



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

December 19, 2018

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

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



Wow, in less than a week we will have celebrated Christmas. In the meantime, let me share some important events with you.

On December 23rd, we will have our regular scheduled activities.

On December 24th, we will have our Christmas Eve Communion/Candlelight service at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

On Sunday, December 30th, we will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. since it is the fifth Sunday. Coffee time is at 9:30 and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Mike Giffin will bring the message that morning. No more golf lessons in the sanctuary, Mike.

We have had a great and blessed 2018 together and I look forward to what God has in store for us in 2019. Please don't forget to pray for the church staff, the church membership, and the mission/ministries of this congregation as a new calendar year begins.

Merry Christmas

Randy Brown



A NOTE FROM DANA...

Did you know that the Bible itself doesn't mention nor prescribe the season of Advent, but several theological themes are present in Scripture that encourage us to observe the season: A deep anticipation for God to redeem the entire world (Isaiah 7:14; 2:2-4); A longing for God's justice (Amos 5:24); John the Baptist's proclamation of the coming Messiah (Mark 1:1-7); the expected return of Jesus to consummate his kingdom (Matthew 24:3, 27, 37, 39; 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1

Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8, 9; James 5:7, 8; 2 Peter 1:16; 3:4, 12; 1 John 2:28).

Historically, The Synod of Saragossa in 380 AD declared that Christians should use the week before Christmas to be present in church meetings and to prepare, spiritually, for Christmas. Saint Gregory of Tours (490 AD) advised monks to prepare for Christmas: "they should observe fasting every day during the month of December, up to Christmas day" (Canon 17, Council of Tours). Finally, the Council of Tours (563 AD), the Council of Mâcon (581 AD), Pope Gregory the Great and Pope Gregory VII (1073-1085 AD) helped solidify Advent as a liturgical celebration for the Christian year. So, as we anticipate Christmas this year, know that we are a part of a great church tradition!

Grace and Peace,

Dana



Today, we looked at Luke 2:1-7 and the familiar moment when Jesus is born. Even though Jesus was born where the animals stayed, God took care of all the details. The Savior of the World was born, and God's compassion for us was on full display.

Bottom Line: God gave us the greatest gift. God had been planning a rescue since the very beginning. Jesus was God's greatest gift to make it possible for all people to be with God forever. Our Key Question today was: What are some ways you can give? When we experience God's life-changing compassion, we can't help but want to share that compassion with others. We hope our kids leave with an idea of how they can give and show compassion to others.

Mrs. Jackie

Jacqueline Connelly
jackiemconnelly@aol.com



I just wanted to thank you all again for all of your help with the Angel Tree. We had a lot of Angels and you guys went above and beyond to help make sure they had a good Christmas! A special thanks to Pam Brooks, Reesa Brown, the Hangout Sunday School class, Hangout Youth, Suzanne Smead, Bro. Randy Brown, Mark and Susan Yother, Jonathan Shedd, Judy Brooks, and Roger Weeks. Without the help of each and every one of you, this would not have been possible!



We are wrapping up 2018 this week with our Christmas Party Wednesday night. We're going OLD SCHOOL and instead of Finding the Party, it will be DESTINATION UNKNOWN!!! If you plan to meet us at church, please be here NO LATER than 5:30. We have asked that the girls bring some kind of dessert and boys bring a drink (2 Liter) and a bag of chips. We will leave from the church at 5:30. Who knows where we will end up and we will be back at 7:30. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a gift worth no more than \$10. I hope to see you there!!! This will be our last meeting for 2018!!!

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
Bill Jones		

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 16</u>
Sunday School	77
8:25 Service	71
10:55 Service	85

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	<u>Total of December 16</u>
Sunday School	49.00
Coffee Time	9.00
White Christmas	250.00
Memorials to Budget	170.00
Missions	750.00
Youth	130.00
Music	2,000.00
Good Samaritan	50.00
Wednesday Night Meals	38.00
Pastor's Discretionary	50.00
Required weekly	9,347.00
Budget Contribution	16,280.00
Year-to-date offering	440,192.00
Offering needed to date	467,350.00
(+/-) Difference	-27,158.00

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Building Checker

Week of December 23 Eric Frantz
 Week of December 30 Claus Thormaehlen

Coffee Time

December 23 Pam Riddle
 December 30 Ami Shedd

Altar Guild

December Brenda Bryan

Counters

December Richard Dix & Jimmie Bell

Greeters

December 23 8:25 Lois & Claus Thormaehlen
 10:55 Dowe & Holly Jones
 December 30 11:00 Anita & Ed Turner

Kitchen Monitor

December Judy Brooks
 January 2019 Patricia Anderson

Sunday School Greeters

December 23 Pam Riddle
 December 30 Doris Hendrix

Bakers/Visitors

December 23 Pat Cassady (Baker)
 Joane Cassady (Visitor)
 December 30 Beverly Smith (Baker)
 Debra & Jim Thorington (Visitors)

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!

****December 30 – One Service Sunday****
We will have one service at 11 a.m. this Sunday.

“My Sincere thank you to all who visited, sent flowers and/or made donations in my mother’s memory. My family deeply thanks and appreciates you! Love and blessings to all!!!”

Jack Smoyak



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

The office will be closed on December 24 and 25 for Christmas – Merry Christmas!!

The office will be closed on December 31 and January 1 for the New Year – Happy New Year’s!

Memorials

A gift to the General Fund in memory of Ruth Jones was given by the Upper Room Sunday School Class and Teri Christian.

A gift to the General Fund in memory of Josephine Smoyak was given by Ed & Tina Niederhauser.

A gift to the Pastor Discretionary Fund in memory of Dabney Owen was given by Maggie Beck.

A gift to the Pastor Discretionary Fund in honor of Dave Owen was given by Maggie Beck.

A gift to the General Fund in honor of the Ladies and Gentlemen who prepared meals for Bill & Ruth Jones during Ruth’s illness was given by Teri Christian.

ANOTHER GOOD SUNDAY

At the first of the month, we made a call and a plea as we let you know of our situation as far as our church finances were concerned. At the point of that announcement, we were over \$50,000 behind in our giving. We are elated to report and to say thank you for your generosity these last two weeks. You have cut the deficit in half in two weeks. Thank you.

Many of you have caught up and are catching up on your giving and some of you are digging deeper to help us end the year in a strong financial position. Thank you.

Because of your generous and faithful support, we now stand at a -\$27,158 instead of -\$54,316. Thank you.

We must finish strong and we know that this church will come through as we approach the finish line. Together, we will finish strong. Together, we will accomplish great things.

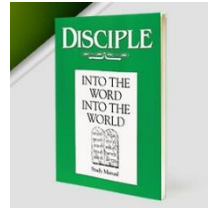
Thank you and bless you as you bless others,

The 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 remainder of December. 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)

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