CHURCH FINANCE'S		*
Last Sunday's Attendance	59	A
Last Sunday's Offering	\$1,040	N
Difference to Weekly Budgeted Offering	<\$1,364>	
Offering YTD	\$130,458	*
Difference to Offering YTD	\$5,450	a

Sermon Notes -Available in theNarthex

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.
- \* **No Kids Own Worship today.** Children should return to their families in the pews after the children's message
- There will be no Coff ♥♥ Hour today.
- 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

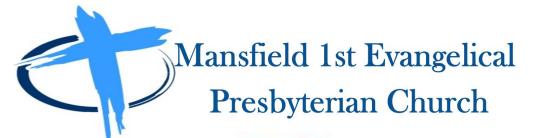
Deacons

Dana Constance, Ben Troyer,

Judy Swartzmiller, Sally Wyatt

Pat McGinty, Vivian Stevens,

Leslie Lancy





Sunday, December 31st, 2023

**Keep From Idols!** 

1 John 5:21

Exodus 20:1-23

Rev. Joseph Yerger, Pastor

A Sanctuary of Worship

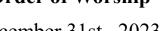
A School of Religious Education

A Church Home with Open Doors



# **Welcome to Mansfield 1st EPC**

# **Order of Worship**





December 31st, 2023

# Please take a moment to fill out pew pads

Announcements & Greetings: Pastor Joseph Yerger

Call To Worship: (Psalm 119:1-3) Pastor Joseph Yerger

\*Hymn of Praise: #267 I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

\*Prayer of Adoration:

**Call to Confession**: (Psalm 119:4-6)

#### **Corporate Prayer of Confession:**

(All)

LORD, You have given us Your Holy Law, Your precepts and commandments, to guide our lives and to teach us to walk in the ways of righteousness, to teach us to walk in Your way. Yet, we have neither loved nor obeyed Your Word. We pick and choose the rules we prefer to follow. Sometimes we follow the letter of Your Law and ignore Your purpose and intention behind it. Forgive us we pray. Give us the desire and the strength to obey You in all things. Give us the courage to walk in Your way when all the world seeks to draw us astray. Fix our eyes upon You alone. Preserve us from being ashamed before You. Keep us from being ashamed of You or of being called Your son or daughter. Help us to recognize the goodness of Your Law and see the value which it imparts. Help us to obediently love You and keep Your commandments, for our good benefit and for the Glory of Your Son, Jesus Christ. AMEN

#### **Silent Prayers & Confessions**

**Assurance of Pardon**: (Psalm 119:7-8)

\*Song of Response: #813 Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

Offertory: Angie Hunter "Majesty," arr. by Mark Hayes

# **Sermon Notes**

<sup>\*</sup>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

**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:** 

#184 Thy Word

### The Word of God\*\*

The Scripture Reading: 1 John 5:21; Exodus 20:1-23

**Sermon**: Keep From Idols!

#### \*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:

#288 We Three Kings

**Benediction:** Pastor Joseph Yerger

<sup>\*</sup>Please stand as you are able

<sup>\*\*</sup> Found on pages 991 & 58 in the red pew Bible.



# **This Week at Mansfield 1st EPC**

Office hours are M-F 8am-noon

Sunday, December 31st 10 am Worship Service

\*\* No Coffee Hour\*\*

Monday, January 1st Office Closed in observation of New Years Day

Wednesday, January 3rd 12 pm Staff Meeting

Thursday, January 4th 10 am Prayer Group

Sunday, January 7th 9 am Sunday School

10 am Worship Service

11:30 am Coffee Hour

Please join us by adding our community prayer angels, which we have collected from "Christmas at Kingwood", to your prayers. You will find them displayed in the Narthex on the Sanctuary window.

We have several different yearly Bible Reading plans printed and available in the Narthex

Would you like to use your God given talents to help our church? Please read the description of church committees included in this bulletin and prayerfully consider becoming involved with one or more. We will be placing sign up sheets for these committees beginning in the new year. If you are currently a member of these committees there is no need to re-sign up.



Larry Jenkins and Gloria Smith

Students & Families of Tusky Valley

**Eurobrass** 

EduNations and its students

Families & children of the Sudan

Our Congregation

Pastor Joseph & Jodie

Shawn Wade & Our Preschool

For Our City, Our Nation & Civic

Leaders (for wisdom, grace, peace)

Reverend El Akuchie, Mansfield City

Councilman, 3rd Ward

Mayor 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

YMCA Stronger Through Prayer:

12/14

Healing for Jeff, kidney stone

My kids and to better my life

Dean & Marilyn

12/21

My Aunt, her husband passed away

on Dec. 11

Healing for Paulette

Ariodyn & family

Healing for Barb's grandson



### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise Healing for Aunt Robin, covid

# The LORD is Sovereign over ALL **THINGS**

Our American Freedoms

Our Freedom to worship the LORD

#### **Prayers of Petition**

Healing for Carol Nemeth after knee

surgery

Healing for Martha Ball

Healing for Pat Olsen

Healing for Dan Davis

Healing for Betty Albers

Healing for Beverly Urschel

Healing for Joseph James

Healing for Meg Wyatt O'Rourk

Healing for Martha Montague

Healing for Nik Stevens

Healing for Edda Braun

Healing for Jan Gibbs

Healing for David Doerr

Healing for Agie

Erna & Frank Becker

The family and friends of a classmate of Sonya's, in mourning

Cindy Hessin

Maxine Smith

Don Harding

Sally and Bill Wyatt

Ms. Vivian Stevens

Sid & Nancy Hall

Patsey Himes

Charlene Reed

Hazel Bigner & family

Jon & Dorothy Powell, Home

Hospice

Maureen Doherty

Mark Doherty

Kenly Scott, improve vision

Brett & Rachel Lloyd

James Willis

Over-->

# **Description of Church Committees**

# Worship: Chair; Tucker Bacquet

The Worship Committee is responsible for ensuring that our Sunday worship is set up and prepared accordingly. Duties would include: preparing for Communion, cleaning up following worship (picking up left over bulletins, communion cups, refilling pens/pencils, etc), collecting the attendance register from the black pew pads, lighting and extinguishing the candles, and operating the slide show and sound board (as necessary). May be called upon to assist with passing out bulletins and greeting visitors.

# Fellowship: Chair; Ben Troyer

The Fellowship Committee is responsible for overseeing, facilitating and/ or planning all church community events that take place outside of express worship or study events. This includes: church luncheons and dinners, Coffee Hour, sociable "Social" occasions (e.g. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Sundaes), refreshing parlor decorations, organizing and planning annual Christmas decorating, and any other events that occasion suggests.

# **Outreach:** Chair; Ben Troyer

The Outreach Committee is responsible for all activities and advertising intended to increase the local community's awareness of our congregation and our services. The purpose of this committee is to improve our external engagement with the people of Mansfield and Richland county; to invite and encourage others to join us for worship, fellowship, discipleship, and eventually in membership. Everything which our church does for the Preschool (Cookie Reception October-Blest, etc) is considered to be outreach.

# Missions: Chair; Randy Richard

The Missions Committee is responsible for planning, overseeing, and facilitating the Good Works which the congregation does "beyond the walls" (Matthew 25:31-46) including global missions like Samaritan's Purse and local like the Wayfinders.

There is a distinct and particular difference between Missions and Charity: Missions are Good Works which show the love of Christ to others and also share the Good News about Him, while Charity are simply Good Works that display our love for Christ in others but do not convey a Gospel message. Both Missions and Charity are integral parts of our fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15), but Missions should always take the priority.

Jesus did many Good Works during His time on earth, but they were always done with specific intent and the purpose to display Who He Is. Jesus surely had the power to have healed many more people and perform additional miracles, but He did not instead saying, "...whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do..." (Jn. 14:12 ESV). Our Good Works are the expression of our faith and a means by which we share and spread our faith to others, not an end in themselves.

# **Congregational Care: Chair; Pastor Joseph**

The focus of the Congregational Care Team is to respond to the care and support needs of the congregation and to engage in the ongoing spiritual, physical, emotional and relational expression of living faithfully within the Body of Christ. Every Christian is gifted and called by God to be in ministry.



# Save the Date!

We will be hosting a "Empty Bowls" Soup Supper Event on Saturday, February 24th

This event will be a fundraiser held <u>for</u> and <u>in</u> <u>partnership with</u> the Discovery School, Mansfield Christian School & the Lexington School District.