



Winter Guide

2026





**A JESUS
PEOPLE
FOR THE
SAKE
OF THE
WORLD**

EMBRACE

Our Embrace Ministry provides support, opportunities, and accommodations so that our family members with disabilities, sensory sensitivities, and/or neurodiversity can be fully engaged in the life of our community.

Sensory Tool Library

When you choose to worship in the Shed with us, a variety of sensory-rich items are available to borrow from our Sensory Tool Library, located along the North wall. Always feel free to get up and walk around the outer perimeter of the Shed, sit on the floor, or be present in whatever way feels comfortable.

Kids—Buddy Program

Our buddy program on Sunday mornings offers the extra support some kids need to participate in Mars Hill Kids—either through accommodations and inclusion in our traditional programming, or a break in our Sensory Room. Please pre--register so we can prepare for every child's comfort and safety.

Friday Night Recess

Being a caregiver is a 24/7 job, and sometimes it's difficult to find a sitter. Make plans for your kids to attend our Recess events, which typically take place one night a month. We'll provide dinner and activities while you enjoy a meal, catch a movie, or sneak in some much needed rest. Free for Embrace families. More details to come!

Sensory Room

Our Adult Sensory Room is offered as an alternative space during the Gathering. We can live-stream with dedicated headphones for those wanting to participate with what is happening in the Shed. This room also shines with interactive prayer stations, and sensory-enriching equipment.

Embrace Worship

Come explore Scripture, prayer, and relationships with God and with each other in simple language and activities. This bi-weekly evening is crafted with a lens of being disability and neurodiversity welcoming yet inclusive of all.

1st, 3rd, + 5th Wednesdays
6:15-7:45pm

Community Days

These casual and fun afternoons are designed for individuals and groups with disabilities and neurodiversity, but everyone is invited!

2nd Wednesdays, 12pm BYO Lunch
1:2:30pm Programming
Find our schedule of fun activities and registration at
marshill.org/embrace

Contact

To learn more about Embrace, visit marshill.org/embrace, email us at embrace@marshill.org, or give us a call at 616.249.3337.

MARS HILL STUDENTS

Stories are powerful. Stories transform our lives. There are many stories vying for our imagination. In Mars Hill Students [MHS], we encounter the story that we believe invites us into the best kind of life—the story of Scripture. This story isn't meant to be read alone; this life isn't meant to be lived alone.

Join us in Mars Hill Students on **Sunday afternoons from 4:30-6pm** to explore the life God is inviting us to live.

MHS [6th-12th Grade]

In Mars Hill Students, you encounter a microcosm of an intergenerational church made up of adult leaders, students from 6th-12th grade, and even some volunteer kids learning and growing together, worshiping and serving alongside each other, and caring for and trusting one another.

We gather as one ministry on Sunday afternoons, but also set aside times for students to gather in more age-specific ways like LifeGroups, separate middle school and high school summer camps, RELA activities, and upperclassmen dinners.

Getting Involved

Whether you are a student looking to join some of the best students around, an adult considering serving on the incredible team, or a community member wanting to learn more, please email students@marshall.org. We'd love to get you connected, answer questions, and share more!

Second Sunday

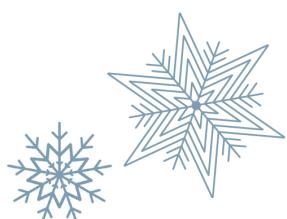
Our young people aren't just the future of the church—they are the church now. Not only do we want students to find belonging in MHS, we want them to find belonging in our larger community.

On the Second Sunday of each month, students sit together in the Shed during the 10am Gathering to establish a presence, find a sense of place within our community, and participate in worship together. Afterwards, we open the Student Room for everyone to enjoy cookies and connections together.

RELA

RELA's are times set aside for LifeGroups to create, deepen, and strengthen the relationships between leaders and students in their small groups through activities beyond our program.

Typically, there are 2 of these per semester that are planned by the leaders and students. Whether it is roller skating, a pancake making competition, a service project, crafts, mini golf, or any other fun dreamed up by the group, it is always filled with connection, camaraderie, and conversation.



LifeGroups

We believe that questions of who you are, where you belong, and what your purpose is are best explored within the context of deep meaningful relationships.

Each student is a part of a small group known as a LifeGroup, which generally includes peers of the same age and gender and trusted adult leaders. Throughout the middle school and high school years, these groups become like family to students. They are spaces where students can discover their identity, find belonging, and live out their mission together.

LifeGroup Leader Needed

There is still an opportunity this year to lead a LifeGroup in MHS.

Our 9th grade girls' group needs a co-leader. This group shows up to everything and is marked by eagerness, energy, and enthusiasm for learning, growth, connection, conversation, camps, and all the other things that are MHS.

Please email students@marshall.org if you're interested in learning more.



Upperclassmen Retreat

"They grow up so fast!" We feel this in Mars Hill Students too. As our 11th + 12th grade students prepare for life after high school, we offer a retreat designed just for them—one in which they get to engage in learning and discussion designed to support, equip, and empower them in their unique stage of life.

We also allow them ample time to build upon the formative relationships they have made in MHS through laughter, play, conversation, and adventure, in hopes that they will carry these meaningful relationships into the next chapter of their lives.

March 6-8

Fennville, MI

Cost: \$145 per student

[Register at marshall.org/students](http://marshall.org/students)

Save The Dates

Wilderness Trip:

June 19-22

Red River Gorge, KY

Cost: \$300

Anthem Summer Camp:

June 22-26

Mount Sterling, KY

Cost: \$560

Echo Summer Camp:

July 17-19

West Olive, MI

Cost: \$175

[Register for all camps at marshall.org/students](http://marshall.org/students)

MARS HILL KIDS

Mars Hill Kids is where we can discover our place in God's big story.

This ministry exists to teach kids in age-appropriate ways how to be a Jesus people for the sake of the world from a young age.

Contact

To learn more about Mars Hill Kids, visit marshill.org/kids, email us at kids@marshill.org, or give us a call at 616.249.3337.

Infants - 3 Years Old

Our goal is to support families by providing safe and engaging care through the investment of compassionate and patient volunteers. Volunteers communicate the love of Jesus through stories and activities presented in a positive and nurturing environment.

Our goal in these spaces is to incite wonder in kids so they will know God's love and meet God's family.

4 Years Old - 4th Grade

Sundays include Bible stories, small group discussions, games, and other fun activities. Spiritual growth is the lens through which we see everything we do in Mars Hill Kids.

Our year is divided into three areas of spiritual growth: spend time with others, spend time with God, and use your gifts. This structure guides our Sunday activities and events for families throughout the year.

5th Grade

Kids will meet during the Gathering on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays for deeper Bible conversations and interactive activities.

On 2nd Sundays, they'll join Mars Hill Students in The Shed to start building connections with older students. We're excited to continue watching our 5th grade students grow in faith and community!

Volunteer

We're currently looking for two additional volunteers to help kids learn their place in God's big story.

Our greatest need is in our new Theater Room, where kids bring Bible stories to life through acting, movement, and imaginative play.

This space helps kids engage Scripture in meaningful, memorable ways [and it's a lot of fun].

Most people choose to serve once a month, and many people volunteer with a spouse, partner, or friend. We'll gladly help you find a rhythm that feels comfortable and sustainable.

Interested in getting involved, but don't know where to start?
Email kids@marshill.org.

MHK EVENTS + TRAININGS

We believe that parents are the primary spiritual leaders in their kids' lives, and we want to walk alongside you in this calling.

Bringing Home Baby

Parenthood brings joy, but it can also stretch even the strongest relationships. This class, rooted in the research-tested Bringing Baby Home program from The Gottman Institute, is designed for expecting parents and parents with babies one year and under.

Couples will gain practical, evidence-based tools to strengthen friendship, deepen intimacy, and navigate conflict with grace during the early years of parenthood.

Join us for a supportive, engaging experience led by our Kids Pastor, who brings both pastoral heart and clinical expertise with a Master's in Social Work. This class offers a meaningful space to invest in your relationship and nurture a home rooted in love, grace, and God's presence.

If cost is a barrier, email kids@marshall.org for options.

Tuesdays, February 17 - March 10
6-8pm
Cost: \$80 per couple
Dinner is included
[RSVP at marshall.org/kids](http://marshall.org/kids)

Volunteer Huddles

These monthly huddles for MHK volunteers provide a quick, encouraging pause in the fast pace of Sunday mornings. Over breakfast, MHK volunteers gather to celebrate wins, pray together, ask questions, and reconnect with our shared mission of caring for families and serving kids. All MHK volunteers are invited, whether you're scheduled to serve that morning or not.

First Sunday of every month
9am
No RSVP needed

Movie Night

We are transforming our Kids hallway into a movie theater for one special evening.

Movies begin at 5pm, and doors will open at 4:30pm, so you have time to buy snacks and find your seat. All proceeds from the sale of snacks and drinks will be donated to our White Bucket Project.

Parents do not need to join their children for the movie, but we ask you to please stay in the building. If you're looking for a place to get some work done or connect with other parents during the event, our Welcome Center will be set up just for that.

Movie lineup will be announced in February! There will be options for all ages.

Friday, March 13
Doors open at 4:30pm
Movies start at 5pm
[RSVP at marshall.org/kids](http://marshall.org/kids)

EVENTS

Discover opportunities to connect with one another, God, and what's happening in the world.

Ash Wednesday

Join us as we begin the Lenten Season.

We'll remember that we came from dust, and to dust, we will return. This service will last around 45 minutes.

February 18
6pm

Game Night

You are invited to Mars Hill Game Night! Come by yourself, with family, or with friends.

Games will be available, but you do not need to be a "game person" to come. Think of it as a relaxed night to hang out, and have fun together.

Pizza, water and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a snack or treat to share.

January 31 + March 28
Beginning at 4-7pm
Student Room
Pizza arrives around 5:30pm

RSVP for the January Game Night at marshall.org/events

Men's Breakfast

Following Jesus in our culture and world is difficult enough and not to be attempted alone.

Come join other men from our community for a great meal, good conversation, and a speaker/panel discussion about growing as a disciple of Jesus amidst the pressures of culture, career, aging, and family/relationships.

Saturday, March 7
8:30am
Student Room
RSVP at marshall.org/events

Quarterly Connect

As an extension of the invitation to our community at the Annual Meeting, Troy would like to call together our community to hear and discuss current vision-related plans and updates as they relate to the entire church, and host a time for dialogue/Q+A.

Wednesday, March 11
6pm
Student Room
No RSVP needed

Women's Happy Hour

Join the women of Mars Hill for a special evening of community and cheer! Come as you are and take a break from the weekly hustle.

Bring a "board" of your choice or an appetizer, and we'll enjoy conversation in a warm, relaxed setting. It's the perfect chance to connect, encourage one another, and celebrate our community together. A bottle of your favorite beverage is also welcome!

Wednesday, March 18

6:30-8pm

Staff Office [Door 3]

RSVP at marshall.org/events

Community Potluck

Bring your favorite dish to share, whether it's a family recipe, a new creation, or a classic comfort food. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet your gray chair neighbors, share stories, and celebrate the diverse flavors of our community.

Sunday, March 22

11:30am

Crock-pots can be plugged in before the Gathering

Good Friday

Join us for our Good Friday Service as we gather to remember and reflect on the final hours of Jesus' earthly life. This service is open to all who wish to pause, reflect, and enter more fully into the story Easter.

April 3

6pm

Easter Sunday

We'll join Christians around the world in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ at our Easter Gathering, which will also include baptisms. People of all ages are invited to join us as we rejoice together in new life and hope.

April 5

Join us at 10am or online at marshall.org/live.

Camping At Cran-Hill

Who is ready to say goodbye to snow, ice, rain, and freezing temperatures and move right on to June and the camping season?

Calling all Mars Hill campers of any age. Save the date for camping together as a community. Don't miss your chance to join in on a fun weekend! Registration coming soon.

June 19-21

Cran-Hill

COMMUNITY LIFE – ADULTS

Our Community Life ministry helps fulfill our mission by providing a variety of resources and environments to help us connect with one another, God, and God's work in our world. So whether you are looking to develop a deeper sense of what it means to be a follower of Jesus or hoping to find a circle of people to journey with, there are opportunities and people to help you along the way.

To register or learn more, visit marshall.org/groupsandclasses. You can also reach us at communitylife@marshall.org or 616.249.3337 if you're interested in leading a group.

House Churches

House churches are small groups that share life and encourage one another in following Jesus. They gather to eat, share stories, pray, learn from Jesus' teachings, and serve together. Groups form as people express interest—email communitylife@marshall.org to get connected.



Common Interest Groups

Common Interest Groups are spearheaded by passionate and gifted people from our community and are centered on a shared topic, practice, interest, or season of life.

To sign up for a Group, visit marshall.org/groupsandclasses.

Torah Club

Learn the Scriptures the way Jesus did by joining the oldest Bible study around. Explore the Torah [the first five books of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures] during this year-long class. Learn more at exploretorah.org.

Matt Fulk

Mondays
6-8pm or 7-9pm
Ongoing

Faithfully Curious Women

Many of us are yearning for connections and conversations beyond passing the peace at church. This is an invitation to be together.

This winter we will return to the Immerse Reading Bible series, studying Samuel + Kings. We will begin with socialization time at 6:30pm. Our discussion is from 7-8pm.

Gay Lathrop + Sheri Bolthouse

Wednesdays, ongoing
6:30-8pm

*Email communitylife@marshall.org prior to attending to be put in touch with the group leader for the most accurate info.

Embrace Worship

This bi-weekly evening is crafted with a lens of being disability and neurodiversity welcoming, yet inclusive to all. Explore Scripture, prayer, and relationships with God and with each other in simple language and activities. We truly celebrate the spectrum of differences and abilities God created within humanity.

Trace DiCocco, Rebecca Mangimeli, +

Dawn Post

1st, 3rd, + 5th Wednesdays
6:15-7:45pm
Ongoing

Explore + Engage: Men's Group

Join us to discover community with men of all ages as we explore and engage Scripture through various mediums and grow together in our knowledge of God. No RSVP is needed; come as you are and when you can.

Steve DeBruine

Wednesdays
April 8-May 27
6:30-8:30pm

Zumba

Each Zumba® class is designed to bring people together to sweat it out, mixing low-intensity and high-intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance fitness party.

Aimee Workman

Wednesdays
6-7:15pm
Ongoing
\$5 per class

M50+

Ages 50+, this group is for you! Come get to know other "seasoned" fellow Mars Hill "travelers".

This relaxed community is geared towards providing meaningful fellowship with other folks traveling through the same life season. A basic framework is followed, but time is also provided for group discussions and getting to know each other.

Jon + Sandra Badur

2nd + 4th Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm
January 27 - May 12

BEMA: Bible Discussion Group

Join us on a journey through Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, exploring the historical context that shapes its meaning. Together we'll listen to and discuss Marty Solomon's podcast Bema, a deep dive that offers fresh insights into the Bible.

Matt Fulk + Deb Hoover

Mondays
5-7pm
Ongoing

Sanctuary

A parent-led ministry for Mars Hill parents of LGBTQ+ children of all ages.

Kristin Bliss + Holly Kladder

Sundays, 11:30am
Feb 15, March 15, April 19, + May 17
H2 - Across from the Welcome Center

Lead A Group

We're always looking for relational leaders with spiritual depth, emotional intelligence, and a gift for engaging others. If you'd like to help lead a small community within our church, visit marshall.org/volunteer.

CLASSES

Classes

Dig deep into focused areas of study with our team of specialized Teachers. Register for all classes at marshall.org/groupsandclasses.

Exploring Baptism

Are you in the process of discerning whether or not baptism is the next step in your faith journey? We invite you to participate in Exploring Baptism. The class is for "all-ages", meaning the content and experience is designed to be as inclusive as possible of all age-groups and learning styles. Parents are required to participate with their child if they are middle school aged or younger. Lunch will be provided.

Tim Nelson + Troy Hatfield

Sunday, February 22

11:30am

Register at

marshall.org/groupsandclasses

Pre-Marriage Class

Are you engaged and seeking premarital counseling? Our 3-week Pre-Marriage Class will help guide you through topics including conflict resolution, communication, sexual intimacy, finances, and spiritual oneness.

Pre-marriage classes are scheduled at the request of at least two couples and are free. You will be notified once a class is scheduled.

Request a class at

marshall.org/groupsandclasses

The Book That We Love

A simple step 1 class and also helpful for anyone wanting to learn about what this mysterious library of ancient text is, how it came to be, why we call it Scripture, the "Word of God" and how we can curiously, reverently and faithfully engage it. This 3 week course is team taught by Tim Nelson, Troy Hatfield + friends and is for anyone in middle school and above.

Tim Nelson

Sundays, March 1, 8, 15

11:30am

Formation Room

Register at

marshall.org/groupsandclasses

Covenant Class

Our Covenant Class is an opportunity for anyone curious about what it means to formally join in relationship with the church.

The class covers a wide range of topics, including our core beliefs, aspirations for personal growth, ways we seek to engage the world missionally, and the church's organizational structure. For those interested in formally becoming part of our church, this class is the first step in that process.

Lunch and childcare will be provided for those who RSVP by Wednesday, April 20.

Tim Nelson

Sunday, April 26

11:30am

Register at

marshall.org/groupsandclasses

SHORT CIRCLES + RETREATS

Short Circles

Grow personally and relationally with a shorter time commitment.

Worship Collective

The Worship Collective is a new short circle with two goals; to reflect deeply on our gathered worship and to develop a new expression or practice that enriches our worship together. We want to insure that the Shed is a place where all God's children can be present and all God's children can participate in Worship. For this initial cycle we will be focusing our attention on confession as we prepare for Lent.

If you appreciate well crafted Worship and or have a heart for our church's intergenerational spaces, this could be a great way for you to contribute to our community.

Chad Thoreson

Thursdays, February 5, 12 + 19

7-8:30pm

Register at

marshill.org/groupsandclasses

Women's Retreat

Join us for a weekend of rest, connection, reflection, and spiritual renewal, with a thoughtful balance of guided sessions and generous free time.

All activities are optional, allowing space to rest, reflect, and engage at your own pace.

The retreat includes shared rooms, communal meals, and unhurried time for both personal reflection and meaningful community. We have 24 spots available for the weekend. Due to the schedule and programming, we do not have a Saturday-only option this year.

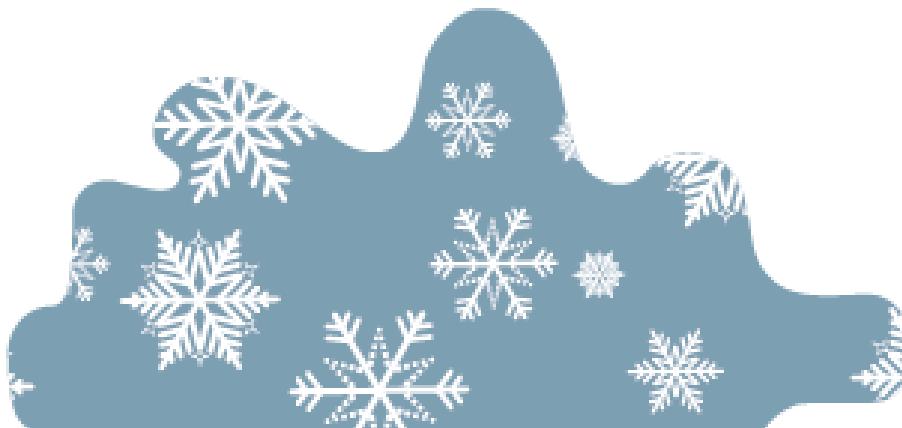
February 20-22

Fennville, MI

Speaker: Valerie Reyna

Cost: \$250 [scholarships available]

RSVP at marshill.org/events



MOBILIZATION

Throughout our 25 year history, Mars Hill has been committed to engaging the most marginalized people, places, and issues in our region and around the world.

Our approach is to balance immediate relief efforts with long-term development efforts, working towards systemic change that addresses root causes wherever possible.

Black Voices Book Club

What does it look like for a predominantly white church to work toward racial justice and reconciliation?

It begins with humbly listening to the voices of our Black brothers and sisters. The Black Voices Book Club is an attempt to do just that.

Each month, now through May, we'll engage with a different book by a Black author and come together to discuss what we're learning. Come to one or come to all—let's learn together.

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas
Wednesday, February 4
6:30pm
H2 Classroom
Led By: Holly VanderYacht

One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This by Omar El Akkad
Wednesday, March 4
6:30pm
H2 Classroom
Led By: Troy Hatfield

Your Plantation Prom is Not Okay by Kelly McWilliams
Wednesday, April 1
6:30pm
H2 Classroom
Led By: Holly VanderYacht

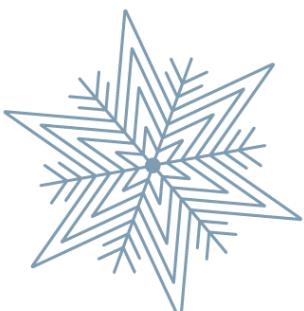
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
Wednesday, May 6
6:30pm
H2 Classroom
Led By: Holly VanderYacht

Lunches With Love

Let's lean in and actually see up close all AYA offers to the youth they serve. We'll meet with AYA staff at their Drop-In Center to see the spaces and hear the stories of the hope and healing that begin there. After our tour, we'll chat and connect while prepping lunch for the youth who come to Drop-In.

Everything except your hands and voice will be provided, but we'll gladly accept contributions toward the cost.

Monday, February 16
6-8pm
AYA [320 State St SE, Grand Rapids]
RSVP at marshill.org/events



Freezer Meal Prep Parties

Each day, AYA provides hot meals to more than 80 youth... and now we get to be part of making that happen!

Grab your apron, and join us as we prepare to serve up a casserole pan full of tangible love.

Ingredients, supplies, and instructions will be provided. There is no fee to attend, but contributions toward the cost of ingredients for the meals we prepare will be gladly accepted.

Thursday, February 26

10am-12pm

Student Room

[RSVP at marshall.org/events](http://marshall.org/events)

AYA Cleaning Supply Drive

Alongside their Drop-In Center, AYA supports youth through 11 transitional housing homes that provide safe, affordable housing and a strong sense of community. To help care for these homes, we are hosting a cleaning supply drive at the end of February. More details to come!

Filter Builds

20 Liters partners with World Relief Rwanda and local churches to train volunteers, teach hygiene, and distribute sustainable water filters.

Each SAM3 filter serves three families and provides clean water for more than 10 years, with one build event producing up to 90 filters for 270 households.

All filter builds will take place at 20 Liters [3900 White Street SW, Suite 110, Grandville].

Register at marshall.org/events

Tuesday, March 10

2-4pm

Register by March 9

Monday, April 13

6-8pm

Register by April 12

Wednesday, May 6

10am-12pm

Register by May 5

Packing Event

Help load and pray over a shipping container of water filters, sending clean water to thousands of Rwandan households. Details coming soon.

Walk For Water

Some estimates suggest that around the world, women and girls walk collectively 200 million hours each day to fetch unimproved, unprotected water, which has a high likelihood of spreading waterborne illness. This is not okay.

Join us for Walk for Water. Along with food trucks and activities for all ages, we'll explore the challenge of dirty water and discover effective, long-lasting ways to make it clean.

Sunday, May 17

12pm

Johnson Park

Registration coming soon!

COMMUNITY CARE

One of the great things about our community is that people genuinely care about each other. So whether it's with one of our pastors or a gifted community member with a heart for others, there are people here who would love to journey with you.

Talk To A Pastor

Pastor appointments are available Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm and on Sunday mornings before or after our Gatherings. Our pastors would love to visit you during a hospital stay or pray with you in your home. Email communitylife@marshall.org or call the office at 616.249.3337 to schedule an appointment.

Give Or Receive Prayer

Every Sunday after our Gathering, caring individuals from our community are available to offer a listening ear and prayer support. If you have the gift of intercession, consider joining our prayer team. Visit marshall.org/prayer to learn more.

Care For Our Community

We're always on the lookout for compassionate individuals interested in providing meals, offering prayer support, hosting online worship, or stepping into any number of other volunteer roles. If you'd be interested in learning more, check out marshall.org/volunteer.

White Bucket Project

If you find yourself in a season of need, the White Bucket Project is our designated fund that provides financial assistance. To learn more, visit marshall.org/resources.

Community Corner

Perhaps you don't need financial help, but would instead benefit from a few meals to provide nourishment after a recent surgery or the addition of a new family member. We have a team of people who love blessing their neighbors. We also love sharing updates from our community through the Community Corner in our weekly email. Email communitylife@marshall.org or call 616.249.3337 to make arrangements.

Support + Recovery Groups

From nationally recognized programs to local facilitators, know you are not alone.

Al-Anon

Those with addictions come together to share their experiences to gain strength and hope for themselves and their loved ones.

Mondays, 7-8pm Ongoing

Overeaters Anonymous

Overeaters Anonymous is a fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength, and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating.

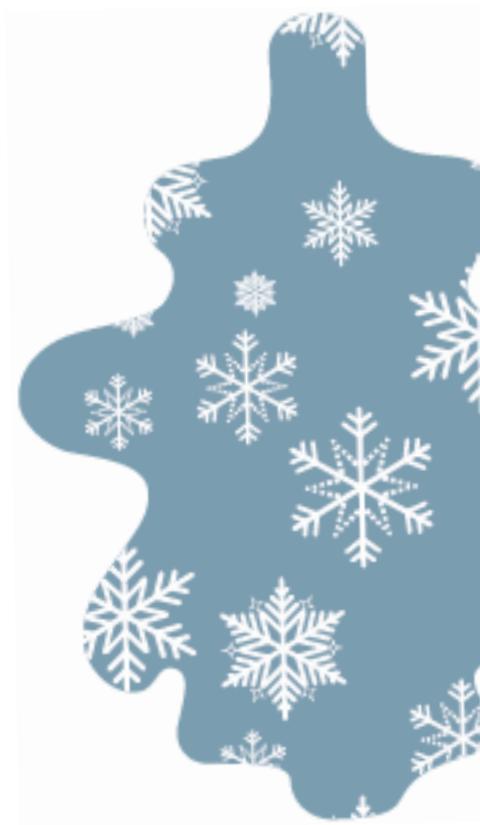
Thursdays, 10-11am Ongoing

**“Living out the way of Jesus
in missional communities,
announcing the arrival of
God’s kingdom,
working for measurable
change among the
oppressed.”**

**If you made it this far,
thank you for reading!**



**Scan the QR Code above to access
a digital copy of the Winter Guide.**



@marshillorg

 Mars Hill

