

## January Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 3 — Barbara Foor
- 6 — Julianne Jahn
- 9 — Joe Kolder / Kali Lewis
- 11 — Jerry and Blanche Judd
- 14 — Sharon Feichtenbiner / Marla Jahn
- 16 — Mary Prater
- 16 — Jim & Ginger Stark
- 17 — Steven Kaiser
- 18 — Paul Ackley
- 26 — Nicole Frisbie
- 27 — Eric Miller
- 28 — Nancy Means / Tanner Holmberg / Taylor Holmberg



First United Methodist Church  
190 N. Cedar Street  
Manistique, Michigan 49854



## First United Methodist Church Worship Service 11:00am



**First United Methodist Church**  
**Church Phone: (906) 341-6662**  
**Secretary: Kali M. Lewis**  
**Pastor: Rev. B.J. Ash Cell: 906-286-1492**  
**email: [pastorbjash@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbjash@gmail.com)**  
**Office Hours: Monday –Thursday 9 am—1pm**  
**[www.manistiquemethodist.org](http://www.manistiquemethodist.org)**  
**email: [1stumcmanistique@gmail.com](mailto:1stumcmanistique@gmail.com)**

PASTOR'S  
WORDS



## THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

**First United Methodist Church**  
**190 N. Cedar Manistique, MI**  
**[www.manistiquemethodist.org](http://www.manistiquemethodist.org)**  
**[1stumcmanistique@gmail.com](mailto:1stumcmanistique@gmail.com)**

Happy New Year! We made it through the, forgive the pun, uneventful year of 2020. Yes, it was eventful, but not the kind of eventful year that we had planned for. I am thinking back on all of the events that normally go in in the yearly life of the church that just did not happen in 2020. I think back on this as I am taking down the 2020 Event Planner wall calendar that hangs in our church office and I think, “What a waste this was for us to purchase for 2020!” Of course, we couldn’t have known that before March 2020 when the calendar was purchased near the beginning of the new year. That wasn’t something that we could have known, but it was something God knew all too well about. God knew and He had everything all planned out on His event planner calendar in Heaven and everything went according to His plan.

As I look back on this past year and everything that we went through as a church family: installation of a new lift for accessibility, the transition of a pastor, the sale of the church parsonage, church renovations (the pasty oven room, technology including sound system, projector, video camera, online streaming), adapting worship services for social distancing as well as nobody present, well, that’s a huge list, even over multiple years! All these kinds of major projects in the life of the church can be difficult on their own, but we made it through (almost) all of them.

Speaking of the new lift, we are still working on getting it finally inspected, but we hope for that to be wrapped up soon. The inspector was out this past week and had some changes that needed to be addressed before he could mark it as passed, so he will be back in a few weeks to re-inspect. We are down to the last few small things to satisfy the inspector’s requirements. We all know how difficult this past year has been for everyone and it has been difficult for those who manufacture lifts, install them, as well as inspect them to get many things coordinated. We join with everyone who is connected with the new lift project in saying that we will all be glad when it is finally available for us to use it! We also will have a celebration party to commemorate the lift and that will be announced when the time comes.

Our church Ad Council met at the beginning of January and has decided on a timeline to resume in-person worship beginning on January 31st. If any COVID-19 numbers surge between now and then, this may change, but that is our plan as of right now. We will also continue our online streaming of the service for those who may not feel comfortable with in-person worship quite yet.

PASTOR'S WORDS

We received notification on January 7th that the State of Michigan has opened up vaccine distribution starting January 11th for those 65 and older to receive it. Signup is available on the SCMh website (www.scmh.org) and also be calling the SCMh Rural Health Clinic at 341-2153 for those without Internet/e-mail. We put out phone calls to everyone that we could reach to inform them of this as well as e-mails too. I am scheduled to receive my first vaccine on January 8th as being a first responder.

As we go into this new 2021 year together, I pray that we are able to figure out together what our new normal will look like so that we can resume all of the activities and events within our church as safely as possible with one another. We can still be the church to one another, although the details of how we accomplish will likely look different than in years past, but we know how much the church has changed and adapted through the past 2,000 years—we will overcome and adapt to this pandemic. We are a victorious people, through all of the things that we do in Jesus' name.

Pastor B.J.



**January 2021 United Methodist Women**  
Submitted by Carol Weinert

As we say good-bye to December and begin a new year, it seems especially appropriate that the ancients had the wisdom to name the first month "January." Named after the Roman mythological god Janus, the patron of beginnings and endings, he is said to have two faces, one looking back and the other looking forward. We, too, look back to the year 2020 and grieve over all the important events canceled due to the covid19 pandemic. Few of us have been untouched by the effects of the illness, be it illness, loss of loved ones or just loss of traditions..

But now we stand on the threshold of a new year, with hopes of starting afresh with restored programs and new possibilities. One tentatively restored program will be the United Methodist Women's meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, at 1 PM. Another would be restored Sunday worship services at FUMC. Look for updated bulletins coming soon concerning these events.

If this were a "normal" year, the deadline would be past for turning in your 2020 UMW Reading Program lists but there may still be time. If you still need to turn in yours, check with Mary Prater.

Looking WAY ahead, The theme for the 2021 UMW worship service will be "Hope." The members are encouraged to think about developing this subject throughout the coming year.



**First United Methodist Church**

We exist to joyfully share God's love, preach the Good News, and make disciples.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Barbara Foor 	4	5	6 Julianne Jahn 	7	8	9 Joe Kolder Kali Lewis 
10	11 Jerry & Blanche Judd 	12	13	14 Sharon Feichtenbiner Marla Jahn 	15	16 Mary Prater Jim & Ginger Stark 
17 Steve Kaiser 	18 Paul Ackley 	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Nicole Frisbie 	27 Eric Miller 	28 Tanner and Taylor Holmberg 	29	30
31						

\* Worship 11 am



As many of you know, we have a group in this church called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

## Prayer Chain

These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor B.J. Ash at 341-6662 (church) or 286-1492 (cell). You may also call Carol Weinert at 341-4499.

This notice will appear monthly in the church newsletter.



Newsletter suggestions are always welcome! If you have anything you wish to have published in the February newsletter submit before the **January 25th** deadline.



Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search **1st United Methodist Church** where you see the magnifying glass at the top of the page. Live worship services each Sunday at 11AM.



### January 3rd — Epiphany Sunday

Isa 60:1-6, Ps. 72:1-7,10-14, Eph. 3:1-12, Mt. 2:1-12

### January 10th — Baptism of the Lord

Gen. 1:1-15, Ps. 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mk. 1:4-11

### January 17th — Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Sam 3:1-10, Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Cor. 6:12-20, Jn. 1:43-51

### January 24th — Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5,10, Ps. 62:5-12, 1 Cor. 7:29-31, Mk. 1:14-20

### January 31st — Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deut. 18:15-20, Ps. 111, 1 Cor. 8:1-13, Mk. 1:21-28



## FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Hank Weinert, Willie Chittle, Joel Prater, Ted Burson, Penny Tracy, Connie Whitsitt, Paul Ackley, Jim Carlson, Jim Coryell, Larry Billings, and Martha Weeks.



## A View From the Belfry

January 2021



Happy New Year from your bat in the belfry (really the attic, but the belfry sounds better so I think I'll stick with it)! Have you all made your New Year's resolutions yet? A few years ago I decided not to make any such resolutions, so that way I can't break any of them. However, that may be the coward's way out (or the lazy bat's way out). Perhaps I could make a resolution to at least try to improve in some area, even if my chance of success isn't very high. For instance, I could resolve to TRY to eat fewer of those fattening mosquitoes, rather than resolving to actually succeed in doing it. That way if I make an effort but blow it, I will still have kept my resolution. If I resolve to actually eat fewer of them and don't, it's another resolution blown and broken. And if I try even just a little, tiny bit rather than really give it a good effort, I still get credit for trying, right?

You know, I think I may be catching bad habits from some people I've heard about (not that I know any like this, of course)! These people don't like to fail at things, so they set their standards very high. That way they are much more likely to succeed in meeting the standards they set. I wonder how God feels about that! Does our hedging fool Him? Probably not, sine he knows everything, including a cop-out when he sees one. I wonder how we'd feel if He set His standards so low that they didn't mean anything. Suppose He decided He'd forgive every third sin which we asked Him to forgive, but ignore the others because it would take too much of His time, or because He really isn't in the mood to forgive more. Or suppose He decided to TRY to love each one of us, but not to actually necessarily do it because we can be pretty hard to love, after all, and if He tried just a little that would be good enough to meet His standards. I suspect that we wouldn't be any happier with God if he operated this way than He must be with us when we do. How about this year, instead of resolving to try to do or not do something, we resolve to really do it or not do it, whatever it is? After all, God won't zap us if fail. In fact, He will help us to meet high standards if we ask Him to do so. Or maybe we should resolve to seek His help and advice in all that we do, instead of just in a few specific things. If we do that, we are more likely to be following His will, and our chances of success in that can be pretty high, with His help! It's a thought! Meanwhile, I guess I should apologize for blaming my bad habits on the influence of people. Bats like to consider themselves to be pretty good at being bats, and we sometimes confuse this with being pretty good, period! People seem to be the same: pretty good at being people, but not necessarily being pretty good people. Besides, shouldn't both people and bats aim at being good, rather than pretty good? And shouldn't they actually aim at seeking repentance and forgiveness when they screw up? Maybe that's something to consider when making New Year's resolutions.





### 2020 Contribution Summary

General Fund — \$ 78100.39  
 Building Fund — \$ 3289.69  
 Memorial Inc. — \$ 3405.00  
 UMCOR — \$ 1399.62  
 Ministry Shares—\$ 980.00  
 New Lift Fund — \$ 20216.00  
 Noisy Offering — \$ 2.06  
 General Fund EFT — \$ 11950.00  
 Initial Offering — \$14.00  
 Retirement Party—\$ 25. 00  
 Thanksgiving Baskets — \$ 50.00  
**Total for all categories — \$ 119,431.76**



### December Giving Summary

General Fund: \$5,712.00  
 General Fund EFT: \$330.00  
 Building: \$360.00  
 UMCOR: \$70.00  
 Total: \$6,472.00



### Find us on YouTube

Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search Manistique First UMC where you see the magnifying glass at the top of the page. Live worship services each Sunday at 11AM.



### Lay Leader Lines January 2021

**Q: I have heard that we are having a great response to our online worship services, and that we have had more than 100 people tune into these services! That's fantastic! Will we keep on doing the online services even after we are able to return to church? Can we expect those who are joining us online to come to the church for worship when it's possible?**

A: We have indeed had many responses to the online services. Whether we have had 100 different people join us or one person who viewed the service 100 times, isn't certain. However, we do seem to be reaching people who have never worshiped with us before. Some are from the local area, but others are from all over the world. It is unlikely that all, or even very many, will be joining us in the church at some time in the future, and we need to be welcoming toward them if they do. However, increasing our membership while perhaps a nice side effect, is not our main goal. Rather, we want to reach people for Christ in whatever way we can, for their benefit, and not for ours as a church. As for continuing the online services after we are able to return to church, there is no reason why we shouldn't do so, IF we can obtain the necessary assistance to allow us to do so. At present Pastor B.J. is doing all of the work himself to produce the online service. He plans to find extra music, records, pieces the broadcast together, runs the camera during the recording, and everything else, in addition to writing and preaching the sermons, and serving as a pastor during the week to this church and to those who need his services. It's a lot of work and frankly he could use some help! If anyone in the congregation is willing to help record the liturgist each week and has basic computer skills, he would welcome your assistance! You don't need to be an expert in all aspects of computer technology and he is willing to train you to do some of the work if you are willing to give it a try. Even operating the camera during the recording would help! If you are interested, please let Pastor B.J. know. The church service is not intended to be a one person performance, even in the times of social distancing and shutting down the church to large groups.

