



14 Char Crosby
28 Ron & Ruth Annelin, 1972

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: pastor@manistiquemethodist.org
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

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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.



THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

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

PASTOR'S
WORDS

As we have closed out the end of the church year and are now at the beginning of the season of Advent and Christmas, we see this season as often one of the favorites of the church, even as the weather gets colder, we enjoy the warmth, the familiarity and beauty of the age-old traditions of the seasons of Advent and Christmas. In years past we have had to modify our normal holiday celebrations due to COVID-19. This year we look toward more changes as we resume things that we used to do before but now do them differently. One of them is the hanging of the greens in the church that will take place after our worship on Nov. 27. We have been waiting to get back to what we have done in the past, right?

We are all waiting. We were waiting for the pandemic surge to crest; we were waiting for the doctors and researchers to develop a safe and effective vaccine; we were waiting to hug or even see our friends and family; we were waiting for normal life to resume.

As Christians, we should be well poised for this waiting. Advent is a season of waiting – yes waiting for the celebration for Christmas, but more importantly, it marks a season of waiting for Jesus' second coming. As a church we have been patiently waiting for that day for almost two-thousand years, perseverance is a hallmark of our faith and so I call each and every one of us to keep the faith and to embrace the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that we experience and celebrate in the Advent season.

Waiting isn't easy, but by the power of the Holy Spirit and through

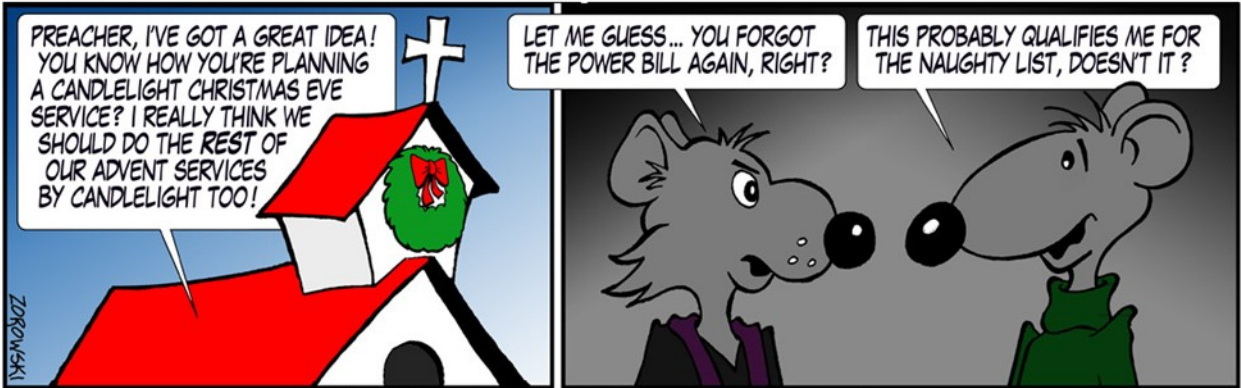
PASTOR'S
WORDS

the faith and support of your fellow members I pray that you will persevere and not lose hope. God is with you; God is with our church; God is with our communities. That I know, and I pray that you will know that truth too.
May God bless you and your families this Advent and Christmas season, and may we all persevere in the faith as we start our new church year this Advent season and look forward to the next calendar year 2023.

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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The First United Methodist Church will be hosting a Free Kid's Movie Event in our Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 17th.
"Frozen", PG, begins at 1 PM,
followed by "Home Alone", PG, from 3-5 PM
Popcorn, juice and drink will be available free during the movie.
The Kid's Movie Event is free, and we provide adult supervision for moviegoers.
Parents are welcome to join their kids for this safe and fun day of entertainment.

Please return this portion of invitation

I, _____ give permission for my child(ren) _____ to attend this event.

Emergency contact information:

Name: _____ Telephone Number _____

Address: _____



First United Methodist Church

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

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Mission Noisy Offering — Adopt A Family-Christmas boxes 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! Bible Study & Prayer Group resumes Jan. 9th!				1 Mission 11 AM	2	3 UMW 1 PM Christmas Tea/ Cookie Exchange
4 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Festival of Lessons and Carols Choir Rehearsal 2 PM at Zion Lutheran	5	6	7 Christmas Potluck All Church 5 PM Community Bell Choir Rehearsal 4:30 PM @ First Baptist Church	8 Vitality 10 AM	9	10 Bell Jingling TSC 8 AM—9 PM
11 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Festival of Lessons and Carols 3 PM at St Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church	12 Ad Council 1 PM	13	14 Community Bell Choir Rehearsal 4:30 PM @ First Baptist Church Char Crosby 🎈	15	16	17 Kid's Movie Free Event 1-5 PM
18 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	19	20	21 Community Bell Choir Rehearsal 4:30 PM @ First Baptist Church	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 PM 
25 Christmas Day Online service only 	26 Office Closed	27	28 Community Bell Choir Rehearsal 4:30 PM @ First Baptist Church Ruth & Ron Annelin 1972 💍	29	30	31 New Year's Eve



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.

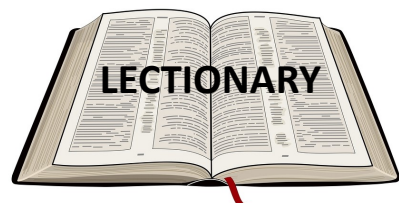
Prayer Chain

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.



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 January newsletter submit before **December 21st, 2022** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to : office@manistiquemethodist.org



November Mission Noisy Offering for Adopt-A-Family Thanksgiving Boxes will be announced soon!
Thank you for your support!

December 4 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-19 (UMH 795); Rom 15:4-13; Mt 3:1-12

December 11 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa 35:1-10; Lk 1:46b-55 (UMH 199); Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

December 18 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Isa 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801); Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-25

December 24 — Christmas Eve

Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96 (UMH 815); Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-20

December 25 — Christmas Day

Isa 52:7-10; Ps 98 (UMH 818); Heb 1:1-4 (5-12); Jn 1:1-14



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Mary Prater, Kathleen Haynes, Bob Whinnen, Char Crosby and sister, Phyllis Burge, Jo Nell Rubick, Martha Weeks, Joel Prater, Ted Burson, Penny Tracy, Connie Whatsitt, Jason Coryell (cancer free), Kali Lewis, Billings family and health concerns for the Chittle family.



A View From the Belfry December, 2022

Merry Christmas from the belfry! It really is beginning to look a lot like Christmas, with the snow on the ground and the trees having shed their colorful leaves. The hustle and bustle in this church was pretty exciting all autumn, what with preparations for the annual Charge Conference, (which went well, with no problems noted), Trunk-or-Treat (which was very successful; a movie afternoon, (not too many kids showed up but those who did had a good time), an ecumenical Thanksgiving service held at this church, bell jingling at Jack's to raise money for Good Neighbors so they can provide a helping hand to the residents of Schoolcraft County, the assembling and delivery of Shoebox greetings which supply Christmas presents to children who might not have any otherwise, and support for an annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Big Boy for those who might not have anywhere to go on that special day otherwise. You church congregants have been really busy, and there's more to come! On the Sunday after Thanksgiving there are plans to decorate the church at a Hanging of the Greens event. It will occur after church and the social hour, at which sub sandwiches will be featured. After that you will all gather to make everything look beautiful for Christmas! I'm sure the sanctuary will be splendid, and there will probably be decorations in the social hall. I'm not so sure about the bathrooms or the sexton's closet, but maybe...One thing I've noticed in past years is that somehow the belfry, where I hang out, always seems to be missed. There's never even a scraggly string of tinsel there! I suppose that maybe it has something to do with the fact that I am the only one who lives in the belfry, and that we really don't have a belfry, or so I've been told. Oh, well. I can always fly around in the sanctuary and see all the loveliness there (only during hours when no people are about of course; I don't much like to be scared out of my wits when people start screaming that they see a bat in there). Also coming up is more bell jingling, this time at Tractor Supply; the UWif (formerly the UMW) Christmas Tea and cookie exchange; the Festival of Lessons and Carols (both the choir and the bell choir for this have some of you United Methodist participating, as well as the pastor); another movie afternoon; the children's Christmas program in church; the Adopt-a-Family gift collection effort; a special Christmas Eve service on December 24, and who know what else? How do you do it all??? I bet it's because this is a church full of energetic people who love to share the news of the gift a loving God sent to everyone on earth when He gave them Jesus! That's what Christmas is all about, right? Well, bats don't have much of any income and nobody seems very appreciative when I offer them a portion of my freeze-dried mosquito supply, so my gift to all of you this year will be a promise that I will not appear in your sanctuary when any of you are there, and neither will I get in your way while you are working on all your church projects! Also, I wish you all a very, very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a year in which each and every one of you feels especially close to the baby born in a manger so long ago!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Trustee Update-Looking for Volunteers

The ovens are here with plans to install them in December! If you are willing to help in the process please let a Trustee know.

The old ovens will start to be removed December 5th and hope to be done by the following Wednesday. Pray that all goes well!

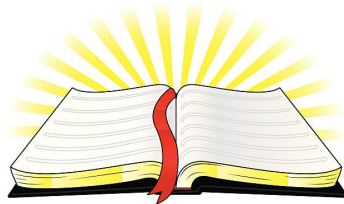
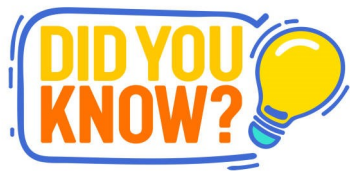
The new ovens will be installed later in December.

If you are interested in one of the old electric GE wall oven please let the Trustees know or the office. We have 7 that work! One more that doesn't work if you want extra parts or to scrap it.

**Lay Leader Lines
December, 2022**

Q: I've heard that from time to time people have come to the church during off hours, to find that the building is empty but lights have been left on or the door is unlocked. Once someone even found that an oven had been left on! This shouldn't happen! What are we going to do about it?

A: This shouldn't happen, indeed! If you are in the church and are the last to leave, or even just one of the last to leave, please check that ALL of the lights are off, even in rooms you may not have been in yourself. One room in which the lights are often left on is the upstairs storage room, formerly known as the cry room, the steps to which are between the pastor's office and the administrative assistant's office. There are light switches at the top and bottom of the stairs. It is very easy to think you have turned the lights off, especially in that room, when in fact you have turned them on instead. It is also easy to not notice that they are on upstairs, especially on a sunny day. In the entry it is easy to turn off the overhead lights and think that all the lights are off, when the light over the servant's entrance door and the lights outside the main entrance are still on, since those lights are operated by a different switch than the ceiling lights. As far as the ovens go, that has happened only once as far as I know, but if you are using or have used the ovens, please double check to be certain that they are all off! As for the unlocked doors, again, please double check the doors, especially the main entry double doors, to ensure that they are locked. If you find an unlocked door and do not have a key, please call someone who does to come and lock it. People who have keys and live relatively close to the church include Janet Helmbold, Rita Salter and Candace Haskell.



UPDATE!

The Prayer Group will not meet in December but will resume meetings on January 9th!

How many wise men came to visit Jesus in Bethlehem?

- A. Three B. A multitude C. The *Bible* doesn't say D. 15.5

After the wise men left following their visit to see Jesus, Joseph had a dream in which the angel of the Lord spoke to him. What did the angel say?

- A. This is God's beloved Son, in whom He is well please.
B. Take Mary and the babe and go to Ephesus. Stay there until I tell you to come back.
C. Take Mary and the babe and go to Egypt. Stay there for two years, then come back.
D. Take Mary and the babe and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to leave.

You can find the answers to these questions in Matthew, ch. 2 v. 1-2; and v. 13.

The *Bible* study group is on hiatus through December and the first week of January, but will resume meeting on January 9th. We will begin a new study, using the passages from the lectionary as the focus of our study. We'd love to have you join us!



**United Methodist Women News
Submitted by Carol Weinert**

United Methodist Women's Sunday, held Nov. 6, which included a service of Holy Communion, was deemed a success; in fact it was said to be one of the best ever. The theme of the service was the "Fruit of the Spirit," based on Galatians 5:22-23, which was the subject of study for the group throughout the year. Most of the group's members participated in the service. A big Thank You to all of them.

The annual Christmas Tea will be held Dec. 3 at 1 PM in Fellowship Hall of the church. In addition to a seasonal program, a Cookie Exchange will be included. Those wishing to participate are to bring three dozen of their favorite cookies to exchange with the other participants. Due to the continuing Covid virus pandemic, the tea will not be open to the community. The tea will take place of the December General UMW meeting.

On Dec. 7 at 5 PM the UMW will host an all-church Christmas potluck dinner party. We hope you will plan to attend and bring your favorite dish to share.

Remember the colorful "Stars" we were given at last year's Christmas party? These Stars, with a member's name written on the back of each one, were intended to give each recipient a secret prayer partner for the year. These prayer partners will be revealed at either the Christmas Tea or the dinner. We can hardly wait!

Returning to current UMW business, Phyllis Burge reminds those who are taking part in the Reading Program that their reading goal is to be completed by early December. Due to Mary Prater's recent illness, Phyllis asks that you give your completed forms to her as soon as possible.

The regular schedule of UMW meetings will resume on Jan. 3, 2023.

Happy holidays!



Congratulations Ellen,

Habitat for Humanity's 2022 AIM (Affiliates in Motion) Conference was held recently in Lansing. Each year the



affiliates nominate a volunteer in April for the previous year to be recognized as our Volunteer of the Year.

The 2021 Volunteer of the Year was Ellen Derber! Ellen was presented a plaque and is appreciated for all that she has done over the collective 10+ years that she has served on their Board, committees, projects, and fundraisers.

You are invited to the
57th Festival of Lessons and
Carols

"Come Softly Christmas"

Sunday, December 11th
3 PM at
St. Francis de Sales
Roman Catholic Church

Sponsored by the Manistique Ministerial Association