

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!

One of the blessings our family has on vacation is we get to worship without much responsibility. That is a rare treat for pastoral families. We've had the opportunity to attend three Global Methodist congregations while on vacation in the past year. The Forge is located on the parkway in Pigeon Forge, TN. They have two services, Sunday school, Children's church, etc. Chickasaw GM Church near Mobile, AL was our vacation worship experience this past January. They are much the same as The Forge, with a much smaller parking lot. Finally, the congregation we attended while at Myrtle Beach was Andrew's Chapel just over the state line in Ash, NC.

Now, I recognize we're a big family. At the Forge, there are a few open pews. They are a well attended church, just not packed (especially at the late service on Sunday). At Chickasaw, in order for us to have a pew together a couple moved up one pew so that there would be space for us to squeeze in together. Finally, as you've heard at Andrew's Chapel, it was standing room only and while people squeezed together, we were still spread across several rows sitting in front of each other. Now, I'm not complaining—I'm just curious what is it that makes Andrew's and Chickasaw packed, The Forge a little room to spare, and Salem have lots of open seats? And I'm pondering it and turning it over in my head. Here's what I know it isn't:

- 1) While the Forge and Chickasaw are "in town," Andrew's most definitely is not in town, nor on the road most traveled—so more like Salem. It isn't location (though Andrew's is getting a couple new subdivisions).
- 2) It's not because of population growth because they are basically holding their own between -3% and +2%. (That's for their immediate area the past four years. Their reach, like ours, could be a different story.)
- 3) It's not connected with something in their programming. All three congregations have similar ministries to Salem. The Forge has two appointed clergy, though we've never met their associate pastor in three years.

As I look at what I know about the three congregations we have visited and compare to Salem, from the outside there is just really not that much different between us and them. However, internally there might be a world of difference between all four congregations. It has been many years since I have been a part of any congregation that was standing room only. There is something about the spirit of the people who are there that you cannot help to want to investigate: what is different about this place?

Here's where I think the difference comes: They all talk about "US," the church family as a whole. This is especially true of Andrew's Chapel. They have experienced sustained and explosive growth as a congregation for the last year. The pastor told me that as people have joined they have become a part of the family and more keep coming. There are not "new people" and "old people" - simply disciples of Christ growing together. There is no differentiation.

Salem has been through drastic changes these past 3+ years. One of the biggest is the amount of active people who are new and perhaps equally the number of new leaders answering the call. We are still getting to know one another and learning to have the kind of trust on a large scale that makes possible the spirit that was so evident at Andrew's Chapel. They did not magically start growing overnight - it was a conscious effort they made to focus on being the Body of Christ together, long before disaffiliation. And it was more than growth that was special there. It was the Spirit. That takes all of us intentionally leaning into building relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ to create the environment where that trust is found. So let's invest time together for the future.

Blessings 🙌,

Indian Lake Tornado Relief Update

A look at how special offering contributions are helping citizens

In March 2024, the Indian Lake region of Ohio was devastated when a category EF3 tornado touched down with winds of up to 136 mph. Congregations throughout the conference stepped into prayerful action and provided \$165,482.88 to support the affected communities. Indian Lake area Pastors Cynthia Defibaugh (Hopewell Church) and Bryan Meadows (Cornerstone Church) coordinated with local disaster responders and other local government officials to provide serving teams for cleanup and determine how best to prioritize funding support for the community.

We anticipated inviting volunteers to come and help with disaster response in the summer. In this case, the local government disaster coordinator has been hesitant to release the names and locations for possible work teams.

“While our Global Methodist churches on site have been actively engaged—and were prepared to host disaster response and volunteer in mission teams—they were unable to get the required information and permissions to do so,” said Allegheny West Conference Superintendent Jeff Greenway. “Therefore, in consultation with our church leaders in the area, we decided to release the funds in a way that can help families they are aware needed help.”

Help for Families to Regain Housing

Geiger Park in Lakeview is a mobile home community that suffered a direct hit and lost two lives. Homes in the park were destroyed, leaving multiple families displaced. (the photos below show some of the destruction)



In addition to helping this and another nearby mobile home community with clean up, local teams focused next on helping families regain housing. Your generosity for the Tornado Relief Special Offering providing two furnished, 3BR mobile homes for placement into Geiger Park.

The first trailer was placed into the park in mid-to-late September, and the second one in early

October. Once utilities are established, next steps will include completing the homes with decks and storage sheds. Then our local churches will be working with local organizations to coordinate when the families can move into the new homes.

A Hand-Up and Paying it Forward

“Instead of this simply being a hand-out, we wanted to offer those we are helping a hand-up,” said Greenway. “The homes will be awarded at a greatly discounted rate (much less than what was being paid prior to the tornado) on a rent-to-own basis. The funds received through the rent will be used for on-going relief as needs arise.”

Several families displaced from their Geiger Park homes have children in K-12 schools who are now commuting long distances to school each day. It’s been seven months since the tornado struck, and they’re still waiting for an opportunity to sleep in their own homes again. Your generosity is making that possible soon for two families.

Thank you for your dedication to sharing the light and love of Jesus for these communities. Pray for the families that will move into these trailers— that they will know and also share the love of Jesus—and find comfort, peace and blessing in their new homes.

More to come... Local coordinators are meeting with the family moving into the first trailer soon.



**October 30th Noon
Potluck
November 20th Noon
Potluck
December 18th Noon
Pizza**



Missed a Sunday or really want to catch a replay? Have you been to our Facebook page... it’s all there 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.

Festive, Fun, Fabulous, Fall Party!!



Salem Strivers

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness
without which no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14

Essentials of Faith II: What makes Jesus such an important person? In this six-session series, pastor and author J.D. Greear will answer the question, "Why does Jesus matter?" He'll explore who Jesus is, why he came, and what he said and did, to help us understand the life-changing effect Jesus had—and continues to have—on the world. Join J.D. and see the difference that Jesus can make in your life.

November 3 through December 8

ESSENTIALS of FAITH

Strivers do all they can to seek after the Lord. Part of that is sharing Christ with others. Remember to invite someone to youth.

Chaperones and Meal Help Needed!

We are once again looking for those willing to serve as chaperones for the youth group and provide a meal to the students. The following Sundays are needed:

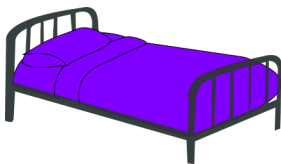
Meal is needed Nov. 10, 17, & 24.

Chaperones needed all weeks.



The Strivers are still looking for a mature disciple of Christ who will help lead their meetings on a weekly basis. Please pray for and help us find this person by sharing it word of mouth.

MITES MESSAGE: Anyone interested in sharing with the children during worship for the mites' message should see Pastor Jason. Available dates: 11/3, 11/10, 11/27.



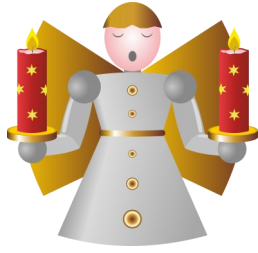
Thank you to all those who contributed to the blanket drive for Leapin' Outreach. Over 50 blankets were delivered to them! Our church family is so awesome! Thank you for your generosity.



Gideon Dinner Update

Doug Lichtenberger, Marion Camp Gideon President: Pastor Jason, just wanted to again tell you how appreciative I am of your efforts to rescue our Gideon Camp and other camps as well. Your church folks did a marvelous job with the meal. Emily and Tracy's music added so much. **It looks like we may pick up a Friend of the Gideons and possibly 2 new Gideons.** I'll keep you posted.

Mission accomplished! Thank you so much to everyone who participated and made the dinner possible.



All Saints Sunday

We will be observing All Saints Sunday on Sun. Nov. 3rd. All members who have passed in the last year will be recognized. In addition, anyone who has lost a loved one since November 1st last year is welcome to send name, date of passing, and a picture to Pastor Jason to include in the memorial during worship that day.

Church Conference

Tues. Nov. 12th @ 6:30pm

All professing members have voice and vote at this annual church business meeting where we will elect leaders for 2025, affirm pastoral benefits, and review ministry for 2024. Please be sure to attend!



The Upper Room would like to thank our church family for supporting our sub sale. We made 265 subs and hope everyone enjoyed their sandwiches. All proceeds will support various church and local missions.



Samaritan Purse

Christmas Shoebox Time!

Boxes can be picked up in back of sanctuary or you may pack a wrapped shoebox of your own. Brochures explaining the program and suggestions for items to be packed can be picked up by the boxes too. Deadline for boxes to be returned is Sunday, November 17th.

Basic Christian Faith Wednesdays 7pm

Join Pastor Jason for an engaging time of discussion as we explore basic teachings of Christian Faith. This is a paced study and you can drop in anytime.

No Study 11/27.

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner 11/17 after worship

Thank you to the Genesis Class for providing turkey & potatoes while we complete the meal with sides and desserts!

The Gospel LIVE! Mondays 4pm

Discover the Gospel of Matthew in a whole new way with the Visual Bible. This portrayal of Scripture is taken directly from the 1984 New International Version, word for word. Every line of dialogue spoken is either by the narrator (Matthew) or the individuals in Scripture. The screenplay follows the Gospel as closely as possible. We'll work slowly through the Gospel, comparing to the other Gospel texts and the rest of Scripture. We will also explore the historical and cultural elements that the Visual Bible highlights as we dive into Scripture together.

In observance of Veteran's Day, no study 11/11.



November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 McKinniss party
3 All Saints Day Communion Youth Group 6:30p	4 Bible Study 4p	5 ELECTION DAY	6 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	7	8	9 Family Center reserved
10 Youth Group 6:30p	11  Veterans Day	12 Charge Conference 6:30 pm	13 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	14	15	16 Family Center reserved
17 Youth Group 6:30p	18 Bible Study 4p	19	20 Sr. Lunch 12 pm Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	21	22	23
24 Youth Group 6:30p	25 Bible Study 4p Fin/Ad C 6:30/7p	26	27 Knitting/Craft 1pm	28 Thanksgiving 	29	30



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

November—Crusaders Class
December—Upper Room Class



Birthdays

11/1 Kelly Wagner
11/3 Marcia Burden
11/9 Robbi Smart
Natalie Wagner
11/10 Debbie Croft
11/12 Ben Galloway
11/13 Martha Crabtree
11/14 Riggins Pollock
11/16 Caitlin Smith
11/21 Shirley Klinefelter
11/23 Tracy Weisbrodt
11/27 Hudson Pollock
11/28 Ruth Lutz



GREETERS

11/3 Paul & Ellen Messenger
11/10 Bill & Mary Linn
11/17 Nancy Jackson & Kim Lemmon
11/24 Marcia Burden & Tierney Bender

Pray for

Ron VonAlmen
Janet Schelb
Jude Stitzel
Sheryl Campbell
Donna McKin-
nis
Vicki Adams
Israel
Judi Myers
Rick Hicks

Nursery Schedule


11/3 Robbi Smart & Mallori Hedges
11/10 Kathy Fisher & Susie Williams
11/17 Charisse Smith & Amy McGuire
11/24 Jessica Wagner & Conni McChesney



Haiti
George Brown
Mike Dilsaver
Paul Messenger
Betty Woodruff
Steve Crock
Cassidy Starkey
Kelly Marsh
Dietch Family
Shawn Wilcox
Pastor Ric
Jamie Marquis
Emily Sharp

Children's Church

No Children's Church until December due to practice for the Christmas program .



ANNIVERSARIES

11/19 Bruce & Conni McChesney
11/23 Steve & Joan Crock