

April 8, 2020



Happy Birthday! Our Manchester First United Methodist Church family sends blessings and Happy Birthday Greetings to Mrs. Joan Jones. Joan will be celebrating her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on April 28. Many of you will remember when Joan and her late husband Milton attended FUMC. Both were very active members in the ministries of our church. Happy Birthday Joan!

If you would like to send a card, Mrs. Jones address is:  
2416 Ridgeland Drive  
Nashville TN 37214

**\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\***

This week we are introducing a new avenue for staying in touch with the members and friends of Manchester FUMC. Thanks to Tommy Potuk we are in the process of setting up our new phone call, phone tree system, and texting system. Hopefully, you will get a call and/or text from the church office this week. The voice you hear on the other end of the line will be mine. We/I will always try to provide you with important information related to the church on each and every call. If you don't get a call this week, please call us and leave a message - we may not have a correct phone number for you.

Talk with you soon,

Randy

Don't forget to watch our Easter Worship video this coming Sunday, April 12! It will be on Facebook on Sunday morning (you can actually watch it anytime! Just go to Facebook and search for Manchester FUMC Stream) and also the audio portion will be available on WMSR radio (107.9 FM) at 11:00 AM!  
Dana

*The Midweek Visitor*

**First United Methodist Church**

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

**April 8, 2020**

**Serving the people of Manchester since 1813**

**Senior Pastor, Rev. Randall T. Brown**

**(931) 728-4624 Office Phone Number (615) 521-3346 Senior Pastor's Phone #**



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Hello Church Family

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and for the safety of both our church family and staff, Manchester FUMC has closed our offices to the public from April 6 until further notice. Staff will still be working either in the office or remotely and will respond to both emails and phone calls on a timely basis.

We have several options for you to continue your financial support during this time. Your best option is to mail your check to the church address [105 Church St, Manchester TN 37355] . If you have key fob access, you may utilize the Financial Secretary drop box, which is located on the wall next to the church office. You may also stop by the church, Monday-Friday, between 12 noon to 2pm, and ring doorbell. A staff member will open exterior door remotely and you may utilize the Financial Secretary drop box. Kimla will be checking multiple times throughout the week.

Manchester FUMC will work diligently to provide updates to you with information on our Radio Broadcast, Facebook Streaming, and other efforts to stay connected. For example, our Midweek Visitor will continue to be mailed and our website will continue to be a great source. We appreciate your understanding as we navigate these unprecedented times. We also are very appreciative of your continual financial support for Christ, his church, and the mission of the church.

In case of emergency, you can reach me at 931-841-4449. Otherwise, please leave a message at 931-728-4624.

Randy



**A NOTE FROM DANA...**

A few years ago, American sociologist and pastor Tony Campolo wrote a book entitled "It's Friday, But Sunday's Coming." The book was based on a sermon the author heard from an elderly African American pastor. It's pretty easy to see the spiritual application of this book title. Our Lord was crucified on Friday - but Sunday was coming! The story of that first Easter resonates with the truth of God's love and desire to be in fellowship with fallen creation and reminds us of God's great power. We reaffirm this great gift of God every time we observe Holy Communion. "Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; *that proves God's love toward us.* In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!" In this time of unprecedented global health crisis, we can take courage that we have an unprecedented HOPE in Christ. We will get through this. It may be "Friday," but Sunday is ON THE WAY! I believe this with all my heart. So, as we prepare to celebrate EASTER in a few days (in a way that we have NEVER done before!) please remember that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." And the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead is the SAME power that will help us get through the pandemic! In that context, let's continue to pray that America will be healed (physically and spiritually).

Grace and Peace,  
Dana



We start off the month in Matthew 26:36-56. Jesus had been with His disciples at a special Passover meal where He demonstrated service and humility as He washed their feet. Afterwards, Jesus lead them the garden to watch and pray. Jesus gave us an important lesson in humility as He prays to His Father, "Not my will, but Your will." Jesus was soon arrested and put on trial to humbly face the darkest moments of His life.

First United Methodist Church  
105 Church Street  
Manchester, TN 37355  
931-728-4624  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE  
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**Nonprofit Organization**  
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Manchester TN 37355  
**Permit # 46**

April 8, 2020

**Bottom Line: Put others first.** As we look at some of Jesus’ last interactions with His closest followers, we pray that kids will understand the importance of putting others first. This isn’t always our initial response, but when we choose to show humility and put others first, we get to point others to Jesus.

Jackie Connelly  
[jackiefromchurch@outlook.com](mailto:jackiefromchurch@outlook.com)

**Hang Out Events**

We are still doing Zoom calls on Sundays and checking in with the youth through the week in order to stay connected.

This week our devotion was on reluctant obedience. Teens are experts at this! But some of our OT heroes were too. Jonah was told to go to Nineveh and ran as far as he could from God (Jonah 1). Moses experienced God at the burning bush but had excuses as to why he couldn’t do what God was asking him to do (Exodus 3). Truth is, we’re all reluctantly obediently at times. Teens show this when they roll their eyes or stomp off. I’m sure if your kids are older, you remember it! God is calling us all to be obedient, and like Governor Lee, sometimes God has to tighten the reins and reel us in. Governor Lee did that with us this week when we went from being “safer at home” to being told to “stay at home”. See, we’ve all participated in reluctant obedience! This is a great time for us to evaluate our lives and see what changes we need to make. Maybe there are things we need to cut out of our lives because they aren’t quite as important as we thought they were before all this craziness began. Maybe we say “yes” too often and have too many irons in the fire causing us to stay too busy. If you’ve never had a personal relationship with God because you just didn’t have time, that’s about all we have right now! Use this time to begin reading your Bible and praying on your own. See what God is calling you to do and ask Him to prepare yourself to be ready to do it when we can leave our homes again!

Be Blessed

Ami Shedd  
[manchesterfumchangoutyouth@gmail.com](mailto:manchesterfumchangoutyouth@gmail.com)  
(931) 409 – 0657

<b>I Will Support My Church With My Presence</b>	
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>April 5</b>
Sunday School	18 via Zoom
Facebook Live	132 views
<b>I Will Support My Church With My Gifts</b>	
<b>Total of April 5</b>	
Missions	25.00
Youth	826.00
Memorials to General Fund	325.00
Music	50.00
Good Samaritan	200.00
Required weekly	9,204.00
Budget Contribution	7,317.00
Year-to-date offering	125,157.00
Offering needed to date	128,856.00
(+/-) Difference	-3,699.00

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

**No “in person” worship Service until further notice.**

**Please watch Facebook Live at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday!**

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

Youth Important Dates:

May 17 - Senior Sunday  
June 28 - July 3 - Group Week of Hope in Nashville- (High School only)  
July 12-16 - BigStuf

Memorials

A gift to the General Fund in memory of Jo Lynn Longstreth was given by Pat & Joane Cassady.  
A gift to the General Fund in memory of Jo Nell Riddle was given by Pat & Joane Cassady.  
A gift to the General Fund in memory of Ronald V. Short was given by Pat & Joane Cassady.  
A gift to the General Fund in memory of Catherine Marshall was given by Pat & Joane Cassady.  
A gift to the Music Fund in memory of Ronald V. Short was given by the New Life Sunday School Class and Jim & Debra Thorington.  
A gift to the Missions Fund in memory of Catherine Marshall was given by Jim & Debra Thorington.  
A gift to the General Fund in memory of Annarene Beckman was given by Jim & Debra Thorington.  
A gift to the General Fund in memory of Susan Wood was given by Jack & Faye Huffman.

Member Prayer Concerns

God’s World & Our Nation  
All in the military service and their families.

Mary & Don Rounds	Matilda Locke	Jon McHann
Sharon Brown	Sandy Matlock	Suzanne Smead
Sarah Marshall	Allen Niles	Betsy & Hursel Shanks
Evans Baird	Mason Phillips	Adam Luke
Tom Zimmerman	Paul Raser	Bob Truesdale
Frank Theaderman	Judy Starr	Bernice Thornton
Dorothy Bon & her daughter Becky The Connells		
Matthew Leversen (Leeann Leversen’s brother)		
Belinda Holman (Aunt Bea)	Troy Rose	Delwyn Fryer

**Please keep our Nursing Home Residents and Homebound Members on your prayer list even though they may not be listed above.**

**Please let the church office know when you would like your name removed from the prayer listing.**

**Copies of the complete Prayer Concerns list are available at the Welcome Center counter.**

How to connect and watch on Facebook live on Sunday:

- **Go to Facebook, search for “Manchester FUMC Stream”, scroll down until you see the video with Sunday’s date**
- **Go to the Manchester FUMC Website ([www.manchesterfirst.org](http://www.manchesterfirst.org)), click on the Facebook live link on the home page, it will take you directly to the Stream page**



**Wednesday Night Menu**  
**No meal until further notice – taking precautionary measures for Coronavirus!**

**God wants us to use our resources as a means of Christian service.**

“...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24: 15).

Announcements

Our **Choir, Men’s Chorus, and Praise Team** rehearsals remain “on hold” for now. Please be patient as we all continue the new “social distancing” practices.

**DEADLINES** – Items to be put in the newsletter are due to the office no later than Monday at 3 p.m.; items to be put in the bulletin are due to the office no later than Thursday at noon. Thank you!

**POSTAGE DUE** – The post office charges us every time we get a newsletter returned to us due to the addressee moving without notifying our office. Please let us know when you move or change your address. Thank you!

**IN CASE WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU** – Please notify the office with updated phone numbers so we can get our records up to date in case we need to contact you. Thank you!

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, links to other important web sites, and even find help for those who need it. Check out our website today!



Prayers for the family of Eric McAlister, 28, who died suddenly on March 29 at his home in Murfreesboro, TN. He was the son of Teresa Freeman Cravens and Keith McAlister and the grandson of long-time members of Manchester FUMC Obie and Mildred Freeman. The family plans to announce a Celebration of Life event at a later time when circumstances permit. Central Funeral Home in Manchester is in charge of cremation.

**Maundy Thursday service has been cancelled!**