



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

December 5, 2018

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

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



This has been another steady year in the life of Manchester First United Methodist Church. We have seen people come and go. We have many of the struggles a congregation that is getting older, yet we have the blessing of reaching out to the community and seeing the joy of children and teens from the neighborhood experiencing the love of Jesus in radical ways. Jackie Connelly and her team of volunteers are doing a great job with our children's ministry. Wednesday nights are a joy to experience and it is awesome to watch God at work in the children's ministry of this church. Ami Shedd has hit the ground running and unlike previous leadership changes in the youth ministry the program has not missed a beat. Ami and her ministry team are doing a great job. We are fortunate that she was willing to answer the call when Randa Brown departed for Broadway UMC in Paducah, Kentucky. The most exciting experience of the current year has been the way in which a group of twenty four people have worked, prayed, dreamed, planned, and are seeking to lead this congregation to be the BODY OF CHRIST in Manchester, Coffee County, and beyond. The biggest struggle that we face is financial, I think there are two practical reasons for this struggle. The first is that the grant money we received from the conference that helped us fund ministry with the Hispanic Community is no longer being received. The second reason is that in the last two years 2017 and 2018 we have lost twenty-six church members because of death. Many of these were very strong supporters of the church with their finances. We the current membership has got to step up and step out in faith with our finances. Most weeks I end the sermon by saying, "That's what the book says", and most of you respond, "and the book never lie's." The book talks about tithing, giving generously and in regards to giving and financially responsibility we can no longer just know what the book says, it is time to do what the book says. I am grateful to the leadership of this church for the efforts they are making to be the Body Of Christ and we must continue to run the race that is set before us.

Sincerely,

Randy Brown

A NOTE FROM DANA...

The celebration of the Advent season is not just something we do at church! There are ways for you to incorporate that celebration at home too! You might consider purchasing your very own Advent candles and light those candles at the beginning of each week. I can think of four "advents" in our lives that we can contemplate. 1. We want to be RENEWED in the sense that Jesus came to save us from our sin and we have made the CHOICE to follow Him! 2. We want to experience the presence of Jesus in our lives in the NOW. 3. We want to prepare for His Heavenly welcome when it comes time for us to leave this world and 4. We want to be cognizant of the promise of His SECOND coming! As you head into the Advent season, why not take some time to reflect on these "comings" that shape our future but also our daily living?

Grace and Peace,

Dana



We kick off the December with the greatest verse in all of Scripture, John 3:16. God loves the world so much that He wants to spend forever with us. That was made possible through Jesus!
Bottom Line: God did something about our greatest need. Jesus was God's gift to the world. We pray that kids start to understand their need for a Savior and put their trust in Jesus.

Mrs. Jackie

Jacqueline Connelly
jackiemconnelly@aol.com

DECEMBER 5, 2018



It's hard for me to believe that Christmas is almost here! It doesn't feel like we should be this close to Christmas and the end of 2018! As a teacher, youth director, mom and wife of a basketball coach, this is a tremendously busy time for me, but I enjoy it! I am looking forward to Christmas Break though!!!!

As of 4:22 pm on Sunday, December 2, there are still 8 Angels on our Angel Tree. Please consider taking one of these Angels. For our family, adopting Angels is a fun way to give back a portion of what God has blessed us with. We enjoy shopping for these kids together and picking things out. We fill the bags for our Angels with shoes, clothes, coats, and something fun. For a lot of these children, these are the simple things that they sometimes lack. If you take an Angel, please write your name next to the number on your Angel's stocking. There are gift bags located next to the Angel Tree that you can use to put your gifts in.

If you have any new or gently used stuffed animals we will gladly take them! Please place them on our near the Teddy Bear Tree that is located outside the church office. These stuffed animals will be taken to Manchester Police Department to be handed out to children in our community.

Hangout Youth continue to meet on Sunday and Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30. You are always more than welcome to come join us! We'd love to have you. Right now we are reading and discussing a book entitled The Circle Maker by Mark Batterson on Wednesday nights and finishing up a study of Hebrews on Sunday nights.

We are having our annual Hangout Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 19th if you would be interested in hosting our party please email me at amishedd@bellsouth.net. Have a great week!

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

MIDWEEK VISITOR

Susan Wood	Dave Owen & family	Frank Langham
Sabrina Gilliam	Bernice Thornton	Dorothy Bon
Sharon Brown	Clay Riddle	Don & Mary Rounds
Linda Langham	Donna McCluskey	Brad & Teri Edwards
Jeanette Taylor	Jean Johanson	Matilda Locke
Ava Brazelton	Jesse Overall	Brigitte Hendren
Marshall family	Lillian Nolan	Michael Garoppo
Harold & Terry Brown	Cassie Moreland	Jason Conrad
Wayne & Sandy (Patty McHann's parents)		Bob Leonard
Bill Jones	Pat Jones	Bob Williams
Larry Broadrick	Connie Moore	Bob Balkenende
James, friend of Suzanne Smead		Mary Frances Brantley
Dr. Tom Marcrom	Mike Childs	Betty Thames
Debbie Moffit		

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 2</u>
Sunday School	79
8:25 Service	58
10:55 Service	72

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	<u>Total of December 2</u>
Sunday School	61.00
Coffee Time	9.00
White Christmas	550.00
Memorials to Budget	295.00
Missions	845.00
Poinsettia's	312.00
Children's Ministry	50.00
Communion Rail	50.00
Youth	568.00
One Day of Hope	400.00
Required weekly	9,347.00
Budget Contribution	11,568.00
Year-to-date offering	396,561.00
Offering needed to date	448,656.00
(+/-) Difference	-52,095.00

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Building Checker

Week of December 9 Dennis Bryan
Week of December 16 Gary Nester

Coffee Time

December 9 Kay & Jack Smoyak
December 16 & 23 Pam Riddle

Altar Guild

December Brenda Bryan

Counters

December Richard Dix & Jimmie Bell

Greeters

December 9 10:55 John & Shandra Richardson
December 16 8:25 Jonathan Shedd & Billie McEwen
10:55 Dowe & Holly Jones

DECEMBER 5, 2018

Kitchen Monitor

December Judy Brooks
January 2019 Patricia Anderson

Sunday School Greeters

December 9 Lois Thormaehlen
December 16 & 23 Pam Riddle

Bakers/Visitors

December 9 Bobby & Topsy Layne (Bakers)
Anita Turner (Visitor)
December 16 Lois Thormaehlen

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!



Wednesday Night Menus

December 5: Homemade Vegetable Soup, Ham and Turkey Wraps, Fruit Salad. Dessert: Chocolate Pudding Cake

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. If you are aware of families in need, please have them sign up at Good Samaritan on Wednesday, **December 5** at 12:30 p.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!

MIDWEEK VISITOR



Please consider this year that when you are making your Christmas gift list, you remember the church and consider giving Manchester First United Methodist Church an extra monetary Christmas gift to help us end the year in a strong financial position.

We have gotten behind this year and need your Christmas gift to help us catch up and meet our obligations for the year.

Thank-you,

Finance Committee



It is time for Poinsettia's!!! They are \$8 each. If you would like to purchase one, please take an envelope in the back of the pew and put all money and who the Poinsettia is in memory or honor of in one envelope. Please have all orders to Suzanne Smead in the Church Office by December 7, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

In Deepest Sympathy – Michael Luke, husband of Genna Luke, passed away on November 29, 2018. Here is her address if anyone wants to send Genna a card: Genna Luke, 407 Olympic Drive, Martinsburg WV 25404. Please pray for Genna and her family.

Condolences: Judy Hester's Aunt Carol Henry (age 89 from Birmingham, AL) after a long fight with Alzheimer's, went to be with the Lord on December 2, 2018. The family wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns.

Memorials

A gift to the Pastor Discretionary fund in memory of Josephine Smoyak was given by Mike & Julie Giffin.

A gift to the Children's Ministry in memory of Ruth Jones & Josephine Smoyak was given by Wade & Ann Stevenson.

Memorials (cont.)

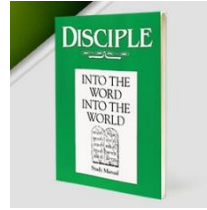
A gift to the White Christmas fund in memory of Dr. Charles Rogers, Josephine Smoyak, and Ruth Jones was given by Dennis & Brenda Bryan and Claus & Lois Thormaehlen.

A gift to the General Fund in memory of JoAnna McClanahan, Josephine Smoyak, Ruth Jones, and Bob Smith was given by Pat & Joane Cassady, Bud & Pam Riddle, Roger & Kimla Weeks, Charles & Patty Roberts, Jim & Debra Thorington, and David & Lucy Smith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Men’s Chorus meets for practice **each Sunday at 5:00 p.m.** in the choir room (room B19).

The Sanctuary Choir will meet for rehearsal this coming Wednesday, December 5, at 7:15 p.m. in the church Sanctuary.



DISCIPLE 2 BIBLE STUDY- Participants in the Disciple 2 Fast Track Bible Study are reminded of our next class this coming Sunday, December 9, 3:30 – 4:45 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.

“**GLORY IN THE HIGHEST,**” a Christmas musical by Marty Parks will be presented by our Sanctuary Choir, Sunday, December 9 at the 10:55 a.m. service of worship. The musical features a moving video presentation and skillfully arranged musical selections. The Sanctuary Choir invites you to celebrate the coming of the Messiah through music!

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!

First United Methodist Church
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