

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

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

Dana Constance, Ben Troyer,
Judy Swartzmiller, Sally Wyatt

Deacons

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



Mansfield 1st Evangelical
Presbyterian Church



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

**Please stand as you are able*

Sermon Notes

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

**Please stand as you are able*

*** Found on pages 991 & 58 in the red pew Bible.*



Office hours are M-F 8am-noon

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

Thursday, January 4th 10 am Prayer Group

Sunday, January 7th	9 am	Sunday School
	10 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Coffee Hour

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.

PRAYER REQUEST

Healing for Barb's grandson

For everyone else not listed, but also
in need of prayer



<u>Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise</u>	Healing for Aunt Robin, covid
The LORD is Sovereign over ALL THINGS	Erna & Frank Becker
Our American Freedoms	The family and friends of a classmate of Sonya’s, in mourning
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	Patsey Himes
Healing for Beverly Urschel	Charlene Reed
Healing for Joseph James	Hazel Bigner & family
Healing for Meg Wyatt O’Rourk	Jon & Dorothy Powell, Home Hospice
Healing for Martha Montague	Maureen Doherty
Healing for Nik Stevens	Mark Doherty
Healing for Edda Braun	Kenly Scott, improve vision
Healing for Jan Gibbs	Brett & Rachel Lloyd
Healing for David Doerr	James Willis
Healing for Agie	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. 5th 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 for and in
partnership with the Discovery School, Mansfield
Christian School & the Lexington School District.**