

October Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 1 Candace Haskell
- 9 Jo Nell Rubick
- 9 Linda Moon
- 13 Sharon Vanderville
- 22 Ralph Livingston
- 22 Hank & Carol Weinert, 1966
- 26 Curt & Celie Norton, 1963



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: Mon – Fri 10 am—2pm, Off Wed
www.manistiquemethodist.org
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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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We are back into our normal “rhythms” of church life as small groups have re-summed their meetings, classes are back in session, fellowship is continuing, and everything is running smoothly—for the most part. There is still this lingering COVID-19 thing that continues to be a thorn in everyone’s side...

I’m sure that everyone will groan along with me as we contemplate what life may look like if we all have to go back to wearing masks when our 8 months after our second vaccine dose elapses and the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine diminishes. It’s not something that any of us are looking forward to and it certainly is something that we can all groan about together, but we’re not a church of groaners.

We are a church of do-ers, of faith through our actions in our community. We lead by example with our interactions with others that show them not just who we are, but instead, whose we are. By the end of September, my 8 months after my second vaccine dose will have elapsed and if I haven’t been able to receive my third booster shot, I too will return to wearing a mask like it’s 2020 (remember pre-vaccine times?).

In the background of all of the COVID-19 drama, the church continues on: classes continue, fellowship continues, worship continues, community outreach continues, and spreading the Good News to joyfully share God’s love for the transformation of this world definitely continues. There has also been a part of our worship that has continued throughout the pandemic: music. This October, we celebrate with Mary Prater as she achieves her 48th year here as our organist. Mary has continued playing each Sunday that we have had worship throughout the

PASTOR'S
WORDS

pandemic, although there were times when there was nobody in the sanctuary and it had to be recorded instead. Mary's devotion to ensuring the mission of the church continues on through all of her years leading our music ministry on Sunday mornings is commendable.

While the "how" part of how we have done ministry these past 18 months has looked different than it did before COVID-19, our faith and love for one another have remained steadfast. How do we manage to get through all of the noise and struggle in this world to continue the mission of the church?

I'm glad that I asked myself that question because coming up in the next several weeks is an inspirational sermon series on the book of Job. Yes, you read that correctly: I stated inspirational and Job in the same sentence. If you're intrigued, you'll have to see where the next 4 Sundays of October lead us.

Stay tuned in to God's love together.

Pastor B.J.



First United Methodist Church

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

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Candace Haskell 🎈	2
3 * Worship 11 am World Communion	4 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	5	6	7	8	9 Jo-Nell Rubick Linda Moon 🎈 🎈
10 * Worship 11 am	11 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	12 Pasty Prep UMW 1:00	13 Pasty Sales 🥨 Sharon Vanderville 🎈	14 Pasty Sales 🥨 John & Carol Livingston 💎	15	16
17 * Worship 11 am Laity Sunday	18 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	19	20	21	22 Hank & Carol Weinert 💎 Ralph Livingston 🎈	23
24 * Worship 11 am United Nations Day 31 * Worship 11 am Reformation Sunday Halloween	25 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	26	27	28	29	30



Prayer Chain

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.

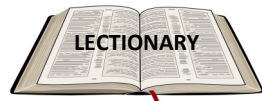
These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor B.J. Ash at 341-6662 (church) or 286-1492 (cell). You may also call Carol Weinert at 341-4499.



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 October newsletter submit before the **October 25th, 2021** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to : office@manistiquemethodist.org



October 3rd — 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 Ps 26 (UMH 756) Heb 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Mk 10:2-6

October 10th — 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Ps 22:1-15 (UMH 752) Heb 4:12-16 Mk 10:17-31

October 17th — 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-7 (34-41) Ps 104:1-9, 24, 25 (UMH 826) Heb 5:1-10 Mk 10:35-45

October 24th — 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Ps 34:1-8 (19-22) (UMH 769) Heb 7:23-28 Mk 10:2-6 46-52

October 31st — 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 1:1-18 Ps 146 (UMH 858) Heb 9:11-14 Mk 12:28-34



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

October 2021

Greetings and salutations from the belfry! This is Benny, your resident belfry bat! I'm so excited! My favorite holiday is coming very soon! BAT DAY!!! Although I guess most of you know it better as Halloween. Last year, because of the COVID epidemic, Halloween was more of a non-holiday, but this year, hopefully we can celebrate it again. This church is planning to offer a Trunk-or-Treat experience for all the little ghosts and goblins (and hopefully some bats, too!) who are out and about on Halloween night. If you would like to participate in this effort, you are more than welcome! We need trunks (please leave your trunk attached to your vehicle), and we need the bags of candy to fill the trunks! We also need grown-up people to help fill the bags and plastic pumpkins the kids bring, as well as to monitor what's happening that evening. We could also use a few people to help decorate the church parking lot before the event, and to help take the decorations down afterward. We are planning to hold it on Halloween night, October 31, from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. I've considered assembling all the bats in town into a large bat squadron to fly over the parking lot during the event. However, I'm having a lot of trouble with it, because most bats are really afraid of you scary humans, with or without Halloween costumes! They feel that with no wings and those long legs and big feet, you people are really odd looking! (And to think that most people think it's the bats who are scary!!) I guess you shouldn't count on having a chance to see the bat squadron, but it would add excitement to the evening, don't you think?

Now, some people think that Halloween has nothing to do with the Christian religion, and in truth it had its origins in pagan beliefs. The word "Halloween" means Hallowed, or Holy, Eve, or the evening before All Saints Day, which honors all the Christian saints who have gone on to glory. It was another example of early Christians taking very popular pagan holidays and turning them into opportunities for Christians to also observe the occasion, but with Christian connotations. It also helped draw pagans to the new religion. Whether or not you feel this was a good thing or a not-so-appropriate thing, we still have some traces of early pagan beliefs in society today, and if we can replace them with Christian teachings and practices in a fun manner, perhaps we all can benefit! With that, have a happy Halloween (Bat Day to some of us flying critters)!



Lay Leader Lines

October 2021

**Q: I'm hearing rumors that some committee is trying to change things in this church!
Why? I love this church exactly like it is, and I don't want it to change!**

A: Life, the life of anyone and anything, is about change! It is a good thing that you love the church, but are you sure you don't want anything to change? If the church today was exactly as it was when it first started back about 150 years ago, we wouldn't have a church building. We'd be meeting in some other building in town. We wouldn't have our own minister. We'd be served by the minister from Fayette, and he would only get here about every other month because he would be walking from Fayette to each of the 5 or 6 churches he served. My guess is that you're glad things have changed since those days! Perhaps you would prefer that we should have stopped changing around 1945. We still heated the church with coal back then, and we often didn't have enough money to pay the coal bill. That's why we started baking pasties- so we could pay the coal bill. The women made them in the church but baked them in their own homes, some of them using wood-burning ovens. Are you certain the women of the church would enjoy carrying raw pasties to their homes to bake in an oven that someone in the family would have had to chop the wood for? Change is a funny thing. People all prefer what they find comfortable, what life was like in their own personal "good old days." The problem is that what someone of 80 considers the "good old days" when the church was as they wish it still was, will be quite different from what a person of 40 considers ideal, and in turn the 40-year-old will have a very different idea of what church should be than a 20-year-old will. Further, most of us really do want some things to change because our needs change. People who didn't need the lift when it was first installed may have regretted having to modify the kitchen in order to accommodate it. The same people today may need the lift in order to access the sanctuary and the social hall, and may have conveniently forgotten that we had to sacrifice part of the kitchen to have a lift. Things change. Needs change. Things which don't change are typically not alive. If we want this church to be a living, vital part of this community and of our own lives, we will change, and the church will also change. Isn't it better to plan what those changes will be so that we continue to be relevant in the future, rather than stuck (and dying) in the past, and no longer able to meet the needs of that changed world?



United Methodist Women News

Submitted by Carol Weinert

We notice the days and nights are getting cooler and the leaves are changing color as the year prepares to enter a new season. In much the same way, at the first meeting of the season for Manistique First United Methodist Women, preparations were made for the next few months. Because the annual UMW conference will be held on the same day as our October meeting, the upcoming local UMW meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 1PM in Fellowship Hall of our church. Please mark this one time change on your calendar and plan to attend. Meetings are open to all interested women.

The annual Women's Sunday was discussed and the date has been set for Sunday, Nov. 7. The theme of the service will be "Star of Hope." Details and assignments for the service will be decided at the October meeting.

Plans for the annual Christmas Tea are uncertain at this time due to possible new Covid 19 restrictions. However, the annual "Operation Christmas Child" program is still on the calendar. This is the program spearheaded by the Billy Graham foundation in which shoe boxes are filled with small gifts for children throughout the world. At FUMC, participation church-wide is anticipated. To facilitate the operation here, UMW President Bette Jahn will do shopping for gifts and the boxes will be filled as a church activity. Please help fund this program by giving your monetary donations to Bette as soon as possible as the "Operation" must be completed by the end of November.

Don't forget—the next General Meeting of the local UMW will be Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 1PM.

The program will be our annual Pledge Service. Hope to see you there.



Just a Few Wordsfrom Connie Kelsey

Some of you may know that Kali Lewis has asked to step down from the secretary position due to health reasons. That does not mean that she is not important to us; we should continue to lift her up in prayers for healing. We would love to have her come back in any way possible.

I would like to thank the SPPRC committee in hiring me to become the First United Methodist Church Office Administrator. I also thank the Ad Council for approving this decision. I have had multiple positions in this field but it has been a few years since I have worked on a computer. I, like many have gotten used to doing most things on my telephone. Let me tell you, the keys are not in the same place! However, it is coming back to me! Thank you Pastor BJ and Kali for answering all of my questions.

I look forward to working for the church and the congregation. If there is anything you see that needs to be addressed please let me know. I ask for your prayers and patience as I learn my duties.