



- 1 Candace Haskell
- 1 Ron & Carolyn Williams
- 9 Jo Nell Rubick
- 9 Linda Moon
- 9 Carol Hollenbeck
- 13 Sharon Vanderville
- 14 John & Carol Livingston
- 22 Ralph Livingston
- 26 Curt & Celie Norton
- 26 Ed & Mary Atwood

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)**  
**[www.manistiquemethodist.org](http://www.manistiquemethodist.org)**

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

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 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**

As we end the month of September and begin the month of October, we have seen the green leaves turn to yellow and orange and red, we feel the (somewhat) cooler temperatures, and we know that change is in the air. Some people I have talked with this week say they love the season of fall; others dislike it because they know it means that winter is coming. The change of seasons is a given. In life, change is a given, whether we like it or not. It is a fact of life.

A friend shared a poem that speaks of these things. It is written by poet Pádraig Ó Tuama from Northern Ireland:

"The Facts of Life"

*That you were born  
 and you will die.  
 That you will sometimes love enough  
 and sometimes not.  
 That you will lie  
 if only to yourself.  
 That you will get tired.  
 That you will learn most from the situations  
 you did not choose.  
 That there will be some things that move you  
 more than you can say.  
 That you will live  
 that you must be loved.  
 That you will avoid questions most urgently in  
 need of  
 your attention.  
 That you began of two people who once were  
 strangers  
 and may well still be.  
 That life isn't fair.*

*That life is sometimes good  
 and sometimes even better than good.  
 That life is often not so good.  
 That life is real  
 and if you can survive it, well,  
 survive it well  
 with love  
 and art  
 and meaning given  
 where meaning's scarce.  
 That you will learn to live with regret.  
 That you will learn to live with respect.  
 That the structures that constrict you  
 may not be permanently constricting.  
 That you will probably be okay.  
 That you must accept change  
 before you die  
 but you will die anyway.  
 So, you might as well live  
 and you might as well love.  
 You might as well love.  
 You might as well love.*

**PASTOR'S WORDS**

This poem speaks honestly about changing and learning, living and losing, and loving. It speaks truth into our broken and God's beloved world. It reminds us that life is made up of hard and holy days, and that through it all, we are invited to love.

This is the world in which Jesus came to teach us how to live and love, how to keep faith and hope alive, and to shine His light into all the days of our lives. In the midst of hard times, it is helpful to remember that in addition to the facts of life, God gives us other facts:

"The facts of the Gospel of Jesus Christ"

*The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.*

*For God so loved the world, he gave his only son.*

*Jesus said, "Come to me all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

*Jesus is the light of the world, a light no darkness can overcome.*

*Jesus said,*

*"Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.*

*And love your neighbor as yourself."*

*And he also said,*

*"love your enemies and pray for them."*

*Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd.*

*I know my own and my own know me.*

*I lay down my life for the sheep."*

*Jesus said to the thief on the cross,*

*"Truly I tell you, today,*

*you will be with me in Paradise."*

*The angels at the tomb said,*

*"Jesus is not here. He is risen!"*

*Jesus said,*

*"Do not be afraid."*

*Jesus said,*

*"Go, make disciples of all nations....*

*and remember I am with you always,*

*even to the end of the age."*

This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

With faith, hope, and love for the living of these days together,

Pastor B.J.



**October 8—After Church Service**

**Bid on a pie (or more)**

**Proceeds will help us purchase a clavino (combined version of a piano, organ, and so much more)! Don't worry; the pipe organ is staying! Sign-up if you are interested in donating a pie or two.**



**First United Methodist Church**

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

**October**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM  Candace Haskell Ron & Carolyn Williams	2 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	3 Finance 9 AM Trustees 10 AM UWiF 1 PM	4	5	6 SPRC 9 AM  Worship 10 AM	7
8 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	9 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM  Jo Nell Rubick Linda Moon Carol Hollenbeck	10	11  Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10am-1pm	12  Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10am-1pm	13  Sharon Vanderville	14  John & Carol Livingston, 1967
15 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	16 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	17 Ad Council 10AM  Vitality 1 PM	18	19	20	21
22 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Ecumenical Progressive Dinner  Ralph Livingston	23 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	24	25	26  Curt & Celie Norton, 1963  Ed & Mary Atwood	27	28
29 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	30 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	31 Trunk or Treat 5-6 PM 	<b>October Mission Noisy Offering — Samaritan's Purse</b> <b>Operation Christmas Child</b> Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts delight the hearts of boys and girls in more than 100 countries where Samaritan's Purse local partners deliver the shoeboxes along with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God is working through us. Thank you for your support!			

# Prayer Chain

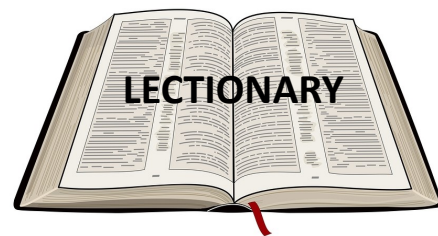
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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](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 **October 20, 2023** deadline.

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

September Mission Noisy Offering collected \$87 for God's Country Cooperative Parish! Thank you for your support!

**October 1** — 18th Sunday After Pentecost, World Communion Sunday

Ex: 17:1-7; Ps 78:1-4, 12-16 (UMH 799); Phil 2:1-13; Matt 21:23-32

**October 8** — 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps 19 (UMH 750); Phil 3:4b-14; Matt 21:33-46

**October 15** — 20th Sunday After Pentecost, Laity Sunday

Ex 32:1-14; Ps 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829); Phil 4:1-9; Matt 22:1-14

**October 22** — 21st Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 33:12-23, Ps 99 (UMH 819); 1 Thess 1:1-10; Matt 22:15-22

**October 29** — 22nd Sunday After Pentecost, Reformation Sunday

Duet 34:1-12; Ps 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 809); 1 Thess 2:1-8; Matt 22:34-46



## FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

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



## A View From the Belfry October, 2023

**Greetings from your very excited belfry bat!!** Why am I excited? Well because my very favorite holiday is coming this month! **BAT DAY!!!** Well, OK, Halloween, but bats are a favorite Halloween celebrity! The main attraction, in my opinion! Sure, we have ghosts and witches and skeletons and green slimy monster types and big scary spiders and jack-o-lanterns, but bats are the main attraction, right?? Anyway, we are again having our Trunk-or-Treat event in the church parking lot, and all who wish to do so can contribute! We need several car trunks (you can leave them attached to your vehicles if you prefer), bags of candy to fill the trunks, and volunteers to handle the candy distribution. We are also having hot dogs again, and can use volunteers to prepare and serve those as well. Everybody has a lot of fun at this event, and we welcome everyone who wants to come. There is a sign-up sheet for the event. We also have a sign-up sheet for the Progressive Dinner which is coming this month as well. We are preparing salads for that event, and can use a whole bunch of salads. I've been sternly told that the head honcho kitchen controller is NOT going to allow any mosquito salads to be served! While I think that's a huge mistake, that crabby old lady who writes those boring newsletter articles about questions people have has told me that the Health Department won't allow us to serve any meat products which haven't been government inspected and approved. She claims that the government doesn't inspect mosquito meat for consumption! Since we can't get it inspected, we can't use it. Imagine that! I think we should demand that the government inspect mosquito meat or something! Besides, I've been eating mosquitoes for years, and I've never gotten sick from eating them. (Well, there was that one time I kind of pigged out and had way more mosquitoes than I should have, but that's different!) In addition to all this, we still have the pie auction to come, but I mentioned that last month. (Has anybody found a good mosquito pie recipe yet? I'm really looking forward to some nice, juicy mosquito pie!) It looks as if we can anticipate a fun, food-filled, and busy October! In fact, I notice that even the trees are already preparing for the festivities by showing their colors!

## PROGRESSIVE DINNER—October 22

4:00 - APPETIZERS - Cedar Grove Mennonite Church  
1724N W. Kendall Rd, 8 miles North East of Manistique

5:00 - SOUP - Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
435 Oak St, Manistique

5:30 - SALAD - First United Methodist Church  
190 N. Cedar St, Manistique

6:00 - MAIN ENTREE - First Baptist Church  
319 Walnut St, Manistique

6:45 - DESSERT - Church of the Redeemer Presbyterian  
314 Main St, Manistique



**October 31, 2023**

**5 - 6 PM**

**Stop by our parking lot for treats, hotdogs, chips and a beverage!**

**Lay Leader Lines  
October, 2023**

**Q:** I keep hearing that some United Methodist Churches are splitting away from this denomination because they don't like some of the things that are going on in the overall United Methodist system. I also have heard that every church is going to have to decide what they want to do. Is this true?

**A:** For over 40 years United Methodists have been contending with issues pertaining to the general beliefs and directives as set down in the Book of Discipline. The main concern pertains to dealing with homosexuality and related gender orientations. As society changes its views on these issues, the church has experienced increasing pressure to examine its policies and beliefs as well. Within the overall United Methodist Church, there are widely varying opinions regarding the matter, and increasing discomfort and polarization as people attempt to come to terms with what the church's position should be. Some churches have already chosen to leave the denomination. Others have chosen to violate the current rules regarding the issue and act as they deem appropriate even though their actions are not in keeping with the church's stated position. These churches are seeking to change the rules by which the church is governed to become more in tune with their beliefs and actions. All churches are given the option of selecting the course of action which they feel best expresses the views of each particular church. If a church does not choose, the ultimate decision will be made for that church and it will be assigned to the position taken by the United Methodist Church's General Conference, whatever that will be. So far the General Conference has not made any decision, and the rules which have been in place for the past several years are still in effect. In this church we are very concerned about the situation, but feel that it is premature to vote on an issue to which the solution has not yet been formulated. In other words, we do not know for certain whether or not there will be changes made in the rules pertaining to the church's position on homosexuality and related gender issues and if so, what these changes will be. Until these matters are decided, we would be voting on something which may or may not even occur. In the meantime, we do intend to discuss the issues and concerns, but we want to have the facts firmly clarified before we undertake the relevant discussions. Otherwise we will run the risk of basing our discussions on misconceptions, half-truths, and heresay, none of which can result in any well conceived planning. We also hope to develop a way of communicating so that all can be heard, without becoming rancorous, demeaning, hot-headed, and disrespectful of those who may have opinions different from our own. We currently have a warm, friendly, loving church. We want to continue to work together in a respectful and loving manner regardless of differences of opinions on this issue. It will not be easy, but if we can remember that God loves every single one of us, regardless of our differences, we too should be called upon to follow His example. We CAN agree to disagree without rancor, and without driving each other apart on this issue. We have done so on other much less contentious matters, and we should be able to do so on this one, contentious as it may be. That is the choice each of us faces. Please give careful thought and prayer to this before solidifying your opinion on the decision you would have the church make.

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

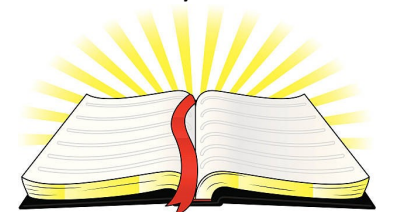
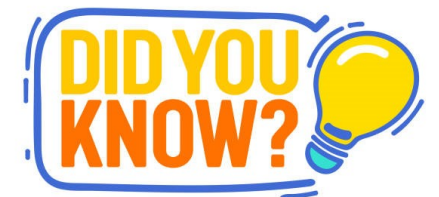
The next General Meeting of the Manistique United Women in Faith will be held Tuesday, October 3, at 1 PM. Plans for the upcoming fall months will be discussed, including the finalizing of the UWif Sunday worship service to be held November 12.

Also included in this meeting will be the annual Pledge Service. The annual Thank Offering Service will take place at the November 7 meeting.

A Pie Auction will be held following the October 8 Sunday worship service. Members are encouraged to donate two pies to the event, if possible. Recipients of the proceeds from the event will be determined at a later date. Everyone is encouraged to attend the auction as it is sure to be a fun afternoon.

After approximately 20 years of being the publicity person for the formerly Manistique United Methodist Women, etc., I believe it is time to retire at the end of this year and pass the privilege on to another. To volunteer and for more information, contact current President Bette Jahn. No experience necessary!

1. What is the unforgivable sin?
  - A. Living a homosexual life style.
  - B. Refusing to allow homosexuals to be ordained, serve as pastors, and marry same-sex partners.
  - C. Taking God's name in vain.
  - D. Speaking against the Holy Spirit.
  - E. Eating meat on Friday.
  - F. There is no unforgivable sin.
2. What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment in the law?
  - A. Thou shalt not kill.
  - B. You shall love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
  - C. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
  - D. Thou shalt not take the Lord's name in vain.
  - E. Thou shalt not heal a sick person on the Sabbath.



You can find the answers to both questions in Matthew 22: 34-37.