

Hi, I'm Pastor Maryl Gibson and I'm the Associate Pastor at Mount Hope Community Church. I enjoy so much what I do here.

I'm the business manager and the leader of the leadership team. I love working with all of our leaders and the members of our church. I love being challenged to help bring out the best in our leaders and members by helping them see their purpose and potential.

I have two children, five grandchildren, and one great grand child. I love hanging out with the grandchildren - talking, laughing and sharing my life experiences with them, good and bad. In my spare time, there are a few things I like to do. I'm an avid reader, so I find myself sitting back and relaxing while I read a good book. In the summer I like to go to the park a couple times during the week and just sit and do nothing. I might even fall asleep in my car. I also like to go to different lakes and watch all the people swimming and boating. For me, going outside to work in my yard with all of the beautiful plants and flowers is also very relaxing and enjoyable. Another one of my hobbies is home decorating. I like the challenge of putting colors, textures, accessories and furnishings together.

When I was at Spring Arbor College, I attended a fine arts class. On one particular day I remember the instructor teaching about a specific piece of art. He explained to us that with art, everything has a purpose - every line, every circle etc. The art piece he was using as his subject matter was the painting of "The Last Supper." As he was mentioning where Jesus was sitting compared to the position of the apostles and what that position might mean to other artists observing the painting, a few kids were laughing and goofing around. I was one of the older students so it wasn't me laughing and goofing around. Anyway, the instructor stopped and said, "I am talking about my Jesus", as tears started running down his face. I couldn't understand why he suddenly seemed so emotional. Later, I learned that he was dealing with bone cancer and I began to see why he reacted in that manner. He had a lot of personal things going on and he must have gotten very close to Jesus. He talked about Him like he knew Him personally. I had never heard anyone talk about Jesus like that. For me, most of the time when I heard people talk about Jesus, it was more like Jesus was not real to them or they talked about Him as if He was just a name. That day something changed in me. I wanted to know Jesus like the instructor knew Jesus. I knew without a doubt that he was not just talking about Jesus the way I had heard other people talk about Him. He knew Jesus personally.

From that day on, I embarked on a journey to know Him the same way.