



Healing Prayer Service

Sunday, July 5th

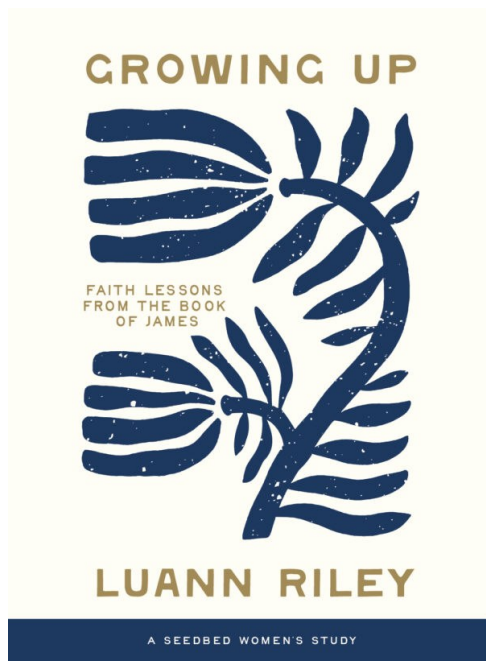
Following worship on the first Sunday of July, Pastor Jason will invite those who would like anointing with oil and healing prayers to come forward. This extended time of prayer will occur after the benediction of our main worship service, so those who would like to or need to can respectfully exit the sanctuary as we turn towards God in prayer.

New Bible Study Opportunity

coming in August

7 week study

See Amy McGuire for details



July 26th—28

Sunday—Tuesday

6 pm—8:15 pm

Dinner included

Invite the neighbor kids!



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!

Summer is getting to be very busy at Salem. July brings the Ice Cream Social and Vacation Bible School. We'll begin worship in the month with a service of anointing oil and healing prayer for anyone that would like to participate. This time of concentrated prayer is a special means of grace that anyone can participate in, either by praying for others who request prayer or by receiving prayer for any need you have. We'll also have the opportunity to participate in Camp Sychar, a holiness camp meeting in Mt. Vernon, OH that Pastor Heather will share more about in this newsletter. At the end of July we'll begin our next cohort of the Membership Class. I want you to know everyone is invited to join in this discipleship group.

There are a couple of other additional items in this month's newsletter. I have copied an article from one of my seminary professors on the Old Testament's importance to the Church today. It is a longer piece than usual for our newsletter, however he does a thorough job of explaining why the Old Testament is so foundational to not only understanding the New Testament, it is essential to Christian faith. I hope you find it helpful for your study of God's Word and encourage you to lean into his teaching.

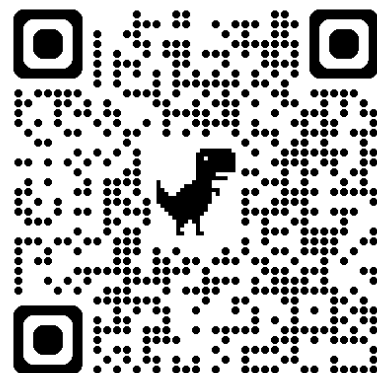
Finally, the other additional item in this month's newsletter is a prayer guide for the upcoming General Conference that will be starting at the end of August. Those who will be travelling for and working at General Conference need our prayer support.. The first prayer guide begins on July 15th and will run until the week before the General Conference starts. I will make sure that updated links are included in next month's newsletter for the second prayer guide.

Whoever said summer was a slow season is either not paying attention or doesn't want to learn, grow, and serve. Thankfully at Salem Church we remain focused on being Kingdom People with several opportunities for each. I look forward to what God has in store and if you're interested in making more opportunities, please see me so we can get it started!

Blessings 🙌,



Every 6 years representatives of Global Methodists from all over the world gather together to discuss the business of the Church. This year the General Conference is meeting Aug. 30th—Sept. 5th in Johannesburg, South Africa. To begin that work, we are joining with our brothers and sisters for prayer over this important gathering. Please use go to <https://www.beautyofholiness2026.org/prayer-guides> or use the QR code here:



The following article is from Good News an organization that helped form the GM Church. Dr. Arnold is a professor at Asbury Seminary.



Why the Old Testament? by Bill T. Arnold

Every reader of the Bible is confronted with a question: “Since the Old Testament claims God revealed himself to ancient Israel and that he will reveal himself further in the future, what do I make of these theological claims?” Or to put it another way, “How are the Old Testament’s claims resolved in history?”

I say this because the writings collected in what Christians call the “Old Testament” have no clearly stated completion or resolution. They have no literary denouement. Instead, the Old Testament ends in expectation, awaiting a fuller revelation to usher in a new kingdom and its Messiah. The Old Testament presents a history of redemption and promise, a “salvation-history” (*Heilsgeschichte*). But as one scholar has pointed out, it is a salvation-history that never actually arrives at salvation (John Bright, 1959). It creates a trajectory that doesn’t quite arrive at its termination point within its own pages.

In the history of religion, there are two possible answers to this question—the one offered by Judaism and the one offered by Christianity. Judaism believes the truth-claims of the Old Testament were preserved in the traditions of the Mishnah (approximately 200 AD) and, finally, in the Talmud (commentary on the Mishnah). In this approach the culmination of Old Testament hopes and expectations is deferred to the future. The Messiah’s arrival is still a future event, and the kingdom of God is postponed.

On the other hand, Christianity has been clear from its inception that the New Testament fulfills and complements the Old. The Gospels’ genealogies of Jesus (Mt 1:1–16; Lk 3:23–28) explicitly affirmed that the Messiah has arrived, and that he is the culmination and fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Over and over again in the New Testament, the authors emphasize the intimate connections between the events of their day and the Old Testament with quotes such as “All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet . . .” (Mt 1:22; see also Lk 24:44–47). And the early church recognized and affirmed the importance of the Old Testament to Christian faith, rejecting all dissenting voices as heretical (such as Marcion of Sinope).

The arrangement of Old Testament books in our Christian canon intentionally ties Old and New together. By concluding with the prophets, the Old Testament collection leaves off with a final prediction of that day when one greater than David will appear (Mal 3:1).

But this raises one of the thorniest questions of reading the Bible: How do the Old and New Testaments relate to each other? Some today would say the Old Testament does not relate to modern culture; indeed, even many Christians cut it from their Bibles, either intentionally or by neglect. In recent years, intense debates have centered on this very question, in both the US and Germany. Here, leading pastors have suggested that portions of the Bible (many of which are Old Testament texts) should be placed in a category of passages that never fully expressed the heart, character, or will of God. Another US pastor has proposed that modern Christians should ‘unhitch’ from the Old Testament altogether. In Germany, similar debates are happening, although in a more academic conversation among scholars and theologians.^[1]

What should our response be? With the earliest Christian believers we must assert that the Old Testament is God’s Word for our times. The question is not *whether* we should read both Testaments, but rather *how* we should read them together. Exactly how do they relate?

We must define this relationship as more than a simple promise–fulfillment connection, since much of the Old Testament is something other than promises. Likewise, it is more than a simple chronological sequence, as the terms “old” and “new”, or “first testament” and “second testament” might imply. This is not an old, outmoded covenant system now made obsolete by a newer, sleeker model. Instead, the relationship is more integrative and reciprocal. There is an interdependence

between the Old and New Testaments. Reading either testament in isolation from the other will result in misunderstanding both. Or, as theologian Fredrick Holmgren said it, either testament “without the other cannot be the scripture of the church” (*The Old Testament and the Significance of Jesus*, 1999, 138).

This intimate relationship between the Testaments has at least three aspects. First, the Old Testament is the *literary background* for the New. This can be illustrated by the sheer mass of New Testament quotations of or allusions to the Old. One scholar has counted 295 separate explicit references to the Old Testament, occupying some 352 verses of the New by one count. But the literary relationship is more than mere quotations. The rhetorical techniques, and to some degree even language and style of the New Testament authors, are shaped by the Old Testament.

Second, the Old Testament is the *historical foundation* of the New. It is no exaggeration to say the New Testament would be incomprehensible without the historical information of the Old. How would readers of the New Testament understand the claim that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah without first learning something about the history of national Israel and the Davidic dynasty? This historical interdependency could be illustrated in countless ways. But perhaps the most obvious is the New Testament’s claim to fulfill the Old Testament’s future hopes.

Third, the Old Testament is the *theological centerpiece* of the New. The authors of the New Testament begin by affirming the theological truths of the Old, and they assume their readers know those truths and accept them. In fact, most of the great doctrinal truths of the church are defined first, not in the New Testament, but in the Old. Furthermore, many of these truths are not defined at all in the New Testament; they are simply taken for granted. So for example, the significance of creation, the nature of anthropology (or the human condition), the consequences of human sin, the central role of covenant in redemption, the doctrine of atonement—all are given definitive statement in the Old Testament and assumed by the authors of the New. And this is only a partial list. In many ways, the New Testament contains little that is actually new, but rather describes the climactic fulfillment of the theological themes and messages from the Old Testament. Austrian Bible scholar, Ludger Schwienhorst-Schönberger puts it this way: “The often-posed question of why the Old Testament belongs to the (Christian) Bible should really be – if it were asked in a historically and hermeneutically correct way – ‘Why does the New Testament belong to the Bible?’”

In these ways, and in many others, the Old Testament is the literary, historical, and theological matrix of the New Testament. So I return to that intimately personal question the Old Testament poses for every reader: “Since God claims to reveal himself in the Old Testament and promises to reveal himself further in the future, what do I make of these theological claims?” The New Testament and two thousand years of church history have affirmed with one voice: Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that Old Testament revelation. Together the truth-claims of the Old and New Testaments give us pause to consider restating the question. Perhaps we should ask, not what do I make of the claims of the Bible, but what do they make of *me*? The Bible offers truth, and invites all of us to receive, confess, believe, and allow the text to form us (not just *inform* us but *transform* us). In so doing, these writings become the means of grace whereby God’s Spirit makes us new people.

Excerpted and revised from Bill T. Arnold, “Epilogue,” in *Encountering the Old Testament; A Christian Survey*, by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer, Fourth Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2024), 465–67.

[1] “Marcion on the Elbe: A Defense of the Old Testament as Christian Scripture,” *First Things* (December, 2018): 21-26; <https://firstthings.com/marcion-on-the-elbe>.

Celebrating Mary Wickersham on her 100th Birthday!

Saturday, July 18th

1:30—3:30 pm

Marion Salem Church

Call/text Elaine Augenstein to RSVP by 7/10 at 740-389-4194

No gifts please

Everyone is welcome!



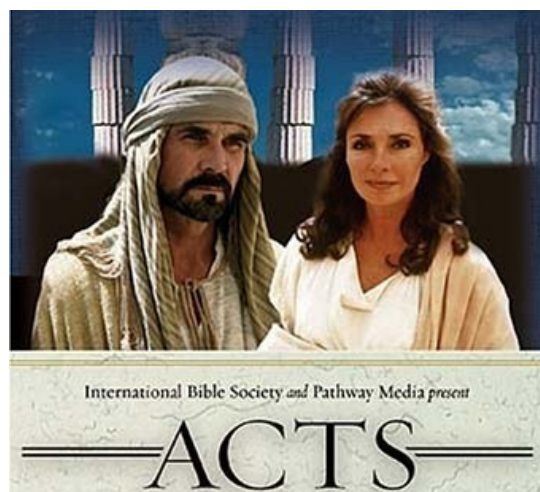
Noodle Making Day

175 pounds of flour 70 dozen eggs + many hands

Yields: 60 quarts of noodles to cook for the social + 268 bags to sell



The Next Kairos Men's Weekend at the Marion Correctional Facility is scheduled for September. Men from Salem Church are invited to join. If you are interested in learning more, contact Rev. Carl Schaffer at 740-815-0974. Their meetings start in July.



Monday Bible Study

Join in the study where we watch the Word come to life with the Visual Bible's presentation of the Book of Acts. We are trying to take a chapter a week, however the schedule may spillover.

July 6th: No study, Social week

July 13th: Acts 20

July 20th: Acts 21

July 27th: No study, VBS

New Members Class

Those interested in joining the Professing Membership of Marion Salem Church are invited to join the 6-session New Members Class that will begin in July. Classes will be held after worship in the New Room off the gym. Lunch will be provided. Because of work and holiday schedules the classes run on the following Sundays:

Session 1—July 26

Session 2—August 2

Session 3—August 16

Session 4—August 23

Session 5—September 13

Session 6—September 27

Please see Pastor Jason if you would like to attend. All are welcome to attend, whether you already are a member, desire to become one, or would like to join in this group of discipleship.



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.

July Studies:

1st: TBA

8th: No study, Social

15th: Study continues

22nd: Study continues

29th: No study, VBS week

"He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; he gently leads those that have young." Isaiah 40:11

The Sheepdog Spot



ASSISTING THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN TENDING THE FLOCK, ESPECIALLY THE LAMBS AND THOSE THAT HAVE YOUNG



LEAPIN'

Loving
Each
And Every
Person
In
Need

Missions at LEAPIN'

Leapin' is an amazing outreach ministry in our own backyard. On Tuesdays, students who would like a ride

will meet at the church at 4:45pm and ride with Pastor Heather, returning at approximately 7:45pm. Leapin' is also open on Thursdays at the same time, but Pastor Heather is unavailable then. Volunteer opportunities may be assisting with guest check-out, receiving and sorting donations, adding donations to the floor, and other tasks as needed. It is a great way to serve the Lord and the community! (Pastor Heather will be unavailable to give rides on July 21 because of Camp Sychar or on July 28 because of VBS).

Coming In Fall of 2026: Junior Youth Group

JUNIOR YOUTH

This new youth group for those in grades 4-6 during the 2026-2027 school year will run from 4:00-6:00pm on Sunday evenings. However, it will not be possible without volunteers. We will be operating on a Rotation Model (think VBS stations) where a monthly biblical lesson will be reinforced weekly through different types of hands-on activities. This is a great way for adults and teens to share their God-given talents with the older elementary aged children in our congregation. Every week will begin a brief period of worship and prayer, a large group game, and then the balance of the time will be in a special activity center such as art, cooking, drama, music, science, storytelling, and more! Volunteers would only be committing to the one Sunday that their particular talent will be expressed. Contact Pastor Heather for

Youth Schedule

- **July 5, 6pm:** Youth Group
- **July 7, 4:45pm:** LEAPIN'
- **July 12, 6pm:** Youth Group
- **July 14, 4:45pm:** LEAPIN'
- **July 16-26:** Camp Sychar
- **July 26-28:** VBS

What's in a name?

A new school year and a new ministry begs for new names! Ideally, we'd like the names for both youth groups to go together (for example: Teens for Christ and Kids for Christ, Sonshine Teens and Sonshine Kids). Those examples were boring. I know that you all can come up with something better! Bonus points for connecting the names to a Bible verse or character! Submit your ideas to Pastor Heather.

Children's Message Schedule

July 5	Pastor Heather
July 12	Open
July 19	VBS
July 26	VBS

Pastor Heather invites you to join her!

201 Sychar Rd.
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

156
years



JULY
16 - 26
2026



Has your spiritual tank been running on empty? Has your walk with the Lord lately felt more like a limp? Would you like to meet new friends who become like family? Do you deeply long for some undistracted time to be with the Lord? Do you just need a vacation without breaking the bank? Then you need to come to camp! Come for all ten days or just for a worship service or anything in between. You will not regret it!

Camp Sychar is a non-denominational, Christian, holiness

MAIN TABERNACLE SERVICES

Daily Schedule

6:45am Rising Bell
7:15am Prayer Meeting/Youth Devotions
8:00am Breakfast
9:30am Bible Study/Worship (separate ages)
12:00pm Lunch
2:30pm Fun Events (separate ages)



CORY CLARK
EVANGELIST



DR. MATT AYARS
EVANGELIST



DR. BILL KIERCE
EVANGELIST

Tuesday is Missionary Day! Hear from those who have ministered in other countries and support them at an afternoon fair!



DR. CALEB FRIEDEMANN
BIBLE TEACHER



CARLA SHUCK
SONG EVANGELIST

YOUTH MINISTRY (Ages 12-19) The cost for youth attending for the first time is free! Returners cost \$110. This includes housing and cafeteria. They do not have to stay the entire time.



FRANCO SALVATORI
EVANGELIST

KIDS MINISTRY (Ages 6-12) Kids must be housed with a parent or other related responsible adult and will eat in the cafeteria. There are no additional costs, and they do not have to stay the entire time. The Preschool and Nursery for younger children also have no additional costs.



CHARISSA BUCHANAN
EVANGELIST

Pastor Heather serves on the Kids Team!

Cafeteria

Meal tickets can be purchased for your convenience or you may purchase meals a la carte.

Meal Tickets

Adults (18+): Full Camp \$160, 5 days \$85, 1 day \$17

Housing

- Camp Sychar has a variety of rooms available for rent. Each room costs \$142.50 for a 10-day rental or \$15/day. Double-sized rooms (recommended for families) cost \$190 for a 10-day rental or \$20/day.
- RV/camper site rental costs are \$35 a night and tent

Anyone part of the Marion Salem family who would like to attend camp, even for a day, but are worried about the



Salem is proud to have the following participants at this year's fair. If you go to the fair, please stop by the various barns/buildings to see them or their entries:

- *Riggins Pollock - Goats and Pie Auction
- *Marissa Loyer - Goats, Steer
- *Aiden Jordan - Market Steer
- *Addison Jordan - Market Hogs
- *Piper Croskey - Swine and Poultry
- *Luc Crawford - Sheep
- *Colby Jordan - Market Steer
- *Collin Loyer - Steer
- *Carter Bayles - Steer, Breeding Heifer and Beef Feeder
- *Audrey Bayles - Cloverbuds and PeeWee Beef Feeder Showmanship
- *Megan Pollock - Pie Auction, Culinary (honey), Flower Show (house plant), Creative Hobbies (Scrapbooking), Holiday/Seasonal (Fairy Garden) and Antiques/Vintage Toys (Antiques)

Aiden, Addison and Colby Jordan – Parents: Leslie and Tim Jordan
Marissa and Collin Loyer – Parents: Amanda and Jayson Loyer
Piper Croskey – Parents: Jennifer and Scott Croskey
Luc Crawford – Parent: Maria Barbarich
Riggins Pollock – Parents: Megan and Shad Pollock
Carter and Audrey Bayles – Parents: Andrea and Dustin Bayles

For more information on show times and sales, please visit: www.marioncountyfairgrounds.com and look under the County Fair tab.



No Senior Lunch in July



Lock In
June 4th
Faith
Fun
Food
Fellowship



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 Communion	6	7	8 Ice Cream Social 	9 SPRC 6:30 pm	10	11
12	13 Bible study 4 pm	14	Bible study 7 pm	16	17	18 Mary's 100th!
19	20 Bible study 4 pm Ad Council 6:30 pm	21	22 Bible study 7 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

VBS

Pray for

Ron VonAlmen
Janet Schelb
Jude Stitzel
Sheryl Campbell
Donna McKinnis
Vicki Adams
Israel
Judi Myers
Rick Hicks
Haiti
Mike Dilsaver
Steve Crock
Paul Messenger

Shawn Wilcox
Jamie Marquis
Inda Lama family
Janie Wooten
Doug Burkhardt
Nathan Cedric
Mary & Bill Linn
Joni McCray

Andrew Pfeiffer
Tierney Bender
Jim Miracle
Nathan Long
Sean Hert
Mary Galloway
Eva Moran family
Brock Parker
Howser family
Campbell family



GREETERS

7/5 Phil & Marilyn Shroyer
7/12 Layton Sharp & Janet Strine
7/19 Austin & Jesseca Wagner
7/26 Jerry & Karen Marquis



ANNIVERSARIES

7/10 Dale & Kelly Wagner
7/16 Tim & Leslie Jordan
7/17 Ken & Tierney Bender



Birthdays

7/5 Deb Mahler
7/9 Jennifer Croskey
7/11 Pastor Jason
7/13 Audrey Bayles
7/15 Terry Fisher
7/17 Paul Messenger
7/18 Mary Wickersham
7/24 Dustin Bayles
7/26 Janet Burns
7/28 Marilyn Lawrence
7/29 Mike Rose
7/30 Kerr Murray

Children's Church

7/5 No Children's Church
7/12 Ruth Lutz & Jesseca Wagner
7/19 Cheryl Slack & helper needed
7/26 No Children's Church

Nursery Schedule

7/5 Robbi Smart & helper needed
7/12 Susan Rockwell & Robbi Smart
7/19 Robbi Smart & Tracy Weisbrodt
7/26 Karla Sharp & Jesseca Wagner



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

July—CIA Class

August—Upper Room Class