

# 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

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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



All Systems Go! These last several weeks at Marion Christian Church, programs, ministries and events have been taking off and soaring! It is exciting to be a part of the energy and life of this faith community!

Did you know almost every week we have had new people come to worship to check us out in person? Some have participated online before coming in person. Of those guests who come visit, we have a number who have visited several times and even started getting involved. We have numerous children and youth registered for our programs on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. We are continuing to reach out to our community and support important resources and ministries to lend a hand to those in need.

At our community open house on September 16 many community members stopped by to see the progress and celebrate the re-opening of our facility and 180 years of ministry in Marion. One person stopped me as they were departing that Saturday. He and his wife had visited with several Marion Christian Church people as they toured the facility and took in the special events that day. He said, "This church has so much potential and is already doing wonderful ministry. You know, you all are on the verge of really taking off and doing exciting things!" I could not agree more with his assessment!

Friends, we have already shifted to full strength and re-engaged in important ministries and programs. There is more to come! God's Spirit is definitely moving and inviting us to invest in the discipleship of children, youth and adults, to care for our community and beyond. There is so much potential at Marion Christian Church. We can unlock that potential as each of us prayerfully remains open to God's Spirit and work together / join forces with one another investing our time, talent and treasure in this shared ministry to which God is calling us.

We've run the pre-flight checklist. All Systems Go for take-off!

*Tammy*

Co-Pastor for Interim Ministry

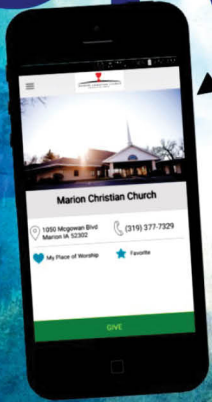
# What's happening!

**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

**9AM**  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE  
ADULTS

**10AM**  
WORSHIP SERVICE

**AFTER CHILDREN'S  
MOMENT**  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
FOR PK-3RD GRADE

**WED., OCT. 4**  
**6PM**  
OASIS

**WED., OCT. 11**  
**6PM**  
OASIS

**SUN., OCT. 15**  
**11:30AM**  
COUNCIL MEETING  
(NOTE TIME CHANGE)

**WED., OCT. 18**  
**6PM**  
OASIS

**SAT., OCT. 21**  
**9AM**  
CCUM ALL-CHURCH  
GATHERING  
CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE  
CENTER - NEWTON, IA

**WED., OCT. 25**  
**6PM**  
OASIS

**SUN., OCT. 29**  
**2PM**  
TRUNK OR TREAT

Marion Senior Living provides affordable housing for senior citizens. Marion Christian Church has been a valued supporter of the project. We have 1 fundraiser a year. We are partnering with Zio Johno's to offer \$5 off coupons for anything on the menu. There is no expiration on the coupons. Marion Senior Living gets 60% of the proceeds. Moneys are used to maintain the 3 properties. See Sandy Merritt to purchase coupons!

# FIND US ONLINE!





# THE OASIS

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

**MEAL AT 6PM | ACTIVITIES AT 6:30PM**  
REGISTER AT [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/FC5AONHMWYDLZBZ18](https://forms.gle/FC5AONHMWYDLZBZ18)

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

**9AM FOR PRESCHOOL - GRADE 5**  
**GRADES 6-12 ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME AND BE LEADERS**



# Upcoming Events

## RAISE THE SONG OF HARVEST HOME

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023

Christian Conference Center  
Newton, Iowa

2023  
All Congregational  
Gathering

Worship  
Learning  
Inspiration  
Fun  
Connection



**TRUNK OR TREAT**

**SUNDAY, OCT. 29 2-4PM**

**IF YOU WANT TO DECORATE YOUR CAR AND HAND OUT CANDY - CONTACT CARRIE!**

The graphic features a blue background with orange and white Halloween decorations. At the top, there are orange and white bunting flags with patterns of spiders, pumpkins, and polka dots. The central text 'TRUNK OR TREAT' is in large, white, bold letters with black outlines. 'TRUNK' has a ghost on the 'K', 'OR' has a pumpkin, and 'TREAT' has a mummy on the 'T'. Below the text, there are illustrations of a vampire, a ghost, a black cat, a spider, a mummy, a tombstone, and a candy cane. The word 'Boo!' is written in white on orange speech bubbles. At the bottom left, there is a small green circle with the letter 'H'.

# Building Updates

## Sept, 2023 MCC Building Recovery Update

We are happy to report that all the major contractor work has been completed for building recovery and remodel. The only exception is the replacement of the shingled roof which will start the week of September 25. This has all been possible through a fair insurance settlement, the congregation's giving to the building fund **before** the capital campaign and also due to some accelerated giving by campaign pledges. This has allowed us to pay all the bills as we have gone along without the need for borrowing money! Thank you congregation!

We need your continued giving to complete the capital campaign and replenish our building funds in preparation for the next major need the church will have.

There are a few minor things that need to be done yet, but we have plans for completing these ourselves to minimize expense.

Praise God for his blessings!

Darrell Boatwright, Dee Tjaden, John McIntosh

# Search Committee Updates

Dear Members Marion Christian Church,

I am writing on behalf of the Senior Pastoral Search Committee to provide an update on our progress in the search for our next pastor. We remain committed to finding the best candidate to lead our congregation and have been diligently working toward this goal.

**Received Ministerial Profiles:** To date, we have received a total of 8 ministerial profiles. These profiles represent a diverse range of experiences and qualifications, and we appreciate the effort that has gone into these submissions.

**Zoom Interviews:** We conducted 4 Zoom interviews with the candidates whose profiles showed promise. One of these candidates entered into negotiations with another church and is no longer in consideration. For the remaining three candidates, after careful consideration, the committee decided not to proceed with second interviews as they did not align with our church's specific needs and values.

**Outreach Efforts:** In addition to evaluating the profiles and conducting interviews, our committee has been actively reaching out to pastors, regional organizations, and seminaries for assistance in finding our next pastor. We believe that tapping into a broader network will help us identify candidates who may not have otherwise come to our attention. However, it's worth noting that profiles have been slow to come in, and the Regional staff has expressed some uncertainty about the reasons behind this delay. We are continuing to explore this issue and remain optimistic about the future prospects.

**Standing Meetings:** Our committee has established a standing meeting schedule, with regular meetings set for Thursday evenings. We are prepared to act swiftly as soon as a suitable candidate becomes available. Our goal is to maintain transparency and open communication with the Council and congregation throughout this process.

While the search for our next pastor has presented some challenges, we are determined to find the best fit for our congregation. We appreciate your continued support and understanding as we navigate this important journey. Rest assured that the Senior Pastoral Search Committee is fully committed to finding the right leader for our church, and we will continue to work diligently toward that end.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any other member of the committee. We look forward to sharing positive updates with you in the near future.

Yours in faith,

Pastoral Search Committee



Halloween is just around the corner. We have been asked to be a "Drop-off" location for people wishing to donate new or gently used costumes, make-up, and masks for Halloween. As you come across costumes you or your kids have out grown, please place them in the wood donation crate. These will be redistributed to kids in need via a local organization. Thank you.



# 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/10COC4FAFA92DABFFC34-wilkins2#/>  
Each person signs up for 1 or more slots on the date of their choice from the app.  
Each slot is 25 pre wrapped healthy snacks. Treats can be left on the desk just inside the door on Monday



# MCC Council Meeting

## Marion Christian Church Council Hybrid Meeting Sunday, September 24, 2023 1:30pm

**PRESENT:** Becky Clemens, Justin Lightfoot, Marilyn Rambo, Sue Boatwright, Mike Kibler, Cathy Fuller, Tom Fuller, Gary Sneller, Krystal Monawar, Patty Wise, Darrell Boatwright, Chris Hack, Erik Gladwin, Sue Thompson, April Evers, Joyce Talley, Deanna Long, Sharon McIntosh  
The meeting opened with prayer by Chair Becky Clemens.

### STANDING BUSINESS:

**August Minutes** – Mike Kibler moved and Joyce Talley seconded to approve. Carried.

**August Financial Report** – Pledges/Offerings were \$15,383.93 for the month of Aug and \$151,537.72 YTD.  
- Total actual operating expenses for Aug were \$17,400.53, leaving a net loss of (\$2,016.60) for the month of August.

- YTD net giving (income vs expenses) is \$14,983.12 (gain)

-Total Encumbered fund expense for Aug is \$5,005.42, with a YTD total encumbered spend of \$18,549.54.

- Capital Improvement Campaign income for Aug is \$315.30, bringing the YTD total to \$134,583.79.

- Checking account balance as of end of Aug is \$169,915.49.

We had a net loss of \$2,016 for August, leaving us with a net gain of \$14,983 for the year.

With 67% of the year complete, both expenses and giving are lower than expected with expenses at 47% of yearly budget, and giving at 59% of anticipated yearly pledges.

Cathy Fuller moved to approve, and Sharon McIntosh seconded. Carried.

### Ministry Team Reports –

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

Worship Team recently updated the sanctuary decorations and banners to match the fall season ahead of the 180th anniversary service. Thank you to everyone who helped out with communion, greeting and planning of that service! We are working on extending the greeters sign up web page through the end of the year and may add a communion sign up as well for those that would like to assist but are not on church council. If there is interest we may also provide a training class for those that would like to volunteer.

**UPREACH: Spiritual Growth & Formation – Elder Laura Brade; Deacons Jenna Holmes & Tim Feldmann** – The Oasis Wednesday opener had 54 in attendance. Sunday morning Sunday school at 9am is up and running with kids' classes and one adult class so far. Trunk or Treat is coming up October 29 in the early afternoon. (Reported by Marilyn Rambo.)

**INREACH: Congregational Guardianship – Elders Mike Kibler & Tom Fuller; Deacons Joe Hamilton & Dean Decious** – A leaky cooling fan was repaired at no cost to the church. Bids were received regarding asphaltting the parking lot. One bid (\$18,000) was for seal coat. Another bid (\$103,000) was for filling cracks and putting a 2" overlay on it. No decisions have been made as to how we progress.

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

1) Last meeting decided to keep our 2024 budget the same as 2023 \$250/yr. There is \$424.29 in encumbered funds that could also be used.

2) Plan on starting the photo board in the Narthex in October. A few pictures have been received and hoping for more. Looked into online photo directories, but those have fees associated with it.

3) Talked about a printed congregational contact list.

4) Asking Elders to help with Sunday Fellowship and the Community Growth & Formation, Worship, Music/Arts & Media, and World & Local Missions Teams have offered to help thru the end of the year. Our Congregational Care & Evangelism team covers the other Sundays. Plus the Cooper family has offered to help.

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

1. Helped with the Guatemala Cook out, which raised over \$1,100.

2. Looking forward to last warehouse sale. Excellent progress so far in raising funds. Appointments are already made with Central Furniture Rescue and Restore to take whatever they want from what is left. Items will also be delivered to His Hands Clinic, Willis Dady, Mission of Hope, and Olivet for items they can use. Anything that is still left will be given out on Saturday, Oct 7 (hours 8-12) as FREE with a donation of a non-perishable item to go to the Marion Food pantry. 8-12. A few identified items we feel we can sell in the future. These will be boxed and stored until the next sale--probably May 2024. We are pleased that we have been able to supply the church with many furniture and cabinet items to furnish the education wing. This saved the church a lot of money.

3. We are waiting to hear from Marion Cares as to their needs for Trunk or Treat in late Oct.

4. We will be supporting the Guatemala team with their upcoming Pancake Supper on Oct. 22.

**OUTREACH: Community Growth & Formation – Elders Gary Sneller & Kiley Harris; Deacons Deanna Long & Krystal Monawar** --

Our ministry team was very active in planning for the September 16 Community Open House and September 17 180th Anniversary Homecoming Worship Service and meal. Both events were well attended. Special thanks to the planning team: Krystal Monawar, Jill Law, Kiley Harris, Sue Thompson, Gloria Waltke, Marilyn Rambo, Mike Kibler, Patty Wise, and Ann Bromley! We still have a couple of outstanding expenses, but we expect to stay within our budget. Community Growth and Formation also hosted fellowship time on Sunday, September 10. The Inclusivity Team participated in the September 9 "Fall into Marion" parade with First Presbyterian Church (MCC and FPC = Marion Affirming Congregations). Gary also announced at the meeting how thankful he was for all the help making the 180th a success and he gave a report on how the budget compared with expenses.

Mike Kibler moved and Sharon McIntosh seconded to approve the ministry team reports. Carried.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Building Update (Darrell Boatwright)** – All contracts are done except the sanctuary roofing, which starts this week. All in all, we are close to the finish line!

A discussion was held regarding the possible need to have someone check the kitchen refrigerator. A serviceman will be notified.

**Capital Campaign Report** – Patty Wise indicated that, after the portico and roof expenses are paid, \$135,000 will be left in the capital campaign account. She mentioned that landscaping, a new fellowship hall

drinking fountain and an additional door in the girl's restroom are still options for the money. Sue Boatwright also mentioned we will need to remodel the window on the south of the narthex, re-carpet the sanctuary and hallway leading to the nursery, as well as address drying wood in the sanctuary. All decisions are tabled until the parking lot issue is addressed.

### Pastoral Search Update (Deanna Long, Chair) --

Received Ministerial Profiles: To date, we have received a total of 8 ministerial profiles. These profiles represent a diverse range of experiences and qualifications, and we appreciate the effort that has gone into these submissions.

Zoom Interviews: We conducted 4 Zoom interviews with the candidates whose profiles showed promise. One of these candidates entered into negotiations with another church and is no longer in consideration. For the remaining three candidates, after careful consideration, the committee decided not to proceed with second interviews as they did not align with our church's specific needs and values.

Outreach Efforts: In addition to evaluating the profiles and conducting interviews, our committee has been actively reaching out to pastors, regional organizations, and seminaries for assistance in finding our next pastor. However, it's worth noting that profiles have been slow to come in, and the Regional staff has expressed some uncertainty about the reasons behind this delay.

Standing Meetings: Our committee has established a standing meeting schedule, with regular meetings set for Thursday evenings. We are prepared to act swiftly as soon as a suitable candidate becomes available. A newsletter article has been submitted to update the congregation.

Becky Clemens moved and Krystal Monawar seconded to increase the Interim Ministers' salaries by \$100/mo. beginning October 1st. Carried. Discussion was also held to revisit salaries at a later date, hopefully to increase them more.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mike Kibler reported that Room 2's TV placement is good for the room's arrangement. He mentioned how to address locking/unlocking the west door now that Sunday school is in session. He also asked if he could purchase the Scout trailer for \$500. Tom Fuller moved and Sue Boatwright seconded to approve. Carried.

**Nominating Committee Update** - Justin Lightfoot -- Half of approximately 20 vacancies have been filled. The team continues to make contacts with potential leaders.

**2024 Budget Planning Update - Becky Clemens**

- Becky indicated the Budget Planning Team will meet September 30th to consider the 2024 Proposed Budget.

**Co-Pastors of Interim Ministry Report** (Tammy Buseman and Gary Sneller) – Gary said he and Tammy meet weekly. She works with the younger members and he with the older members. They coordinate with the Council Chair and Vice-Chair monthly. A congregational self-study will be necessary as we call a new senior minister, since our congregation has seen so many changes in the past few years.

**Announcements** – The Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, November 12, 2023, following Worship with a potluck.

The next Council Meetings is October 15, and Becky will send out a survey about having it at 11:30 or 1:30. December 10th's Council meeting is at 2:00.

Gary closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Rambo, Church Clerk