



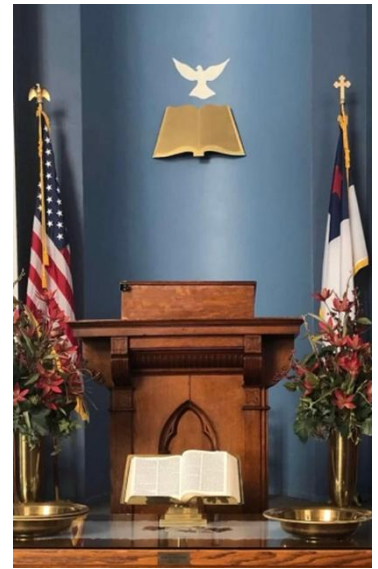
## **Marissa Presbyterian Church**

**201 N. Hamilton**

**Marissa, IL 62257**

**[www.marissapres.org](http://www.marissapres.org)**

**Oct. 9, 2025**



Dear Friends in Christ,

The Pulpit Nominating Committee of Marissa Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), is excited to announce that our church is seeking a senior pastor to serve our congregation. Our mission is to fulfill the Great Commission and “make disciples of all nations.” This “Senior Pastor Profile and Information Packet” is designed to share our ministry opportunity and seek those who might be interested in exploring a call to serve with us. Please review the packet and reflect on the role and required skills, and work to discern whether this ministry would be right for you or someone you know.

We are a mature church which stresses the importance of worship, teaching, and outreach, caring deeply for the relationships within the church and is highly missions minded. We believe that God has a special purpose for Marissa Presbyterian Church and we seek a pastor with a vision to guide and inspire our congregation to fulfill that God given purpose.

We ask that you remember the Pulpit Nominating Committee and our congregation in your prayers as we confidently, expectantly, and enthusiastically embark on this God honoring and Spirit guided process.

We look forward to hearing from you and praying for God’s will to be revealed in this search.

In Christ,

Marissa Presbyterian Pulpit Nominating Committee

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# Senior Pastor Profile and Information Packet

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At Marissa Presbyterian Church (MPC), our vision of being “A disciple-making community” includes a vision of building our membership both spiritually and numerically as we reach out to share the gospel with the world. This vision is fleshed out a bit further in the following purpose statement developed by our Session some years ago.

To *worship* the Triune God as we *reach* individuals and families with the message of grace, peace, and hope found in Jesus Christ; *nurture* believers as members of God’s family; and *equip* believers for works of service.

Following the Lord’s Great Commission, we seek to serve the Lord and his kingdom work by developing and equipping disciples to go out into the world with the grace and peace of God. To that end, prayer, worship, Christian education, and missions are core to the life of the church.

## Core Values

### The Priority of Prayer

Prayer is the priority at MPC. This is the Lord's church, and he is the One who will build it. Therefore, prayer must precede and undergird the work of the ministry. Psalm 127:1 states, *Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.* With this in the forefront of our minds, we diligently seek His will in all that we plan and do.

### Christ Centered Worship

Worship services are designed to lead believers in worshiping the Triune God while being friendly to the seeker. Expository preaching is Christ-centered and calls for a commitment to faith in Him. Messages apply the universal truths found within the Bible in a manner that is relevant to the local setting. We utilize a blend of both contemporary and traditional music that helps the worshiper focus on the Triune God. Every aspect of our ministry, including worship, works hard at creating an atmosphere where people feel accepted, cared for, and respected.

### Multiplying Ministry

MPC works to maintain an "outward face." Evangelism must permeate every phase of the ministry – from children's ministries to adult ministries and from mercy ministries to fellowship ministries. We seek to teach and train believers to have an evangelistic mindset and to radiate gospel beauty, whether at church or in the marketplace.

### Mercy Ministry

As a Christian family, God calls us to love and care for one another (I John 3:16-20). MPC is committed to facilitating and nurturing those in need. Our commitment to each other as fellow members of God's family





means we will walk through all the ups and downs of life together. Furthermore, we will maintain a fundamental commitment that everyone's needs for life (food, shelter, clothing, nurture, love, and care) will be met through the body of believers.

### Children's and Youth Ministry

MPC places great emphasis on the development of strong Children and Youth Ministry programs. These ministries aggressively seek to reach youth with the message of Christ Jesus, including evangelism and discipleship. participants are equipped for peer care and peer evangelism. Having establishing a missional mindset in our life: *How can I impact and influence my world for Christ?*

### **Marissa Presbyterian Church's Background**

Marissa Presbyterian Church began in 1870 as a United Presbyterian Church. The Session and Trustees voted unanimously in 1980 to sever their connection with the denomination. After a period of remaining independent Marissa Church was received as a member of the Illiana Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of America in 1990.

A new, brick parsonage was constructed in 1990 to house our minister and in 2005 a new Christian Fellowship Center was completed with additional classrooms, a new kitchen, and a gymnasium.

We are currently led by a Session of four Elders. A Board of Trustees manages care of the building and equipment. We also have a Clerk of the Congregation, a Missions Treasurer, a Missions Committee, Christian Education Committee, Women's Ministry, a Church Treasurer, and a part-time Church Secretary.

Sunday School classes are provided for all ages, including three adult classes. Sunday School meets at 9:30 A.M. followed by the worship service at 10:30 A.M. Active organizations in the church include a choir, a church band, Women's Bible study, and Alphabet Supper Club.



## Recent History

Our membership has declined over time as older members have gone to be with the Lord and the local employment opportunities have diminished. Many coal mines, once a major employer, have closed and few new employers have emerged resulting in job losses. The result has been families moving and many young people not returning after graduating high school and college. These factors have led to a reduction of our membership from more than 200 to 85 over the past 25 years. A trend that is concerning to members and leadership. A congregational survey conducted in October 2025 reflects a strong desire to reverse that trend. We pray and work to grow both spiritually and numerically.

Our former pastor of 24 years announced his retirement in June of 2025 and prior to his departure in September 2025 led the congregation very effectively in preparation of the interim period. The congregation is now eagerly seeking to work with a new pastor to continue and expand existing ministries and especially to reach out to young families and youth.

## Our Community

In 2020, Marissa, IL, had a population of 1,826 people with a median age of 46.7 and a median household income of \$48,393.

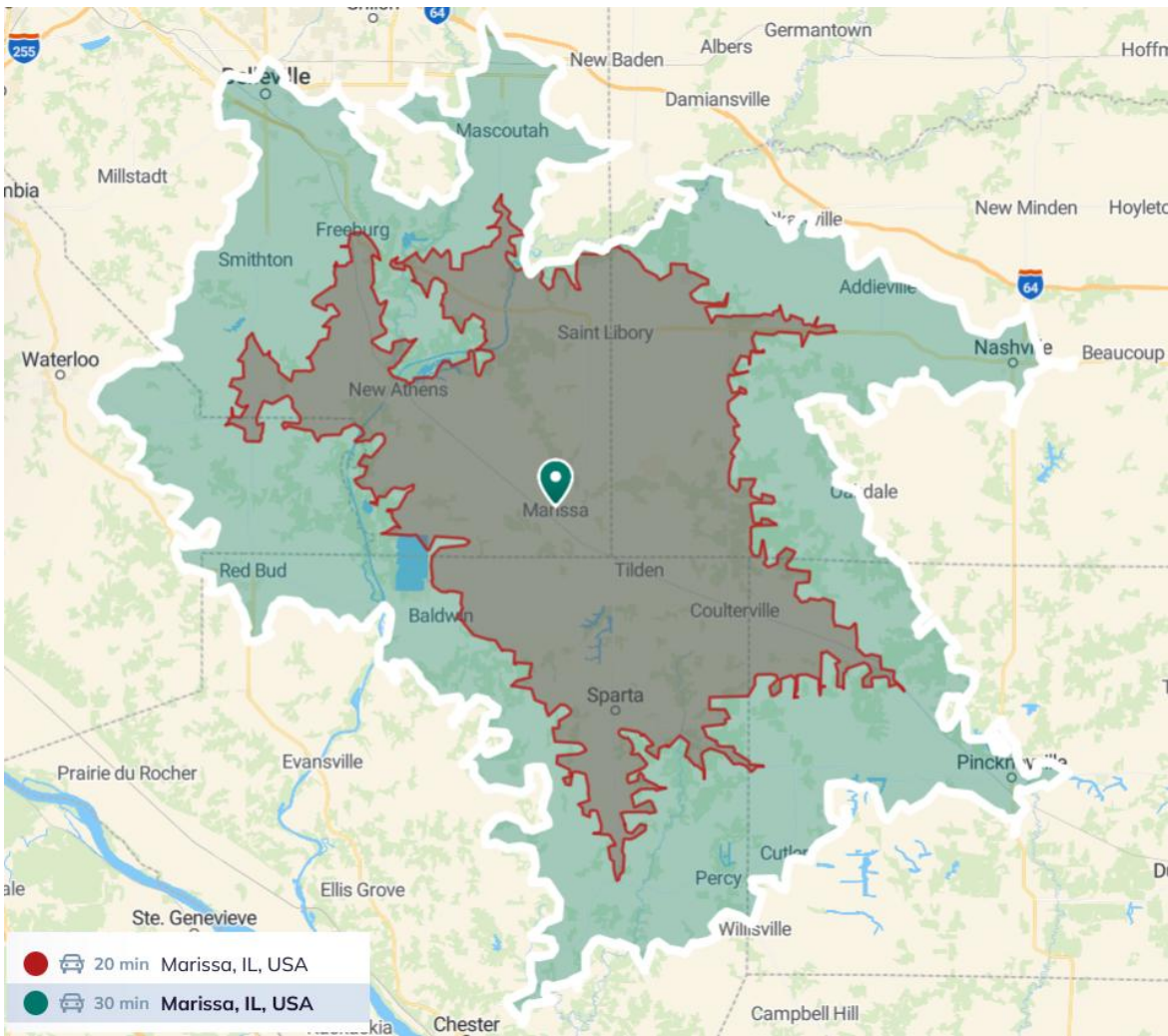
There has been a slight population decline in Marissa primarily driven by the long-term decline of the coal mining industry, which has eroded the local tax base, job market, and business community. This local factor is compounded by broader, statewide trends of migration out of Illinois, particularly affecting its rural areas.

Our membership is overwhelmingly reflective of the demographics of Marissa, approximately 82% White of European descent with other racial groups making up the remaining population. To put a perspective on the growth opportunities at MPC about half of our average attendance now drive 15 to 30 minutes or more to attend MPC. (17 families and 27 adults). Many are relocated family members who grew up in the church and continue to attend for the teaching of sound biblical reformed truth, as well as the music and fellowship. Others have found MPC for these same reasons and have found the 30-minute drive not excessive and are active in midweek activities, committees, session members, etc.

We are, in many cases the nearest PCA church for those who are seeking sound reformed worship and teaching. Especially as you go toward the more densely populated areas closer to the St. Louis metropolitan area. For this reason, we have established a target area of a 30-minute drive from MPC where we can have an impact for the Lord. The total population within our target area is approximately 70,000 with demographics generally similar to Marissa.







As a small town about 40 miles from downtown St. Louis we have the advantage of being able to enjoy the entertainment, shopping, sports, and other cultural events found in larger cities, without the traffic and congestion of city life. For the outdoorsman there is ample opportunity for hunting, fishing, camping, and boating.

Marissa has about 20% living below the poverty line. The largest demographic living in poverty are Males 35 - 44, followed by Males 25 - 34 and then Females 75+. A population that we have opportunity to serve through local support of the food pantry, and mercy ministry. The median property value in Marissa was \$87,000 in 2023. The home ownership rate in Marissa is 72.6%, which is higher than the national average of 65%. The median property tax in Marissa is \$425.



## MPC Church Statistics

Current Ministry Size:

Membership -----85

Average Attendance ----- 52

Adults Over 65 -----35

Adults Under 65 -----23

Teens ----- 8

Children ----- 7



Budget 2025:

Total Income -----\$259,534

Benevolent Disbursements-----\$29,465

Church Expenses ----- \$239,909



## Desired Profile of Pastor

God has given us a membership of strong mature Christians with a heart for taking to the lost with strong biblical preaching and teaching. We would like our senior pastor to lead us in setting specific long-term goals in the following areas:

- Numerical growth
- Reaching young families and youth
- Community Service

In addition to vision casting with church leadership, we are looking for a pastor who can lead in executing and realizing that vision while feeding the congregation with sound biblical preaching and teaching. Visiting families and shut-ins, helping to keep everyone connected, and reaching youth and young families in our target area are both important elements of growing the Lord's



church. We believe that a winsome man with a desire to live out his walk with the Lord and reach others for Christ can help us achieve this. He should respect tradition but be willing to try new ideas and encourage

change when needed. While being willing to work with other churches and ministries in the community, he must not compromise his reformed, biblical convictions.

#### **CORE DISTINCTIVES**

**Strong Biblical Preaching and Teaching**

**Balance of traditional and contemporary worship and music**

**Evangelism through personal witnessing**

**Strong Missions Program**

**Christian Caring and Fellowship**

#### **DESIRED GROWTH**

**Worship that glorifies God, strengthens the believer, and evangelizes the unchurched**

**A magnetism, community vision and energy that draws the community into worship**

**Grow to become a body of 100-200**

**Local outreach and community involvement**

**Music (as outreach and worship)**

#### **AREA TO EXPLORE**

**Re-examination of vision to update, clarify and improve upon**

**Ministry that utilizes elements of modern communication and technology**

**The Compensational Package for our selected candidate will be determined by the Session and will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the candidate. The range is expected to be in the \$65,000-\$90,000 range with housing in the church manse.**