

# MANSFIELD

*Journey*



2026

# A Message From Pastor Neal Dose

Dear Mansfield,

As another year closes and a new one begins, I always take time to reflect on where we have been and to look ahead to what lies before us. Before I share those reflections and my excitement for the future, I want to begin by expressing my deep love for you.

Three years ago, my family began a journey here at Mansfield Baptist Church. That journey has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. It is difficult for me to fully put into words the love I have for you all, for this church, and for our community. I truly consider it a privilege to serve as the pastor of this incredible body. The church is more than a building, and it is more than a program, the church is the body of Christ. To be a part of this specific body is a great honor. I love you. My family loves you. And we are deeply thankful for the way you love us, support us, and walk alongside us as we seek to Share Christ and Shape Christ Followers.

At the beginning of 2025, we asked a simple but powerful question: *“What would be possible if I sought the will of God and surrendered to it?”* That question is open-ended, because Scripture teaches us that with God, anything is possible. Throughout the last year, God continually reminded me and revealed that we were not blazing our own trail, but following one He had already blazed for us.

Through prayer, we felt led to focus on specific areas where God bore much fruit over the course of the year. I have been **amazed** as God answered prayers that once seemed impossible. I was **encouraged** as many of you participated in a fast and witnessed God’s faithfulness firsthand. I was **challenged** as you committed to a Bible reading plan and grew in your knowledge and understanding of Scripture. I was **overwhelmed** as I heard stories and saw families begin to connect with our church through Operation 469. I was **blessed** by your sacrificial generosity, giving above and beyond to support our Next Generation at camp and our mission teams serving in Puerto Rico and Vancouver. I am **hopeful** as I consider the impact of our Special Needs ministry and the opportunity before us to reach an underserved part of our community. And I am **excited** as I look ahead to all that God may do in the year to come.

As I look toward 2026, there are two words I want to place before you. The first is **ENTRUSTED**. To be entrusted means “to assign someone the responsibility for doing something”. God has entrusted each of us with something. You may feel that what you have been given is small, but in God’s economy, what He entrusts to us carries great responsibility. I feel the weight of what God has entrusted to our church. Doors have been opened, and opportunities are before us. The question we must wrestle with is this: What will we do with what God has entrusted to us?

The second word is **COURAGE**, the ability to do something that frightens us. Over the past year, the Lord has consistently drawn my heart to this word. Again and again, I have sensed a call toward courage. As I have studied Scripture, I have found courage through the testimonies of men and women who trusted God and obeyed Him even in the presence of fear. This year, I ask that you would pray for me, that I would lead with courage, faithfulness, and humility. I also ask that you would remain sensitive to the Spirit in your own life, listening for how the Lord may be calling you to step forward in courage. I believe with all my heart that God has good work ahead of us, and I am grateful to walk into it together.

  
1 KINGS 2:3-4

## OUR MISSION

We exist to **SHARE CHRIST** and **SHAPE CHRIST** followers

## A DISCIPLE IS...

At MBC we believe a disciple is a **CHRIST FOLLOWER** who grows in love and loyalty to the gospel of Jesus Christ and teaches others to do the same.

## GUIDING VALUES



### LOVE AUTHENTICALLY

We strive to love God and love others, living out the gospel in every relationship. This love reflects Christ's own selfless and redemptive love for us (John 13:34-35).



### FORMED BIBLICALLY

The Bible is our ultimate authority, guiding us to grow in Christlikeness (2 Timothy 3:16-17).



### GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

We joyfully give of our time, talent, and treasure for the glory of God and the good of others. Reflecting the generosity of Jesus, we embrace a spirit of sacrifice in all we do (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).



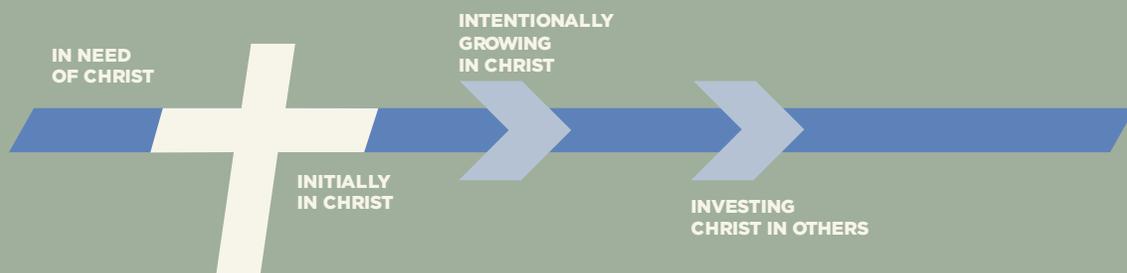
### ADVANCE THE KINGDOM

We are called to live on mission, sharing the hope of the gospel and making disciples in our homes, community, and to the ends of the earth. With bold faith, we seek to bring the light of Christ to all nations (Acts 1:8).

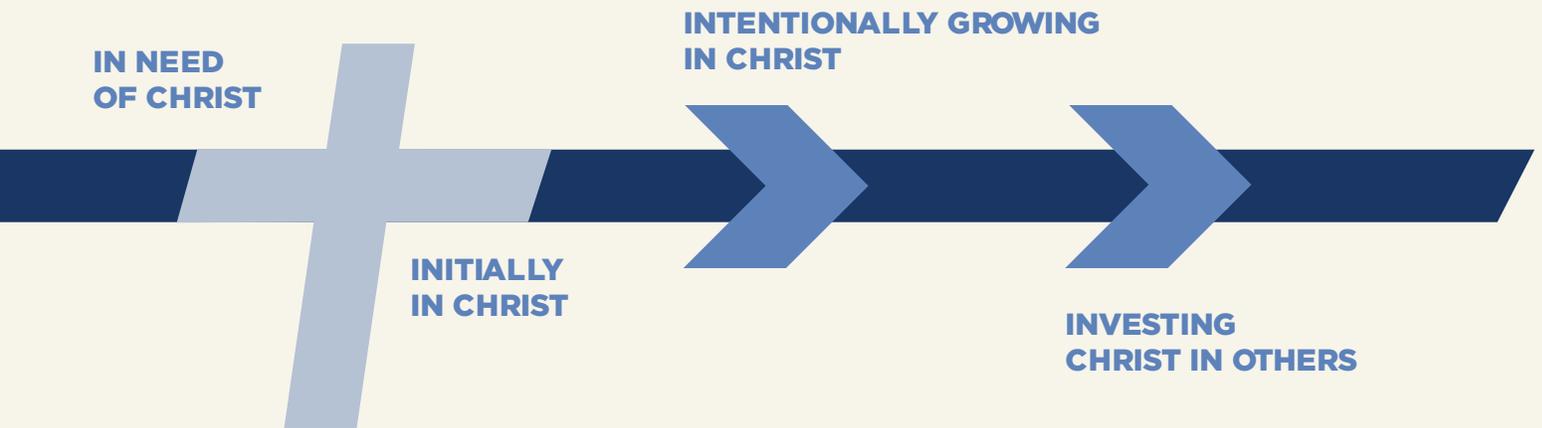
## DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Sharing and Shaping Christ followers means helping people identify and take their right next step on the discipleship pathway.

We are all on a discipleship journey. Where are you on the discipleship pathway? Where do you want to end? What is your right next step? How do you plan to move to the right next step?



# THE PATHWAY



## IN NEED OF CHRIST

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*

- In need of Jesus as Savior
- Romans 3:23-24, 6:23, 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9

## INITIALLY IN CHRIST

- Received Jesus as Savior
- Baptized
- Loves Authentically
- Join and engage in life of local church
- Beginning to be formed Biblically

## INTENTIONALLY GROWING IN CHRIST

- Consistent in Personal Devotion, Worship, and Serving
- Growing in guiding values
- Consistent in group life
- Give Sacrificially
- Sharing Christ
- Praying

## INVESTING CHRIST IN OTHERS

- Intentionally growing in Christ
- Shaping other Christ Followers
- Serving from giftedness
- Praying for others
- Sharing Christ with those in need of Christ

**QUARTER 1**

**JANUARY**

- 4 - Mansfield Journey Series
- 7 - Mid-Week Launch
- 17-19 - Youth Winter Retreat
- 19-23 - Five Days of Prayer & Fasting
- 24 - Men's Breakfast

**FEBRUARY**

- 1 - Unexpected Heroes Series
- 7 - Ladies Event
- 13 - Night To Shine (Morgan County)
- 27-28 Youth D-Now

**MARCH**

- 1 - Road To The Cross Series
- 14 - Equip Day
- 28 - Ladies Grace to Grow
- 29 - Easter Jam

**QUARTER 2**

**APRIL**

- 3 - Good Friday Worship Night
- 5 - Easter Sunday
- 6-10 Newton Co Spring Break
- 12 - Courageous Friends Series
- 25 - Ladies Grace to Grow

**MAY**

- 10 - Mother's Day
- 17 - Graduation Sunday
- 31 - VBS E.C.H.O.

**JUNE**

- 1-5 - VBS
- 21 - Father's Day
- 19-22 Youth Camp
- 27 - Ladies Grace to Grow
- TBD Vancouver

**QUARTER 3**

**JULY**

- 5 - 8:30 Service Only/No Small Group
- 10-12 - Centri-Kid Camp
- 26 - Summer Fest
- TBD Kentucky

**AUGUST**

- 2 - Gospel of Luke Series
- 5 - Mid-Week Launch
- 15 - Hunter Safety Course
- 22 - Equip Day
- 28-30 - Youth DNOW Weekend
- 29 - Ladies Grace to Grow

**SEPTEMBER**

- 12 - Men's Breakfast
- 13 - Grandparent's Day
- 25 - Ladies Bingo Night

**QUARTER 4**

**OCTOBER**

- 12-16 - Newton/Jasper Fall Break
- 31 - Halloween at Home
- TBD Puerto Rico

**NOVEMBER**

- 15 - OCC Packing Party
- 29 - Cookies w/ Santa
- 30 - 1 OCC Mission Trip

**DECEMBER**

- 4 - Ladies Hearts Adore Him
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service

**MONTHLY**

- UNIFIED** LAST WEDNESDAY
- GROWTH TRACKS** FOURTH SUNDAY
- FAMILY WORSHIP** FIFTH SUNDAY

**IMPORTANT DATES**

# 2025 IN REVIEW

## GOSPEL



**32**  
BAPTISMS



**68**  
NEW MEMBERS

We celebrate those who have chosen MBC as their home church to support the mission and advance the kingdom. Each member matters as we partner together to advance the kingdom.

## PRACTICES

Average attendance:  
**343**



**WORSHIP SERVICE** **21%** over last year

Average attendance:  
**205**



**SMALL GROUPS** **20%** over last year  
4 NEW GROUPS

GENERAL GIVING  
\$798,913.64

ABOVE & BEYOND  
\$123,359.90 (BFKG)  
\$49,662.47 (Missions)  
\$45,154.68 (Ministry)



**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**  
**\$1,017,090.69**  
Total Giving as of Dec 18

## ADVANCEMENT



In order for the kingdom to advance, it requires action. As a church, we have taken action to partner with our local community and the nations to share the hope of Jesus. We are grateful for your faithfulness to **GO & GIVE** towards the advancement of the kingdom.

### MISSIONS

- Sent 34 members on 4 mission teams to:

**Lumber City**  
**Puerto Rico**  
**Vancouver**  
**OCC Charlotte**

- MBC Packed & Sent 700 Boxes to Operation Christmas Child.
- Sent a team to Charlotte to help pack 150,000 boxes

### SPECIAL NEEDS FOCUS

- MBC Sensory Room Opened
- Sensory Santa
- Night to Shine - MBC partnered with Jackson First Baptist to serve 100+ families
- Miracle League - MBC sponsored the Yankees Spring and Fall teams
  - All Star Weekend
  - Fall Season Banquet

### LOCAL MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

- Operation 469
- Families 4 Families
- New MBC Food Pantry
- Served 6 Local Schools
- Served 2400 Meals Through Backpack Buddies

# NEW FOR 2026

## DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: GROWTH TRACKS



**MBC desires to partner with every Christ-follower to identify and take their right next step on the discipleship pathway.**

**Beginning in 2026, MBC will offer two Growth Tracks: Roots and Multiply.**

Each track consists of two semesters that provide insight, instruction, and practical resources to support spiritual growth.

### ROOTS

Roots is designed for believers who are either new in their faith or simply desire to begin a more deep walk with the Lord.

This track will help you build consistency in personal devotion, grow in authentic love, and be formed biblically.

Throughout the course, you will learn how to study the Bible, strengthen your faith through prayer, and grow by serving others.

Growth Tracks will meet on the 4th Sunday:

Semester 1: January–April

Semester 2: July–October

### MULTIPLY

Multiply is an intensive track designed to equip disciples to strategically walk alongside one another in Christian living. This track provides essential tools to use the Bible as the foundation of the discipleship process. Throughout the year, participants will gain practical insight and training to live out Jesus' command to *go and make disciples*.

**Each MULTIPLY session will include the following elements:**

- Bible Reading Plan
- Monthly Book Reading
- Strategic Lesson

**“Equipping you to serve with purpose.”**

## EQUIP DAYS

Have you been looking for the next step to begin serving at MBC? Equip Days are the perfect opportunity to step forward and get involved. During these days, we will highlight the biblical motivation for giving our time and talents to serve others.

As a church, we desire to be faithful in equipping the saints for the work of ministry. These breakout training sessions provide a welcoming onboarding experience for those serving for the first time, while also equipping current leaders and volunteers with practical tools to strengthen their ministry—no matter the area.

# Gospel, Practices, and Advancement

## HOW WILL WE EFFECTIVELY SHARE CHRIST AND SHAPE CHRIST FOLLOWERS?

MBC believes the best way to accomplish our mission is to create a discipleship culture that will drive the mission, guiding values, and spiritual formation to make disciples. We define a disciple as a Christ follower who grows in love and loyalty to the gospel of Jesus and teaches others to do the same. The process or strategy to make disciples is simply called discipleship. Discipleship is investing the gospel of Jesus Christ that has been entrusted to us into other faithful Christ followers (2 Timothy 2:2 .) At MBC, our strategy of spiritual formation uses the three essential gears of discipleship: Gospel, Practice, and Advancement.

**When these three gears work together simultaneously, there is great movement for the Christ Follower to take their right next step.**



### GOSPEL

- Believe
- Life transformation
- Articulation

### PRACTICES

- Personal devotion
- Corporate worship
- Group engagement

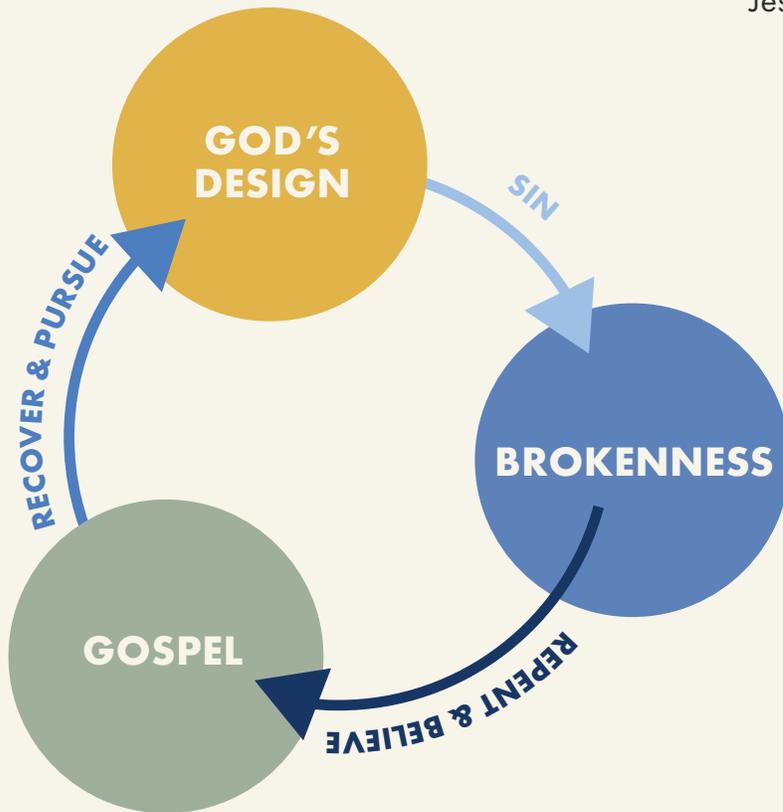
### ADVANCEMENT

- Local church
- Local community
- The nations

# GOSPEL

**We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ changes everything from this present life to eternity.**

The gospel is the good news of the abundant life provided by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15)



THE SAME GRACE THAT  
**SAVES US**  
IS THE SAME GRACE THAT  
**SUSTAINS US.**

## BELIEVE

What a person believes matters. It shapes their worldview of how they see God, themselves, and the surrounding world. At MBC, we believe salvation from beginning to end belongs to God. The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Then in Romans 10:9 Paul says, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." When we receive the free gift of salvation, we are infused with the power of the Holy Spirit. The same grace that saves us is the same grace that sustains us.

## LIFE TRANSFORMATION

When we believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ we are made new, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17 Everything changes when we respond to the gospel story because God changes our identity in Christ. The gospel transforms us from the inside/out. We cannot earn this gift, yet Jesus works it out in our lives for the rest of our days. (Philippians 2:12) It produces fruit in and through our lives. The gospel leads to life transformation which leads to right practices resulting in advancing the kingdom of God.

## ARTICULATION

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:15 When our lives intersect the gospel and the Holy Spirit begins to transform our identity, we then get to tell others about the good news of the gospel. We have the privilege and opportunity to Share Christ to a world in need of a Savior. How can I articulate the gospel story? To the right is an amazing tool to share the good news story of Jesus Christ called the 3 Circles.

# PRACTICES

## **Spiritual practices and disciplines are a major factor in our Christian development.**

We believe there are three practices that can greatly impact our spiritual formation: personal devotion, corporate worship, and group engagement. We cannot expect to respond according to the Word of God if it is not in our heart. The words of Moses to the Israelites still ring true today...

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."* **DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9**

## **PERSONAL DEVOTION**

- How is my Bible intake?
- Do people entrust me to pray for them?
- How often do I intentionally engage in personal time with the Lord?

Where am I in my personal discipleship pathway? That can be a tough question to process. We all want to be further along the pathway of personal devotion. Paul's challenge to Timothy can also be applied to our faith walk as well, "If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness." **We are all responsible to train for godliness.**

## **GROUP ENGAGEMENT**

- Am I engaged in a small group community?
- What can I offer to others with my availability?
- Am I available to challenge and encourage others in their spiritual journey?

## **CORPORATE WORSHIP**

- When it is comes to corporate worship, do I give my first and best?
- Am I fully available?
- Am I being faithful with the time, talents, and resources the Lord has entrusted to me?

Christ loves the church and gave himself up for her. The local church is a body of Christ followers that regularly gathers for corporate worship to exalt Christ and encourage one another in the faith. Hebrews 10: 24-25 reminds us, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." We are called to be involved in the body of Christ.

A Small Group is a community of people who commit to grow spiritually and live intentionally alongside one another in the regular rhythms of life. These groups provide the primary context for discipleship at MBC by nurturing the spiritual development of Gospel, Practices, and Advancement. Small groups are communities in similar seasons of life that are challenging and encouraging one another to take the next step in their discipleship pathway.

# ADVANCEMENT

**MBC is a local community of Christ followers with the desire to advance the kingdom of God.**

According to Ephesians 4, we are responsible to invest and teach the gospel *“to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.”* We want to create a culture where Christ followers long for His Word and allow it to transform their lives.

## LOCAL CHURCH

- Is there a ministry team I could serve with to use my gifts in the church?
- Do you know your gifts, talents and abilities?
- Where would you like to invest your time in serving at MBC?

We gather on a regular basis to exalt Christ and encourage one another in the faith. We do this by serving others with the gifts and abilities the Lord has entrusted to us. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul challenges us with these words, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” When we are striving together in the local church, we experience the growth of the common good. We work together to advance the kingdom of God.

## THE NATIONS

- Would you be willing to take a short term mission trip in the **next 24 months?**
- What could you offer to the nations?
- How can you advance the kingdom to the nations?

**Jesus’ command is clear: his disciples are to go and make disciples of all nations.** It is easy to see our own local bubble and stop at those borders. But God has also given us a command for the nations. In Acts 1, Jesus challenged his own disciples to advance the gospel to the nations. He said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” We live today with that same command and challenge. **What if we were available to spend a little time out of our comfort zone and go to the nations?**

## LOCAL COMMUNITY

- How can I intentionally invest in my local community and workplace?
- Where would God like me to spend time sharing Christ in my community?
- Where can I serve with my time, talents, and resources in my local community?

As followers of Christ, we are to live on mission each day. We are sent daily for the glory of God, whether it is at the ball field or in the boardroom. Whether we are in our neighborhood or another country, living a life on mission is a message we want our people to see and experience. We live 95% of our lives outside the church walls in our local and surrounding communities. Therefore, we desire to create a culture where church members live to advance the kingdom of God in our local community.



[www.mbclife.org](http://www.mbclife.org)

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