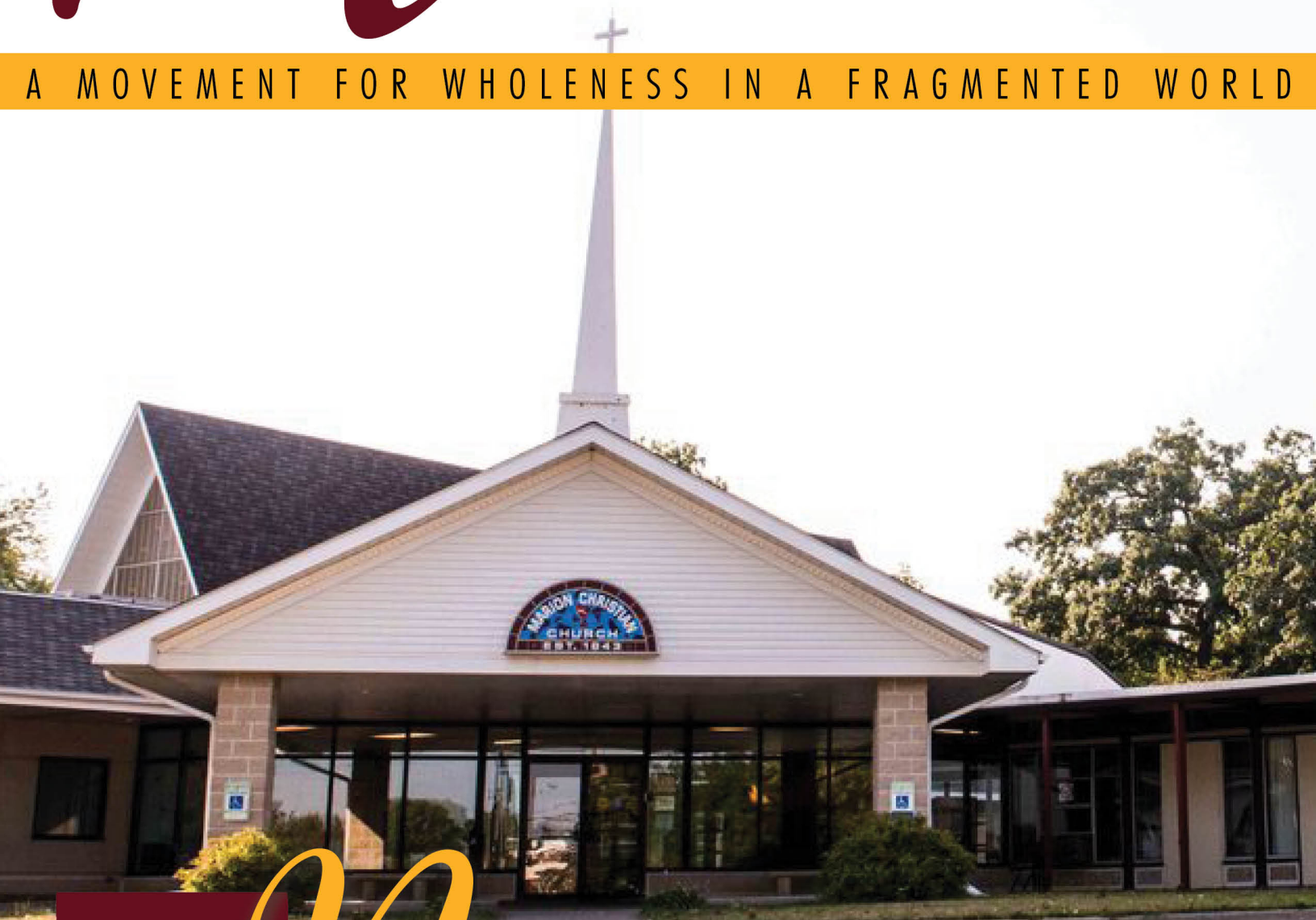


# THE *Marion* CHRISTIAN

A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD



# *Marion*

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

# MARION CHRISTIAN STAFF

**Gary Sneller**  
CO-PASTOR OF  
INTERIM MINISTRY

**Tammy Cameron  
Buseman**  
CO-PASTOR OF  
INTERIM MINISTRY

**Carrie Hendricks**  
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**Allison WT  
Everman**  
ORGANIST

**Mike Kibler**  
CONTRACT MEDIA  
TECHNICIAN

## FIND US ONLINE!



facebook.com/MarionChristianChurch



@MarionCCDOC



@marionchristianchurch  
@marionyouth



youtube.com/Marion Christian Church

Advent marks the beginning of a new year on the liturgical calendar. Advent includes the four weeks leading to Christmas. It is a time of preparation and waiting for the celebration of the birth of Christ. This season offers us opportunities to pause, reflect, be intentional and prepare our hearts and minds once again to receive and share the Good News of Great Joy for ALL People. That may seem contrary to what is often experienced during Advent and Christmas. Our culture seems to pressure us to be busy, buy more, decorate, and go, go, go.

We invite you to make note of the special opportunities being offered during the Advent and Christmas season at Marion Christian Church. These opportunities are not just fillers to add more to your calendars. Rather, we seek to offer special resources and practices to help your deepen your faith and your connection with God and others. You will find more details inside this month's newsletter. Please plan to join us and consider extending an invitation to someone to join you.

With gratitude and joy to be serving alongside each of you,

*Tammy & Gary*

Co-Pastors for Interim Ministry

**JOIN US IN**

# Worship

**SERVICE 10AM**  
**CHILDRENS CHURCH**  
**AFTER CHILDREN'S MOMENT**



*Marion*  
**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**

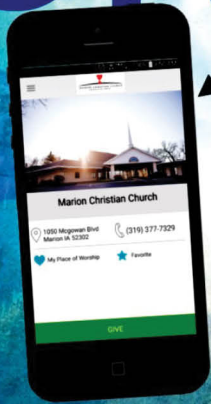
# What's happening!

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



# 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  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
FOR PK-5TH GRADE**

**SUN., DEC. 3  
10AM**

**MICHAEL MILLER  
PRESENTED AND  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING FOLLOWING  
SERVICE**

**WED., DEC. 6  
6PM**

**OASIS  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
PRACTICE**

**SUN., DEC. 10  
10:00AM**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS  
PROGRAM  
DURING SERVICE**

**WED., DEC. 13  
6PM**

**OASIS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**WED., DEC. 20  
NO OASIS**

**6PM BLUE CHRISTMAS**

**SUN., DEC. 24**

**5PM  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**WED., DEC. 28  
NO OASIS**

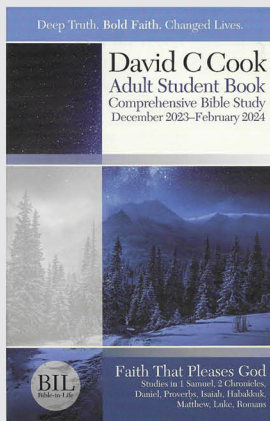
## OFFERING ENVELOPES

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](mailto:pwise@ncsei.com)

Thank you!

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON ADULT BIBLE STUDY



Beginning Tuesday, January 9th, we will be offering an adult Bible Study, 1PM at church. The 13-week study is entitled "Faith That Pleases God" and uses a variety of Old and New Testament scriptures to explore questions like "what does it mean to trust God in Faith?" and "why is it sometimes difficult to follow God on a faith-filled adventure?"

The study will be led by Pat Knight, who has led numerous studies off and on at church for many years.

There is no cost to participate but please let Pat know if you plan to attend so we will have enough study books. Contact Pat by phone or text at 319-360-1905 with questions or intentions.

# Ministry Opportunities

Once again we are asking you to share the spirit of the holidays and help those in our church family and community. There are a couple ways you can show Christ's love this season of His birth.

Select an ornament from the Angel Tree in the foyer and purchase the item. These gifts go to children of our church families who need a little assistance, AND children served by Marion Cares.

Depending upon the destination there are TWO need returned by dates. Dec. 10 for Marion Cares. Dec. 17 for MCC.

Donate non-perishable food items. Pick up items on the Advent Calendar and place on the table for the Marion Food Pantry. These need to be here by Dec. 31. A "mini" version of the items are listed on

the table for your convenience.

Thank you for supporting our families by providing non-perishables for the family food boxes. All the items needed for that project have been taken care of. Thank you for your generosity.

Help us help others during this special time of giving. Thank you for your generosity.



## ANGEL TREE

**Some of our families need a little help for Christmas. We want to give gifts to each of the families. Please select an ornament, purchase the gift, wrap, & return to the Angel Tree Marion Cares Dec. 10th MCC Dec. 17th**



## HOLIDAYS ARE APPROACHING

**We will be assisting some families over the holidays, and need your help. We will be providing food baskets to several church families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. You can help by donating canned goods.**

**Please see the list on the table in the narthex, pull the tag(s), purchase, and return goods to that area by date indicated on the tag.**

**You can also sign up online at**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FAFA92DABFFC34-holiday>**

**Any extra items will be donated to the Marion Food Pantry.**

*Thank you for your support!*

# Reaching Out to the Community

ADVENT IS HERE!

If you would like to do a count down, please use our FOOD ADVENT CALENDAR.

Collect any or all foods you would like, bring them to church and place on the designated table. All foods will be donated the Marion Food Pantry. It's a great way to keep the kids occupied with "How many more days?" and help out the community.. Thank you for your support!

## ADVENT CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Canned Fruit 1 	Canned Chicken 2 
Canned Tuna 3 	Dessert/Cake Mix 4 	Jar/Can Applesauce 5 	Microwave Popcorn 6 	Canned Pasta/Dinty Moore 7 	Pork & Beans or Baked Beans 8 	Boxed Crackers 9 
Box or Bag Rice 10 	Bath Tissue 11 	Package Pasta 12 	Spaghetti Sauce 13 	Chicken Noodle Soup 14 	Any Soup 15 	Canned Corn 16 
Canned Mixed Vegetables 17 	Canned Carrots/Peas 18 	Canned Meat 19 	Boxed Cereal 20 	Peanut Butter 21 	Ramen Noodles 22 	Boxed Potatoes 23 
Mac & Cheese 24 	25 	26	27	28	29	30
BRING ITEMS TO THE CHURCH ANY DAY BY JANUARY 5, 2023						

# Upcoming Events

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## ADVENT Workshops

After Church on November 26th, December 3rd and December 17th we will be offering an Intergenerational Advent Workshop.

November 26th & December 3rd we'll be making Chrismons for our family Chrismon tree and making your own family advent wreath and take home weekly devotions  
December 17th we'll explore more about Epiphany.

**JOIN US IN THE ANTICIPATION OF THE ADVENT SEASON.**

## THE GREATEST GIFT

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
DURING SERVICE ON  
**DECEMBER 10TH, 2023**



# Upcoming Events

## blue CHRISTMAS service

**Wednesday, December 20th  
at 6:00 pm in the Narthex**

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH SANCTUARY  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24  
AT 5PM**



# MCC Council Meeting

## Annual Congregational Meeting - Provisional Sunday, November 12, 2023 11:45am

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becky Clemens. She waited until ballots, the proposed 2024 budget, and minutes from the past two congregational meetings were distributed.

### Becky highlighted several significant events from 2023:

- 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Reopening of the Christian Education wing following the derecho recovery/remodeling efforts
- Becoming an Open and Affirming Congregation
- Average weekly attendance growth of 25%
- Growing attendance at OASIS, the Wednesday program for children and youth
- The baptism of six youth and counting
- Attendance of 250 kids at Trunk or Treat
- The raising of over \$58,000 for the Guatemala mission trip

Becky turned the meeting over to the Vice-chair, Justin Lightfoot, who served as Chair of the **Nominating Committee** for leaders in 2024. He thanked his committee and those contacted, and presented a full slate of officers and leaders. He moved and Amy Cameron Buseman seconded to approve. Ballots were filled out, turned in and counted. Passed.

The 11/13/22 and 1/22/23 congregational meeting **minutes** were reviewed. Julie Cole moved and Mike Kibler seconded to approve them. Passed with an oral vote.

Deanna Long, Chair of the **Search Committee** for a settled minister, reported that 14 informational profiles were received with four follow-up interviews. Michael Miller stood out above the others and came for an in-person interview. She reported that the Council has approved his negotiated salary package as well as bringing him here for a congregational vote on December 3rd to become our church's next settled minister.

### 2024 Proposed Budget:

Becky mentioned that a slight reduction in the settled minister's proposed salary and the difference in his healthcare have resulted in a smaller deficit in next year's proposed budget. Mike Kibler moved and Deanna Long seconded to approve the 2024 Proposed Budget. Becky broke down expenses: 65% staff; 24% operations; 11% ministries. She also shared an income vs. expense chart, which currently shows a \$39,500 deficit by the end of 2024. Ballots were filled out, received and counted. Passed. Becky then announced that there is a Google Doc available to fill out for people who donate money or items above and beyond their pledge to keep a record of what expenditures might be if the money/items had to be purchased within the budget.

Patty Wise reported on the Capital Campaign Funds. She said volunteerism allowed us to avoid getting a loan for the recovery/remodel of the Christian Education wing, and that seed money is started from memorials and additional pledges for new windows on the south side of the narthex and for a spring parking lot black-top project. She reported that \$100,055 is currently in the fund and money is still coming in.

### PASTORS' REPORTS:

Rev. Gary Sneller reported that the first six months were focused on the congregation reconnecting with God and each other, and that worship themes were reflective of that focus. He said that Tammy worked on connecting with youth and younger adults and that he focused on older members.

Rev. Tammy Cameron Buseman indicated that they are now focusing on our growth in Discipleship. She invited us to jump in and serve so we can develop lay leaders. She highlighted the fact that we are a debt free church, which is a huge plus. With the hard working staff we have linked with the members, we can see God's Spirit moving in us. She thanked Becky, as well as

past Council Chairs, for their leadership during the past few difficult years. Tammy and Gary, along with their spouses, were applauded for their contributions. The meeting closed with prayer by Tammy. Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Rambo, Church Clerk

### SPECIAL HYBRID COUNCIL MEETING Sunday, November 12, 2023 9:00am

Present: Tim Feldmann, Dean Decious, Deanna Long, Sue Thompson, Becky Clemens, Sharon McIntosh, Mike Kibler, Patty Wise, Ryan Wilcox, Kara Wilcox, Gloria Waltke, Marilyn Rambo, Cathy Fuller, Tom Fuller, Laura Brade, Joe Hamilton, Jill Law, April Evers, Justin Lightfoot, Erin Wittkowski, Darrell Boatwright, Sue Boatwright. The meeting was called to order by chair Becky Clemens, who asked Deanna Long, Chair of the Search Committee, to present a report to the Council. Deanna presented Michael Miller as a candidate for our settled minister. She indicated that 14 information profiles were received and reviewed, four were followed up with an interview, and Michael was by far the best fit for our congregation. Becky explained in line item form the negotiated salary package for his position here. Mike Kibler moved and Dean Decious seconded to approve calling him and approving the salary package. Approved unanimously. April Evers moved and Sue Boatwright seconded to present Michael Miller to the congregation on Sunday, December 3, 2023, for a congregational vote. Approved unanimously. If the vote passes, Michael will begin his position as Senior Minister at Marion Christian Church at the beginning of Lent in mid-February. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Rambo, Church Clerk