



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

December 12, 2018

Serving the people of Manchester since 1813
Senior Pastor, Rev. Randall T. Brown

(931) 728-4624
(615) 521-3346



Wow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What a great job the adult choir did yesterday. The children did a tremendous job in leading us for the lighting of the Advent Candle. As we move forward here are the events that you can invite your friends and family to be a part of:

December 16th Both services Isaiah 12:2-6
"Look Who is Coming at Christmas"

December 23rd Both Services Micah 5:2-5, Hebrews 10:5-10
"Surprise Package"

December 24th 5:30 p.m. " Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" Isaiah 9:2-7

"Christmas Lights"

December 30th One Service 11:00 a.m.

See you Sunday,

Randy Brown



A NOTE FROM DANA...

The practice of displaying a Chrismon Tree in worship during Advent is not as old of a tradition that you may think!

Chrismon's were first developed in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. In an effort to create appropriate decorations for her church Christmas tree, Spencer fashioned centuries-old symbols into white and gold tree decorations.

"Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." Chrismon's are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. Ideas for fashioning them are developed from early Christian symbols, the Bible and church histories.

Although Chrismon's have been used in the United States since 1957, many symbols of Christianity have come down to us through the ages. Early Christians often worshipped in secret to avoid possible persecution and death. They developed certain symbols that were used to communicate with fellow believers and direct Christians to secret places of worship. Symbols that signified the believers' faith often adorned doors and buildings, and were included on items such as jewelry and household utensils.

Manchester First displays a beautiful Chrismon tree each year. The tree is adorned with many different Christian symbols, all pointing toward the coming of Messiah. Why not take a few moments after worship this Sunday to get a closer look at the tree?

Grace and Peace,

Dana



This week, we looked at Luke 1:26-56, when Gabriel came and made a huge announcement to Mary. God was about to rescue the world through Jesus, and she had an important role to play. Mary was overwhelmed by God's love for the world and the part she got to play by fulfilling God's plan to send a Savior.

Bottom Line: God can use anyone to meet others' needs. For whatever reason, kids may feel like God can't use them to show others His love. We hope they see through the story of Mary, that God can use anyone to show His compassion to the world.

Mrs. Jackie

Jacqueline Connelly
jackiemconnelly@aol.com



All of our Angels have been adopted!!! Thank you all so very much!!! Gifts are due back by Wednesday, December 12th. I will be taking them to Head Start on Thursday. If you would like a gift bag to put all your goodies in, there are a few more outside my office door.

We will keep the Teddy Bear Tree up until December 19th. On December 20th, all donated stuffed animals will be taken to Manchester Police Department.

I can't believe that this semester is almost over!!! On December 19th, the youth will be Finding the Party. We'll have our Christmas party that night and will not meet again until January 6th. For the Christmas party, we ask that boys bring drinks and chips and girls bring a dessert. We will be playing White Elephant gift exchange, so bring a gift worth no more than \$10 if you want to play.

Please pray for our youth as they finish up the semester. They have lots of tests, quizzes and papers due. They would really appreciate it!

Be Blessed!

Ami Shedd

We should seek to make the Lord's work a priority in our lives as we seek first God's kingdom and righteousness.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

MEMBER PRAYER CONCERNS

God's World & Our Nation

Terra Bingham; Allen Stone; Michael Starr; Cameron Wainright; Ashley Thames; Kelsie Ross; and all in the military service & their families.

McHann family	Jimmy Stephens	Faye & Ralph Jones
Susan Wood	Dave Owen & family	Matilda Locke
Bernice Thornton	Clay Riddle	Sharon Brown
Linda & Frank Langham	Jean Johanson	Connie Moore
Debbie Moffit	Jesse Overall	Brigitte Hendren
Harold & Terry Brown	Bob & Nellie Leonard	Jason Conrad
Wayne & Sandy (Patty McHann's parents)	Bob Balkenende	

Please keep our Nursing Home Residents and Homebound Members on your prayer list even though they may not be listed above.

Please let the church office know when you would like your name removed from the prayer listing.

Copies of the complete Prayer Concerns list are available at the Welcome Center counter.

I Will Support My Church With My Presence

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>December 9</u>
Sunday School	86
8:25 Service	--
10:55 Service	154

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	<u>Total of December 9</u>
Sunday School	65.00
Coffee Time	13.00
White Christmas	1,250.00
Memorials to Budget	230.00
Missions	1,750.00
Poinsettia's	128.00
Youth	120.00
One Day of Hope	25.00
Music	25.00
Required weekly	9,347.00
Budget Contribution	27,351.00
Year-to-date offering	423,912.00
Offering needed to date	458,003.00
(+/-) Difference	-34,091.00

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Building Checker

Week of December 16 Gary Nester
 Week of December 23 Eric Frantz

Coffee Time

December 16 & 23 Pam Riddle
 December 30 Ami Shedd

Altar Guild

December Brenda Bryan

Counters

December Richard Dix & Jimmie Bell

Greeters

December 16 8:25 Jonathan Shedd & Billie McEwen
 10:55 Dowe & Holly Jones
 December 23 8:25 Lois & Claus Thormaehlen
 10:55 Dowe & Holly Jones

Kitchen Monitor

December Judy Brooks
 January 2019 Patricia Anderson

Sunday School Greeters

December 16 & 23 Pam Riddle
 December 30 Doris Hendrix

Bakers/Visitors

December 16 Lois Thormaehlen
 December 23 Pat Cassady (Baker)
 Joane Cassady (Visitor)

Thank you for your service to Manchester FUMC!



Items to be put in the newsletter are due to the office no later than Monday at 3 p.m.; items to be put in the bulletin are due to the office no later than Thursday at noon. Thank you!

White Christmas Food Baskets – The Missions Committee plans to assemble 120 food baskets to distribute to those in need in our community. The baskets average \$25 each, and we thank you in advance for your support for this annual outreach project. Contributions will be accepted anytime during the month of December with designation for White Christmas. We also need help as follows: Friday, **December 21** at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we will set up the 120 boxes and put in dry goods. Saturday, **December 22** at 8 a.m., we will add cold items to the boxes and will begin distribution at 9 a.m. We appreciate the generosity of our church family in the past and look forward to reaching out to our community this Christmas season. Thank you!

Sallie O’Neal Anniversary Fellowship will have their December meeting Monday the 17th at the home of Debra Thorington. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. (note time change). Please bring 5 Christmas cards and your favorite finger food. All ladies are welcome to join us for this festive Christmas fellowship.

Memorials

A gift to the One Day of Hope in memory of Josephine Smoyak was given by Maggie Smith.

A gift to the General Fund in memory of Josephine Smoyak was given by Earl & Mattie Lee Eaton AND Jerry & Sue Reid.

A gift to the General Fund in memory of Ruth Jones was given by Earl & Mattie Lee Eaton, Max & Judy Hester, AND Jerry & Sue Reid.

A gift to the General Fund in memory of Carol Henry was given by Pat & Joane Cassady.

**December 9th was a great day in the life of the church. Our Adult Choir blessed the congregation with a spirited musical cantata that was especially inspiring. Our children led worship as they read the liturgy for the lighting of the Advent Candle. And then your response and generous offering were additional blessings. Budget giving was \$27,351 which really helped to make up some of the short fall. Thank you for catching up, stepping up, and giving to make the meeting of the budget within reach. We have three more Sundays left in this year. For those who have already helped, thank you again. Lets all pray for continued giving for our remaining Sundays and to end the year strong. This year our staff has done an awesome job of doing ministry on a shoe-string budget. They have and will continue to stretch every ministry dollar as much as possible, your generous giving will help them to accomplish more.

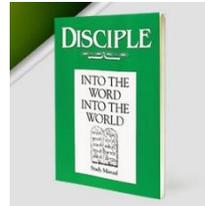
Thank you!

Finance Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Men’s Chorus will NOT meet again until after the New Year.

The Sanctuary Choir will meet for rehearsal this coming Wednesday, December 12th, at 7:15 p.m. in the church Sanctuary. THANKS to the choir for a wonderful presentation of the Christmas cantata this past Sunday!



DISCIPLE 2 BIBLE STUDY- Participants in the Disciple 2 Fast Track Bible Study are reminded that we will NOT be having class for the next three Sundays. We resume our study of the Bible on Sunday, January 6 at 3:30 p.m. in

room 219.

The **Casual Chess Club** will meet at 5:30 pm in room 218 every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE – You’re invited to attend our annual Christmas Eve Communion Service, Monday, December 24, 5:30 p.m. here in the Sanctuary. Special Music is being planned as well as a great message from Pastor Randy. And we will share in the Lord’s Supper together followed by the traditional singing of “Silent Night” as we light candles. What better way to usher in CHRISTMAS than to worship together?!

Just about ANYTHING you need to know about the mission and ministry of Manchester First UMC can be found at our website, www.manchesterfirst.org! Download the “Mid-Week Visitor,” audio and video of sermons and children’s sermons, link to other important web sites and even find help for those who need it. Check out our website today!

And don’t forget about our **church APP** which is available for your smart phone on Google Play Store or Apple App Store! (Mobile MFUMC)

UMW & Wesley Wanderers – December 14, 2018 Luncheon at 11 a.m. at Patch Manor \$10 with dessert, \$8 without dessert – CASH ONLY
There will be no UMW or Wesley Wanderer meetings during the months of November and December at the church. Thank you!

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**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

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