



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

January 17, 2018

Serving the people of Manchester since 1813

Senior Pastor, Rev. Randall T. Brown

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As I write to you today, it is fitting that I start with a quote from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was quoted as saying; "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"

What does Jesus say about that? Matthew 20:28 and Mark 10:45 record Jesus as saying, "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

It looks to me like Dr. King and Jesus were on the same page when it comes to serving our fellow man. Having met Dr. King's widow in the early 80's I met a person who was deeply concerned with helping and serving the poor, hungry, lonely, and suffering people in our county. As Christians it is our calling to serve others not because of a preacher or a civil rights leader but because of Jesus. If we follow someone we live our life as they do. If you follow someone in a car to another city you go the same route they go, you adjust your speed according to their speed, you turn when they turn, you apply your break when they apply their break, and you arrive at the same destination that they do. Why, because you followed them. Whatever place God has us in, whatever stage we are in our life, we can and should follow Jesus. He has a path for us to travel and he goes before us on that path. The world may see us as active or retired, that does not matter. What matters is the question that Dr. King asked. I hope we will answer it the same way Jesus did. When you finish reading this newsletter take a few minutes a commit yourself to doing something for other people on a daily or weekly basis. Ask God to show you ways that you can serve others and add value to their lives.

See you Sunday at the Father's house,

Brother Randy



A Note from Dana:

In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1964 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

It's hard to believe but in April of 2018 it will have been 50 years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I was in the 8th grade but I still remember the awfulness of that horrific event. At that time I didn't quite understand why anyone would want to murder such an advocate of social and spiritual peace as Dr. King. As I got older (and entered the ministry) I began to see that people seem to love to hate. Or, as Dr. King put it "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

The Scripture has a lot to say about how we treat each other. Jesus said in John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Truth be told, and while Dr. King would no doubt be proud of the progress we've made in civil rights, we still have quite a way to go to achieve racial equality in our country. A good place to start is to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Wouldn't you agree?

Grace and Peace,

Dana

Giving statements for 2017 are now at the Welcome Center. Those not picked up by January 29 will be mailed.

JANUARY 17, 2018

MIDWEEK VISITOR



We will continue talking about commitment and

prayer Wednesday night. This week's key question is "How do you pray to God?" Kids are just starting to discover that they can pray more than before meals and at bedtime. We hope the kids will take from this that they can pray to God whenever they feel like with whatever words come to mind. God is always there to listen.

In Luke 11:14, we find Jesus' disciples asking Him how to pray. Jesus responds with a prayer that serves as the perfect model for how we can talk to God. We can pray with gratitude and honesty, pray for our needs, and for forgiveness. It's a comfort to know that we can pray with assurance that God knows us and wants to hear from us.

Bottom Line: Practice praying to God. We can pray anytime, anywhere because God is always listening. We hope kids will understand more about the faith skill, PRAY, and find that talking to God is an important part of growing in their faith.

The kids have started practicing a new song they will be presenting at the one service on April 29th. From now on the children's choir will sing a song when we have one service on a fifth Sunday. Also, this year's VBS will be another weekend VBS. It will take place Friday night July 13 and Saturday morning July 14. Please mark your calendars!

Mrs. Jackie
jackiemconnelly@aol.com



I hope that the winter weather has not been too harsh for you and that you stayed warmed.

We are gearing up for another exciting semester at #HangOut. We will be finishing up the book of Revelation. After revelation we will be doing the Bible studies that goes along with the movies the Shack, a Case for Christ, God's Not Dead 2, and the Letters to Mother Teresa.

Warmth in Winter is February 9-11, 2018 at Opryland hotel in Nashville Tennessee. If you are willing to be a prayer partner for one of our students, please let me know.

As you know by now I am serving on the Stones River District Strategy team and we are continuing our work to prayerful discern God's next faithful steps for the churches of the Stones River District. Many of you have asked how our work is going and are praying for us and our work and that is very much appreciated. Please continue to pray for our team, the churches and church staffs in the district and Max Mayo our District Superintendent. Not only do we need your prayers, we need your help as well. Below you will find a survey link that will take about 2 minutes to complete. This survey is anonymous.

If you would rather take this survey on a hard copy and give it back to me I will have those available at church on Sunday.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ManchesterFirstCV>

Thank you for your time and continued prayers,
Randa

Did you know that in 1958 the cost of a new house was \$11,975, a new car cost \$2,155, the cost of a movie ticket was \$1, gas was 24¢ **AND that Bro. Randy was born! Please come celebrate during Coffee Time Sunday, January 21, 2018. There will be CAKE!!**



Wednesday Night Menus

Jan 17: Homemade chili, cornbread/crackers, veggies & dip, fruited Jell-O salad

Jan 24: Herb roasted chicken, macaroni & cheese, fried okra, roll, tossed salad/dressings & brownies



UMW-Wesleyan Wanderers Joint Program for January

Ed and Joan Leichner, who manage the funds for Bless the Children in Matamoros, Mexico, will be here Tuesday, January 23 for a joint UMW-WW meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. Programs change as needs and conditions change. Some procedures and uses in this program have changed since we began supporting it about 10 years ago. Ed and Joan will update us on the program, how it operates, how needs are met, etc. They will have slides of the children. The Missions Committee, Sunday school classes, individuals, or anyone who supports this program is encouraged to come join us for this presentation. January is traditionally "soup month", and the covered dish items you bring should be something to go with soup, or deserts.

Thank you and we hope to see you there!



Memorials

Gifts were given to the General Budget in memory of

†Clara Sue Hendrix Steele by Inez Hendrix & Rene Powers

†Doris Rynd by Gladys Barclay

†Glen Norfleet by Lida Conkle

Think deep thoughts for a moment. Really deep thoughts. Think about the word "stewardship." What comes to mind? If you are like most people, money is what comes to mind. You might even envision the offering plate being passed here at Manchester First United Methodist Church or writing out your check to support this ministry.

Steve Mizerany used to own a large appliance store in St. Louis. Many people in St. Louis remember him as being a bit eccentric as he moved throughout the store on roller skates, shouting out to potential customers his slogan, "Don't be confused!" That's good advice when it comes to buying appliances. It's also good advice when it comes to stewardship.

Don't be confused! Money is a very important part of stewardship. There are more verses in the Bible dealing with money, material possessions and giving than there are with heaven and hell combined. The Bible has more to say about money than about faith. Even a casual reader of the Bible would have to conclude that money is important to God. But money is not the be-all, end-all of stewardship. It's important all right, but it's only one-third of what we might call "total stewardship."

Total stewardship consists of "three Ts." "Money" is one of those, the "treasure" aspect of stewardship. "Time" is another, and "talents" complete the picture. Time, talents and treasure comprise total stewardship. How we use these invaluable resources says much about our Christian faith and our relationship to God.

You see, the Word of God is very clear: God owns everything. God has never relinquished the title deed to the world. According to Psalm 24:1, God owns it all. According to 1 Chronicles 29:11, everything in the world belongs to God. That means that all of us own exactly the same amount; Zero. That's right. We own absolutely nothing. We are managers who are responsible to manage that which belongs to God.

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All that we have belongs to God.
“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1).



It’s time to start planning for the annual Community-wide Easter Cantata! This year’s cantata is entitled: *Amazing Love, How Can It Be*” written and arranged by Russell Mauldin. Rehearsals for the musical will start **SUNDAY, January 21st** at 4 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 1513 McArthur Drive here in Manchester. Tentative performance dates are Thursday, March 27 and Friday March 28. Both performances are at 7:00 p.m. See Dana for more details!

«First_Name», «Last_Name»
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I Will Support My Church With My Presence

Attendance:	Jan 14
Sunday School	74
8:25 Service	46
10:55 Service	68

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	Jan 14
Sunday School	62.00
Missions	170.00
Good Samaritan	50.00
Coffee Time	22.00
Youth Fund	.00
Required weekly	TBD
Budget Contribution	11,377.27
Year-to-date offering	11,377.27
Offering needed to date	TBD
(+/-) Difference	TBD

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Acolytes

Jan 14	8:25 Megan Fibelkorn	10:55 Elijah McCoy
Jan 21	Natalie Fibelkorn	Elizabeth Miller

Building Checkers

Week of Jan 21	Jack Smoyak
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Coffee Time

Jan 14	Randa Brown
Jan 21 & 28	JaNelle Burt

Altar Guild

January	Marie Kimble & Karla Childs
February	Lois Thormaehlen

Counters

Jan.	Roy Hendrix & Lois Thormaehlen
Feb.	Mike Giffin

Greeters

Jan 14	8:25 Max & Judy Hester	10:55 Dennis & Brenda Bryan
Jan 21 & 28	8:25 Nancy & Jimmy White	10:55 Brigitte & Joey Hendren

Kitchen Monitor

Jan.	Mike Childs
Feb.	Mary Rounds

Welcome Center

Jan 21 & 28	8:25 Sue Reid	10:45 Pam Riddle
Feb 4	8:25 Ed Holland	10:45 Ann & Ben Spaulding

Bakers/Visitors

Jan 21	Melissa Cope / Roger & Kimla Weeks
Jan 28	Bea Ferrell

Good Samaritan Workers

Jan. 22	Donna McCluskey, Jim Thorington, Ed Turner and Max & Judy Hester
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Jan 29	Doris Hendrix, Donna McCluskey, Marie Kimble and Mike & Karla Childs
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**Thank you for your service to
 Manchester FUMC**