

# CYF

Children, Youth & Family  
MINISTRY

Please be in prayer for two viable candidates for MFMC's children/youth ministry position. Both candidates are well qualified with experience. Details should be worked out by March 1st.

Thank You  
Volunteers!

### DOOR GREETERS

<b>1st Service</b>	<b>2nd Service</b>
Topsy Lane- 2/1, 8th	Justin & Ashley Bryan- 2/1, 8th
Karen Henegar- 2/1, 8th	Zach Gardner- 2/15, 2/22
Zach Gardner- 2/15, 2/22	The Williams- 2/15, 22nd
Deborah Amacher- 2/15, 22	

### COFFEE TIME

Volunteer Needed- 2/1  
Sarah Potuk- 2/8, 15  
Teri Christian- 2/22

### KITCHEN MONITOR

Topsy Lane

### COUNTERS

Rich Wakeman, Richard Dix

### ALTAR GUILD

Lois Thormaehlen, Brenda Fibelkorn

### HOLY COMMUNION

PREP- The Thorington's

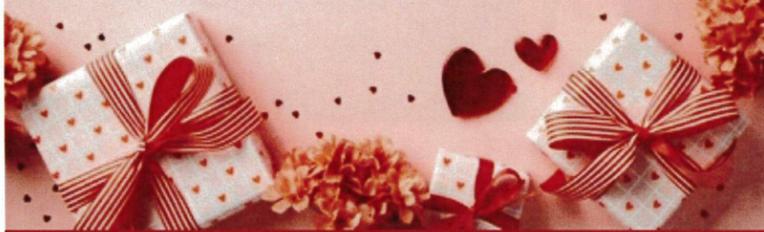
**SERVERS- 1st Service-** Bethany Mesaros, & TBA

**SERVERS- 2nd Service-** The Thorington's & The Giffin's

### BUILDING CHECKERS

Week of 2/1- Dennis Bryan  
Week of 2/8- Justin Bryan  
Week of 2/15- Gary Nester  
Week of 2/22- Jim Thorington

## HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!



Abby West- 1st  
Roger Weeks- 1st  
LeeAnn Leversen- 7th  
Mike Marshall- 9th  
Melissa Cope- 11th  
Brent Williams- 11th  
Lois Thormaehlen- 13th  
Rich Wakeman- 15th

Mary Rounds-18th  
Irene Sain- 20th  
Regina Bradford- 20th  
Michael Wakemen- 22nd  
Ricky Bradford- 25th  
Betsy Shanks- 26th  
Barbara Arp- 27th  
Brandon Nester- 27th

## Men's BREAKFAST

FAITH • FOOD • FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, February 21st @ 8am  
DAMRON'S

### FEBRUARY MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Maggie Beck gift to Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Dave & Dabney Owens.  
The Kimble's gift to General Fund in memory of Joe Burt.  
Christopher & Sarah Smith gift to General Fund in honor of Beverly Smith.

## PRAYER

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).

## LENT

40 Days of Renewal

## ASH WEDNESDAY

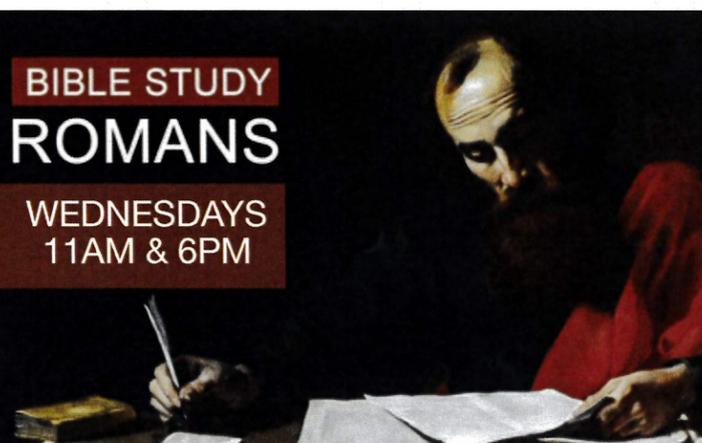
Noon \*Come-and-Go      5:30pm \*Worship Service

## SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS FEBRUARY 8TH

## BIBLE STUDY ROMANS

WEDNESDAYS  
11AM & 6PM



Growing in God's Love and Learning Every Day  
MANCHESTER FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

### Schedule of Events

Jan 28- Pancakes & Pajamas (in classrooms)  
Feb 13th - Valentines Parties  
Feb 16th- No Preschool/Presidents Day  
March 23-27th- Spring Break (CLC Closed)

**NOTE:** Rev. Mike Cobb will be attending the following with Rev. Jeff Jacob:

**NEW ROOM PASTORS RETREAT**  
FEBRUARY 25-27, 2025  
BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC  
RIDGECREST CONVENTION CENTER

## VALENTINES DAY COUPLES NIGHT OUT

February 13th (Friday), 6pm-8pm  
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a relaxing evening together while Manchester FMC provides care and fun for your children!  
Take time to reconnect—we have the little one's covered.

\*Ages 3 through 7\*  
Pizza, Crafts, Games, & More!

Please RSVP for a head count.  
931-728-4624

**Manchester First Methodist Church**  
105 Church Street  
Manchester, TN 37355  
931-728-4624  
www.manchesterfmc.org  
churchassist@manchesterfmc.org  
**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

**Nonprofit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
Manchester TN 37355  
  
**Permit # 46**

let  
your  
light  
shine

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

Church Phone: 931-728-4624

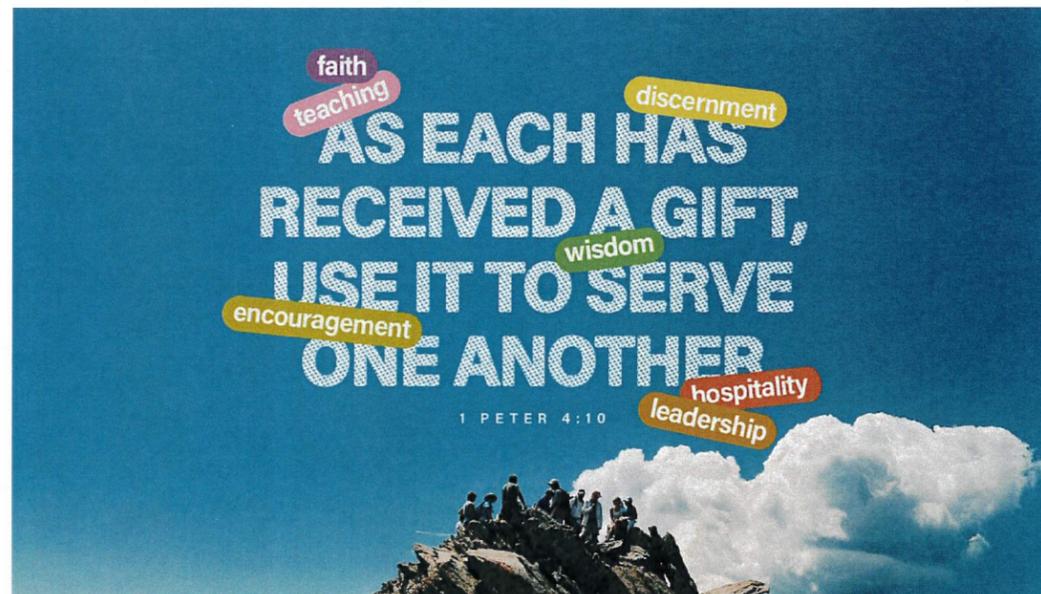
Minister's Phone: 334-430-7868  
pastor@manchesterfmc.org

**EVERY SUNDAY**

8:30am Blended Worship  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship

**Visit our Web Site**  
www.manchesterfmc.org

**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 Church**

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the world.*



February 2026

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When most people think of church, they think of building, denomination, religious institution or fellowship. But according to the New Testament, we should first think “body of Christ” (1 Cor 12:27). Paul was distinctly corrected in his thinking on this subject while traveling to wipe out gatherings of people who believed and worshipped Jesus Christ, our resurrected and risen Lord. On the road to Damascus, he was blinded by a great light when the Lord declared: “Why are you persecuting me?” “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting” (Acts 9:4-5, italics mine). Saul was shown that when you persecute the Church, you are directly—not indirectly—persecuting Christ. That is how close the connection is between our risen Savior and all who believe He is Lord. It’s why Thomas Oden shared, “the body of Christ remains a more concise definition of the church than any other descriptive phrase” (Classic Christianity, 2009, p.710).

When we come to faith in Christ, we actually become part of His resurrected body: “*we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit*” (1 Cor 12:13). It’s not so much because of the different parts or the way they are connected together. What makes it a body is the One who holds it all together and governs it (Barth, K. *The Epistle to Romans*, 1993). It is Christ’s very own life, His resurrected life, that we share and participate. It’s what makes the Church a living organism, not an organization, for our lives (as distinct and diverse as they are) find common life in our risen Lord.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer often insisted that “the Church is Christ existing in community” (*Sanctorum Communio*, vol. 1). As incarnate Lord, he became a flesh-and-blood person and assumed a body. But as risen Lord, He is both an *individual* person with a glorified body and, as our historical creeds demonstrate, a *corporate* person with a body, the Church, through which He lives, moves, and ministers. But apart from the resurrection, none of this makes any sense. If there was no resurrection, then there is no risen life in Christ to share, no living head of the Church. Remove Christ as Lord and head of the Church and all that’s left is an organization made of people aspiring to do good, to be humanitarian. But if the Church is the *corporate* body of Christ, if our gatherings and common bond is “Christ existing in community,” doesn’t that necessitate us being a living, moving, purposeful, unified, life-giving body? That’s quite a contrast from what we’re seeing across America today.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Mike Cobb