

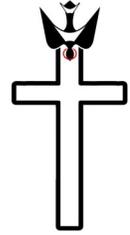


Manchester Methodist Church

413 East Butler St. ~ Phone 563-927-4439

Website: manchestermethodistchurch.org

Email: admin@manchestermethodistchurch.org



The Chimes ~ December 2025



*Join us on Christmas Eve for our
Candlelight & Communion Services,
December 24th at 5:00 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.*



THANK YOU to those who donated poinsettias for Christmas!

Given by

In honor/memory of

Sherry Goranson	Larry Goranson
Jean Gross (2)	Family members
Mary Haigh	Jack Haigh and son, Steve Haigh
Joyce Harbaugh & family	Eugene & Kirk Harbaugh
Glenn Nystel	Ellen Jean Nystel
John & Lynne Rasmussen	Family members
Marlene Reth	Donald Reth
Phil & Debbie Rogers	Their grandparents
Jim & Joyce Shover (2)	Jim & Frances Shover, Russell & Elsie Wulf, sons Jerald & Jeremy Shover, and Cheryl Voelker
Linda Toms	Darl Toms
Pam Vap (2)	Joe Vap, Wayne & Elaine Gidley, Ray & Grace Vap
Mike & Joanne Wade (3)	Brothers Larry Hillier and Mark Wade, parents Irene Sheaffer, Wendell Wade, Warren & Mona Hillier
Randy & Kathy Waterman (2)	Russell & Elsie Hook, Alvin & Helen Waterman
Congregational Care Committee Members	Cheryl Voelker

A note from Pastor Phil...

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. – John 1:1-5



It seems hard to believe that December is already here. Time seems to flow by so quickly when we live busy lives, moving from one thing to the next. Being that it is December, one would think that we would focus on the birth narrative from Luke, or the calling of Joseph in Matthew. This is the season of angel's singing, a young couple giving birth in a barn surrounded by livestock, and sweet baby Jesus in the manger...but this year I want to challenge the church to view the "birth narrative" revealed in the Gospel of John 1:1-5. There are no angels singing, livestock braying, or the cries of a newborn in the manger. This is because Jesus predates His birth in the barn. In fact Jesus, the Word of God, has been present in the holy narrative since "in the beginning." Jesus was an active part of creation, and since through Him all things are made, then Jesus is the action of God. In Genesis, God speaks creation into existence. Jesus is the action, and the Holy Spirit is the sustainer of creation. An excellent example is revealed in Genesis 2:7 in the description of the creation of man.

Genesis 2:7 – Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

In Genesis 1, God the Father speaks man into existence, saying that man would be created in "our" image. The action is in the formation from the dust - by the very hands of the Son, and life is the result of the Breath of God, the Holy Spirit. The fullness of a Triune God is revealed in creation.

So, how is this a birth story? Because in the creation of man a Triune God set forth what shall be the birth of a love story between God and His creation. We experience the love of God in creation from our very first breath to our last and beyond. It is a love story that knows disobedience and grace, rejection and redeeming, brokenness and peace with God. Each and every one, throughout time, who has ever taken a breath upon this earth is part of God's amazing love story. Each and every one formed in the image of God deliberately, with love and hope. Each and every one called to be a part of God's flock, children of His own redeeming, cleansed in grace to live in eternal fellowship at peace with God. All of this was purchased at high price upon the cross...the incarnate of God sacrificed for our redemption. This is the season we celebrate in Lent...when the second face of our Triune God comes down from a Kingdom throne to accept the human condition as the perfect Paschal Lamb; the story where God prepared for many generations, from creation to the cross, to redeem His children and to elevate them to Heirs to the Throne. It is not because of what we have done to merit this grace, but because grace upon grace is the nature and character of God.

Peace, Pastor Phil

On Christmas Day, Pastor Phil & Debbie will host their "off-year" Christmas dinner at 2:00 P.M. at the church for those who are not able to be with their families that day. The ham and rolls will be provided, and those attending are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will also be an optional 'white elephant' gift exchange (\$15 max). **Please RSVP to the office (563-927-4439) by December 18th if you plan to attend!**

MMC Single Board
November 18, 2025 - 6:00 p.m. - Wesley Hall

Present: Mark Reth, Jean Gross, Kathy Dolan, Beth Mueller, Bruce Nodurft, Pastor Phil, Wayne Birkenholz, Bill Scanlan, Charlie Dighton, Lori Snyder, Shirley Davis.

Mark opened the meeting with scripture from Matthew 11:29: *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* Learning and resting is the focus of this scripture. Christmas is a time to reset for the year to come. We should focus on what is important and let go of those things that are not. Prayers and praises were lifted up by Pastor Phil.

Finance: Bruce shared that actual expenses for October were \$23,400 and actual income was \$19,716. Our deficit for the year as of October 31 is -\$7,447. We hope to make this up by the end of the year. He again reminded us that 107 letters were sent out for repair of the roof with 34 responses so far. Cash generated from that is \$25,500 with some planning future support over time.

Trustees:

- Charlie shared that a new AED was purchased for \$2000 with a \$400 rebate to come.
- The roof replacement was completed October 13.
- Roger Erickson will remove snow from the parking lot and Supreme Green will do the sidewalks.
- The two parsonage garage doors will be replaced by Midland Overhead Doors.
- The dishwasher will be repaired which will cost considerably less than replacing it.
- Adding a washer and dryer to the church was tabled indefinitely due to cost and feasibility.
- The current contract for the maintenance and repair of our elevator is due to expire next November, and trustees will look into the possibility of contracting with a different company.
- We will be getting a device from our insurance company that can identify any circuit problems before they cause major damage. There will be no charge for this and the company will cover up to \$1000 of the cost if we require repairs.

Worship: Beth reported that decorating the sanctuary for Christmas will begin the Friday after Thanksgiving. They are working at tightening up our worship time.

Missions: Wayne shared that the OCC noisy offering raised nearly \$400. The November 16th brunch raised \$600 for Dirt Roads Network. Operation Santa Clause drive will be in July next year (Christmas in July). A soup supper is planned for Wednesday, January 28th including chili, vegetable beef, and chicken noodle soups.

Reaching and Receiving: Ushers are still needed.

Congregational Care: Christmas cards will be addressed and sent at our December meeting.

Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations: Shirley mentioned that staff evaluations still need to be done.

Mark spoke briefly about using blind carbon copy when responding to emails to help with cyber security issues.

Bruce briefly went through the proposed recommended budget for 2026. After discussion, the board approved the budget as recommended from finance. Final approval will come at the Charge Conference on November 30th.

The December *Chimes* will include the final date for this year's donations to be counted towards this year's giving.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 with the Lord's Prayer and singing of the Doxology. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be December 16, 2025 at 6:00 in Wesley Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Gross, Secretary

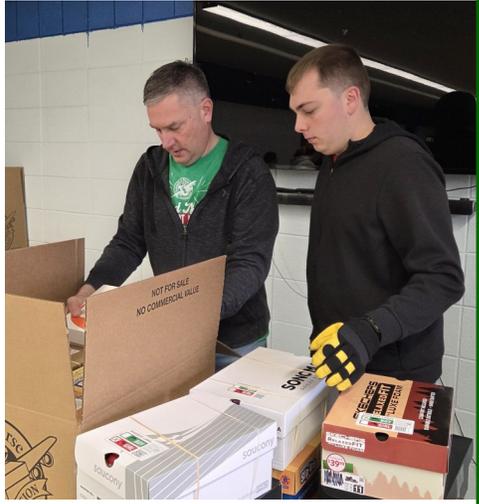


**1059
boxes packed
by MMC!**



**2257
total boxes
collected!**

Collection Week & Packing Party





December
Lay Ministry Volunteers

December 7th

8:30

Advent Candle Lighters: Feldmanns
Liturgist: Marilyn Feldmann
Children's Message: Terry Larsen
Communion: Marilyn F., Terry & Jeff L.

10:30

Advent Candle Lighters: Rasmussens
Liturgist: Janine Stellick
Communion: Janine S. & Wayne Birkenholz

December 14th

8:30

Advent Candle Lighters: Reths
Liturgist: Mark or Kaci Reth
Children's Message: TBD

10:30

Advent Candle Lighters: Muellers
Liturgist: Pam Vap
Communion: Pam V. & Dustin Kirkpatrick

December 21st

8:30

Advent Candle Lighters: Turners
Liturgist: Meghan Mensen
Children's Message: Paul Lyman

10:30

Advent Candle Lighters: Scanlans
Liturgist: Jean Gross
Communion: Jean G. & Dustin Kirkpatrick

December 28th

8:30

Liturgist: Praise Band member
Children's Message: TBD

10:30

Liturgist: Praise Band member
Communion: Dustin Kirkpatrick,
Tom or Connie Allyn



MMC Serving Teams

If you would like to be part of one of the *Serving Our Church* teams, please contact the following people:

◆ **Door Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers:**

Lori Snyder @ 563-920-6692

◆ **Tech Team/AV:**

Ruth Voshell/Michael Stocks
techteam.mmc@gmail.com

Help is especially needed at this time with these two areas!

◆ **Communion Servers, Liturgists, Scripture Readers, Children's Sermon:**

Jeff Larsen @ 563-608-4036
or call the office @ 563-927-4439

◆ **Nursery Attendants:**

Mary Jane Fetter @ 563-920-2006

◆ **Fellowship Time Hosts:**

Text Michelle Philgreen @ 563-920-1677
or sign up at the Welcome Desk

◆ **Worship Music:**

Beth Mueller & Lynne Rasmussen
elizabethannmueller@gmail.com,
admin@manchestermethodistchurch.org
or call the office @ 563-927-4439

◆ **Church Office Assistants:**

Lynne Rasmussen
admin@manchestermethodistchurch.org
or call the office @ 563-927-4439



Merry Christmas

Happy Birthday!

Roxanne Knoedler	12/01
Vicki Spellerberg	12/03
Jerry Ridenour	12/03
Cliff Swanson	12/03
Les Carlson	12/05
Julia Hopkins	12/06
Mike Wade	12/06
Lori Clemen	12/08
Drake Rogers	12/09
Chris Zehr	12/11
Dave Gaskill	12/24
Pat Swanson	12/26
Brad Davis	12/26
Linda Kerton	12/28
Travis Mensen	12/29
Pastor Phil Rogers.....	12/31
Kat Rogers	12/31
Kathy Waterman.....	12/31

Happy Anniversary!

Verle & Donna Hankins.....12/24

Note: If you know of someone's birthday or anniversary that was inadvertently omitted from this list, please notify the church office so they can be included next time!

DECEMBER RADIO SPONSORS

Dec. 7	Sherry Goranson, in loving memory of Larry
Dec. 14	Anonymous
Dec. 21	Anonymous
Dec. 24	Bruce & Marianne Nodurft
Dec. 28	Anonymous



December Altar Flowers:

Poinsettias



Dear Church Family,

The Christmas season is once again upon us, and in the tradition of this church family, we hope to present gifts to the pastor and staff members at the December 21st worship services. If you are interested in helping to continue this tradition, please leave your contribution in the Sunday or Wednesday collection plate, or mail it to the church office. Please make checks payable to "Manchester Methodist Church SPPRC" and note "staff gifts" in the memo.

Please be sure all gifts are turned in by Wednesday, December 17th so they may be presented during worship services on Sunday, December 21st.

This is sent to you in the true spirit of the Christmas season, and it is the hope of the SPPRC that you will accept as such.

Sincerely,
Shirley Davis, SPPRC Chairperson



Good Neighbor Home Residents

NAME	ROOM #
Marge Erikson	Marietta's Place
Linda Gearhart	25-S
Dorothy Hoffmann	125-N
Barb O'Connell	116-N
Fred Phelps	117-N
Louise Reth	20-S
Diane Simon	101-N
Karen Slife	144-N
Pat Swanson	103-N

The Meadows Residents

Richard Belden	215
Peg Koeneke	112
Ellen Phelps	305



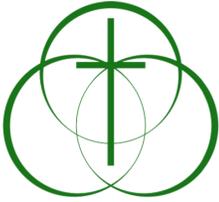
December 2025



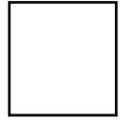
Worship On Wednesday (WOW) Schedule:
 5:30 Dinner ~ 6:15 Worship ~ 7:00 Youth Group & Small Groups meet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
	1	2 9:30-11:30am Sewing Group	3 9am-4pm WIC Clothing Closet 5:30pm WOW	4 8-10am Clothing Closet	5 9:30am Sippers meet @Bread Basket	6 8:00pm Community mtg. in conf. rm.				
7 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Fellowship, Choir rehearsal 10:30am Worship	8 4:30-5:30pm Second Helpings & Clothing Closet	9 9:30-11:30am Sewing Group 6:30 - 8:30pm Scouts/ comm.rm. 7:00pm Comm. mtg. /parlor	10 9am-4pm WIC Clothing Closet 5:30pm WOW	11 10:30am GNH/ Meadows Communion 7:00pm Trustees mtg.	12 9:30am Sippers meet @Bread Basket	13 8:00pm Community mtg. in conf. rm.				
14 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Fellowship, Choir rehearsal 10:30am Worship	15 4:30-5:30pm Second Helpings & Clothing Closet 5:30pm Worship Design	16 9:00am Del. Co. Min./FH 9:30-11:30am Sewing Group 6:00pm Single Board 7:00pm Comm. mtg. /parlor	17 10am-2pm Clothing Closet 5:30pm WOW	18	19 9:30am Sippers meet @Bread Basket	20 8:00pm Community mtg. in conf. rm.				
21 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship, Choir rehearsal 10:30am Worship	22	23 9:30-11:30am Sewing Group 6:30 - 8:30pm Scouts/Wesley Hall 7:00pm Comm. mtg. /parlor	24 <i>Office closing at noon</i>  5:00 & 11:00pm Candlelight & Communion services	25 <i>Office Closed</i> 	26 9:30am Sippers meet @Bread Basket	27 8:00pm Community mtg. in conf. rm.				
28 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> <i>Office closing at noon</i> 	January 2026						
				Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
								1	2	3
				4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Please note:
 The last day for 2025
 donations is Sunday,
 December 28th.



Manchester Methodist Church
413 E. Butler St.
Manchester, IA 52057-1612



Return Service Requested

TO:

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon./Wed.: 9:00am-5:00pm ~ Tues./Thurs.: 9:00am-3:00pm ~ Friday: Closed
(Office closed for lunch approx. 12:30-1:30...times may vary)



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- ◆ Sunday mornings in person at 8:30 & 10:30am
- ◆ Find us on YouTube to watch the Sun. 8:30am service
- ◆ Listen to KMCH 94.7 at 6:00pm on Sunday nights
- ◆ Wednesday evenings in person at 6:15pm

The Ministry Team at MMC includes:

Pastor Phil Rogers and the entire Congregation

Youth Director: Pastor Zach Rogers

Office Manager/Secretary: Lynne Rasmussen

Music Director: Beth Mueller

Church Custodians: Dennis Porter and Dusty Ingles

Christian Education Director: Paul Lyman

Missions Coordinator: Wayne Birkenholz



*The Chimes is the official newsletter of the Manchester Methodist Church.
Please share any changes of address or contact information with the church
by calling 563-927-4439, or emailing admin@manchestermethodistchurch.org*