

November Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 6 Alex Ash
- 7 Celie Norton
- 8 Pixie Livingston
- 22 Bette Jahn
- 29 Rita Salter



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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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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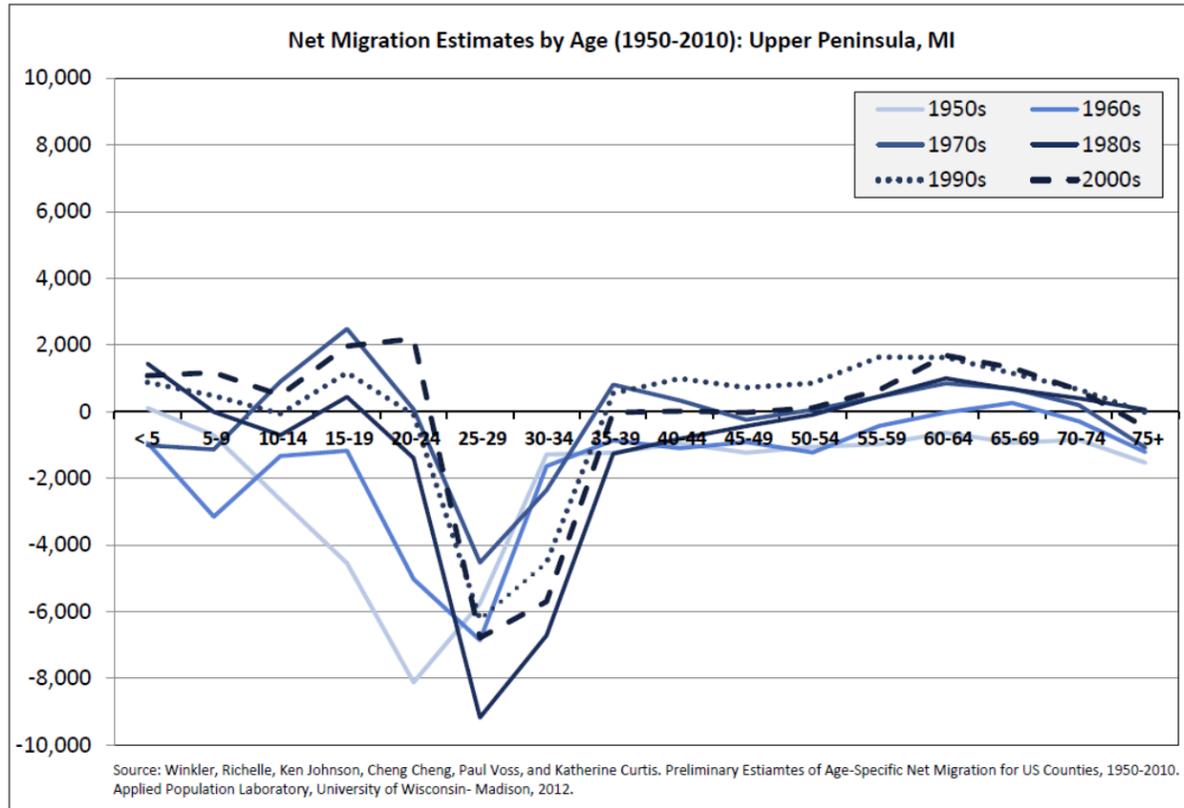
What is the one thing that you wish you could just give up doing? For some people that answer is: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Almost all of us know the definition of that word, so why do we all keep doing it? Is there some comfort in the tradition of the same methodology that trumps the logical reasoning that might cause us to lift our heads up and see that something isn't working the way we expected it to?

These are difficult questions and the answers to them are even more difficult, but we can't be ignorant to them. They are difficult because we can sense the change in the questions as they are being asked before the answers are even given. They can feel to us that they are challenging our past actions and may even come across as being judgmental despite the intentions. It isn't easy. This is how it is with growth: it isn't easy.

What happened when Jesus came to town and confronted the Pharisees, the religious leaders of that time? How would we feel if we were the Pharisees and we were faced with a paradigm shift like the Pharisees back then were looking at? Would we lament like Job did or would we be like Job's friends and try to find some way to justify the change by reasoning out the "why" in God's plan? We know that trying to figure out God's plan is beyond our understanding in the current time. We can lament and voice our feelings with one another, but we must move on to the next phase of accepting God's plan for us, showing our repentance, keeping the faith, and praying for one another to get through it.

The reason I am bringing all of this up is it is very, very old news for all of us: the population of Christ's church universal is in decline. The census is showing that the age of its members is getting older and the younger generation is not replacing members at the rate that they are departing the church due to death. Nothing new there, right? What's the solution, "young families with kids" you say? Michigan Tech University recently published their interpretation of the 2020 Census data for the U.P. and it says that we are looking for something that doesn't exist in any significant types of numbers in the U.P.

PASTOR'S WORDS



So, what do we do? We need to change our way of approaching this issue, of not doing the same thing that did during the past 70 years (according to the graph above), of doing ministry with what we have in our area. This means that instead of looking for what we don't have, instead of trying to have programs for something that is not readily available in our area, that we must look to what we have to work with (our resources) and what is out there to be in mission with.

Without mission, the church is no longer a church. Without mission, the message of the Gospel isn't alive and well, spreading throughout the world. Without mission, there aren't new people coming into the church. Yes, there will be the occasional person here and there that will just happen to wander into our church and stay because they find something they were looking for, but that is not sustainable for the local church to continue existing.

Like the Pharisees of Jesus' days, they are seeing that transformation is coming, and they know it will be different than anything before. The hesitation to embrace it is understandable because you don't know and fully understand God's plan. My challenge to us all is for us to be like Job and show your faith to the Lord your God by accepting His plan for us. We should of course do this before we have to sit in the dust and ashes to show our repentance. 😊



First United Methodist Church

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

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Native American Heritage Month	1 All Saints Day	2 UMW 1:00	3	4	5	6 Alex Ash 🎈
7 Daylight Savings Ends Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * UMW Worship 11 am Celie Norton 🎈	8 10 Ad Council 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group Pixie Livingston 🎈	9 Pasty Prep Vitality 11	10 Pasty Sales 🥨	11 Pasty Sales 🥨	12	13 Veterans Day
14 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	15 10 Ad Council 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	16	17	18	19	20
21 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	22 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group Bette Jahn 🎈	23	24	25	26	27
28 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	29 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group Rita Salter 🎈	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.

We are working to update the calling list. If you would like to be added to this list please contact Carol Weinert or Connie Kelsey in the office.



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Newsletter suggestions are always welcome! If you have anything you wish to have published in the December newsletter submit before the **November 19th, 2021** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to : office@manistiquemethodist.org



November 1st — All Saints Day

Isa 25:6-9, Ps 24 (UMH 755), Rev 21:1-6a, Jn 11:32-44

November 7th — 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17, Ps 127 or Ps 42 (UMH 777), Heb 9:24-28, Mk 12:38-44

November 14th — 25th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Sam 1:4-20, 1 Sam 2:1-10 or Ps 113 (UMH 834), Heb 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25, Mk 13: 1-8

November 21st— 26th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 23:1-7, Ps 132:1-12, Rev 1:4-8, Jn 18:33-37

November 25th— Thanksgiving

Joel 2:21-27, Ps 126 (UMH 847), 1 Tim 2:1-7, Mt 6:25-33

November 28th—1st Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16, Ps 25:1-10 (UMH 756), 1 Thes 3:9-13, Lk 21:25-36



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION



Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Hank Weinert, Jodi Louwsma, Martha Weeks, Joel Prater, Ted Burson, Penny Tracy, Connie Whitsitt, Jason Coryell, Kali Lewis, Kali Lewis, and the Janice Chittle family.



A View From the Belfry

November 2021

YAWWWWNN! Oh, excuse me! Days are getting shorter, and since that's when normal bats sleep so they can be flying around eating mosquitoes at night, we don't have as much time for sleeping as we do in the summer! While we should thus have more time for eating during the long winter nights, there just aren't very many mosquitoes and other bugs around this time of year. So not only are we sleep deprived, we're getting very hungry, too! However, I'm not complaining, at least not too much! After all, this year there was a Halloween, with kids in costumes and candy all around. Thank you, everybody, who loaned us your car trunks and filled them with candy! This bat loved watching the proceedings, although I could have used a few more bat costumes!

Now it's on to Thanksgiving, when all you food-loving people get to love lots of food! Strange, isn't it? The time of year when the harvesting is done and there is plenty of food to feed everyone is the same time of year when mosquitoes go hungry. Of course, we pretty much sleep the winter away, so we don't really suffer too much (except for weird bats such as myself who stay awake all winter to see what's going on in this church)! However, there are lots of people who don't have the resources to have a Thanksgiving feast, even though there is plenty of food to be had. It's great that this church always helps out in such situations by arranging to give a few Thanksgiving baskets to people who might otherwise go hungry or have a Thanksgiving "feast" of stale bread or crumbled crackers and not much more. One thing we can be thankful for is that, in addition to plenty of food for most of us, we also can help others have something to celebrate! Each year we have volunteers who use the contributions for Thanksgiving baskets to buy the food for a real Thanksgiving feast for a few families. Thanks to Bette Jahn for doing all the shopping and delivering to the families which she does so cheerfully! I'm sure she would welcome any and all offers of financial support and shopping assistance which this congregation can provide! On that note, Happy Thanksgiving to you all from Benny, your favorite bat. Now I think I'm going to find a cosy place in the belfry and take a little batnap!



Lay Leader Lines

November 2021

Q: In a church my cousin attends, there is a question and suggestion box where those who attend the church can ask questions and make suggestions about almost anything. She says that in her church they have had a lot of good ideas come in for expanding their outreach programs and worship experiences. They have also had some really thoughtful questions which have resulted in some interesting discussions and also some solutions for some of the problems they have encountered as a church. Could we do something like that here?

A: As far as I know, this is an idea which has not been brought up before. If you wish, we can bring it up to the congregation or in a committee meeting for consideration. Perhaps the Vitality Committee or one of the other existing committees can discuss the matter. If anyone has any comments on this idea, please share it with Pastor B.J., with one of the lay leaders (Mary Prater and Janet Helmbold) or with Jim Blanchard, chair of the Vitality Committee. We would also welcome any concerns or comments others may have about this idea.



United Methodist Women News

Submitted by Carol Weinert

A report of the annual District meeting of the United Methodist Women held Oct. 6 in Menominee was presented at the October general meeting of the Manistique UMW. Three members of the local UMW attended the District meeting. The next District meeting will be held May 3, 2022, in St. Ignace.

Plans were finalized for the annual Women's Sunday service and assignments were given. The date for the service has been set for Sunday, Nov. 7. Theme of the service will be "Hope."

Plans for the annual Christmas Tea are uncertain at this time due to possible new Covid 19 restrictions. Discussion for this event was not held at this meeting. Any plans for Christmas programs will be discussed at the November meeting.

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 the 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 mid-November.

The next General Meeting of the local UMW will be Tuesday, Nov. 2, at 1 PM. The program will be our annual World Thank Offering. Hope to see you there.

The local chapter of the UMW is open to all interested women.

Just a Few Words

...from Connie Kelsey

I am so blessed to be here in the office serving the church and congregation! I am learning about church operations, both locally and district wide. In order to keep the church open and available to you, my hours will be as follows: Monday and Tuesday I will work from home (available through the church office email or phone 989-289-2799, leave message if I don't pick up). Wednesday and Thursday I will be in the office from 10 AM-2 PM. I am so thankful to have all of you in my life! May you have a blessed Thanksgiving! Salute to all the Veterans!

A NOTE OF



I would like to thank Vic & Sharon Vanderville and their daughter, Jenny, for their generous donation of several sleepers, hats and socks. Every donation is very much appreciated, especially new when so many people are struggling to make ends meet.

God Bless,

Lynn LaRose