



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!

At our congregational meeting I asked everyone in attendance to share 1 dream and 1 concern. For reference on page two of the newsletter are all those responses. I've highlighted several of them with an asterisk. When it comes to dreams, the majority of dreams revolved around our children and youth, 14 out of 27. Similarly, the concerns 8 out of 23 were focused on young people. Ad Council reviewed these and we believe it is confirmation from the Holy Spirit that we have a consensus in our congregation to seriously focus on ministry among young people. Yet, it is more than just saying youth ministry is a dream or concern— words will do precious little. We need action - which is the direction that the rest of this article will be taking.

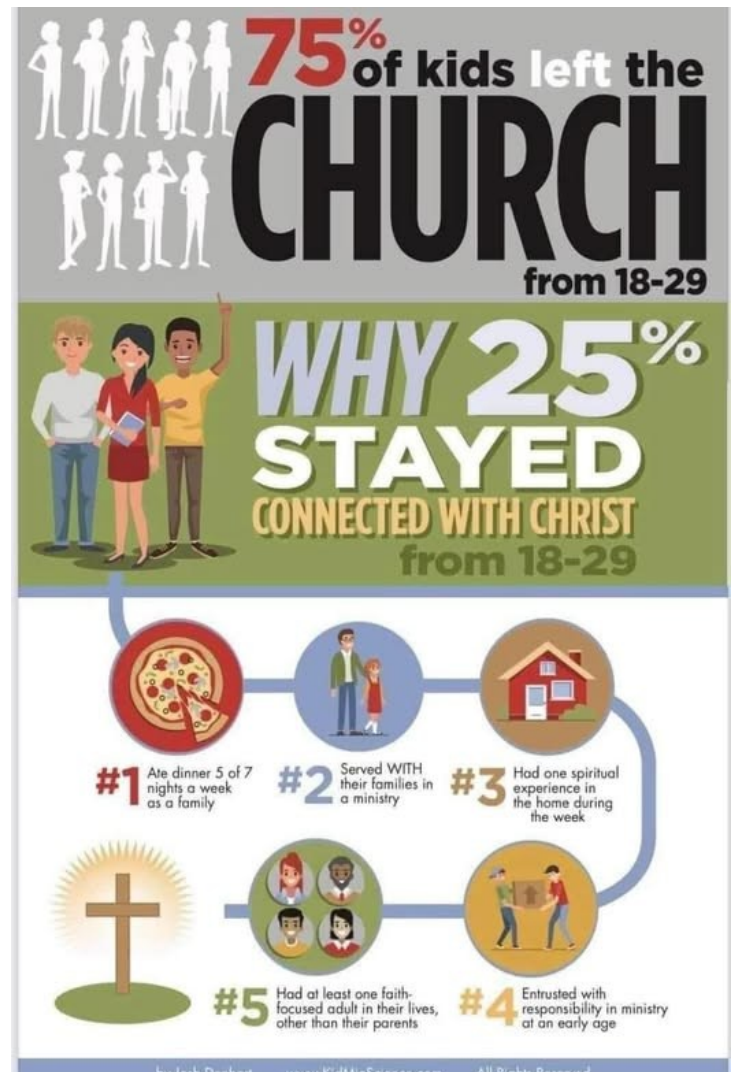
First off, take a look at the results of a study on kids AFTER they become adults. It is more important to focus on why the 25% stayed—that's where we can make an impact and change the future of our congregation and the children and youth in our community. Their first reason for why the 25% stayed is that **their family ate dinner together 5/7 times a week**. I would encourage this. It is vitally important that the family share meals together and conversation. Make this a priority.

Secondly, **the family served in a ministry together**. They did not solely receive ministry together - they were servants in ministry. I believe the focus here is on younger children who need parental guidance while serving in the church. We need to learn to delete the word volunteer from our language. We are servants of Christ and this must be modeled. Parents serving with their children.

Third, **had a weekly spiritual experience in the home**. Do you sing Christian music together? Read the Bible or discuss spiritual matters outside of Sundays? Do you pray together? Discipleship is caught, not taught.

The church acts as a resource for the first three. It's up to the family to make these a priority and do them. The next two call on the congregation to be intentional about student ministry.

The fourth is **entrust youth with responsibility in ministry**. I can speak a lot about this one—from being placed in charge of my own youth group with a team of adult chaperones to the disciplinary inclusion of youth in leadership positions like Trustees and SPRC. This is more than acolytes and ushers; it's like Karla's leadership with the livestream and cameras. We can certainly include youth on our committees, training them to take on those tasks in the future. Continued on next page ==>



...Continued from previous.

The final piece that impacted the 25% is **they had a relationship with an adult outside of family that was faith-focused**. The most effective that I have seen this is through a prayer partner program. Starting by 6th grade, youth are partnered with spiritually-mature adults in the congregation. There are quarterly gatherings of the entire ministry, regular check-ins throughout the year, and for confirmation students the partner joins them for classes as a mentor. I have known these relationships to last decades beyond youth and lead to spiritual growth for both adults and youth. Are there about a dozen adults willing to take this on?

To boil it down the action steps mean: intentional focus on youth, sacrificing our time/resources/wants/needs for youth, and remaining involved in ministry with young families long after our own children have grown. An intentional focus on young people means not programming them OUT of church life,. It means including them as a priority. I suspect we know what sacrifice is yet the question is are we willing to let go of things we hold dear for the opportunity to minister to young people? Friends, that means taking a risk on change like Rhema Academy. **We will still be able to do ALL current Church ministries** with Rhema. It will only be slightly different. Finally, servants of Christ don't retire—no matter how old you are. It simply means you have more experience to share. Such experience is a testimony to Christ's work in your life which He has given you to give to others.

Blessings 🙌 ,



Salem Church Congregational Business Meeting Responses:

Dreams:

- That Salem Church would be alive and thriving with people who love the Lord and each other long after I am dead and gone.
- Have women be ushers once a month.
- New members in church
- Who helps out with the flowers on the altar? I would like to offer my talents to the church at no charge.
- To develop home based studies coordinated by pastoral staff.
- Mission within Marion/Morrow county (raking leaves, planting flowers, building a ramp, little things to non-members.
- Growing membership
- Spirit-filled church
- *Grow the youth program
- *Program for young family outreach/development and help with young marriages
- *To get a strong young adult group up and running
- *Full church, more children
- *A revitalized church with passions and ministry for family and youth, as well as more vibrant mission teams (not just automated monthly giving)
- *Youth group/youth programs
- *Increased youth
- *Grow youth, more activities
- *To have more young families with children
- *Youth leader (more children from nursery to high school, more people involved in maintenance, pledge cards! :-) wonderful idea, capital campaign! :-)

Salem Church Congregational Business Meeting Responses:

Dreams (continued from Page 2):

- Every one in the directory involved in the livelihood of the church
- *Strong kids/youth/family program, Open PreK SS Class
- 30-50% increase in regular attendance of members on Sunday morning + regular events
- *Seeing more young families at Salem
- I would like to see regular, in person Prayer meetings of people who feel called to pray in one accord.
(Sounds like Susie may answer this)
- *My dream that more families with children start attending & woman's group is formed
- *Growth of our church w. need for younger families
- More people stepping up to help with Ice Cream Social planning
- Financial blessings to grow our church

Concerns:

- *Parents who do not consider Salem Church a priority and do not encourage their middle school and high school kids especially to participate in anything; not Youth group, nursery, workdays, Bible Study or Sunday school. If those kids participated in Youth group, it would be fun and thriving. Ironically, this is the same group that is essentially targeted when we talk about hiring a family life person.
- None
- * Aging congregation (Who will follow in leadership when others can no longer?)
- Not enough speaking/teaching/sermons on the importance and nature of the Holy Spirit work in the life of the church and the believer
- What keeps me up at night (blank)
- Small group of individuals do a lot of work
- *Youth
- Finances
- *Help with youth Sunday School, more church board info in newsletter
- Having new people attend Salem to increase our church numbers
- The lack of above (active mission teams)
- *Not many young children
- Church funding
- *Youth
- That people aren't open to growth
- Keeping church in good condition and well maintained
- Get everyone involved in the workings
- *Loss of families w/ kids
- Church finances into future/maintenance costs (capital), stewardship in process good to hear!
- Thinking ...
- *Concerning for young families and keeping them as committed believers
- Review outreach expense for budget
- Can we as a church do anything more to help the Jamie Marquis Family?
- How will our church activities look after Rhema Academy is here?

Coming this summer!!

Join us for a break from the heat for an afternoon movie! Popcorn and Kool-Aid will be provided. Each movie will be followed by a brief talk about how parts of each movie relate to our faith and the Bible. These events are for all ages!

Our Saturday Afternoons Movie Breaks will be at 3:00pm on:

June 14

July 12

August 16

Movies TBA! We will post a poll on the church Facebook page with options to decide which movies will be shown.

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.

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.

Summer Possibilities:

During the summer the youth group will be on hiatus from their regular weekly meetings. If you are inspired to host the youth for a pool party, bowling event, mission experience, or any other activity, please see Pastor Jason.

YOUTH ARE STILL PRESENT! They need your commitment to continue growth as disciples of Jesus Christ.



Special thanks!

To Max & Janet Strine & Conni McChesney for sharing a bit about Marion Salem’s history. The children learned about the history of the Ice Cream Social and about some of the key Christian men and women who have shaped our rich heritage over the years.

We are so blessed!!



Wed. May 28—Noon
Wed. June 25—Noon

Registration for VBS!!

July 20-22

6-8:15 pm

All ages invited

Dinner included

Sign up sheet on the information table in the back of the sanctuary



Save the Dates!!

7/9 Ice Cream Social

7/7 Noodle Making

Rhema Academy Update

Our friends at Rhema Academy continue to advertise and seek students enrolling in next school year '25-'26. There are parent information packets at the information table in the sanctuary as well as in the gathering space outside the offices. If you or anyone you know is interested in this Christian, classical, and chartered opportunity for education, please check out rhemaacademyk12.education or reach out to Brian Sparling brians@rhemaacademyk12.education



Open Houses

At Salem Church

Tues. June 3 4-6pm

Tues. June 10 4-6pm



RHEMA

ACADEMY

<https://rhemaacademyk.12.education/>

**A Christian Classical Chartered School
in Marion – opening Fall of 2025
1640 Salem Road, Caledonia (5 miles east of Marion)**

**Thursday, May 29
Open House (4:00 – 6:00)**

**Tuesday, June 3 (4:00 – 8:00)
Open House & Family Fun Night
Food & Games for All Ages**

**Tuesday, June 10
Open House (4:00 – 6:00)**

For more information, contact
Brian Sparling (Administrator)
by phone at 740-244-8155 or email
brians@rhemaacademyk12.education





Holy Humor Sunday at Marion Salem Church



2025



The Salem Singers are taking a break for the summer months. A big THANK YOU to all choir members who give of their time and talents to praise God and minister to our church family! If you are interested in joining the choir when practices start back up in the fall, please talk with Emily Sharp or any current choir members.



Food Pantry

Hours: Monday 10-noon



Circuit News!

Circuit is the GMC name for what was district in the UMC. Our circuit is having a gathering of clergy and laity on Tuesday, June 10th at 6:30 pm. The meeting is at Etna High Point Church 500 Pike St. Etna, OH. Which is about an hour drive from Salem.



This Spring, the Kenya Partnership Team is excited to announce a special offering opportunity to support Bibles for Kenya. Our goal is to provide every pastor in Kenya with a Bible and reference books to aid them in their pastoring and teaching. This is an area of the world where most pastors do not own Bibles. The Bibles for Kenya offering provides a way

that all local churches and individuals in the Allegheny West Conference can participate directly to support churches in our partner Conference.

For just \$200, a pastor can be provided a Bible and key research books to help them train and teach their congregants. Here is the library that the Bibles for Kenya offering will provide for each pastor:

Zondervan Study Bible NIV, African Bible Commentary, Holy Bible NIV
Biblia Toleo la 2013 Kenya and Tanzania Bible Societies

The Kenya Partnership Team is committed to ensuring that funding is prioritized for best practices and initiatives that foster self-sufficiency. Your contribution to Bibles for Kenya supports that focus. You will have a direct and personal impact in support of our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe. **Memo checks/envelopes: Kenya Bibles**

**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.

ONLY MEETING IN JUNE: 25th

MITES MESSAGE: Anyone interested in sharing with the children during worship for the mites' message should see Pastor Jason. Available dates: 6/1, 6/8, 6/22, 6/29, 7/6, & 7/13.



The Gospel LIVE!

The afternoon Monday Bible study completed the Gospel of Matthew series in May. This is a 36-session study that can be repeated if there is interest.

For the month of June the afternoon Monday group is taking a break. We will be taking up a new study of the Book of Acts in the future that is similar in format to the previous one. In July and August we will take on a short term study from our GMC Bishops.

Columbus East Circuit Newsletter

Our circuit (the new district) has a semi-monthly newsletter that introduces the various congregations from southeastern Franklin county all the way to Marion county. If you would like to receive it, scan the QR code to sign-up.



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.



There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,
Greetings in the name of Jesus!

In about three months, we will gather at Mt. Vernon Nazarene University for Annual

Conference... The theme for this year's Annual Conference is START PLANTING. The Old Testament prophets Isaiah and Micah foretold of a time when God's people would beat their swords into plowshares: "He (God) will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3)

It was a reminder the day would come when God's people would stop fighting and start planting again. This is a timely word for us.

In our past life, our tribe learned how to fight in church. It was necessary as we were contending for faith—especially these last few years when it consumed our time, energy and resources. But the time for this kind of fighting is over—it's time to shift our time, energy and resources to start planting again if we are going to fulfill our mission:

["The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to spread scriptural holiness across the globe."](#)

To do this, we need to remember how to grow and nurture the fruit of a Christ-like life in our lives—to live lives that are so attractive people will want to know the reason for the hope we have. We need to remember how to sow seeds of faith through our personal witness—to be disciples who make disciples who make disciples. We need to commit to revitalizing our existing congregations and planting new churches. Every circuit's involvement in planting a new church is our conference goal.

The theme—START PLANTING—is for all of us as we continue to develop our culture to multiply our impact and reach more people for Jesus and develop communities of faith where people are. It's time for us to START PLANTING for a promised harvest to come.
—Rev. Dr. Jeff Greenway, Allegheny West Conference Superintendent and Bishop in GMC

Annual Conference will be held at Mt. Vernon Nazarene University June 18-21. Guests are welcome to attend and participate in the worship services please visit the conference website for schedule details and livestream access.

Volunteers are still needed. Please visit alleghenywestgmc.org/volunteer/ for more information and sign-up when it is available.

Pastor & family will be out of town for vacation from May 26 until June 11. Messages will be reviewed on an occasional basis, if you have an emergency please reach out to Amy McGuire, Conni McChesney, or Charisse Smith.

Pastor will also be out of town for Annual Conference and checking messages regularly through the day. For urgent matters during conference please use text messages.

June 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
|-----------------|-----|---------------------------|--|-------------------|-----|---------------------------|--|
| 1 Communion | 2 | 3 Rhema Fun Night 5:30 pm | 4 Knitting/Craft 1pm | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| Sharp Vacation | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Rhema 4pm | 11 Knitting/Craft 1pm | 12 | 13 | 14 Flag Day Movie 3pm | |
| Sharp Vacation | | | | | | | |
| 15 Father's Day | 16 | 17 | 18 Knitting/Craft 1pm | 19 | 20 | 21 Claridon Dinner | |
| | | | | Annual Conference | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Sr. Lunch—12 pm Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm | 26 | 27 | 28 Family Center reserved | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

- Pray for**
- Ron VonAlmen
 - Janet Schelb
 - Dave Monroe
 - Jude Stitzel
 - Sheryl Campbell
 - Donna McKinnis
 - Vicki Adams
 - Israel
 - Judi Myers
 - Rick Hicks
 - Haiti
 - Mike Dilsaver
 - Steve Crock
 - Paul Messenger
 - Betty Woodruff
 - Kelly Marsh
 - Cassidy Starkey
 - Jamie Marquis
 - Dave Gerfen
 - Inda Lama
 - Janie Wooten
 - Doug Burkhardt
 - John Wiseman
 - Brian Oliver
 - Mary Linn
 - Ken Stiverson
 - Steve Shamhart

- Birthdays**
- 6/1 Bruce McChesney
Easton Hedges
 - 6/4 David Campbell
 - 6/7 Austin Wagner
 - 6/9 Nancy Jackson
Jerry Barbarich
 - 6/12 Jennifer Pinkerman
Aiden Jordan
 - 6/13 Ken Bender
Lucas Crawford
 - 6/15 Susie Williams
 - 6/17 Collin Loyer
 - 6/20 Amanda Loyer

- GREETERS**
- 6/1 Paul & Ellen Messenger
 - 6/8 TBD
 - 6/15 TBD
 - 6/22 TBD
 - 6/29 Mike & Penny Rose

- ANNIVERSARIES**
- 6/20 Dave & Cheryl Slack
 - 6/25 Austin & Jesseca Wagner

- Nursery Schedule**
- 6/1 Karen Marquis & Tracy Weisbrodt
 - 6/8 Carol Crawford & Marilyn Shroyer
 - 6/15 Linda Seitter & Charisse Smith
 - 6/22 Conni McChesney & Robbi Smart
 - 6/29 Jesseca Wagner & Susie Williams

- Children's Church**
- 6/1 No Children's Church
 - 6/8 Jennifer Croskey & Cheryl Slack
 - 6/15 Megan Pollock & Avy Bauer
 - 6/22 Mary Galloway & Jesseca Wagner
 - 6/29 Ruth Lutz & Emily Sharp

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

June—Joy/Ren Class
July—Crusaders Class