

## This Week

### Today

Sunday School	9:30 AM
Coffee & Conversation	10:30 AM
Morning Worship	10:45 AM
Community Prayer Night (CLG)	6:00 PM

### Wednesday

MCN Student Ministries	6:30 PM
Wednesday Night Prayer	7:00 PM

### Thursday

Celebrate Recovery	6:00 PM
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(Please see **Weekly Meetings** for specific information.)

### Friday and Saturday

MCN/CCS Combined Board Retreat

## Looking Ahead

Jan 14	(Un)Decorating w/ Light Lunch
Jan 16	CR Step Studies Begin
Jan 19-21	Mission/Evangelism Weekend
Feb 3	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Feb 4	Four Chaplains Service
Feb 4	Community Prayer (SA)
Feb 7	Wednesdays with the Wise
Feb 14	A Sacred Assembly
Feb 17-18	GO Conference
Mar 3	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Mar 7	Wednesdays with the Wise

Financials		
	Tithes & Offerings	Missions
Received Last Week	\$8,386	\$489
Needed Weekly	\$9,000	\$525
Received Year to Date	\$293,600	\$19,476
Needed Year to Date	\$333,000	\$19,425
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$39,400)	\$51

## Tithes and Offerings (Continued)

The new Church app, available both in the App store for both iPhones or Android phones, makes giving easy. You can set up recurring donations or make one time donations. This is especially convenient during the summer months when you may be away from home, or when you might be unable to get to the worship services.

Regardless of how you give, the act of giving is a primary Spiritual Discipline. Giving helps us develop generosity of spirit, keeps us relying on the Father, and shapes our Kingdom priorities. Giving forces us to consider the needs of others in real time, as we trust God to provide all that we need. God knew that in order for us to develop properly, we needed to give. In order to value the Kingdom appropriately, we need to be bearers of the Kingdom. Embrace the discipline of tithing and giving as an act of worship. It will change your life!

## Sermon Notes

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14



## 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, January 7, 2018

Welcome Song and Welcome

Praise and Worship

Prayer, Response

Announcements

Worship Through Giving

(Children in Grades K-4 are dismissed to Children's Church.)

Investigating God's Word: Philippians 3:14

Communion

Response and Blessing

## Activity Highlights

### Community Prayer Meeting—This Evening at 6:00

Community Prayer Meeting, hosted this month by Church of the Living God (199 Deming Street, Manchester), will be this evening at 6:00. Please join us to pray for our community, our state, and our nation. This is part of a series of prayer meetings being held in area churches on the first Sunday night of each month.

### Christmas Un-decorating . . . and FREE PIZZA—January 14

We will be taking the Christmas decorations down after the morning worship service on Sunday, January 14. A light lunch (pizza, salad, fruit) will be provided for those who can help. Kindly contact Tonia Light ([tonia.light@mcnaz.com](mailto:tonia.light@mcnaz.com)) or note in the Communication Pad if you are able to assist with the un-decorating so we will know how much food to provide. Thank you!

Sign up today for

## STEP STUDIES

(Men's and Women's)

Beginning January 16

Tuesday Nights, 6:30—8:30 PM

McLain Building

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Do you hunger and thirst after righteousness? To be free from the chains of a painful past, dysfunctional hang-ups, habits, guilt or shame? Stuff that clouds your relationship with God and with others? Are you ready for change? Our Higher Power, Jesus Christ, has the power to change you. Working the 12 Steps in a Celebrate Recovery Step Study is an opportunity to change your life. **Additional information and anonymous sign-up in the lobby, or call Dave at (860) 423-8251.**

## Announcements

### Prayer List

We want to refresh the prayer list at the beginning of the year. To do this, we are removing all the names from the list and asking folks to resubmit these names. We would like to record the following items for each prayer request:

- Name of person for whom the request is being made
- Reason for the request
- Name of person making request with phone number

This will help us keep our list current and organized. This is an important list. Many of us use this often to pray for those in need, so having an accurate record is important.

Please email ([office@mcnaz.com](mailto:office@mcnaz.com)) or call the church office with the details to have someone placed on the list. You can also place names on the PRAYER WALL on the church app.

Please see next page for additional announcements.

## Announcements (Continued)

### Snow Removal Team Volunteers Needed

Are you able to help us remove snow this winter? Please volunteer to Garry Light with available times / days according to your schedule. Of course, I am praying for a white Christmas and very little other snow, but you never know what will come.

### Enable Push Notifications

In order to get the latest information, weather closings, and urgent prayer requests, go to the "settings tab" of the new church app and enable push notifications. If you need help, let us know.

## Tithes and Offerings

We are at the beginning of a new year, and it is a great time to establish new habits and practices. One of the practices of many folks at MCN is the practice of tithing. If you aren't familiar with the concept of tithing, you will discover that it is described in the Old Testament as God's plan for providing for the upkeep and maintenance of temple worship and for the support of the priesthood. (Start with Malachi 3:10.) There is another biblical concept woven into our understanding of tithing. In ancient days, the Ark of the Covenant was always carried by those designated by God – borne by human hands, if you will. There is a symbolism here that says, when the Kingdom of God comes, it is borne by us. Certainly, the Kingdom only comes by the movement of God's Spirit. But we are always the bearers, by the word of our testimony, by the fruit of our labor, by the light of our example, by the work of our hands.

In modern times, we honor the biblical principles of tithing and bearing by giving 10% of our income to the support of the church. Many of us also give an additional 1% to the mission of spreading the gospel around the world through missions. On top of that, some give to compassionate ministries and other charitable causes because we feel led by the Spirit of Christ to do so, to be generous and to demonstrate both gratitude for what we have received and humble stewardship of our resources.

Giving at MCN can be accomplished in a variety of ways. Roger Carlson, our recording secretary, has tithing envelopes available which allow people to give to the church anonymously, using a number identification system. (Request envelopes by email: [rogercarlson@netzero.net](mailto:rogercarlson@netzero.net).) In addition to placing contributions in the offering plate week by week, tithes may be sent by mail or given online.

Continued on back page.

## Weekly Meetings

### Wednesday Night Prayer

In place of a traditional Bible study, we will give Wednesday nights to prayer this winter. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for prayer at 7:00 PM each Wednesday.

### Celebrate Recovery Thursday Night!

Stop struggling alone! Come find a safe place. Experience the healing love of Jesus! Lower Level, McLain Building (Sterling Place entrance).

6:30 PM Food and Fellowship

7:00 PM **Teaching Meeting—Turn!**

7:45 PM Cross Talk Café—Coffee & Snacks

8:00 PM Open Share Groups:

- Women's Habits and Addictions
- Women's Open
- Men's Pure Hearts
- Men's Open

More information in the lobby.

## Mission Corner



The Mission Corner has been very focused recently on our hands-on-opportunities to serve and grow the Kingdom. We now have the opportunity to put our hands, feet, and our finances to work specifically. We are beginning the process of putting together a Work & Witness trip to Puerto Rico in April. Please pray about how you and your family will participate. This is a project for our whole church family even if you can't physically join the trip. If you would like more information, please contact Donna Corbeil.