

# MARION BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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## 2022 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 four 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 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 in silence and in declaration in human history.

**Purim Celebration:** Monday evening, March 6, 2023 7:00pm 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 Marion Bible Fellowship has adopted the tradition of gathering for a “Messiah Banquet” that anticipates Messiah's coming (return).

**Passover Seder Meal:** Occurs Friday evening, April 15 at sunset.

Seder activities this year are in private homes or at MBF as a group event at 6:30pm. Reservations are required by calling us at 740.387.4080 or email [office@marionbible.com](mailto:office@marionbible.com).

**Unleavened Bread:** Begins at sunset, April 15 at the Passover meal and continues through Saturday, April 22 at sunset.

**Messiah Banquet:** Friday, April 22, 7:00pm at MBF

*Festival Sabbath Reminder:* Saturday, April 16 and Friday, April 22

#### 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.

**First Fruits / Resurrection / Empty Tomb Celebration:** Sunday, April 17, 8:00pm at MBF

#### Second Passover (Hebrew: *Pesach Sheni*)

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 to have us provide an opportunity for this alternative celebration for you.

**Alternate Passover Meal:** Saturday, May 14 (Call MBF for needed reservations)

## Ascension Day

Ascension Day occurs on the fortieth day of the Omer Count. It is Marion Bible Fellowship's remembrance of the ascension of Messiah to the right hand of the Father.

**Ascension Celebration:** Thursday, May 26, 8:00am on the lawn of the Harding Memorial, or at Marion Bible Fellowship 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:** Saturday, June 4, 7:00pm at MBF

*Festival Sabbath Reminder:* Sunday, June 5

## FALL FESTIVALS

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

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## 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:** Sunday evening, September 25, 7:00pm at MBF

**Trumpets Prayer Service and Activities:** Monday, September 26, 10:00am at Marion Bible Fellowship followed by cookout at MBF and then **Tashlich Service** mid-afternoon at Steve and Charlene Long home, 2626 Gooding Road, Marion, OH 43302

*Festival Sabbath Reminder:* Monday, September 26

## 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:** Tuesday, October 4, 7:00pm at MBF

**Atonement Prayer Service and Activities:** Wednesday, October 5, 10:00am at MBF

*Festival Sabbath Reminder:* Wednesday, October 5

## 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 opportunity during the week-long festival, MBF has a tradition of sharing a "Progressive Meal" in which celebrating members visit several homes for a progressively complete evening dinner. Specific host homes are announced ahead of the event.

**Tabernacles Opening Celebration/Foods:** Sunday, October 9, 7:00pm at MBF

**Tabernacles Prayer Service/Lunch:** Monday, October 10, 10:00am at MBF

**Progressive Meal:** Wednesday, October 12, 6:30pm-9pm at the following locations:

6:30pm at Freeman home for appetizers, 1149 Evergreen Road, Marion, OH

7:00pm at Kirkham home for main course, 896 Oak Drive, Marion, OH

8:00pm at Lancaster home for desserts, 950 Vernon Heights Blvd., Marion, OH

**Outdoor Camping/Cookout/Bible Storytelling:** Sabbath, October 15, 7:00pm at MBF

**Lehner's Pumpkin Farm Fellowship:** Sunday, October 16, 3:00pm-6:00pm

Meet at Lehner's Pumpkin Farm, 2920 State Route 203, Radnor, OH

**Tabernacles Great Deliverance Service:** Sunday, October 16, 7:00pm at MBF

**Eighth Day of Tabernacles Celebration/Lunch:** Monday, October 17, 10:00am at MBF

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

*Festival Sabbath Reminder: Monday, October 10 and Monday, October 17*

## WINTER FESTIVALS

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

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## Festivals of Light

Marion Bible Fellowship 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 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 *hanukkiah* (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.

**Hanukkah Festival of Light:** Sunday, December 18 - Monday, December 26 at MBF

Opening service/distribution of hanukkiah and devotionals: Sunday, December 18, 7PM

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

## 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, the biblical festivals occur on different dates on our calendars but always occur on the same day of the lunar calendar.

Apart from addition 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 New Moon left to tradition, but the activities the holiday prescribes are also dependent on tradition.

At Marion Bible Fellowship, we believe the announcement of the New Moon at a gathering is an important part of meeting 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, to the keeping of Festivals based on the New Moon and to renewing our commitment to serving the King more diligently in the month to come.

Marion Bible Fellowship 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 (Leap Year)

Month 1 (Hebrew *Aviv*<sup>1</sup>)

Month 2 (Hebrew *Ziv*<sup>2</sup>)

Month 3

Month 4

Month 5

Month 6

Month 7 5783

Month 8 (Hebrew *Bul*<sup>3</sup>)

Month 9

Month 10

Month 11

Month 12

### Gregorian Calendar Dates

January 3, 2022

February 2, 2022

March 4, 2022

April 2, 2022

May 2, 2022

May 31, 2022

June 30, 2022

July 29, 2022

August 28, 2022

September 26, 2022

October 26, 2022

November 25, 2022

December 25, 2022

January 23, 2023

February 22, 2023

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 13:4; 23:15; 34:18; Deuteronomy 16:1

<sup>2</sup> 1 Kings 6:1, 37

<sup>3</sup> 1 Kings 6:38