

Manchester First Methodist Church  
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Manchester, TN 37355  
931-728-4624  
[www.manchesterfmc.org](http://www.manchesterfmc.org)  
[churchassist@manchesterfmc.org](mailto:churchassist@manchesterfmc.org)  
**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

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Manchester TN 37355  
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let  
your  
light  
Shine

Manchester  
First Methodist Church  
Michael A. Cobb—Pastor  
105 N. Church St.  
Manchester, TN 37355

Church Phone: 931-728-4624

Minister's Phone: 334-430-7868  
[pastor@manchesterfmc.org](mailto:pastor@manchesterfmc.org)

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
8:25am Blended Worship  
9:45am Sunday School  
10:55am Worship

**Visit our Web Site**

**NOTE:** The deadline for submission to The Lightshine is the 20th of each month. Early receipt of your article will help ensure adequate room for that issue. Please email any articles or info to [churchassist@manchesterfmc.org](mailto:churchassist@manchesterfmc.org).



# THE LIGHTSHINE

**Manchester First Methodist Chu**  
*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the world.*



December 2025

## A WORD FROM PASTOR'S DESK

*"Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David." Luke 2:4*

The days leading up to Christmas are some of the busiest travel days of the year. Soon the roads will be filled with people heading home for the holiday. Cars and SUV's will be loaded with luggage, gifts, and families making the journey, knowing that home awaits them at the end of their travel.

What sights and sounds represent "home" for you? For some, Christmas reminds them Mother's macaroni salad or Grandad's Red Velvet cake. It's listening to Dad's story about the time when his chainsaw got stuck cutting the yule log. We head to our home for the holidays because where we come from it is part of who we are.

The days leading up to the birth of Christ found Joseph and his family traveling home to Bethlehem. Everyone had to return due to a census, which was just in time for Jesus' birth. Where Joseph came from and, ultimately, where Jesus came from mattered in God's great plan. Jesus' home fulfilled the prophetic voice that foretold that the Messiah would be from the house of David, that he would be born in Bethlehem. Joseph's return was a perfectly orchestrated piece of God's mighty plan.

Home means different things for everyone. Perhaps you don't have those fond memories of smoked turkey, baked ham, and handmade gifts. But where you come from still matters friend, because you come from the very heart of God. God dreamed up every detail of you before you were born and He is working your origins, your past, present, and future, together as part of His grand plan. And, if Christ is your Savior, your future includes a journey to a new, eternal home in heaven. May we spend this season looking heavenward in our hearts, knowing one day we will all truly be home for the holidays (Zondervan, 52-53).  
Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Mike

# CYF

Children, Youth & Family  
MINISTRY

Manchester FMC is actively seeking a part or full-time Children & Youth Minister to begin rebooting our programs. Interested candidates should contact Pastor Mike at [pastor@manchesterfmc.org](mailto:pastor@manchesterfmc.org).

## Thank You Volunteers!

### DOOR GREETERS

**1st Service**  
Billie McEwen- 12/7, 14th  
Leah Marlin-12/7, 14th  
Zach Gardner + ?- 12/21  
Teri Christian + ?- 12/28

### COFFEE TIME

Deborah Blanton- 12/7  
Teri Christian- 12/14, 21  
The Thorington's- 12/28

### KITCHEN MONITOR

Elaine McKelvey

### COUNTERS

Lois Thormaehlen, Richard Dix

### ALTAR GUILD

Sue Wakeman, Deborah Thorington

### HOLY COMMUNION

PREP- Julie Giffin

**SERVERS- 1st Service**- Sarah Potuk, Deborah Thorington

**SERVERS- 2nd Service**- The Anderson's & The Holland's

### BUILDING CHECKERS

Week of 12/7- Seth Mesaros  
Week of 12/14- Doug Greene  
Week of 12/21- Jim Thorington  
Week of 12/28- Bob Truesdale



Teri Christian- 1st  
Seth Mesaros- 3rd  
Bethany Mesaros- 7th  
Gerry Trumper- 8th  
Jeremy Dutton-11th  
Allison Beachboard- 13th  
Elaine McKelvey- 13th  
Susan Truesdale- 22nd  
Tammy Corona- 27th



### MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

A gift was given to the General Fund in honor of Marlin Hoover by Bud & Pam Riddle.

A gift was given to the Music Fund in memory of Don Inglish by Pat & Joane Cassady.

A gift was given to the Choir Fund in memory of Don Inglish by Mike & Karla Childs.

## DECEMBER Prayer Requests

Will Shelton, Charles Roberts, Donna Keeling, Richard Eddings, Linda Forrester, Mary Rounds, JaNelle Burt  
**Missionaries:** The Guzman's (Mexico), The Barbee's (Thailand), The Reyes' (Latin America), The Babcock's (Malawi).

## Christmas Cantata

"Here We Come a'Caroling"

11am Service  
December 14th



### WHITE CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Please join our church family as we reach out to those in our community through our annual White Christmas food box distribution. Boxes will be assembled on Friday, Dec 19th at 2pm, and our distribution will follow on Saturday, Dec 20th, from 9-11am. If you know a family in need, please contact the church office. Donations will also be accepted throughout December. Thank you in advance for your support of these 100 boxes and we look forward to a time of fellowship and serving together!

Be a blessing through MFMC!

## Advent Readers

November 30th (5th Sunday)- The Mesaros' Purple Candle

### 1st Service

The Wakeman's- 12/7

### Purple Candle

The Thorington's- 12/14

### Pink Candle

Deborah Blanton- 12/21

Teri Christian- 12/21

### Purple Candle

Christmas Candlelight- 12/24 @ 5:30pm  
The Cobb's- Christ Candle

### 2nd Service

The Giffin's- 12/7

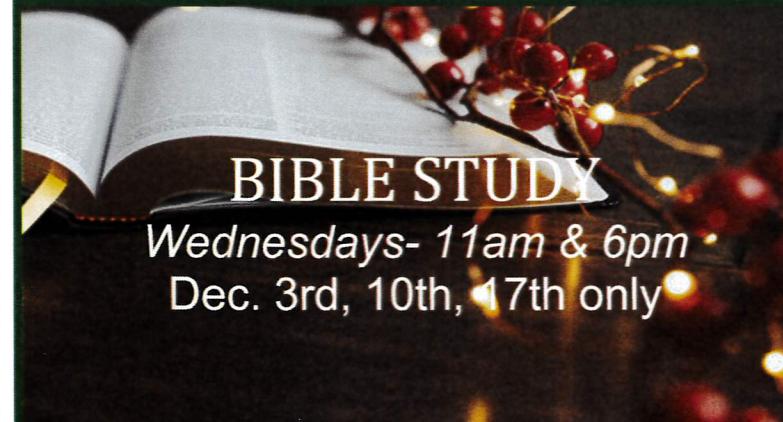
### Purple Candle

The Bryan's- 12/14

### Pink Candle

The Williams'- 12/21

### Purple Candle



## BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays- 11am & 6pm  
Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th only

join us for a  
celebration

honoring

Michael and Patricia Anderson

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday, December 20, 2025  
from 7:00 to 9:00 in the evening

Manchester First Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
105 North Church Street

We would be delighted to see you...  
no presents please



We had a wonderful Thanksgiving lunch with our preschool families filled with great fellowship and delicious food catered by Allison Chumley with Taste of Tennessee Catering. A heart felt thank you goes out to all who volunteered their time to serve our families. Your kindness, hard work, and servant hearts are appreciated.

Moving into the Advent Season, please plan to attend our Christmas musical entitled, "Sing for the King," held Tuesday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for a beautiful evening of worship and celebration.

Remember that thankfulness opens our eyes to the blessings God places in our path each day. So may your homes be filled with peace, joy, and love of family and friends. Wishing each of you a warm, wonderful and truly blessed Thanksgiving!

Be The Light!  
Angie Gann – CLC Director