



- 5 Connie Meade
- 8 Tom & Phyllis Burge
- 11 Susan Barry
- 20 Phyllis Burge
- 28 Pastor B.J. Ash
- 29 David Hokenson

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

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

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 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**

1...2...3...4...5...How am I coming through? Five by five? Good. These were words that have been used since around World War II as a check for signal strength and readability when receiving radio transmissions. This was also a check that we used here in our sanctuary while adjusting our sound system over the past several weeks. We checked the sound pressure readings (signal strength) and had several people listen to the quality of the voice (high, low, and mid-range tones) to check the readability of how people sound when speaking. If the signal was great, but the sound was like in a hollow tin can, then the readability and understandability would suffer.

In many ways, we can relate this same check with scripture when it comes to our translation and interpretation of it. Sometimes it leads to a more subjective evaluation based upon the interpreter and translator of the scripture used, not to mention the reader who adds their own context. There have been many translations of original texts of scripture that make up *The Bible* that we know today. Also, all three of the original languages that the scriptures were originally written in have long passed away, not to mention the cultural contexts that they were written in that we also need to know when interpreting their meanings. Fear not, however, as many of the mainline translations of *The Bible* that we have today were completed by some of the top scholars in these areas and many translations have around 100 scholars that have worked on each version.

PASTOR'S WORDS

Yet, there are still differences: sometimes subtle and sometimes not. As human beings, we are known for sometimes making mountains out of molehills. You can see where the rest of this story is going, and I'm not even to the part of the interpretation of the meanings behind the scriptures after they're translated. We get into that each time I deliver a sermon and no two sermons on the same passage of scripture are ever the same, even from the same person writing the sermon. This is because of the Holy Spirit that helps to guide the interpretation part of the scripture being preached on. Confused yet? It's okay. This is where spiritual gifts also come in and help those who interpret scripture, teach, exhort, and several other of the gifts that work together to make up the person in the Body of Christ that we call the church. We all fall on different areas of this spectrum of gifts, and it is our diversity of these gifts that make us this wonderfully woven tapestry. We would not be complete unless we had our differences: our differences in opinion, our differences in how we do things, and our differences of spiritual gifts. If we can celebrate that diversity and use it to God's glory instead of our own, then Satan has no chance to use our differences to divide us.

As for me, I'm with Deacon Coffey below about grace and forgiveness when it comes to settling our differences. How about you?

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



Join us for a Pie Auction Fundraiser
 October 8th after the 11 AM church service in fellowship room.
 Enjoy laughter and great pies!
 If you would like to donate a pie or two, thank you!



First United Methodist Church

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

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Pipes and Hammers: A Concert of Hymn Favorites (Pipe Organ or Piano) Sunday, September 17, 2023, 1:30 PM Ellyn Plackowski, Organist and Pianist, Church of the Redeemer Presbyterian 314 Main Street, Manistique Donations will be used for pipe organ maintenance.					1	2
3 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 UWIF 1 PM Trustees 10 AM Connie Meade 🎈	6	7	8 Tom & Phyllis Burge 💍	9
10 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	11 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Susan Barry 🎈	12 Ad Council 10AM	13 🥧 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10am-1pm	14 🥧 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10am-1pm	15	16
17 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	18 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	19 S/PPRC 10 AM	20 Phyllis Burge 🎈	21	22	23 UWIF Northern Skies District Conference
24 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	25 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	26 S/PPRC 10 AM	27	28 Pastor B.J. Ash 🎈	29 David Hokenson 🎈	30

September Mission Noisy Offering — God's Country Cooperative Parish

GCCP is in the eastern part of the U.P.; it covers a 2500 square mile area. Seven communities of faith combine their resources, share their faith and, through their active presence, work to bring self-esteem, hope and faith to all God's children throughout their vast parish. These goals are accomplished by mission trips, Bible studies, youth activities, leadership and training events, mission projects and missionaries. God is working through us. Thank you for your support!

Prayer Chain

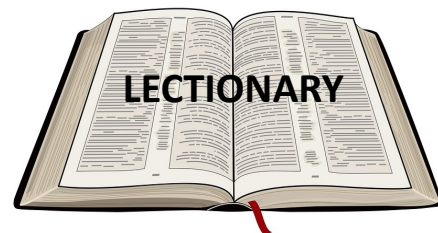
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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.



Newsletter suggestions are always welcome! If you have anything you wish to have published in the next newsletter submit before **September 21, 2023** deadline.

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

August Mission Noisy Offering for Backpack Buddies/Zion Lutheran Church will be announced soon! Thank you for your support!

September 3 — 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 3:1-15; Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b (UMH 828); Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28

September 10 — 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 12:1-14; Ps 149 (UMH 861); Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

September 17 — 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21; Ps 114 (UMH 135); Matt 18:21-35

September 24 — 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 16:2-15; Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 (UMH 828); Phil 1:21-30; Matt 20:1-16



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: David Stout and family needs, Sharon V. & Celie's N. brother, Lynn LaRose, Ken Burgin, 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.



A View From the Belfry September, 2023

Greetings from Benny, your official Belfry Bat! OK, maybe it isn't really official, but since I don't see any other bats around here competing for the job, I decided to make myself official. Now, if I'm stepping on the toes of the Lay Leadership Committee members (also known as the Nominating Committee), I will apologize and from henceforth keep quiet. (Well, I'll try to keep quiet. That isn't necessarily one of my strong points, however.) Now that the big celebration of the 150th Anniversary picnic is over, FolkFest is over, and the Anniversary Sunday service is over, I would assume that things will quiet down a little, but somehow I think that's unlikely! Why? Well, I see that you have a new old piece of furniture in the narthex! It looks really good there, and hopefully will cut down on the cluttery look that area sometimes has. You have a new handrail in the entry so people can grab it better, and it fits in really well. You have a new seal coat in the parking lot and new paint stripes, and it looks brand spanking new! You have finished the back steps to the pastor's office, and have improved the sound system in the sanctuary (thanks, Ken Burgin!) You've accomplished a lot! Apparently, however, you still aren't done! You have sent a small group of musically inclined church members to check out some new gadgety electronic thing to possibly replace the piano, which at 80+ years old is starting to show its age. My understanding is that the new gadgety electronic thing impressed the folks who saw and heard it, so they are moving on to the next step, which is to present it to the powers that be and see what they think. I'm hearing talk of another pie auction to raise funds for something (maybe the gadgety electronic thing), and I've also heard that you may be having an open house for the church sometime in September or thereabouts. I'm also hearing that your annual Church Conference is approaching, which means that the Lay Leadership Committee will be back at filling church positions, all the current committees will be completing a whole packet of paperwork, and everybody will be just as busy as they have been all summer, and spring, and last winter... It doesn't stop, does it? You know, from what I understand, it isn't supposed to stop! A church is supposed to continue to do the Lord's work, and that work is never done, as long as there are needy and lost and uninformed about Jesus people around. You are, of course, supposed to rest now and then, like every seven days, on the Lord's Day. Hopefully, you do all take a day of rest every seven days. As for me, I try to take a day of work every seven days and rest the other six! That works unless I get hungry and the mosquitoes aren't as abundant as I think they should be and I have to do extra hunting to find them. You know, I think I have a good idea for that pie auction. How about a nice, big, juicy mosquito pie? I'll bet one of you fine chef types in this church has a recipe for a really tasty mosquito pie! How about it, all you great cooks? Of course, then I'd have to bid on it to get it, and I'm not noted for having any money, so somebody would probably outbid me and I wouldn't be able to have any, and...I'll maybe think about this a little longer! Meanwhile, have a great September everybody, and keep up all the good work!

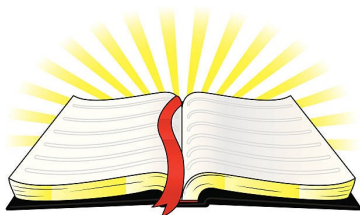
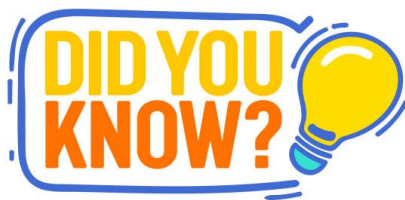
**Lay Leader Lines
September, 2023**

Q: I really wish we could sing more of the old favorite hymns. Some of the newer ones are all right, but some are hard to sing. Why do we have to sing so many of them?

Q: I enjoy singing the newer hymns from the black hymnal. They seem peppier and more relevant today than some of those old songs we sing all the time. Why can't we sing more newer songs?

Q: We almost never sing my favorite hymn, even though everybody really likes it and we can sing it well. Why don't we sing my favorite hymn more often?

A: Believe it or not, I have heard each of these questions asked! When choosing hymns, we try to strike a balance between newer and older hymns, keeping in mind that the hymns we choose should add to the overall worship service and be relevant to the pastor's message. We have a diverse congregation with diverse likes and dislikes, diverse musical experiences and backgrounds, and diverse opinions about what works best. What may be a beloved older hymn to one person may be completely new to another. One person's favorite hymn may leave somebody else completely uninspired. Perhaps we could try to include more hymns most people can at least tolerate. One possibility would be to solicit favorite hymns from the congregation which could be sung during the special music time on Sundays when we don't have any special music arranged. How about it? If this idea appeals to you, please let Cindy Burgin, Pastor B.J., or Janet Helmbold know. If you tell us your favorite hymns in writing, we can schedule them in advance. As an alternative, Cindy feels comfortable playing hymns she knows well without advance notice, so we may take requests from the congregation during the service. If a hymn is new to her, we can take it down and use it in a future service after she has had a chance to go over it a few times. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know!



1. According to the *Bible*, how are we supposed to treat those who persecute us?
 - a. We are to do unto others what they do to us, so we are supposed to persecute them back.
 - b. We are to pray that God will punish them for persecuting us.
 - c. Leave them alone and pretend it isn't happening.
 - d. We are to bless them, and not curse them.
 - e. Call the police and file a complaint against them.

2. If a member of your church family sins against you, what is the first thing you should do?

- a. Ignore it and hope that person will quit.
- b. Ask the pastor to solve the problem.
- c. Talk to the offender about it and see if that will solve the problem.
- d. Leave the church and go somewhere else.
- e. Print an article in the church newsletter about it.

You can find the answers to both questions in Romans 12:14, Matthew 18:15-18.



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

The Manistique chapter of United Women in Faith closed out its 2022-23 activities with the annual picnic in August, which was well attended. After enjoying a delicious salad luncheon, the featured program was a presentation by the Country Roses from Cooks. The three musicians entertained the gathering with violin, guitar and piano accompaniment as they sang country style songs of beloved sacred and secular music. There were many sing-alongs among the guests as they recognized the selections.

The next General meeting of the UWIF will be held Tuesday, September 5 at 1 PM. This 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.



Thank you for joining us at our 150th celebrations!

