

This Week

Today

Sunday School	9:30 AM
Coffee & Conversation	10:30 AM
Morning Worship	10:45 AM
COMMUNITY PRAYER @ CLG	6:00 PM

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Celebrate Recovery	6:30 PM
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(Please see **Weekly Meetings** for specific information.)

Looking Ahead

May 15	MCN Board Meeting
May 19	Pentecost Prayer Retreat
May 19	Feast of the Holy Spirit
May 20	Pentecost
May 20	Hartford Church 100th Ann.
May 20	Rev. Douglas & Barbara Fish Retirement Party
May 22	CCS Board Mtg.
June 2	Men's Prayer Breakfast
June 6	Wednesdays' with the Wise

Financials		
	Tithes & Offerings	Missions
Received Last Week	\$8,867	\$671
Needed Weekly	\$9,000	\$525
Received Year to Date	\$40,751	\$2,238
Needed Year to Date	\$45,000	\$2,625
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$4,249)	(\$387)

Special Stewardship and Debt Reduction Emphasis

The Bible & Money, Creative Giving

Money is one of the most talked about topics in the Bible. It is the main subject of nearly half of the parables Jesus told. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith, and more than 2,000 verses on money. In addition, one in every seven verses in the New Testament deals with this topic. In fact, 15 percent of everything Jesus ever taught was on the topic of money and possessions.

"The Bible talks so much about money because there is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money. It's been said that you can get a good feel for someone's spiritual commitment by looking at two pieces of tangible evidence -- their day planner and their checkbook. While this may be a bit simplistic, it's certainly true that how we spend both our time and money is a good reflection of who we are. Give this, is it really so surprising that the Bible talks so much about financial issues?"

Creative and Wise Ways to Give:

1. If you plan to give to charity in your will consider **giving before you die to save on taxes.**
2. If older than 70 ½, make a **tax free transfer from your traditional IRA to charity**
3. **Traditional IRA's are a good choice for charitable giving,** since taxable after death
4. Bypass capital gains taxes by **giving appreciated stock,** if you itemize
5. Some people will save on taxes by **giving two years of donations** in the same tax year
6. If you itemize, give more in years when your **marginal tax rate** is higher to save taxes
7. **Check your 401K for a loan provision** that allows you to borrow and pay yourself back

Please check with your tax advisor on how any of these tax advantaged strategies impact you.

Special Stewardship and Debt Reduction Goals:

1. 100% participation for increased regular giving and/or special giving for debt reduction
2. Special giving of at least \$300,000 over the next two years to pay off our mortgage by April 2020

But Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth. (Deuteronomy. 8:18a)

On the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income (1 Corinthians 16:2)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in Thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:11)

Debt Reduction Goal: \$300,000	
Received Last Week	\$400
Total Received	\$400
Interest Saved	\$50



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 May 6, 2018

Welcome Song and Welcome

Praise and Worship

Prayer, Response

Testimony

Announcements

Worship Through Giving

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

Investigating God's Word—Acts 8:26ff

Communion

Response and Blessing

May 6: Colossians 3:12ff

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you have a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Announcements

Community Block Party 2018—Brainstorming Meeting

Please join Tonia Light following the morning worship service on Sunday, May 20th for a brief brainstorming meeting as plans get underway for our 5th Annual Community Block Party (Which will take place on July 28th.) This has become an important way for us to reach out into the community as we strive to share the love and joy of Christ with our neighbors!

Membership Class

A 5-week membership class is being taught by Pastors Garry Light and Dan Whitney at 9:30AM on Sunday mornings in the school library. Join us to learn more about the Church of the Nazarene, or if you're interested in becoming a member.

Hartford First Church 100th Anniversary!—May 20

Hartford First Church of the Nazarene has invited our congregation to join them for their 100th anniversary celebration service on Sunday, May 20th at 4:00 PM at 932 Capitol Avenue in Hartford. Food and fellowship will follow the service.

Rev. Douglas & Mrs. Barbara Fish Retirement Party—May 20

Our congregation has been invited to the retirement party for Rev. Douglas & Mrs. Barbara Fish in the Fellowship Hall of Faith Community Chapel at 485 East Street, in Ludlow, Mass on Sunday May 20th at 3:00 PM. RSVP by May 12th at (617)-549-7087

Sunday School Schedule

The last day of this year's Sunday school classes for Kindergarten through Grade 6 is Sunday, May 27. Sunday school classes will resume again in September (not meeting in June, July, and August). On May 27, we will recognize our children's Sunday school attendance over the past year and thank our Sunday school teachers for their faithful service.

Announcements Cont'd

Pentecost Prayer Retreat, May 19, 10am—12pm (Saturday)

You are invited to participate in a short prayer retreat in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost. The event begins at 10:00AM on Saturday and will run until about 12 Noon. There will not be any lunch offered at the conclusion. Bring a Bible, a journal and a pen or pencil (or your digital equivalents.) We will worship together, read scripture together, talk together, spend time in quiet meditation, and leave in silence. This retreat is designed to lead into a period of silence culminating in the Feast of the Holy Spirit at 7:00PM in the church lobby.

The Feast of the Holy Spirit, May 19, 7PM

We want you to participate in the Feast of the Holy Spirit! To celebrate this Christian Holiday, we have made the following preparations:

1. The Church Lobby is prepared to receive you. Come, bring your family.
2. You do not need an invitation... this is YOUR invitation.
3. We would like you to bring two things with you:

A word of praise or thankfulness to God is necessary to gain entrance into the building. Coach your children to have something to say. The hosts will ask for your word either on the sidewalk or in the entryway to the lobby.

The second thing to bring is an offering of grain. This reminds us of the Jewish heritage of the festival. Pentecost is a Jewish festival first, a Christian festival second. Originally, Pentecost was a harvest/abundance festival. Your offering of grain is symbolic, so there is some flexibility in how you choose to offer it. We'd like you to bring some kind of bread (or product of grain) to share with the hosts and others who might be present. It doesn't have to be a lot . . . just a small loaf would be fine. You could bring multi-grain muffins, pumpkin bread, oatmeal cookies, a loaf of whole wheat bread. Bring something you would like to eat. If you cannot afford to do this, or are unable to make the preparations, don't worry. **Your word of praise is all you really need to gain entrance!**

Once you are inside the church, the host will have butter and jam, maybe a glass of water, and you will eat together. And you will talk about how good God has been.

If you need to leave before 8:00, that is fine. If so, the host or one of the guests will pray a blessing on your family before you leave.

If you can stay until 8:00, the whole group will join together in a time of prayer led by the host and members of the group. We will be remembering that the Holy Spirit was given when the assembled group was praying together in one accord. Together, we will be giving thanks that the Spirit of God was sent into our hearts!

The event is over at 8:30 PM.

Weekly Meetings

Wednesday Night Prayer

In place of a traditional Bible study, we will give Wednesday nights to prayer this spring. 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 **Testimony Meeting—Guest**

7:45 PM Cross Talk Café—Coffee & Snacks

8:00 PM Open Share Groups

Women's Habits & Addictions
Women's Hurts & Hang-ups
Men's Purity
Men's Hurts, Habits & Hang-ups

More information in the lobby.

Guest Wi-Fi

 We offer free Wi-Fi, by request, to all members and guests.

Please contact Aaron in the church office, or speak to Pastor Dan, or Pastor Garry for more information.

Read The Word Aloud!

We invite you to take a blue card for everyone in the family and read the suggested passage out loud every day during the Easter Season. The Scriptures were written to be heard!