



Manchester Methodist Church

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

Website: manchestermethodistchurch.org

Email: admin@manchestermethodistchurch.org



The Chimes ~ January 2026



***Join Us For Our Annual
SOUP SUPPER
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28th
4:30-7:00 P.M.***



The Missions Team will be hosting its annual soup supper & silent auction — serving chili, chicken noodle, and vegetable beef soups, along with a variety of desserts — all for a freewill donation! All proceeds will go to our January Mission of the Month, “Waypoint Services”, an organization which provides a vital community resource for individuals in crisis. .

❁ Sign-up sheets will be located on the wall outside the sanctuary. ❁

Donations will be needed for the soup ingredients & desserts.

as well as volunteers to assist with serving & cleaning up.

We are also asking for donations of items for a silent auction.

Check out the sign-up sheets for the list of ways that you might be able to help. Thank you in advance, and we hope to see you on the 28th for supper!

(Note: There will be NO WOW the evening of January 28th.)



A note from Pastor Phil...

Since last Sunday, I have had a few inquiries about whether I had the list of the meanings of the verses from the children's Christmas carol "The Twelve Days Of Christmas." I decided I would publish the readings for the Chimes this month.

"The Twelve Days Of Christmas" helps us to remember that Christmas is greater than just a single day...it is to be celebrated from Jesus' Birthday on December 25th to the arrival of the Magi on Epiphany, twelve days later on January 6th. The song actually has hidden meanings behind the lyrics. Originally written as a French poem in the late 1700's, it migrated to England in the early 1800's. What began as an early children's Christmas memory game was turned into a song when Fredrick Austin set the poem to music in 1909. We are going to take a look at the hidden meanings of the lyrics that once taught the children a basic understanding of the Christian faith. As we go forward it is important to note that "true love" refers to God and "me" refers to all Christians.

I'm sure we all remember the song which begins: "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree." The 'partridge in a pear tree' was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The second verse of the song says, "On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me, two turtle doves." The turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Matthew 5:17-19 provides for us an example of Jesus' teaching to inform how these work together in teaching and accountability for Christians even today as we seek to live lives that glorify God.

The third verse of the song is, "On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me, three French hens." The three French hens refer to the three gifts of the Holy Spirit - Faith, Hope, and Love, found in 1st Corinthians 13.

"On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, four calling birds." The four calling birds represent the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which reveal the deity of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and point the way towards the repentant believer.

"On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, five gold rings!" The five gold rings refer to the Pentateuch, which are the first five books of the Old Testament. These include the original Old Testament books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These are the foundational books which set the stage for God's love story with humanity and the Holy Contract which will lead to the salvation of all repentant believers.

"On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, six geese a-laying." The six geese a-laying refer to the six days of creation. God spoke creation into existence - Jesus, as the action of God, was the hands which molded the shape of creation, and it was the breath of God, the Holy Spirit, which brought creation to life.



A note from Pastor Phil, continued...

“On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me, seven swans a-swimming.” The swans represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit first revealed in the upper room on the day of the first Pentecost.

“On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, eight maids a milking.” The eight maids refer to the beatitudes that Jesus teaches revealed in Matthew 5:3-12 at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. Each of these called “Blessed” are in a progression moving from one with an immature faith (the poor in spirit) through to a full maturity as a Disciple (persecuted for righteousness). Only the fully mature in faith will bear such a witness as to be worthy of persecution.

“On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, nine ladies dancing.” These dancing ladies refer to the nine “fruits” or the evidence of the Holy Spirit.

“On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, ten lords a-leaping.” The ten leaping lords represent the Ten Commandments, the original Laws from God delivered to humanity through Moses on Mount Sinai. These are the laws, perfect and Holy, given to us to define our relationships with God and with one another. Apparently for humanity, God’s ten laws were beyond our ability for obedience, so Jesus would later reduce them to two...love God, and love neighbor.

“On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me, eleven pipers piping.” These eleven piping pipers represent the eleven faithful Disciples. All of the original Disciples, other than Judas Iscariot, died a martyr's death because of their faith. Ten by violence, and John - locked in solitary confinement on the island of Patmos tortured into his old age...only to be released sick and body broken shortly before his death. Each of these men could have lived their lives in full if only they would deny their experiences with Jesus and the Holy Spirit...none of these men, other than the betrayer, flinched at their fate. In fact they considered it a blessing to trade their earthly lives for the cause of Jesus Christ, Savior of humanity.

Finally in the last verse we have “On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, twelve drummers drumming.” The twelve drummers refer to the twelve “Articles of Faith” revealed in the Apostles Creed. Of course the Apostles Creed is not directly represented in scripture. The Apostles Creed first appeared in the 2nd century, but did not appear in the form we would recognize until 390 AD. It is a statement of faith intended to ward off future false teaching. But ultimately it reveals our Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - working together for the salvation of man. We have several great examples of this in scripture...Matthew 28:16-20 is one of these wonderful examples.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Phil



MMC Single Board Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2025 ~ 6:00 P.M. ~ Wesley Hall

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

Mark opened the meeting with scripture from Proverbs 16: 2-3 “All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” Mark shared some inspiring information from the Senior High Sunday School class which involved a lively discussion about the three Kings (wisemen) and who they were, where they came from, and other little-known facts.

Prayers and praises were lifted up, followed by a prayer for guidance from Pastor Phil.

Finance: Bruce shared an updated report on financial giving. As of this date our shortfall for the year is -\$1,661. Connectional giving is current. The final date for giving to count towards this year’s budget is December 28. So far, we have received \$34,421 in donations for the roof repairs and a pledge for future giving in the amount of \$10,295. We will continue to ask for donations. We have received the \$400 rebate for new AED (defibrillator) which was recently purchased. Finance has moved several funds from unused accounts to others where they will be more useful.

Worship: Beth reported that several members went caroling during the Window Walk on December 11. They were well received. The sanctuary is decorated for Christmas.

Christian Ed.: Confirmation starts in January. Paul Lyman and Kristin Milroy will head the class.

Missions: Samaritan’s Purse collections during November were \$595.00. The brunch raised \$600 for Dirt Roads Network. WayPoint Services will be the beneficiary of the freewill offering as well as the January Mission of the Month. January 28 from 4:30-7:30 will be a soup supper featuring three kinds of soup along with desserts and condiments. Sign-up sheets will be posted the first week of January. April, May, and June are still open for mission suggestions. Discussion was held on creating an Emergency Fund (beyond Pastor’s Benevolence Fund) for those in our congregation facing unexpected burdens. Gifts are being collected for the Stead Children’s Hospital.

Reaching and Receiving: Lori said that Stay Wild Gifts now has a website where the sweatshirts and t-shirts with our church logo can be ordered online.

Congregational Care: Sherry shared that cards, including Christmas cards, were addressed and sent from our church. This year’s Valentine’s Party is scheduled for February 12 in Wesley Hall. More information will be coming.

Pastor Phil reminded us that there will be two Christmas Eve services, one at 5:00 and one at 11:00. Communion will be served at both.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with the Lord’s Prayer and singing of the Doxology. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 20, 2026 in Wesley Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Gross, Board Secretary

*****FINANCE UPDATES 2025*****

Dear friends and members of the Manchester Methodist Church:

Following is a brief summary of several ongoing and past fundraising projects. I want to share this information with you because, after all, it was your donations that helped make these projects happen.

BRICK-BY-BRICK

In January or February of 2019 a proposal was made at a special charge conference to undertake a remodeling project of our church building. The estimated cost was over \$600,000. A vote of those present was taken and the project was approved. In June of 2019 a major fundraising campaign began. It was called 'Brick-by-Brick'. 200 letters were mailed to friends and members of the church. 73 were returned with commitments totaling \$233,315. For one reason or another, not all of these commitments were fulfilled and the actual amount received was \$149,330. This fundraising effort is completed and here is how your money was spent:

Two bathrooms on the lowest level of the education wing were converted into showers, and the four remaining bathrooms in the education wing were remodeled. The cost of this work was \$95,345.97.

The pastor's office, the administrative assistant's office, and the workroom were relocated to the education wing. A new exterior door with a ring camera was installed on the east side. The cost of this project was \$34,849.55.

Thirdly, the south alley entrance was redone. This included the addition of a ramp. The project cost was 18,024.13.

SOUND SYSTEM

This summer, our out-dated sound system quit working and it was necessary to replace it. This project ended up costing \$21,241.05. Thirteen donations totaling \$7,895 were received. \$3,900 in non-designated gifts and \$9,446.05 of non-designated memorials were used to pay the balance.

CHURCH ROOF

Early this fall a decision was made to undergo a rather expensive roof repair. The work completed in October cost \$82,580. Another appeal for financial support is underway to help recoup the money borrowed to help finance this project. Currently 38 of the 110 members contacted have contributed \$34,211. An additional \$10,305 has been promised payable in the future. That brings the total to \$44,516. **This campaign is still underway.** Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a copy of the letter I sent out along with a copy of the form that could be completed and returned to the church with your gift or commitment.

You have been very generous in your support and I and the other Single Board members appreciate it.

Bruce Nodurft
Chair Finance/MMC Treasurer



Manchester Methodist Church

413 E. Butler St.

(563) 927-4439

manchestermethodistchurch.org

Dear members and friends of Manchester Methodist Church:

In the early 1960s, the members of the then Manchester United Methodist Church committed themselves to the idea of demolishing their current church building and replacing it with a new structure. That building was dedicated in 1965. It has served us well over the past sixty years.

But, as any home owner knows, as time goes by problems arise. Unfortunately, because of the age of our building we continue to have building issues which need to be addressed. The latest is a leaking roof.

At the September 16th Single Board meeting the Board of Trustees presented a proposal to replace the leaking roofs. The cost of the project would be \$82,000. Single Board discussed the issue and then approved having the trustee chair sign a contract with Lynch Roofing to have the work done. The work will be done yet this fall.

As a result of this action, a payment to Lynch Roofing will be necessary. There is some money in the trustee's church building fund to help pay for this project, but not enough to cover the entire cost. Other funds will have to be acquired through fund raising or by borrowing.

We understand that this appeal comes on the heels of the one to help replace the sound system but the leaking roof issue will only get worse if left neglected.

Included with this letter is a form very much like the one sent out in 2019 for the 'Brick-by-Brick' campaign. That fund raising effort generated nearly \$150,000. None of those funds are available for the roof since it has all been spent to remodel bathrooms, move and remodel offices for the pastor and the administrative assistant, to install a new door and ring camera on the east side of the education wing, to remodel the south alley entrance to include a ramp, and to set up a 'crying' room for infants just outside the sanctuary.

So once again we are asking you to consider how much financial support you are willing to provide now and/or in the future for this new project. When each of us became a member of this congregation, we vowed to support it with our time, service, talents, and finances. Just as those members did in the 1960s, let us now make a commitment to provide an improved facility for future years.

The included form can be mailed back to the church, dropped off at the church office or placed in my mailbox outside the church office labeled "Finance". Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Nodurft
Finance chairman



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Manchester Methodist Church

Mission Statement: "The Manchester Methodist Church is a community of people celebrating our faith journey by praising God, proclaiming God as our Savior, and sharing our faith through service to others."

Donor Information:

Name/s _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I choose at this time to make a one-time gift of \$_____.

I choose to contribute over a period of time and estimate financial support of \$_____.

My contributions will be given over a period of _____ (#) years and be made:

monthly quarterly semi-annually annually with the first payment beginning (date) _____.

Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to Manchester Methodist Church and note on the memo line "Roof Replacement" or "Roof". Thank you.

Please return to: Manchester Methodist Church
c/o Finance Chairman
413 East Butler Street
Manchester, IA 52057

All gifts and estimates given in support of this project will be held in strict confidence and are tax deductible to the extent of the law. If your circumstances should change and you feel you cannot honor your commitment, just contact the church office at 563-927-4439.

P.S. "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. " 2 Corinthians 9:6-7



SERVING OUR CHURCH



Happy New Year 2026!!

January 4th

8:30

Liturgist: Stephanie Stocks
Children's Sermon: Tom Fetter
Communion: Stephanie S., Meghan M., Bill S.

10:30

Liturgist: Pam Vap
Communion: Pam V., Bill S.



January 11th

8:30

Liturgist: Roger Mueller
Children's Sermon: Jordan LeClere

10:30

Liturgist: Janine Stellick
Communion: Wayne B. & Janine S.



January 18th

8:30

Liturgist: Marilyn Feldmann
Children's Sermon: Paul Lyman

10:30

Liturgist: Jean Gross
Communion: Jean G. & TBD



January 25th - Contemporary Service

8:30

Liturgist: Praise Band member
Children's Sermon: Terry Larson

10:30

Liturgist: Praise Band member
Communion: Dustin Fitzpatrick & TBD

MMC Serving Teams

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

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

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

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

Lori Snyder @ 563-920-6692

◆ **Tech Team/AV:**

Ruth Voshell & Michael Stocks
mmctechteam@gmail.com

◆ **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 and Lynne Rasmussen
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



Happy Birthday!

- Sherry Goranson..... 1/02
- Doris Lei..... 1/02
- Ruth Chapman..... 1/05
- Ron Gearhart..... 1/05
- Brooklyn Wefel..... 1/05
- Marilyn Feldmann..... 1/06
- Everett Hough..... 1/07
- JoAnn (Feldmann) Ogea..... 1/12
- Kristin Milroy..... 1/12
- Gary Evarts..... 1/17
- Jaimie (Rasmussen) Burk..... 1/17
- Joyce Harbaugh..... 1/19
- Dave Gibbs..... 1/20
- Bruce Mangold..... 1/20
- Rose Perkins..... 1/21
- Jim Hopkins..... 1/23
- Carol Kremer..... 1/24
- Kaci Reth..... 1/24
- Marlene Reth..... 1/28
- Merle Mangold..... 1/31

Happy Anniversary!

- Tim & Kathy Dolan 01/28

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please note: If you know of someone's birthday or anniversary that was inadvertently omitted from this list, please notify the church office so we can include them on the list next time!

RADIO SPONSORS & ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP

Please sign up on the chart in the hallway to sponsor a Sunday radio broadcast, which is \$75, or to share flowers for the altar. Please let Lynne in the office know if they are for a special occasion or in memory or in honor of someone. All Sundays in January are currently available for radio sponsors or to share flowers.

2025 Contribution Statements

Although the tax filing deadline is not in the near future, those of you who would like to file early and need a 2025 contribution statement from the church should let the office (Lynne Rasmussen), Finance Chair Bruce Nodurft, or Finance Assistant Ruth Voshell know. Call the church office @563-927-4439 or leave a note in the finance mailbox located outside the pastor's office. If you have a giving envelope number, please let us know what the number is. Knowing your number speeds up the process. Even if you do not need the statement for tax purposes and would just like a copy, please ask for one.

Good Neighbor Home Residents 105 McCarren Drive, Manchester

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ROOM #</u>
Marge Erikson	Marietta's Place
Linda Gearhart	25-S
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 200 McCarren Drive, Manchester

Richard Belden	215
Peg Koeneke	112
Ellen Phelps	305

Thank You!

Sincere thanks to the congregation for the generous monetary gifts and other miscellaneous gifts given to us during the Christmas season.

Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated!



*- Pastor Phil, Lynne Rasmussen, Beth Mueller,
Dennis Porter, Dusty Ingles*



Representatives from the Ryan Nationals Car Club recently made a generous donation of \$500 to the Second Helpings program. Pictured at left are Mike Kraft & Bob Hostert, shown presenting the check to Lynne Rasmussen, accepting it on behalf of Second Helpings.

Reminder: There are many items on the Welcome Desk in the narthex for your convenience, including:

- ◆ the prayer box to submit private prayer requests to the prayer team
- ◆ copies of the current edition of the Chimes newsletter
- ◆ copies of the sermon for the week
- ◆ the latest 3-month edition of *Our Daily Bread* devotional (which has taken the place of *The Upper Room* devotional - a United Methodist publication)
- ◆ the sign-up sheet for fellowship time hosts
- ◆ various miscellaneous items, found items, etc...check it out!

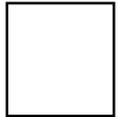


Worship On Wednesday (WOW) Schedule
5:30 Dinner ~ 6:15 Worship ~ 7:00 Youth Group & Small Groups

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #00A0C0; color: white;"> <th colspan="7">February 2026</th> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #00A0C0; color: white;"> <th>Sun</th> <th>Mon</th> <th>Tue</th> <th>We</th> <th>Thu</th> <th>Fri</th> <th>Sat</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> </tbody> </table>							February 2026							Sun	Mon	Tue	We	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
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4 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School Fellowship Time Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship	5 NO Second Helpings NO Clothing Closet 5:30pm Worship Design	6 9:30-11:30am Sewing Group	7 9am-4pm WIC Clothing Closet 5:30pm WOW	8 10:30am GNH & Meadows Communion	9 9:30-10:30am Sippers meet @Bread Basket	10 8:00pm Community meetings in parlor & conference room																																										
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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*