

July Anniversaries & Birthdays

1 Don & Polly Bedwell
4 Shirley Westphal
5 Ron Annelin
12 Sandi Kolder
15 Gerald Judd
17 Eleanore Weber
17 Connie Whitsitt
22 Alex Miller
26 Tom Burge



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
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 am—1pm
www.manistiquemethodist.org
email: 1stumcmanistique@gmail.com



Visit 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.

PASTOR'S WORDS



THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

First United Methodist Church
190 N. Cedar Manistique, MI
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Changing back to normal—that's the phase to which we're in the process of returning—coming out of this pandemic. We're recalling things we used to do before the pandemic that we now need to restart doing. Things like signing up for ushering, fellowship time, etc. You remember times like that, right? Times when we used to pass a clipboard around from person to person to sign up for events? Yes, it is time to get back to normal—if we can only remember what normal used to look like.

We have a deep desire to complete the work assigned to us by our Lord Jesus. In Acts 20:24 it is written: "But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." We started that work before the pandemic and now we need to finish it. So, full steam ahead!



Full steam ahead is how it felt going into resuming making pasties. With less than 24 hours before we were to start resuming baking them, we had already taken orders for all 400 of them that we had planned to make. By the time we would finish baking the last ones on Thursday, we would have already taken orders for 140 for the next month (July).

PASTOR'S
WORDS

Along with making pasties, our Ad Council met on June 21st to vote on the motion presented by the Trustees to proceed with the replacement of the ovens in the kitchen. The motion would allow the UMW to borrow 50% of the cost of replacing the ovens from the parsonage sale funds at 0% interest and repay that loan to the parsonage sale fund over time as determined by both the Trustees and the UMW. The motion passed unanimously. If you would like to contribute towards the replacement cost of the ovens, please specify as such when giving.

Several people within our church have already felt so moved—full steam ahead—by this project that they expressed their desire to contribute before our Ad. Council had even voted on approving this motion from the Trustees. This truly does speak of the giving hearts that have historically comprised our congregation. THANK YOU!

As we proceed forward—or is it back to the way things used to be?—we pause to reflect on everything that we have gone through in this past year. We recall the happy feelings of re-suming activities and recall the sad times when events were cancelled. We remember how we had to get creative in doing ministry when faced with challenges. The most important part that we remember was that through each of those events, God was, is, and will forever be with us. With God backing us, being with us, and going before us, there is no stopping us from going—wait for it—full steam ahead!








Pastor B.J.



First United Methodist Church

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

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Don & Polly Bedwell 	2 Manistique's Kiddie Parade 6:00 PM	3 Manistique's 4th of July Parade 12:30 / Fireworks
4 Shirley Westphal   * Worship 11 am	5 Ron Annelin	6	7	8	9	10 Folkfest
11 * Worship 11 am	12 Sandi Kolder 	13 Pasty Prep	14 Pasty Sales 	15 Pasty Sales  Gerald Judd 	16	17 Eleanore Weber Connie Whatsitt 
18 * Worship 11 am	19	20	21	22 Alex Miller	23	24
25 * Worship 11 am	26 Tom Burge	27	28	29	30	31



Prayer Chain

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

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.



Visit 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.



Newsletter suggestions are always welcome! If you have anything you wish to have published in the August newsletter submit before the **July 19th** deadline. Pictures and other additions and can be emailed to : 1stumcmanistique@gmail.com

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July 4th — 6th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10 Ps 48 (UMH 782) 2 Cor 12:2-10 Mk 6:1-13

July 11th — 7th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19 Ps 24 (UMH 755) Eph 1:3-14 Mk 6:14-29

July 18th — 8th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 7:1-14a Ps 89:20-37 (UMH 807) Eph 2:11-22 Mk 6:30-34, 53-56

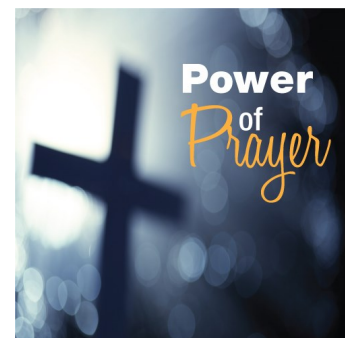
July 25th — 9th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 11:1-15 Ps 14 (UMH 746) Eph 3:14-21 Jn 6:1-21



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 Whatsitt, Jason Coryell, Larry Billings, and Martha Weeks.



Lay Leader Lines

July 2021

One of the duties of the local church's lay representative to Annual Conference is to report on the proceedings of the Conference to the local church. Thus, this month's column will be a report on the 2021 Michigan Annual Conference. The Conference was held virtually because of the continued restrictions on gathering together in large groups to protect people from the COVID-19 virus. As a result, some of the most cherished features of the Conference were absent, such getting together in small group discussions with friends and acquaintances one hasn't seen for a year, worshiping together, and being inspired by the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst as 3000 United Methodists sing en masse, joyously and with gusto! (Singing along with an on-line soloist by yourself while staring at a computer screen simply doesn't cut it!)

Perhaps the entire mood of this conference was one of a sense of lacking something, or disappointment. The theme was *Singing the Lord's Song*, but somehow much of the music chosen conveyed little in the way of joy or inspiration. Worship services varied in content and format. One of the services was conducted by a Native American minister in a Native American church in the Traverse City area. It was conducted in both the Native language and English, and I found the format interesting and moving. The message to the laity from the Conference Lay Leader was also very good. The presenter was a man who had been told several times that he should enter the ordained ministry, yet he felt that his calling was to be a member of the laity, and in this capacity, he served in positions usually held by ordained clergy. It was interesting to hear someone being called to serve as a layperson, since we usually hear only of those feeling called to serve as clergy. Other services varied from slightly inspiring to somehow missing the mark, at least for me. Business sessions were generally quite routine. Overall there seemed to be much less debate than we have had in most years, perhaps at least in part because of difficulties with fully accessing the technology involved in running a virtual conference. Issues which were hot items in past years were not given much attention, mostly because the United Methodist Church is still in a holding a pattern until action is taken on major issues which will affect the future of this denomination. Such actions must be taken by the General Conference when it convenes in the coming months, and until then, there is little which can be done at an Annual Conference. Other items which were debated tended to deal with relatively minor issues such as terminology (should we say education or training?), while others seemed to be issues not of "whether or not," but of "when" (now or after General Conference meets?).



Lay Leader Lines (Continued)

July 2021

One issue which was of concern was the financial status of the Michigan Conference. During the past year some of the apportionment payments normally received from the local churches were put on hold by the Michigan Conference and were not collected for several months. Once collections were resumed, many of the local churches did not resume their contribution payments. Some may not have been able to do so because their own funds were significantly reduced during COVID-19 closures. (We have been very fortunate in that regard and are still going strong financially!) At the same time, instead of sending out monthly bills, the Conference decided to send bills by email without much notification, and for those accustomed to the paper notices, the email notices may have escaped attention. At any rate, the Conference is finding itself in a tight financial position at this point.

Those who attended Annual Conference this year were asked for input on how Annual Conference should be handled in the future — online, in person at a site chosen for the purpose, or some combination of the two. My own opinion is that some components of the Conference can be handled very well on-line. These would include routine business meetings, the corporate session, the financial reports, and many of the committee reports. Other components would be better presented in person to gathered delegates, such as most worship services and the consideration of difficult issues which raise strong opinions and warrant serious discussion. It was difficult to conduct such discussions on-line. While a major benefit of holding Annual Conference on-line is the significantly lower cost involved, I think too much has been sacrificed by not having at least some sessions live and gathered together.

On a concluding note, some of the Conference attendees with expertise in the use of computers and electronic equipment were asked to serve as helpers to guide participants through the vagaries of using such technology to communicate with those running the Conference and those attending it, as well as learning how to record a vote, etc. Our own Pastor B.J. Ash was one such technology assistant, and the one to have his name listed first in credits for that service (because his name alphabetically came first, I suspect). Kudos, Pastor B.J.!



A View From the Belfry

July 2021



Hello from Benny in the belfry! As you all know, we had a great pasty sale in June, and have over 100 orders already for July. I don't think that's ever happened before, at least not a whole month in advance! I think we should have great sales in July and probably August also, the way things are going. One thing we won't have this year is a pasty booth at Folk Fest, even though the community is having FolkFest! We'll have to see if we are missed a lot, a little, not at all, or are applauded for staying away! (I doubt that last one!) It seems that if we were to do the pasty booth, we would be baking pasties for June, two weeks later for FolkFest, and two weeks after that for July! That's a lot of pasty baking for the same group of people, some of whom are past even a Jack Benny 39 years old! I guess this brings us around to the same song and dance we had last month; we could really use some more help making those pasties! Even an hour or two one day during the making and baking session would help! Can't roll dough? How about answering the phone and taking the orders? In June we had one person doing only that, and it really relieved the load on the kitchen person, who usually does that in addition to baking, cooling, and selling the pasties! Or perhaps you can come in for the last hour and help with clean-up! There are a number of jobs for the person whose skills don't include making perfect circles of dough with a rolling pin! If none of these pasty-related talents have been bestowed upon you, or if you don't have time to help in the kitchen during pasty time, how about a quick prayer or two for the pasty crew? I'm sure they would appreciate being in your thoughts and prayers.



United Methodist Women News

Submitted by Carol Weinert

The Manistique unit of the United Methodist Women met June 1 with just a small number of members in attendance. The upcoming June pasty sale was discussed with the announcement that a large number of orders was already received. It was also noted that our church will not participate in this year's Folk Fest.

There will be no UMW meeting in July.

The next gathering of our UMW will be Tuesday, August 3, at noon for our annual picnic. This year's featured speaker will be Carole Hare. The menu will be a "potluck" salad luncheon. Those bringing salads to share are asked to include a list of salad ingredients to forewarn those who might have food allergies. Members of area United Methodist churches will be invited to attend. Please mark this event on your calendars as this is a great opportunity to fellowship with our UMW sisters in Christ.

Looking ahead, the annual UMW District Celebration meeting will be held Tuesday, October 5, 2021 in Menominee, MI. Because of the pandemic, the gathering was cancelled in 2020, so it is important that many of our unit can attend this year. More information and registration forms will be available soon.

The district has already informed us that in 2022 the celebration will be held in the spring.