



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

February 21, 2018

Serving the people of Manchester since 1813

Senior Pastor, Rev. Randall T. Brown

(931) 728-4624

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This church is blessed with caring people. We have many folks who go above and beyond the call of duty in caring for the safety and well being of our community. The safety and security of our membership is always on the minds of our staff and the Trustees. You have probably noticed the change to the windows at the front entrance to the sanctuary.

Also, we are going to be asking for your cooperation as it relates to entering the building on Sunday mornings. This is going to take some getting used to and maybe some adjustment on your part. The main thing that we are asking is that you enter the sanctuary through the doors closest to the parsonage and nearest the ramp. Also, you can use the door by the kitchen for those of you who park in the rear parking lot. We will try to have greeters at both doors on Sunday mornings, fifteen minutes before each activity and five minutes after the start time for each activity.

Also, on the night of Feb. 27th at 6:30 p.m. we will have an informational meeting for greeters, ushers, and all interested parties who would like to talk about safety concerns and issues.

See you Sunday,

Brother Randy



A Note from Dana:

I came across this very old poem (circa 1937) written by an author named R. L. Sharpe. I thought you might enjoy reading and reflecting on it!

A Note from Dana cont.:

“Isn't it strange that princes and kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings
And common folk like you and me
Are the builders of eternity.

To each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass and a book of rules;
And each must make, ere time is flown,
A stumbling-block or a stepping-stone!”

Dana

Stewardship Lesson Two – Applying Bible Principles

When he was president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Gordon MacDonald said, “One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us.”

We own nothing. We have been given material means to use, but not to own. All that we have belongs to God. God is our Source according to Psalm 62:5. We are only managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

Because all that we have belongs to God, and because he gives us the ability to obtain wealth, every spending decision is in reality a spiritual decision. According to First Corinthians 10:31, our constant goal must be to glorify God in all of life, including how we use his resources.

Stephen Olford wrote this: “. . . man's chief end is 'to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.' We are to glorify God by our worshipful praise (Psalm 50:23). We are to glorify him by our consistent fruitbearing (John 15:8). We are to glorify him by our spiritual unity (Rom. 15:6). We are to glorify him by our entire dedication (1 Cor. 6:20). And we are to glorify him by our good works (Matt. 5:16). In this last category is included the matter of giving. Only in this way can we provide for 'honest things in the sight

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Bible Principles cont.:

of the Lord.' The glory of God should motivate us to give and to give our best."

If our goals and ambitions are truly set on spiritual things, if our emphasis in life is to glorify God, we will use the funds he has "loaned" to us on a temporary basis to glorify him. We will put his money and possessions to good use by giving to his work and by storing up "treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:19-21).

There are two key questions to be asked concerning money and possessions: First, are you glorifying God in how you are using the money and possessions God has entrusted to you? And second, are you viewing these things as yours or as God's?



This Wednesday night we will ask the Key Question: **When is it hard to be kind?** If we're completely honest, we encounter situations when we don't feel like being kind. Our kids are starting to understand how to think about what they do and don't want to do. We hope they can work through the difficulties they face when showing kindness when they don't want to show kindness. If they can identify when it's hard to be kind, they can figure out a plan to help them show kindness anyway.

In **Ruth 1 and 2**, we find Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth. Their husbands have died, and Ruth has the opportunity to return home to her family. Instead, she chooses to show kindness to Naomi and stay with her. Ruth's kindness doesn't go unnoticed. Boaz notices how Ruth is caring for her mother-in-law. He goes above and beyond to care for Ruth and completely changes her life.

Bottom line: **Be kind to your family and friends.** When it comes to our family and friends, we often find ourselves taking them for granted. We hope through the story of Ruth, kids will learn to show kindness to those we care about most.

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Remember our Easter Egg hunt will be Saturday, March 24 (if it rains we will reschedule for March 31). I would appreciate it if you could donate some wrapped, non-chocolate candy for us to put in the eggs! Thank you for everything you do to support the children's department!

Mrs. Jackie

jackiemconnelly@aol.com



I want to say a BIG thank you to Reesa Brown, Ami Shedd and Holly Jones for taking care of the youth ministry and the kids while I am away for spiritual renewal and journey in Israel. I am so blessed to call you my friends and to be doing life with you but to also serving in ministry with you. I love you.

We are now making sure that we have the names of all the high school graduating seniors for the Class of 2018. If you know of one please let me know by March 1, 2018.

Don't forget that on February 25 we will be having a church wide movie night featuring "The Shack". We will have dinner at 5:30 and the movie will start at 6. We will be serving lasagna, salad and all the fixings. We will of course have popcorn during the movie. Please make plans now to attend.

As always, I have an open-door policy and will be happy to discuss any issue or concern you have.

Thank you for allowing us to be on this part of your teenager's journey, please know that I count it an honor and blessing.

In the grip of HIS Grace, *Randa*

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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 will meet this coming Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in Room 219.

"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.

The **WESLEY WANDERERS** will be meeting this coming Thursday, February 22nd at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our program this month is being presented by KARLA CHILDS and features a presentation highlighting her recent ministry trip to Poland. A covered dish lunch will follow. Everyone is invited!

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).

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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.

FUMC trustees are working hard to secure the church during the times it is in use. Accomplishing this successfully will require a little effort from everyone with minimal inconveniences. There will be a meeting Tuesday, February 27, in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The trustees will clarify their plan to prevent harmful persons from "entering" the church followed by questions and suggestions toward any improvements in the plan. Manchester Police representatives then will address strategies should a harmful person "get into" the church. Your attendance at the meeting is vital to the success of these actions. All greeters, committee chairpersons, hosts of any events and interested persons should attend. It should not be a long meeting, while being a most important one for all.



Wednesday Night Menus

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

Feb. 28: Homemade meatloaf, baked potato half, broccoli casserole, roll, tossed salad/dressings & peach cobbler with ice cream.



The **Day Group of UMW** will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 27 in the Parlor. The program will be our annual Prayer and Self Denial. Mattie Lee Eaton will conduct the program. All ladies of the church are invited. See you



there!

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).

Did you lose your keys? A set was left in the office Sunday. Please stop by the church office if you misplaced yours.

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MIDWEEK VISITOR

I Will Support My Church With My Presence

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Feb. 18</u>
Sunday School	90
8:25 Service	62
10:55 Service	86

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	<u>Feb. 18</u>
Sunday School	63.00
Missions	350.00
Good Samaritan	50.00
Coffee Time	18.00
Youth Fund	280.00
Music	
Pastor's Discretionary	
Required weekly	9,106.57
Budget Contribution	5,915.00
Year-to-date offering	57,954.88
Offering needed to date	77,811.52
(+/-) Difference	-19,856.64

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Acolytes

Feb 25	8:25	Megan Fibelkorn	10:55	Elizabeth Miller
March 4		Natalie Fibelkorn		Elijah McCoy

Building Checkers

Week of Feb 25	Jim Thorington
Week of March 4	Troy Rose

Coffee Time

Feb. 18 25	John & Shandra Richardson
March 4 & 11	Kay & Jack Smoyak

Altar Guild

February	Lois Thormaehlen
March	Kay Smoyak

Counters

Feb.	Mike Giffin
March	Mike Anderson & Brett Henley

Greeters

Feb 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 25	8:25	Tommy & Sarah Potuk
	10:45	Nancy Daniel

Bakers/Visitors

Feb 25	Pat & Joane Cassidy
March 4	Jim & Debra Thorington

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

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