

CHURCH FINANCE'S	
Last Sunday's Attendance	53
Last Sunday's Offering	\$5,328
Difference to Weekly Budgeted Offering	\$2,954
Offering YTD	\$127,585
Difference to Offering YTD	\$7,385

- \* **Sermon Notes** - Available in the Narthex
- \* **Listening devices are available upon request**
- \* **Church Directory** - The church directory is available by request from the church office.

- \* **Interested in becoming a church member?** Please talk to Pastor Joseph
- \* **WE WANT TO PRAY FOR YOU:** If you have an immediate prayer need and would like us to pray for you, please fill out the pew card and place it in the offering plate. Be as thorough as possible so we can most effectively pray for you.
- \* **Kids Own Worship** - Kids in Kindergarten-4th grade are invited to participate in Kids Own Worship following the Children’s Message  
**Lesson: Joseph Listened and Obeyed; Matthew 1**
- \* **Please join us in the Parlor after worship for Coffee Hour, coffee, punch, treats & fellowship.**
- \* Sign up to host future Coffee Hour’s in the Narthex.

Contact Us at Mansfield 1st (EPC)

**Phone:** 419-756-7066 **Email:** office@mansfield1st.com

Elders

Dana Constance, Ben Troyer,  
Judy Swartzmiller, Sally Wyatt

Deacons

Margaret Baker, Dee Engle,  
Pat McGinty, Vivian Stevens,  
Leslie Lancy



Sunday, December 17  
**Ladies of Advent:**  
**Mary, Lady of Joy**  
Luke 1:26-56  
Matthew 27:50-61, 28:1-8

Rev. Joseph Yerger, Pastor

*A Sanctuary of Worship*  
*A School of Religious Education*  
*A Church Home with Open Doors*

# Welcome to Mansfield 1st EPC



# Order of Worship

December 17th , 2023

*Please take a moment to fill out pew pads*

## Announcements & Greetings:

Pastor Joseph Yerger

## Call To Worship: (Psalm 89:1-4)

Pastor Joseph Yerger

**\*Hymn of Praise:**

## #270 Joy to the World

**\*Prayer of Adoration:**

Dana Constance

### Call to Confession: (Psalm 89:19-26)

Dana Constance

## Corporate Prayer of Confession:

**(All)**

God of Joy, Father of Love, Prince of Peace, and the Hope of all Nations please hear our earnest prayer. You alone are faithful and true, perfectly keeping the covenant that You have established. Forgive our transgressions, we pray. Give us the courage and strength to be obedient to Your Word and Your Will. Help us to trust Your promises, believing in their truth and resting in the surety of their accomplishment by Your Word. Let us be encouraged and let us take joy in the fulfillment of Your promises in the past, as we anticipate their ultimate fulfillment in the future. Let us hope, as Your people have always hoped, in the true Son of David, King Jesus, and let us rejoice in His eternal and glorious reign. **AMEN**

## Silent Prayers & Confessions

## Assurance of Pardon: (Psalm 89:27-37)

Dana Constance

**\*Song of Response:**

## #813 Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

## Advent Reading:

## Cantrell Family

## Reception of New Members:

Jim, Bonnie & Angela Standridge

**Offertory:**

Angie Hunter

*“Sing Noel”* by Allan Robert Petker

## Sermon Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## Sunday School

## Visitors Are Welcome!

- Pastor Joseph teaches adult Sunday School at 9:00 am in the Library. We are studying the Gospel of Mark. Coffee is provided.

- We also have classes available for children age 3-Kindergarten (Begin with Jesus), Kindergarten -2nd grade (Show me Jesus), for grades 3rd-6th (Closer to Jesus), and for 7th-12th grade (Grow with Jesus). Each class begins at 9 am on Sunday morning.

**Prime Time** - Meets every other Wednesday. This study is for any adults, beginning at 4pm. **On Hiatus Until 2024**

**Spirit Seekers** - at 4pm. Meets every other Sunday at 4pm with dinner afterwards. This Study for those in their 20's-40's is divided into 'Parents' & Youth. **Next meets on January 28, 2024**

**Kids O' the Kirk** - The youth companion group to Spirit Seekers. **Next meets on January 28, 2024**

**\*Song of Response:**

#815 Doxology

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

**Children's Message:**

*Kids come down to the left-side steps*

**Children are released for Kid's Own Worship**

**Prayers for God's People - Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)**

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **AMEN**

**Hymn of Preparation:**

#269 How Great Our Joy!

## The Word of God\*\*

**The Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 27:50-61, 28:1-8

**Sermon:** Ladies of Advent: Mary, Lady of Joy

**\*Affirmation of Faith:**

(The Apostles Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. **AMEN**

**\*Sending Song:**

#258 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**Benediction:**

Pastor Joseph Yerger

**\*\*\*Members Please Remain for a Short Congregational Meeting \*\*\***

*\*Please stand as you are able*

*\*\* Found on page 830 & 811 in the red pew Bible.*



### This Week at Mansfield 1st EPC

*Office hours are M-F 8am-noon*

Sunday, December 17th	9am	Sunday School
	10 am	Worship Service
	1:20am	Coffee Hour
Wednesday, December 20th	12 pm	Staff Meeting
	6 pm	Preschool Christmas Program & Cookie Reception
Thursday, December 21st	10 am	Prayer Group
Sunday, December 24th	*No Sunday School*	
	10 am	Worship Service
	11:20am	Coffee Hour
	6 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sunday, December 24th at 6pm**

**Please join us after worship in the Parlor to welcome: Jim and Bonnie Standridge, along with their daughter Angela Standridge; into membership."**

**TODAY - Members please remain in the Sanctuary after the Benediction for a short Congregational meeting.**

**For those who would like a box of tithing envelopes there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.**

## Chrismon's

Chrismons, meaning "Christ monograms," traditionally are white and gold designs made from Christian symbols that signify Christ. Often displayed on an evergreen tree during the Christmas season, symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ's identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.

Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA.

**The Fish representing the Savior** was used as a sign by early Christians. IXOYE is Greek for Jesus Christ, God's Son and spells the Greek word "Fish"



**The Cup** is the symbol of suffering. In Gethsemane Jesus prayed, "If possible let this cup pass from me." (Matthew 26:39)



**Cross with Orb** symbolizes Christ's dominion over the world





PROPOSAL: To revise Section 7, A & B of the current By-Laws.

RATIONAL: To bring the By-Laws in sync with the above change.

CURRENT: 7A. There shall be a representative Nominating Committee. It shall consist of two Ruling Elders designated from Session, one of whom shall be named as the chairperson; and two Deacons designated by the Board of Deacons; and one other member, not currently an active member of the above boards, shall be chosen from the congregation.

PROPOSED: 7A. There shall be a representative Nominating Committee. It shall consist of two Ruling Elders designated by the Session, two active members chosen from the congregation, not currently serving on Session, and the Pastor.

CURRENT: 7B. According to the above formula, the Nominating Committee shall be composed of two elders, two deacons, and one member from the congregation. The member of the congregation shall be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting of the church.

PROPOSED: 7B. According to the above formula, the Nominating Committee shall be composed of two Ruling Elders, two members from the congregation at large, and the Pastor. The members of the congregation shall be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting of the church.

ITEM 2

The Nominating Committee proposes the names of Tucker Bacquet as Ruling Elder to the Class of 2026; Randy Richard as Ruling Elder to the Class of 2026; and Dana Woodring as Ruling Elder to the Class of 2026. Nominations will be received from the floor if the person being nominated has agreed to serve if elected.



<u>Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise</u>	Healing for Auggie
<b>The LORD is Sovereign over ALL THINGS</b>	Healing for Hudson Slater
Our American Freedoms	Erna & Frank Becker
Our Freedom to worship the LORD	Cindy Hessin
<u>Prayers of Petition</u>	Maxine Smith
Healing for Carol Nemeth after knee surgery	Don Harding
Healing for Martha Ball	Sally and Bill Wyatt
Healing for Pat Olsen	Ms. Vivian Stevens
Healing for Dan Davis	Sid & Nancy Hall
Healing for Betty Albers	Stefen Francis
Healing for Beverly Urschel	Patsey Himes
Healing for Joseph James	Charlene Reed
Healing for Meg Wyatt O’Rourk	Hazel Bigner & family
Healing for Martha Montague	Jon & Dorothy Powell, Home Hospice
Healing for Nik Stevens	Maureen Doherty
Healing for Edda Braun	Mark Doherty
Healing for classmate of Sonya’s	Kenly Scott, improve vision
Healing for Jan Gibbs	Brett & Rachel Lloyd
Healing for David Doerr	James Willis
	<b>Over——&gt;</b>

# PRAYER REQUEST

Students & Families of Tusky Valley	<b><u>YMCA Stronger Through Prayer:</u></b>
Eurobrass	<b>12/1</b>
EduNations and its students	Healing for Elizabeth
Families & children of the Sudan	Salvation for Husband
Our Congregation	Healing for Reneta
Pastor Joseph & Jodie	<b>12/14</b>
Shawn Wade & Our Preschool	Healing for Jeff, kidney stone
For Our City, Our Nation & Civic Leaders (for wisdom, grace, peace)	My kids and to better my life
Reverend El Akuchie, Mansfield City Councilman, 3rd Ward	Dean & Marilyn
Mayor Theaker	
Mayor Elect Jodie Perry	
First Responders (Police, Fire, EMS)	
All Christians being persecuted around the globe	
For Revival in our city, state & county	
Palestinian Christians	
Jerusalem and all those in harms way	
For everyone else not listed, but also in need of prayer	

Session has called a special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 17, immediately following morning worship for the purpose of (1) changing the By-Laws; and (2) electing Church Officers.

## ITEM 1

**PROPOSAL:** To remove the Board of Deacons listed under Section 6, B of the current By-Laws.

**RATIONAL:** The EPC does not require that there be a Board of Deacons. The duties of the deacons would be moved to a new Congregational Care Committee, under the oversight of a Ruling Elder. As with all other Session committees, members of the congregation who feel called to serve in this capacity would be invited to join the Congregational Care Committee for as long as they are able and willing.

**PROPOSAL:** To revise Section 6, A3 of the current By-Laws

**RATIONAL:** To bring the By-Laws in sync with the above change.

**CURRENT:** 6 A3. All boards and/or committee of the church, including the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees, except in matters of a corporate, legal nature and/or pertaining to the holding of real property, function under the direction and jurisdiction of the Session.

**PROPOSED:** 6 A3 All boards and/or committees of the church, including the Board of Trustees, except in matters of a corporate, legal nature and/or pertaining to the holding of real property, function under the direction and jurisdiction of the Session.