



- 1 Connie Kelsey
- 7 Gordie Barry
- 7 Marcia Tevelde
- 13 John Haskell
- 28 Ellen Derber

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
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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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As I think back to the many joyful events of the past month, I keep going back to the saying, "It is a blessing to be a blessing." The blessings God gives us are intended to be shared with all, beginning with the inestimable blessing of salvation from sin and including all the other good things the Lord has given to us.

I know that I have been greatly blessed. Perhaps you have too. So many of us have been given so much: material goods, adequate incomes, families, friends, jobs, homes, and that's just for starters. If you're a Christian, then whatever your circumstances, you've been given the greatest gifts: faith, hope and love. You have also been blessed with the means of grace and the hope of glory. If you have Christ, you have been given everything that is eternally worthwhile. So, the big question is "Why?" Why have I, why have you, been so blessed? The answer to that question is found in Genesis 12:2-3:

"I Will Bless You, You Will Bless Others"

In the opening verse of Genesis 12 the Lord tells Abraham, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you." Abraham went, and God blessed, but this isn't the whole story. For that you need to read the rest of the sentence. Here's how it continues: "I will bless you," God says to Abraham, "and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:2-3). God's promise to bless Abraham is accompanied by a further explanation. His blessing of Abraham is just the first step in a much bigger plan to extend that blessing through Abraham to all the earth's peoples.

Think in the first place about what this statement says to us regarding God's intentions. The fuller expression of God's promise points to his greater plan for the world. God certainly intended to bless Abraham and his descendants, but he never meant his

PASTOR'S
WORDS

blessing to be exclusive. God singled out Abraham (and later his physical descendants, the nation of Israel) as a first strategic step in what God always determined would be a world-embracing plan of salvation.

So, this promise shows us God’s heart. It reveals that God’s love has always been for the whole world, and his plan was always to offer salvation to all the world’s peoples. I’m afraid that many Christians think of missions as a sort of add-on to the church’s work, as though the Great Commission to “go into all the world and make disciples from every nation” were an afterthought. It’s as if Jesus paused just before going back to heaven and exclaimed, “Oh, I almost forgot; I want you to go into all the world now and preach the gospel to all nations.” Many Christians don’t seem to think that doing this is all that important, but Genesis 12 shows that from the very beginning God’s purpose to bless and save has always had a universal scope.

Let’s make this personal for just a minute. Take stock of your own life. Think about everything that God has given you, all the blessings he has poured out, material or spiritual. Most of us have far more than we usually acknowledge. Compared to the world’s truly poor, I am wealthy beyond belief, and you probably are too. Do we imagine that we have been given so much simply to enable us to live comfortable, even luxurious lives while so many throughout the world are suffering?

Or focus for a moment more on the greatest blessing of all. Do you know the Lord personally? Have you received his gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? What other gift or blessing can compare with that? Is peace with God and the hope of heaven just yours to enjoy, all by yourself, with no thought of anyone else or are they something you and I need to share with everyone everywhere?

I wonder if we’re in danger of so concentrating on the top line—all the good things God has given us—that we forget the bottom line, and the bottom line is this: we have been blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor B.J.



First United Methodist Church

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

February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 11 Worship Committee 1 UMW	2	3	4	5
6 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	7 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group Gordie Barry Marcia Tevelde	8 11 Pasty Prep 11 Vitality	9 Pasty Sales	10 Pasty Sales	11	12
13 John Haskell Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	14 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	15	16 3:45 Ad Council	17	18	19
20 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	21 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group	22	23	24	25	26
27 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am * Worship 11 am	28 11:30 Bible Study 12:30 Prayer Group Ellen Derber					





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.

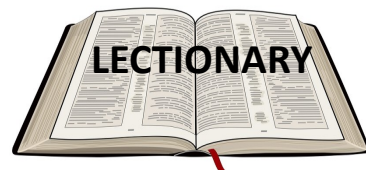
These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor B.J. Ash at 906-341-6662 (church) or 906-286-1492 (cell). You may also call Carol Weinert at 906-341-4499.



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 February newsletter submit before **February 20th, 2022** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to : office@manistiquemethodist.org



**MASK NOT REQUIRED
BUT ENCOURAGED**



February 6th — 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa 6:1-8 (9-13), Ps 138 (UMH 853), 1 Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5:1-11

February 13th — 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Jer 17:5-10, Ps 1(UMH 738), 1 Cor 15:12-20, Lk 6:17-26

February 20th — 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Gen 45:3-11, 15, Ps 37:1-11, 39-40 (UMH 772), 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50, Lk 6:27-38

February 27th — Transfiguration Sunday

Ex 34:29-35, Ps 99 (UMH 819), 2 Cor 3:12-4:2, Lk 9:28-26 (37-43)



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION



Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Phyllis Burge & family, Jo Nell Rubick, Hank Weinert, Martha Weeks, Joel Prater, Ted Burson, Penny Tracy, Connie Whitsitt, Jason Coryell, Kali Lewis, and health concerns for the Chittle family.



A View From the Belfry February, 2022

Howdy from Benny, your very own belfry bat! It's been really cold some nights up in the old nonexistent belfry, but I am hopeful that they will eventually get warmer. They should because I have noticed that the days, while still short, have definitely been getting longer! It isn't pitch dark by 5:30 pm any more!

I have also noticed that we have a few new faces hanging around the church during the week and a few of the faces we once saw quite often are here less often. A few of our more discerning members who have determined that it is indeed cold here have gone south for the winter, so we don't see them much as we did. On the other hand, I am now seeing Jim Gaffney more often than I once did, as he has assumed the job of Financial Secretary. So far he seems to be a real natural for it. He teaches math and computers at the high school, so is well equipped to handle the demands of this job. We still see Bill Tufnell around, since he is showing Jim the ropes of financial secretaryizing. Bill decided that he wanted to retire from the position so he could spend more time playing golf and watching his toenails grow when summer returns. Why should a young man (middle 80's) like Bill want to retire, anyway? You humans are sure strange at times. I thought most of you would want to work until at least your 95th birthday, but I guess Bill is an exception to this. Who can figure??!

I sat in on the Ad. Council meeting this week, and learned that this church is going to spruce up its committee structure! Some committees which have been pretty much in hibernation are going to start meeting and working! Others may combine, or split apart, or totally remake themselves. One of the first things they are going to do is go over what the guidebooks say about what they are supposed to be doing. Then they are going to decide how they will dovetail with other committees who may share or at least have similar responsibilities, who within each committee will do what, and the like. I noticed, however, that they didn't mention the Feed the Resident Bat Committee. I sure hope they either form that committee, or at least assign that position to one of the existing committees. Maybe the missions committee might be a good fit. As the only resident bat I know of in this church, I'd be happy to sit in on the meetings as an interested party. Of course, knowing that some of you humans find bats to be less than their favorite flying critters, I can understand that some of you might be very reluctant to join any committee with a bat as a member. Oh, well. Maybe I'll just hang in the background instead and let the committees go about their business without my assistance! Anyway, it will be interesting to see how the committees come together to make this a more efficient church which needs and uses talents and skills of ALL its members! Meanwhile, I am going to see if I can find a stray mosquito or something and invite it to dinner!

Lay Leader Lines
February, 2022

Q: I have heard that another of our pasty ovens is no longer working. I thought we were getting new ovens. Where are they?

A: Yes, another of the pasty ovens is no longer being used. We could not get it to heat to the proper temperature when we last baked pasties. We may be able fix it, but until we can do that we will no longer use it. As far as the new pasty ovens are concerned, at last report three of the four sets we need have been shipped, but the fourth set still has not arrived. They apparently are still awaiting unloading from the ship they were on, and need to be delivered to this area. We need to have all four sets of ovens before we install them because we are going to have to remodel that part of the oven room in order to set them up, since they are not identical to the old ovens and will not require exactly the same amount of space. We can do that work ourselves, but not until we have all the ovens here.

***News Flash!** Vic Vanderville was able to fix the newly broken oven by using a part from the first broken oven. Thanks, Vic!

Are you looking for a way to
make your offering/giving
process easier?

Stop by the office and fill out an Electronic
Fund Transfer Authorization form.

Thank You

If you get a chance stop in the conference
room and see the beautiful dream catcher!

It was made by Mary Lynn Bowman.

Also, Thank You for the Christmas Gift!

Connie Kelsey

I would like to thank Gayle Tufnell for the
beautiful handmade hats, teeny tiny socks
and mittens, and the most adorable knitted
jumper for the layettes.

Rita Salter donated some cute fuzzy stuffed
animals, and several onesies.

Thanks so much and God Bless,

Lynn LaRose

Sorry, we missed a
memorial
Poinsettia donation

Thank you, John & Candace Haskell
- In Memory
of Glenn Coffman



United Methodist Women News
Submitted by Carol Weinert

The focus of the January meeting of the Manistique United Methodist Women was to close the books on 2021. Treasurer Linda Moon reported that after setting aside \$4,187 of the group's funds to cover its portion of the cost of the new ovens, there was still a large balance in the treasury. To reduce this balance, as is customary with the UMW, a discussion was conducted to handle the reduction of these excess funds.

After setting aside enough funds to handle the 2022 expected expenses, it was decided to send \$1,000 to God's Country Cooperative Parish (which oversees several United Methodist churches in the Eastern UP); \$100 to the Grand Rapids Community House; \$200 to Eastbrook PA (a mission site headed by Deaconess Katie Peterson); \$100 to the UMW legacy fund; and \$200 to the Zeba ministry in L'Anse – all programs funded by the Michigan United Methodist Church.

A short discussion was also held concerning the annual UMW Reflection Breakfast which will be held on Saturday, April 9th. This event is always held the weekend before Easter, which will be April 17 this year. The event was canceled last year due to the Pandemic, and it is uncertain if it will be allowed this year, but currently plans for it to be held are being considered. If you have suggestions for a speaker and/ or program, let UMW President Bette Jahn know.

The next general meeting of the Manistique UMW will be held Tuesday, February 1, at 1 PM in Fellowship Hall. The program will be the annual service of Prayer and Self Denial. The UMW is open to all women interested in the welfare of women and children.

*When we put God first,
all other things
fall into their proper place.*

Education Committee Update:

We have met and are looking for ways to update and improve everyone's Christian education. This committee is not just about adult and children's Sunday School classes. We are looking for your thoughts and ideas! Maybe a VBS or a gathering with a lesson in an informal setting, drop your ideas in the office. Connie will be sure to pass them along to the committee. We plan on meeting again soon to discuss them. *Penny Tracy, Education Chairperson*