

MARION BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

590 Forest Lawn Drive, Marion, OH 43302 office@marionbible.com

2024 FESTIVAL DATES

The days listed below are a combination of biblical and traditional holidays celebrated at Marion Bible Fellowship (MBF). The Torah declares that no work may be done on certain festival Sabbaths. These sabbaths are denoted below with “*Festival Sabbath Reminder*.” You may wish to provide your employer with a request for time off well in advance (**only six weekdays this year**). Since the biblical day begins in the evening, these holidays span two civil days, beginning shortly before sunset and ending shortly after sunset the following day. Sunset times for your particular city may vary.

SPRING FESTIVALS

*Times to Recall Salvation: The Exodus and
Messiah's First Coming, Death, and Resurrection*

Purim

Marion Bible Fellowship hosts a traditional holiday reading of the book of Esther, with themed costumes worn by all participants. Purim celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from a wickedly schemed destruction during the time of the Persian empire. This observation recounts the sometimes silent faithfulness of God in preserving his people. Nothing happens by chance. God's hand moves powerfully, yet often silently, in human history.

Purim Celebration: Saturday evening, March 23, 7:00 pm at MBF

Passover and Unleavened Bread (Hebrew: *Pesach* and *Chag HaMatzot*)

Passover is an ordered evening meal (Hebrew: *seder*), while Unleavened Bread is a seven-day-long festival. Preparation for Unleavened Bread begins ahead of time by cleaning all food containing leavening agents from the home. During the festival, one abstains from all food containing leavening agents beginning with Passover eve until after sunset, the final day of the holiday week. The first and seventh days are sabbaths, with gathering times prescribed in the Torah. On the seventh day, MBF has adopted the tradition of gathering for a “Messiah Banquet” that anticipates Messiah's coming (return).

Passover Seder Meal: Monday evening, April 22, at sunset.

Seder activities this year are in private homes or at MBF as a group event at 6:30 pm. Reservations are required by emailing office@marionbible.com.

Unleavened Bread: Begins at sunset, Monday, April 22, at the Passover meal and continues through Monday, April 29, at sunset.

Messiah Banquet: Monday, April 29, 7:00 pm at MBF

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Tuesday, April 23, and Monday, April 29

First Fruits / Resurrection Morning (Hebrew: *Yom HaBikkurim*)

First Fruits is a one-day celebration of the first products of the barley harvest. It coincides with Messiah's resurrection as the “first fruit” of the New Covenant—He is the first to rise from the dead. For Messianic believers, First Fruits, as a celebration of Messiah's resurrection, parallels “Easter,” but it is biblically scheduled three days after the Passover meal on the Hebrew calendar, so it does not always coincide with Christendom's resurrection celebration.

Empty Tomb Celebration: Wednesday, April 24, 8:00 pm at MBF

Second Passover (Hebrew: *Pesach Shenì*)

The Second Passover is for those who cannot attend the Passover Meal due to travel away from home or ritual uncleanness, which is no longer relevant. Contact the pastor if you need us to provide an opportunity for this alternative celebration for you.

Alternate Passover Meal: Tuesday evening, May 21 (Call MBF for needed reservations)

Ascension Day

Ascension Day occurs on day 40 of the Omer Count. It is MBF's remembrance of the ascension of Messiah to the right hand of the Father.

Ascension Celebration: Sunday, June 2, 8:00 am
(on the lawn of the Harding Memorial or at MBF in case of rain)

Pentecost / Festival of Weeks (Hebrew: *Shavuot*)

Pentecost is a one-day celebration of the first products of the wheat harvest, occurring fifty days after First Fruits. This day is traditionally reckoned as the date God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai and the day God gave the Spirit to believers in Messiah (Acts 2).

Pentecost Celebration: Tuesday, June 11, 7:00 pm at MBF

Day Celebration and Scripture Sharing: Wednesday, June 12, 10:00 am. Lunch following.

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Wednesday, June 12

FALL FESTIVALS

*Times of Repentance, Preparation, and
Anticipation of Messiah's Return*

Festival of Trumpets (Hebrew: *Yom Teruah*)

The Festival of Trumpets is a day of blowing trumpets (ram's horn or Hebrew *shofar*) to alert believers to ready themselves for the upcoming Day of Atonement and the coming of Messiah. The day is a mixture of anticipation and begins a ten-day period of daily repentance and self-searching that terminates in the Day of Atonement. The traditional title of the day in Judaism today—*Rosh Hashanah* ("New Year")—is distantly secondary at MBF since the Bible marks the religious new year as the Hebrew month in which Passover occurs (Exodus 12:1-2).

Trumpets Celebration: Tuesday evening, October 1, 7:00 pm at MBF

Trumpets Prayer Service and Activities: Wednesday, October 2, 10:00 am at MBF, followed by a fellowship meal at MBF and then **Tashlich Service** mid-afternoon at Steve and Charlene Long home, 2626 Gooding Road, Marion, OH 43302

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Wednesday, October 2

Ten Days of Awe

MBF has adopted the tradition of observing the ten Days of Awe that begin on the Feast of Trumpets and end on the Day of Atonement. During these ten days, believers may use our printed Guide to consider various portions of their life in repentance. We bring these areas of our lives before the Lord in prayerful consideration on the Day of Atonement.

Day of Atonement (Hebrew: *Yom Kippur*)

Day of Atonement is called the "holiest day of the year" and is a day of serious and resolute rest, prayer, repentance, and gathering from evening sunset to evening sunset.

Atonement Opening Service: Friday, October 11, 7:00 pm at MBF

Atonement Prayer Service and Activities: Sabbath, October 12, 10:00 am at MBF

Atonement Prayer Closing Service and Break Fast: Sabbath, October 12, 7:00 pm at MBF

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Sabbath, October 12

Festival of Tabernacles / Booths (Hebrew: *Sukkot*)

The concluding festival of the year recalls Israel's wilderness experience while waiting to enter the Land. It also reminds us that God dwells in the midst of His people and cares for them, even in the most humble of circumstances. A third and the greatest focus of the festival anticipates God sending His Messiah to dwell with His people. Believers embrace this anticipation as we await Messiah's return, the establishment of the Temple in Jerusalem, and His reign as king over all nations. For additional fellowship opportunities during the week-long festival, MBF has a tradition of sharing a "Progressive Meal" where celebrating members visit several homes for a progressively complete evening dinner. Specific host homes are announced ahead of the event.

Tabernacles Opening Celebration/Foods: Wednesday, October 16, 7:00 pm at MBF

Tabernacles Prayer Service: Thursday, October 17, 10:00 am at MBF

Bible Storytelling: Sabbath, October 19, 2:30 pm at MBF

Progressive Meal: Tuesday, October 22, 6:00 pm

Tabernacles Great Deliverance Service: Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 pm at MBF

Eighth Day of Tabernacles Celebration: Thursday, October 24, 10:00 am at MBF

"Rolling back the Scroll": Readings from the end and beginning of sections of Scripture

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Thursday, October 17, and Thursday, October 24

WINTER FESTIVALS

*Two traditional festivals occur in the winter months.
Scripture refers to these festivals but does not mandate them.*

Festivals of Light

MBF traditionally celebrates the light of God by combining *Hanukkah* traditions, which recall God's light in the world in the Temple menorah, with *Christmas* traditions, which recall the Light of the World in the birth of Messiah (traditional date). We combine song, biblical readings, and candlelight to recall and anticipate the Light of God in our lives in both the restoration of the Temple and the birth of the Messiah. While unfamiliar to many Christians, *Hanukkah*, which means "dedication," is a traditional eight-day festival that prompts us to rededicate our lives to God and hope for a rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. MBF encourages the use of our devotional in the lighting of a *hanukiah* (Hanukkah "menorah") at home. Yeshua (Jesus) Himself observed God's deliverance in this "Feast of Dedication" (John 10:22-23), and we follow in His footsteps by doing so as well. As to Christmas, we share the narratives of the birth of Messiah, prophecies fulfilled in His coming, and the deliverance He brought to those who believe. A festival full of Scripture, song, and prayer is the theme of our Christmas gathering.

Christmas Festival of Light: Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 pm at MBF

Hanukkah Festival of Light: Thursday, December 26 – Thursday, January 2

Opening service: Wednesday, December 25, 7:00 pm at MBF

NEW MOONS

*Monthly Time of Rededication.
From creation on, there has been a monthly cycle of renewal.*

Rosh Chodesh (The Beginning of the Month)

Scripture instructs us to observe the New Moon (Hebrew *Rosh Chodesh*) each month and use it as the basis for determining the times of the biblical festivals. Since the lunar year differs from the solar year and our modern calendars, biblical festivals occur on different dates on our calendars but always occur on the same day of the lunar calendar.

Besides the additional Temple sacrifice, Torah does not designate specific activities for observing the new moon, so we must rely on Pharisaic traditions or personal reasoning. Whereas the modern identification of a new moon observes the dark phase of the moon, ancient Israelites regarded the new moon as the first visible crescent that occurs one or two days after the astronomical new moon. In any event, not only is the exact definition of the New Moon left to tradition, but the activities the holiday prescribes are also dependent on tradition.

At MBF, we believe the announcement of the New Moon at a gathering is an integral part of following the commandment to observe the New Moon. When we gather to celebrate the New Moon, we have a tradition of corporately reading Scriptures relating to the heavens, keeping Festivals based on the New Moon, and to renewing our commitment to serving the King more diligently in the month to come.

MBF has chosen to refer to the month by number as opposed to the usual Babylonian names in observance of the commandment: “Do not mention the name of other gods, nor let them be heard from your mouth” (Exodus 23:13). The Hebrew Bible provides us with the Hebrew names for three of the months.

NEW MOON DATES

Hebrew Calendar Month

Month 11
Month 12
Month 13
Month 1 (Hebrew *Aviv*¹)
Month 2 (Hebrew *Ziv*²)
Month 3
Month 4
Month 5
Month 6
Month 7 5785 (Hebrew *Etanim*³)
Month 8 (Hebrew *Bul*⁴)
Month 9
Month 10
Month 11
Month 12

Gregorian Calendar Dates

January 11, 2024
February 10, 2024
March 11, 2024
April 9, 2024
May 9, 2024
June 7, 2024
July 7, 2024
August 5, 2024
September 4, 2024
October 3, 2024
November 2, 2024
December 2, 2024
January 1, 2025
January 30, 2025
March 1, 2025

¹ Exodus 13:4; 23:15; 34:18; Deuteronomy 16:1

² 1 Kings 6:1, 37

³ 1 Kings 8:2

⁴ 1 Kings 6:38