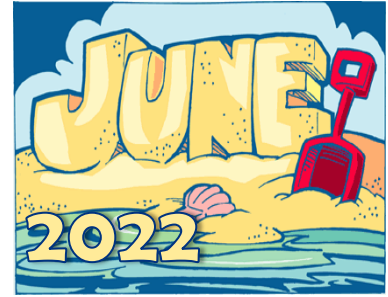


## Missionary Messenger

North Manchester Missionary Church  
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North Manchester, IN 46962  
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### **It's Been Five Years!**

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In every prayer for all of you, I always pray with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. - Philippians 1:3-6 (BSB)*

It is June 2022 and I have been your pastor for a full five years! It has been a joy to come and be a part of the work that God is doing here in Manchester. Five years ago I had no idea what was about to happen in regards to the Covid crisis. I just knew that God was calling me here to serve Him no matter what was about to happen.

It has been a difficult but rewarding 5 years of ministry. We had to stop having live church for a while, but this has led us to a vibrant online ministry. We may never know the massive impact that we are now having due to our weekly online message. I have heard from a pastor in Africa who uses our Sunday morning message as his weekly sermon. Praise God, the word is being preached. We have seen our children's ministry continue to grow and thrive. Denise and Judy are doing a great job with this ministry. We have seen our Sunday morning worship go from using worship videos to having a live band with singers. I praise God for Jon's ministry with our worship teams.

I am not sure if all of you are know this, but Joanne and I have bought the house that we have been renting here in Manchester. It is our plan to retire here. We love the safety and community here. We live on the edge of Peabody Nursing Home and it is a nice quiet neighborhood. We have enjoyed being a part of this community.

I want to say Thank-You again for calling me to be your pastor. I look forward to many more years of serving God here.

In Christ, Pastor Ken



## September 11th Homecoming Sunday

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NMMC was dedicated on September 12, 1954. We are going to have a Homecoming including a "Birthday Shower" and a carry-in meal after the morning service. We want to invite all the former members/attenders to join us that Sunday. You can help us spread the word. More info will be coming.

Sept. 11, make sure to . . .



### Who Are We?

**Pastor:** Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)

PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

**Elders:** Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

**Directors:**

Education: Denise Baldacci

Missions: Debby Gatchel

Outreach: Sue Howard

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

**Secretary:** Joanne Sistrunk

manchestermissionary@gmail.com

Worship  
Lifestyle

Worship: It is more than just singing words like it is more than just playing the piano. Something that I have been noticing is that when I am just playing notes, I am not really worshipping. When I start to really think about the words to the song, I feel like something happens in my playing. To me it becomes more worshipful and I start to worship even to the point that my eyes start to tear up (which makes it difficult to see the music). It changes from just sound to worshipping my Lord. Maybe I am the only one who can hear it. My prayer is that it helps you to worship, too. My encouragement to you is that instead of just reading/singing the words, think about what you are singing, sing to God and worship Him!

~Joanne



### "Be Not Afraid"

By Robert L Wise  
(fiction)

"A stack of forgotten letters, a diary, and an old photograph. All are pieces of a troubled past hidden for five decades and ready to explode. . . . Who was Lieutenant Robert Walker? . . . *Be Not Afraid* is a story of war, sacrifice, and love. Ultimately, though, it speaks of a journey—a journey we all can take to search the hidden corners of our hearts and uncover the secret of courage." (from the back cover)

### "Hostage"

By Nancy Mankins  
(non-fiction)

"The incredible true story of the kidnapping of three American missionaries."

"As missionaries to the Kuna Indians in Pucuro, Panama, Dave and Nancy Mankins were living their dream. . . . Then in one terrifying moment their dream was shattered. On January 31, 1993, Colombian rebels burst into their home and captured Dave, along with fellow missionaries Mark Rich and Rick Tenenoff. Helplessly, their wives watched in horror as the three men were seized at gunpoint and taken into the Colombian jungles.

"In this riveting story, Nancy Mankins collaborates with the other two wives to create a complete account of the events surrounding their husbands' abduction. . . . *Hostage* is the inspiring account of the women's courage and faith that continues to sustain them through impossible circumstances." (from front and back covers)

### "Dallas O'Neil and the Baker Street Sports Club, Book 1: The Secret Baseball Challenge"

By Jerry B Jenkins  
(youth fiction)

"Dallas and the gang (need to) solve a big problem. They want to play baseball, but there's no Little League in their town. In fact, there's nowhere to play ball. How can a bunch of kids go from dreaming about playing baseball to forming their own team, turning an open field into a baseball diamond, and even finding other teams to play against?" (from back cover)



**CONNECTION NOTES:**

**We Need Each Other!**

A memory popped up today in my Facebook feed from two years ago. It was from "Our Daily Bread" that contained a picture of some plants with a saying. It said, "We Need God And Each Other". I reposted it, saying that two years later nothing had changed, we still need God and each other!

If you heard my "mission moment " from Sunday, you heard that we are starting a new ministry: Gather @ the Fire. The ministry is in response to a vision I have for our church. A vision of committed and interconnected followers of Christ sharing their lives and their faith with one another and with others. The desire I have is that we use Gather @ the Fire as a part of this process.

Hebrews 10:24-25 BSB reads, "Let us hold resolutely to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And consider how to SPUR one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us ENCOURAGE one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (emphasis mine)

I read this verse in 15 different versions. The words substituted for SPUR include help, encourage, stimulate, provide, promote, stir up and motivate. The words substituted for ENCOURAGE were exhortation and cheer with words of hope. When I say we need each other, this is what I mean. We gain by being together. Without us helping build each other up, without us challenging each other, without us assisting each other we become weak and anemic. Guys, (people), I have been there. So tired and weak that you have trouble breathing, let alone moving. I do not want to be a weak anemic follower of Christ! I want to have boldness, I want to be grounded in truth, I want to walk



in love and I want to be true to Christ. It is easier together. It has a stronger impact together. And together, through Christ, we can change the areas of our influence.

I need you! Please consider how you can spur me, us, each other, one another, on! And I promise to do the same for you!

In love through Christ,

*Sue*

**CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:**

**Gather @ the Fire:**

Sunday evenings at 5:30pm at the fire ring to the east of the church sanctuary.

June 12 and 26

July 10 and 24

August 8 and 21



It's hard to believe that school is almost done for the year. Summer is fast approaching and we have some fun projects for the kids to complete. They are always eager to learn and love to paint! We are learning that God created the earth, sky, oceans and every creature here. Everything has a purpose and reason for being created. We are all special in his sight.

In June, we will celebrate all the Dad's in our lives. The dictionary defines a father as a man in relation to his child or children. We all have earthly fathers and one heavenly Father. We are grateful for all Dads!!

*Judy*



**Memory Verse of the Month!**

**2 Corinthians 1:3 (BSB)**

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."*