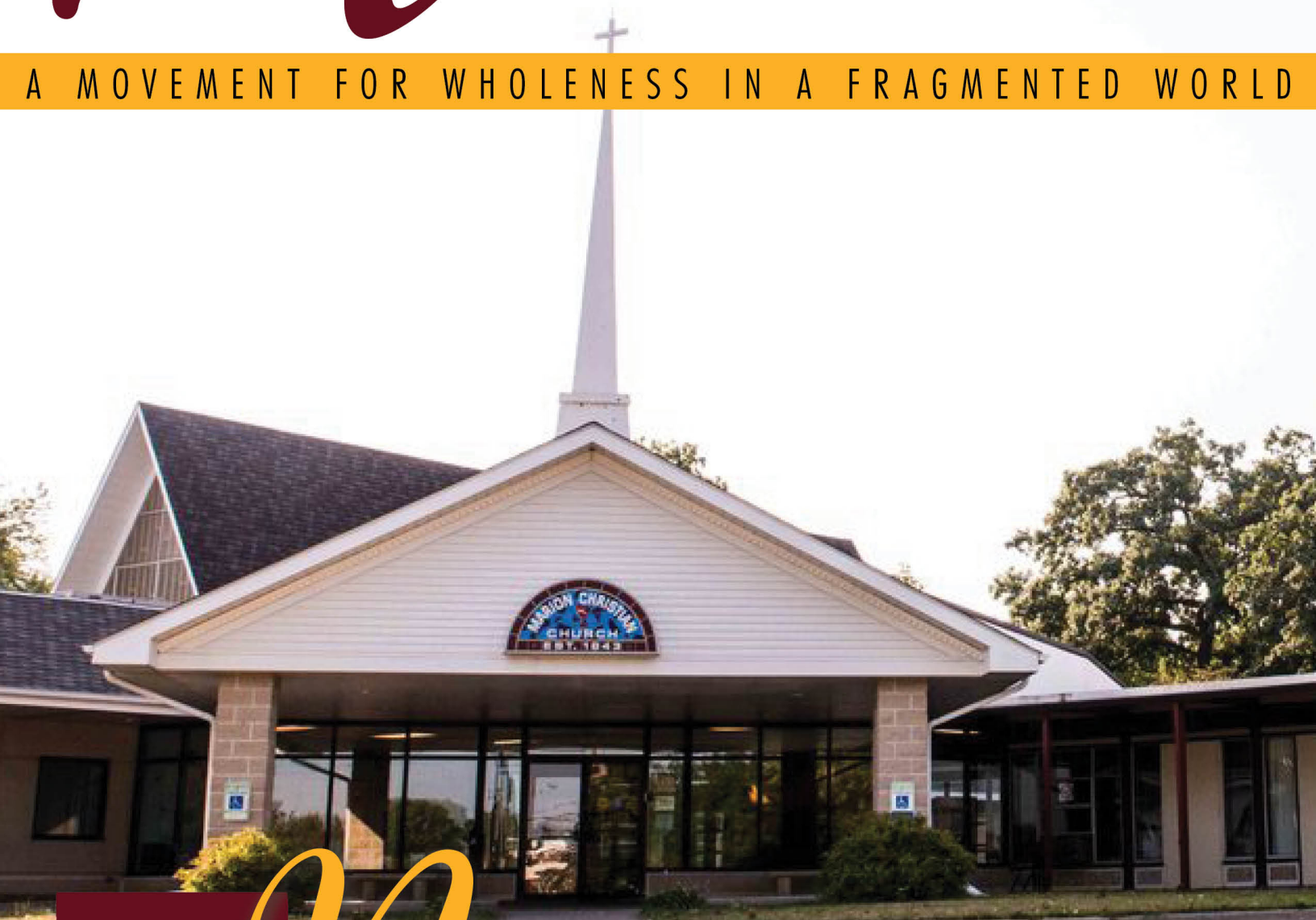


# THE *Marion* CHRISTIAN

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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TECHNICIAN

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youtube.com/Marion Christian Church

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Every two years (for the past 50+ years), **the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada** meets in General Assembly. Before 1969, the Christian Church held annual International Conventions. This grand **all-church meeting** is a combination family reunion, revival meeting/spiritual renewal, mission/ministry expo, learning and discernment opportunity, and business meeting. Clergy and church members from Disciples of Christ congregations and denominational ministries stretched across the United States and Canada and from around the world, gather in **one spot** as **one church**. It is a glorious experience that illustrates the breath and depth, the unity with diversity, of the Body of Christ! My first General Assembly experience was in 1983, San Antonio, TX. My most recent General Assembly experience was in 2019, Des Moines, IA. Co-pastor Tammy is attending this year's General Assembly, July 29 – August 1 in Louisville, KY. Over the years, my experiences at General Assembly have demonstrated how **diverse** our Church is, how **passionate** our Church is about proclaiming and living out our faith, how **deeply spiritual** our Church is, and how **committed** our Church is to promoting God's peace, justice, and love in the world.

# KINDOM OF GOD WITHIN US AMONG US

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

*July 29 – August 1, 2023 • Louisville*

General Assembly also reminds us of how local congregations and the general (denominational) church are linked together in a **covenantal relationship**. In the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), each local congregation decides how best to proclaim and live out our common faith in Jesus Christ. But this does not mean that each local congregation's ministry is carried out in isolation! The ministry of each local congregations is enhanced by the combined ministry of other Disciples of Christ congregations in the same geographic area—the Regional Church. Our Region is the Upper Midwest Region consisting of congregations in Iowa, Minnesota, and the Dakotas. And then Regional ministry is enhanced by the combined ministry of the General Church—World Missions, Higher Education (colleges and universities), Search and Call (how local congregations call a new minister), Week of Compassion (disaster relief), Church Extension (funds for new and existing congregations), Pension Fund, ministry with specialized groups of people, and so much more. All of this combined ministry takes place in **a cooperative and covenantal spirit**. There is no top-down authoritative structure in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It's more like bottom-up influence (like ever widening concentric circles of ministry). The impact of local ministry is enhanced by the ministries of thousands of other congregations across the United States and Canada and by the ministries of the General Church. The focus for ministry is still on the local congregation, but together we can do far more ministry than is possible in isolation.

At General Assembly, calls for discernment about ministry will be made and decisions about how to implement ministry will be made **by all those in attendance** (clergy and lay people) in General Assembly. All of this will be **communicated** to local congregations after General Assembly, but **not dictated** to local congregations. Each local congregation must discern its own response and implementation. Pastor Tammy and I will be available in the coming weeks after General Assembly to talk more about what takes place there. Don't hesitate to ask us about it!

*Tammy & Gary*

Co-Pastors for Interim Ministry

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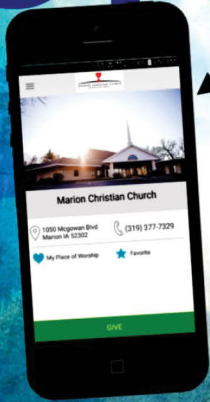
# What's happening!

**JUST SCAN THIS CODE TO GO  
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# GIVING

*just got easier*



FIND THE GIVELIFY APP IN THE APP STORE OR GOOGLE  
PLAY TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS ONE AT A TIME OR TO  
ESTABLISH REGULAR WEEKLY OR MONTHLY GIVING.

## Givelify



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**10AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**AFTER CHILDREN'S  
MOMENT  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
FOR K-5**

**WED., AUG. 9  
6PM  
INDOOR GAME NIGHT**

**FRI., AUG. 11  
6PM  
CYF LOCK IN**

**SAT., AUG 12  
8AM  
EVERY INCH CLEAN UP  
DAY!**

**SAT., AUG. 27  
4:30PM  
DRIVE THRU BBQ**



Congratulations to Scott and Monica  
Munier on the arrival of their baby  
boy Adrian Luis Munier on July 24th.  
Great Grandma Marilyn Rambo,  
Grandparents Adam and Angela  
Munier and Aunt Brenda Munier are  
so happy to welcome him to the world.



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# Upcoming Events



INDOOR

## GAME NIGHT

BOARD GAMES | VIDEO GAMES  
ROLE PLAYING GAMES

WED., AUG. 9 • 6PM

If you have a board game that you would like to play at Indoor Game Night please email [carrie@marionchristian.com](mailto:carrie@marionchristian.com)  
We want as much variety as possible!

## MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH EVERY INCH CLEAN UP DAY

JOBS FOR EVERY AGE AND EVERY ABILITY!

SAT., AUGUST 12TH  
STARTING AT 8AM  
BREAKFAST AT 9AM

Breakfast will be served by the CYF



# Upcoming Events

## AUGUST RUMMAGE SALE

Check out the new treasures the Guatemala Mission Team has for you.  
We are located at: 650 14th Street, Marion.

**SALE DATES: AUG. 17TH & 18TH FROM 8-5  
SATURDAY AUG. 19TH FROM 8-NOON.**



## DRIVE-THRU BARBEQUE

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

FROM 4:30PM-6PM

Sandwich, drink, chips, dessert  
Free will donation

**MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

# ALOHA

MCC KID'S WEEKEND 2023



WE HAD A GREAT WEEKEND! THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

# MCC Council Meeting

## Marion Christian Church Council Hybrid Meeting Sunday, July 16, 2023 1:30pm

Present: Becky Clemens, Marilyn Rambo, Tammy Cameron Buseman, Krystal Monawar, Sue Thompson, Sharon McIntosh, Sue Boatwright, Darrell Boatwright, Patty Wise, Gloria Waltke, Mike Kibler, April Evers, Kari Wilcox, Ryan Wilcox, Jill Law, Joyce Talley

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

### STANDING BUSINESS:

**May Minutes:** Jill Law moved and Krystal Monawar seconded to approve. Carried.

**May Financials:** Pledges/Offerings were \$15,169.63 for the month of May and \$98,452.94 year to date - Total actual operating expenses for May were \$17,436.56, leaving a net loss of (\$2,266.93) for the month of May - YTD net giving (income vs expenses) is \$16,637.19 (gain) - Total Encumbered fund expense for May is \$459.69, with a YTD total encumbered spend of \$3,105.39 - Capital Improvement Campaign income for May is \$959.80, bringing the YTD total to \$132,946.09 - Checking account balance as of end of May is \$154,072.48 May continues with same trends we have seen in the first 4 months of the year. Continuing to use ministry team budgets cautiously will help keep us in a good financial spot this year. Current checking account balance is below the monthly target, but given current expenses, is not a concern.

Jill Law moved and Joyce Talley seconded to approve the May financial report. After a discussion, the motion carried.

### Ministry Reports:

**UPREACH: Worship, Music/Arts & Media** - Kari and Ryan Wilcox, Elders; Sue Thompson & Joyce Talley, Deacons

The microphone that we use to capture room audio, bells, organ, etc. was replaced early June. The team would like to thank Don for his help with preparing communion each Sunday! This is typically a deacon responsibility so if you are scheduled to be a deacon, please still plan on preparing communion just in case Don is not available. Please consider signing up as a greeter. We have many openings and would love to see these filled by ANY congregational member!

**UPREACH: Spiritual Growth and Formation** - Laura Brade, Elder; Tim Feldmann & Jenna Holmes, Deacons - The team met on Tuesday, July 11th. We discussed the upcoming MCC Kid's Weekend which is scheduled for July 21st and 22nd. We have several volunteers and 11 kids signed up so far. We have asked Patty to serve a meal for us on Friday evening, which she generously offered to do! We then looked ahead to August and we have another Indoor Game night on the schedule for August 9th. We have added a CYF Lock-in on August 11th, where the high schoolers will spruce up their new room in the education wing and then plan on making breakfast for everyone who attends the MCC Every Inch Cleanup Day on August 12th. We also looked ahead to the fall and Carrie has curriculum picked out for K-5 Oasis, and Chi Rho and CYF for Sunday school. We are looking at Chi Rho and CYF Oasis Curriculum and will dig into what we already have for Preschool-5th Grade for Sunday school since we have an abundance of curriculum for that age group. We are always looking for volunteers to teach Sunday school and lead groups for Oasis. Please contact Carrie if you would like to volunteer in any capacity! Thanks!

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

Things have happened very fast during the second week of July. Mike initially had nothing to report beyond accomplishing approving monthly invoices and bills with a few invoices being paid on the near completion of the Ed Wing and work on the portico. Thanks to Carrie, Tom and Darrell for getting the ball rolling on our next major clean-up / church work day. It is scheduled for August 12th and will be an "Every Inch" Church clean/work day. Tom and Darrell have discussed they would like this to be a twice yearly event, where we dedicate time to go over every inch of the property, make necessary repairs, touch up paint, clean and tidy up. Our upcoming celebration of our 180th anniversary, 60th year at this location, and grand re-opening of our newly renovated Ed Wing is fast approach-

ing. It has not escaped me the tri-fecta there. Nor has it escaped that the anniversaries are multiples of three, and the derecho that gave more than a gentle nudge to get to work on our building will have happened three years ago by the time we have our grand celebration. Given the power of 3 in matters that are Holy, I'd say we are very blessed to be nearly at the eve of this event. The contract to repair the portico has been signed and Dillon has ordered parts. If we have enough people, we may incorporate a whole church inspection with the Every Inch Cleanup Day in August. The plan is to do this semiannually. This was Darrell Boatwright's idea. It sounds right. Sample tasks would be walking the roof, checking the seals on all the windows, making sure all the doors work correctly, inspect the flooring, etc. I was asked about the repair to the sanctuary door window. Darrell and I agree the windows should be clear as people have opened the doors into others because they couldn't see them. Darrell said he'd have it done by the fall celebration. I was also asked about the water fountain in Fellowship Hall. John McIntosh is taking care of that one.

**INREACH: Congregational Care and Evangelism** - Sharon McIntosh, Elder; April Ever & Jill Law, Deacons

We had 17 pictures taken for Mother's Day and 9 for Father's Day with two couples. I think it was appreciated and fun for those who participated. We had a small group (13) for the Church Picnic on June 25th, but we enjoyed food and conversation inside due to the weather. During the summer our Church Fellowship time is being provided by those of us participating in the Guatemala Mission Trip in January 2023, so stop by on Sunday mornings! Meet those of us who are going to Guatemala, please.

**OUTREACH: World and Local Missions** - Sue Boatwright & Cathy Fuller, Elders; Gloria Waltke, Deacon

We have been very busy helping the Guatemala Missions team prepare and implement the second of their off-site warehouse/ garage sales. We have made multiple trips to Willis Dady, Mission of Hope, His Hands Clinic, and Olivet with items they needed. These could have been sold, but we felt our outreach services were better served by donating to these organizations.

A few additional pieces of furniture have been identified as being useful for classrooms in the education wing, so they were redirected to the church.

Several lifejackets in great condition were found, and these were delivered to the Camp and Conference Center in Newton.

Next week we will be going over our budget in relationship to the church financials to determine which organizations we can support financially at this time. We are heading into the part of the calendar year where our budget has the most expenses.

We anticipate setting up the donation list for school supplies coordinating with Marion Cares Backpack Program in the next couple weeks.

Sue mentioned during the Council meeting that we will be providing backpacks for 23 children. She and Patty Wise reported on a successful 3<sup>rd</sup> sale, which reaches the goal, or nearly so. The funds help 25 people go to Guatemala, as well as provide supplies and funds to monthly supplement food for several families. Two more sales will be August 17-19 and September 28-30.

**OUTREACH: Community Growth and Formation** (+ Inclusivity Team) - Gary Sneller & Kiley Harris, Elders; Deanna Long & Krystal Monawar, Deacons

The Community Growth and Formation Ministry Team is taking the lead coordinating the planning of our September 16/17 Community Open House and 180th Church Anniversary Celebration. The planning team includes representatives from most of the Ministry Teams plus other at-large persons. Members are Pastor Gary and Krystal Monawar (at-large), co-leaders, Sue Thompson (Worship), Jill Law (Congregational Care), Gloria Waltke (Missions), Kiley Harris (Community Growth), Marilyn Rambo (at-large/Spiritual Growth), and Ann Bromley (at-large). We will be seeking the help of other congregation mem-

bers as needed. Our full team meeting minutes are available for viewing at MCC 180 Years/Open House Meeting Notes - Google Docs. Please note that this is a working document and does not mean that all plans and decisions have been finalized.

**The MCC Inclusivity Team** (Vanessa Renaud, Cathy Fuller, Dave Law, Amy Mueggenberg, Krystal Monawar, Emilee Mitchell, Joyce Talley, and Carrie Hendricks) has been active during the month of June with Pride Month and Juneteenth activities: Pride Parade (June 10) with First Presbyterian Church, Marion (MCC and FPC have formed a new coalition—Marion Affirming Congregations); Juneteenth Celebration at Newbo (June 17) with Marion Alliance for Racial Equity/ Stand in Unity Faith Coalition; Freedom Festival Parade (June 24) supporting CR Pride; Interfaith Pride Worship Service (Pastor Gary, June 24); and MCC/FPC "Safe Space" gathering for LGBTQ+ youth (June 30). The Team also sponsored a special offering for Disciples of Christ Alliance Q during the month of June and hosted a booth at CR PrideFest (July 8) with FPC, Marion. An August Safe Space Gathering for LGBTQ+ youth is being considered. Sharon McIntosh moved and Deanna Long seconded to approve the ministry team reports. Carried.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Building Recovery/Remodel Report** - Darrell Boatwright:

The portico will be repaired, and the siding will be finished after its completion. A contract has been signed to shingle the roof, which will occur in a few months. The playground, which will be twice as big, will be fenced. Decisions have been made on some furniture and cabinets.

Patty Wise announced that there isn't a need for a loan after all because Marion Christian Church members have successfully provided the funds. This is a major "HALLALUIAH" moment in the life of Marion Christian Church! Mike Kibler moved and Krystal Monawar seconded to have a letter sent to the Disciples Extension Fund to let them know. Carried.

Because of several expenditures being less than anticipated, we will have the funds to also **replace flooring in the narthex**, but since that isn't a part of the recovery, Marilyn Rambo moved and Sue Boatwright seconded to proceed with that project, hopefully to be finished by the September 16-17<sup>th</sup> 180<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Carried.

Several items were listed as a "Wish List" of projects for the future: parking lot, narthex south windows, sanctuary update, landscaping

### Search Committee Report - Deanna Long:

The team has reviewed seven incoming profiles and has had two first interviews. Two potential candidates have taken themselves from consideration. The team is continuing to review candidates as they enter the process.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Office Administrator:** A team is moving forward this week with finding an office administrator as they review the job description and job title. They then will post an ad.

Becky advised Council members, since the **nomination process** will soon begin for next year's Council, to give Justin Lightfoot suggestions for any potential members.

She also advised Council members to put all events on the **Master Calendar** in the office.

### Minister's Report (Tammy Cameron Buseman):

Tammy thanked the lay leaders for volunteering and for their support of Gary and her. She did mention that there is a concern that both Interim ministers have been donating above their 15 hours each, and they need to pull back a bit. She encouraged us to begin telling the stories of our ministries to paint a better picture for the congregation what our ministries are accomplishing to pique interest in involvement.

Next Meeting: August 20<sup>th</sup>

Tammy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Rambo, Church Clerk

# ARTS FOR AFRICA



## Arts and Craft Fair

10:00 am-3:00 pm, Saturday, September 23, 2023

Held at Noelridge Christian Church,

7111 C Ave. NE in Cedar Rapids

*(just north of Boyson Road)*



Shop from local artists and crafters, silent auction and more!

Event held rain or shine.



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT TUMAINI  
SCHOOLS IN TANZANIA