



# *The Midweek Visitor*

**First United Methodist Church**

*Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers*

**February 14, 2018**

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

**(931) 728-4624**

**(615) 521-3346**

I don't remember many times when Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday hit on the same day. We know that Valentine's Day is the day of love, where we express love to those closest to us. Our spouses, children, parents, and the list goes on. It is a day to express love.

Ash Wednesday for many in the Christian tradition is the beginning of Lent, a season of 40 days excluding Sundays where we are on a journey of repentance, reflection, self-denial, and preparation for Easter. Easter is about new life and we cannot experience new life unless we get rid of the old life.

I think these are tied together in an unusual way. Valentine's Day, a day of loving people. Many times, in our society we tend to love things instead of people. Things were never intended to be loved, but so often I hear people say, "I love my car." "I love my job." "I love my house." "I love, I love, I love...."

What does the Bible say?

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love you neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

If we claim to love, then we must from time to time examine our lives to see if we are giving it our all. We must examine ourselves to see if we have the proper objects of our love, or have we misplaced our attention and the object of our love.

Lent calls use to a season of self-examination as well. I hope you will join with me in considering a season of self-examination and listening to God to see and come to a new awareness of what growth opportunities he has for us this year.

Commit to loving God, commit to loving the way God loves, commit to loving the people God loves, commit to allowing God to love you and to take away the stain and the sin that is in your life.

See you Sunday,

Brother Randy



## **A Note from Dana:**

In his book "Your Father Loves You" author James Packer gives this insight into love: The Greek word agape (love) seems to have been virtually a Christian invention -- a new word for a new thing (apart from about twenty occurrences in the Greek version of the Old Testament, it is almost non-existent before the New Testament). Agape draws its meaning directly from the revelation of God in Christ. It is not a form of natural affection, however, intense, but a supernatural fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). It is a matter of will rather than feeling (for Christians must love even those they dislike -- Matt. 5:44-48). It is the basic element in Christ-likeness.

There certainly is something to be said about the familial love we feel toward our spouses or our children. But this Valentine's Day let's remember that true love exists when we love like Jesus does!

Dana

P.S. You may notice a former but very familiar face recently in our Sanctuary Choir and our Sanctuary Handbells. We are excited to welcome DENISE DIX back to our ministry of music! Denise has been away for some time serving another church but has recently moved back to Manchester. Welcome home, Denise!



Since we won't have class Wednesday night due to Ash Wednesday service, I would like to tell you about a lesson from the kindness month that we won't get to cover. That week's key question is **How can you be kind to people you don't get along with?** There are times when we face people who we feel don't deserve our kindness. Most likely, preteens have a list of people who they don't get along with and why those people don't deserve their kindness. But Jesus tells us to love our enemies. Through this question, we hope kids start to discover how they can show kindness to people who fall into this category.

This week's class looks at **Matthew 5:43-48**. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus expands the scope of who deserves our kindness. Not everyone will be kind to us; some may be quite mean to us. Jesus says that we should love our enemies and pray for them.

Bottom Line: **Be kind to people who aren't kind to you.** As kids discover what Jesus says about loving our enemies, we pray that your kids discover ways they can show God's love and kindness to people they might not get along with all of the time. They don't have to be best friends, but they can be kind.

I hope you have a great week!

Mrs. Jackie  
[jackiemconnelly@aol.com](mailto:jackiemconnelly@aol.com)



I hope this finds you happy and well. By the time that you read this I will be in Galilee, Israel. I am using this trip for spiritual growth and renewal as well continuing education. I'm excited about what God is going to teach me while I'm here. I am excited about how God will speak to my heart. We had a great weekend this past weekend at Warmth in Winter. Thank you for all the prayers and love. On Sunday February 25, 2018 we will be having a church wide showing of the movie "The Shack." We will serve dinner at 5:30 and the movie will start at 6. Please make plans to attend. This is an awesome movie. Yes, we will also have popcorn for your enjoyment during the movie.

In the grip of HIS grace, *Randa*



**2/20** Trustees will meet in the Parlor at 6:00 p.m.

**2/25** Movie: "The Shack" 5:30 p.m. – Open to everyone

**3/24** Easter Egg Hunt – the rain date will be 3/31 if needed.

**7/13-14** Vacation Bible School – *Polar Blast: Where Jesus' Love Is Cool*, where kids chill with new friends and warm up to Jesus – the coolest friend of all.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Sanctuary Choir will meet for rehearsal on Wednesday evening at 7:15 p.m. in the choir room.

The DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY is changing their meeting time on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 PM to **3:00 PM**. We will still meet in Room 219. Members please take note of this time change!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS continued:**

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

“Amazing Love-How Can It Be” Rehearsals for the Community Outreach choir’s performance of “Amazing Love, How Can It Be” have begun. We are practicing on Sunday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Trinity Baptist Church, located at 1513 McArthur Drive here in Manchester. Rehearsals are one-hour long. You do not have to be a member of a choir to participate. If you are interested, please see Dana for the music and companion products.

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](http://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).



SPRC is advertising for two positions for our Church staff, the Church Office Secretary and the Financial Secretary. Susan Yother has been serving in these positions and has notified us of her plans to resign from both positions. If you know of anyone interested or you are interested in either please contact the Church office or Jim Thorington, SPRC Chair.



The New Life Sunday School Class and Sallie O’Neal Anniversary Fellowship would like to share a project with you. We are collecting items to shower Manchester Extended Health Care Facility. There will be a box at the Welcome Center for items. The last day to bring your items will be Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The following is a list of suggested items needed:

Adult diapers, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, men’s disposable razors, baby wipes, wash cloths and towels.

Thank you for helping with this project!

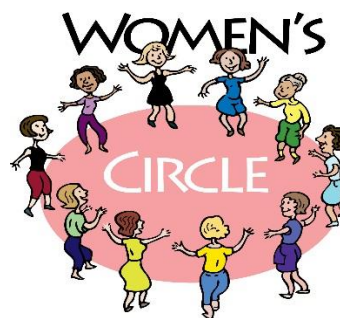
MIDWEEK VISITOR



### Wednesday Night Menus

**Feb. 14:** Baked ham, sweet potato casserole, green beans, roll, tossed salad/dressings and red velvet cake.

**Feb. 21:** Chicken tenders, french fries, baby lima beans, tossed salad/dressings & peach cobbler with ice cream.



Sallie O’Neal Anniversary Fellowship will meet Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM at the home of Marie Kimble. Please bring your items for Manchester Extended Health Care Facility. All ladies are welcome. If you need a ride or directions call Debra at 728-4187.

Here are some scripture references for you to read that define love. God gave us no better definition of love than in His son Jesus. Let’s communicate His perfect love at this time of year – and all the year through!

John 3:16	1 John 3:1	1 John 3:16
1 John 4:7-12	1 Cor 13:4-8	1 Cor 13:13
John 15:13	Romans 5:8	Romans 5:37
Eph 5:1	Eph 3:18-20	

**Because all that we have belongs to God, our goal in using that which belongs to him is to glorify God.**

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

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**I Will Support My Church With My Presence**

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>Feb. 11</b>
Sunday School	
8:25 Service	43
10:55 Service	84

**I Will Support My Church With My Gifts**

	<b>Feb. 11</b>
Sunday School	54.00
Missions	350.00
Good Samaritan	170.00
Coffee Time	27.00
Youth Fund	50.00
Music	50.00
Pastor's Discretionary	
Required weekly	9,726.44
Budget Contribution	5,115.00
Year-to-date offering	52,039.88
Offering needed to date	68,085.08
(+/-) Difference	-16,045.20

**I Will Support My Church With My Service**

<b>Acolytes</b>	
Feb 18 8:25	Natalie Fibelkorn 10:55 Elijah McCoy
Feb 25	Megan Fibelkorn Elizabeth Miller

**Building Checkers**

Week of Feb 18	Roger Weeks
Week of Feb 25	Jim Thorington

**Coffee Time**

Feb. 18 & 25	John & Shandra Richardson
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**Altar Guild**

February	Lois Thormaehlen
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**Counters**

Feb.	Mike Giffin
March	Mike Anderson & Brett Henley

**Greeters**

Feb 18 & 25	8:25 Deborah Blanton & Teri Christian
	10:55 Nicole, Addison & Chandler Carter
March 4 & 11	8:25 Janelle Burt & Ed Holland
	10:55 Allison & Brian Stacy

**Kitchen Monitor**

Feb.	Mary Rounds
March	Sue Reid

**Welcome Center**

Feb 18	8:25 Beverly Smith
	10:45 Dennis & Brenda Bryan

**Bakers/Visitors**

Feb 18	Lois Thormaehlen
Feb 25	Pat & Joane Cassidy

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