



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 like to remind folks that each season has it's own kind of crazy. In the Church, many of my colleagues think that if they get past Easter there will be a lull in the action and some breathing space. Unfortunately, May is when the church starts gearing up for summer ministries like VBS and the Ice Cream Social. You've got Mother's Day, Graduation, and Memorial Day during this month. There are meetings that prepare for Annual Conference and gearing up for that gathering.

And if you aren't at least thinking about next Fall's plans, then when that comes around you'll be behind. So then, with all this happening, why add to it when you don't have to? It's because it's important.

Let me explain what I am talking about. When we started on building rhythms of how we will live into the new chapter of ministry at Salem Church, I knew that transparency and communication were going to be important values for leadership. We have been through a season of tumultuous change, and unfortunately in our world of continuous change, I have the sad duty to say there will be more change in the future. Change is not necessarily good or bad, it just is. We can either stick our heads in the sand and deny what's happening, or be intentional about how we respond. That's why it is absolutely imperative that leaders be intentional about what is happening.

Early on, I encouraged the various committees to do their best to create a "congregational readout." A readout is an abbreviated synopsis of major actions at the meeting, kind of like the minutes. I've never had a congregant ask for the minutes of a meeting (and most churches I've pastored were a little surprised that I ask for 3 years worth of minutes). Yet, the first time we did a readout there was positive response—because it showed transparency in the midst of big changes.

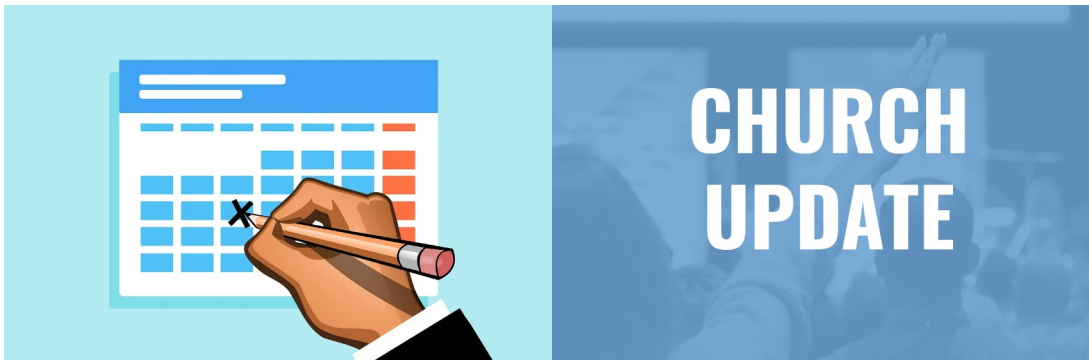
Likewise, I asked our Administrative Council to step out in faith and do a congregational update in the spring. Every fall we have Church Conference (it's tradition), which is where various matters of business are voted on for the coming year. Twelve months is a long time to bring the congregation together to share about what is going on in the administrative life of the church. A good balance is semi-annual and that is why we are having a Congregational Update on May 17th. It is an opportunity for the congregation to hear from the leadership and for questions to be asked.

Ministry is not accomplished by a single person (the pastor), those who are paid (the staff), or those in recognized roles (lay leaders). Everyone in the congregation is responsible for the ministry of the local church. We do not have to have a Congregational update, nothing constrains us to do this. We do it because we want to take intentional steps to be transparent and communicate what is happening and coming in the future. So make plans to join together at the potluck after worship on Sunday, May 17th. Bring some food, have some fellowship, and celebrate Christ's work among us!

Blessings 🙌,

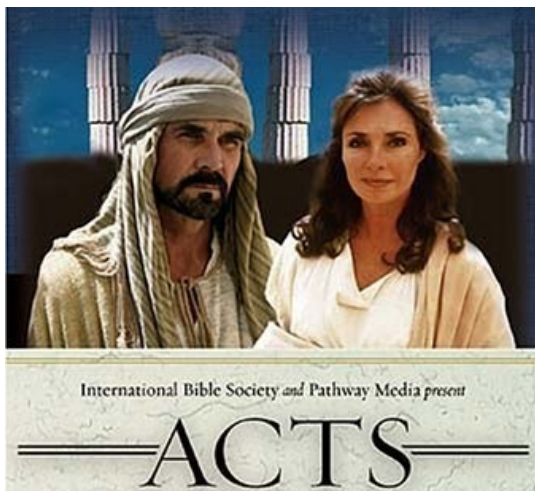
New Membership Class

Those who are interested in joining the membership of Marion Salem Church should reach out to Pastor Jason. Plans are beginning for the next 6-week cohort. (Current members are welcome to attend and study together with incoming members.)



**SUNDAY
MAY 17TH**

Following worship we will gather in the family center for a potluck meal. During our time together members of the Administrative Council will share updates about where we've been as a congregation over the past year and plans for the future. The congregation is invited to send questions to any Administrative Council member or the church office before May 14th. We'll also take questions during our time together. Please mark your calendars for this important time of sharing and discussion.



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.

May 4th: Acts 16

May 11th: Acts 17

May 18th: Acts 18

May 25th: No Study (Memorial Day)

Spaghetti Dinner
to Support Aspire Ministries

2026
March 21
May 30
August 29

Donations

Waldo Methodist Church
Serving 4:30 till 7pm

Gluten Free Available
Carry out
740-726-2777

Aspire
MINISTRIES

Aspire Events

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.

April Studies:

6th: Study continues
13th: Study continues
20th: Study continues
27th: Study continues



Please help us update our information for the Memorial Day Service which will be Sunday, May 24. Please let Amy McGuire know of those who are currently serving and any veterans that have died in the last year—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.



Workday May 16th

Join the Trustees on Saturday, May 16th beginning at 9am. There will be work both inside and outside, so we are not dependent on good weather. Please help us with signing up in the sanctuary and offering project suggestions.

Graduate Sunday May 17

Marion Salem Church looks forward to celebrating our graduates on Sunday, May 17th. 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 10th. We'd like to recognize their achievements during worship!





Thank you!!
for our newest
performers in April.
We hope to hear
from you again
soon!



<https://alleghenywestgmc.org/ac-2026/>

Beginning on Wednesday June 24 through Saturday June 27, the Global Methodists of Ohio and western Pennsylvania will gather again at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Pastor Jason, Pastor Heather, Charisse Smith, and Karla Sharp will be joining with about 2000 other disciples. Last year a group of Salem Singers joined the conference choir and Tony Smith helped with golf cart transportation around campus. There are learning and volunteer opportunities. At only an hour drive away from Salem, this is a great opportunity for our church family to worship, learn, and fellowship with other disciples of Christ. Registration is on the conference website.

Volunteer Opportunities

Annual Conference Tech Team

The Annual Conference Tech Team is seeking camera operators and computer graphics operators. Bring your tech expertise or come with a willingness to learn.

Training will be provided Wed June 24th at MVNU. Contact Jim Beck for additional details and to volunteer. jbeck@reycc.com.

Event Logistics Volunteers

The Annual Conference Event Logistics Team is a fun way to help make sure everyone enjoys the conference experience. You can help with registration, drive golf carts to help people get around campus, or ensure health and safety by serving at the First Aid station. Visit conference website.

The Posture of Prayer

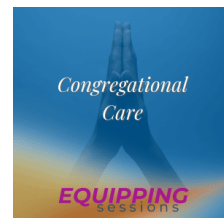
Breakfast: 8:30-9:00am
 Praise and Worship: 9-9:30 am
 Dr. Terry Teykl: 9:30am to noon
 Lunch: Noon- 1:00pm
 Praise and Worship: 1-1:30pm
 Pastor Jeremy Barkley: 1:30-4:00 pm

Join us for The Posture of Prayer at Mt. Vernon Nazarene University, one day before Annual Conference. Grow in the grace and power of prayer ministry as

Dr. Terry Teykl and Pastor Jeremy Barkley share in Word and Spirit. Share with other church partners what the possibilities of prayer ministry can look like in both the small and large church family. Registration on conference website.

awaken

As we are seeking to ignite congregational care ministry at Marion Salem Church, Pastor Jason wants to encourage a team to attend the "Congregational Care and Ethics" training. Registration available at conference website. (Be sure to select "Congregational Care" in the session options.)





All ladies are invited to a *Daughters of the King Tea*

at the Family Center, Marion Salem Church

*Saturday May 9, 2026 at 12:30pm
Various flavors of tea and a light lunch
will be enjoyed*



Please bring your favorite tea cup and join us!



**RSVP to Emily Sharp or the church office
by Wed. May 6**

Men: Please see Pastor Jason if you would like to help serve at the Ladies' Tea. We'll need kitchen help to prepare the food about 11:00 am. Servers are needed to arrive by 12:15 pm.

Easter 2026



"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 Strivers Sheepdog Spot



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



Attention All Volunteers Who Work With Children and/or Teens under 18 years old



We are currently in the process of transferring background check records to a new computer system. You should

have received emails from Ministry Safe on behalf of Pastor Heather regarding Child Abuse training and renewing background checks. Thank you to those who have already responded!

The child abuse training is required to be completed once, and a background check is to be completed every two years as per our church's child protection policy. This applies to all those who help with children/youth Sunday School, Children's Messages, Children's Church, the Nursery, VBS, Youth Group, other special events throughout the year, or those who would like to serve this way in the future.

If this applies to you, and you did not receive any emails, first check your spam folder, and if you still do not see them, please send an email to pastor.heather.gmc@gmail.com.

If you have completed child abuse training elsewhere, or have passed a background check in the last two years, please send a copy of your certificate(s) to the email address listed above.

There is no need to send a copy of any certificates if you have completed your training through the Ministry Safe emails. There is no cost to you for completing the background training.

Thank you for helping to keep our children and teens safe!

Strivers Youth Schedule

- **May 3** 6:00 pm Youth Group
- **May 10** No Youth Group (Mother's Day)
- **May 17** 6:00 pm Youth Group
- **May 24** No Youth Group (Memorial Day weekend)
- **May 31** 6:00 pm Youth Group

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will

Special Events Coming Up at Youth Group

May 16	Work Day at the Church
June 4-5	Lock-in
July 16-26	Camp Sychar

Children's Message Schedule

May 3	Pastor Heather
May 10	Cheryl Slack
May 17	Ruth Lutz
May 24	Emily Sharp
May 31	Pastor Heather



Eggstravaganza 2026





**Rhema Academy has increased enrollment
to 25 students for the current year!!**

Rhema is also recruiting for the 2026/2027 school year. We hope to almost double enrollment for next year.

Come and see what Rhema Academy is all about!



End of Year Rhema Concert

May 28th at 6:30 pm

Enjoy and support the school children giving their best to God!

**Senior
Lunch**

Wed. May 27—Noon

Menu: tbd

Food Pantry

Hours: Monday 10-noon





20
CLASS OF
26



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
Aiden Jordan
SATURDAY MAY 23, 2026 5:00 - 8:00
1729 WHETSTONE RIVER RD S, MARION, OH

Aiden and the Jordan Family
would like to invite everyone to
his graduation open house on

Saturday, May 23, 2026

5-8 pm

1729 Whetstone River Road S.

Marion

Next peanut butter
sandwich making is
May 24 & June 21
Please join us in the
kitchen!



Youth Lock-in Save the Date!

Thursday June 4th & 5th

Invite your friends!

Food, devotions, games—even breakfast!

Save the date for VBS!!

July 26th—28



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4 Bible study 4 pm	5	6 Choir 6:15 Bible study 7 pm	7 AHG 6 pm	8	9 Ladies Tea 12:30
10 Mother's Day	11 Bible study 4 pm	12 Rhema conferences 4 pm	13 Choir 6:15 Bible study 7 pm	14 SPRC 6:30 pm	15	16 Work Day
17 Church Update Meeting	18 Bible study 4 pm Ad Council 6:30 pm	19 Rhema 5 pm	20 Choir 6:15 Bible study 7 pm	21 AHG 6 pm	22 RV graduation	23 Family Center Reserved
24 31	25 Memorial Day 	26	27 Sr. Lunch 12 pm Choir 6:15 Bible study 7 pm	28 Rhema program 6:30 pm	29	30



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

May—Genesis Class

June—Joy/Ren Class



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



Children's Church

5/3 No Children's Church
5/10 Becky Oliver & Megan Pollock
5/17 Ruth Lutz & Jesseca Wagner
5/24 Emily Sharp & Cheryl Slack
5/31 Still needed

Birthdays

5/2 Jenny Bayles
5/4 Mary Galloway
Brian Mahler
5/6 Tierney Bender
Jayson Loyer
5/8 Julie Roth
5/10 Leslie Jordan
Megan Pollock
5/14 Colby Jordan
5/18 Joey Crawford
Jerry Marquis
5/20 Curt Galloway
5/28 Chuck VanVoorhis
5/30 Conni McChesney
Betty Woodruff

GREETERS

5/3 Ruth Lutz & Landon Sharp
5/10 Tony & Charisse Smith
5/17 Brian & Deborah Mahler
5/24 Jenny Bayles & Cindy Fuller
5/31 Paul & Ellen Messenger

Nursery Schedule

5/3 Linda Seitter & Robbi Smart
5/10 Jesseca Wagner & Tracy Weisbrodt
5/17 Karen Marquis & Karla Sharp
5/24 Kathy Fisher & Conni McChesney
5/31 Susan Rockwell & Marilyn Shroyer



ANNIVERSARIES

5/25 Jay & Betty Woodruff

Shawn Wilcox
Jamie Marquis
Inda Lama
Janie Wooten
Doug Burkhardt
Nathan Cedric
Mary & Bill Linn
Joni McCray
Andrew Pfeiffer
Norm Titus
Tierney Bender
Max Strine
Family of Kip McCollough
Jim Miracle
Nathan Long
Sean Hert
Mary Galloway
Deborah Mahler