



- 1 Jack & Lynn LaRose
- 4 Robert Morrow
- 9 James Gaffney
- 10 Janet Helmbold
- 14 Kelly Ash
- 17 Ted Burson
- 24 MacKenzie Billings
- 24 Ken Burgin
- 25 Sara Blanchard
- 25 Penny Tracy
- 25 William Tufnell
- 30 Norm & Sharon Feichtenbiner
- 30 Ralph & Pixie Livingston

First United Methodist Church  
190 N. Cedar Street  
Manistique, Michigan 49854

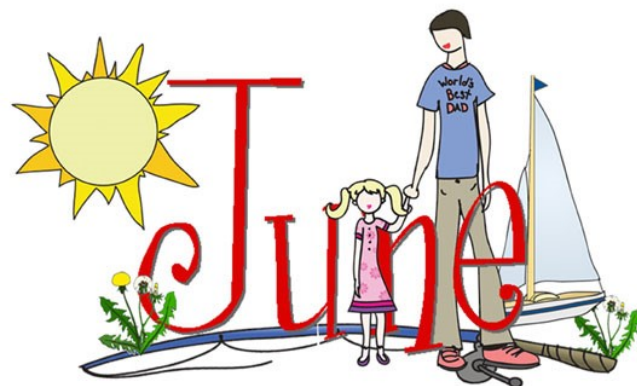
First United Methodist Church  
Worship Service 11:00am



Manistique First United Methodist Church  
Church Phone: (906) 341-6662  
Pastor: Rev. B.J. Ash Cell: 906-286-1492  
email: [pastor@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto: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  
email: [office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)  
[www.manistiquemethodist.org](http://www.manistiquemethodist.org)

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.



Visit [www.youtube.com](http://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](http://www.manistiquemethodist.org)  
[office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)

PASTOR'S  
WORDS

Welcome to the belated edition of our June newsletter. I wanted to wait until after our 2023 Annual Conference was finished so that I could provide the latest updates to everyone rather than having to wait for the July newsletter. This year's AC was a mixed bag of emotions, from the AC approving the disaffiliation of 60 churches that are leaving the Michigan Conference of the UMC to a surprise donation of \$5,000 to the Readers to Leaders program. The usual humorous interludes (often unintentional, fun nonetheless) were also sprinkled throughout the conference with our Bishop David Bard usually being involved, but it was always full of grace.

In ACs of years past there have been moments of challenge caused by remarks during our plenary sessions, particularly over legislative matters relating to human sexuality, etc. This year, I would say we acted more like John Wesley's *The Character of a Methodist*:

“But as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, **we think and let think**. So that whatsoever they are, whether right or wrong, they are no distinguishing marks of a Methodist.”  
(emphasis added)

From my perspective, it looks like the most outspoken voices that have made the challenging remarks in years past have either left the denomination or are no longer speaking out. The overall feeling from those remaining is a message of love and acceptance for all who still call themselves United Methodists. There did appear to be a majority (90%?), judging from how the votes were cast during plenary sessions, that supported the inclusion of all in every aspect of church ministry.

By now, I'm sure lots of questions and what-if scenarios are swirling through your mind, as they are mine. General Conference will meet in 2024 to hear legislation that has been accumulating since the special conference held in 2019, since the

**PASTOR'S WORDS**

be a backlog of years of legislation. Some churches have chosen disaffiliation over waiting for the next GC to see what options could come next. I personally wonder if those churches were already unhappy with our denomination and this was an opportunity for them to leave that they were seeking. In that case, I would perceive it as a hasty decision, but I do not know every church's reasons for disaffiliation.

When I look around our local church family here, I do not see us looking for a reason to disaffiliate. I don't want to summarily speak for everyone in our congregation as I know that each of us has a different opinion on where we individually stand, but I call our attention back to John Wesley's words at the beginning of this article.

Our diversity is what makes us great. We are not all the same, just as the 12 disciples that Jesus called were markedly different than each other. Yes, they fought from time to time, but Jesus kept them together and taught them what was important. Jesus also encouraged the conversation, with care, so that everyone could learn.

If there is concern in your heart for our local church and what our future may look like, I would like to know about it. We may even have a church dialogue together so that we can talk about what questions we all have about these concerns. Rest assured, this will not be a voting meeting. Instead, let it be a time filled full of grace where we can practice showing our love for everyone, respecting our differences, and still being the Body of Christ for the world.

Pastor B.J.

**If anyone is interested in helping with a float for the July 1st parade please let Connie know. There is a sign-up sheet in the office.**

**Folkfest is just around the corner, July 7th-8th!**

**In preparation for our Folkfest pasty sales: June 27 pasty prep 10:30 A.M.;**

**June 28-29th 7:30 A.M., we will be making 14 batches of pasties.**

**The Vitality Committee is looking for volunteers to help with our Folkfest booth.**

**If you are interested in set-up, baking, sales, delivery to booth, tear down and clean-up, there is a sign-up sheet in the office.**

**The profits will be used for the local food pantries.**



**First United Methodist Church**

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

**June**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>June Noisy Offering: Helpful Hotspot</b> is located in Manistique Middle and High School. It is a hotspot that students in need can stop in and pick up items they need. Everything is free of charge to the student. The Helpful Hotspot provides school and home supplies, food, and clothing. It has been utilized 300 times since it began and it is only open during the school year.				1 Jack & Lynn LaRose	2	3
4 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM  Robert Morrow	5 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM 	6 Trustees 10 AM UWiF (UMW) 1 PM	7 Education 9:30	8	9 James Gaffney	10 Janet Helmbold
11 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	12 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	13 Ad Council 10AM Worship 11:30 Vitality 1 PM	14 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10am-1pm DS 1on1 meeting Kelly Ash	15 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10am-1pm	16	17 Ted Burson
18 Father's Day  Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	<b>Vacation Bible School 9 AM—12 Noon</b>			22	23	24 MacKenzie Billings Ken Burgin
25 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM  Sara Blanchard Penny Tracy William Tufnell	26 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	27	28	29	30 Norm & Sharon Feichtenbiner Ralph & Pixie Livingston	<b>NOTE:</b> Pastor B.J. will be out of the office the week of June 26-30

**June Mission Noisy Offering — Helpful Hotspot (Manistique Middle & High School)**

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

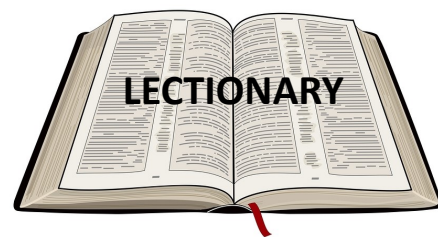
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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



Visit [www.facebook.com](http://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 next newsletter submit before **June 23rd, 2023** deadline.

Pictures and other additions can be emailed to : [office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)

May Mission Noisy Offering of \$85.00 was collected for Red Bird Mission/Henderson Settlement. Thank you for your support!

**June 4** — *Trinity Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday*

Gen 1:1-2, 4a; Ps 8 (UMH 743); 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20

**June 11** — *2nd Sunday After Pentecost*

Gen 12:1-9; Ps 33:1-12 (UMH 767); Rom 4:13-25; Matt 9:9-13, 18-26

**June 18** — *3rd Sunday After Pentecost, Father's Day*

Gen 18:1-15 (21:1-7); Ps 116:1-2, 12-19 (UMH 837); Rom 5:1-8; Matt 9:35-10:8,

**June 25** — *4th Sunday After Pentecost*

Gen 21:8-21; Ps 86:1-10, 16-17 (UMH 749); Rom 6:1b-11; Matt 10:24-39



## FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Lynn LaRose, Ken & Cyndi Burgin, Ruth Annelin family, Dan Crosby, Karen Klaus, Connie Meade, Mary Prater, Katie Putnam, Kathleen & Michael Haynes, Mary & Bob Whinnen, Phyllis Burge, Jo Nell Rubick, Martha Weeks, Joel Prater, Ted Burson, Penny Tracy, Connie Whitsitt, Kali Lewis, Kerry Billings family health issues.



## A View From the Belfry June, 2023

**Oh, My!** Maybe this column should be titled a Trip to the Circus instead of a View from the Belfry! In all my years of batting around the belfry, I've never seen anything quite like that Holy Humor Sunday service we had on Mother's Day! I've also never seen a Mother's Day service led by a clown before! Despite the silly songs (Coffee, Coffee, Coffee???) and goofy attire, to say nothing of the reverse offering, there was a point to all the funny goings on (I think)! Sometimes it seems as if Christians, who should be the happiest folks on earth, considering Who they know and Who is on their side, are instead the most somber, sober, and unsmiling people around. Now, that's not true in this church, but sometimes we forget that a smile is much more likely to attract people than a grim, stern, miserable, or bored expression. So smile folks, and laugh, and enjoy life! True, if you don't have a big enough supply of mosquitoes around to insure that you'll be able to have dinner tomorrow, or if your wisdom teeth are aching once again instead of giving you wisdom, a smile might be hard to arrange. However, if at all you can, smile! It's better exercise than frowning any day! Oh, and about that reverse offering, I don't get it! The pastor gave people money?? Not church money, but minister money? Should they immediately go out and spend it to boost the economy? Or should they somehow use it to get more money? (How does that work, anyway?) I kind of gathered that they shouldn't just bury it in a hole or something, but what should they do with it? I noticed that some people, a lot, in fact, put it in the noisy offering jar, which means it will go to support a charity or mission somewhere. Not a bad way to use it at all! If you need a cause to which you can donate your reverse offering (if you haven't already done so), how about giving it to the Bugs for Bats fund? It's a good cause, and pretty much nobody at all ever donates to it, so we could really use the help! (Just sayin'.)

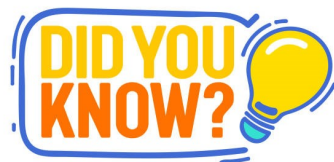


**Lay Leader Lines**  
**June, 2023**

**Q: I understand that we have a number of church members who need rides to church for worship services and meetings. I know that some of our members give rides to people regularly. However as the number of members in need of rides increases, it is becoming more of a challenge to find rides for all who may need them, especially for Sunday worship services. Also, some people are not able to get into trucks and other vehicles which require one to climb up into them, and may need special arrangements. What can we do about this?**

**A:** A few months ago a church member brought this to our attention and suggested having a sign-up list or a schedule of who needs rides and when, but no further action was taken. As the need increases, perhaps now is the time to address this concern. If you have suggestions which might address this need, please contact Pastor B.J., Connie Kelsey, or Janet Helmbold about the matter. We certainly do want everyone who wishes to join us in church services and activities to be able to get here!

Our weekly **Bible Study** meets in-person Monday mornings at 11 AM.  
If you are interested in joining through Zoom, please let Janet or the office know.  
Our **Prayer Group** meets every Monday at 12 PM. Feel free to stop in and pray.



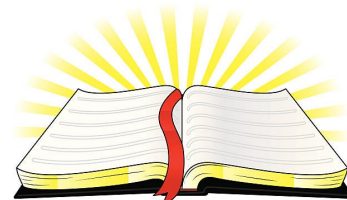
1. When Jesus sent His disciples out to the towns and villages, He instructed them to not go certain places. Where were they to avoid going?

1. Rome and Damascus
2. Sidon and Tyre
3. Samaria and Egypt
4. To the towns of the Gentiles and Samaria
5. To Athens and Chicago

2. Jesus said that He was sending the disciples out like sheep in the midst of wolves, so they were to be what?

1. Strong as oxen and faithful as pet dogs
2. Wise as owls and innocent as babies
3. Sneaky as snakes and fast as gazelles
4. Wise as serpents and innocent as doves
5. Sneaky as pickpockets and strong as elephants

The answers to both questions can be found in Matthew 10:16



**United Women in Faith News**  
**Submitted by Carol Weinert**

Seven women from Manistique First United Methodist Church attended the Northern Skies District of United Women in Faith on May 2 in Crystal Falls. The event included a day of district business, worship and fellowship with members of other



UWiF groups in the district. There was no local UWiF on that date due to the district meeting. The next meeting of the Manistique UWiF will be Tuesday, June 6, at 1 PM, where there probably will be given a report of the recent District meeting.

The meeting will include planning for the annual August picnic, which will be held in place of the August 1 meeting. In the past, it was traditional to have a guest speaker with a Missions theme but in recent years the subject has varied. Since this upcoming event is in the early planning stages, suggestions for the theme and program are welcome. Come to the June meeting with your input. There will be no local UWiF meeting in July and August.



The Layette Program is in need of 0-3 months sleepers, hats and socks.

Monetary donations are also welcome, we will do the shopping for you.

God Bless & Thank You from the Layette program

*Thank you everyone who helped bring  
smiles and joy to our*

***Game and Fun Event!***

*Everyone had a lot of fun! We had 11 children  
and lots of adults sharing their many talents!*



Books are available on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Help yourself, they are free!