

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

1st Service	2nd Service
The Thormaehlen's- 3/1, 8th	The Andersons- 3/1, 8th
Deborah Blanton- 15, 22nd.	The Bryan's- 15, 22nd
Terri Christian	
Sarah Potuk- 29	Kay Tracy- 29
Allison Beachboard	Nellie Leonard

COFFEE TIME

Terri Christian- 3/1
Linda Langham- 3/8, 15
Denise Dix- 3/22, 29

KITCHEN MONITOR

Lois Thormaehlen

COUNTERS

Mike Anderson, Claus Thormaehlen

ALTAR GUILD

The Smoyak's

HOLY COMMUNION

PREP- Bethany Mesaros

SERVERS- 1st Service- The Thormaehlen's

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

BUILDING CHECKERS

Week of 3/1- Mike Anderson
Week of 3/8- Eric Beachboard
Week of 3/15- Bob Truesdale
Week of 3/22- Mike Cobb
Week of 3/29- Seth Mesaros

CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

May your birthday be a reflection of your unique self

Randy Pate- 3rd	Lynn Jarrell-13th
Lois Farmer- 3rd	Sara Marshall- 14th
Nona Jarratt- 5th	Pat McHann- 17th
Tina Niederhauser- 6th	Chandler Carter- 18th
Carolyn Norfleet- 7th	Topsy Lane- 20th
Stephen Kimball- 8th	Natalie Gardner- 22nd
Luke Beachboard- 11th	Craig Johnson- 23rd
Dowe Jones- 12th	Billie McEwen- 23rd
Mike Giffin- 13th	Deborah Lee- 24th
Kim Hoover- 13th	Jimmy White- 24th
	Judy McHann- 29th

FEBRUARY MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Rebecca Wilson, Deborah Amacher, The Child's, Richard & Denise Dix gift to the General Fund in memory of Kitty Harris.
The Fibelkorn's gift in memory of Kittie Anderson & to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service
5:30pm April 2nd

GOOD FRIDAY

It Is Finished
WORSHIP 6PM
April 3rd

Miriam House
Recovery Ministry
Annual Fundraising Event

Garden Gala

Living in Full Bloom

March 28th | 5 PM |
Doors open for tours of the new Miriam House Home at 4:00

SEVEN

CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Men's
BREAKFAST

FAITH • FOOD • FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, March 21st @ 8am
DAMRON'S

PRAYER

Stephen Lee, Will Shelton, Charles Roberts, Donna Keeling
Richard Eddings, Mary Rounds, Ken Kimball

Missionaries: The Guzman's (Mexico), The Barbee's (Thailand), The Reyes' (Latin America)
The Babcock's (Malawi).

Growing in God's Love and Learning Every Day

MANCHESTER FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Church family,

February was such a sweet and special month at our preschool! As we celebrated love and kindness, we were reminded of what Scripture teaches us in Galatians 5:22 about the fruit of the Spirit —especially love and kindness. We had so much fun finding simple, age- appropriate ways to show Christ's love to our friends, families, and teachers. It is always a joy to watch our little ones practice gentle hands, kind words, and caring hearts.

Now we are gearing up for a busy and exciting March as we kick off Read Across America Week March 2-6! This is one of our very favorite weeks of the year. We will also be hosting our Scholastic Book Fair, and we would love you to stop by and shop during regular preschool hours. This helps us earn free books to build our preschool library.

We are looking for church members who would enjoy volunteering during this special week. We need readers for our classrooms as well as volunteers to help work the book fair checkout table. I've already had a couple of sweet ladies reach out, and we are so thankful! If you are interested, please call the preschool office, and we will gladly get you scheduled.

We can't wait for this fun week of reading and fellowship, and we would love for you to be part of it! Please remember to keep our preschool ministry in your prayers as we teach, love and care for the children.

BE the LIGHT!

LENT

A SEASON OF REFLECTION,
RENEWAL, AND PREPARATION

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

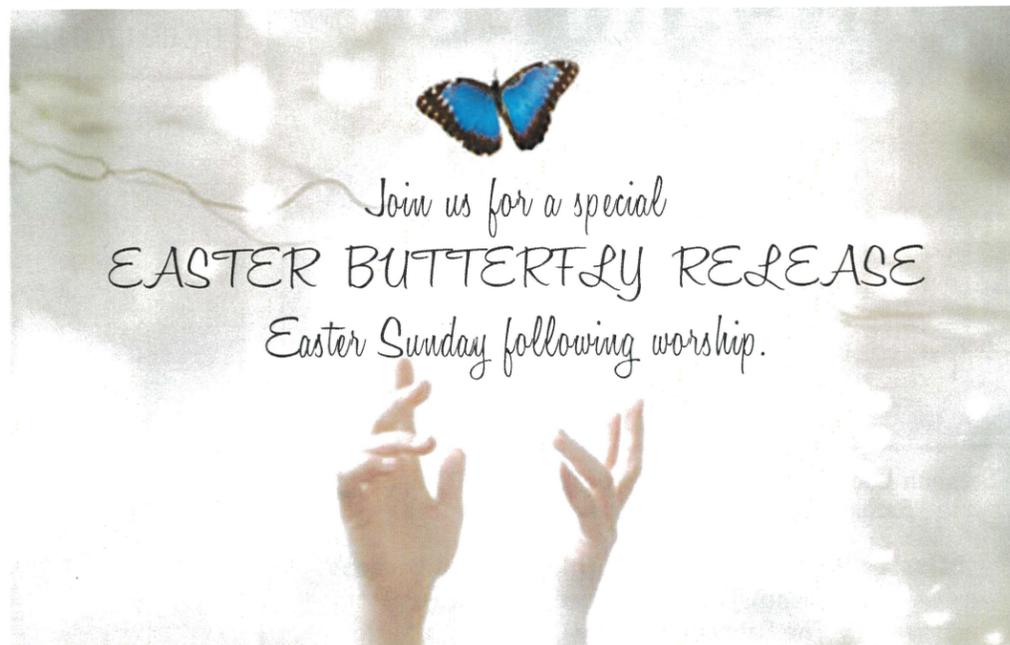
Minister's Phone: 334-430-7868
pastor@manchesterfmc.org

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.



THE LIGHTSHINE

Manchester First Methodist Church

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



MARCH 2026

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Have you ever heard that environments matter? If so, then think about it long enough and a sense of unfairness settles in. To say “environments matter” infers that a person’s experience on any given day takes precedence. As subjective as it may be people will visit churches around Montgomery every Sunday and determine whether they will return based on their experience—an experience they have that begins way before the preacher starts the sermon.

But what if something happens during worship that’s beyond anyone’s control? What if it’s raining and attendance is down? What if a ministry leader is out sick? What does that mean? It means the quality, consistency, and impact of any ministry environment defines the church, and since that is the case, your presence matters as well.

Environments communicate a message. It is the message before the message and what is communicated by an environment has the potential to trump everything else. Several notable leadership guru’s have often said that a sermon begins the moment a visitor exits their car, before they set foot in the building. Around 11:30am, when I stand to deliver what is traditionally known as *the message*, every person in the church has already received a dozen or so messages already. Visitors will have already made up their minds about whether they are going to return the following week. To put it mildly, our environments set the stage for what comes to mind when others think about our church. That is why it is so very important to ask, “What are we communicating?”

Leaving nothing to chance, we cannot be content just to have church for church people. Considering our mission and mandate, the cost is just too great. But this is also where I say a big “Thank You” because you have done well as a church. You get it. You understand the vision, and I pray that we can continue with the awareness needed to sustain the passion.

As soon as leaders within the church embrace a vision to reach the hearts of people, environments take on new meaning. On the contrary, the longer someone serves somewhere in the church the more difficult it is to see their environment objectively. “Time erodes awareness.” Time makes it difficult for people to lubricate their church environments in a way that is externally focused. As a witness to Christ’s love in and through us, make this a simple prompt to think about how we may increase our awareness and sensitivity to those things we may not see (cf. B. Hybels, “Axiom”).

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Mike