

August / September 2025

## **The Church Mouse**

**China Methodist Church**

**205 West Washington, China, Texas**

**The Rev. Mark Fleming, Pastor**

**Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 a.m.**

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### **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK—**

What does it take to build a church?

To make the church stronger, both in faith and in numbers, it takes people.

People who are, first of all, committed to building their own relationship with God and becoming more faithful disciples day by day.

People who are willing to expand their personal reach into the community and invite people, not just to church, but to relationship—relationship with Jesus Christ and relationship with themselves.

People who are willing and able to talk about their faith and put it into practice.

For nearly a year now we've been doing important work in laying the groundwork for this through the daily Bible readings—the foundation of knowing God is knowing the story of his relationship with humanity throughout the ages.

We've also been doing this by watching The Chosen series. While it is a somewhat fictionalized account of the gospel, it invites us into deeper understanding of Jesus Christ, his ministry and his first followers.

Now it's time to start reaching out beyond the walls of the church to build new and existing relationships into opportunities to help others find their place in the kingdom of God. If that's in China Methodist Church, that's great. But more important than getting people into our church is getting them into God's church, wherever they fit in. God has called us to make disciples, which is not always the same thing as church members.

August / September 2025

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll read about a craft activity we have coming up for the fall. While this is a fun thing, it's also an opportunity to get to know each other better and, I hope, to bring some friends and get to know others better as well.

Continue reading, continue praying, and let's build up God's church!

**Leadership**— In the heat of the summer fall can seem far off, and the end of the year even farther, but it's time to start thinking ahead. In early September the church board will meet to put together a slate of officers for China Methodist Church for 2026 that will then be put to the Charge Conference for approval, probably in October or November.

If you don't hold an office and are willing to serve on the board, please get in contact with the pastor by the end of August. Also contact him if you're on the board and would like to consider a different position in leadership.

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**—Due to the continuing cost of stamps and mailing supplies, the church is always looking to find more efficient ways to use its funds. Many of you shared your email addresses with the church several years ago when the membership information was updated. Beginning with the August/September edition of THE CHURCH MOUSE you have the opportunity to receive it via email. For those that prefer to have a paper copy or do not have an email on file with the church, you will still receive one by mail or as a handout at church service.

If you have an email on file but prefer to receive a paper copy, please notify the church at [chinamethodist.chinatx@gmail.com](mailto:chinamethodist.chinatx@gmail.com), call or text your request to 409 782-4896, or tell us personally at church. Any updates on email address changes or preferences can be sent to the above email. The newsletter will also be posted on the church website [ChinaTexasMethodist.org](http://ChinaTexasMethodist.org)

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETINGS** will be **August 13** and **September 10** at 7:00 p.m. If there are any ideas or activities that you would like to suggest, please attend.

August / September 2025

**CONTACT INFORMATION—**

Church office: **409-752-3541**

Pastor Mark: 713-295-1824

Email: **mark@markfleming.info**

Church website: **ChinaTexasMethodist.org**

The church mailing address is: P.O. Box 8, China, Texas 77613

Church email: **chinamethodist.chinatx@gmail.com**

**office@ChinaTexasMethodist.org**

**Pastor's office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-5 p.m. and/or by appointment

**CHURCH YARD VOLUNTEERS—**Mowing schedule for 2025 has begun. Your dedication to our church is greatly appreciated. Thank you volunteers!

**August-** C.Kolander      **September-** King

**October-** Budd      **November & December** -Thornton/Sherman

**HILL COUNTRY DISASTER:** Trinity Conference Disaster Relief Fund has been created to help support GMC churches and other ministry partners in the flood-affected areas in the Hill country. Our church will collect donations for the next three Sundays. On August 3 we will take a special communion rail offering for this fund.

**THE CHOSEN—**Our church has been watching episodes of “The Chosen” on Sunday afternoons at 4. The next one will be Season 6, which will include the crucifixion sequence. The non-profit that finances the productions, Come and See, has committed \$30 million. The producer, Dallas Jenkins, is asking for donations to this non-profit to be sure that the super-sized finale will be completely financed. The Web page of [comeandseefoundation.org](http://comeandseefoundation.org) will have a link that you can use to donate.

**EDUCATION SUNDAY:** Please join us in the Blessing of the backpacks and our teachers on August 17. There will be a sign up sheet at the church for those that will be participating or you can contact Vicki Rose at 409-673-5852. May the year be filled with wonderful opportunities of learning, friendships, and success. May God provide guidance, wisdom and protection for the new school year.

August / September 2025

**FALL COMMUNITY CRAFT EVENTS**—The first of four crafting “make it take it” events will be in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 7, from 4-6 p.m. The craft activities will include making cards and fall garlands. These crafts are designed for participants ages teens and adults. Preregistration is encouraged, but not required. Contact information is found within the newsletter. Refreshments will be available and supplies will be provided free of charge. Skills in “craftiness” are not required and you are welcome to bring personal projects that you would like to work on while sharing your creativeness. More information and details of future events will be available on the church website, other social media ,and future newsletters.

**Update on Missions:**

**H.O.P.E.:** Thanks to everyone who participated in filling the Baby Bottles for HOPE Women’s Resource Center. The final total was \$375.62. Their thank you note conferred their appreciation for our generosity.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Donations will be taken for school supplies. You may purchase the supplies or donate money. Our church will present the supplies and money to China Elementary on Tuesday, September 2. You can place your donation in the offering plate, indicating its purpose, or mail it to the church at Box 8, China, TX. 77613. Another option: donate from our web page: <https://chinatexasmethodist.org> with PayPal or a debit/credit card.

**COOKBOOK:**

Happy Birthday to our China Methodist Cookbook! Cajun Country Cooking is 50 years this year. The original print date was 1975. It has been reprinted 7 times and the latest edition has the same recipes in it as the original one with the addition of over 100 new ones that were added in 2007. Start your Christmas shopping early by ordering cookbooks for friends and family now.

You can purchase this cookbook for \$30 from any church member. Mail orders will be \$35. You may also obtain copies by calling 409-752-3541, 409-656-9809, or 409-658-7604. You can place an on-line order from the church web page using PayPal or credit/debit card. <https://chinatexasmethodist.org>

Businesses that have our cookbook for sale: Diamond S Diner, Sour Lake City Library, Red Apple vendor at Larry's Trade Days.

**Our ongoing mission** of providing plastic cutlery for Henry’s Place continues. There is a container in the foyer to place the plastic covered utensils you get when you pick up “to go” food from restaurants. Also continuing are the monthly

August / September 2025

donations of canned food to Hardin Jefferson Hunger Initiative. A basket is also available in the foyer for those item.

**The Hardin-Jefferson Hunger Initiative:**

Help stock the food pantry using calendar below. Please avoid donating extra large sizes of items as regular size items are much easier for distribution. You can take them to the pantry on N. Broadway or bring them to our church basket in the narthex. Monetary donations and volunteers are always appreciated.

**Requested items: August-** Canned Fruit **September-** Canned Soup

**A HAPPY DAY AND BLESSINGS TO:**

**August Birthdays**

6—Perry McCown  
8—Jennifer Clark  
12—Richard Mackan  
18—Reagan Allen  
19—Al Bieber  
20—Mary Nell Armentrout  
21—Ellie Brottem  
22—Jason Whittington  
25—Joe Budd  
27—Mickey Adams

**August Anniversaries**

9—Terry & Cay Granger  
15—Matt & Rachelle Williams  
17—Tim & Gayla Brottem  
21—Stacy & Gina Bankhead

**September Birthdays**

10—Ella Alvey  
17—Debra Corbello  
18—Rachelle Williams  
22—Todd Kolander  
24—Craig Harris  
25—Stacy Bankhead  
30—Tommie Sue West

**September Anniversaries**

7—Micah & Lindsey Ivy  
15—Brady & Carol Smith

**Prayer Concerns:**

**Church Members:** E.C. Guidry, Carmen Sander, Robert Rose, Alvey Family

**Friends and Family:** Sharon Cotton, Eddie Patton, Rev.Randy Carreon, Patricia Mead, Sue Hebert, Ronnie Lampkin, Melissa Culver and family, —Frances Bowman, Rebecca Chance, Sam Parker, Hunter Kolander, Jamie Collins, Catherine Armstrong, Tara Whittington, Tracy Wright, Carolyn McAlister, Roger Satterfield, Lexi Jones, Burl Jones,Shawn Franklin, John Walters, Lisa Glaze, Barbara Davis, Mary Jeanotte, Steve Lemons, Lethal Burrows, Joe Sebesta, Dennis Lee, J.W. Kiker, and the family of Travis Aldrich.

August / September 2025

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**P.O. Box 8**

**China, Texas 77613**

**CALENDAR:**

**August** (Canned Fruit)  
13 Administrative Board Meeting 7:00  
First day of Instruction for HJ  
17 Education Sunday  
Blessing of the Backpacks & Teachers  
23 HJ 65th Celebration. Courville's. 6-10  
31 5th Sunday Sing Song

**September** (Canned Soup )  
1 Labor Day Holiday  
10 Administrative Board meeting 7:00



August / September 2025





