



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

December 26, 2018

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

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



A NOTE FROM DANA...

What does December 26th mean to you? For many folks, it just means that Christmas is OVER. For some, that is a relief, but for a lot more it seems a little sad. We begin to take down our Christmas lights and decorations and take that tree down! But hold on! **There is a reason why Christmas is called a season.** It does not last for a single day. We have been preparing for it for four weeks, and the Church couldn't possibly start and end its celebration of Christ's birth in one day. After Easter, Christmas is the most important liturgical feast in the Church calendar. Why? Because Christmas is what made Easter possible. **Without Our Lord's incarnation and birth, our redemption would not have been brought to completion,** and there would be no hope for us in our fallen state.

But there's more. On the traditional liturgical calendar, **the Christmas season (also known as Christmastide) lasts 40 days.** It begins with the candlelight service on Christmas Eve, and ends 40 days later.

So while we may be taking down the decorations and beginning the countdown toward NEXT year's Christmas celebration, we continue to celebrate the birth of the Messiah well into the new year!

Grace and Peace,

Dana

First of all, I want to say thank you so much for all of the acts of kindnesses, gifts, cards, and goodies that you blessed me and my family with during the Christmas Season.

Secondly, I hope each of you had a special Christmas and a meaningful time with family and friends, and of course spent some time reflecting on God's great gift to us.

Thirdly, because of your generous giving, we as a church are closing in on our budget giving goal for the year. If you have not caught up yet on your giving, please do so this weekend. If you have caught up and God has placed on your heart to make an extra gift, thank you in advance for following God's direction.

Forth, remember that this Sunday, December 30th, we will have only the one worship service at 11:00 a.m. This is in keeping with our 5th Sunday traditions and our commitment to the radio broadcast. I look forward to hearing what God has laid on Mike Giffin's heart to share with us.

Fifth, January is Stewardship month, please be in prayer for Tommy Potuk and his committee as they lead us in this important endeavor.

Lastly, copies of the book, "For The Crown" written by your pastor will be available in the next couple of weeks.

Happy New Year,

Randy Brown



We finish our month on compassion in 1 John 4:9-12, where we read about God's great love for us when He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. John reminds us that no one has ever seen God, but when we show love to others, people see God through us.

Bottom Line: Love others because God loved you first. This week, we want to help kids connect their compassion to the source of compassion. We show love to others, not just because it's a good thing to do, but also because it's what God did for us and what God calls us to do for others.

Mrs. Jackie

Jacqueline Connelly
jackiemconnelly@aol.com



Hangout Youth are currently on Winter Break until January 6, 2019 with the exception of Sunday School. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I wish you the Happiest of New Years. I pray you have a blessed time with your family this holiday season.

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	Margaret Reed	Earl & Mattie Lee Eaton

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 23</u>
Sunday School	77
8:25 Service	63
10:55 Service	90

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	<u>Total of December 23</u>
Sunday School	61.00
Coffee Time	15.00
White Christmas	225.00
Memorials to Budget	20.00
Missions	1,830.00
Youth	338.00
Good Samaritan	2,550.00
Pastor's Discretionary	575.00
Required weekly	9,347.00
Budget Contribution	7,885.00
Year-to-date offering	448,077.00
Offering needed to date	476,697.00
(+/-) Difference	-28,620.00

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Building Checker

Week of December 30 Claus Thormaehlen
 Week of January 6 Ben Spaulding

Coffee Time

December 30 Ami Shedd

Altar Guild

December Brenda Bryan

Counters

December Richard Dix & Jimmie Bell

Greeters

December 30 11:00 Anita & Ed Turner

January 6 8:25 Judy & Max Hester

10:55 Dennis & Brenda Bryan

DECEMBER 26, 2018

MIDWEEK VISITOR

Kitchen Monitor

December Judy Brooks
January 2019 Patricia Anderson

Sunday School Greeters

December 30 Doris Hendrix

Bakers/Visitors

December 30 Beverly Smith (Baker)
Debra & Jim Thorington (Visitors)

Thank you for your service to Manchester FUMC!

****December 30 – One Service
Sunday****

**We will have one service at 11 a.m.
this Sunday.**

Memorials

A gift to the General Fund in memory of Ruth Jones was given by George White.

A gift to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Roy Worthington and Bryce West was given by Judy Worthington.

Honorarium

A gift to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in honor of The Browns, The Brooks, and their Staff was given by Judy Worthington.



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!!**

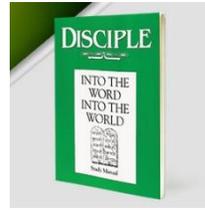
**The office will be
closed on December
31 and January 1 for
the New Year –
Happy New Year's!**



“Thank you for being faithful givers to our mission program. Your generosity has helped a local family enjoy an unexpected blessing this Christmas. Through our contact with Life Choices, we were able to help a family with four young children who would have “fallen through the cracks” this season. It is wonderful that we generously support families through the Angel Tree, the Teddy Bear Tree, our White Christmas baskets, and Wednesday night dinners. It is also important for us to find others that may not be aware of local help programs. Congratulations, you found one of the least of these this time and have made a difference!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE NO CHOIRS MEETING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.



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.

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)



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!

First United Methodist Church
105 Church Street
Manchester, TN 37355
931-728-4624
www.manchesterfirst.org
manchesterfumc@gmail.com
**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Manchester TN 37355
Permit # 46