

# 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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## FIND US ONLINE!



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@marionchristianchurch  
@marionyouth



youtube.com/Marion Christian Church

Isaiah 43:19 (The Message)  
*Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.*

Dear Church!

Spring is well underway. Look around! The leaves are bursting out, flowers are blooming, the grass is green. New life is springing forth all around!

We hope you have noticed the new life bursting forth in the life and ministries of Marion Christian Church. If you are around the campus you cannot help but notice the progress on the building as we move back into the offices and education wing.

We really hope you have been around to hear of and notice the excitement, energy, and movement of God's Spirit in the lives of people of all ages at Marion Christian. We have seen this new life bursting forth on Sunday mornings in worship. Enthusiastic energy was evident at our recent Easter Egg hunt where 140+ children and adults from our church and community gathered to hear the story of Easter and have fun. On Wednesday, April 26 we held our closing Oasis for the school year. We had 44 people present for dinner, celebration, and play.

We have had the blessing of meeting with our newest members participating in baptism classes or reaching out expressing interest in joining the church, sharing their faith story and commitment to following Jesus as Lord and Savior. New life is stirring as we welcome and become acquainted with neighbors from our community who are coming to check out MCC. We are also enjoying re-connections and deepening relationships with members and attendees.

Friends, God's Spirit is moving in our midst and calling us to new and fresh ministry. It is bursting out! Let's all commit ourselves to nurturing the new life emerging in and through Marion Christian Church!

With gratitude,

*Tammy & Gary*

Co-Pastors for Interim Ministry



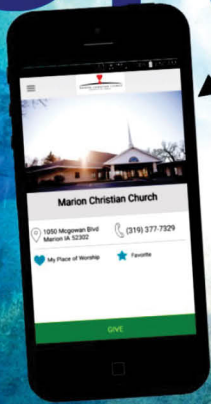
# What's happening!

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

**SUN., MAY 21  
GRADUATION SUNDAY!**

**COME PREPARED ON  
MOTHER'S DAY TO  
HAVE YOUR PICTURE  
TAKEN WITH YOUR  
FAMILY (OR JUST  
YOU) AT THE  
FIREPLACE IN THE  
NARTHEX.  
WE WILL USE YOUR  
OWN PHONE OR  
CAMERA TO TAKE  
THE PICTURE.**

## THANKS SO MUCH!

to all those who supplied snacks for Wilkins School.

We have enough signed up to finish the school year. The kids really appreciate the variety of munchies. It helps keep them attentive during their long mornings before lunch.

Thank you for supporting our community kids.

Outreach - Missions

## FIND US ONLINE!



Join us before and after church for fellowship time! We will have coffee and treats! We will be accepting a good will offering that will be helping support our Guatemala mission team! No coffee or treats are to be taken into the sanctuary.

# New Member Spotlight



Willow Frangul was baptized on Easter Sunday. We welcome Willow and her parents, Tessa & Ryan into membership at Marion Christian Church. There will be three more baptisms on May 7th. Hayden and Emma Bontrager and Maddox Feldman will join our community of faith.

We are excited to be a part of their journey!

We would also like to welcome the  
Brendecke Family: Katie, Roger III, Roger IV, and Josephine;  
Emilie and Surina Mitchell; and Jerry and JoAnn McCoy.

We are so blessed to have you worship with us and make the commitment  
to be in our faith community.

We are announcing a

## **"MEAL TRAIN"**

for those who need food provided for any reason.

If you would like this service, please call the church office and it will be set up.

Therefore, we will be needing members to help with providing these meals. It works like this:

- 1) Call the church office with your request for the number of days for meals.
- 2) The "Meal Train" website will be set up and sent by email to anyone who is willing to provide meals.
- 3) Your meals will be delivered to you

If interested in providing meals, please call the church office or Sharon McIntosh.



# 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

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RUMMAGE SALE

Set up Sunday - Wednesday  
May 14-17 8 AM - 5 PM

Standing, walking, moderate lifting required.

**Customer Shopping**

Thursday - Friday May 18-19  
8 AM - 5 PM

Saturday, May 20  
8 AM - 12 PM

Lunch provided every day.

We have a **BIG** need for 5 supervisors  
each day to monitor some areas.

**NO LIFTING, WALKING, OR CARRYING  
REQUIRED.**

Come watch the people instead of your  
TV.

Contact: Patty Wise, Cathy Fuller,  
Sharon McIntosh, or Susan Boatwright  
if you help. Any hours you can donate  
will **REALLY** help.

We will also be adding the  
**BAKE SALE** back into the sale.  
Any items donated will help.  
We can bag and wrap items.

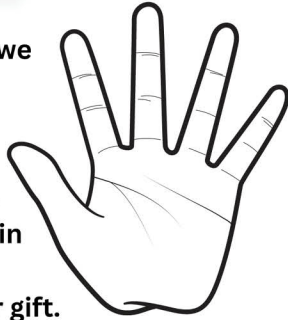
Please bring goodies  
by Wednesday, May 17.

# Upcoming Events

Marion Christian has over 20 people who are very excited about going to Guatemala in January to build houses for families in need. For this to happen, we need to raise a significant amount of money. We are asking for your help. Could you lend a hand?

## Give Us a Hand?

For a \$10 donation, we will give you a hand to sign your name, color, or otherwise decorate. Then we will hang it in Fellowship Hall in appreciation of your gift.



**Please contact Patty Wise, Cathy Fuller, or Susan Boatright to Give Us a Hand!**

All Proceeds go toward MCC's Mission in Guatemala.

## TIFF'S CLOSING CAMPFIRE

Sat., May 13 10 a.m.

**What:** Join us to celebrate Tiff Williams' time as Associate Regional Minister and Camp Director  
Group picture will be taken after the Campfire Program - be sure to wear one of your **favorite old camp shirts** for it!  
Activities for all ages and refreshments will be available.

**When:** Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Campfire Program starts at 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** Christian Conference Center  
Picnic Grove Fire Ring  
Seating will be limited, so please bring your own **camp chair** if you are able.  
Parking at Picnic Grove will also be limited, however, we will be shuttling those uncomfortable with walking to and from the **parking lot at the Main Lodge.**



## Join the MCC Team

Be a volunteer to help homeowners in the Taylor & Time Check neighborhoods with home repair and maintenance projects.

**Date:** Monday, June 26th 2023  
**Hours:** 8:30am - 3:30pm  
(Lunch & Snacks Provided)

### Sign up in 4 easy steps!

**Step 1:**

Visit the **Matthew 25** website at:  
[Hub25.org/housing-neighborhoods/transform-week/](http://Hub25.org/housing-neighborhoods/transform-week/)

**Step 2:**

Click on "Register to Volunteer"

**Step 3:**

Select the group option & fill in "Marion Christian Church"

**Step 4:**

Email April Evers at [87aevs@gmail.com](mailto:87aevs@gmail.com) to confirm sign-up

# SUMMER

*at Marion Christian Church*

**May 21st - Graduation Sunday**

**June 7th · 6:30pm - Lawn Party**

**June 14th · 6pm - Indoor Game Night**

**June 25th after church - All Church Family Picnic**

**June 26th · 8am - Matthew 25 Transform Week**

**July 12th · 6pm - Indoor Game Night**

**July 21st · 5:30pm - MCC Kid's Weekend (Day 1)**

**July 22nd · 9am - MCC Kid's Weekend (Day 2)**

**August 9th · 6pm - Indoor Game Night**

**August 13th - TBD - Pool Party**

**August 16th · 6:30pm - Lawn Party**

**Stay tuned for more details and as other ministry opportunities are announced!**

# **THE FUN NEVER ENDS!**

*at Marion Christian Church*

# MCC Council Meeting

## Marion Christian Church Council Hybrid Meeting Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:30pm

Present: Becky Clemens, Marilyn Rambo, Erin Wittkowski, Gary Sneller, Kari Wilcox, Ryan Wilcox, Jill Law, Sharon McIntosh, Darrell Boatwright, Sue Boatwright, Patty Wise, Joyce Talley, Justin Lightfoot, Cathy Fuller, Tom Fuller, Deanna Long, Gloria Walke, Sue Thompson  
The meeting was called to order by Becky Clemens with prayer.

### STANDING BUSINESS:

**March Minutes** – Jill Law moved and Mike Kibler seconded to approve. Carried.

### Treasurer's Report –

February 2023 Financials - Pledges/Offerings were \$19,540.14 for the month of February and \$47,626.33 year to date - Total actual operating expenses for February were \$16,948.49, leaving a net income of \$2,591.65 for the month of February - YTD net giving (income vs expenses) is \$16,384.34 (gain) - Total Encumbered fund expense for February is \$710.06, with a YTD total encumbered spend of \$1,220.12 - Capital Improvement Campaign income for February is \$32,735.41, bringing the YTD total to \$84,361.96 - Checking account balance as of end of February is \$169,524.42. Nothing unusual to report for February other than two large snow removal bills coming through from the guardianship budget this month.

March 2023 Financials - Pledges/Offerings were \$13,825.15 for the month of March and \$61,451.48 year to date - Total actual operating expenses for March were \$15,212.91, leaving a net loss of (\$1,387.76) for the month of March - YTD net giving (income vs expenses) is \$14,996.58 (gain) - Total Encumbered fund expense for March is \$510.06, with a YTD total encumbered spend of \$1,730.18 - Capital Improvement Campaign income for March is \$44,606.41, bringing the YTD total to \$128,968.37 - Checking account balance as of end of March is \$180,102.42. Although March looks positive from a net giving perspective, overall giving is lower than prior year levels by ~\$9,000. However, YTD expenses are also lower than prior year by ~\$23,000, mostly driven by the decline in payroll expenses with no settled pastor in place. Our newest employees (Gary, Tammy, and Mike) are all set up in the payroll system and we will start seeing the associated expenses in the April report.

Jill Law moved and Sharon McIntosh seconded to approve both February and March reports. Carried.

### Ministry Team Reports –

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

We had an eventful cleanup day! Thank you to all who were able to participate! Some outdoor things need to get done yet, and with nicer weather approaching, that should be much easier. With the Ed wing opening soon, we will need to schedule a couple more work days to help get all the little stuff done, plus we will need to make a day to really put the polishing touches on everything so it is ready for the grand re-opening! The Guardianship Team would like to invite anyone interested in forming a "Property Stewardship Team." Please contact us! This team of volunteers will operate semi-autonomously with input from the Guardianship Team and others on what the needs are to keep our building and grounds looking their best.

Day-to-day bills are being paid and those who handle the processing and payment are doing a fantastic job of being vigilant as we watch what dollars are going out the door. Thank you, all! The solar battery charger in the church van appears to have kept the battery in good shape over the winter, as there were no issues starting it up, and all fluids appear to be properly filled as of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

On April 16/17 the western column on the portico was struck by the driver of a stolen car. Guardianship will be heavily involved in the replacement of that column. We are grateful that further damage to the building was avoided. Darrell Boatwright has once again been instrumental in getting the ball rolling to make the repairs happen in a timely manner.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike began his duties as contract Media Technician for Marion Christian Church. Mike will recuse himself from any votes on employee matters or items that may pose a conflict of interest. Mike intends to finish his term as Elder within the Guardianship Team, which expires this year, remaining active until the next Elder is selected.

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

1) Fellowship time Sunday mornings: We would like to see the fellowship time be part of the announcements at the end of church service. Will need to let Carrie know for church bulletin, so can

be announced. We decided to stop fellowship time May 28<sup>th</sup> and restart September 10<sup>th</sup>. We did, however, think it would be nice to have coffee available via the church's Keurig coffee machine for those who would like a cup of coffee during the summer. We will put an article in the May newsletter about stopping during the summer.

2) Funeral team: It was decided to ask Esther Olson if she would be willing to head up that team, which she has done in the past.

3) Meal team: We thought it best to use the "Meal Train" website where it can be set up online and then people can go online and sign up. We need to publicize this that if someone needs help with meals for any reason, to call the office and it will be set up. Might want to ask who would like to provide meals for those in need.

4) Summer "get together event" - Jill suggested we maybe coincide with Vacation Bible School when there would already be people around. Sharon is going to email Carrie about this idea. If not during that event, then we chose Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

5) Our team would like to volunteer to help the group of people working on the celebration of our reopening of the Christian Education wing. Sharon will find out who is in charge.

6) Welcome Packet that Susan Boatwright found in the church office while she was cleaning the cupboards. It is a nice packet filled with information and we decided we'd like to start that back up again, but need to find out where to get some of the brochures and just what all we want in it. Susan said there were plenty of the folders that say on the front "Welcome to our Church Family". I will show to Gary & Tammy and see if they can help us with that.

7) Jill had a thought for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Her friend's church had an opportunity for the Mother/Father to have their picture taken with family (or themselves) and a sign saying Happy Mother's Day/Father's Day 2023. The photo would be taken using their phone or camera around the fireplace at church. We all thought that was a great idea and will talk to Marilyn Rambo about making a sign (Happy Mother's Day/Father's Day 2023) that can be used in the photo. We would tell them they could put on the Marion Christian Church Group page for our church family to see. This will be put in the May Newsletter and Weekly Connection.

(During the Council Meeting Cathy Fuller reported that "Better Together" Fellowship Time will be handled by the Inclusivity Team the first Sunday in June, and the Guatemala Team will handle it from the second Sunday in June through December as fundraisers.)

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

1) Our outreach efforts have been focused on preparing for the upcoming rummage sale. We are in need of volunteers, some of whom will only need to sit and monitor areas. We are bringing back the bake sale table this year, so baked goods donations are appreciated.

2) Our other focus is on preparing for the Guatemala Mission trip. Tentative date is January 20-28. We have 20-21 people signed up. This is exciting, as we have five kids going with their two families. We also set a date for the August cookout and a pancake supper.

### OUTREACH: Community Growth and Formation

(Elders Gary Sneller, Kylie Harris; Deacons Deanna Long, Krystal Monawar)

We had a successful Lunch and Learn event on March 26 led by Chains Interrupted (human trafficking) with about 25 in attendance. This year's Easter Egg Hunt (with Spiritual Growth and Formation) had approximately 130 people in total counting children, parents, grandparents and youth. The Lenten book study, Subversive Witness, was completed on April 2. We are looking ahead to the all-church Open House celebrating the re-opening of our church building in September. This will involve many different Ministry Teams as we look for creative ways to involve the community in our excitement. (We hope to have a soft in-church open house as soon as the building renovations are completed.) Once the building is fully open, we will brainstorm new opportunities for continued community engagement. Gary plans to function as Elder on the Community Growth and Formation Ministry Team through the end of the year in addition to his responsibilities as Co-pastor of Interim Ministry.

Jill Law moved and Deanna Long seconded to approve the ministry team reports. Carried.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Communications** - The ability to comment on the public Marion Christian Church Facebook page has been disabled because of inappropriate comments. The internal Facebook page for private comments is still available.

Krystal Monawar's submission: I have been making updates to the website, including some photos and information on the Home Page, the visitor information section and staff page, the Sermons tab (which now links directly to the LIVE section on our YouTube

page), all Ministry sections (Ministries, Adult and Youth), the News section, and the Calendar. I will continue to get updated photos of the church inside and out as the education wing is completed. Carrie Hendricks and I will meet to discuss colors to incorporate the new Chalice logo. I encourage all teams and groups to give me information about what they are doing so the website can show the community what our church is doing. Finding someone who has strong copywriting skills specific to marketing and/or websites would be helpful, too.

**Building Update** (Darrell Boatwright) – The driver of a stolen car hit one of the posts on the portico. Repairs will be handled with insurance funds. The move into offices has begun, and rummage sale items are being sorted and stored in some of the rooms in the Christian Ed wing, as well as in one pod. The other pod will be emptied this week. The cleaners are working around the installation process. Work on flooring in the restrooms continues, and John McIntosh is working on installing toilets. Erin Wittkowski reported that Sue Boatwright has been identifying donated items that can be used in the wing, and she saved around \$2,000 on blinds by purchasing them locally on sale. That will allow more money to be used for cabinets.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Pulse of the congregation** – Nothing specific to report

**Pastoral Search Update** (Deanna Long) – 78 surveys were completed, and the team will soon meet to finalize our church's profile to submit so we can begin matching our church to potential senior ministers.

**Inclusivity Team** (Cathy Fuller) – The Inclusivity Team met on 4/18/2023. We would like to ask the Council to endorse The Peace Camp held this summer for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. There will be one held at St Paul's United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids and one held at the Marion Y. Registration is already full and there are children on a waiting list. The Peace Camp uses literacy based strategies and hands-on activities to engage kids in activities promoting anti-racism. We think MCC should be listed as an endorsing organization.

June is Gay Pride month and our team would like to kick off the month at fellowship time on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We will have envelopes in the pew pockets for the month of June with monies going to support Disciples Alliance Q, which supports churches seeking to become open and affirming through training and staff support.

The Cedar Rapids Pride Parade is June 10 at 1pm. Those interested in participating with Stand in Unity may contact Gary Sneller or Vanessa Renaud for information. We would like to have a Safe Space gathering for middle and high school students at our fire pit on June 30 from 7:30-9:30pm. The Cedar Rapids Pride Fest is July 8 at NewBo from noon to 6pm.

Cathy Fuller moved and Joyce Talley seconded to approve Marion Christian Church's endorsement of The Peace Camp. Carried.

Our church's name will appear on their promotional materials.

**Building Use Policy** - A review and update of the policy and forms is needed, as well as how the policy relates to the Guardianship Team.

**Planning Team for building reopening/anniversary celebration** - Gary Sneller mentioned that Community Growth and Formation is taking the lead on celebrations for the Christian Education wing opening, both with a congregational celebration, the date to be determined, and an all-community celebration later.

Incorporated with the reopening will be a celebration of our church's 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our current building's dedication. Becky asked that one member from each ministry team volunteer to be on the Celebration Team by May 14<sup>th</sup>. Other members of the congregation can volunteer as well.

**Co-Interim Ministry Report** – Gary Sneller reported on Tammy Cameron Buseman and his cooperative ministry. Their goals are to provide worship and practices of ministry, to assure that programs and activities are in place, assisting with a congregational self-study to target goals. To help the congregation prepare for a new senior minister, they hope to help us see the importance of our history, continue searching for our identity, strengthen our lay leadership, and strengthen our denominational ties.

He indicated that Tammy and he would distribute their time among the ministry teams, that keeping the church calendar updated was important, and that they would divide preaching responsibilities. Elders will still be important at the Table and reading Scripture. He reported that he has been spending time in the office with visitation and contacting disconnected members. He wants the congregation to build on our excitement and encourages members to introduce visitors to Tammy and him.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Gary Sneller.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Rambo, Church Clerk

(Next Council Meeting is Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 1:30pm)