



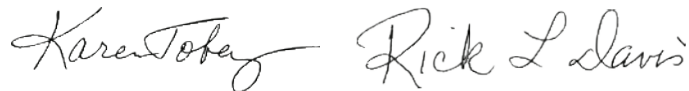
# McFarlin's **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Dear McFarlin Family,

We hope you will take a few minutes to read this important update to our annual Christmas Offering.

On behalf of the Food Pantry team, we, Karen and Rick, want to express our deep gratitude for how previous Christmas Offerings have generously supported the pantry. During the recent stoppage of SNAP benefits, many families in our community experienced real fear. Yet over \$45,000 was given in just a few weeks, with nearly 20% coming from outside our congregation. That generosity built a strong foundation that will sustain the pantry through 2026.

At the October 5 all-church gathering, we were reminded that the Food Pantry does not stand alone and funding our general McFarlin budget is crucial. We were reminded that our church is growing but has some growing pains. Our beloved church needs about \$200,000 above and beyond regular giving to close a gap for 2025. Because the Pantry fund is healthy and the whole church is important, **the Food Pantry team is “giving back” this year’s Christmas Offering to the church’s general budget.** We want McFarlin to finish 2025 strong and begin 2026 with momentum, health, and energy. We are not just Food Pantry people. We are McFarlin people, and we invite your participation.




Karen Tobey & Rick Davis, Food Pantry Committee

---

As Director of Missions and Invitation I, Scott, support this completely. When the church is healthy, missions are healthy. When the church is fully funded, we reach more people. Strengthening the church strengthens missions ministries like the Food Pantry. This offering is not a shift away from missions but an investment in all our ministries—children, youth, families, worship, and more—that make missions work possible.

Through over three decades here, I’ve seen times of abundance and times of strain. And every time, this church has risen to the moment. As a father, I also think about the kind of church I want my daughter, Laurel, to grow up in—one that is spiritually strong, financially healthy, outward-facing, and ready for what’s next. That is why I fully endorse this decision and believe this is a moment for us to step forward together.



Scott Meier, Director of Missions & Invitation

As your pastor, and along with pastors Wendi and Trey, I, Rockford, want you to know that our Finance Committee has approved this change for 2025 because we need to close the \$200,000 year-end gap already mentioned. We believe this switch is for this year only. Why? Because we have seen an overwhelmingly positive response to our Courageous and Content call for 2026 commitments. Many of you increased, renewed, or began new pledges, giving us confidence that next year will be strong.

Here is how you can help us finish 2025 well:

- If you made a pledge this year, formally or only in your heart, thank you for completing it by December 31.
- If you have already completed your pledge, or will soon, please consider an additional Christmas Offering gift. Perhaps give a “13th month” equal to one month of your annual commitment.
- And if giving has been difficult this year, you are warmly invited to participate at whatever level you can. Every gift matters.

If you love giving to the Christmas Offering because it supports the Food Pantry, you are still doing that!

We believe in what God is doing at McFarlin, in the ministry we share, and in the strength we have together. With your help, we can finish 2025 well and step into 2026 with confidence and joy.

Thank you, Merry Christmas, and God bless you!

*Pastor Rockford*

Rockford Johnson, Senior Pastor



Scan here to give online to our Christmas Offering!  
[mcfarlinumc.org/advent2025](https://mcfarlinumc.org/advent2025)

