

Christmas Poinsettia Orders



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia this year, please complete the information below, tear off sheet, and place in the offering plate. The deadline is Sunday, December 13 for the orders. Cost is \$15.00 each. We invite folks to take the plants home after the service on Christmas Sunday.



In Honor of In Memory of In Honor of In Memory of
Name: _____

Total number of plants _____ x \$15.00 = Total Amount: _____

With love from: _____

Scripture Text for Today's Sermon

Malachi 3:1-5

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.

Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar —when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see God's salvation.'"

Phil 1:9-11

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.



MANCHESTER CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

218 Main Street, Manchester, CT • (860) 646-8599 • mcnaz.com

Welcome to Manchester Church of the Nazarene! We are delighted to have you with us today, as we seek to worship God, pray for one another and our world, and listen intently to whatever the Holy Spirit might say to us. Relax! Consider yourself among friends!

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Welcome Song and Welcome
(Children are Dismissed to Children's Church)

Advent Reading

Praise and Worship

Prayer

Announcements

Worship Through Giving

Investigating God's Word: Malachi 3:1-5, Luke 3:1-6, Phil. 1:9-11

Communion

Response to God's Word

An Out of the Box Christmas

Today is our last Sunday rehearsal, and Saturday is the dress rehearsal from 10:00—12:00. Please be here about 9:45 AM so your child can get their t-shirt on and be ready to start at 10:00 AM. Next Sunday, December 13, is the performance. Please have your child in the Children's Church room no later than 9:30 AM. Many thanks for all your support up to this point and your continued prayers.

This Week

Today

Sunday School	9:30 AM
Coffee & Conversation	10:30 AM
Morning Worship Service	10:45 AM

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Refresh	7:00 PM
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Thursday

Women Connecting After Five (Jane Brenner's Home)	6:00 PM
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Men's Celebrate Recovery

Teaching Night (Ken)	7:00 PM
Cross Talk Café	7:45 PM
Open Share Groups— Men's/Women's	8:00 PM

Friday

MCN Student Ministries	5:00 PM
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Saturday

Rehearsal—Children's Program	9:45 AM
Saturation Prayer	7:00 PM

Looking Ahead

Dec 13	Children's Program
Dec 15	MCN Board Dinner
Dec 17	CCS Christmas Concert
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service
Dec 31	New Year's Eve Party
Jan 2	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Jan 6	Wednesdays with the Wise
Jan 22	Soup and Substance

Financials		
	Tithes & Offerings	Missions
Received Last Week	6,957	703
Needed Weekly	9,601	768
Received Year to Date	325,942	24,499
Needed Year to Date	336,001	26,846
Surplus/Deficit	(10,059)	(2,347)

Activity Highlights

Women Connecting After Five—December 10 at 6 PM

Women Connecting After Five is a non-denominational outreach ministry of stonecroft.org and is a time to invite other women to a place where they can hear the Gospel in a comfortable, non-threatening atmosphere. After an interesting activity and a delicious dinner, the speaker will tell her story of what her life was like before she learned about Jesus and how her life has been changed by Him. Invitations with specific information are on the welcome tables in the Lobby.

New Sunday School Class Begins Soon—*The Battle Plan for Prayer*

Our Prayer Sunday school class is beginning a new book called *The Battle Plan for Prayer* written by Stephen and Alex Kendrick. It is inspired by the *War Room* film. We will begin this study on December 11. If you are interested in joining the class, please inform Jane Loftus ASAP to allow time to order books. The cost of the book will be \$10 or you can order your own e book from CBD. The class meets in the upstairs chapel.

Ladies Christmas Ensemble—December 20

All ladies who enjoy singing are welcome to join us for a special Ladies Christmas Ensemble. We will have rehearsals today and next Sunday following the morning worship service. The special will be sung in church on Sunday, December 20. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tonia Light.

Activity Highlights (Continued)

Christmas Eve Service—6:30 PM

Our Christmas Eve Service is planned for 6:30 PM. Please join us. The early start time is designed to accommodate children for this evening of carols and candlelight.

New Year's Eve Party—7 PM

At 7 PM on December 31, there will be a New Year's Eve Party at the church for families and friends. Bring board games and some snacks to share.

Announcements

Thank You!

Thanks to all of the folks who helped us rake leaves, pack and deliver thanksgiving baskets, gathered and donated the food for the baskets, and then cleaned up afterwards. Your ministries are so important, and your church family is deeply grateful.

Ministry Safe

As you know, protecting the safety of our children is of highest concern to us. Our policies addressing the screening of individuals who work with children require additional training every two years, which means most of our workers are soon due to update their training. MINISTRY SAFE is the name of our training program. If you receive an email from MINISTRY SAFE, it is because MCN or CCS sent this to you because the time for your update has arrived. You have about 30 days to complete the training. Watch your email for the training link from MINISTRY SAFE!

Nursery and Toddler Room Assistance

The nursery and preschool rooms are in need of additional helpers. Specific times when help is needed is as follows:

Nursery Room:

- 1st Sunday of the Month
Sunday School and Worship Service
- 5th Sunday of the Month
Sunday School and Worship Service

Preschool Room:

- 3rd Sunday of the Month
Sunday School
- 4th Sunday of the Month
Worship Service

If committing to a specific day each month is not feasible, but you would still like to help with this ministry, substitute helpers are always welcome. Please see Cindy to volunteer.

Weekly Meetings

Wednesday Night Refresh—7 PM

For this session of Wednesday Night Refresh we will be changing our format to a round table reading of Ezra. Come and be a part of what is sure to be a rich time in prayer, in the Word, and in discussion. We will purposefully take time to examine how we can apply the Word in our daily lives. Come be refreshed!

Celebrate Recovery— Men and Women—7 PM

Celebrate Recovery East of the River meets in the lower level of the McLain (aka Cornerstone) Building, Thursday nights at 7 PM. Stop struggling alone with hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Join with others on the road to recovery and spiritual growth!

This Thursday:

- 7:00 PM Teaching Night (Ken)
- 7:45 PM Cross Talk Café (coffee & with it)
- 8:00 PM Open Share Groups—
Men's/Women's

Additional information is in the Lobby.

Saturation Prayer—Saturdays at 7 PM

Jesus proclaimed that His House shall be called a house of prayer (Mark 11:17). With this one statement, Jesus "distilled down the purpose of God's house and meeting together of God's people to a central priority: believers getting together for prayer . . . As Jesus well knew, everything else that occupies the church's time and energy will be lacking in power and blessing and the fragrance of God's presence if prayer is not kept first" (*The Battle Plan for Prayer* p. 23).

Join us on Saturday nights at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.