

## Experience SUNDAY with Us!



8:45AM  
Common Ground  
Worship



10:00AM  
Sunday School



11:00AM  
Traditional  
Worship

**First Methodist Church**  
204 N. Marshall Street  
Henderson, Texas 75652

**Church 903.657.6588**  
**Preschool 903.657.4881**  
**[www.fmchenderson.org](http://www.fmchenderson.org)**

**Church Office Hours:**  
**Monday—Thursday 8am-4pm**

### Our Office Staff:

Pastor—Rev. Mike Mayhugh  
Church Administrator—Margaret Leitner  
Music & Art Director—Jon Starling  
Communications Director—Karrie Clark  
Youth Co-Directors—Josh & Morgan Wardle  
Children's Director—Kaysie Sabella  
Organist / Accompanist—Mary Tidwell  
Preschool Director—Leesa Green  
Custodial Staff—Ira Wright

REQUESTED  
CHANGE SERVICE  
Henderson, Texas 75652  
204 North Marshall  
First Methodist Church

**Sharing the Joy of Jesus Christ with Others**



**First Methodist Church**  
Henderson, Texas

### ***A Note from Our Pastor—Mike Mayhugh***

*Dear Church Family,*

*The **Advent** season is here, those sacred four weeks before Christmas when the Church lights candles and waits in holy expectation for Christ's arrival. Advent comes from the Latin word adventus, meaning "arrival." It reminds us that we live between two arrivals: Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and His promised return in glory.*

*In a world racing toward Christmas morning, Advent calls us to pause, prepare our hearts, and fix our eyes on the Light shining in the darkness — the Light no darkness can overcome.*

*This December, we'll journey together through an Advent sermon series called "**The Light Still Shines.**" Each week, we'll explore the beautiful themes of hope, peace, joy, and love through Scripture and stories.*

- **November 30 – "Wake Up! The Dawn Is Near"** (Isaiah 2:1–5, Romans 13:11–14, Matthew 24:36–44) The first candle of hope reminds us that even in dark times, God's light is breaking through. Then that evening at 5:00 p.m., we will have our **Hanging of the Greens** service.
- **December 7 – "Children's Christmas Play."** We will have one service at 10:00, and after worship, a family potluck in the Great Hall.
- **December 15 – "Joy in the Waiting"** (Isaiah 35:1–10, James 5:7–10, Matthew 11:2–11) Joy is not the absence of struggle, but the presence of Christ right in the middle of it.
- **December 22 – "Love Came Down"** (Isaiah 7:10–16, Matthew 1:18–25) The candle of love guides us to Immanuel — God with us — the Savior who enters our story with redeeming grace.

*Then, on **Christmas Eve at 5:00pm**, we will gather for a **Candlelight and Communion Service** to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The sanctuary will shine with candlelight as we sing "Silent Night," share in the Lord's Supper, and remember the heart of the gospel.*

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5*

*I invite you to bring your family, friends, and neighbors to worship during this sacred season. Whether you've walked with Christ for decades or are just beginning to seek Him, Advent is a time to remember that God still comes close — He still speaks, still redeems, and still shines His light through His people.*

*As you light candles at home, decorate the tree, and prepare for Christmas, take a moment each day to breathe, pray, and look toward Bethlehem. The same God who entered history on that first Christmas night is still reaching into hearts today.*

*May your December be filled with the hope of His promise, the peace of His presence, the joy of His salvation, and the love of His coming.*

*Grace and peace,  
Pastor Mike*

**December Newsletter 2025**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## December

- 4 Henderson Christmas Parade
- 7 One Worship Service 10am  
Children's Play—UNFROZEN  
Covered Dish Luncheon Following
- 10 Youth Angel Tree Shopping
- 14 Christmas Brunch 9:45am
- 17 Kidz Club & Youth Christmas Parties
- 20 Youth Six Flags Holiday & the Park!  
Bell Concert 2:00 Sanctuary
- 23-25 Church Offices Closed
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 5pm  
No Kidz Club / No Youth
- 28 One Worship Service 10am Sanctuary
- 31 Church Offices Close at Noon  
No Kidz Club / No Youth



### Church Office

Closed December 23 - 25  
Close at Noon December 31  
Closed January 1



## ONE WORSHIP Service

DECEMBER  
**28**  
SUNDAY

Join us in the Sanctuary  
**10:00AM**

FMC KIDZ CLUB  
PRESENTS

# UNFROZEN

*A Christmas play that  
restores frozen hearts  
and gives new life to our  
Prince of Peace*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
@ 10 AM

Please come support our  
children and join us afterwards  
for a potluck lunch!!

First Methodist Church

# CHRISTMAS EVE

*Candlelight & Communion Service*



Please join us for our Annual Christmas  
Eve Candlelight & Communion Service,  
December 24th, at 5:00 pm in our Sanctuary.

### Celebrations & Praises



**Celebrating New Members**  
**Dan & Lynne Lebow**



**Celebrating New Members & Baptism**  
**of Corey, Jamey, Nathan  
and Laynee Denison**

### KIDZ CLUB THANKSGIVING CHALLENGE

Hip hip hooray! Our amazing church families stepped up to the challenge and collected **30 food boxes** valued over 1,300 dollars for the Henderson Interchurch Ministry this holiday season!



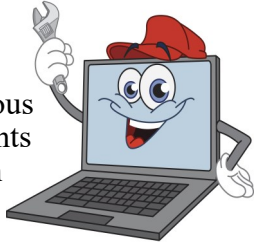
Thank you for sharing love, joy, and full hearts (and full boxes!) with others. You are truly a blessing!

Our Kidz Club is cheering you on for participating in this challenge. Well played, team!

### Thank You for Supporting Our Technology Fund!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to our Technology Fund. With your gracious support, we were able to upgrade our server components and software, install a much-needed new firewall with updated protections, and refresh several workstations with new Windows systems and upgraded software.

These improvements are vital to keeping our church secure and running smoothly, ensuring that our ministry and daily operations continue without interruption. Thank you again for standing with us and making these upgrades possible—your generosity has truly strengthened our ability to serve our congregation and community.




## Happy Birthday

### December Birthdays!!!

2nd Kyle Henderson  
5th Mary Massengale,  
Bob Minton  
7th Brad Mobbs,  
Pam Glenn,  
Danny Webster  
8th Mart Hooper  
9th Mary Lou Smith,  
Patrick Lewis  
12th Jared Walker,  
Laynee Denison  
17th Cammie Thrasher  
18th Addison Eggert  
19th Jimmy Sanders,  
Joel Hale,  
Marilyn Ford  
20th Lydia Wardle  
22nd Billy Black  
23rd Beth Reid  
25th Carolyn Cochran,  
Thurman Warren,  
Mia Romeo  
28th Thad Massengale,  
Cash Nolen

### Memorials



<b>Nelwyn Bagley</b>	
Cyndy Willard	Technology
Kim Paschal	Building
<b>Karen Briscoe</b>	
Ron & Renee Blackwell	Technology
<b>Barbara Jolley</b>	
Cyndy Willard	Technology
<b>Jessie Poindexter</b>	
Lemons SS Class	Capital
Johnny & Linda Foster	Budget
<b>Jeff Sewell</b>	
Billy Black	Budget



### Bell Ringers

They welcome new and returning volunteers interested in serving as bell-ringers for this ministry. Bell ringing will begin Monday, November 17th and end Tuesday, December 23rd. Wal-Mart is the primary location, with shifts 2 hours long during the hours of 10am-6pm, Monday-Saturday. Please call or text Dora at (903) 658-5028 to volunteer.

**Be sure to stop by  
and see the church staff  
on Tuesday, December 9th  
from 10am-noon.  
(Grocery Side Doors at Walmart)**



Great Hall Upgrades:  
Lighting the Way Forward

We are excited to share that our Great Hall has recently undergone some wonderful upgrades that will enhance worship, fellowship, and community events for years to come.

⇒ A Brand-New Computer & Presentation Program

For the first time, our presentation system is powered by a completely new computer—not one recycled from another area of the church. This means it’s fully equipped and ready to serve reliably for many years. Alongside it, we’ve introduced a modern presentation program that brings our screen experience up to date with the latest features. Expect smoother transitions, sharper visuals, and all the “fancy” tools that help us communicate more effectively.

⇒ Stage Lighting Enhancements

Our Praise Band now shines brighter than ever—literally! New LED stage lights illuminate the platform, making it easier for the band to see and for the congregation to enjoy their presence. These lights create a vibrant atmosphere that enhances worship and will save energy costs as well.

⇒ Looking Ahead

As we continue learning these new tools and exploring their capabilities, you’ll notice improvements as we move forward. The Great Hall is stepping into a new era of worship technology.

⇒ Thank You

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of those who contributed financially to these upgrades. Your support ensures that our Great Hall remains a welcoming, inspiring space for worship and community gatherings. Thank you!!



We hope you will celebrate advent with us by reading Miracles and Wonder--The Historical Mystery of Jesus by Elaine Pagels. We will gather at The Bradshaw Home on Tuesday, December 16th at 11:15am. RSVP never required but helpful for planning this month; please text 214-886-5869 if you plan to attend.

Scan the QR Code to Join the Community Book Chat Group Me Discussion. Download the Group Me App, set up your account, and then scan the QR Code to join our online community where we chat about upcoming events and great books.



Upcoming Community Book Chats--Save the Dates

- 01/27 The Book of Lost Friends Lisa Wingate (Historical Fiction)
- 02/24 Snow Orhan Pamuk (Political Thriller)
- 03/24 Nursing Home Hoax FMC Member Shelley Thrasher (Mystery)
- 04/28 The Heart is a Lonely Hunter Carson McCullers (American Lit)
- 05/26 The Sound of Gravel Ruth Wariner (Memoir)
- 06/23 Music of Bees Eileen Garvin (Nature Fiction)
- 07/28 Up at the Villa W. Somerset Maugham (Novella)
- 08/25 What Alex Forget Lianne Moriarty (Contemporary Fiction)
- 09/22 Circle of Days Ken Follett (Historical Fiction)
- 10/17 Texas Tears and Texas Sunshine Ed. Jo Ella Powell Exley (Texas History)
- 11/17 The Shell Seekers Rosamunde Pilcher (Generational Saga)
- 12/15 Twice & The Christmas Box Mitch Album (Magical Realism)

LIBRARY LOOKOUT:

This month the FMC library celebrates the Advent Season and invites you to read one of the many holiday books in the collection.

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

--Charles Dickens



BOOK DRIVE: Community Book Chat is collecting NEW, UNWRAPPED BOOKS (AGES 8-12) for Rusk-Panola Children’s Advocacy Center. We would love for you to join us in this advent giving event. Drop a book or two in the box in the FMC Library.



It has long been a tradition for the preschool students to all come together in the Great Hall to celebrate the meaning of the first Thanksgiving. Infants through the 4s classes all sat together recently at long “tables” and had a “feast” of trail mix. The students enjoyed visiting and celebrating with others, thinking about what they are most thankful for.

When asked what they were thankful for, some of our students responded with the following answers.

- I am thankful for pumpkins.
- I am thankful for green.
- I am thankful my mom takes me to the park.
- I am thankful for monster trucks.
- I am thankful for my new baby brother.
- I am thankful for my preschool.
- I am thankful for God, Mommy, Daddy, Sister, Sophia, and Thia.
- I am thankful for Captain America.
- I am thankful for my family.
- I am thankful for Santa.

And I am thankful for my dogs.

FMC Preschool wishes you all a thankful holiday season!



Our Angel Tree is up with Angels ready to be chosen. Please remember to sign the Angel Tree information sheet when you select an Angel (Angels). Please deliver your wrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, December 7th.



HANDBELL CONCERT  
FILL THE SEASON WITH  
RESOUNDING JOY!

Fill the Season with Resounding Joy! Vibrè, a handbell quintet out of Tyler, will be playing a Christmas concert in our sanctuary at 2:00pm on Saturday, December 20th. The Bells of First Methodist, our own Handbell Choir, will join them in that concert. Admission is free, but donations will always be gratefully accepted.

# Christmas

## BRUNCH

### SUNDAY

#### December 14

We will have Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 14 at 9:45am on the second floor of the adult center.

Bring a favorite Christmas goodie or two to share. Please join us for good food and great fellowship!!

## Sunday Volunteers

Greeters  
Communion Servers  
Ushers  
Cone Ministry  
Common Ground Altar

Let Us Know If You Can Help

The new year is approaching and the church office is working on our Sunday Mornings Volunteers lists for 2026. If you are interested in starting the new year with volunteering on Sundays, please let the church office know.

~ Our Presence ~

	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23
8:45 Common Ground	61	67	86	82
11:00 Traditional	99	83	75	57
Total:	160	150	161	139

Financial News

October	
Offerings (Actual)	\$37,489.23
With (Preschool \$3,000)	\$40,489.23
Expenses (Actual)	\$44,234.52

Ways to Continue to Give...

- By mailing your check to: FMC Henderson  
204 N. Marshall Henderson, TX 75652
- By dropping off a check to the church office. (Monday - Thursday 8am-noon & 1-4pm)
- By Online, click Give on fmchenderson.org
- By automatic draft. (Forms available in the church office.)
- By Text. (Send a text message to 73256, with the message of FMCHenderson followed by the gift amount.)



# GIVE THANKS With GIVING

### 2026 PLEDGE CARDS

We hope you’ve already received your 2026 Commitment Cards in the mail. If you haven’t had a chance to return yours yet, we’d love for you to do so soon, as they are now past due. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our church family for the coming year, and turn in your card to the church office at your earliest convenience. Extra cards are available on the tables outside worship services if you need one.



## Coming Up!

December 4th  
Christmas Parade

December 7th  
Christmas Play

December 17th  
Christmas Party

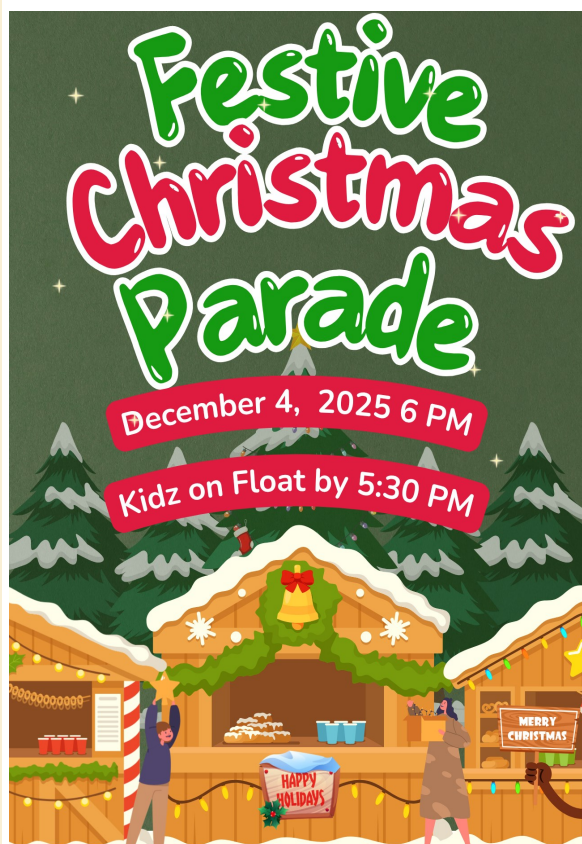
Join our Kidz Club  
Remind Group!

[KIDZ CLUB](#)

Text @fmckid  
to 81010 to join!

### Questions?

Contact our Children's  
Director Kaysie Sabella  
903-657-6588  
[ksabella@fmchenderson.org](mailto:ksabella@fmchenderson.org)



RSVP to Mrs. Kaysie at 432-208-0437

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

DEC | 17 | 5:30 PM

COMFY, COZY, CHRISTMAS PARTY

COME DRESSED IN YOUR PJS

PARTY DOESN'T END UNTIL 7:30 PM



## EVENT SCHEDULE

December

WED  
DEC 10

### Angel Tree Shopping!

During Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm  
Bring \$5-10 to bless our angels!

WED  
DEC 17

### Christmas Party!

During Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm  
Bring a White Elephant gift  
worth around \$10 (and wrap it!)

SAT  
DEC 20

### Six Flags Holiday @ the Park!

8:30am - 11pm (Tentative)  
\$65- Includes tickets, travel, and  
meals (RSVP)

WED  
DEC 24

### No Youth Group

Have a very merry Christmas!

We know there is a lot of activities coming up, so please reach out if you need assistance with the cost! We will do what we can! We just want to make sure as many students who want to participate, are able to!

Blessings,

Josh and Morgan Wardle

## Coming Up!

December 10th  
Shopping for Angel Tree

December 17th  
Youth Christmas Party

December 20th  
Six Flags!!

Asking for Donations

**YOUTH MEAL FUND!**



If you would like to donate to help with meals for our youth on Wednesday nights, please let the church office know.

**New Remind Groups!!**  
Be sure to join today!!

PARENTS  
Text @FMCHENP  
to 81010 to join!

JR HIGH STUDENTS  
Text @FMCHENJR  
to 81010 to join!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
Text @FMCHENHS  
to 81010 to join!

### Questions?

Contact our  
Youth Co-Directors  
Josh & Morgan Wardle  
903-657-6588  
[jwardle@fmchenderson.org](mailto:jwardle@fmchenderson.org)