



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

December 13, 2017

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

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

I hope that you are enjoying this Christmas Season. This coming Sunday Dec. 17th we will only be having one worship service and it will be at 11:00 a.m. Our adult choir will be presenting their CHRISTMAS CANTATA. Then from 2:00-4:00 p.m. you are invited to a Christmas OPEN HOUSE at the parsonage next door to the church.

Dec. 24, we will have our regular worship services on Sunday morning then we will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion service at 5:30 p.m.

Dec 31, (5TH Sunday) one worship service at 11:00 a.m. with the Rev Don Morris preaching.

See you Sunday

Brother Randy



[December 13, 2017](#)



A Note from Dana:

Here are a few more “factoids” about the season of ADVENT:

The Advent season has two meanings. It emphasizes both the celebration of Christ the Messiah coming into the world in human form (as one of US!) and also, the second coming when the Lord will return again! It is a blending of both a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, (called the *Parousia*), and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event.

The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet, which symbolizes the repentant spirit. Mainline religious traditions associated with Advent express all these themes.

Perhaps the single most important reason we celebrate Advent is HOPE. Hope is a predominant theme of Advent. The Israelites hoped for a Messiah to come, and Christ entered the world. We are hopeful for the arrival of Christ again into the world at His glorious second coming! But we also hope for the peace of Christ which passes all understanding to permeate the hearts of every man, woman, boy and girl during a season when words and acts of kindness are a little more common! And you know, somehow, I believe this is true! May you and I experience anew the coming of Jesus in our lives.

Grace and Peace,

Dana



When talking to kids about Christmas, it is hard to steer the conversation from what they're getting to what they will give. One of the first words we learn is "mine", and it takes more than a month of Sunday School lessons on giving to discover the joy of it. It's part of being born sinful.

Paul, a pastor and church planter in the Bible, set an example for us in the way he loved and served the communities where he started churches. In [Acts 20:35](#), Paul tells a group of church leaders, "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" In everything — in his time, his words, his money — Paul did his best to pass on the lesson Jesus taught him: Giving is better than receiving. Teaching our kids about generosity isn't a one-time talk or Sunday school lesson. It's a value we instill every day, in everything we do. So, keep on doing what you're doing setting the example. It is working, even if some days it feels like it's working slowly.

Mrs. Jackie

jackiemconnelly@aol.com



One Day of Hope Update:

During the wrap up meeting for One Day the final volunteer numbers were released. There were over 600 volunteers from 83 churches and 11 cities who participated! Volunteers included folks from Murfreesboro as well as a barber from Cannon County who heard about the event and volunteered for the first time this year. What a blessing to have all these churches come together for one common good!



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

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, 2017. we will be going 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 soup and desserts and drinks. This will be donations. 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 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

Looking Back to 2007:

In 2007 we were tracking our invitational and loving contacts each week. Below is the contact report for the second week in December, 2007:

CLASS	INVITATIONAL CONTACTS	LOVING CONTACTS
Johnson Hall		12
Pilgrimage		12
Fellowship	14	
Outreach	2	6
5th & 6th		3
7th & 8th	1	2

Even though we are not tracking it is always a good idea to invite people to church activities and check on those who are sick or homebound.



Wednesday Night Dinner

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.

We will start the new year schedule for Wednesday nights on January 10, 2018.



Important Notices!

Only one service this Sunday due to the Sanctuary Choir Cantata.

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 p.m. The boxes will be completed and distributed on Saturday, December 16, at 8:00 a.m. 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!

****Love Offering for White Christmas will be taken at the exit of worship this Sunday, Dec 17.**

Bus/Van Drivers: There is a new form that needs to be signed by ALL people on the list to drive the bus or van. Please stop by the office or send me an email and I will forward the form to you. Your signature is needed on this form which will help to lower our insurance. Please help us to get this taken care of by the year's end.

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.

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DECEMBER 13, 2017

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I Will Support My Church With My Presence

Attendance:	Dec. 17
Sunday School	79
8:25 Service	53
10:55 Service	100

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	Dec. 17
Sunday School	51.00
Missions	50.00
Good Samaritan	50.00
Coffee Time	14.00
Youth Fund	10.00
White Christmas	925.00
Poinsettias	105.00
Required weekly	9,106.57
Budget Contribution	14,438.55
Year-to-date offering	425,846.89
Offering needed to date	455,325.50
(+/-) Difference	-29,478.61

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

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