

THE *Marion* CHRISTIAN

A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD



Marion

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

MARION
CHRISTIAN
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@marionyouth



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Dear Church,

All Systems Go! Are you boarded and buckled up? We are ready to take off into exciting ministry and programs together starting in September. Check out the rest of this newsletter for more details and explore our social media sites and website for regular updates to learn of ways to be involved.

Not only are we making the usual preparations for fall programming that aligns with the new school year, but we have been engaged in the intense rebuilding and preparations for the full usage of our building and grounds. It is SO exciting! We are ready to take off into new programs for all ages.

For 180 years, Marion Christian Church has shared the good news of Jesus Christ and planted seeds of faith that have germinated other seeds for generations. God has brought us together as a unique and diverse community of faith to take off into the next chapter of our shared ministry. In the days to come you will hear about our stewardship campaign All Systems Go! that will underwrite the 2024 annual budget. You will be invited to prayerfully respond and engage in sharing the time, talents, and treasures that God has entrusted to you. We need every single person! We need each other!

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

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!

THANK YOU!

You have all been so very generous.

We have received a "Thank You" from Matthew 25 for those that helped with their Transform Week project last month. Thanks were also received from the Marion School Foundation for support to their Start School Right Shoe Drive. Outreach- (Missions Ministry)- extends a huge thank you to all who provided school supplies for the Backpack Project supporting Marion Cares students. We originally adopted 23 students to provide school supplies; but your generosity allowed us to adopt 5 more students! Plus, we have enough extra to take to Guatemala in January to provide for families we support there.

We are truly a blessed congregation. Thank you.

**MARION AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS WILL BE WALKING IN THE
FALL INTO MARION PARADE SATURDAY, SEPT. 9TH AT 10AM. CONTACT
PASTOR GARY FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO PARTICIPATE.**

ADULT LEADERS

Are you willing to facilitate a group discussion or Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m?

Contact Tammy at tammy@marionchristian.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY WORSHIP
SERVICES**

**10AM
WORSHIP SERVICE**

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

**WED., SEPT. 6
6PM
VOLUNTEER MEETING**

**SAT., SEPT. 9
10AM-NOON
FALL INTO MARION
PARADE**

**SAT., SEPT. 16
NOON-4PM
180TH COMMUNITY
OPEN HOUSE**

**SUN., SEPT. 17
10AM
180TH HOMECOMING
SERVICE**

**WED., SEPT. 21
6:00PM
OASIS BEGINS!**

**SUN., SEPT. 24
9:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL
BEGINS!**

**2:00PM
HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH EVENT**

FIND US ONLINE!



facebook.com/MarionChristianChurch



[@marionchristianchurch](https://www.instagram.com/marionchristianchurch)
[@marionyouth](https://www.instagram.com/marionyouth)



youtube.com/MarionChristianChurch

Upcoming Events

YOU ARE INVITED!!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
180 YEARS OF MINISTRY!

TOUR THE BUILDING
RECOVERY FROM THE DERECHO.

FREE ACTIVITIES:

- FACE PAINTING
- BALLOON ANIMALS
- WACKY BOUNCY OBSTACLE COURSE
- DERECHO RECOVERY TOURS

- MUSIC:
- SCHOOL OF ROCK
12-12:45
 - RED CEDAR CHAMBER
1-1:30
 - MCC PRAISE BAND
1:45-2:15
 - MARION BIG BAND
2:30-3:30

- FOOD TRUCKS:
- THAT'S SO CHEESY
 - BACK40 BBQ

180 Years of Ministry

SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2023

12 - 4PM

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY AND A CHAIR TO SIT AND RELAX.

Community OPEN HOUSE

JOIN US FOR

Marion Christian Church's

180TH ANNIVERSARY

Marion Christian Church
1050 McGowan Blvd

17th
September
2023

Special Service:
at 10am

GUEST PREACHER: REV. JIM WARREN
LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

180 Years of Ministry





THE OASIS

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

STARTING SEPTEMBER 20th

MEAL AT 6PM | ACTIVITIES AT 6:30PM



Upcoming Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 24 AT 9AM



AN AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH EVENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

2-5PM Tanager Place - LGBTQIA Center
We will take the van over with First Presbyterian
leaving around 1:30PM

CONTACT CARRIE
CARRIE@MARIONCHRISTIAN.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Upcoming Events

FINAL SALE! ALL MUST GO!!

The Guatemala mission team continues to raise funds for their upcoming trip. They are currently selling items from an abandoned warehouse and multiple garages. Many local organizations also benefit from proceeds of this sale.

We are located at: 650 14th Street, Marion.

SALE DATES: SEPT. 28TH FROM 8-5, FRI., SEPT. 29TH FROM 8-6 & SATURDAY, SEPT. 30TH FROM 8-NOON



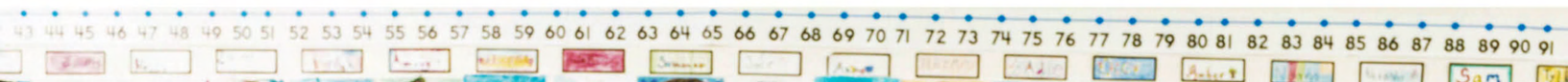


MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH
An Open and Affirming Congregation

ALL SYSTEMS GO!

2024 PLEDGE DRIVE

GET YOUR PLEDGE IN TODAY!



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, August 20, 2023 1:30pm

Present: Becky Clemens, Marilyn Rambo, Sue and Darrell Boatwright, Gary Sneller, Krystal Monawar, Sharon McIntosh, Joyce Talley, Jill Law, Mike Kibler, Gloria Waltke, Cathy & Tom Fuller, Sue Thompson, Erin Wittkowski, Laura Brade

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

STANDING BUSINESS:

July Minutes – Jill Law moved and Joyce Talley seconded to approve. Passed.

July Special Council Meeting Minutes – Sharon McIntosh moved and Sue Boatwright seconded to approve. Passed.

Financial Reports –

June 2023 Financial Synopsis:

- Pledges/Offerings were \$13,773.83 for the month of June and \$112,226.77 year to date
- Total actual operating expenses for June were \$18,775.66, leaving a net loss of (\$5,001.83) for the month of June

- YTD net giving (income vs expenses) is \$11,635.36 (gain)

- Total Encumbered fund expense for June is \$1,381.21, with a YTD total encumbered spend of \$4,486.60

- Capital Improvement Campaign income for June is \$760.50, bringing the YTD total to \$133,706.59

- Checking account balance as of end of June is \$160,673.92

As of mid-year we are over \$11,000 under budget due to low ministry team and staffing expenses (with the exception of Guardianship, which is right on target for the year). Given current budget status, the World & Local team will continue to provide outreach support as planned; these expenses will show on the July expense report.

Current checking account balance remains below the monthly target but given current expenses this is not a concern.

July 2023 Financial Synopsis:

- Pledges/Offerings were \$23,927.02 for the month of July and \$136,153.79 year to date

- Total actual operating expenses for July were \$18,552.66, leaving a net income of \$5,374.36 for the month of July

- YTD net giving (income vs expenses) is \$17,009.72 (gain)

- Total Encumbered fund expense for July is \$9,057.52, with a YTD total encumbered spend of \$13,544.12 - Capital Improvement Campaign income for July is \$561.90, bringing the YTD total to \$133,706.59

- Checking account balance as of end of July is \$168,216.54

We had net positive giving versus expenses for July due to decreased payroll costs from the office manager transition. We have a net gain of \$17,000 for the year.

Current checking account balance continues to remain below the monthly target but given current expenses trending low for the year this is not a concern.

We will start thinking about and planning for 2024 budget and stewardship in the coming weeks.

Patty Wise contributed via email that the total Guatemala funds as of the end of July are \$50,196.55. She also noted that there were 5 Sundays in July and a significant portion of that 5th Sunday income was given early for August.

Cathy Fuller moved and Krystal Monawar seconded to approve the financial reports. Passed.

Ministry Team Reports –

UPREACH: Worship, Music/Arts/Media – Elders Kari & Ryan Wilcox; Deacons Sue Thompson & Joyce Talley – No report

UPREACH: Spiritual Growth & Formation – Elder Laura Brade; Deacons Jenna Holmes & Tim Feldmann – No Report

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

Since our last meeting Guardianship has overseen another month of regular bills for approval. We appear to be on budget so far this year, though the Farmer's Almanac has Mike a bit anxious going into the winter of '23-'24.

We were represented in the search team for our new Office Administrator and very grateful that it went as smoothly and quickly as it did. Formal thanks to the search committee, Tammy, Gary, Carrie, Justin, Patty, Esther, and Peg for their efforts and willingness to give of their time and talents towards this purpose.

Formal thanks to the Celebration Planning Committee for their tireless efforts and for keeping an open line of communication to the Guardianship Committee on what is happening.

Formal thanks to Darrell, Marilyn, Angela, Gary, Tom, Carrie, and all other contributors for their efforts to organize the Every Inch Cleanup Day. Having lists of what was needed to be accomplished, prioritizing the tasks, determining what tools and supplies would be needed

helped greatly to make this event happen. Expectations are that we would do this twice yearly, with maybe just a bit more emphasis during celebration years.

We are grateful to God for blessing us with good weather to get as much done during this fall's Every Inch Cleanup Day as possible. We are grateful to all of those who said yes to volunteer their time and talents before, during, and after the event to make our building and grounds look as good as possible for the upcoming Celebration! We still do have items that need to be taken care of, and we are in a sprint to the finish to have this property looking the best it can by the time the Celebration kicks off. Even if things get completed after the big celebration weekend, we do want to have them done prior to cold weather arriving.

The Guardianship team will be looking at the packets that Peg created for us, to include updated language to reflect the recent updates regarding inclusivity language that Marion Christian Church has incorporated. Our goal is to have this ready for new incoming members of the team in January 2023.

Additional information from Tom Fuller: We're finding Door 3 open once in a while. Please be diligent in closing it and if you're on the door check team make sure it's locked. We're on our third company to get the stained glass panel replaced. Hopefully CR Glass won't ghost us. There's been a snag with the insurance company getting the money to us. Hopefully things will be rectified soon.

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

We discussed the Welcome Packet again and decided we should table this until we have a new settled pastor who could help us with this endeavor. Many of the items inside our very old Welcome Packet are no longer available from the Regional Office.

I brought up that I'd like to see a bulletin board displaying members family snapshot picture with their names. It would be a helpful way to learn who our members are, since Gary Sneller didn't think businesses were doing this anymore for churches to have a pictorial directory. Even if they were, it would be a costly endeavor. (I've seen this done at First Presbyterian Church here in Marion.) I will discuss this with Gary & Tammy along with Marilyn Rambo to see if we have a bulletin board available. If we get the go

MCC Council Meeting

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ahead, then it will need to be publicized weekly via Weekly Connection, Church bulletin, Church announcements, and in September Newsletter. We thought it would be nice to have displayed by the Celebration Sunday.

We discussed Sunday fellowship time after the Guatemala mission team finishes the end of September. I will again ask Council members and their team to help out through January 2024. Jill felt the celebration team could take September 17th and I will volunteer the first two Sunday's in September.

At this time we have not future plans for our team. I did mention that we would not be doing Thanksgiving dinner again this year as I may not even be in town.

Jill asked if our team would be able to contribute dollars towards the 180 years celebration September 16-17, as they will be providing drinks on Saturday and would like to have some rented game activities for the children. I will check with Erin to see how much money is available to us as we have spent very little of our \$250 budget, AND, we have collected donations during Sunday's fellowship time.

Addendum added 7-31-23: After hearing back from Erin that our team has not spent any of their budget this year and that we do have \$624.29 in Encumbered Funds from Sunday fellowship donations, I agreed with Jill Law to give the Celebration Team \$200 from the encumbered funds.

Also, I talked with Gary Sneller on Sunday, July 30th and he agreed to use snapshot photos of members and start a bulletin board so we can have that up and going for the celebration weekend. I will be writing up something for the Weekly Connection, Weekly Sunday Bulletins, and September Newsletter.

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

We continue to be busy with the garage sales. With the May, June, and July sales we have generated about \$40,000. This is sufficient to pay our in country expenses. Discussion is ongoing as to what to do with funds generated from the August and September sales. It will probably go into the Capital campaign for future building improvements. Although these numerous garage sales have been a LOT of work we have been blessed. There is no way we could have raised the needed funds without this project. And, we have been able to provide much needed furnishings for the education wing from items donated or discovered for the sale. We have also been

able to assist several local agencies with goods they can use, saving their budgets.

We delivered 28 backpacks with all necessary school supplies to Marion Cares. We initially adopted 23 students, but the congregation was so generous with their support that we were able to adopt 5 more students. Plus, we have all the school supplies we need to take on the mission trip in January to Guatemala.

We looked at our budget and allotted some funding to several of the local agencies we support financially.

We are preparing to support the Mission team with the Drive-Thru Barbeque.

We will begin asking for donations for Wilkins School Snacks program via Sign-Up Genius.

OUTREACH: Community Growth & Formation + Inclusivity Team – Elders Gary Sneller & Kiley Harris; Deacons Deanna Long & Krystal Monawar

The Community Growth and Formation Ministry has been very active in leading the planning for our September 16 Community Derecho Recovery Open House and September 17 180th Anniversary Homecoming Worship Service. Gary noted that the Sunday luncheon will provide pulled pork sandwiches and beverages. The congregation will be split up alphabetically to provide cold dishes/hot dishes/desserts. See all the details at MCC 180 Years/Open House Meeting Notes - Google Docs.

Inclusivity Report:

Safe Space Gathering, Sunday, August 20, 1-3pm, MCC courtyard

Discussed the various water games, prizes, snacks

Invitations sent out to MCC high school youth, MISD GSA, LMHS Spectrum, First Presbyterian, Hope Lutheran, First Congregational UCC, MARE youth

Discussed the next Safe Space gathering to be held at FPC in October, themed board game night, with a date TBD

Taking into consideration music, sports events for youth

Fall into Marion parade

Parade is scheduled for Saturday, September 9

MAC will be participating

Our discussion and hope centered around wanting to have more members from both our congregations participate in the walk

Next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 1 PM, Uptown Coffee

Future of the group: Plans and Goals

More staff/member training, including a future

nursery attendant on disabilities, behaviors, neurodiversity, being an ally etc.

Specific DOC videos or literature on this topic
Are the training videos from CCC (camp) relevant and available?

Microaggressions, Allyship

Clobber Bible passages

Bryce Bowers, Informational study video

Is this video saved somewhere? How can we utilize it?

Offering longer study session with more resources

Alex was sending me some resources that could be reviewed by Gary and Tammy before pushing out to members

Expanding the church library with a selection of LGBTQIA books/resources, as well as race, abilities, genders, social justice books pertaining to Christianity. (At least a shelf amount of space)
Offering more Bible studies with these resources and books

Bringing in speakers, presenters qualified to discuss

First Light Racial Reconciliation -becoming more involved with their messaging and outreach & hosting a Pot Bless

Possibility that this Inclusivity team branches out into subgroups in the future with member interested in either Open and Affirming, Race Relations, and/or Disability Assistance

This could be beneficial for those supportive of the Inclusivity Team but want to focus on a specific area of Outreach. We thought this would create more activity and the subgroups would meet with Inclusivity to report their progress/developments/opportunities. This also assures we are continually moving forward and holding one another accountable.

Open to discussion and guidance from our ministry team/council on how this looks. Is it repetitive with other groups in the church? Will this be an effective means of organizing various groups for outreach?

Providing a brochure/pamphlet with information referencing places/organizations/areas of more support for individuals looking beyond assistance MCC can provide, especially in crisis - mental health, NAMI, Foundation 2, LGBTQIA supports, housing, etc

Brochure/Pamphlet with information provided for additional resources in the community to get more involved with - MAC, MARE, SiU, ASJ, CR Pride, First Light, Willis Dady, HACAP, etc .

Utilizing a digital book called Padlet. Much information accessible there that is available in the paper literature

MCC Council Meeting

Marion Christian Church Council Hybrid Meeting Sunday, August 20, 2023 1:30pm

Free Little Library - Food Pantry - Personal Care

Favorable: would love to see books, canned food, PB, diapers, toothbrushes, etc. Items that are packaged in a way they can't be tampered with such as shampoo bottles, bath wash. Concerns: who will manage the flow of items, what if it gets damaged or destroyed; do we need cameras, location?

Be SMART for Kids - Assuming this was discussed and approved by the council? If yes, Vanessa will schedule this with Carrie for a Wednesday night this fall and plan/prep for the event. Event would be open to public (?) - other churches and would take place in the Sanctuary during Oasis.

Next Inclusivity meeting TBD. Will look at setting a consistent date/time with all individuals on the team soon.

Jill Law moved and Erin Wittkowski seconded to approve the ministry reports. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building Recovery Update (Darrell Boatwright):

The siding is almost finished, as well as the portico/block. Sanctuary re-roof will be in the fall. Narthex carpeting is this week.

Pastoral Search Committee (Deanna Long, Chair):

We have had 7 informational forms received. One was actually called to another congregation before we could even make a decision on her. We have conducted 3 zoom interviews to date. One of those felt called by another congregation. Two were not ministers the search committee felt were the best fit for MCC at this time. The other 4 did not have the skills or strengths the search committee felt were a good match.

Good connections were made on behalf of MCC during the General Assembly and we are hopeful that more ministerial information forms will be coming in. We continue to reach out to contacts that we have to encourage others to spread the word about our search in hopes that the right person will feel called.

NEW BUSINESS:

A method to assimilate newcomers into the congregation is being brainstormed.

Nominating Committee:

Sue Boatwright moved and Sharon McIntosh seconded to nominate Alindsey Kramer, Krystal Monawar and Jill Law to serve with Council Co-Chair Justin Lightfoot on the Nominating Committee. Passed.

Budget for 2024:

All teams were urged to gather and submit budget needs for 2024. The theme will be "All Systems GO."

Important Dates:

The next meetings will be September 24, October 15, and November 12 (the Annual Congregational Meeting after church with a potluck.) Also noted was the Christmas program, which will be during worship Sunday, December 10th.

Pastor's Report (Tammy Cameron Buseman):

The 2023 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of the United States and Canada was a glorious time, beneficial for fellowship, meaningful worship and Bible study, and important times of business, mission and ministry discussion. I am happy to report that our General Minister and President, the Reverend Terri Hord Owens was re-elected to another term. Her term is extended as the assembly voted to move from meeting every two to three years. We will meet again in two years in Memphis (2025). After that, we will shift to the assembly gathering every three years with intentional work and collaboration in between times using technology more effectively. If you participated in worship on August 13, the sermon was focused on our theme for the assembly, "The Kingdom of God Among Us & Within Us." August 20 and 27 will include other key texts from G.A. What excites me most is that this is not just applicable to the "big church" far off and disconnected but rather aligns in exciting ways with how God's Spirit has been moving and leading in our midst at Marion Christian Church. More to come!

In addition to the shared ministry of worship leadership and preaching that Gary and I provide, we continue to meet weekly (and more often as needed to consult with one another) to divide up the key duties during this interim period. PLEASE keep in mind, each of us has committed to serving 15 hours per week (that's 30 hours per week together, that is part-time). We continue to thoughtfully and prayerfully discern the best ways to serve and places to provide our expertise and energy. I need to become even better at holding to this time frame for my overall well-being. I love being a member at Marion Christian Church and daily pray for our next settled minister. Please join me in praying for our search committee and for the person whom God will bring to lead MCC!

A few other highlights in my work as co-pastor

for the interim:

- Identifying a new office administrator and establishing an orientation process to welcome Lindsay Sitter to the role. She is a quick learner and a professional who is a wonderful addition to our staff! Please find time to introduce yourself and your ministry team to Lindsay.
- Stewardship Campaign for 2024 Budget – I am working with Becky and other key leaders to build excitement and a sense of commitment from the whole faith community to focus our generosity of time, talents and treasure to effectively support the important ministries and life changing work that is being done through MCC.
- Safety Team – Alindsey Kramer has graciously agreed to help lead the establishment of a safety team that will create processes and a guide for how to handle critical events: fire or natural gas leak; medical emergencies; weather event / natural disaster; active threat. The Council will be receiving more information and training will be offered to volunteers and leaders this fall. We seek to identify two more people to work with Alindsey on establishing this team. If you know of someone or have interest, please let Alindsey or me know.
- Fall education opportunities – I am working alongside Carrie to support the restart of Oasis on Wednesdays for the new year as well as the introduction of educational programming for all ages on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. I know Carrie has already been reaching out to people about volunteering for these important ministries. Please prayerfully consider participating and encouraging others to do the same.

Gary's added comments:

Tammy and Gary are still putting in more than 15 hrs./week. They are working on safety protocol, as well as educational opportunities for adults and children. Plans are in place looking ahead to Advent, and the preaching schedule is posted in the office. Gary is continuing making contacts with shut-ins and hospitalized.

Gary 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