



- 5 Dan & Connie Kelsey, 1991
- 9 Joe Kolder
- 14 Sharon Feichtenbiner
- 16 Mary Prater

First United Methodist Church
Worship Service 11:00am



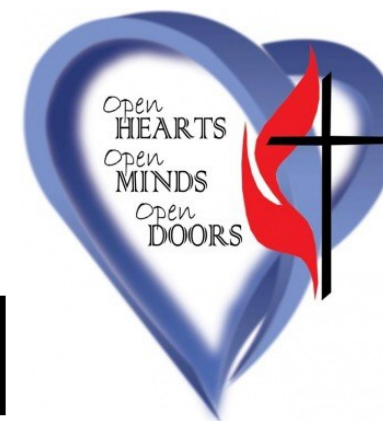
First United Methodist Church
Church Phone: (906) 341-6662
Pastor: Rev. B.J. Ash Cell: 906-286-1492
email: pastor@manistiquemethodist.org
Office Hours: Pastor B.J. M-F 8AM-12PM, Off Wed
Connie M-T work from home 10-2, W-TH 10-2 office
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First United Methodist Church
190 N. Cedar Street
Manistique, Michigan 49854

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022!



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
www.manistiquemethodist.org
office@manistiquemethodist.org

We are headed into another new year and things are still feeling fresh and new like the first time. Many of us had Christmas Eve service here “for the first time” since we weren’t traveling on that night. The year prior didn’t count since nobody went anywhere, so this year was like the first time for many of us. Some things have not changed, like COVID-19 infections, despite our steadfast prayers and appeals for everyone in our community to receive their vaccine. What will ministry look like in the coming year? Again, another unknown, but I’m sure there will be some new first times and some things that haven’t changed.

Unlike the cultural celebration announcing a new year on January 1st, in the church calendar we actually begin with Advent – so...Happy Belated New Year, church! Now is the time for us to come TOGETHER as we carry on the spiritual preparations that we started in Advent to keep company with God in this coming year. It is time for us to pull TOGETHER to share grace with a world in need of good news. We have been drawn TOGETHER by the uniting story of Christmas. Though there is much that tries to distract and separate and defeat, we remain convinced "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, not anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

PASTOR'S
WORDS

Therefore, come TOGETHER with us in this new year and with the great love that conquers all! May our daily prayers and actions of faith renew in us a glorious PEACE, JOY, HOPE & LOVE!

Pastor B.J.

Cybercrime Protection Training

We have recently seen news reports about the increases in cyber-crime, especially targeting seniors. Falling victim to cybercrime can be financially devastating. Cybercrime happens when criminals use tele-phones, cell phones and computers to take advantage of people with their robocall, Phishing and ransomware scams.

In support of our community, Limestone Federal Credit Union and SineTech are teaming up to provide informative sessions for local residents on how to safeguard against cybercrime. If you have concerns, you are invited to attend one of these events held at The Comfort Inn in Manistique on January 5, 2022 from 9am to 11am or on January 6, 2022 from 6pm to 8pm. There is no cost to attend if you belong to the First United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Jim Blanchard



First United Methodist Church

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

January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!
2 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	3 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	4 10 Trustee w/ Breakout Comm following 1PM UMW	5 Dan & Connie Kelsey	6 11 Vitality Epiphany	7	8
9 Joe Kolder Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	10 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	11 11 Pasty Prep	12 Pasty Sales	13 Pasty Sales	14 Sharon Feichtenbiner	15
16 Mary Prater Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	17 10 Ad Council 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th)	19	20	21	22
23 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	24 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	25	26	27	28	29
30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	31 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group					



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

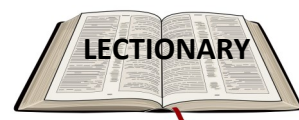
These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor B.J. Ash at 906-341-6662 (church) or 906-286-1492 (cell). You may also call Carol Weinert at 906-341-4499.



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Newsletter suggestions are always welcome! If you have anything you wish to have published in the February newsletter submit before **January 20th, 2022** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to : office@manistiquemethodist.org



January 1st — New Year's Day

Ecc1 3:1-13, Ps 8 (UMH 743), Rev 21:1-6a, Mt 25:31-46

January 2nd — 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jer 31:7-14, Ps 147:12-20 (UMH 860), Eph 1:3-14, Jn 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 6th — Epiphany

Isa 60:1-6, Ps 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795), Eph 3:1-12, Mt 2:1-12

January 9th — Baptism of the Lord

Isa 43:1-7, Ps 29 (UMH 761), Acts 8:14-17, Lk 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16th — 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany, Human Relations Day

Isa 62:1-5, Ps 36:5-10 (UMH 771), 1 Cor 12:1-11, Jn 2:1-11

January 23th — 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, Ecumenical Sunday

Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Ps 19 (UMH 750), 1 Cor 12:12-31a, Lk 4:14-21

January 30th — 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Jer 1:4-10, Ps 71:1-6 (UMH 794), 1 Cor 13:1-13, Lk 4:21-30



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION



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



A View From the Belfry January, 2022

Oh, me! As I write this January newsletter article up here in my VERY COLD belfry, it's still before Christmas yet, in fact. That means it's strange to hope you all had a very merry Christmas, since I know that you haven't had it yet. Anyway, I truly do hope the entire Christmas season has been blessed for everyone. I must say that it has been a very busy time around the church. Vic and Sharon Vanderville, plus all their helpers (Gordie Barry, John Livingston, Ted Burson, Lynn and Jack LaRose, Candace Haskell, Pastor B.J. and Rick Cole (Pastor B.J.'s neighbor)) have been very busy building new steps to the pastor's office from outside the back entrance. They have been equally busy widening the door to his office so those in wheelchairs can access that office. Vic and Sharon installed new wainscoting around the new door so that the area blends in perfectly with the existing building. Lynn and Candace painted the area with about a dozen coats of primer, paint, stain, and who know what else! Jack and Lynn also donated the wainscoting, which makes me wonder if there is anything on earth that someone in this congregation doesn't have somewhere in an attic or a storage shed. I don't think wainscoting has been popular for at least a few dozen years, yet it fits perfectly in this old church building! (Does anybody happen to have a bundle board in some spare corner? Just wondering: I don't really have use for one.) In addition to all the upkeep and repairs and sprucing up, the church has been decorated beautifully by many of these same people plus a few more. The UMW women had a very fine Christmas tea/luncheon/cookie exchange/white elephant exchange/social event. They couldn't invite guests from the other churches in town because of continuing concerns about that nasty COVID stuff, but they managed to celebrate with joy and thanksgiving for all they have received this past year. This church even participated in a virtual Festival of Lessons and Carols, as Pastor B.J. recorded Penny Tracy and Connie Kelsey as they read scripture passages, Dan Kelsey as he sang a beautiful rendition of *O Holy Night*, and a make-shift choir, who also sang Christmas carols. Our contribution was combined with contributions from the other churches in the community, and the Festival was broadcast on-line for all to see. In a world which seems to be increasingly fractured and fractious, it's great that this church and this community can pull together to worship God, and to accomplish the directive to spread the Good News to all the world that Jesus Christ is indeed born! May we remember that throughout the year to come, despite COVID, and wars, and whatever else the year may bring. Happy New Year!!

For those who decided to find all the titles of Christmas carols in the December View from the Belfry, there were 47 of them, plus a few lines from carols which were included but not counted as titles because they really weren't titles! Since the prize was a free copy of this newsletter, I think everybody won, since everybody gets a free copy, as we don't charge for the newsletter!

Lay Leader Lines January, 2022

One of the responsibilities of a lay leader is to serve as a liaison between the clergy and the laity of the church. In some churches this can be a very difficult job because of ongoing friction between the two groups. In this church, we are blessed with the cooperation we have between the clergy and the laity. We are doubly blessed with the amount both clergy and laity do for the welfare of the church and the community as a whole. We have clergy and church members serving on committees and boards with a large number of organizations in this community, from the Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital Board to Habitat for Humanity to the City Planning and Zoning Commission to the Lake Effect Community Arts Board. These are only a few of the civic groups and organizations on which we are represented. We also have a number of ongoing projects within the church on which we all work together. We have made good progress on replacing the steps to the pastor's study, and are well along in the effort to make his study accessible to those in wheelchairs by widening the door into it from the hallway. We have ordered (and are still awaiting the arrival of) ovens to replace those currently in use in the oven room of the kitchen. We also are evaluating the administrative structure of the church to see where we are doing well and where we could make improvements. The lay leaders (Mary Prater and Janet Helmbold) would like to thank everyone, both laity and clergy, who are involved in carrying out the work and mission of this church, both within the church itself and in the community and world around us. It is a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and giving church family. We are looking forward to what the new year will bring. Certainly we will continue to have challenges; COVID still rears its ugly head in ever new strains. Certainly we will continue to be involved in maintaining this old church building so that it remains a safe, attractive, and convenient place in which to worship and work to carry out the Great Commission. Above all, we are certainly blessed to have such a willing, committed, and dedicated church staff and membership working together as a team to continue the work of First United Methodist Church in Manistique throughout the coming year and well into the future. Happy New Year, everyone!

Thank you volunteers who donated their time ringing the Salvation Army bell at Tractor Supply store on Saturday, December 18th! Your support benefits Good Neighbors and the community.



United Methodist Women News Submitted by Carol Weinert

The Manistique unit of the United Methodist Women concluded the year 2021 with an intimate Christmas Tea attended by many of the local church women. The highlight of the event was a white elephant gift bag exchange as the guests enjoyed a delightful light buffet. The tea closed with a cookie exchange of tasty homemade goodies. The first UMW meeting of the new year will be Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at 1 PM (weather permitting!) Now is a good time to join the group. The UMW is open to all women interested in the welfare of women and children.

As the new year begins, we invite you to join the UMW Reading Program. There are many interesting books in the program on the shelves of the church library located next to the lift. See Mary Prater for more information. Mary has also made available outdated books for your enjoyment. These books are located on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Take as many as you like and pass them on to others when you are through. (She does not want them back!)

Looking ahead, the next District UMW Celebration will be May 3, 2022 in St. Ignace. Featured speaker will be Faith Fowler. More information will be given soon.

In the meantime, let's hope 2022 will be a happier, healthy time for us all. Happy New Year!

Poinsettias

Thank you everyone for your donation of the beautiful poinsettias:

Pastor B.J., Kelly, Brandon & Alex - In Memory of Ash & Freberg Family
Celie & Curt Norton - In Memory of Parents & In Honor of Grandchildren
Vic & Sharon Vanderville - In Memory of Parents & In Honor of Grandchildren
John & Carol Livingston - In Honor of Loved Ones & To The Glory of God
Kathleen Haynes - In Memory of My Parents
Mary Whinnen - In Memory of Orma Hovey
Bob Whinnen - In Memory of Janet Whinnen

Also for those giving a paper poinsettia with a financial gift:

Mary Prater - In Memory of Fred, Jim and Janice Prater
Ted & Louise Burson - In Memory of our parents & In Honor of our children and grandchildren
David Hokenson - In Memory of Mary Ann Mills and Edward & Gunhild Hokenson
Norm & Sharon Feichtenbiner - In Memory of our Parents
Gayle & William Tufnell - In Memory of Joseph & Theresa Carlson and George & Emma Tufnell
Rita Salter - In Memory of the Hoar and Salter Families
Tom & Phyllis Burge - In Honor of our Grandchildren
Jim & Sara Blanchard - In Memory of Nancy Pries and In Honor of Family
Gordie & Susan Barry - In Honor of our Children and Grandchildren
Dan & Connie Kelsey - In Memory of Gene Hastings and Norma Johnson

