



Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their congregation merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their congregation's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. Salem's Finance Committee continues with the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the congregation to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to Marion Salem Church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge everyone to attend even if opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship on October 25th we will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday by asking for reservations at the Consecration Sunday Celebration luncheon following worship. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Lay Leader  
Charisse Smith



*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 have never quite understood the immense stress that comes from stewardship programs in the Church. I suppose it might be a generational thing. I have had colleagues share the “horror” stories of stewardship programs of old. The old “Pony Express” program, where volun-tolds were given a list of church members to “call on” and record their “pledge” of financial support for the year. I can honestly say I never experienced that and I can understand the anxiety around it. It’s inappropriately confrontational.

I’ve also heard that finances are a personal matter. I can honestly tell you, that’s a recent invention in the Church. Yes, yes, I know you’re looking for the verse where Jesus talks about giving in secret. I’ll help you. It’s Matthew 6:2-4 and it has nothing to do with tithes and offerings. It’s about almsgiving which is solely directed toward the needy. Tithes are not alms. They are a response of thanksgiving of first fruits, 10% of your income. Offerings are gifts in addition to tithes. Both of these were very public acts in Scripture—when you brought a lamb, a bushel of grain, or if you were poor and it was just two pigeons; everyone knew it.

Early Methodists prior to the establishment of a church, paid class member dues; everyone’s was the same. The class leader received it and passed it on to the larger society (if a class member couldn’t pay; the leader was expected to pay for them). Later in the settler days after the establishment of the Methodist Church, there was a ledger where attendance and offerings were recorded by each individual (you signed yourself in and what you gave). Everybody saw that. Pews used to be “rented” by families (such practices were the cause of the formation of the Free Methodist denomination in 1860). I believe the most expensive were in the back (the front pew, “the sinner’s bench,” was always free).

Jesus spent a great deal of time talking about money, about a quarter of the parables (some are directly about money, others use money to talk about the Kingdom). So why all the controversy? I think in our society money plays a big role and we filter everything through how much it costs. So when anyone starts to talk about money, it pushes buttons because putting categories on dollars takes away our control. Yet as disciples, we ought to surrender control to Jesus. So that’s why it’s important to learn about stewardship in the Church. So as we look at that subject of money, please know I’m not trying to push your buttons. I’m hoping to grow with you as a disciple around the subject of our personal finances. A little or a lot, if Jesus talked about it, we should too.

Blessings 🙌,

Pastor Jason and family will be on vacation from September 30th through October 6th and also out on October 8th. Please reach out to Pastor Heather, Charisse Smith, or Conni McChesney with any concerns. Pastor Jason will sporadically be checking messages.

During the month of October we are going to have a focus on stewardship and celebration in concert with the New Consecration Sunday stewardship campaign.

4th: Pastor Heather speaking

11th: How Dare You

Mark 12:41-44

18th: How Much Is It Worth To You?

Psalms 132:1-12

25th: Celebrate or Violate

2 Samuel 6



## HELP WANTED – ASSISTANT CUSTODIAN

Marion Salem Church is looking for a dependable and caring individual to join our team as an Assistant Custodian.

The purpose of this position is to assist our custodian in properly maintaining the church facilities and providing a **clean, safe, and welcoming environment** for our members, guests, and community.

The Assistant Custodian will help clean and maintain the building, making sure our spaces are presentable and ready to be used for church ministries and activities. Through this work, we strive to create an environment where **Christ may be glorified and disciples made**.



**Part-Time Position – Up to 20 hours per week**



**Flexible Hours**



**Pay Range: \$12–\$16 per hour**

We are looking for someone who is dependable, takes pride in their work, and would enjoy serving our church through this important ministry.

**Interested or know someone who might be a great fit? Please contact Marion Salem Church for more information or to apply.**



**Please share and help us spread the word!**

### **All Church Fall Party**

**Sunday, October 11**

**4 pm**

**Hosts: Tony & Charisse Smith**

**5703 County Rd. 66**

**Edison**

**All are welcome!**

**Bring a dish to share & a chair**

**Drinks & Hot dogs provided**





## Historian

### Committee Forming

Marion Salem has a rich history that needs to be captured for future generations. Because it is a daunting task for one person, it was suggested that we form a committee. The committee could be made up of seniors that know names, faces and stories of Salem in addition to those who are good at technology to decide the best way to preserve them. The group could possibly meet weekly or semi-monthly especially during the winter months. Interested? Please speak with Pastor Jason or Amy!

Senior  
Lunch

**Wed. October 28**

**Noon**

**Menu: tbd**

### Food Pantry

Hours: Monday 10-noon



Next peanut butter  
sandwich making is

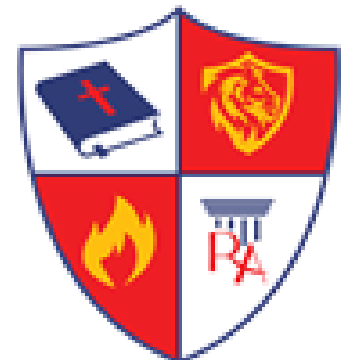
Oct. 18

Please join us in the  
kitchen!



**Rhema Academy has increased enrollment  
to 34 students for the current year!!**

Rhema is 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!



"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 Family Sheepdog Spot



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



## Lifewise is now at River Valley!

Pastor Heather is the teacher.

Classes have already begun, but new students in grade 6-8 are always welcome.

For more information, to donate, to volunteer, or to register a student, please visit <https://lifewise.org/program/3904844-river-valley-local-school-district/>.

## Children's Message Schedule

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| October 4  | Cheryl Slack   |
| October 11 | Pastor Heather |
| October 18 | Ruth Lutz      |
| October 25 | Emily Sharp    |

## The Refuge: Pre-Teens

Sundays, 4pm-6pm



- **October 4**

SESSION 4: What Does the Bible Say About Me?

- **October 11—Family Fall Party**

- **October 18**

SESSION 5: What Does the Bible Say About Church?

- **October 25**

SESSION 6: What Is the Bible All About?

Every week includes a lesson and discussion, worship, games, and snacks!

## The Refuge: Teens

Sundays, 6pm-8pm



- **October 4:** SESSION 4: Not Like Me
- **October 11—Family Fall Party**



- **October 18**

SESSION 1: Conversations with a Father

- **October 25**

SESSION 2: Conversations with a Friend

Every week includes a lesson and discussion, worship, games, and snacks!

# revive OHIO

## Mobile Outreach

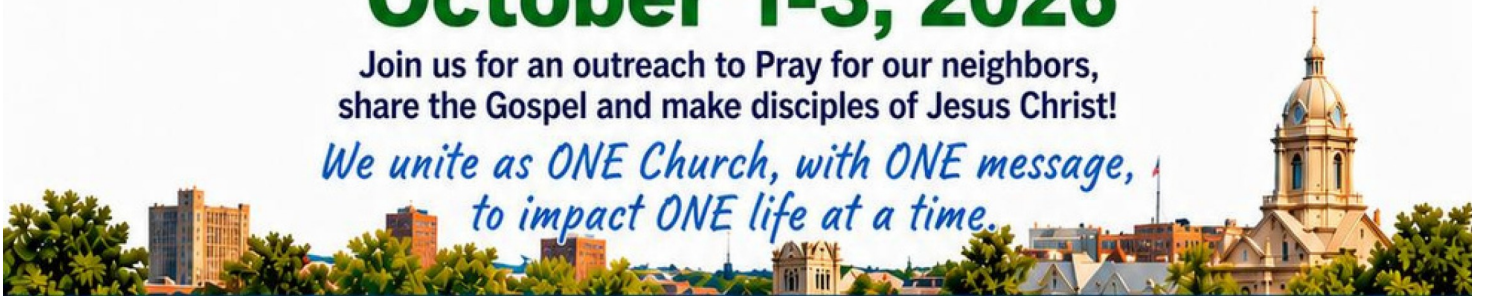
### MARION

# OUTREACH WEEKEND

## October 1-3, 2026

Join us for an outreach to Pray for our neighbors,  
share the Gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ!

*We unite as ONE Church, with ONE message,  
to impact ONE life at a time.*



### WHERE TO MEET

#### THURSDAY

(Kick-Off Prayer Service)

**Genesis Church**  
921 Woodrow Ave.  
Marion, OH  
**PRAY FOR OUR CITY**

#### FRIDAY & SATURDAY

(Teams, Training, Meals, etc.)

**Marion NAZ Church**  
233 W. Church Street  
Marion, OH 43302  
**PARKING LOT**



**FREE  
FOOD**



**Mobile  
Baptismal**



**Live  
Music**

(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

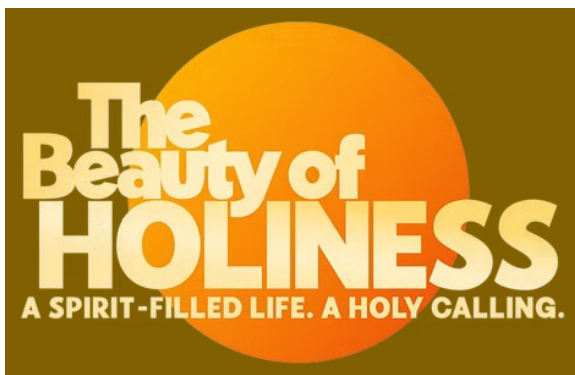
(Pray, Train, Assign, Send, Invite: Meals, etc.)

- 8:30 AM •  **PRAYER**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 9:00 AM •  **TRAIN / SEND TEAMS**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 12:00 PM •  **LUNCH**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 1:30 PM •  **TRAIN / SEND TEAMS**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 5:30 PM •  **DINNER**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 6:30 PM •  **PRAYER WALK**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

(Pray, Train, Assign, Send, Baptize, Feed, etc.)

- 8:30 AM •  **PRAYER**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 9:00 AM •  **TRAIN / SEND TEAMS**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 12:00 PM •  **LUNCH**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 1:30 PM •  **TRAIN / SEND TEAMS**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 5:30 PM •  **DINNER**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)
- 6:30 PM •  **WORSHIP & TESTIMONIES**  
Host Church: Marion NAZ Church (Parking Lot)



## General Conference 2026 is a wrap!

The first regular session of the Global Methodist Church General Conference has concluded in Johannesburg, South Africa. This is an elected delegate body of Global Methodists from all over the world and is chiefly responsible for revisions to the Book of Doctrines and Discipline as well as electing bishops for the next 6-year terms. Also the election of various committee members that will continue the work of the general church until the next General Conference in 2032.

There is currently not a single place or document for which you can go to read all that took place at General Conference outside of reviewing the workbook and daily journals—<https://www.beautyofholiness2026.org/workbook-and-journals>. That said, I (Pastor Jason) hope to offer some succinct overviews.

- Bishops in the Global Methodist Church serve for 6-year terms and can only serve for two such terms. Bishop Mark Webb has served us here in Allegheny West from the start, his service will continue in another area. We will be receiving Bishop Carolyn Moore who is from Georgia.
- For almost 60 years Methodists have lived with the tension of two doctrinal statements in the historic Methodist Episcopal Articles of Religion (edited by John Wesley) and the Evangelical United Brethren's Confession of Faith (from German-speaking Methodists). It was originally planned that the two sources would be merged together into a faithful and coherent document after 1968. Instead theological pluralism (meaning anything goes) was accepted in our former denomination. At General Conference the much discussed Articles of Faith were approved. There were good amendments during conference, so we are still awaiting a finalized document. However, it is a faithful, orthodox, Wesleyan articulation of faith.
- As predicted, petitions to delete the doctrine of Original Sin were unanimously defeated in legislative committee, placed on the consent calendar for rejection by the whole conference, and left aside.
- Connectional giving to the General church remains at 1% of local congregation operational income. This is significantly less than in our former tribe.

There were around 400 petitions considered at General Conference. It is a labor-intensive process to follow each one from petition, to committee, and finally the plenary session. It will likely be a few months before the latest edition of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline is released. Until then, if you have questions, please reach out and I will do my best to find the answer.

### Monday: Goliath Must Fall

It's likely you have a giant in your life. It's holding you captive, intimidating you with its taunts, and stealing your joy. Adversaries such as fear, anger, addiction, and others can stake a claim and, before you know it, gain a foothold in your heart. How do you live as if these giants are dead and silenced once and for all? In this six-session video Bible study, Louie Giglio examines the David and Goliath story to show you how: by focusing on the size of our God, not the height of your giants. As they go down, you gain freedom to walk in the victory Christ already won over the enemies that rob you of God's best for your life.

5th: No Study      12th: No Study  
19th: Dead but Still Deadly  
26th: Fear Must Fall

### 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.

#### October Studies:

7th: Study continues  
14th: Study continues  
21st: TBA  
22nd: Study continues



# October 2026

| Sun                              | Mon                                              | Tue | Wed                                                     | Thu                    | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                  |                                                  |     |                                                         | 1                      | 2   | 3   |
|                                  |                                                  |     |                                                         | Revive Ohio overnights |     |     |
| 4<br>Communion                   | 5<br>No Bible study                              | 6   | 7<br>Bible study 7 pm                                   | 8<br>SPRC 6:30 pm      | 9   | 10  |
| 11<br>Fall party 4 pm            | 12<br>No Bible study                             | 13  | 14<br>Choir 6:15<br>Bible study 7 pm                    | 15                     | 16  | 17  |
| 18                               | 19<br>Goliath Must Fall 4p<br>Ad Council 6:30 pm | 20  | 21<br>Choir 6:15<br>Bible study TBA                     | 22<br>Trustees 6:30 pm | 23  | 24  |
| 25<br>New Consecration<br>Sunday | 26<br>Goliath Must Fall 4p                       | 27  | 28<br>Sr. Lunch 12 pm<br>Choir 6:15<br>Bible study 7 pm | 29                     | 30  | 31  |

## Pray for ....

Ron VonAlmen  
Janet Schelb  
Jude Stitzel  
Donna McKinnis  
Vicki Adams  
Israel  
Judi Myers  
Rick Hicks  
Haiti  
Mike Dilsaver  
Steve Crock  
Paul Messenger  
Jamie Marquis  
Janie Wooten  
Mary & Bill Linn  
Joni McCray  
Andrew Pfeiffer  
Tierney Bender  
Jim Miracle  
Nathan Long  
Sean Hert  
Mary Galloway  
Sonia Moffat  
Robin Schelb  
Aimee Noe  
Terry Fisher  
Dave Slack  
Jason Smith  
Darlene Jerman  
Maddox Holman  
Jackson Crawford



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

October—Joy/Ren Class

November—CIA Class



## Birthdays

10/8 Judi Myers  
10/10 Brian Oliver  
10/13 Rick Roth  
10/17 Harrison Wyeth  
10/19 Linda Seitter  
10/23 Andrea Bayles  
10/24 Tim Jordan  
10/26 Jackson Crawford  
10/28 Joan Crock  
10/31 Donna McKinnis



## GREETERS

10/4 Jana Bauer & Jim Van Meter  
10/11 Linda Seitter & Jack Sharp  
10/18 Shad & Megan Pollock  
10/25 Janet Strine & Susie Williams

## Children's Church

10/4 No Children's Church

## Nursery Schedule

10/4 Avy Bauer & Charisse Smith  
10/11 Deb Hurst & Tracy Weisbrodt  
10/18 Kathy Fisher & Karen Marquis  
10/25 Amy McGuire & Susan Rockwell

## ANNIVERSARIES

10/1 Jason & Emily Sharp  
10/15 Jerry & Maria Barbarich  
10/21 Jesse & Avy Bauer  
10/31 Kerr & Sharon Murray