions

Our current focus has been on assisting the Guatemala team prepare for their upcoming trip. We are also checking with a couple of local organizations we have sponsored in the past regarding their need for future funding due to changes within their structure. After securing that information we can then finalize our tentative budget.

Susan Boatwright, Elder

Community Growth & Formation – No report

Old Business: Selling the church van. Was approved to sell last meeting and possibilities didn't pan out. Will be looking to expand the advertisement of sale, posting to more online apps. As of now, no one is interested in purchasing.

New Business:

Transitioning from Interim to Senior Pastor

Justin reported Gary and Tammy will be decommissioned on Sunday, January 28 with Liz Woodward joining service that morning. Pastor Mike will officially begin Feb 1 and will be preaching on Sunday, Feb 4. There will be an installation ceremony for Mike at a future date TBD. Pastor Mike is already making plans, in contact with, and setting up meetings in February. Tammy and Gary will be available to assist Mike with transition when needed. Discussion of the bylaws for the Pastoral Relations Team. Three members of the Pastoral Search team, two Elders and a congregational member were required. After each term served, new terms are in three year increments. A team has been selected with the terms as follows: Kiley Harris, Elder, 1 year; Patty Wise, Elder, 2 year; Vanessa

Renaud, Search Team, 3 years; Amy Cameron, Search Team, 2 years; Sharon McIntosh, Search Team, 1 year; Steve Maakestad, congregation member, 3 years

Motion to approve the Pastoral Relations team: Krystal Monawar Second: Sue Boatwright Motion approved
Parking Lot: Justin asked a member of Guardianship to report. Mike Kibler reported there had been two different estimates. He will be requesting new estimates from three companies going forward and requesting the company send a representative to speak with council regarding process and reason for possibility of a full replacement instead of an overlay due to the extent of deterioration on the parking lot. Mike believes this work would not affect Sunday worship.

2024 Stewardship

Justin reported an update. Plans to focus on stewardship throughout the year as opposed to at the end of the year. Erin suggested making sure we have a visual for the newsletter that is monthly and ongoing throughout the year. Gary, "this congregation is generous when they know the needs". Sue B, beneficial to know a brief financial update once a month in the newsletter so it's not so overwhelming. Patty, plans for newsletter and weekly connection, monthly addition to the Sunday bulletin. Tammy suggested the possibility of forming a Stewardship team or 2 or 3 folks who focus on this process throughout the year.

Ministry Report

Pastor Gary: Reported the partnership with Tammy has been one of the best partnerships he has ever had. Tammy has been an outstanding pastor and partner during this last year. He is filled with gratitude for the opportunity to come out of retirement for this part-time ministry and filled with gratitude for the opportunity to know rest is ahead. Gary feels him and Tammy have worked well to set the table for Pastor Mike. They have reviewed and updated the Building Use policy and feel this will help keep the church well prepared to use the building wisely. Wedding and funeral changes/updates to the policy will need to be finalized by Pastor Mike with the help of Guardianship. They are seeing more requests for the church building usage since renovations have completed such as Marion Community Center who has sent a donation for building use and are grateful for the space.

Pastor Tammy: Preparations for Pastor Mike's transition have been underway. Suggested ministry teams make plans to meet with Pastor Mike and be open to opportunities and receive insights, be mindful of the learning curve in new relations. Tammy asked the council/congregation to be mindful and supportive of all staff and to continue to be encouragers. Tammy is deeply grateful for her experience in a congregational setting this past year. It has been a gift to work with Gary.

Due to ministerial boundaries, Pastor Gary and Pastor Tammy will be taking necessary steps back to allow Pastor Mike to take the lead.

Motion to adjourn: Erin Wittkowski Second: Jill Law Motion approved

Meeting adjourned at 3:08, Gary led closing prayer. Next meeting February 18