



MCOB NEWSLETTER



Week of Third Sunday in Advent, December 15

Pastor on Call: Amy Gall Ritchie 765.967.0657

Deacon on Call: Debbie Chinworth

We welcome all to join in prayer...

♥ We pray for **all** who hold the balance of joy and sorrow this Advent and Christmas season.

♥ We pray for **those who have procedures planned**. May surgeons and doctors be steady of hand and keen with their expertise on the bodies of those we love, and may recovery take the time it needs.

♥ We pray for **those who are in the midst** or coming to the close of chemo, and other cancer treatments. May this week be a week free of pain and discomfort, may it be a week for healing.

♥ We pray for all the **choirs, bands, and symphonies**, along with **conductors, directors, and festive shows** that are happening to herald the holiday season before the holiday break from schools. We thank God for all the **teachers and administrators** who are ready to relax.

♥ Prayers of thanks to **those who serve the church** in small and simple acts of service, that fold into the greater good of our life together as a congregation.

♥ We pray for our sister church in **El Salvador, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel**, the **San Rafael Clinic**, and with others in our district for the **Buffalo Congregation** and **Southern Plains District**.

Weekly Calendar (Office Open Mon - Fri 1 to 4pm)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 8:00 a.m. Conference Room Reserved
- 9:00 a.m. FLC Reserved
- 1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice | Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool
- 10:00 a.m. Pastors Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Women's Book Group | Video Conference

6:30 p.m. Caroling at Timbercrest | Meet in Assembly Room

- 7:00 p.m. Volleyball | FLC

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Midweek Update on YouTube

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool
- 12:00 p.m. Narthex, Kitchen Reserved
- 1:00 p.m. Tennis | FLC
- 1:30 p.m. Worship Music Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. FLC Reserved
- 6:00 p.m. FLC Reserved
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting | Conference Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool
- 10:30 a.m. FLC Reserved
- 1:00 p.m. SMH Steering Committee | Video Conference
- 5:00 p.m. Gun Violence Prevention Meeting | Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Peace Patch Winter Music Program | Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice | Video Conference

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 *Blue Christmas*

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool
- 1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC
- 4:00 p.m. Kitchen, Narthex Reserved
- 6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service** | Chapel (*all are invited*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:20 a.m. Advent season pre-service music
- 9:30 a.m. Worship: Jim Chinworth preaching
[Close to Home: Seeking Sanctuary \(Love\)](#)
Text: Luke 1:39-55
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Immigrant Support | Library
- 2:00 p.m. FLC Reserved
- 6:30 p.m. Sounds & Taste of Christmas Intergenerational Variety Show** | Church Sanctuary



God knows your name, but many folks are still learning. Please wear your name tags as our community grows with new people. This is an easy way of connecting with one another and putting faces to names. Thank you!



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (DEC. 22)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (Room 220) Tim McElwee, Linda Hansen, Sue Mock: Death Row
KOINONIA (Conference Room) **NO CLASS**
QUESTERS (Chapel)

Nurture NUDGE: *As we come near to the celebration of Christmas, what remains on your heart that is hard to celebrate? Sometimes we cannot get the joy going, even with the twinkling and colorful lights along the roadside or in our own home. What do you need to talk about with a pastor or friend? We are here for one another*



Manchester Church of the Brethren

All are welcome, always.

BLUE

A SERVICE FOR
WHEN ALL IS NOT
MERRY AND
BRIGHT



Christmas



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 | 6 PM (Church Chapel)

Blue Christmas Vigil: a contemplative service for those experiencing grief and complicated emotions in this Christmas season. Feel free to bring an item that reminds you of the person you've lost or the relationship/situation that brings sadness.



WE WILL BE
CLOSED
ON
CHRISTMAS DAY



Our theme for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, is Close to Home. When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. Close to Home acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, we are find ourselves wandering far from home. May God come close to each of this season.

Sounds & tastes of Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:30 PM

A VARIETY SHOW THAT CELEBRATES
THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASONS.
REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW.

Manchester Church of the Brethren Sanctuary

Caroling at Timbercrest

December 17th at 6:30pm

All ages and singing voices welcome as we gather at Timbercrest.

Blue Christmas

December 20th at 6pm in the Chapel
A service of grief, sorrow, and loss during the Christmas season.

Sounds & Tastes of Christmas

December 22nd at 6:30pm

An intergenerational variety show that celebrates the Advent & Christmas seasons. Refreshments will follow.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th at 7:00pm

We gather for our traditional candlelight service.



 **Looking Ahead in Worship...**



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22

Preacher: Jim Chinworth

Text: Luke 1:39-55

Theme: Close to Home: Laying the Foundation (Love)

Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

December 24 at 7pm

Traditional Candlelight Service

Text: Luke 2:1-20

Theme: Close to Home: Invited Home

Christmastide (First Sunday after Christmas)

December 29

Text: Luke 2:41-52; Colossians 3:12-17

Theme: Close to Home: Chosen Home



Some who play pickleball on Mondays and Fridays are pictured here and want to say Thank You for the use of our FLC Everyone who plays contributes \$1 each time which has contributed over \$500 annually to help pay for lights and other equipment.

Join us in remembrance.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH | 5-7PM
ORNAMENT HANGING AT 6:30PM.

MCKEE MORTUARY
1401 STATE ROAD 114 WEST
NORTH MANCHESTER

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.
IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO ATTEND, WE WILL DECORATE AN ORNAMENT FOR YOU IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONE.
PLEASE EMAIL CONTACT@MCKEEMORTUARY.COM OR MESSAGE US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Decorate ornaments & share in community as we remember those we have loved and lost.

MANCHESTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 
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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.
*Please make sure your contact information is correct
for our upcoming 2025 Church Directory!*