

JANUARY 2024 ~ Marion Salem Church

1640 Salem Road, Caledonia
10 am Worship 9 am Sunday School

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



To the church of God as found at Marion Salem Church, called to be saints together with those in every place who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ: You are miracles of God's grace and mercy!

We are now fast approaching the beginning of 2024 and with that comes the excitement of all that a new year can bring. Of course, the one thing that is overlooked in all this is that change is a part of it. Change can be good and bad, and our reaction to change can make things better or worse. It is true that 2023 was a year with big changes. I don't think that we'll see as much in 2024, however I'm sure that discontinuous change will be our reality. Discontinuous change is described as change that keeps coming; it is change that changes; it's chaotic. Now, I do not want you to be discouraged. Remember that change can be good and bad, our reaction can make it worse or better. We can look forward to these things as opportunities for ministry.

Changes that have been mentioned previously: we'll have a **new website** coming towards the end of the month. The **livestream** on Facebook continues to see some improvements with technology we have on hand, and we're researching future expansion. A lot of this is due to our improvements in **internet service**. The **sound equipment** that has been stored in the sanctuary is in process of being relocated (reused in the family center or liquidated). The Marion Salem family is grateful to Susan Rockwell for our newest addition in the sanctuary, the **baby grand piano**, which is now fully tuned. This change allows us to utilize the upright piano in a space for **choir** to practice. The **men's group** had an inaugural meeting and look forward to planning the next. All families have enjoyed our new monthly **Family Fellowship Nights**.

What's new in January? We'll begin with a 24-hour prayer marathon; marionsalemchurch.org/DearGod24 is the sign-up page or contact me. We'll begin **inviting the children** to remain in worship with us on the first Sunday of each month, so they can be "trained up in the way they should go" by experiencing a full service and we can give our volunteers a break each month too. The **nursery rooms** are going to get some updates in the coming weeks (please see Bobbi Galloway for details). We'll be restarting our **youth group** ministry for Grades 6 & up on Sunday, January 21st with a kick-off party at 6:30pm. We'll also be working on a **2024 church family photo directory**, please be patient with us as we have a few other office tasks that take priority so this might actually not be ready until late in February.

One of the last changes I'll go over is a regular happening—the new officers for leadership. Included in this newsletter is a copy of the leadership list. Please be in prayer for these individuals as several are stepping into new roles in service to Christ and the Church. We'll share in prayer and blessing for these individuals during worship on Sunday, January 21st—if you are able to attend please come as I have always found this to be a special service at the congregations I have served.

Change is coming, it is something we will always have with us. Yet, even the bad changes that are so often in the headlines (and I avoided writing about) are an opportunity to speak the Good News into a lost and dying world. I pray that the many good changes we're experiencing will enable us to reach a lot of people with the Gospel in 2024.

Blessings 🙌,

Jason



From the Marion Star

USA TODAY NETWORK

Marion County Auditor Joan Kasotis announced this year's winners of her Top Dog essay contest. This year there were 24 entries. The essay contest was open to Marion County students currently in third through fifth grade. In 50 to 100 words, students were asked to explain why their dog is #1 or a friend's or neighbor's dog.

First place went to Alice Claborn, 9, a fourth grade student at Benjamin Harrison Elementary who wrote that she and her dog Mercy have something in common — they were both adopted. "Mercy and I grew up together," Alice wrote. "She comes to school with me every day. Mercy sleeps with me. Sometimes she brings me food like the time she buried a potato in the covers."

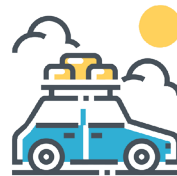
Second place honors went to Piper Croskey, 9, a fourth grader at Heritage Elementary. She says her dog Daisy is Top Dog because "she makes her feel better when I'm sad."

In third place was Alanna Powelson, 9, who is in third grade at Pleasant Elementary, who called her "pound puppy" Trixie "loyal, smart and funny."

The first place winner received the county's #1 dog tag valued at \$20. The second place prize was pet supplies valued at \$15 while the third place winner received a \$10 gift certificate.

This year's judges were Kasotis, Clerk of Court Jessica Wallace, Treasurer Jan Draper, Sheriff Matt Bayles, and Municipal Court Judge Teresa Ballinger. Kasotis reminds residents that 2024 dog tags are now on sale at the County Auditor's office, the Marion County Dog Pound as well as several satellite locations, including the Marion Public Library on Monday from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Congratulations, Piper!!




Pastor and family will be on vacation January 12-20. Please be in prayer for their safe travels and restful time together. — Pastor will not be checking messages regularly. — Urgent Pastoral concerns should be shared with Amy McGuire.

Missed a Sunday or really want to catch a replay? Have you been to our Facebook page... it's all there [facebook.com/MarionSalemChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MarionSalemChurch). You don't have to have a Facebook account to watch, it's livestreamed each week and the replays can be found there immediately.



January 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|--|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|  | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Communion | 8 Bible Study 7pm | 9 Choir 7 pm | 10 Knitting/Craft 1pm | 11 | 12 Pastor Jason—vacation | 13 Family Center Reserved |
| 14 Pastor Jason—vacation | 15 Bible Study 7pm | 16 | 17 Sr. Lunch 11:30 Knitting/Craft 1pm | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 McChesneys 3 pm | 22 Bible Study 7pm | 23 Choir 7 pm | 24 Knitting/Craft 1pm | 25 | 26 | 27 Family Center Reserved |
| 28 | 29 Bible Study 7pm | 30 Choir 7 pm | 31 Knitting/Craft 1pm Fin/Ad C 6:30 pm | | | |



1st Sunday every month in the Family Center at 8:30 AM.

January - Genesis Class
February - Joy/Renaissance Class



Pray for
Karen Link
Ron VonAlmen
Janet Schelb
Dave Monroe
Jude Stitzel
Rodney Weisbrodt
Paul Strodtbeck
Sheryl Campbell
Allen Wagner family
Three Strands Ministry
Donna McKinnis
Vicki Adams
Terry Fisher
Bob Barker
Israel
Judi Myers
George Brown
Ike Dietsch
Rick Hicks



Birthdays

1/1 Karla Sharp
1/7 Dave Slack
1/8 Ellen Messenger
Charlie Cook
1/12 Phillip Shroyer
1/16 Marissa Loyer
Tony Smith
1/18 Lillian Wagner
1/25 Jack Sharp
1/28 Amy Springer
1/29 Karen Marquis

Nursery Schedule

1/7 Whitney Williams & Bobbi Galloway
1/14 Amanda & Marissa Loyer
1/21 Kathy Fisher & Addison Jordan
1/28 Amy McGuire & Linda Seitter

Children's Church

1/7 No Children's Church
1/14 Megan Pollock & Becky Oliver
1/21 Cheryl Slack & Jana Bauer
1/28 Mary Galloway & Karla Sharp



GREETERS

1/7 Amy & Mike Springer
1/14 Jay & Betty Woodruff
1/21 Tony & Charisse Smith
1/28 Jordan Family

2024—Marion Salem Officers

Ad Council

Chair: Charisse Smith 2025
 Lay Member Annual Conference: Charisse Smith 2025
 Trustee Chair: Curt Galloway
 Children's Education Chair: Cheryl Slack
 Finance Chair: Jim McGuire 2024
 Treasurer: Robin Schelb 2024
 Financial Secretary: Amy McGuire
 Outreach Chair: Kelly Wagner
 Worship Chair: Brian Oliver
 SPR Chair: Rob Weisbrodt 2025
 Recording Secretary: Susie Williams
 Pastor: Jason Sharp
 Youth Leader : <>
 Circle of Friends Rep: Cheryl Slack

Worship Ministry Team

Worship Committee Chair: Brian Oliver
 10:00 Worship: Kelly Wagner - Tracy Weisbrodt
 Organist: Tracy Weisbrodt
 Head Usher: Kerr Murray
 Acolytes: <>
 Communion Stewards: Kathy Fisher
 Greeters: Betty Woodruff
 Sound Tech: Ben Galloway, Andy Williams, Austin Wagner, Jessica Wagner
 Computer – Robin Schelb, Mary Galloway, Andy Williams, Megan Pollock

Children's Education Chair: Cheryl Slack

Pre K-5: Cheryl Slack, Bobbie Galloway
 Children's Church: Jana Bauer, Bobbi Galloway, Mary Galloway, Mallori Hedges, Becky Oliver, Megan Pollock, Cheryl Slack

Chair: ?

Jr High: <>
 High School: Dale Wagner

Outreach Ministry Team

Chair: Kelly Wagner
 Annette VanVoorhis, Cheryl & Dave Slack, Mary Galloway, Amy McGuire, Megan Pollock

Finance Committee

Chair: Jim McGuire 2024
 Ad Council Chair: Charisse Smith 2025
 Treasurer: Robin Schelb
 Financial Secretary: Amy McGuire
 Trustee Chair: Curt Galloway
 SPR Chair: Rob Weisbrodt 2025
 Lay Member Annual Conference: Charisse Smith 2025

Board of Trustees

Chair: Curt Galloway
 Jana Bauer 2024
 Terry Fisher 2025
 Tony Smith 2025
 Tim Jordan 2025
 Linda Seitter 2025
 Steve Crock 2026
 Andy Williams 2026

Staff-Parish Relations (SPR)

Chair: Rob Weisbrodt 2025
 Lay Member to AC: Charisse Smith 2025
 Jerry Marquis 2024
 Charisse Smith 2025
 Kathy Schelb 2025
 Ed Crawford 2026
 Mike Springer 2026

Committee on Lay Leadership/Nominations

Chair : Pastor Jason Sharp
 Terry Fisher 2024
 Brian Oliver 2025
 Susie Williams 2026
 Connie McChesney 2026

Ministry Positions

Floral Arrangements: Annette VanVoorhis
 Attendance: Rob Weisbrodt
 Meals Coordinator: Megan Pollock
 Funeral Dinner: Annette VanVoorhis
 Historian: <>
 Sunday School Secretary: Kerr Murray
 Assistant SSC: Bruce McChesney

**Whatever you do, work heartily, as
 for the Lord and not for men,
 knowing that from the Lord you will
 receive the inheritance as your
 reward. You are serving the Lord
 Christ.**

- Col 3:23-24

Youth Group News



Attention all youth Grades 6 and up, parents, and volunteers: Pastor Jason is leading our first youth group meeting on Sunday, January 21st. Come by 6:30pm to grab a bite to eat then find out what's in store for the start of youth ministry!

Old Records

Calling all history buffs and packrats! Do you have old historical documents from Marion Salem's past? Old bulletins, newsletters, meeting minutes, pictures, and other such ephemera?

Items can be scanned and returned in short order.

Please see Pastor Jason.

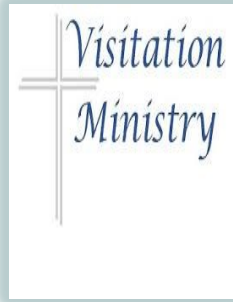


E-News Sign-up

Join our weekly E-news to get the latest updates. Go to: marionsalemchurch.org/Enews

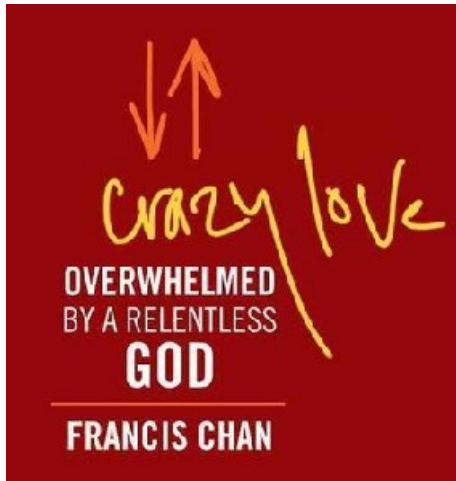
**KIDS
IN THE
PEW**

At Marion Salem Church, we love kids and we want to make sure they are discipled in following Jesus Christ. Starting in January '24, we will be inviting the children to stay throughout the entire worship service on the first Sunday of each month. This will be an opportunity for them to see their parents worship fully in song, prayer, and the sermon. We will be training them for the day that they are old enough to stay in the sanctuary full-time. **Don't worry**, we'll still have nursery for the youngest children, busy bags to help with fidgetiness, and Children's Church will still be a vital part of our Children's ministry on all the other Sundays of the month.



Helen Denton
Clive Jenkins
Judi Myers
Mary Wickersham
Donna & Ike Dietsch
Bob & Dorothy Barker
Martha & Bill Crabtree
Donna McKinnis

Holy Spirit,
YOU ARE WELCOME
HERE COME FLOOD
THIS PLACE AND
FILL THE ATMOSPHERE
YOUR GLORY, GOD,
IS WHAT OUR HEARTS
LONG FOR TO BE
OVERCOME BY YOUR
P R E S E N C E
Lord



Beginning Sunday, January 28th we'll dive into this RightNow Media study by Francis Chan based off his book *Crazy Love*. Don't worry, you don't need to read, just come watch a short video and let's grow together.

From RightNow Media's Description:

It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts—it's falling in love with God.

January Church Fellowship



**Join us at 11:30 AM in the
Family Center
January 17**

Peanut Butter Sandwich Making
Dec. 31st following our
worship Service.
Meet in the kitchen.

Sunday, January 21st
3 pm
McChesney's
Ice Cream Parlor
3300 Twp. Rd. 129
Cardington

Please join us for an
afternoon of fun at the
best ice cream parlor
in town!

