

MARION BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

590 Forest Lawn Drive, Marion, OH 43302 740-387-4080 office@marionbible.com

2021 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*

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 Saturday evening, March 27 at sunset.
The Seder activities this year are in private homes

Unleavened Bread: Begins at sunset, March 27 at the Passover meal and continues through Saturday, April 3 at sunset.

Messiah Banquet: Saturday, April 3, 7:00pm at MBF

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Sunday, March 28 and Saturday, April 3

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: Monday, March 29, 8:00pm at MBF

Second Passover (Hebrew: *Pesach Shen*)

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 Celebration: Sunday, April 25 (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: Friday, May 7, 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: Sunday, May 16, 7:00pm at MBF

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Monday, May 17

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: Monday evening, September 6, 7:00pm at MBF

Trumpets Prayer Service and Activities: Tuesday, September 7, 10:00am at Marion Bible Fellowship with **Tashlich Service** immediately following prayer service at Steve and Charlene Long home, 2626 Gooding Road, Marion, OH 43302

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Tuesday, September 7

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: Wednesday, September 15, 7:00pm at MBF

Atonement Prayer Service and Activities: Thursday, September 16, 10:00am at MBF

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Thursday, September 16

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: Monday, September 20, 7:00pm at MBF

Tabernacles Prayer Service and Activities: Tuesday, September 21, 10:00am at MBF

Progressive Meal: Wednesday, September 22, 6:30pm-9pm at the following locations:

6:30pm at Marion Bible Fellowship for appetizers, hosted by Freemans

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

Tabernacles Great Deliverance Service: Monday, September 27, 7:00pm at MBF

Eighth Day of Tabernacles Celebration: Tuesday, September 28, 10:00am at MBF

Festival Sabbath Reminder: Tuesday, September 21 and Tuesday, September 28

WINTER FESTIVALS

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

Festivals of Light

Marion Bible Fellowship traditionally celebrates the light of God by combining *Hanukkah* traditions, which recall the light of the Temple and God's light in deliverance, with *Christmas*, which recalls 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. While unfamiliar as a tradition to many Christians, *Hanukkah*, which means "dedication," is a traditional eight-day long festival that prompts us to further dedicate our lives to God. MBF encourages the use of our devotionals in lighting a *hanukkiyah* (Hanukkah menorah) at home. We offer guidance ahead of the holiday on obtaining a *hanukkiyah* as needed. The Light of the World Himself took time to observe God's deliverance in this "Feast of Dedication" (John 10:22-23) and we follow in His footsteps.

Festival of Lights Service: Friday, December 24, 6:00pm at MBF

Hanukkah Week: Opening Service, Sunday, November 28, 7PM - December 6

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: Wednesday evening, March 16, 7:00pm at MBF

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2021-22 NEW MOONS

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

<u>Hebrew Calendar Month</u>	<u>Gregorian Calendar Dates</u>
Month 11	January 14, 2021
Month 12	February 13, 2021
Month 1 (Hebrew <i>Aviv</i> ¹)	March 14, 2021
Month 2 (Hebrew <i>Ziv</i> ²)	April 13, 2021
Month 3	May 12, 2021
Month 4	June 11, 2021
Month 5	July 10, 2021
Month 6	August 9, 2021
Month 7	September 7, 2021
Month 8 (Hebrew <i>Bul</i> ³)	October 7, 2021
Month 9	November 5, 2021
Month 10	December 5, 2021
Month 11	January 3, 2022
Month 12	February 1, 2022

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

² 1 Kings 6:1, 37

³ 1 Kings 6:38