

January 3, 2024 Midweek Evangelist

Dates to Remember

Now – January 7, 2024 – Teddy Bear Tree Collection  
December 31, 2023 – Combined New Year Worship  
Service – 10:55 a.m. – with covered dish & celebration following.

January 1, 2024 – Church Office Closed – New Year Holiday

January 4, 2024 – MFMC CLC – Return to school

January 4, 2024 – SPRC Committee Meeting – 5:00 p.m. – Room 219

January 5, 2024 – Mike Niederhauser Visitation & Services 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

January 7, 2024 – Final Day for Teddy Bear Tree Collection

January 9, 2024 – Girl Scout Troop 380 – 5:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

January 10, 2024 – Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. – Room 219

January 17, 2024 – Staff Meeting – 4:30 p.m. – Pastor Office

January 23, 2024 – Girl Scout Troop 380 – 5:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

**SPRC COMMITTEE MEETING.** The SPRC Committee will meet Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 5 p.m. in Room 2019.

**Parking Lot Changes** Hello Church Family. Your trustees have installed speed bumps in the church parking lot.

Our goal is to slow traffic down and deter those who may use our parking lot as a pass-through street.  
Manchester First Methodist Church Trustees

**ORGANIST & PIANIST POSTITON.** MFMC has positions open for an organist & pianist. If you are interested in applying for these positions or know someone who is resumés can be submitted to the church office.

**GMC Prayer Call:** Please join the people of the GMC in prayer by subscribing to the monthly prayer guide located at:  
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/d5kgj1H/prayer>  
or on the GMC website.

**Teddy Bear Tree Collection.** January 7, 2024, is the final day for the Teddy Bear Tree collection. This year the stuffed animals will be going to Isaiah 117 House . Isaiah 117 House is a safe place for children until they can be placed into foster care.

**GMC Call to Prayer:** Please join the entirety of the GMC in praying the Lord’s Prayer daily at Noon/12:00 P.M.

The most important aspect of serving the Lord is simply making ourselves available.

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Manchester First Methodist Church  
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The Midweek Evangelist

Manchester First Methodist Church

Serving God and the people of Manchester since 1813  
Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers.  
Pastor, Rev. Stephen M. Lee // Lay Leader Jim Thorington  
Church Office Phone Number: 931-728-4624  
January 3, 2024



Hang Out Event

Hello, Church!  
I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas season and New Year’s celebration. Thank you to Ms. Nicole Holland for the wonderful New Year’s activities she planned for our potluck on Sunday. If you didn’t stay, you missed out. It was a lot of fun!  
I cannot begin to thank you all for your generosity toward the Angel Tree. I’m not going to lie, I had some significant concerns, and I was not sure we were going to be able to pull it off, but you guys came in right as the clock counted down and made it all possible. I’m always proud to be a part of such a giving congregation.  
Several of the youth thanked me for their gifts, and I was quick to say that while I am the one that delivered it, you guys were the ones that funded it. They all wanted to make sure that I let you know how thankful they were for your love and generosity! So, from all the kids on the Angel Tree I say, thank you!

See ya Sunday!  
Ami Shedd  
[hangoutyouth.mfmc@gmail.com](mailto:hangoutyouth.mfmc@gmail.com)



KINGDOM KIDS

Happy New Year! Kingdom Kids will return Wednesday, January 10, 2024! Let us think about a new year with God...  
Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”  
John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”  
Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”  
Isaiah 40:31 “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

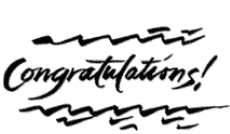
Nicole Holland  
[mfmcckindomkids@gmail.com](mailto:mfmcckindomkids@gmail.com)



MFMC-CLC HAPPENINGS

Hello all! Our preschool children and staff will be returning this week after a wonderful Christmas break.  
Our first day back is Thursday, January 4th. We will kick off our return with a New Year’s celebration. I am ready for the new year. 2023 held many wonderful moments but there were many challenges as well. Looking forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for me personally & also our preschool ministry.  
May we all continue to SHINE the LIGHT of CHRIST in the New Year!  
Be the Light!  
Mrs. Angie  
[MFMC.CLC@gmail.com](mailto:MFMC.CLC@gmail.com)  
(931)728-8283

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Congratulations to Justin Bryan for being named Manchester Police Department Officer of the

**NO BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023.** The next Bible Study will begin on Wednesday January 10, 2024, in Room 219 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Remember the Parlor & Youth Sunday School in your kindness.**



From the Pastor’s Desk ...

**Thank you.** Deborah and I want to express our sincere appreciation and thanksgivings to God for your overwhelming support of the Advent and Christmas worship services, New Years celebration, and the many other accompanying ministries. And for the way in which we were blessed by each of you in so many ways. Again, thank you and may our Abba Father bless and fill your hearts with unending joy and peace.

**Committees.** Just a reminder for all Committee Chairs to schedule a meeting in January to confirm or elect all committee chairs and for planning purposes for 2024 – if you have not done so already.

**2024.** The most important question for 2024 just may be - *did Jesus show up?* And not the more frequent questions of: “how did we do,” “how did people respond,” “how was worship”, “how was the music or the sermon”, or “what business needs to be done” or “were our prayers answered” and so on. All those questions are needful, but the question of, “*Did Jesus show up*” is the superior, more important question. The answer to that question makes all the difference.

When Jesus shows up, we are set free from our past, live with confidence in the present, and have hope for the future. Isaac Watts wonderfully expressed the power of this gospel in lyrics written over two hundred years ago for Christmas Day:

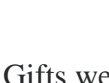
*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;*

*He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found.*

A concise reminder that in the face of so much pessimism, fear, disappointment, disillusionment, and despair saturating our world that we have a living hope because God has shown up, does show up, and will show up to set all things right.

Christmas and New Years days has come and gone, but the good news will continue to be preached to all who are desperate to know that Jesus showed up in a manger, that he will show up again to set all things right, and that he is ready and willing and able to show up right now, right where we need him. That is who he is. That is what he does. And if Jesus is not showing up in worship services, meetings, and ministries – and in our daily lives we need to reassess our relationship with Jesus and his priority in our Church and personal lives. May you know the fullness of the abiding presence of Jesus today and every day as He makes his home in your hearts. (John 14:1-17)

**Pray for the Awakening. Share the Good News!**  
**Let us make 2024 a banner year of glorifying our Lord and Savior.**  
**Stephen**



Memorials & Honorariums

Gifts were given to the General Fund in memory of Matilda Locke by Roger & Kimla Weeks, Jimmy & Nancy White, Marie Kimble, Mary & Martha Class, Bobby & Betty Bryan, and Pat & Joane Cassady.

Gifts were given to the General Fund in memory of Ellen Young by Debra & Jim Thorington, Pat & Joane Cassady, Mike & Karla Childs, and Kimla & Roger Weeks.

Gifts were given to Missions in memory of Matilda Locke, Ellen Young & Mike Niederhauser by Frank & Linda Langham.

A gift was given to Missions in memory of Ellen Young & Matilda Locke by Wade & Ann Stevenson.

A gift was given to the Flower Fund in memory of Mike Niederhauser by Jim & Debra Thorington.

A gift was given to Missions in memory of Matilda Locke by Jim & Debra Thorington and the Sallie O’Neal Fellowship.

Gifts were given to Youth in memory of Ellen Young & Matilda Locke by Mark & Susan Yother.

Gifts were given to Missions in memory of Ellen Young, Matilda Locke & Mike Niederhauser by Claus & Lois Thormaehlen.

A gift was given to the General Fund in memory of Mike Niederhauser by Pat & Joane Cassady.

A gift was given to the General Fund in memory of Matilda Locke by Doris Hendrix, Bill & Sharrell Buchanan & Tony and Ray & Brenda Winton.

A gift was given to the General Fund in Honor of Officer Justin Bryan by Roger & Kimla Weeks

A gift was given to White Christmas in honor of Claus & Lois Thormaehlen by Jim & Debra Thorington.



MFMC extends our condolences to the family of Mike Niederhauser. Mr. Niederhauser passed away December 20, 2023. Celebration of Life will be held on January 5, 2024, at MFMC. Visitation will be held 12:30 p.m. until time of service at 2:30 p.m.

Hebrews 10:23-25, Faithfully Attending

Attendance:	Dec 24	Dec 31
Sunday School	33	30
8:55 Service	46	00
10:55 Service	62	110
5:00 Service	150	
Facebook Live	386	102

2 Corinthians 9:7, Cheerfully Giving  
Total of

	Dec 24 & 31
Sunday School	75.00
Coffee Time	38.00
Missions	645.00
White Christmas Food Baskets	50.00
Memorials to General Fund	380.00
Flower Fund	75.00
Youth	1,101.00
Pastor Discretionary	51.00
Honorariums to General Fund	50.00
Parlor Fund	500.00
Weekly Required	10,000.00
Contributions	22,082.00
YTD Offering	448,582.00
YTD Required	530,000.00
(+/-) Difference	-81,418.00

Acts 6, Actively Serving Christ and Church

**Building Checker**  
Week of December 31 Roger Weeks

**Altar Guild**  
January Karla Childs & Wanda Stedry  
February Lois Thormaehlen & Brenda Fibelkorn

**Counters**  
January Virginia McKee & Doris Hendrix  
February Richard Dix & Mike Giffin

**Kitchen Monitors**  
January Trish Anderson

**Door Greeters**  
January 7, 2024 Deborah Blanton & Teri Christian  
Dennis & Brenda Bryan  
January 14, 2024 Wade & Ann Stevenson  
Dennis & Brenda Bryan

**Coffee Time**  
January 7 Topsy Layne  
January 14 The Shedd

**Communion**  
January  
Preparer TBD  
Servers 8:25  
Servers 10:55

May God bless you to overflowing for your willing and cheerful service to Jesus and MFMC!

**Member Prayer Concerns:** God’s World & Our Nation, All in the military service and their families, Stan McHann, Richard Eddings, Joe Ray, Mary Rounds, Carol Shahan, Dean & Stephanie Babcock – Missionaries in Malawi . Please keep our Nursing Home Residents and Homebound Members on your prayer list. Submitted prayer requests are transferred to our prayer team after 30 days.

Submit prayer requests at [www.manchesterfirst.org](http://www.manchesterfirst.org) Place your curser on the “Home” tab. There you will scroll down to “PRAYER REQUESTS.” Fill out the form and submit it and our staff will pray for you. This is available 24/7. Of course, the church staff is available during the day at 931-728-4624 to talk with you when you have prayer request.

Church Family Birthdays: Jan. 3, 2024 – Jan. 9, 2024

Jan 4	Marie Kimble
Jan 4	Dorothy Shelton
Jan 6	Barbara D. Williams

If you have a birthday during the above listed time and it does not appear above, please call the church office and a note will be made in PowerChurch and listed on next week’s birthday.

**Gifts to Jesus:** Yes, today, tomorrow and every day is the right time to cheerfully give by contributing to the general or designated offering; and by supporting an existing ministry or starting a new one. (2 Cor. 9:6-11)



MFMC extends our condolences to the family of Martha “Matilda” Locke. Mrs. Locke passed away December 21, 2023. Celebration of Life was held on December 29, 2023, at Coffee County Funeral Chapel. Burial followed in Rose Hill Memorial Gardens.

