

# MARION SALEM

## GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

May 2025

1640 Salem Road, Caledonia, OH 43314  
419-947-5383 MarionSalemChurch.org  
10 am Worship 9 am Sunday School



*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!*

"So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:32-33 (ESV)

I was praying in the sanctuary, by this time it was probably a couple months ago. Part of what I do is sit in the pews and move around to each seat. As I do I'll go through the pew racks, unfold pages and remove papers that are in the Bibles and hymnals. Pew racks are the gift that keeps on giving. You can clean them out time and again and still you'll find something that was missed previously. On this particular pass, I found a bulletin from the early 2000's and it had a perforated connection card on the bulletin. The connection cards that we have been using in worship at Salem recently are not so new to us. (Let's all be thankful that the days of attendance pads are gone for good!)

I know that some are resistant to filling out a connection card, yet I would like to encourage you to think of it in light of what Jesus said in Matthew 10. By completing a connection card (or when you join the Livestream) you make a statement, you are acknowledging Christ before others. It's very easy to write your name. They only have to be completely filled out when information changes. Then you just drop it in the offering plate.

What happens next? During the attendance rally and moving into the future, attendance at worship is recorded like with Sunday school. This is useful in several ways. First, it is a lot easier to catch visitors' information. I've been able to send several welcome letters for the first time because of connection cards. Secondly, noting attendance patterns can help us reach members that might be quietly struggling. A note of encouragement at the right time can be life changing and attendance patterns help discern that timing.

One of the vital parts of Wesleyan tradition is "watching over one another in love." I can barely keep track of my own comings and goings without my calendar app. I check it every evening for the next day to know what I need to do. It is impossible to keep up with the spiritual needs of 110 people without good practices like watching worship attendance with connection cards. The attendance rally over the past several weeks helped us to build this important habit so let's continue to live into it and begin to reap the fruit from it.

What fruit you ask? Because I've got the attendance patterns in front of me, I can see that we have a few families on the margins in our congregation. Before I had a subjective feeling that they attended more often than they do, yet the objective information has corrected my knowledge and I plan to check-in on them. This isn't a shame thing. I don't want to guilt them into being in worship—that doesn't work anyway. I do want them to know that they are missed and make the ministries of the church available to them. The other fruit that this has born is that our Livestream ministry is far more effective and utilized than I realized. Prior to the attendance rally I would have said our Livestream averages 3-5 weekly and solely used by members. The attendance rally has shown the average weekly viewership is triple that, and about 25% are people who do not attend Salem. Only because of widespread connection card use, an attendance rally that highlighted attendance and invitations, and watching the trends has this been realized.

This is what I know. Congregations that only track attendance by headcount don't grow because people are more than numbers. We can do better as a congregation for each other and those we reach, by leaning into this new habit more and more. So when you come to worship on Sunday, even without an attendance rally, fill out the card.

Blessings



*Jason*

There is a weekly e-news for Salem Church that is sent out via email. If you have not signed up for this yet, scan the QR code or go to <https://mailchi.mp/8fbobebd8448/sign-up>



**Newsletter Archive and E-News signup:** <https://marionsalemchurch.org/newsletters2/>

## Trail of Easter

The Trail is down for the year, however the work and efforts are not over. I heard reports of several people who do not attend Salem making the trek through the Trail of Easter. Many in our own congregation enjoyed the opportunity to walk through the Holy Week narrative as well. Next year we will begin planning for the Trail of Easter in January. The hope is that we might have two loops - one that starts in Marion and ends at the church and another that starts here in the county roads and leads to the church.

Thank you to everyone who provided items for the Trail this year. Those items are behind the information table in the sanctuary and can be picked up this weekend. Also a big thank you to those who provided their yards for the Trail. Next year we hope to do it bigger and better with displays and items that are more durable (whew, what crazy weather we've had!).

## The Great Lent Attendance Rally—2025

We had visitors nearly every Sunday during the 6 weeks of the attendance rally. We had folks return to worship either in-person or online that have not been in almost two years. Most importantly, we stepped out of the four-walls of this building and became witnesses to what Jesus Christ is doing today here at Salem Church.

I encourage everyone - continue to make invitations a priority. Check in on people who you have not seen or heard from at worship in a while. Make worship a regular habit in your life. — Pastor Jason



### Food Pantry

Hours: Monday 10-noon

### Youth & Young Adult Bible Study starting April 27th after worship!



Following Jesus reminds us of our real identity. Social media is a great place to keep up with family, friends and your favorite influencers online, but if we're not careful, we can get caught trying to become who we're following on social media, rather than following Jesus and becoming more like him. We can start trusting voices of people we've never met over the One voice who knows and loves us most.

In this five-session experience, Sadie challenges us to consider who we're following and how we are influenced. What would it look like if we were led by God's love instead of by strangers' likes? Join Sadie Robertson Huff as she answers the tough questions and reminds us of whose glory we're really living for. Together, we will learn how to face our mistakes with divine perspective and discover where our true fulfillment is found in Jesus.

This study is perfect for young Christians wondering how they can live a vibrant, bold, and uncompromising life of faith in God by following the Messiah—the ultimate influencer. Discover the love, purpose, and fulfillment that is found only in Jesus.





## Easter Service 2025

God was glorified through music,  
scripture, baptism of Jesse Bauer  
and some silly stuff thrown in just  
for fun!

**HE IS RISEN!!**





# Salem Strivers

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

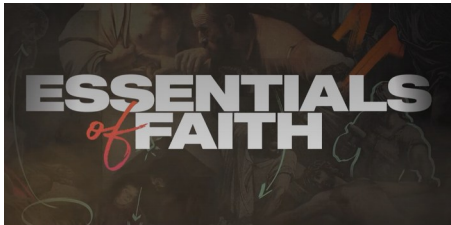
Strivers do all they can to seek after  
the Lord. Part of that is sharing  
Christ with others. Remember to  
invite someone to youth.

## Calendar of Events: May

We will have our regular youth group meetings on the 4th, 18th, &  
25th. There will be no youth group on May 11th for Mother's Day.

Looking for meals and chaperone help during youth in May.

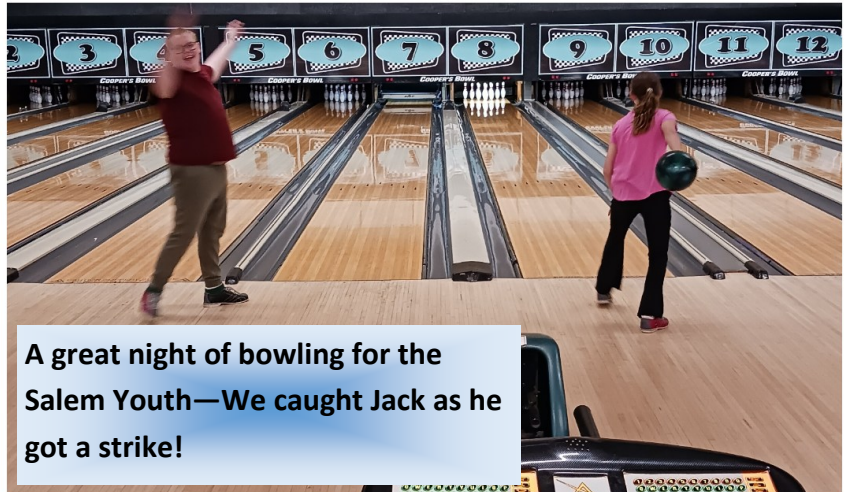
**The Strivers are still looking for a mature disciple of Christ who will help lead their meetings on a weekly basis. Please pray for and help us find this person by sharing it word of mouth.**



## Essentials of Faith IV: Why Do We Need the Bible?

Everyone seems to have something to say about the Church. But what is the Church, exactly? Is it a nice building with a steeple? An experience on a Sunday morning? A group of people aligned around certain issues?

In this series, author and pastor Derwin Gray examines Acts and Paul's letters to explain what the Church is, how it began, what it does, and its mission. This series will inspire you to learn from the rich history of the Church and will motivate you to act as an empowered member of the family of God.





**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**RIVER VALLEY BOYS BASKETBALL**

The River Valley Basketball program was very successful for the 2024-2025 season. With a 24-3 record, they tied the very first school record which was set in 1963, making the regional finals. They also won the Mid Ohio Conference with a 13-1 record. Our own Hudson Pollock was a part of the team and Marissa Loyer cheered the boys as part of the varsity cheer squad. We are so proud of you!!





# Marion student named Outstanding Senior at Ohio State

**Jane Imbody**

Reporter assisted by AI  
The Marion Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Marion student has been named a 2025 Outstanding Senior by the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education and Leadership, at The Ohio State University.

Lillian Wagner was one of nine seniors selected by the department's faculty and staff for her excellence in and out of the classroom, according to an announcement.

"These nine students have demonstrated exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and commitment to the agricultural industry throughout their time at Ohio State," said Dr. Shannon Washburn, professor and chair of the department. "Being named an ACEL Outstanding Senior is a testament to their hard work and the impact they have made on our department and beyond."



**Lillian Wagner**

PROVIDED BY THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## A career in education

Wagner majors in agriscience education with a minor in production agriculture. She has taken courses in teaching methods, welding, plant systems, youth development and animal sciences.

Outside of the classroom, Wagner has been involved in the Agricultural Education Society, Agricultural Communicators, Educators and Leaders of Tomorrow, Sigma Alpha Professional Sorority, Ohio Association of Agricultural Educators, National Association of Agricultural Educators and OSU Towers Honorary.

Wagner also completed early field and student teaching experiences. She completed her early field experience at Norwayne High School and is currently student teaching at Carey High School.

"My inspiration to choose agriscience education was my love for both

agriculture and youth. When I joined FFA and completed agriculture education courses in high school, my ag teacher also inspired me to pursue this major," Wagner said.

She will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture. Following graduation, Wagner hopes to get a job as an agriscience teacher in central Ohio. She is a graduate of River Valley High School and the daughter of Dale and Kelly Wagner.

*This story was created by Jane Imbody, jimbody@gannett.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at [cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct](http://cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct) or share your thoughts at <http://bit.ly/3RapUkA> with our News Automation and AI team.*



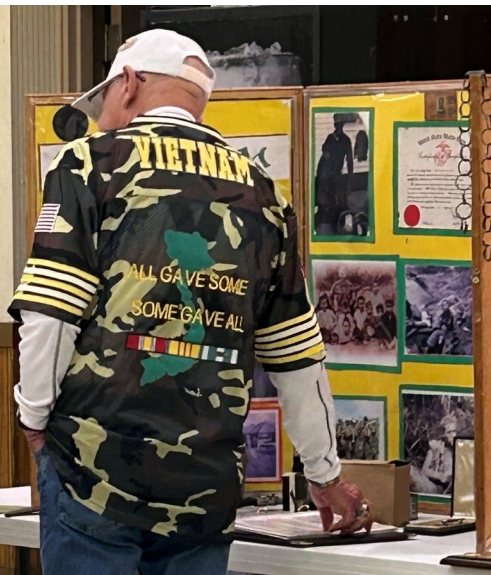
**Congratulations!!**

**Miss Lillian Wagner**

**We are very proud of you!!**







## Chuck VanVoorhis is Honored in TV Program

The Japanese Broadcasting Company from New York City came to Marion on April 23rd to interview and film Chuck VanVoorhis. They are interviewing him about the Vietnam War and how his experiences affected him then and through the years to follow. This broadcast will be the equivalent of our 60 Minutes program. Also, a part of the program will include the story of Kim Phuc Phan Thi who at a young age was known as the Napalm Girl. The story will explain the trauma and experiences from a civilian perspective and a Marine's perspective. The episode will not be aired in the US, however, when it is available in Japan we will receive a link to watch it. We will pass that on to anyone who is interested!

Chuck's Vietnam War Experience traveling museum will be May 10th and 11th at the American Legion on Olney Avenue.

**COMING SOON TO MARION OHIO**

# THE VIETNAM WAR EXPERIENCE

Traveling Museum

Travel back in time and see sights from the Delta to the DMZ. The Vietnam War Experience, curated by Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame member, Chuck Van Voorhis, a Vietnam Marine Combat Veteran from 1968-1969. This immersive experience offers authentic artifacts, gripping displays, and first-hand accounts that capture the essence of this historic period. Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain insight into one of the most significant chapters of US History.

**EXPERIENCE HISTORY UP CLOSE**

Located at: American Legion Post 584  
142 Olney Ave. Marion Ohio 43302  
Admissions are Free

**OPEN**  
MAY 10 AND 11, 2025  
FROM 9AM -6PM

Questions? Contact Us:  
Call Chuck 740-389-1394 or 740-262-4236





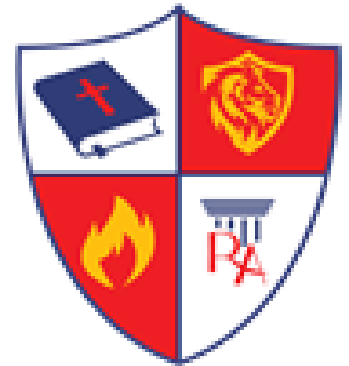
### Congratulations, Jerry Barbarich!!!

Jerry received an award for the highest GPA of the post baccalaureate Medical Laboratory Science students at Ohio Northern University. We are so proud of you, Jerry. It's not easy going back to college but your hard work and determination show!



### 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](http://rhemaacademyk12.education) or reach out to Brian Sparling [brians@rhemaacademyk12.education](mailto:brians@rhemaacademyk12.education)



### Open Houses

At Salem Church

Tues. Apr. 29 4-6pm

Mon. May 5 4-6pm

Tues. May 13 4-6pm

**Thank you,**

**Music Team and Emily  
for our Easter Cantata**

**To God be the Glory!!**

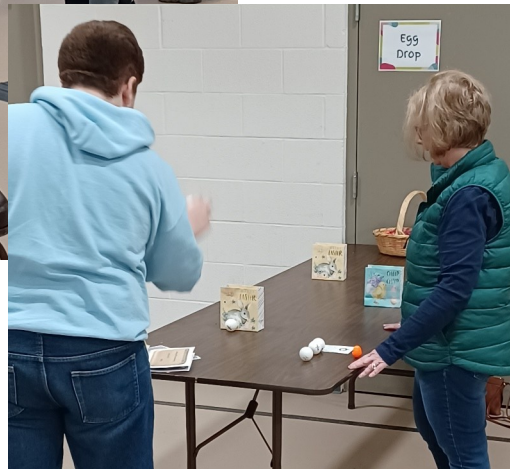




# Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 12

Great fun for kids and grownups alike! We are looking forward to next year!







## Workday May 10th

Join the Trustees on Saturday, May 10th beginning at 9am. There will be work both inside and outside, so we are not dependent on good weather. Please help us with planning by signing up on the servant sheets in the sanctuary. There are also project idea sheets to suggest projects we should tackle.

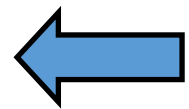
## Graduate Sunday

**May 25**

Marion Salem Church looks forward to celebrating our graduates on Sunday, May 25th. If you have a high school or college student that is completing their diploma, degree, or certificate this year, please connect with the Church Office or Pastor Jason before May 16th. We'd like to recognize their achievements during worship.



River Valley HS FCA is sponsoring a  
Night of Revival Worship



Friday, May 2nd

6:30pm

RVHS Auditorium

Featuring the testimony  
of Aaliyah Davis

For & led by Youth

### 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.

**MITES MESSAGE:** Anyone interested in sharing with the children during worship for the mites' message should see Pastor Jason. Available dates: 5/4 and 5/25. June available.



### 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, 5/26**

### 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.



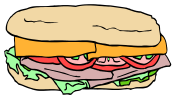
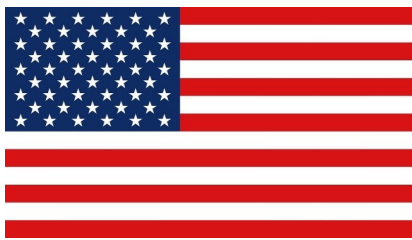
Missed a Sunday or really want to catch a replay? Have you been to our Facebook page... it's all there [facebook.com/MarionSalemChurch](https://facebook.com/MarionSalemChurch). You don't have to have a Facebook account to watch, it's livestreamed each week and the replays can be found there immediately.



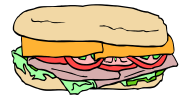


Please help us update our information for the Memorial Day Service which will be Sunday, May 25. Please let Amy McGuire know of those who are currently serving and any veterans that have died in the last year or so—even if they are buried in other cemeteries.

The worship service that day will be followed by a procession to Salem Cemetery to lay flowers on the graves of the veterans.



# Thank You!!



## SUB SALE

**Sponsored by the Upper Room & Genesis Classes**

The Upper Room & Genesis classes would like to thank you  
for your support during its spring sub sale.



**You may pick up your subs:**

**Thursday, May 8th 7-8 pm**

**May 9th & 10th 10-5 pm**

**Sunday morning, May 11th before noon**

# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 AHG 6 pm	2	3
4 Communion Youth Group 6:30p	5 Bible Study 4p Rhema 4pm	6 Election Day 	7 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	8	9	10 Church Workday
11 Mother's Day	12 Bible Study 4p	13 Rhema 4pm	14 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	15 AHG 6 pm	16	17 AHG 11 am
18 Youth Group 6:30p	19 Bible Study 4p	20	21 Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	22	23	24
25 Youth Group 6:30p	26 Memorial Day 	27	28 Sr. Lunch—12 pm Knitting/Craft 1pm Bible study 7 pm	29	30	31 Family Center reserved



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

May—Genesis Class  
June—Joy/Ren Class



## Birthdays

5/2 Jenny Bayles  
5/4 Mary Galloway  
Brian Mahler  
5/6 Tierney Bender  
Jayson Loyer  
5/10 Leslie Jordan  
Megan Pollock  
5/14 Colby Jordan  
5/18 Jerry Marquis  
Joey Crawford  
5/20 Curt Galloway  
5/28 Chuck VanVoorhis  
5/30 Conni McChesney  
Betty Woodruff



## 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  
Rick Hicks  
Cassidy Starkey  
Jamie Marquis  
Dave Gerfen  
Inda Lama  
Janie Wooten  
Bill Crabtree  
Doug Burkhart  
John Wiseman  
Dave Monroe



## GREETERS

5/4 Terry & Kathy Fisher  
5/11 David & Jennifer Pinkerman  
5/18 Brian & Deborah Mahler  
5/25 TBD



## ANNIVERSARIES

5/25 Jay & Betty Woodruff

## Nursery Schedule

5/4 Avy Bauer & Charisse Smith  
5/11 Kathy Fisher & Karla Sharp  
5/18 Susan Rockwell & Amy McGuire  
5/25 Jennifer & Piper Croskey

## Children's Church

5/4 No Children's Church  
5/11 Emily Sharp & Jennifer Croskey  
5/18 Megan Pollock & Becky Oliver  
5/25 Karen Marquis & Cheryl Slack