



- 12 William & Gayle Tufnell, 1958
- 15 Gayle Tufnell
- 15 Tom Tevelde
- 30 Martha Weeks
- 30 Lynn LaRose
- 30 Brandon Ash

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
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THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

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

PASTOR'S WORDS Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As Easter is fast approaching, April 9th, I would like us to consider this question: what is Easter's true significance? We, pastors included, can get caught up in the small things as we prepare for the biggest religious observance in our liturgical calendar. I saw a Twitter post recently that read:

"Clergy and Church Workers, here is our yearly reminder: Jesus will rise from the dead even if you forgot to print out the right hymns even if the lilies arrive already wilted... even if the whole choir gets food poisoning. Nothing will keep the stone from rolling away. You are loved." –Nadia Bolz-Weber

If you are like me, you may have just smiled or chuckled to yourself. Also, if you are like me, you may have just realized many truths are said in jest and the above statement gave you pause to ponder: what is Easter's true significance? Among all the preparations, family gatherings, rabbits, and Easter Egg hunts, I ask that we not lose sight of the true meaning of Easter: our Lord's sacrificial love to the point of death upon a cross. Likewise, as his disciples, our Lord said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another," (John 13:34-35). We are to look for ways to demonstrate sacrificial love for one another not just within our local church, but for the entire community at large (city, county, state, country, world). If we are to sacrifice something of ourselves out of love, we must allow the Holy Spirit to guide us toward thinking outside ourselves and the immediate church community. St. Augustine of Hippo, strongly influenced by Plato's Theory of Forms, believed in both an earthly body of Christ and a spiritual one in the heavens where Christ is head of both. St. Augustine believed true reality is invisible (spiritual and of the heav-

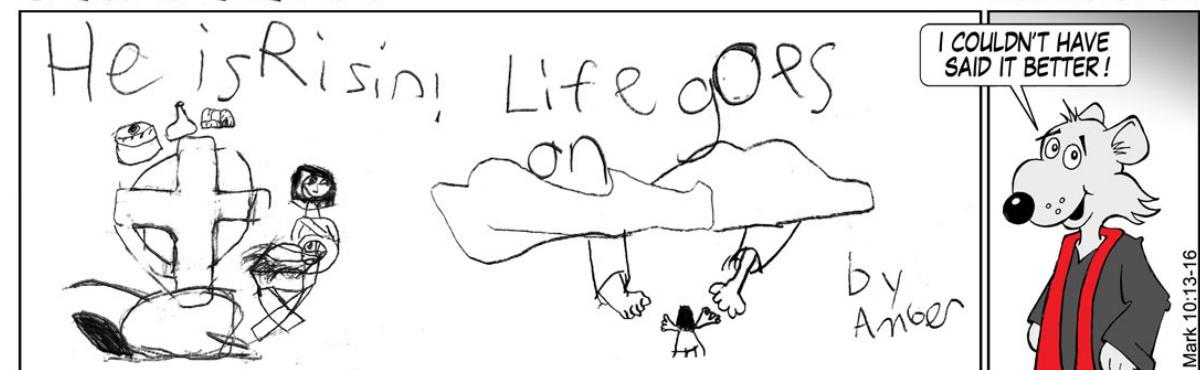
PASTOR'S WORDS

enlies) and, if the visible (earthly church) reflects the invisible, it does so only partially and imperfectly. Our earthly manifestations (church buildings, ceremonies, etc.) are only one of many ways we can live into becoming one with the body of Christ in the heavenlies. When we give of ourselves out of sacrificial love, the church of the heavenlies and the earthly church become more aligned. This makes sense when you look at the world around you. Creation is imperfect. Our earthly Church is imperfect. We, as a people and as individuals, are imperfect. This is okay because God deemed Creation “good” and not “perfect” (Genesis 1). However, we are to strive towards aligning God’s ultimate will for Creation with the imperfect one from the fall. God achieved God’s ultimate will to redeem Creation through his sacrifice on the cross. We are called to do likewise (Mark 8:34-39). Some of us may look at the world around us, or at our own personal lives’ difficulties, as a wilderness. Some of us may feel like we, or our world, are trapped in a never-ending Good Friday. God reminds us through Christ’s sacrificial love on the cross that no matter how long we wander in the wilderness, or believe we are entrapped in a never-ending Good Friday, Easter comes in the morning. We are an Easter people. We are a Resurrection people. Whatever we may conceive of as hopelessness, weariness, or despair, God has already answered resoundingly with the Resurrection of our Lord. We can find peace and hope in knowing God has already answered this world’s ultimate end (death) by making all things possible through Christ Jesus.

So, Happy Easter (early)!

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice








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First United Methodist Church

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

April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p align="center">April Mission Noisy Offering — Heifer International</p> <p align="center">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!</p>						<p>1</p> <p>UWiF Reflection Breakfast 9:30</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM</p> <p>Worship 11 AM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Bible Study 11 AM</p> <p>Prayer Group 12 PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>UMW 1 PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lenten Soup/ Bread/Devotion 5:30PM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Good Friday Ecumenical service First Baptist 1PM</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM</p> <p>Worship 11 AM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Vitality 11 AM</p> <p>Bible Study 11 AM</p> <p>Prayer Group 12 PM</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p> Pasty Prep 7:30</p> <p>Sales 10am-1pm</p> <p>Bill & Gayle Tufnell </p>	<p>13</p> <p> Pasty Prep 7:30</p> <p>Sales 10am-1pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Gayle Tufnell </p> <p>Tom Tevelde</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM</p> <p>Worship 11 AM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Bible Study 11 AM</p> <p>Prayer Group 12 PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Education 9:30AM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM</p> <p>Worship 11 AM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bible Study 11 AM</p> <p>Prayer Group 12 PM</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM</p> <p>Worship 11 AM</p> <p>Martha Weeks</p> <p>Lynn LaRose </p> <p>Brandon Ash</p>						

Prayer Chain

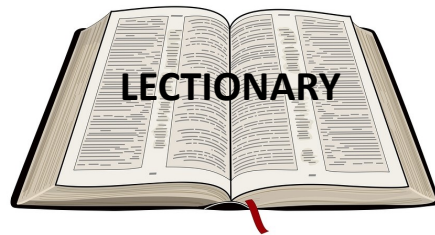
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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



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Live worship services each Sunday at 11AM.



April 2 — Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm Lit: Matt 21:1-11; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

Passion Lit: Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16 (UMH 764); Phil 2:5-11; Matt 26:14-27 or 27:11-54

April 9 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839); Col 3:1-4; John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

April 16 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps 16 (UMH 748); 1 Pet 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 23 — 3rd Sunday of Easter/Native American Ministries Sunday

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837); 1 Pet 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 30 — 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Ps 23 (UMH 754 or 137); 1 Pet 1:17-23; John 10:1-10

FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Dan Crosby, Karen Klaus, Connie Meade, Mary Prater, Katie Putnam, Michael Haynes, Mary & Bob Whinnen, Phyllis Burge, Jo Nell Rubick, Martha Weeks, Joel Prater, Ted Burson, Penny Tracy, Connie Whitsitt, Jason Coryell (cancer free), Kali Lewis, Kerry Billings family health issues, and Jim (Connie Kelsey's brother).



Newsletter suggestions are always welcome! If you have anything you wish to have published in the April newsletter submit before **April 20th, 2023** deadline.

Pictures and other additions can be emailed to : office@manistiquemethodist.org

March Mission Noisy Offering for UMCOR will be announced soon! Thank you for your support!



A View From the Belfry April, 2023

Greetings from the belfry! You know, I've always thought that there was something missing in this belfry, besides a nice cozy fireplace near which to snuggle in the winter months. Well, I finally figured it out! Over the past several months we've had Don Carlson Karen Klaus and Darrell Dixon sharing their beautiful voices with us as they provided special music during worship services. We've also had the gifted Cindy Burgin playing the organ beautifully, after telling us she didn't play the organ! Well, one day as I was meditating on the beautiful music these talented musicians have provided for us, I decided that since I live in a belfry, what could be more appropriate than for me to play the bell up here to call people to worship? What a great idea! So I looked around for the bell, and guess what? There isn't any!! Not one bell in this belfry!! Not one at all!! So why does everybody call it a belfry? Why it isn't it a steeple? I thought about that awhile, and remembered that it doesn't have a steeple, either, or at least, not a spire! I was dumfounded! Astounded! Perplexed! But frankly, also a bit relieved. Since we don't have a bell, I don't feel I should be obligated to learn to play a bell. That's a real relief, since I'm not sure I have any musical ability, unless you count my ability to squeak, and I've been told that many humans can't even hear bat squeaks. Well, since we don't have a steeple, I guess we don't have to worry about people climbing up it, with great peril to themselves, to paint it and keep it looking nice. That should be one less worry for the Board of Trustees, since those folks are charged with keeping the building looking nice and being safe and in good repair. Now, all of this seems to be pretty inane and trivial, but I actually do have a point, even if our nonsteeple doesn't. It's been awhile since this church has had a choir, even though it seems to have a number of good singers. It also has some talented musicians, and at least it seems to have a number of good singers. It also has some talented musicians, and at least one clarinetist who can at least make noise on her instrument. I wonder if some of you talented music makers would be interested in forming a choir. You wouldn't have to tackle Handel's *Messiah* unless you wanted to do that. You might even not have to rehearse too much. If you are interested, please notify the old lady who tries to play that squawky clarinet. She doesn't have anything else to do, and it might help her to stay out of trouble by occupying her time. Oh, and by the way, when the missing members of our bell choir get back in town, maybe we can hear from them now and then as well!

Here are addresses of our new members and updated changes to the Directory:

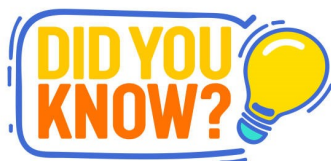
Char & Dan Crosby: 3256S Whitecaps Trail, Manistique MI 49854—906-202-9400
Kathleen & Michael Haynes: 7495 State Hwy 149, Manistique MI 49854—906-341-7467
Carol Hollenbeck: 7906W Island Lake Rd, Manistique MI 49854—906-341-6073
Bette Jahn: she only has cell 906-202-0403
Connie & Dan Kelsey: 6752 R.75 LN, Garden MI 49835—906-289-2799
Karen Klaus: 1097N Cty Rd. 437, Cooks MI 49817—906-644-2761
Mary & Bob Whinnen: 1461S Yager Rd., Manistique MI 49854—906-341-8415

**Lay Leader Lines
April, 2023**

Q: Last year, and again this year, instead of taking up noisy offerings at Christmas and Easter and using those offerings to support charities chosen by the Sunday School kids, we have a jar near the door of the sanctuary in which we deposit offerings as we wish to use for special projects and organizations. I think this is a good way to help a number of different charitable causes, but I wonder who chooses the causes to which we give. Is it still the kids? If we have a cause which we would like to have considered, who do we tell? How are the causes selected?

A: The charities to which we contribute are selected by the Missions Committee, which passes on the selections to the Administrative Council for approval. There is no set of specific criteria used to finalize the choices, although an effort is made to choose both local and nonlocal endeavors. If you have a suggestion of a charity you would like to have considered, please contact Pastor B.J., Connie Kelsey, or any member of the Mission Committee. Usually the charities are decided upon in December or January for the coming year, but suggestions are welcome at any time.

The Trustees Committee will be meeting in April. The date will be announced soon!



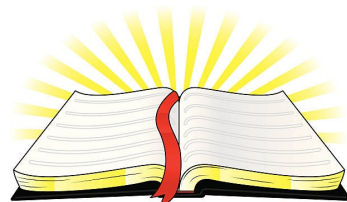
1. On Easter morning Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid. While there she saw Jesus standing near her but she did not recognize Him at first. Who did she think he was?

1. An angel.
2. The gardener.
3. One of Herod's henchmen.
4. A homeless man who had spent the night in the cemetery
5. A grave robber who had taken Jesus' body.

2. After his resurrection, Jesus came to His disciples in a locked room and talked with them. Thomas wasn't there, however, and he didn't believe the other disciples when they told him they had seen Jesus and He was alive. Where had Thomas been?

1. He had gone fishing in Galilee.
2. He had been wandering through the Garden of Gethsemane.
3. He got lost on his way back from the Temple and was trying to find where the rest of them were.
4. The Bible doesn't say.
5. He was having lunch at the local McDonald's.

The answers to both questions can be found in John, chapter 20.



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

The March general meeting of the Manistique United Women in Faith (UMW) opened with devotions given by Lynn LaRose.

The first order of the day was to finalize plans for the annual Reflection Breakfast to be held Saturday, April 1. Due to the fact that the "Virus" is still in the area, it was decided that the event would be open primarily to our church members only.

A discussion took place concerning the group's participation in the Hymn Sing which was held at the Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility monthly until the Covid Pandemic canceled the program. The facility now again welcomes volunteers to present programs of visitations, crafts, games, and Hymn Sings. Perhaps our group can organize such a program for the residents of the facility.

There are now some necessary openings on our UMW board: another member is needed for the nominating committee due to Connie Meade moving out of state; and a new secretary is needed to relieve Louise Burson due to family health reasons.

The next Northern Skies (UMW) District Celebration meeting will be held in Crystal Fall, on Tuesday, May 2. Those interested in attending should see President Bette Jahn to arrange travel plans. Because this gathering is on the same day as our own monthly meeting, check the church bulletin to be certain the Manistique meeting will be held. -----

For years, the UMW in Manistique have been making layettes for babies between birth and 3 months of age. Darlene Pruess recognized that many families have difficulty providing all that is needed for a newborn baby. To assist them in meeting some of the needs, she organized the layette program and inspired many of the women to participate by donating time, money, and labor. Layettes are made for both boys and girls. Each layette gift contains 1 hat, 1 onesie, 1 sleeper, 1 blanket or quilt, and 1 receiving blanket. In addition, a layette may also contain extra items donated by individuals. Some of the basic items are purchased, such as the sleepers and hats, although some extra items were made by the talented women in our UMW. For years Gene Hastings and Norma Johnson made the receiving blankets. Now they are made by several of the UMW members. Norma Johnson made the quilts given to the babies; she made over 60 of them before her passing. The layettes were assembled and delivered to the Schoolcraft County Health Department Office by Helen Hall, until 2008, when she passed away. Since 2009 Lynn LaRose has taken on this responsibility. On one occasion during the COVID crisis, Lynn was in a line of people waiting to enter the Health Department Office, holding the layettes to be delivered. Some of the people in line were curious about the baby items she was holding, so she explained the layette program to them. One of the gentlemen waiting in line stated that he has five children, and that every single one of them received a layette. He added, "God bless the Methodist women!" Many other families also are grateful for this program, and Lynn thanks all of those who have contributed their time and money to this project!

The layette program has been a success in this community. It exists because of the financial support and efforts of the dedicated members of our local UMW chapter, plus the support of the church family. If you would like to contribute to the layette program, we gladly accept financial contributions. Checks can be written to "The United Methodist Women" with "layettes" specified on the check memo line. Cash is also accepted. Please put it in an envelope labeled "UMW layettes." Money can be given to Linda Moon, the UMW treasurer, or placed in the offering plate during the Sunday worship service. The money will be used to purchase items needed for the layettes, including flannel for the receiving blankets as needed. Donations of other items are also welcomed. One yard of flannel will make one receiving blanket and two burp cloths. Donations can be given to Connie Kelsey in the office, or to Lynn LaRose. New and used items are accepted. Used items must be clean and in good condition, and are donated separately from the layette packages.