

September Anniversaries & Birthdays

8 Tom & Phyllis Burge
20 Phyllis Burge
28 Pastor B.J.



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



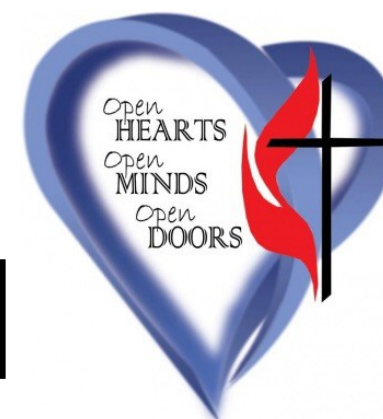
First United Methodist Church Worship Service 11:00am



First United Methodist Church
Church Phone: (906) 341-6662
Pastor: Rev. B.J. Ash Cell: 906-286-1492
email: pastorbjash@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 am—1pm
www.manistiquemethodist.org
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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
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“God is still rolling stones.” One of my favorite Bible stories is the account of Mary, mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene at the tomb of Jesus. The scripture begins, “Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb.” (Mark 16:2)

These grieving, burdened women rose from their beds ready to tackle the difficult job before them — to attend to Jesus’s body. And on the top of their minds was, “Who will roll the stone from the door of the tomb?” The question turned to worry as they pondered, “Who will be there to help us?”

I can only imagine how great was the literal and figurative weight of the task. Remember, these two women were doing for Jesus the last kindness they would do. Their actions that day were born out of a deep love for Him. Their actions rose from a passion to serve Him. Their passion pushed against their fears. And yet, they faced the enormity of rolling the stone away.

Like Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and those who are in our care, people all around us encounter stones and huge obstacles. And sometimes, like you and me, they are filled with doubt and fear.

There is a big stone in front of our world today called COVID-19 — the coronavirus. The impact of COVID-19 upon us has been significant. As you know, we are dependent on each of you and our family of faith. We have had to postpone many events during the past 18 months, but we are now back and better than ever!

Sure, there are still some obstacles to overcome, and we must remember that God is “still rolling stones.” A scripture that comes to mind and brings me comfort is: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

Like Mary, mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene, I pray that our passion will override our fear with a spirit of power, love and a sound mind.

In the midst of what may appear as darkness, God is at work. God is still rolling stones.

PASTOR'S
WORDS

A friend of God walked through something he called, “the valley of the shadow of death.” And He said, “Lord, even when Your path takes me through the valley...” But wait! I thought God said He would be with you! So, if God is with you then why are you being led into a dark place? But that is the whole point! Even if I walk through the valley of death, “Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

God’s faithfulness does not mean you will never travel through the valley with death surrounding you. God’s faithfulness means He will be with you in the middle of it and bring you all the way to the other side! The enemy expects you to be terrified in his death camp. But God leads you right down the main road with your head held up high! Why? To prove to you that His love really does silence all your fears! God takes the unexpected route! He is creative! If God always did what you expected, then He could never surprise you with anything greater.

Yes, indeed, God is still rolling stones. Sometimes we are the stone that needs rolling and sometimes we are along for the ride. Either way, God is still with us, as UMH 507 reads:

Through it all, through it all,
I’ve learned to trust in Jesus,
I’ve learned to trust in God;
through it all, through it all,
I’ve learned to depend upon God’s word.

Pastor B.J.



First United Methodist Church

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

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 * Worship 11 am	6 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	7 Pasty Prep UMW 1:00	8 Tom & Phyllis Burge Pasty Sales	9 Pasty Sales	10	11
12 * Worship 11 am	13 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	14	15	16	17	18
19 * Worship 11 am	20 Phyllis Burge 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	21	22	23	24	25
26 * Worship 11 am	27 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	28 Pastor B.J.	29	30		



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.

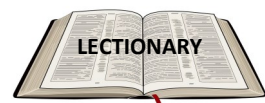
This notice will appear monthly in the church newsletter.



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 September newsletter submit before the **September 20th, 2021** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to : **1stumcmanistique@gmail.com**



September 5th — 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Ps 125 or Ps 124 (UMH 846) Jas 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17 Mk 7:24-37

September 12th — 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Prov 1:20-33 Ps 19 (UMH 750) Jas 3:1-12 Mk 8:27-38

September 19th — 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Prov 31:10-31 Ps 1 (UMH 738) Jas 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mk 9:30-37

September 26th — 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Esth 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Ps 124 (UMH 846) Jas 5:13-20 Mk 9:38-50



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, Jason Coryell, Kali Lewis, Larry Billings, Kali Lewis, and Martha Weeks.



A View From the Belfry

September 2021



I'm not guilty! I didn't do it! Honest!! Oh, I guess I should explain myself!

As always, I'm Benny, from your church belfry, and I really am not to blame for this! "Not to blame for what?" you're wondering? Well, for that annoying problem with the lift door! You folks have been so patient with the lift situation! It took over a year, but it was finally all installed, inspected repeatedly, and even passed inspection on the third try, and you are STILL having problems with it. Sometimes, for no reason the door blows open even if there is no wind, and it won't stay closed. It apparently only affects the door on the entry level; the doors on the basement and library levels behave themselves very nicely. The entry level door, however, is a real problem. Apparently, the church itself has fluctuations in its air pressure, and when the pressure in the building is high inside the lift, the door can blow open because it doesn't close tightly. What is more mystifying is that the problem doesn't seem to be related to weather. It can be very windy and the door remains still, or very still and the door opens and closes repeatedly. It's a bit disconcerting when someone is here alone and the door keeps opening and closing, as if people are coming in and out in great numbers, and yet nobody is there. That's why I'm declaring my innocence so loudly!! It's hard to think that the door is haunted, or that the church building itself is acting up. (It's a church, after all!) I guess I'm afraid that I might be blamed and a group of irate church members will come after me to evict me (or worse)! I did overhear someone say buildings can have inexplicable air pressure issues which result in odd problems such as doors which open themselves, and I hope you'll all attribute the odd door events in the lift to that. What it means is that because the door doesn't always close completely, the lift may not always work, and someone will have to manually close the door in order to use it. I'd be willing to serve as the door closer, but unfortunately I've found that a light weight little bat such as myself simply doesn't have what it takes to close that lift door! I've even enlisted help from all my bat friends and relatives in the Manistique area, and all 4,578 of us working together couldn't manage to budge it. (Three of the baby bats, Bibbity, Bobbity, and Boo were too young to help and were excused from door duty.) So I guess you people are on your own, but I'm not worried. You humans are great at working around what is actuality a fairly minor inconvenience, not a major calamity. I won't be surprised if an air-pressure-in-buildings expert is somewhere in this congregation and that expert will have a simple solution to the problem. As for all those bats I called to help, don't worry. I thanked them all very politely and sent them all back to their respective bat holes in the older houses and other buildings in town, so you won't be meeting them here in the church.

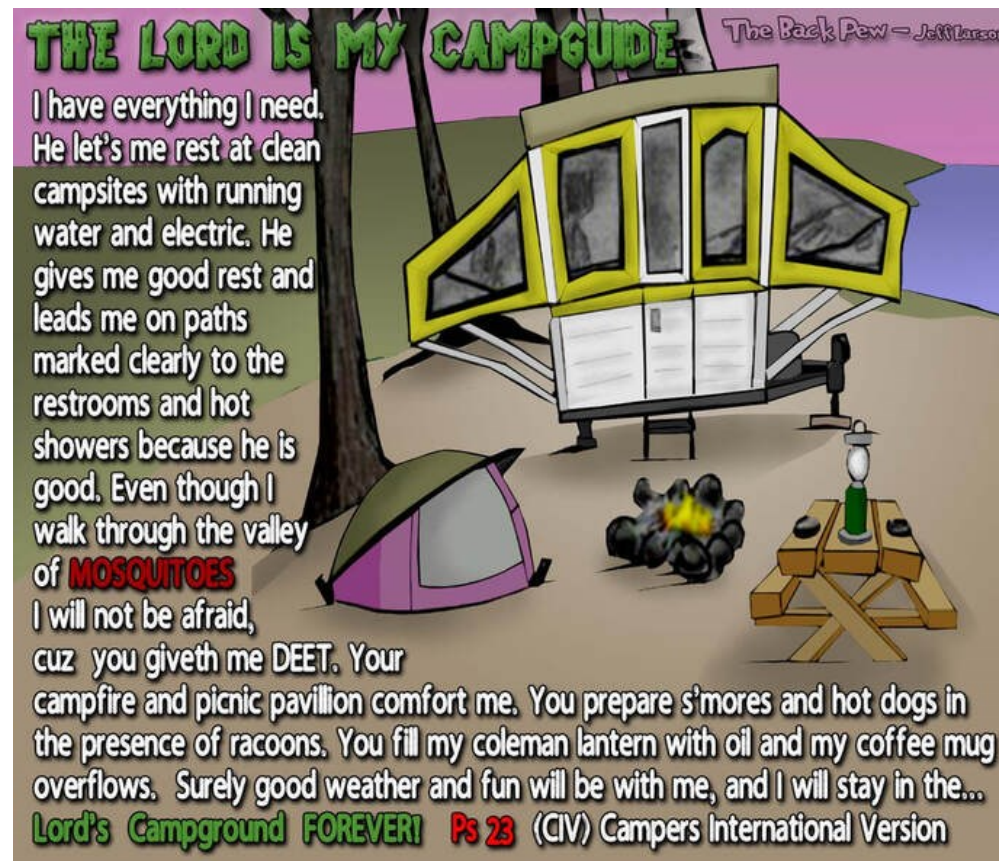


Lay Leader Lines

September 2021

Q: Several months ago you had a question about some new committee which was being formed to generate new ideas for programming and outreach for this church. What is happening with that?

A: A new committee has been formed. Called the Vitality Committee, we have recently met and discussed ideas on how to proceed in developing new and creative ways to meet the needs of this church and this community through our outreach and worship programs. Within the next few weeks we will be distributing surveys to this congregation and asking for the input of all who attend here. We sincerely hope that everyone will give us their opinions and input. All surveys will be confidential, and we welcome all comments and suggestions. We are very hopeful that we will be able to implement programs which will enhance the church experience for all who attend here, whether in person or on-line. With the new advances we have made in using technology to communicate with those around us locally and all around the world, we are looking forward to better serving others and spreading the Word, in keeping with the purpose of the United Methodist Church. However, one committee cannot do everything. We really do want and need the input of everybody who attends, either in the church building or on-line, and hope that through the survey we will have a feel for what will best meet the needs of this church and community.



United Methodist Women News

Submitted by Carol Weinert

The United Methodist Women of Manistique First held its annual summer picnic on August third with several members in attendance. Also in attendance were UMW members from Newberry and Engadine as well as several men from our church. A large variety of delicious salads were featured on the menu as well as a huge pot of baked beans prepared by Mary Prater's son, Joel. The guest speaker was Carole Hare, who treated the members with a reading on forgiveness from a popular children's book.

The next general meeting of the Manistique UMW will be Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 1 PM in the church Fellowship Hall. Plans for the remainder of the year will be discussed at this time.



Stress Management

1. Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days you are the statue.
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them.
3. Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
4. Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by the maker.
5. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
6. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
7. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
8. Never buy a car you can't push.
9. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
10. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
11. Since the early worm gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
12. The second mouse gets the cheese.
13. When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
14. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have the longer you live.
15. You may be the only person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
16. Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
17. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
18. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

