



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

December 6, 2017

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

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

Tis the Season!



What a wonderful kickoff to the Advent season we had Sunday! Thank you to the Sunday School Class who decorated the sanctuary on Saturday. It is so beautiful, the Nativity Scene at the rear of the sanctuary is such a blessing to see. In addition to the beautifully decorated sanctuary, there are lots of other things that I need to mention:

Angel tree gifts need to be returned by this coming Friday, Dec. 8th.

Dec 13 will be out last regular Wednesday evening activity for the semester.

Dec 17 we will have one worship service and the Adult Choir will present their Cantata.

Also on the 17th of Dec. you are invited to a Christmas Open House at the parsonage next door to the church from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

On the 24th we will have our regular schedule of Sunday events with the addition of the Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service at 5:30 pm.

On Dec. 31, which is a fifth Sunday, we will only have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Don Morris preaching.

Have a great and blessed Holiday and may your holidays be HOLY DAYS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Brother Randy

A Note from Dana:

It's hard to believe it but here we are once again in the liturgical Church season of ADVENT! Over the next few weeks I'll be sharing with you some "factoids" about this holy season.

The season of Advent developed in the Church over a long period of time. Advent is a time of expectation and preparation for the birth of the Lord. The word "Advent" derives from the Latin word "**adventus**," which means "coming," and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.

Advent has a changing start date, but it always contains four Sundays. It starts on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30) from the Roman Catholic tradition. It can begin as early as Nov. 27th or as late as Dec. 3.

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Advent was chosen to begin the year as representative of the time in history that Christ was not known to us. With His birth the beginning of our faith was founded. The *liturgical* year ends with the feast of Christ the King, which this year was November 26th and marks God's eternal reign over the universe.

So, as we enter this brand new liturgical year, and this season of Advent let's commit to be faithful to the Biblical heritage to which we witness!

Grace and Peace,

Dana



Thanks again to everyone who took part or whose child

took part in Sunday's services! I know as a parent you had to listen to those 3 songs on the CD more than you probably wanted, and you had to prep kids to read and such. Everyone's hard work was certainly rewarded Sunday!

This coming Sunday our Sunday school class will take a field trip to McArthur Manor with the youth to sing for some of the residents there and visit with them.

Our Wednesday night schedule has us taking Santa pictures on the 6th during class and the 13th will be our last class of 2017. The 20th there will be a church wide Christmas caroling event with a soup and chili supper that I would love to have the kids come out for.

There will be no classes December 27 or January 3. We will resume classes on January 10 when we will start talking about commitment. Thank you for everything you do to support the children's ministry here at Manchester First United Methodist!

Mrs. Jackie jackiemconnelly@aol.com

December 10, 2017



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT



I hope this finds you happy, well and getting excited about the upcoming Advent season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

All the angels have been taken from the angel tree. Thank you so much to everyone that took one. You are blessing a child this Christmas season. Please return the gifts to my office no later than Sunday, December 10, 2017.

Find the party is Sunday December 17, 2017. We will start at 4:30 and end by 7:30. Please wear an ugly Christmas sweater. We will be playing dirty Santa. If you want to play, please bring a gift under \$15 dollars.

On Wednesday night December 20, we will go Christmas caroling. This is a CHURCH WIDE event. Please make plans to attend and participate. We will have a youth fundraiser that night as well before we go caroling. We will have several different kinds of soups and desserts and drinks. Soups and desserts will be donated. We will have to-go plates as well. We will start serving dinner at 5 p.m. We will leave to go caroling at 5:45. After we return from caroling we will have hot chocolate and desserts and will have some time for fellowship.

As always thank you so much for allowing us to be on this part of your teenager's journey.

In the grip of HIS grace,

Randa

Looking Forward:

Dec 10 – Kingdom Kids sing at McArthur Manor

Dec 17 – Adult Choir Christmas Cantata at 11 – only one service on this day

Dec 17 – Open House at the Parsonage from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Dec 17 – Youth Christmas Party

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm

Dec 31 – 5th Sunday – One service & hymn sing with Don Morris preaching



Wednesday Night Dinner

Dec. 6: Meatloaf, with a baked potato (butter & sour cream), honey glazed carrots, tossed salad, roll, and fruit salad

Dec. 13: Your choice: homemade potato soup or tomato basil soup, grilled cheese sandwich, apple crisp and ice cream

Dec. 20: No Wednesday night meal. Youth fund raiser and church wide caroling.



Important Notice!

WHITE CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

The Missions Committee looks forward to our White Christmas food box ministry each year as we reach out to those in need in our community. We plan to assemble 120 food boxes that average \$25 each. Donations will be accepted during the month of December. We appreciate the generosity of our church family in this annual outreach ministry. We will start assembly of the boxes in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 15 at 3:00 pm. The boxes will be completed and distributed on Saturday, December 16, at 8:00 am. We thank you in advance for your monetary donations. We are looking forward to your joining us in assisting with this very special outreach ministry!

MID WEEK VISITOR – If you no longer want to receive the newsletter by mail or email, or if you have had a change of address, please call or email the church office.

Phone (931) 728-4624

Email: manchesterfumc@gmail.com

Handbells will meet at 5:00 p.m. next.



Thank you to the
Children's Choir, Mrs.
Jackie and Bro. Dana for
the wonderful performance
last Sunday.

DECEMBER 6, 2017



A Special
THANK YOU



Mrs. Matilda Locke called the church office to say that she really appreciated Jim and Debra Thorington serving communion at McArthur Manor this past Sunday. Mrs. Matilda hopes the Men's Chorus will come sing for the residence someday. She also wanted to let everyone know she loves you all and she misses her church family.

I Will Support My Church With My Presence

Attendance:	Dec. 3
Sunday School	85
8:25 Service	88
10:55 Service	102

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	Dec. 3
Sunday School	75.00
Missions	1,615.00
Good Samaritan	200.00
Coffee Time	33.00
Youth Fund	360.00
White Christmas	525.00
Poinsettias	401.00
Communion Rail – Pastor's Discretionary	67.00
Required weekly	9,106.57
Budget Contribution	12,810.00
Year-to-date offering	411,108.34
Offering needed to date	446,218.99
(+/-) Difference	-35,110.65

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Acolytes

Dec 10	8:25 Megan Fibelkorn
	10:55 Madison Miller
Dec 17	8:25 Natalie Fibelkorn

Building Checkers

Week of Dec. 10	Wade Stevenson
Week of Dec 17	Jim Thorington

Coffee Time

Dec. 10	Trish Anderson
Dec. 17 & 24	Alisa Mitchell

Altar Guild

December	Brenda Bryan
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Counters

December	Richard Dix
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Greeters

December 10	8:25 Ann & Wade Stevenson
	10:55 Faye & Jack Huffman
Dec 17	8:25 Melissa Leedy & Billie McEwen
	10:55 Faye & Jack Huffman

Kitchen Monitor

Dec.	Alisa Mitchell
Jan.	Mike Childs

Welcome Center

Dec 10	8:25 Beverly Smith
	10:45 Melissa Cope (10)

Bakers/Visitors

Dec. 10	Bobby & Topsy Layne / Anita Turner
Dec. 17	Lois Thormaehlen

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

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**Thank you for your service to
Manchester FUMC**