

MANCHESTER BULLETIN

The Manchester
church of Christ

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Manchester, NH 03109

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mhtchurch.org

DECEMBER 22, 2024

CALL TO WORSHIP	Danny Campbell
SONG LEADER	Matt Saulnier
202	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
290	Shine, Jesus Shine
517	Heaven Came Down
SCRIPTURE	Gerry Millette
VERSE	Luke 2:8-12
SERMON	Danny Campbell
945	Kneel at the Cross
962	Were You There
LORD'S SUPPER	Mike Girling
CLOSING PRAYER	Freddie Hillhouse
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Barry Fogal
WORSHIP TECH	Alex Normandin
COORDINATOR	Gerry Millette

WEDNESDAY
EVENING

DECEMBER 25, 2024

SONG LEADER	There will be no evening service.
PRAYER	
DEVO	
WORSHIP TECH	

Minister

Danny Campbell: 804-223-2452

Elders

Barry Fogal: 603-326-8004

Gerry Millette: 603-315-1136

Deacons

Benevolence: David Skerry

Education: Doug Paul

Worship Times

Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM

Fellowship Time: 10:30 AM

Bible Classes: 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening: 6:00 PM

Tuesday Morning Ladies' Class:
10:00 AM

Wednesday Evening Devo &
Bible Class: 7:00 PM



FAMILY NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

DATES TO SAVE!

(More information in foyer unless otherwise stated)

- **Weekly Recurrence:** Tuesdays after Ladies Class: lunch & handwork fellowship; see Tracy M with questions
- **Monthly Recurrence:** 2nd Monday of the Month Ladies' (only) dinner - Longhorn at 5:15p
* * *
- **December 25 (Christmas day):** there will be no evening service
- **December 29 (Sunday): 6p:** Sing & Snack (bring snacks), followed by game time at **7p** (bring some games!)
- **January 5 (Sunday):** starting during fellowship time will be a Gander Brook Ladies Retreat meeting. There are lots of ways to get involved. See Kimberly or Margery for info.
- **January 29 (Wednesday):** 5th Wednesday Singing Night

Margery is scheduling Larissa's rides for the next 3 months. Rides are needed for Monday and Wednesday mornings to and from her English class on Dubuque Street. Even if you can only take her a day or two, it is a huge help!

The Cordaro's are moving! They are looking for any boxes that people may have extras of. Please see Darlene if you are able to provide any.

Wednesday night cooks are needed starting January 8th!
Sign up sheet is in the foyer.
Contact Linda C with questions.

Wednesday night suppers are ongoing!
Cost is **\$5 per person**, which goes directly to the cooks to help cover their costs.
(There will be no supper on Wednesday January 1st.)

A letter is posted in the foyer regarding Freed-Hardeman's nursing students medical mission.

- **Darlene C(hamberlain)** asks for prayers for **her family and her sister, Marsha**, who was recently placed on hospice care at the NH Veterans Home. She has been given 6-12 months based on her current health.
- Darlene C(hamberlain) recently met a young lady named **Melissa** at the NH Health & Human Services office. She is on permanent disability, is having to choose between eating and affording heat, and is struggling to get help from the state.

Updated Prayer Requests

- Alex thanks the congregation for all of the prayers for her sister. Her sister had her healthy baby boy Monday night. She has a long road of recovery, but both her and the baby are now home.

Continuing Prayer Requests

- Lydia's brother, **Andrew, and the family**
- Freda's son, **Bill**
- **Freda**
- **Penny**
- **Nelcy**
- **Cade** in his deployment
- **Lee**, Dave's friend

Kerstin will be sending a package (or several) to both Cade and his flight. Please see previous bulletins or speak to her if you would like to contribute.

The Coffee Fund is running low. Please consider feeding it! (There is a can near the coffee maker.)

December Budget Vs Contribution			
DATE	BUDGET	CONTRIBUTION	DIFFERENCE
12/1	\$3200	\$4233	+ \$1033
12/8	\$3200	\$3171	- (\$29)
12/15	\$3200	\$4149	+ \$949
12/22	\$3200		
12/29	\$3200		
Total	\$16,000		

Please remember:

- Any items for the Bulletin need to be sent to the church email by 7p on Thursday.
- Any items for the News & Notes need to be sent to the church email by 6p on Tuesday.

Please be sure to add mhtchurch@icloud.com to your address book - this should help your email recognize us as a trusted sender!

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

TRADITIONS, OLD AND NEW

When I was a youngster, my parents decided to ditch our “real” Christmas tree for a series of fake ones. The one I remember most wasn’t even green. The “leaves” were silver tinsel. The ornaments which came with the tree were color-coordinated, all the same shape and size and designed to match the branches. A spotlight with a rotating color wheel turned the tree into many different colors as it spun. Dad was very proud of it (though I think the real reason he liked that tree was the ease with which it could be set up). I remember it graced our big front “picture window” many Christmases in a row.

When Kimberly married me, we both had to adjust. But one adjustment I had to make was to accept “real Christmas trees”. Growing up in Maine as she did, she believed that anything but a “real tree” was, almost, sacrilegious (I exaggerate. A little). I held out against it for a little while, but as some say, “resistance was futile.” I capitulated.

For ten years our supplier was “Mel and Roni’s Christmas Tree Farm” in Richmond, Maine. They went to our church up there and most every December invited us to visit. We’d partake of Roni’s delicious Lemon Squares and talk. Then we’d go out among all their trees; choose the one we liked best; cut it down; and haul it back to our house, officially beginning “Christmas Season.” It was fun. It was heart-warming. It was free! It was a beautiful tradition.

But, eventually, Mel and Roni passed away and our children were “grown and gone.” Were we still going to deal with the mess and liabilities that accompany a “real tree”? We decided against it. Bought a nice green plastic

one. Set it up in a few minutes. And we were happy.

Until the kids showed up. “Where’s the real tree?!” they demanded. Turns out we had created a monster when they were young. A monster of expectations based on heartwarming traditions that, to me and Mom, didn’t matter as much as they had when we were raising the little ones. But according to them, those traditions still mattered. “You raised us on real trees,” they said. “What did you expect?” They made a good point. But we did not capitulate. They don’t hold it against us anymore. I think.

It sounds like church sometimes, doesn’t it? We have our experiences and expectations, based on those experiences. And our treasured experiences and expectations can tempt us to “ride roughshod” over our brothers and sisters who grew up differently. And if we aren’t careful, we find ourselves judging each other. This should not be.

When Jesus came, He challenged the unbiblical traditions of the religious leaders. Because He placed a higher value on people than on man-made traditions, He was at odds with them. Those who adjusted to the “new wine” Jesus presented were blessed. And those who loved their traditions more than the Master fell short.

Let us learn to follow the Master – even if doing so requires we de-emphasize our favorite traditions. Discipleship is more important. People are more important, too.

-Danny Campbell

