



The Midweek Visitor

First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to lead persons to Christ and disciple believers

March 7, 2018

(931) 728-4624

(615) 521-3346

Serving the people of Manchester since 1813

Senior Pastor, Rev. Randall T. Brown

Inspiring Stewardship

As I look at my calendar it is March. For you basketball fans March Madness is finally here. March is the beginning of spring; new life is all around us.

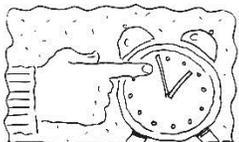
Here are a few things ahead of us in the month of March.

- March 11 daylight savings time begins
- March 22 and 23 Community Wide Easter Cantata
- March 24 Church wide/ Community Easter Egg Hunt
- March 25 Palm Sunday
- March 26-30 Holy Week and Spring Break for local schools. Noon Service at First Presbyterian Church.
- March 29 Maundy Thursday: Meal at 6 pm, Service at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- March 30 Good Friday Service Noon at St. Bede's Episcopal Church
- April 1 EASTER SUNDAY that's no April fool hoax. Sunrise service at 6:30 am and Breakfast at 7 am prepared by the Youth of the Church. The rest of the day is on regular schedule. Communion in the Chapel.

Please take the month of March with all of its special and regular opportunities and invite your unchurched friends, relatives, and neighbors to join you at the Father's House.

See you Sunday,

Brother Randy



SET YOUR CLOCKS

Ahead!

Daylight Savings time begins March 11, 2018

Be sure to set your clocks ahead 1 hour Saturday night so you won't miss anything Sunday morning.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

We are continuing into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled, "Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace."

First, God owns everything! As Psalm 24:1 states clearly, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." Second, our responsibility is to manage that which belongs to God.

What kinds of things belong to God? Certainly our time is a gift from our Heavenly Father that is given to everyone equally. How we use our time is what makes the difference for this life and for eternity. Some will squander their time by giving priority to activities that carry little impact for eternity. Others will invest their time wisely for God's glory and for the good of others.

Our talents are also gifts from God. Not everyone receives an equal amount of talents or abilities, but all of us can excel at something. Some are called to a public ministry. Others are called to a less visible role in the ministry and work of the church. But all of us are given talents and abilities which can be used for God's glory and to strengthen the Gospel outreach here at First United Methodist.

The question is not whether we can do something for the Lord. The question is if we will use our talents and abilities to serve God. Unfortunately, many times, we offer excuses to avoid serving the Lord. Stop and think about it: 80% of the work in most churches (including our church) is done by 20% of the people. The rest have made other activities a priority for their time and talents.

As one of the "Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace", will you go against that trend by making a commitment to use the time and talents that have been given to you to make a difference in the ministry and outreach of our church? Remember, as one of those to whom God has entrusted time, talents and treasure, God is counting on you.

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A NOTE FROM DANA...

During the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, sentenced a soldier to be shot for his crimes. The execution was to take place at the ringing of the evening curfew bell. However, the bell did not sound. The soldier's fiancé had climbed into the belfry and clung to the great clapper of the bell to prevent it from striking. When she was summoned by Cromwell to account for her actions, she wept as she showed him her bruised and bleeding hands. Cromwell's heart was touched and he said, "Your lover shall live because of your sacrifice. Curfew shall not ring tonight!"

There was a time in human history when the "bell was about to chime" for the sins of humanity. A gracious Savior stepped in to take your place and mine and sacrificed not only His hands and feet but His very life. At the very precise moment in history God offered himself as the great sacrificial lamb to die for our sins.

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gifts of life and of reconciling love!

I pray that you experience it anew – again – this Lenten season.

Grace and Peace,

Dana



Wednesday night we will be talking about peace. This week's key question is, "Why is it so hard to give up what you think is fair?" Fairness is a big deal to preteens. It's often their biggest complaint when something doesn't go their way. As kids start with this question, they'll discover how God thinks about fairness and how they can be more willing to let go of what they think is fair. We start the month in Genesis 13:5-18, God blessed Abram and his nephew, Lot, with a large amount of flocks and herds, so many that the

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land they were on couldn't sustain all of them. The workers on each side were not getting along. Abram and Lot knew it was time to separate. Although God had promised Abram the land of Canaan and had a right to take whatever he wanted, Abram allowed Lot to choose first. Abram let go of the best land in order to make peace with his family.

Bottom Line: Prove you care more about others by letting go of "what's fair." Sometimes choosing peace means letting go of what we want or our perception of ourselves. Preserving the relationship is more important than protecting our own sense of fairness.

Thank you to everyone who has donated candy so far at the visitor's center! We're looking forward to our Easter egg hunt March 24th at 11:00 am!

Mrs. Jackie

jackiemconnelly@aol.com



I hope this finds you happy and well. I'm thankful for the sunshine. We are in the middle of the Bible study that goes with the movie God's Not Dead 2. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. We have several kids facing many issues that are heartbreaking.

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 Randa know by March 1, 2018. As always, I have an open-door policy and will be happy to discuss any issue or concern you may have.

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

In the grip of HIS Grace,

Randa

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Easter Egg Hunt - 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 (Chocolate melts!) for us to put in the eggs! Please put your donations in the box in the bunny box near the Welcome Center. Thank you!

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

We asked our SONGLAND CELEBRATION SERAPHIM choir what they were giving up for Lent. Come this Sunday and watch the video response!

Don’t forget the SONGLAND CHOIRS are meeting this Wednesday night at 6:15 PM.

The Sanctuary Choir will meet this Wednesday evening at 7:15 PM in the choir room. The choir is working diligently on the Easter Cantata “Grace that Amazes,” which will be presented on Sunday morning, APRIL 15 (that’s the Sunday *after* Easter) at the 10:55 service of worship.

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).



Welcome to our new Church Secretary, Suzanne Smead. We are excited that she has joined the staff. You’ll see her smiling face in the Church Office.

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Wednesday Night Menus

March 7: Homemade vegetable soup, ham/turkey & cheese wraps, fruit salad and yellow cake with chocolate icing

March 14: Homemade spaghetti, french bread, tossed salad/dressings, orange dreamsicle cake



The Sallie O’Neal Fellowship invites you to join us as we “shower” the Mike Marshall family. A blue bin is located at the Welcome Center and items may be

placed here. Some suggestions include:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Toilet paper | Shampoo/Conditioner |
| Paper Towels | Toothpaste |
| Garbage bags | Hand soap/bar soap |
| Body Wash | Dishwashing liquid |
| Kleenex | Laundry Detergent |
| Dog/Cat food | Cleaning Supplies |

We thank you so much for partnering with us to reach out to this family in need as Mike rehabs from his stroke.

Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

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I Will Support My Church With My Presence

Attendance:	March 4
Sunday School	76
8:25 Service	65
10:55 Service	90

I Will Support My Church With My Gifts

	March 4
Sunday School	58.00
Missions	1,195.00
Good Samaritan	150.00
Coffee Time	.00
Youth Fund	.00
Music	
Pastor's Discretionary	29.00
Required weekly	9,347.00
Budget Contribution	5,860.25
Year-to-date offering	72,743.00
Offering needed to date	84,123.00
(+/-) Difference	-11,380.00

I Will Support My Church With My Service

Acolytes

March 11 8:25 Megan Fibelkorn 10:55 Elizabeth Miller
 March 18 Natalie Fibelkorn Daniel Hawkins

Building Checker

Week of March 11 Ben Spaulding
 Week of March 18 Ken Kimble

Coffee Time

March 11 Kay & Jack Smoyak
 March 18 & 25 Wade Stevenson

Altar Guild

March Kay Smoyak

Counters

March Mike Anderson & Brett Henley

Greeters

March 11 8:25 Janelle Burt & Ed Holland
 10:55 Allison & Brian Stacy
 March 18 & 25 8:25 Sarah & Tommy Potuk
 10:55 Betty & Jerry Watkins

Kitchen Monitor

March Sue Reid
 April Lois Thormaehlen

Welcome Center

March 11 8:15 JaNelle Burt
 10:45 Carolyn Norfleet

Bakers/Visitors

March 11 Kay Pratt & Frank Langham
 March 18 Roger & Kimla Weeks

Good Samaritan Workers:

March 19: Ben & Ann Spaulding, Lois Thormaehlen and Anita Turner

March 26: Marie Kimble, Max & Judy Hester and Mike and Karla Childs

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FEBRUARY 14, 2018

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