

# THE MESSENGER

## DECEMBER

### 2025



*[From Our Pastor: Jesus Is Here To Stay]*

As we enter this holy season, I'm reminded again how the message of Christmas meets us right where we are—in a world that often feels dark, confusing, and uncertain. Yet into that very world, God stepped close. Because of Jesus' birth, God is near to us (Matthew 1:23). Christmas is the reminder that God did not stay distant from our struggle. He came as a child, small and vulnerable, choosing a manger instead of a throne so that no one could ever say, "God doesn't understand me."

The old carol *Away in a Manger* captures this tenderness beautifully: "Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay / Close by me forever, and love me, I pray." What a simple but profound song. Because of Jesus' birth, not only is God near to us, God stays with us! His presence does not flicker because of our circumstances; nor does it withdraw in our worry. Jesus came so that we would never be alone—not in our grief, not in our fear, not even in our doubt.

Christmas assures us that no darkness is final and no night is too long. Christ is our light—gentle as a manger's glow, strong as the Savior who grew to bear the weight of the world on the cross. When headlines discourage us and life feels unsettled, Christmas steadies our hearts. It lifts our eyes to the God who came, the God who stays, and the God who promises to make all things new.

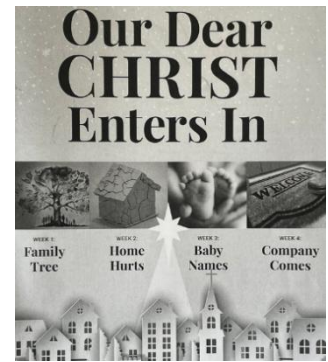
So, as you decorate your homes, wrap presents, gather with family, and light your candles on Christmas Eve, let your heart rest in this truth: Jesus is near, and Jesus is here to stay!

Merry Christmas, dear friends. May Christ's peace be yours.

In Christ,  
Pastor Charles

# Advent Bible Study with Pastor Charles

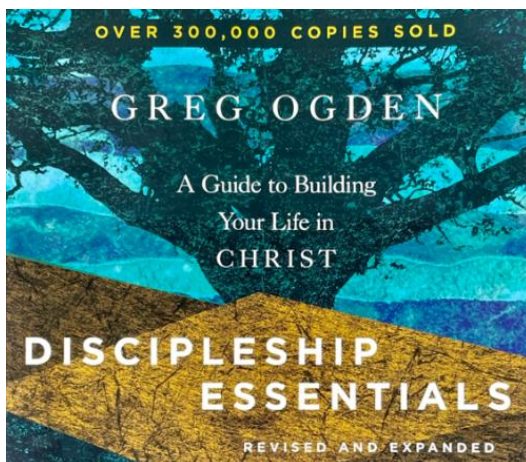
Pastor Charles will be offering a special 4-week Advent Bible study during our Sunday School hour after service starting November 30<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Genesis classroom. Join us for the topics of family tree, home hurts, baby names, and company comes.



## *Hats And Mittens*

Mohawk UMC is still collecting new hats and mittens for toddlers and preschoolers in the HeadStart Program. We will collect them until December 14. Look for the Christmas Tree stand in the Fellowship Hall to hang your donations upon. Thank you for your generosity.

## Discipleship Essentials – A Small Group Seeking Transformation & Multiplication



Pastor Charles is looking for 2-3 people who would like to build their lives in Christ to join him THIS COMING JANUARY for a 6-month journey to grow in Christ.



## December Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Lovins

12<sup>th</sup> Jeff Bricker

21<sup>st</sup> Ramona Bennett

30<sup>th</sup> Janet Bearhope

6<sup>th</sup> Brody Steeno

13<sup>th</sup> Carrie Pelc

25<sup>th</sup> Brooks Schenck

30<sup>th</sup> Walker Addison

9<sup>th</sup> Donna Cain

14<sup>th</sup> David Brown

29<sup>th</sup> Wade Mitten



## December Anniversaries

4<sup>th</sup> Tim & Donna Cain  
12<sup>th</sup> Rick & Susan Edwards  
27<sup>th</sup> Bob & Debi Lane

7<sup>th</sup> Robert & Laura Phares  
21<sup>st</sup> Bill & Lorraine Ewing  
31<sup>st</sup> Sam & Amanda Williams

**NOTE:** If you notice any birthday or anniversary dates missing, please contact us in the office. [mohawkumc@gmail.com](mailto:mohawkumc@gmail.com)

# MOHAWK UMC FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Mohawk United Methodist Church held an annual Family Thanksgiving Dinner after worship November 23.



## Pastor Charles Celebrates “50 Years of Life”



### **EVENTS TO COME:**

December 21 - Children's Christmas Program during service.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 11pm.

December 28 - Guest Speaker, Reverend Jim Cain during service.

# FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

## Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances

| 2025                     |                |                |               |                |                 |               |                |                |                |               | 2024            |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                          | Jan            | Feb            | Mar           | Apr            | May             | Jun           | Jul            | Aug            | Sep            | Oct           | Year to Date    | Year to Date   |
| Income:                  |                |                |               |                |                 |               |                |                |                |               |                 |                |
| General Offering         | 12,694         | 8,906          | 11,153        | 12,672         | 9,667           | 32,707        | 8,805          | 8,128          | 10,275         | 21,175        | 136,183         | 125,307        |
| Other                    | 207            | 332            | 3,613         | 1,482          | 661             | 1,047         | 3,182          | 688            | 4,786          | 227           | 16,225          | 26,119         |
| <b>Total Income</b>      | <b>12,901</b>  | <b>9,238</b>   | <b>14,766</b> | <b>14,154</b>  | <b>10,328</b>   | <b>33,754</b> | <b>11,987</b>  | <b>8,816</b>   | <b>15,061</b>  | <b>21,402</b> | <b>152,408</b>  | <b>151,426</b> |
| Expenses:                |                |                |               |                |                 |               |                |                |                |               |                 |                |
| Tithe                    | -              | -              | -             | -              | -               | -             | 425            | -              | -              | -             | 425             | 4,555          |
| Utilities                | 2,653          | 1,503          | 912           | 774            | 744             | 2,331         | 1,000          | 1,261          | 1,255          | 520           | 12,953          | 10,886         |
| Other                    | 2,920          | 2,438          | 2,038         | 8,119          | 19,708          | 3,578         | 4,630          | 3,445          | 9,945          | 2,067         | 58,888          | 40,094         |
| Wages                    | 8,350          | 8,146          | 12,128        | 8,355          | 8,636           | 8,040         | 8,213          | 8,046          | 12,173         | 8,213         | 90,299          | 96,423         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>    | <b>13,923</b>  | <b>12,088</b>  | <b>15,078</b> | <b>17,248</b>  | <b>29,088</b>   | <b>13,948</b> | <b>14,268</b>  | <b>12,752</b>  | <b>23,373</b>  | <b>10,800</b> | <b>162,566</b>  | <b>151,958</b> |
| <b>Net Income (Loss)</b> | <b>(1,022)</b> | <b>(2,850)</b> | <b>(312)</b>  | <b>(3,093)</b> | <b>(18,761)</b> | <b>19,806</b> | <b>(2,280)</b> | <b>(3,936)</b> | <b>(8,311)</b> | <b>10,602</b> | <b>(10,157)</b> | <b>(532)</b>   |

### Budget Comparison

|                         |         |         |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |        |          |          |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|----------|----------|
| General Offering Budget | 16,807  | 16,807  | 16,807  | 16,807  | 16,807  | 16,807 | 16,807  | 16,807  | 16,807  | 16,807 | 168,070  | 164,850  |
| Over (Short)            | (4,113) | (7,901) | (5,654) | (4,135) | (7,140) | 15,900 | (8,002) | (8,679) | (6,532) | 4,368  | (31,888) | (39,543) |

### Non General Fund Restricted Donations

|  |       |     |   |   |   |       |     |   |   |   |       |       |
|--|-------|-----|---|---|---|-------|-----|---|---|---|-------|-------|
|  | 1,240 | 120 | - | - | - | 5,000 | 365 | - | - | - | 6,725 | 2,000 |
|--|-------|-----|---|---|---|-------|-----|---|---|---|-------|-------|