



- 2 Vic & Sharon Vanderville
- 4 Ted & Louise Burson
- 4 Michael Haynes
- 8 Ruth Annelin
- 8 Kerry & Larry Billings
- 9 Jim & Sara Blanchard
- 14 Vic Vanderville
- 16 Mary Livingston
- 22 Katie Putnam
- 26 Bob Whinnen
- 31 Jim Blanchard
- 31 Louise Burson

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 8 am-12 pm, Off Wed
Connie M-T work from home 10-2, W-TH 10-2 office
email: office@manistiquemethodist.org
www.manistiquemethodist.org

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make your offering/giving
process easier?

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



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

Great praise and joy are among us as we celebrate our 150 years of ministry with Jesus Christ in our community!

What a mighty God we serve! I count every day as a blessing to be a part of our most historic celebration. From our humble beginnings of being a small community receiving a circuit rider on occasion from the thriving town of Fayette through two turns of the century, we are still growing. We are growing in numbers and in ways that we serve our God and show love to one another in order to honor the greatest commandment given to us.

2023 has been an exciting year for us with numerous events going on that have made some of our heads spin—in a good way! Please continue to seek where we can serve God **BOLDLY**. We continue glorifying God throughout our celebration which will include our 150th Anniversary worship service on August 13th. Our worship will be enriched that Sunday by a portion of the service including the Covenant Renewal Service. I hope that everyone can join us in proclaiming and renewing our commitment to Christ.



PASTOR'S WORDS

It is my prayer that everyone in our community will be welcomed by us and able to join with us in ministry in different ways so that we may all be connected to one another through our Lord and Savior. Here is to the next 150 years and God's plan for us!

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice

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AD COUNCIL'S UPDATE:

Our church's leadership (Ad Council) has met recently, and we are seeking everyone's input. We want to give a chance for everyone to be able to safely express their ideas and feelings, so we will be meeting over two different Sundays following worship in September to have a dialogue about how each of us view human sexuality as it relates to the current schism within the UMC. To be clear, at these first two meetings, we will only be having a dialogue with each other about what each of us have for our understanding. After these two meetings, we will take all feedback received and have a different meeting about how the information we received applies to the schism. From that meeting, our Ad Council will then be able to look at a plan for how we can best be in ministry while representing the views of our diverse congregation.

Our church is a safe space for everyone, and we do want everyone to be free to share their thoughts and feelings without fear of harm. Grace that we have freely received first from God is meant to be freely shared with one another, especially during these moments of brave speaking. We finally recognize John Wesley's words of "...we think and let think." We have many diverse ideas based upon our individual experiences that make our church a wonderful tapestry when woven together, but we also recognize that some colors may be different than what we are accustomed to. It is when all of these colors come together, despite their differences, that the Pentecostal fire of God's redeeming grace is fully realized, and God's kingdom has come. Let us have these brave moments of dialogue together and be respectful in hearing each other so that we can fully realize God's plan for this local church.

Proposed dates: Sept. 10 and Sept. 24



First United Methodist Church

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

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
NOTE: PASTOR B.J. WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE JULY 30-AUGUST 5		1 Trustees 10 AM UWIF Picnic noon	2 Vic & Sharon Vanderville	3	4 Ted & Louise Burson Michael Haynes	5
6 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	7 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	8 Worship 10 AM Ruth Annelin Kerry & Larry Billings	9 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10am-1pm Jim & Sara Blanchard	10 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10am-1pm	11	12 Annual Picnic at Ash House 11AM-3PM
13 150 Anniversary Service Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	14 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Vic Vanderville	15 Ad Council 10AM	16 Mary Livingston	17 Missions 11 AM	18	19
20 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	21 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	22 Katie Putnam	23	24	25	26 Bob Whinnen
27 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	28 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	29 SPRC 4 PM	30	31 Jim Blanchard Louise Burson		

August Mission Noisy Offering — Backpack Buddies/Zion Lutheran Church

This local organization helps any school aged individual that is in need of supplemental food assistance for weekends.

If you know of a need, contact Zion Lutheran Church.

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

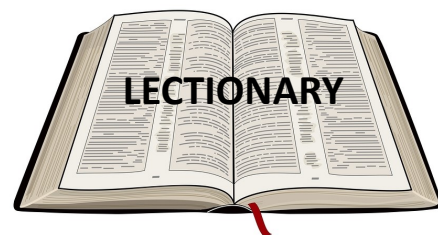
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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 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.



August 6 — 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 32:22-31; Ps 17:1-7, 15 (UMH 749); Rom 9:1-5; Matt 14:13-21

August 13 — 11th Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (UMH 828); Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33

August 20 — 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 45:1-15; Ps 133 (UMH 850); Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 27 — 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 1:8-2:10; Ps 124(UMH 846); Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20

FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Rudy Lawrence family, Sharon V & Celie's N. brother, Lynn LaRose, Ken & Cyndi Burgin, Ruth Annelin family, Karen Klaus, Connie Meade, Mary Prater, Katie Putnam, Michael Haynes, Mary Whinnen, Phyllis Burge, Jo Nell Rubick, Martha Weeks, Joel Prater, Ted Burson, Penny Tracy family, Connie Whitsitt, Kerry Billings family health, and our unspoken requests.



Newsletter suggestions are always welcome! If you have anything you wish to have published in the next newsletter submit before **August 24, 2023** deadline.

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

July Mission Noisy Offering for Society of St. Andrew will be announced soon! Thank you for your support!



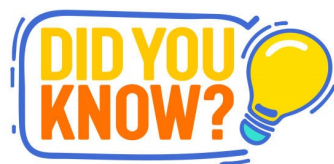
A View From the Belfry August, 2023

Greetings from the belfry! Yep, it's Benny, the still exhausted but even more than that, mystified, bat! The exhaustion is from still trying to keep up with all of you as you continue to prepare for the 150th Year celebration, plus all of your usual activities, such as the UWF (UMW) people, who are having their annual picnic on August 1st this year. After that it's just a hop, skip, and a jump until the 150 year celebration picnic at the Ash residence. After that, I'm trying to work in a Bugs for Bats picnic in a nice shaded woodsy place with lots of fresh, juicy mosquitoes around to provide the main menu item. So far my suggestion that you hold a Bugs for Bats fundraiser seems to have generated little (ok, none, whatsoever) interest in this congregation. Why not? Bats are people too, you know! Well, ok, I guess bats aren't really people, are they? But they're a part of nature, and as I hear it, natural things are really big these days! Bats are important, because they eat annoying bugs like mosquitoes! Mosquitoes are important because they provide food for bats! See how that works? Oh, I suppose it could be argued that if we didn't have the bats we wouldn't need the mosquitoes, and if we didn't have the mosquitoes we wouldn't need the bats, but somehow, I think there may be a step or two missing in this circular equation. Oh, well. Enough about bats and mosquitoes! I heard that the 4th of July parade held on the 1st of July was a great success! Some thought it was perhaps the longest parade ever held in this community! Whether it was or not, it was certainly great. I also heard that the church float was a great favorite. Way to go, Methodists! You sure do have fun! That's great, to have so much fun and to do so many special things, but you know, that's not all you do, by a long shot. I see you Methodists helping each other in many, many ways. You pray for those who need prayer for whatever reason. You help out when someone is sick, or grieving the loss of a loved one, or needs a ride to an appointment. You help in service organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, or the Lions Club, or Backpack Buddies. You contribute to charitable organizations such as Good Neighbors and St. Vincent de Paul. You also contribute to charitable organizations serving around the world, such as UMCOR, and missions in far away places such as Liberia and Haiti. These efforts may not be as well known. They certainly aren't as visible as those in your own back yards, and I've never heard of anybody getting a prize for giving the most or doing the most or praying the most for anything. In fact, you aren't doing it for a prize, or recognition, or to avoid being punished if you don't. You do it because you want to do it, and you have the means to do it. That's what being a Christian is about, at least in part! Keep it up, all you great people! And don't worry about us bats. In spite of my whining, we really do pretty well, all things considered. After all, the same God who created birds and flowers and fuzzy little bunny rabbits also created a grand abundance of mosquitoes, as well as a good many bats eager to eat them!

Lay Leader Lines
August, 2023

Q: We are celebrating an important anniversary of our church this summer. The confusing thing is that we are celebrating the 150th anniversary, yet a quilt made in 1983 said the church was founded in 1883. The quilt we made this year says that the church was founded in 1873. Which one is right?

A: Actually they are both right. The difference is the event which was identified as the beginning of the church. According to church records, the first Methodist Church services in Manistique were held in 1873, the date used for determining the actual beginning of the church for the current celebration. The small congregation had no church building at that time, and thus met in various facilities around the community. Nevertheless, the congregants did meet as a viable congregation. The first sermon delivered by a regularly appointed Methodist minister occurred in 1881, still before a church building was erected. The church was first formally organized on August 12, 1883, at which time officers were elected. This was the date used when the 1983 quilt was created. The first church building was erected in 1887 and dedicated on February 5, 1888. While the church building is a church facility, the actual church is composed of the people who meet together in worship and in work, regardless of where they get together. The hymn, *We Are the Church* (United Methodist Hymnal, p558) makes this point quite clearly.



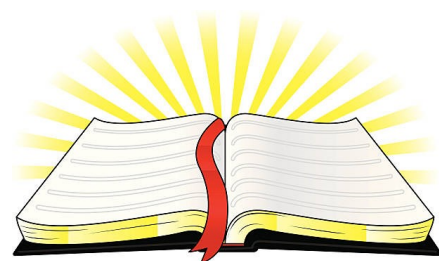
1. We are celebrating the 150th anniversary of our church this month. As long as this seems to us, the Bible tells us that Methuselah live considerably longer than this. How old was he when he died?

1. 431 years
2. 969 years
3. 4 score and 10 years
4. 696 years
5. 1,239 years

2. Noah also lived a very long time, and he remained a strong, productive man well into his old age. How old was Noah when the floods came and he took the animals into the ark he had built?

1. 458 years
2. 40 days and 40 nights
3. 450 years
4. 600 years
5. 322 years

The answers to both questions can be found in Genesis 5:26-27 and Genesis 7:6.



United Women in Faith News
Submitted by Carol Weinert

As of this writing, the annual United Women in Faith (Manistique UMW) will hold its annual summer picnic on Tuesday, August 1, at noon at the church. The menu is a planned salad luncheon. The program will be presented by the Country Roses, a local Christian vocal group.

The picnic will take the place of the August general meeting. The next general meeting of the UWiF will be held Tuesday, September 5 at 1 PM. This is an important meeting as the fall season is beginning and we need to plan for the coming year's events, especially UMW Sunday in November and the annual Christmas Tea to be held in December. Please plan to attend this meeting and bring your ideas.

Those taking part in the reading program are encouraged to continue toward their goal, which is to be completed by December 31.

The Manistique UMW is open to all women interested in the welfare of women and children. For more information, contact UMW President Bette Jahn.

Missions Report... by Connie Kelsey

It is hard to believe that half of the year is over. We have received very generous donations to our various Noisy Offering collections!

If you would like to be involved with missions, please join us at our next committee meeting which will be held

August 17th at 11 AM.

We will be discussing our upcoming mission projects.

Thank You



FOLKFEST
PASTY SALE
SUCCESS

\$800 will be donated to each organization!

- **Good Neighbor's Food Pantry**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **St. Vincent's de Paul**

Thank you!