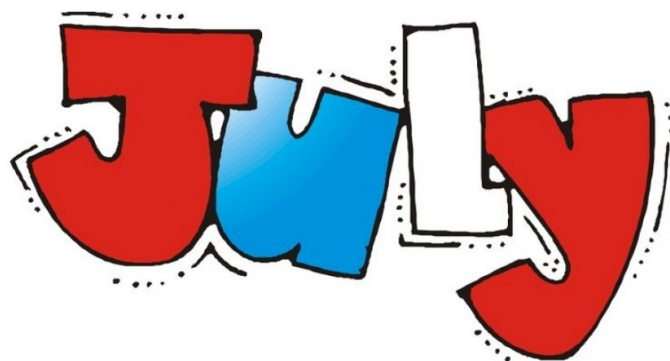




- 4 Carol Livingston
- 5 Ron Annelin
- 23 Gordie & Susan Barry
- 26 Tom Burge
- 29 Dan Kelsey

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: Pastor B.J. M-F 10 am-2pm, Off Wed
Connie M-T work from home 10-2, W-TH 10-2 office
www.manistiquemethodist.org
email: office@manistiquemethodist.org

**MASK NOT REQUIRED
BUT ENCOURAGED**



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.



THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

First United Methodist Church
190 N. Cedar Manistique, MI
www.manistiquemethodist.org
office@manistiquemethodist.org

**PASTOR'S
WORDS**

In each year of our congregation's lifecycle, there are events that happen with a certain regularity such as Annual Conference, Charge Conference, Easter, Christmas, arrival and departure of snowbirds, etc. Another one of those cyclic events is the one-on-one with the District Superintendent that each pastor is scheduled to attend. This is a time of checking-in and having a dedicated time to dialogue and converse between the two of us to see where there are needs and where we can help each other out.

There is also a questionnaire that precedes this meeting that I fill out each year. Some of the questions on it include:

How is it with your soul and your thoughts/feelings of ministry?

In what way is your congregation developing and living into a vision?

What has been done in your congregation to equip laity in the past year, both within and outside of the church?

As I go through and fill these out each year, I think about how these same questions could be answered by our congregation. How is it with each of your souls and your thoughts/feelings of ministry? In what way are you developing and living into a vision? How have you equipped yourself in the past year, both within and outside of the church?

From these questions, I answer them both ways: from my perspective and from the perspective of the congregation. I look at the events that have happened in this past year in the life of our church body when defining that perspective, then I formulate my response. When writing out these responses, I often see areas of growth in our congregation that we have either already accomplished or could grow into. Sometimes members of the congregation accomplish it before I can suggest it and that is a wonderful feeling to have as your pastor. One example of this is our worship committee

PASTOR'S
WORDS

taking the lead in our decorating the sanctuary in our first weeks of Pentecost and they certainly did a great job with it!

However, not all tasks are as easy as this and there are many times that we may feel that we will never be able to accomplish the goal that we are trying to reach. These are times when we need to reach out to God through prayer for His help through the power of the Holy Spirit to work through us to accomplish His will.

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice



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Pasties For a Purpose

The Manistique First United Methodist Church will be selling “Pasties For A Purpose” at this year’s Folk Fest. In the past, the church has used the proceeds for maintenance and special projects at the church. This year, the proceeds will go to providing a Feeding America food truck for our community on July 27th.



“We have been blessed with a growing number of people in our church who have been generous and helped us through the pandemic and reach our building project goals”, said Pastor B.J. Ash. “This year, our church wants to give back to our community in a meaningful way. We understand the growing concerns of higher prices and the resulting food insecurity that might bring. By giving our profits for this cause, we think we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need help.”

Since the 1940s, the First United Methodist Church has been making pasties. For 11 months of the year, the United Methodist Women make and sell these delicious meals to support UMW mission and social causes. During Folk Fest, the entire congregation works towards making and selling those same tasty pasties. Be sure to visit the booth on Saturday, July 9, during the Folk Fest celebration in downtown Manistique to pick up your pasty to enjoy and help us make a difference in our community.



First United Methodist Church

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

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	4 11 Bible Study 12 Prayer Group Carol Livingston	5 Ron Annelin	6	7 Pastor B.J. out of the office	8 Pastor B.J. out of the office	9 FolkFest
10 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	11 11 Bible Study 12 Prayer Group	12 9:30 Education 10:30 Pasty Prep	13 7:30 Pasty Prep 10-1 Pasty Sales	14 7:30 Pasty Prep 10-1 Pasty Sales	15	16
17 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	18 11 Bible Study 12 Prayer Group	19 10 Ad Council	20 2:45 SPRC Newsletter deadline	21	22	23 Gordie & Susan Barry
24 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	25 11 Bible Study 12 Prayer Group	26 Tom Burge	27	28	29 Dan Kelsey	30
31 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	July Mission Noisy Offering — Society of St. Andrew Help support this mission project by dropping your donation into the glass jar. God is working through us. All donations will be accepted, drop it in as you enter or as you exit the sanctuary! Include your church envelope number if you want it tracked in your financial giving. Thank you for your support!					



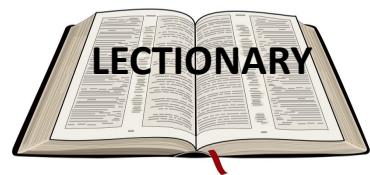
Prayer Chain

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.



July 3 — 4th Sunday After Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps 30 (UMH 762); Gal 6:91-6) 7-16; Lk 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 — 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17, Ps 82 (UMH 804); Col 1:1-14; Lk 10:25-37

July 17 — 6th Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12; Ps 52 or Ps 82 (UMH 804); Col 1:15-28; Lk 10:38-42

July 24 — 7th Sunday After Pentecost

Hos 1:2-10; Ps 85 (UMH 806); Col 2:6-15 (16-19); Lk 11:1-13

July 31 — 8th Sunday After Pentecost

Hos 11:1-11; Ps 107:1-9, 43 (UMH 830); Col 3:1-11; Lk 12:13-21

FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION



Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Bob Whinnen, Michael Haynes, Family of Hank Weinert, Jo Nell Rubick, Martha Weeks, Joel Prater, Ted Burson, Penny Tracy, Connie Whitsitt, Jason Coryell, Kali Lewis, Billings family and health concerns for the Chittle family.



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

June Mission
Noisy Offering
collected \$32.31
to be donated
to MS/HS
Helpful Hotspot
Thank you for
your support!



A View From the Belfry July, 2022

Oh, my! Hello from Benny, once again a very confused bat! Last month I was confused by a letter I supposedly wrote, but which I couldn't have written because I had never heard of any of the words in it (well, I had heard of the one I had used earlier, but that's all). Now I'm confused by all the changes in the church sanctuary! I never did understand you humans very well, and now I'm sure I never will! For some reason a group of church people got together, moved a lot of the furniture out of the altar area, and replaced it with a lot of things which belong outside, not in the church, like flowering vines and trees and rocks and stuff. There was a kind of tent-like shelter too, and a baby in a basket, and I don't know what else. Then Pastor B.J. showed up in a baseball uniform. The next week some of those same people came back again and moved the altar back, but put it on the floor instead of up where it belonged. Poor Pastor B.J. had to sit at it like you might sit at a dinner table and preach from there! Then they came back again and put it where it was supposed to go in the first place. They also put the candles back on it. Pastor B.J. brought a baseball mitt and baseball to the service, but he didn't play any baseball. Who knows what he'll do next!?! According to the church calendar, this is the season of Pentecost, but I guess it's also baseball season as well. If you don't believe me, you should come to church on Sunday and see what's going on! I didn't know that Pentecost and baseball were so closely related, but they must be. I haven't quite figured it all out yet, but I do think that those folks who are moving all that furniture around and decorating the chancel area deserve recognition for their efforts to do whatever it is that Pastor B.J. is asking them to do. They include Candace Haskell, Kerry Billings, Vic and Sharon Vanderville, Connie Kelsey and Lynn LaRose. I have no idea what they'll do next, but I'm keeping an eye on it all. So far they haven't made it a truly authentic outdoor scene, because there aren't any mosquitoes, but maybe next week...well, probably not, since they seem to be taking the outdoor stuff away. Oh, well.

In addition to all that is going on in the sanctuary, I noticed that somebody came to the church and replaced some old, worn-out windows in the kitchen area with glass blocks! It really looks nice! People are also planning something more for the back steps, and the toilet in the women's bathroom and installing a new bathroom upstairs are also still on the agenda. To add to that, the man who routinely comes back to fix the lift door AGAIN and AGAIN and AGAIN came back still AGAIN. This time, however, it's actually working! It opens when it should, and wonder of wonders, it stays closed when it should! It would be great if this time it really stays fixed! So far we're hopeful!

As always, this is a busy, hard-working church! Next on the agenda will be FolkFest, and the pasties for it are already made! We had a great crew of makers and bakers, and boy did they ever turn out a bumper crop of golden brown pasties! You know, you folks wear me out! I think I'll go take a nap in my stump of a belfry!

Lay Leader Lines July, 2022

One of the responsibilities of lay representatives to Annual Conference is to report to their church congregations what happened at the Conference. Accordingly, this month's article will fulfill that responsibility.

For the past two years Annual Conference has been either canceled (2020), or conducted on-line (2021). This year's conference had elements of both. Legislative sessions were held on-line prior to the conference, saving time during the days we were at the Conference Center in events and items of business, the conference was shortened from 4 full days to approximately 2 1/2 days, with the clergy having an additional 1/2 day session prior to the full conference session. The new format worked relatively well, except for a few glitches in accessing the Conference by some of those attending on-line. One of the main concerns was that of individuals being able to turn on their microphones so they could be heard so they could ask questions or make comments. Unfortunately, there was no tech support provided this year as was offered last year, and a few individuals in my legislative sessions never did have an opportunity to be heard. Voting itself seemed to go very smoothly, however, and the results were available immediately.

Most of the legislative issues were routine and consisted of approving the budget, supporting various programs and missions which we have supported for years but which we must vote on anew each year, and the like. Far less time was spent on issues which have taken up a great deal of time in the past, such as the ordination of individuals with alternative sexual orientations. It is likely that this particular issue was less explored because of the pending vote on whether or not to remain a United Methodist Church or to split over this particular issue. That will not be decided at the Conference level, but at the General Conference of the world-wide church, which has been postponed again. To date several local churches have already voted to disaffiliate, although most churches are waiting to see what will eventually happen. Many are anticipating that there will be a split, but that the two churches may remain joined together on items such as pension plans and other pastoral benefits. As of now it is expected that every local church will need to consider the position it will take, but at this point it appears to be premature to make a final choice.

We had significant discussion on a few issues, such as allowing a specific group formed for the purpose of speaking for the churches which are disaffiliating to actually serve as the official voice for that group. After much debate and hearing several concerns regarding this, it was voted down. One of the issues which might have resulted in a great deal of discussion, judging on the time spent on it in the legislative session, was that of defining a viable human being as beginning at the moment of conception, as opposed to somewhat later in the developmental process such as when the fetus could sustain life outside the womb. This issue was to have been brought before the plenary session. However, it was the last item on the agenda and we ran out of time to deal with it. In past years if this happened arrangements were made to return to the item in question after the rest of the Conference had been completed. No such arrangement was made this year. This is an item which has been brought up in past years, and is very likely to be brought up again in the future.

Overall, we some good presentations, although fewer than in past years. There was some music and hymn singing, but significantly less than we have had before. There was no general chair at all. We ordained 17 new clergy, including elders and deacons. We also appointed a number of local lay pastors. We retired over 40 clergy, but there was no program for them for the entire Conference body. We received lists of deceased clergy and deceased spouses, but had no memorial service for them. We did not get list of new appointments, but these are, or will be, available on-line. Overall, the conference was perhaps more efficient than those of past years. However, we did not seem to have the same spirit, the same joy, or the same overall sense of a Christian community of believers as we have had in the past. Rather, there was a feeling of weariness over dealing with too much COVID, too many shootings, and too much war in the world, compounded by a sense of sadness over the splits and disagreements in our denomination. There was also a sense of many of us would like to agree that we disagree but that we can still work together on the main purpose of the church, which is to spread the Good News of God's redeeming love, to care for the orphans and widows among us, and to love each other as God loves us.

Help Wanted! We are looking to hire a Part-time Cleaning person. We offer a flexible work schedule, one day a week. If interested please contact Bette Jahn or Sara Blanchard.



United Methodist Women News Submitted by Carol Weinert

Attendance was small at the June 7 meeting of the Manistique United Methodist Women but business was conducted as usual.

Continuing the year's theme of the "fruit of the Spirit," (Galatians 5:22-23) Connie Kelsey presented a program on "Peace." Thoughts on the May District Celebration held in St. Ignace were also discussed.

President Bette Jahn announced that she has compiled a binder of UMW policies so that anyone interested in the function of the group will find the answers in it. The binder will be located in the church office.

Mary Prater announced that the current Reading Program concludes in December but there is still time to join in. See her for more information.

Plans for the annual UMW picnic were finalized. The event will be held in the church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday Aug. 2 at noon. The menu will be a salad luncheon with members bringing their favorite salad or dessert. A sign-up list of what you will bring will be circulated soon so that we will have a good variety of dishes. The program will be presented by Janet Helmbold, who will speak on her recent trip to Croatia.

Those attending are asked to wear a hat for a game of True or False. Each lady will tell a story about the significance of her hat and the audience must decide whether or not her story is true..

This year the luncheon will not be open to guests due the on-going Covid 19 virus that is still circulating in the Upper Peninsula.



Vacation Bible School

Date: August 15-18, 2022

Place: First United Methodist Church

Address: 190 N. Cedar St., Manistique

Time: 9 a.m. - Noon

Ages: Preschool - 6th grade

RSVP: 906-341-6662 by August 1, 2022

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! **Vacation Bible School News**

The Education committee is working very hard to create a fun and engaging VBS

Volunteers are still needed,
Young at heart is all that is needed

Don't miss out on your opportunity to join in the fun and merriment by sharing God's love!

Contact Penny Tracy 906-286-4176
or the office 906-341-6662