

# THE *Marion* CHRISTIAN

A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD



# *Marion*

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



# MARION CHRISTIAN STAFF

## Mike Miller

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FAMILY MINISTRIES

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Everman

ORGANIST

## Mike Kibler

CONTRACT MEDIA  
TECHNICIAN

### FIND US ONLINE!



facebook.com/MarionChristianChurch



@MarionCCDOC



@marionchristianchurch  
@marionyouth



youtube.com/Marion Christian Church

Hey Church Family,

It is amazing to think that I've been serving Marion Christian Church for a month already! Time really flies when you enjoy what you do! I want to thank you all once again for your warm welcome, guidance, and patience as I continue to learn more about our church and what we do in the community. It has truly made all the difference.

We are just about halfway through Lent. Just a few more weeks until we celebrate the most important day in the liturgical year: Easter. As I've mentioned, Lent is a time to reflect on where we could be closer to God. Normally during Lent, we give something up or refrain from doing something, which is a practice that is well documented through church history.

My Lenten practices vary from year to year, and this year, I've been reading Rest and Resilience: Following the Way of Jesus Through Lent. This book has really helped me renew my understanding of what it means to journey through Lent. It's funny how God works sometimes. I'm reading this book about ensuring that I find time to rest and quiet my mind, and I feel like I'm getting signs all around me to do the same thing.

Here's an example of this. My mind normally goes 100 miles per hour when I'm out for my morning walk with Chloe, but after adopting these practices, I've been doing my best to use that time to soak in where God is around me on my walk. It has truly been an amazing experience to listen to the birds singing every morning, reminding me of what called me here to this place.

I hope your Lenten practices are bringing you closer to the Divine. And even if you haven't started any, it's never too late.

Shalom,

*Pastor Mike*

# GOD'S COVENANTS

REV. MIKE MILLER

## LENTEN SERMON SERIES



GIVING ONLINE TO MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH HAS BEEN MADE SAFE AND EASY BY USING THE GIVELIFY APP.

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONE AT A TIME OR FEEL FREE TO ESTABLISH REGULAR WEEKLY OR MONTHLY OFFERINGS.

Thank you for your generosity!



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

*Thank you!!*

A huge thank you to everyone who supplied snacks for Wilkins School. We have enough sign ups to finish out the school year.

THANK YOU

**FIND US ONLINE!**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

10AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE

AFTER CHILDREN'S MOMENT  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
FOR PK-5TH GRADE

**TUES., MARCH 5 1PM**  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**WED., MARCH 6 6PM**  
OASIS

**THURS., MARCH 7**  
6:30PM

LENTEEN BOOK STUDY

**TUES., MARCH 12 1PM**  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**WED., MARCH 13 6PM**  
NO OASIS! SPRING BREAK

**THURS., MARCH 14**  
6:30PM

LENTEEN BOOK STUDY

**SUN., MARCH 17 11AM**  
COUNCIL MEETING

**TUES., MARCH 19 1PM**  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**WED., MARCH 20 6PM**  
OASIS

**THURS., MARCH 21**  
6:30PM

LENTEEN BOOK STUDY

**TUES., MARCH 26 1PM**  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**WED., MARCH 27 6PM**  
OASIS

**THURS., MARCH 28**  
6:30PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER

**FRI., MARCH 29 7PM**  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**SAT. MARCH 30 11AM**  
EASTER EGG HUNT

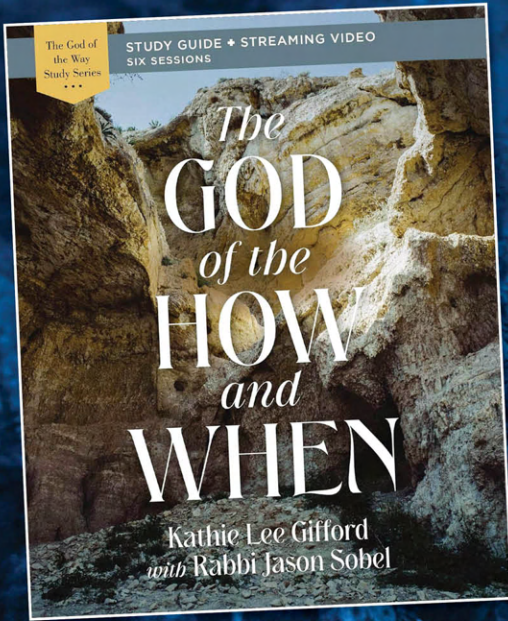
**SUN., MARCH 31 8:15AM**  
SUNRISE SERVICE

**SUN., MARCH 31 9AM**  
EASTER BREAKFAST

**SUN., MARCH 31 10AM**  
REGULAR EASTER SERVICE



# Upcoming Events



## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

LED BY PASTOR MIKE MILLER

EVERY

### THURSDAY EVENING

POTLUCK DINNER (BRING A DISH TO SHARE) 6:30PM | DISCUSSION 7PM

SIGNUP SHEET IS AT INFORMATION CENTRAL. THE STUDY GUIDE IS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON FOR \$13.  
IF ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING IS NEEDED, CONTACT MARILYN RAMBO AT 319-310-5598  
CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED.

# Easter EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**  
EASTER STORY AND EGG HUNT AT 11 A.M.

Group 1 - Toddlers through age 3 | Group 2 - ages 4-7  
Group 3 - ages 7-10

The Easter eggs are empty, but all children leave with a bag of candy.

Remember to bring your Easter Basket!


All parents and grandparents are welcome

**ACCEPTING CANDY DONATIONS  
IN THE NARTHEX AT MCC**

MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH | 1050 MCGOWAN BLVD, MARION, IOWA



# HOLY WEEK SERVICES



## PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24 | 10AM SERVICE



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28 | 6:30PM DINNER  
END OF LENTEN STUDY



# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

## GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29TH | 7PM SERVICE  
LABYRINTH PRAYER WALK OFFERED  
THROUGHOUT THE DAY IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

## EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31ST | 8:15 AM SUNRISE SERVICE  
9AM BREAKFAST | 10 AM SERVICE





## GRATEFUL FOR GUATEMALA EXPERIENCE

Marion Christian completed our sixth mission trip to build homes in Guatemala in January. Every trip is just as wonderful as the one before! Hard work and amazing experiences of this beautiful country and their people never run short. The mission team was blessed to have six of our youth participate in this trip! Read some of their thoughts:

*Ava Cooper: "I would like to thank the church for making it possible for me to go on the Guatemala mission trip this year. It was an incredible experience and my favorite part was seeing the finished house and the huge smiles on the family's faces as they were handed the keys to their new home."*

*Ella Cooper: "Going to Guatemala was and will always be the coolest thing that I have ever done. I know that I have a lot of my life left to live, but the experiences that I had in Guatemala were one-of-a-kind. Meeting the people down there made me realize how lucky we are to have things like a sturdy home and a good meal everyday. What amazed me the most was the joy that I saw from the people we met and saw, especially the kids. I noticed this in Mano De León with a little girl, who I'll never forget, named Fatima. Their living conditions are very poor, but I never saw Fatima without a*

*smile on her face. She was so fun to be around and I think it's safe for me to say that that was my favorite part of the trip; seeing the smiles on the kid's faces when they smoked us in soccer. I've already told anyone that will listen that I am going back as soon as I am able to. Also I would like to thank the church for paying for our plane tickets and letting us have the chance to experience a trip such as this."*

*Jayci Cooper: "My favorite moment from the trip was when the kids from our family realized I wasn't scary and they started to run around with me and play with me. I had so much fun playing with them even though we didn't speak the same language. I made a new friend and his name is Christopher. He is three years old and he is the funniest little boy you've ever met! His smile is just the cutest and he is so creative. He would find broken block pieces and leftover wood and build something with it. I am so appreciative that the church paid for me to go on that trip because it was an amazing experience and I had so much fun! I am definitely wanting to go and do that again. Thank you again! I appreciated it very much!"*

*Cullen Madsen: "I am so grateful to Marion Christian Church for this opportunity. It was an*

*experience I won't forget. Helping others build their lives up and making a difference was so rewarding. I'm glad we were able to help the people of Mano de Leon and playing soccer with them was a lot of fun too!"*

*Jakob Renaud: "Thank you Marion Christian Church for allowing me to have this amazing opportunity to support the families of Guatemala. I learned a lot of valuable lessons from this trip that I can bring into my everyday life at home. This trip has a special message in my heart. Thank you to the staff of Imagine Guatemala and the people of Marion Christian Church."*

*Joshua Renaud: "I feel blessed to have gone on the mission trip to Guatemala and appreciate the church helping me get there to experience these amazing things. Something I'll remember is making new friends. It felt very rewarding to build the house. I also miss waking up to the rooster. I feel very grateful to have done this trip. Building and exploring Guatemala was great and it set a place in my heart."*

**To hear more about our experience, join us for a luncheon on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> after worship in fellowship hall.**



# Upcoming Events

## Inclusivity Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 20th at 7:00pm

Reach out to Vanessa Renaud with questions



**ALL ARE WELCOME! JOIN US!**



**BASKET**  
Bonanza

## SECOND ANNUAL SALE

Noelridge Christian Church 7111 C Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
319-393-9532

Thursday, March 7 | Noon-7pm

Friday, March 8 | 9am-6pm

Saturday, March 9 | 9am-3pm

Proceeds to Benefit:

Foundation 2 Mental Health & Waypoint Housing Services

**Over 200 All Occasion Gift Baskets for Sale:**

Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Gardening, Entertaining,  
Summertime Fun, BBQ, Nostalgia, Children's and New Baby, Crafts, Puzzles,  
Graduation & Many, Many More!



For your information

# SCHOLARSHIPS



Marion Christian Church is once again offering scholarships to any member who is working on their post-secondary education.

**If you are interested, please send a one page letter to [carrie@marionchristian.com](mailto:carrie@marionchristian.com) with your name, current mailing address, and answer the following:**

- 1) What are your current plans for your post-secondary education?
- 2) What have you learned most from your faith community that you can apply to your college experience?
- 3) How has your education impacted you as a person over the last year?

Please have these submitted by April 1st, 2024.

## FOCUS ON FAITHFUL FINANCES

As we head into March, your MCC Council and financial team wanted to provide the congregation with a financial update. While we finished 2023 in a strong place financially due to lower staffing expenses during our pastoral transition, you may remember from the November Congregational meeting that our planned 2024 budget has a potential deficit of over \$37,000 for the year. Given this, we feel it is especially important to provide regular updates and transparency into our church's financial status throughout the year. So, you can now look here each month for an overview of how our received pledges compare to our anticipated pledges for the year, and how our income compares to our expenses through the end of each month.

Through January (our latest reporting period), our giving (\$30,953) exceeds our expenses (\$19,457) by \$11,000 - starting the year positively! However, there were annual pledges of \$16,000 received in January, indicating that January giving likely will not be representative of what we can expect in the coming months. We will continue to closely watch our income versus expenses on a monthly basis.

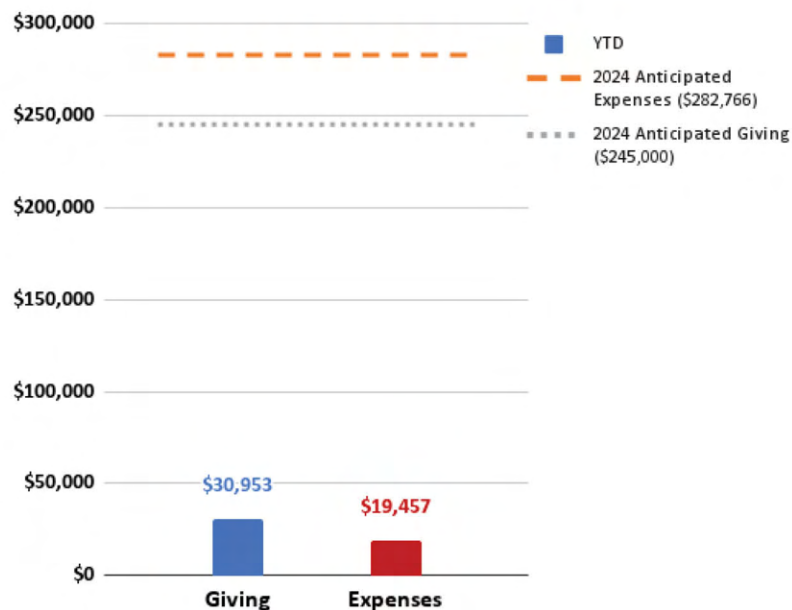
While the MCC Council members and financial team are working hard to identify areas where we can continue to keep expenses low for this year, we need your help in continuing to support both the ministry and the staff of our church throughout the year! Regular giving will help us sustain the wonderful and growing ministries of our church, and the staff that help support this ministry alongside all of us. Thank you for your gifts! If you haven't pledged or given to our ministries, consider how you might be able to give throughout the year.

Any questions? Please feel free to reach out!

Erin Wittkowski, Treasurer

Patty Wise, Financial Secretary

2024 MCC Year-to-Date Giving and Expenses vs Budget Through Jan 2024





# MCC Council Meeting

## Marion Christian Church Council Meeting - Provisional Sunday, February 18, 2024 2pm

Attendance: In Person; Justin Lightfoot, Tim Feldman, Patty Wise, Nikki Kibler, Mike Kibler, Zach Cooper, Krystal Monawar, Joyce Talley, Susan Boatwright, Marilyn Rambo, Lori Law, Vanessa Renaud, Pastor Mike Miller. Zoom; Sue Thompson, Angela Munier, Deanna Long, Mark Long, Jana Madsen, April Evers, Erin Wittkowski, Genny Davis, Alindsey Kramer Justin Lightfoot opened with prayer

### **Parking lot presentations**

At 2:10 Mike Kibler, Guardianship, introduced the first presenter, Jane and Paul Pate with Pate Asphalt. Pate has been onsite, measured the parking lot, presented maps and discussed options for full replacement or overlays. They reported there are some areas of the lot that simply should be a full replacement, specifically the west side lot. Discussed suggestions for dumpsters (possibly moving location of dumpsters to avoid large trucks driving around the lot), East lot utility box (currently covered with a board, needs cleaned and designated), location of water lines, ADA accessibility (moving or adding spaces, compliance), southside dirt area near firepit, and roof drains (are they draining onto the lot, possibly move underground). It was suggested we do another complete walk around to discover items that may need repaired or planned out before Pate would begin work. Pate reports the entire process would take 4 days and they will work with the church's schedule to allow business and services as usual. Striping is weather permitted.

At 2:35 Mike Kibler introduced Bob with Asphalt Restoration Solutions. Bob provided background knowledge of their business and services. They feel they are a trusted and experienced company to work with. He discussed the options of full replacement and overlay. In his opinion with the church's parking lot situation he believes a full replacement is in our

best interest. An overlay will last possibly up to 15 years with cracking within 3 but a full replacement will last 20-30 years especially if proactively maintaining seals and cracking. He reported this would take 4 days for completion, they use Sherwin Williams traffic paint for striping, and get their asphalt from LL Pelling, as do all companies in Eastern IA. They warranty the work for one year, show proof of the amount of asphalt used for the job on the invoicing, and our contact would be Bob throughout the entire process. He will schedule the work as best he can around the church's business.

At 3:00 Council moved on to Standing, Old and New Business

Approval of January Council Meeting Minutes, Motion: Mike Kibler, Second: Marilyn Rambo, Council approved  
Approval of December and January Financials, Motion: Nikki Kibler, Second: Mike Kibler

Erin pointed out the updated financial information provided. Patty Wise made note Erin had updated the amount of pledges by \$16k. Council Approved.  
Ministry Reports were received with no additional comments.

Old Business: Mike Kibler updated the church van sold for \$4,000 and is no longer a liability.

Parking lot discussion: Mike Kibler reports additional information can be found in the Guardianship report. Patty Wise felt the presentations offered valuable information. She suggested we get a quote from LL Pelling for a full replacement. Nikki Kibler liked that the point of contact with Asphalt Restoration would be Bob; having one point of contact with them. Mark Long likes the full replacement for a longer term solution and feels Pate has a good reputation. Many members nodded in agreement. Justin Lightfoot asked Mike Kibler if we can get references from the companies. Mike K

said yes to reference checks. Patty Wise commented that the Capital improvement funds will have \$205k by the end of March, and after allocated funds, we have a balance of \$175k which sounds like enough to cover a full replacement. Someone commented we need to keep replenishing the capital funds. Alindsey spoke about having a specific basket offering for projects placed at the back of the church with visuals to get people excited and in the know. Mike Kibler stated there would be future projects to consider like the sanctuary windows for example. Justin asked Guardianship to get bids for the full replacement from Asphalt Restoration, Pate Asphalt, and LL Pelling.

### **New Business**

Building Use Policy: Gary and Tammy had worked on updating and Pastor Mike is working on refining the language and completion of this policy. Pastor Mike suggested we update all policies to reflect consistent use of the word Pastor instead of Senior Minister.

Bylaws Revision Committee; Justin commented this needs to be formed to make sure bylaws are up to date. They will be adding a Scholarship and a Permanent funds committees

2024 meeting dates: Justin and Tim provided a list of dates throughout the year that should work with schedules for Council meetings, subject to change. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 17, at 11 am. Childcare provided. They would like to try to schedule these immediately after service to avoid afternoon conflicts and return trips to church for meetings. Note the new time is 11 am.  
Pastor Report

Pastor Mike reported on his goals for this year as follows

- Finding ways to keep children in worship and participation of
- Online worship; creating opportunities for online memberships and bible studies
- Focus over this year on what we do



# MCC Council Meeting

## Marion Christian Church Council Meeting - Provisional Sunday, February 18, 2024 2pm

well vs not so well in order to be proactive in making changes for our growth as a church

- Pastor Mike asks that all congregants please speak up and bring questions and concerns directly to Mike as opposed to having "parking lot conversations" (gossip and grievances) Please take concerns to Pastor Mike during this planning phase. Asks for grace and patience this year.

- Safety: locks on all doors in the education wing in an effort to keep everyone, especially children safe in the event of an intruder

- Side discussions: Switching door knobs. Master Key for all Ed Wing doors vs Individual locks and keys with a master. Susan reported she will discuss this with Darrell. Zach reported Linn-Mar added room numbers to the outside of each window for first responders to easily locate interior rooms. Pastor Mike also wants all windows in each room checked for accessibility and code, some auto lock.

- All congregants should go through Pastor Mike or Lindsay in the office to at-

tain other congregants address, phone, or email. Do not give out that info yourselves.

Properly dispose of old directories.

- Pastor Mike would like to see a person sitting in the Narthex who will watch over the exterior doors for people entering the building during worship service.

- Childcare provided at all future events
- Office hours for Pastor Mike: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Mondays Pastor Mike has asked congregants to respect his time from 9 am - noon.

Wednesdays he is onsite in the afternoon into the evening for Oasis. Friday, off work, and Saturday he is off work with the exception of certain events and circumstances.

- Installation Service: Sunday, May 19, 2024. Liz Woodward, with the region, will be in attendance. Possibly Josh Patty. Mike has asked Darren Phelps, a Southwest Regional Community Minister to give the sermon. He will be traveling from Texas and has asked for hotel accommodations to be provided.

- Patty Wise noted there is a line item for

Pastor Mike's installation in the budget.

- Pastor Mike would like to meet with all committees by Palm Sunday if he hasn't yet

- Mike has spoken with Sue B regarding Elder work and discussed videos for Boundary and Reconciliation training. Possibility of future board retreats at the Newton CCC.

- Mike Kibler brought up maintaining safety for children in online worship lives/recordings. Making sure Carrie has received permission from parents for their children to be recorded or photographed. Pastor Mike brought up creating safe spaces during worship for those looking to remain off camera.

- Marilyn Rambo mentioned a labyrinth that Pastor Mike confirmed is a large canvas tarp they will need to purchase for upcoming activity.

Justin Lightfoot thanked everyone. Asked ministry teams keep timelines and outlines for roles

within their committees. Pastor Mike closed with prayer.

Motion to adjourn at 3:40 PM, Motion: Marilyn Rambo, Second: Nikki Kibler

# REV. MIKE MILLER INSTALLATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 2 PM  
MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH SANCTUARY



# SUMMER CAMP 2024



## CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

- MAY 31-JUNE 1**  
FAMILY CAMP  
**JUNE 10-15**  
JUNIOR 1 (GRADES 3-5)  
**JUNE 17-22**  
CHI RHO 1 (GRADES 6-8)  
**JUNE 22-23**  
GRAND 1  
**JUNE 24-29**  
CYF 1 (GRADES 9-12)  
**JULY 1-3**  
BEGINNER CAMP (GRADES 2-3)  
**JULY 1-6**  
MISSION TRIP TO CHICAGO  
(GRADES 9-12)  
**JULY 8-13**  
JUNIOR 2 (GRADES 3-5)  
**JULY 8-13**  
CHI RHO 2 (GRADES 6-8)  
**JULY 13-14**  
GRAND 2  
**JULY 15-20**  
CYF 2 (GRADES 9-12)  
**JULY 22-27**  
A.D.A.M CAMP (GRADES 6-12)  
**JULY 22-27**  
ADVENTURE CAMP (GRADES 6-12)  
**JULY 29-AUG 3**  
JUNIOR 3 (GRADES 3-5)  
**SEPT 16-18**  
SENIOR CAMP

*Conference Center*  
**ENTRANCE**

WELCOME TO HOLY GROUND  
WHERE SIGNS OF GOD ARE ALL AROUND

