

*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!*

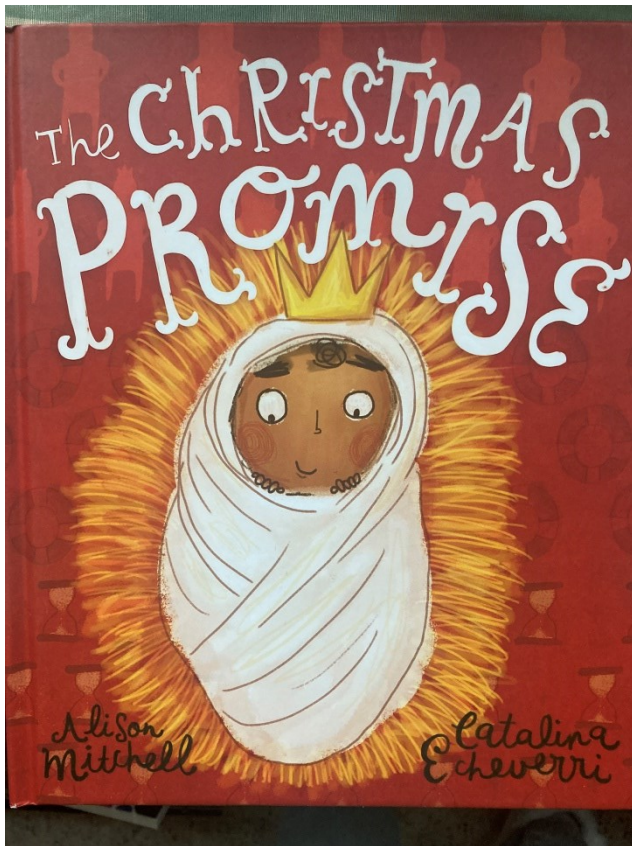
On November 12th, a small group from Salem Church gathered in the sanctuary for our annual church conference. Part of that meeting includes the pastor sharing a vision statement for the congregation. What I shared that evening is important to the future of Salem Church and needs to be shared with the congregation at large. It would take too much space to reprint it in our newsletter, so for space sake, I am offering an abbreviated version of the six items that I believe we need to take on. There is hard truth telling that we need to do:

- We need to fill the vacancy in our youth director position. More importantly we need more interest shown by the congregation in our youth.
- Ideally, we need to actively work towards a family life director—not just a youth director. It is the lack of programming for the entire family that has caused two active young families to seek out other congregations in the last two months. How can we grow if we cannot hold onto those already here?
- This congregation needs a lay leader. This pastor needs a lay leader. The lay leader is the chief cheerleader or encourager for the congregation. Helping everyone to connect their life as disciples in church to their everyday life as witnesses of Jesus Christ in the home, workplace, school, neighborhood and community.
- Our facilities are well cared for, however we have big ticket items (roof and HVAC being two) that require us to go beyond a regular maintenance budget. Salem's facilities were designed to hold 200+, yet we worship on average 91. We need a building and capital campaign that will account for all these needs over the next several years before they overwhelm us. This includes plans for future parsonage families years from now.
- We need to encourage spiritual generosity. Salem is excellent at mission giving. We need to work on stewardship for budget planning purposes by participating in New Consecration Sunday. In looking at the future, we should also prepare for a potential funding gap through endowed gifts and utilize partners that make such giving possible.
- We need to prayerfully dedicate a group of people to the work of a Vision Team. This team would articulate a preferred future for Salem, and they would provide the ground work for a disciple making system to get us there. They would spend much time in prayer and learning and pass their findings on to the Ad Council for adoption or action.

Nothing of what I share here is new. I have mentioned such things going back to the Pastor Meet and Greets last summer. While I am putting words and framework to these items, none of this is unique to me either as others have shared these thoughts as well.

The end of the story is this: we have a lot of work to do. Disaffiliation is easy in comparison to the hard work that being and making disciples asks of us all. I shared at the church conference that we have two years to make inroads on these matters before we are overwhelmed by decline and forced to make drastic and unwelcome changes. Unprompted, the elder presiding at our church conference echoed that sentiment and warned that other churches have had the same opportunity, squandered the time they had, and now struggle to do the ministry they feel God calls them to do. I know that there are many good people here at Salem ready to step up to the work God has called us to do. Now is the time to dedicate ourselves to it.

Blessings 🙌,



The children of Marion Salem will be presenting their version of **The Christmas Promise** on Sunday, December 15th during the morning service. There will be worship, special music, the children's bell choir and more. Come and enjoy watching the children give their best to Jesus!



Next peanut butter sandwich making  
Dec. 29

**MITES MESSAGE:** Anyone interested in sharing with the children during worship for the mites' message should see Pastor Jason. Available dates: 12/1, 8, and 29.

### 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 12/25 or 1/1.**



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://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.

### 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.

**No study 12/23 or 30.**

Senior Lunch

**Wed. Dec. 18—Noon**  
**Menu: Pizza**  
**White elephant gift exchange!!**

From:



**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH

Following the conclusion of the Convening Conference in September a team of editors has been busy updating the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. They have released a draft version for the Church to use on the website. Go to <https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/> to find a copy or ask Pastor Jason.

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards, brought meals and lifted prayers for me and for our family during my recent surgery and continue in my recovery. Your kindness and generosity is overwhelming and makes me smile.

God Bless you all!

Emily Sharp



## Christmas Eve 7PM Communion & Candlelight Service

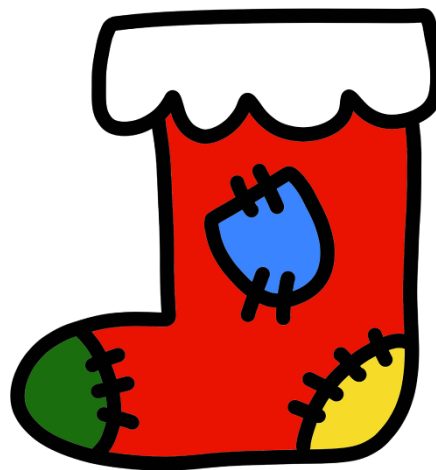
It's tradition! This year we celebrate the coming of the King of Glory! Even in the darkness and chaos of our world, God's Kingdom Comes!

Remember to invite your friends, family, and neighbors! We'll celebrate communion together, pass the flame around with candles, and welcome the birth of Christ singing "Silent Night!"



## Ladies' Christmas Party

Attention Ladies of the church! You're invited to an evening of fun and fellowship on Dec. 12 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more details and a sign-up sheet on the information table in the sanctuary and will be available outside the kitchen in the family center.



## The First Sunday of Christmas! Dec. 29th

Scriptures, Songs, and a Story!

Journey through the story of Scripture as we once again see how Christ is revealed from beginning to end. This is a great opportunity to invite people to worship. No sermon!

We'll need volunteer readers.





Each month we serve between 6 to 10 families in our community through our food pantry.

During the month of December, we will be restocking food supplies through a reverse advent giving.

We are encouraging families to add one food item each day to a grocery bag and bring the bag to Sunday service at the end of each week to fill up our big Christmas box in the back of the sanctuary.



Food Pantry

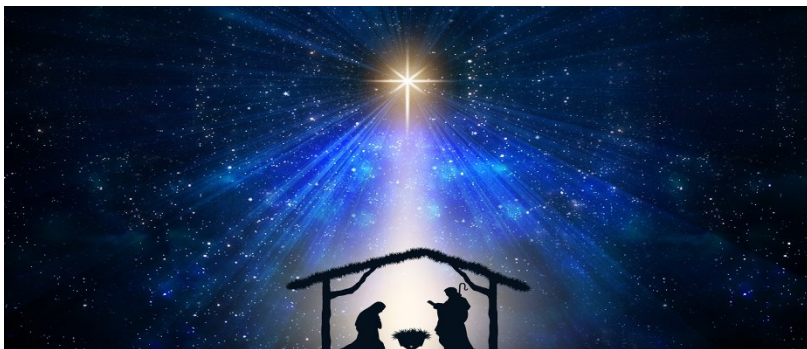
Hours: Monday 10-12

# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



Starting in December we will have tables in the crossover to the Family Center for you to place Christmas Cards.

*Please only place cards for those who attend Salem or are shut-ins from Salem.*

## Salem Card Exchange

## December Sermon Series: King of Glory

Dec. 1 Hope on the Horizon

Romans 5: 1-11

First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 8 Making a Clear Path

Matthew 3: 1-12

Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 15 Children's Pageant

Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 22 Living Peace

Psalm 85

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve



As some of you may be aware the Home School Co Op has decided to move to Day Spring when they begin the new year in January of 2025. The move to Day Spring was their decision. Salem had committed to them contractually for the 2024 - 2025 school year. The Co Op did not pay any fee to use our facilities but to protect both Salem and the Co Op we did put in place a contract and required they maintain liability insurance.

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Rob Weisbrodt  
SPR Chairperson



### Blue Christmas Memorial Service

5:30 pm Sunday,  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>

When painful memories  
cloud Christmas cheer...  
When the hustle and bustle  
has made you sour...  
When celebrating is the last  
thing on your mind...

Come to Remember and Be Remembered



# 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.

### Chaperone Help Needed!

We are once again looking for those willing to serve as chaperones for the youth group.

The following Sundays are needed:

Chaperones needed Dec. 8 & 15

**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.**

## Strivers On Location!



On Sunday, Dec. 1st, Youth Group will be at Tony and Charisse Smith's, starting at 6:30pm and going until 8pm as usual. Please join us at 5703 County Rd 66, Edison, OH 43320.



## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Sunday, Dec. 15th 6-8pm

You better watch out

You better not cry.

You better not pout.

Why? Because it's the youth Christmas Party!!! Join in the fun:

Christmas Cookie Decorating

Dollar Tree Gift Exchange

Menu: Mini-Chinese Buffet

Games & Prizes

And if there's time, a round of sardines!

**Merry Christmas!!**



**Upcoming...**



**All Church Birthday Party!!**

January 5th

after church potluck

to celebrate everyone's birthday

Stay tuned for details

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2 Bible Study 4p	3	4 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	5 Trustee Dinner 6 pm	6	7
8 Youth Group 6:30p	9 Bible Study 4p	10	11 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	12 Ladies Night 6 pm	13	14
15 Youth Group Christmas Party 6:30p	16 Bible Study 4p Fin/Ad C 6:30/7	17	18 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	19	20	21
22 Blue Christmas 5:30 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve 7 pm	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				



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

December—Upper Room  
January—Genesis Class



### Pray for ....

- Ron VonAlmen
- Janet Schelb
- Jude Stitzel
- Sheryl Campbell
- Vicki Adams
- George Brown
- Judi Myers
- Haiti
- Mike Dilsaver
- Paul Messenger
- Steve Crock
- Bob & Dorothy Barker
- Betty Woodruff
- Kelly Marsh
- Dietsch family
- Jenkins family
- Jamie Marquis
- Kathy Schelb
- Cassidy Starkey
- Shawn Wilcox
- Pastor Ric Harvel
- Dave Gerfen



### Birthdays

- 12/1 Nick Hedges
- 12/8 Dorothy Barker
- 12/13 Sharon Murray
- 12/15 Dale Wagner  
Sheryl Campbell
- 12/17 Mike Doezema
- 12/18 Bill Crabtree
- 12/22 Kathy Fisher
- 12/26 Jay Woodruff
- 12/30 Bob Barker  
Bill Linn

### GREETERS

- 12/1 Steve & Joan Crock
- 12/8 Mark & Kim Lemmon
- 12/15 Kerr & Sharon Murray
- 12/22 Tony & Charisse Smith
- 12/29 Steve & Joan Crock

### Nursery Schedule

- 12/1 Robbi Smart & Mallori Hedges
- 12/8 Jennifer & Piper Croskey
- 12/15 No nursery
- 12/22 Charisse Smith & Linda Seitter
- 12/29 Amanda & Marissa Loyer

### Children's Church

- 12/1 No Children's Church
- 12/8 Christmas program practice
- 12/15 Christmas Program
- 12/22 TBD
- 12/29 No Children's Church

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/2 Mike & Cheryl Doezema
- 12/14 Terry & Kathy Fisher