


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!

I realize that Easter is still 3 months away, however we are preparing for the day now. No, it's not quite time for Lent. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which is March 5th this year. There are, however, several things to prepare even in advance of Lent. Let me explain. In the apostolic era, Lent was a season of discipleship. Those who were preparing for baptism on Easter Sunday would have been involved in a 2-year learning process called catechesis (cat-a-key-sis). The last part of which was observed in Lent as a 40-day fast and review of all the spiritual disciplines they had been taught prior to baptism on Easter Sunday. In later periods of Church history, the 2-year waiting period was dropped, however, the preparation for baptism during Lent continued. Some of the origins for confirmation classes come from this time.

During the weeks of Lent this year, I plan on offering a baptism / confirmation / membership class. The materials are the same, the circumstances of those attending are what makes the difference. If you have never been baptized then we would prepare towards that and perhaps professing membership if you were to choose that (you must be baptized to be a full professing member). If you were baptized as an infant or child, then confirmation and professing membership would be your path. Finally, if you have been baptized and are seeking to become a professing member at Salem, then the class would be your gateway to that journey. Whether it is baptism, confirmation, or membership, all three of these are steps on the lifelong journey of discipleship—they are not destinations.

If you sense God calling you into a deeper part of the faith journey, please seek me out before February 16th. I need to know who will be participating so that together we can plan the best times for meeting together.

Blessings 🙌,

Jason

February Sermon Series: **Orderly Love**
 It's all about love, yet what is love? When we can say I love God, I love my spouse, and I love pizza—can it mean anything? See you on Sundays.



Cancellation Policy

Marion Salem Church will have worship on Sundays regardless of weather so long as Pastor can cross parking lot to get into building. If you cannot make it safely and have a portion of leadership in service, please let Pastor know and we will move to a backup plan. Service can always be found streamed on Facebook.

All other activities such as Sunday school, youth group, choir practice, and other meetings will be determined by their respective leaders. Communication will go through their rosters.



Salem Strivers

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

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

Calendar of Events: February

2nd: Youth Group 6:30 pm

9th: Superbowl Party @ Church

Pregame: 6 pm Game: 6:30 pm

16th: Youth Group 6:30 pm

23rd: Youth Group 6:30 pm

Looking for meals
and chaperone help
during youth on
2/2, 16, and 23.

**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.**



Essentials of Faith III: Why Do We Need the Bible?

The Bible is a wonderful book filled with poetry, historical events, exciting narratives, and stories from the life of Jesus. Because it is an ancient text, it can also be intimidating and confusing. Its complexity makes many people wonder if we even need the Bible—can't we experience God without it? In this six-session series, author and Bible teacher Lisa Harper unpacks the value and importance of the Bible for everyday believers. In this series, we will learn about what the Bible is, how God communicates with us through it, and why we should read it.

SUPERBOWL

Sunday, February 9th starts at 6p

All are welcome, bring friends!

Bring your favorite snack to
share.

Four screens to watch the game.



NEW Adult Bible Study **Mark Your Calendars: Beginning March 2025!**

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship in our church community. Starting **March 2025**, we will launch a **13-week Adult Bible Study**, open to all adults who are eager to dive deeper into God's Word.

When: Every Sunday evening, starting March 2025, at **6:30 PM**

Where: TBA

Duration: 13 weeks

This study is designed to provide:

- **In-Depth Scripture Exploration:** Engage with key biblical passages that will deepen your understanding of God's Word and its application to your daily life.
- **Practical Life Application:** Learn how to navigate life's challenges through the lens of Scripture.
- **Community and Fellowship:** Connect with fellow believers in an atmosphere of mutual support, encouragement, and prayer.
- **Accessible to All Levels:** Whether you're new to Bible study or have years of experience, this study is tailored for everyone.

Our goal is to strengthen our spiritual foundation as individuals and as a church body. Through these 13 weeks, we will grow together, encourage one another, and equip ourselves to better fulfill the Great Commission.

To ensure materials are prepared for everyone, we kindly ask that you **register by February 16, 2025**. Sign-up sheets will be available at the information table, or you can register by contacting the church office. Questions? Please reach out to Dave Pinkerman.

Let's journey together through Scripture and experience God's transformative power in our lives and our church. We can't wait to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE !!!

The annual spaghetti dinner and auction will soon be upon us. Please save Saturday, March 8th at 5 pm for the big event! This year, in honor and memory of our beloved Jim McGuire, the auction will have a nautical theme. The proceeds will be funneled into the youth ministry program at Salem.

We need every member of the church to make this event successful. Please consider donating items for both the silent and live auction. There is a table at the back of the church where you can bring your items.

Help will be needed for the following: kitchen, set up, check in/out, contacting businesses. Please see Kelly Wagner or Conni McChesney.

If you know former youth and adults who were involved with the youth ministry over the years, please invite them. We would love to hear how time spent in the Salem youth group impacted their lives and why it is so important to invest in our young people!

Be sure to invite friends and family! It's a very fun evening!





Samaritan Purse has notified us that our 53 shoeboxes went to Guatemala and Peru. Please continue to pray for your shoeboxes—that they may change hearts and lead the children to Jesus.



State of Marion (City/County) Event

Date: Feb. 5, 2025 Time: 6-8 PM

MarionNaz 233 W. Church St., Marion, OH

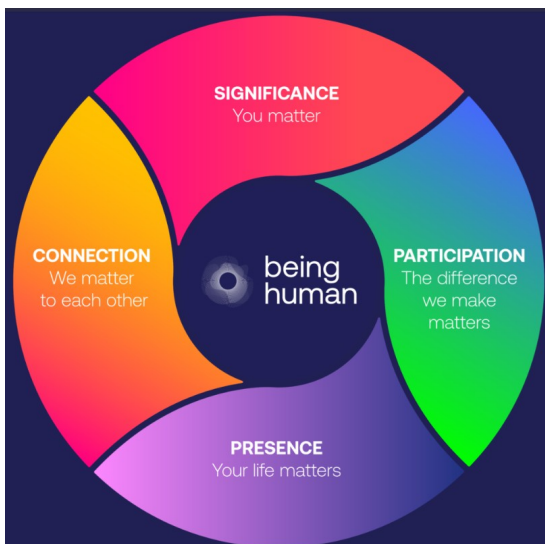
Purpose: Come hear from your city and county leaders about the accomplishments of the past year, current goals, and the promising future of our home! Get informed and inspired by the ways our local leadership is creating progress in Marion. Love Your City!



Next peanut butter sandwich making
2/23

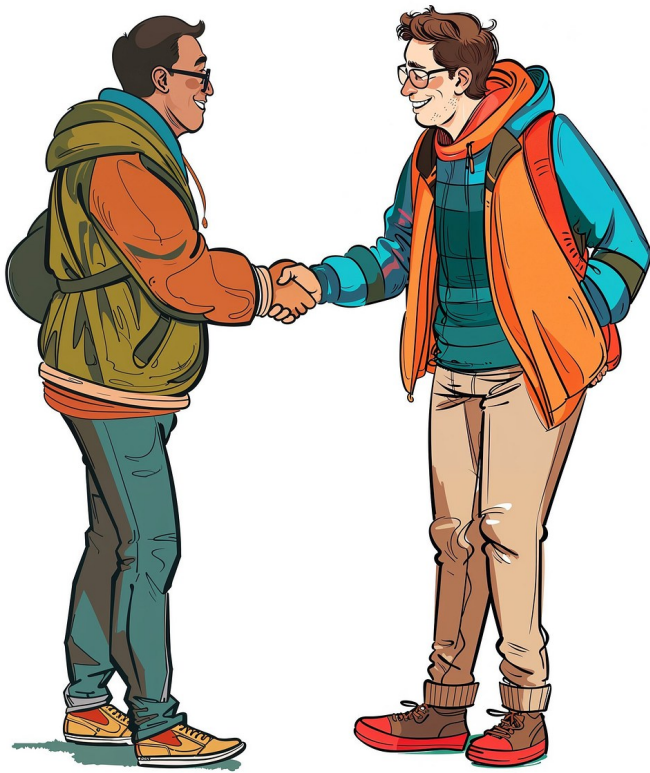
Food Pantry

Hours: Monday 10-noon



NEW Teen/Young Adult study

Join Emily Sharp for a time of conversation and digging into God's Word. All High School students and young adults are encouraged to join us following worship for this 6-week study. We will meet in the Crusader's classroom (beside the kitchen) and take a look at the "Being Human" study from RightNow Media, exploring cultural stories shaping our world and seeking Biblical answers to what it means to be a human being. We will keep our time to 45 min (15 min video and 30 min discussion). Contact Emily with any questions.



invite—Invite—INVITE

Mark your calendars for these upcoming opportunities for worship:

Lenten Sermon Series: The Seven Last Words of Christ starting Sunday, March 2nd

Ash Wednesday: March 5th 7pm

Palm Sunday, April 13th: Easter Cantata

Maundy Thursday: April 17th 7pm

Good Friday: April 18th 7pm, Tenebrae Service

Easter: Sunrise Service 8am, Breakfast 8:30am

MITES MESSAGE: Anyone interested in sharing with the children during worship for the mites' message should see Pastor Jason. Available dates: 2/2 and 2/23.

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 2/5.



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.





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.

Senior
Lunch

**Join us in the
Family Center
Wed. 2/26—Noon
Menu: tbd**

February 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Communion Youth Group 6:30p | 3 Bible Study 4p | 4 Choir 6:30 pm | 5 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm | 6 Trustees 6pm | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Youth Group 6:30p | 10 Bible Study 4p | 11 Choir 6:30 pm | 12 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day  | 15 |
| 16 Youth Group 6:30p | 17 Bible Study 4p | 18 Choir 6:30 pm | 19 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Youth Group 6:30p | 24 Bible Study 4p | 25 Choir 6:30 pm | 26 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm | 27 | 28 |  |



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

February—Joy/Renn. Class
March—Crusaders Class



ANNIVERSARIES

2/9 Nick & Mallori Hedges
2/10 Jayson & Amanda Loyer
2/27 Rodger & Marcia Burden (60 YEARS!!)



Pray for

Ron VonAlmen
Janet Schelb
Jude Stitzel
Sheryl Campbell
Vicki Adams
George Brown
Israel
Judi Myers
Rick Hicks
Haiti
Mike Dilsaver
Betty Woodruff
Steve Crock
Paul Messenger
Deb Mahler
Jamie Marquis
Dave Gerfen
Kelly Marsh
Cassidy Starkey
Shawn Wilcox
Inda Lama
Dave Slack
Dick Dendinger

Nursery Schedule

2/2 Avy Bauer & Jesseca Wagner
2/9 Karla Sharp & Charisse Smith
2/16 Susan Rockwell & Marilyn Shroyer
2/23 Robbi Smart & Mallori Hedges

Birthdays

2/5 Joe Galloway
Oliver Wagner
2/7 Norman Titus
2/11 Barb Dendinger
2/13 Valerie Schrote
2/15 Aaliyah Hardeman
Carter Bayles
2/18 Jana Bauer
2/20 Becky Oliver
2/21 Cheryl Slack
2/22 Emily Sharp

GREETERS

2/2 Lynne Baer & Cindy Fuller
2/9 Mike & Amy Springer
2/16 Terry & Kathy Fisher
2/23 Rob & Tracy Weisbrodt

Children's Church

2/2 No Children's Church
2/9 Cheryl Slack & Karen Marquis
2/16 Megan Pollock & Becky Oliver
2/23 Mary Galloway & Emily Sharp

