



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

December 20, 2017

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

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

Yesterday the Adult Choir at our church did their Christmas Cantata. It was a beautiful musical. I was blessed and up lifted by their talent and sacrifice.

Not to be a scrooge but I woke up today (Mon., Dec 18th) thinking about how we romanticize Christmas. Sometimes it is as though the King came to a palace, that is where you would expect to find elaborate and sterile surroundings, all the things that we associate with the birth of royalty. But wait just a minute, that is not how Jesus arrived.

Jesus came to a stable, a barn, a back-alley sort of place. There were stinky, smelly animals, and it was a mess.

I am glad he came to a messy place? Why? Because if he came to a messy place a long time ago, that tells me that he will come to the messy places in my life. Do you have places and areas in your life that are absolute messes? Sure you do, we all do. The good news today is that Jesus wants to come there, to meet you there to renew, redeem, and restore those places that are stinky, smelly, and messy. Let him meet you there and experience new life in him. Amen

Merry Christmas!

Brother Randy



A Note from Dana:

What it all “boils down to” is *LOVE*. That’s what Christmas is about. God *loves* us so much that He sent Jesus to redeem us! Jesus then commands us to *love* each other. He even commanded that we *love* our enemies! The Bible says that **GOD IS LOVE!** Make no mistake about this. We live in a culture/world that has tried desperately to redefine what true love is. So much of what we call “love” is only temporary favor or at worst-lust. But the kind of love that Jesus gives is completely unconditional. There were no strings attached when Jesus hung on the cross for your sins and mine. It was out of His great love for us that He did that!

So, my prayer for you and me this Christmas is that we would continue to learn how to **LOVE** like that! Loving God, loving each other without condition! This is what true love is all about. This is what **CHRISTMAS** is about!

Pam and I pray that this will be a very blessed Christmas for you and your family.

Peace and Love,

Dana



Wednesday Night Dinner

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.



Take Note!

DECEMBER 20, 2017

MIDWEEK VISITOR



I won't be
here
Christmas
Eve to
deliver the
children's
sermon.

Mrs. Rachel is going to do it for me so I can go to North Carolina and spend the holiday with my husband's family. Mrs. Julie will have Sunday school covered. This is the sermon I would have given could have:

One of my favorite movies is "The Sound of Music." In that movie, there is a song called "My Favorite Things." Some of you may have seen the movie and you may know that song. If so, you will remember that the character named Maria, sings about her "favorite things." One of the things that she mentions in that song is "brown paper packages tied up with string." A package like this one. (Hold up the package wrapped in brown paper.)

On Christmas morning, we will wake up to find a lot of packages under the tree. Packages wrapped in brightly colored paper and tied up with pretty ribbons and bows. What if there was one package under the tree wrapped in plain brown paper tied up with string -- and what if that package had your name on it? Would that be the package you would choose to open first? I don't think so! After all, a gift is supposed to come in a beautiful package, isn't it?

You know, I think that is why a lot of people have missed out on the gift that God sent to them. You see, God's Gift didn't come in a beautifully wrapped package. God sent Jesus, His only Son, as His gift to us. His mother was a young virgin... his earthly father was a poor carpenter... he was born in a stable. Not a very pretty package, is it? But do you know what? It was the greatest gift the world has ever known. It was the gift of salvation and it had your name on it... and yours... and yours... and mine!

Merry Christmas! I hope you get everything you want, but if not remember that you have already received the greatest gift the world has ever known!

Mrs. Jackie

jackiemconnelly@aol.com



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

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 soups, desserts and drinks. Donations for your meal will be appreciated and used by the youth. We will have to-go plates as well. We will start serving dinner at 5 p.m. We will leave to go caroling at 545. 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



A gift was given in memory of Mrs. Johnnie Brown to the Music Department by the Sanctuary Choir.

A gift was given in memory of Mr. Tom Stamper to the Mustard Seed Ranch by the Sanctuary Choir.

A gift was given in memory of Allen Crick to the General Budget by Russ & Salley Mobley.

Gifts were given to our White Christmas in Memory of Mrs. Johnnie Brown, Mrs. Martha Overall and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Stamper by Dr. & Mrs. Ben Spaulding.

Christmas Fun to Share with Your Family

How many can you answer correctly?

Great News & a Huge Thanks!!

Saturday, December 16, Manchester First distributed 120 food baskets and 93 Christmas Angel gifts to people in need! Stuffed animals from the Teddy Bear tree were also picked up by the Manchester Police Department to be used when they are working with children in crisis situations. We appreciate your donations, gifts, Teddy bears and help in assembling the food baskets!



1. The name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol was?
2. What is the name of Tiny Tim's father in the story?
3. What did Frosty The Snowman have for a nose?
4. How many gifts would you receive if you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
5. In the song "Winter Wonderland", who do we pretend the snowman is?
6. In the movie "Miracle on 34th Street", a man is on trial for claiming to be Santa Claus. What convinces the judge to rule in the man's favor?
7. In the traditional song, "Go Tell It on the Mountain", what are you suppose to go tell on a mountain?
8. According to the song, "Frosty The Snowman" what kind of soul does Frosty have?
9. True or False: Joseph was the one that told Mary she was going to have a baby.
10. In the Christmas Song, who did I (the narrator) see kissing Santa Claus under the mistletoe last night?

Looking Forward:

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm

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

Jan 3 – No Choir

Jan 13- Wednesday Night Dinner and classes start back up

Answers: 1. Jacob Marley, 2. Bob Cratchit, 3. A button, 4. 364 presents! 5. Parson Brown, 6. The US Postal Service delivers mail to him, 7. Our Jesus Christ is born! 8. A jolly happy soul, 9. False. It was an Angel that told Mary the news 10. Mommy

DECEMBER 20, 2017



December 24, 2017

Susan Wood, OR CURRENT
RESIDENT
1205 Lincoln St.
Manchester, TN 37355-2617

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

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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	56.00
Missions	170.00
Good Samaritan	50.00
Coffee Time	16.00
Youth Fund	280.00
White Christmas	925.00
Required weekly	9,106.57
Budget Contribution	9,811.00
Year-to-date offering	437,177.89
Offering needed to date	464,432.01
(+/-) Difference	-27,254.12

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Acolytes

Dec. 24 8:25 Megan Fibelkorn 10:55 Elizabeth Miller
Dec. 31 Daniel Hawkins

Building Checkers

Week of Dec. 24 Frank Langham
Week of Dec 31 Ed Turner

Coffee Time

Dec. 24 Alisa Mitchell
Dec. 31 Mike & Julie Giffin

Altar Guild

December Brenda Bryan

Counters

Dec Richard Dix & Jimmie Bell

Greeters

Dec 24 8:25 Lois & Claus Thormaehlen
10:55 Dowe & Holly Jones
Dec 31 8:25 Kay & Jack Smoyak
10:55 Anita & Ed Turner

Kitchen Monitor

Dec. Alisa Mitchell
Jan. Mike Childs

Welcome Center

Dec 24 8:25 Jack & Kay Smoyak
10:45 Trisha Anderson
Dec 31 8:25 Ann & Wade Stevenson
10:45 Ed Turner

Bakers/Visitors

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

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

I Will Support My Church With My Presence