



14 Char Crosby
 28 Ron & Ruth Annelin, 1972
 28 Bill Ross

**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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 process easier?

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

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



CELEBRATE THE SEASON



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

It is with this understanding of God's sovereign grace that I give thanks to God for you, Manistique First United Methodist Church, for your "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." As your pastor, it is a profound honor and blessing to witness your faith in action, as you cling to Christ alone for salvation, Lord's Day after Lord's Day, through the Word, sacraments, and prayer. It's a deep encouragement to see your constant love and support for one another shown in very practical ways, as well as your love for friends and family members, expressed through prayer and a faithful gospel witness.

Having had the privilege of walking with many of you through pain and suffering, I've seen firsthand the steadfastness of hope that the Holy Spirit fosters in your hearts. My own faith has grown as I've witnessed your faith being tested by fiery trials and proved genuine. Over the years you've demonstrated a hunger for the Word of God, an eagerness to learn and grow, a heart for one another, a compassion for the lost, and a warm and welcoming posture toward those who walk through our doors for the first time. Indeed, I very frequently hear from visitors about the extraordinary friendliness of our congregation. This encourages me very much, as it has always been my prayer that Manistique First

PASTOR'S WORDS

United Methodist Church would be both doctrinally faithful and conscientiously open-armed. I never cease to thank God for you, and the work that He is doing in and through you.

The Joy of Christmas

I must admit that I love this time of year. I enjoy the Christmas decorations, the Christmas music, and the many enticements of the cultural side of the season. What I love most about this time of year, however, is our collective focus on the incarnation and birth of our Savior. The eternal Son left the glories of heaven above to enter the brokenness of this fallen world. He took on human flesh and set aside His divine privileges, all to accomplish His divine rescue plan for sinners. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). What a Savior!



Pastor B.J.



First United Methodist Church

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

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p align="center">December Mission Noisy Offering — Christmas Adopt-A-Family</p> <p align="center">A local, deserving family will enjoy the Christmas holiday with a box full of food, necessities and blessings!</p>						<p>2</p> <p>150th Anniversary Open House 3-5 PM</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Trustees 10 AM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>UWiF (UMW) Christmas Tea 1-3 PM</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Festival of Lessons and Carols 3 PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ad Council 10AM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Char Crosby </p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Christmas Meditation 6-7PM</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service 7 PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Office Closed</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Ron & Ruth Annelin </p> <p>Bill Ross </p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM</p>	<p align="center">Blue or Gray 150th Commemorative T-Shirts for sale!</p> <p align="center">Limited quantities! Adult sizes: M—L—XL</p> <p align="right">\$18.45 Each</p>					

Prayer Chain

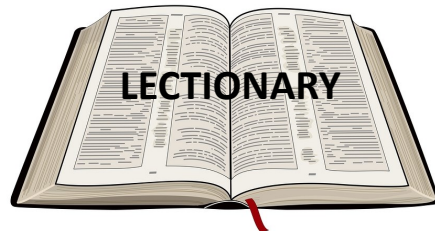
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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.



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 **December 22, 2023** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to: office@manistiquemethodist.org

October Mission Noisy Offering collected \$87 for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. November Mission Noisy Offering will be announced soon. Thank you for your support!

December 3 — 1st Sunday of Advent

Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801); 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2, 8-13 (UMH 806); 2 Pet 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps 126 (UMH 847); 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 — 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:46b-55; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 24 — Christmas Eve

Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96 (UMH 815); Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25 — Christmas Day

Isa 52:7-10; Ps 98 (UMH 818); Heb 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

December 31 — 1st Sunday After Christmas Day; New Year's Eve; Watch Night

Isa 61:10-62:3; Ps 148 (UMH 861); Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

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



A View From the Belfry December, 2023

Happy Holidays from Benny and all his batty relatives! By now you have already had your Thanksgiving feast and are looking toward Christmas!

As I predicted that it would be, November was indeed a busy month! Early in the month we had a church conference by ZOOM, followed by a meeting in person with the District Superintendent, Scott Harmon, in Escanaba. I snuck along for the ride on that one, but was VERY careful not to allow myself to be seen! Rev. Harmon had some really nice things to say about lots of other people, too! You are seen as a stable, friendly church (well, maybe not so friendly toward bats..) which goes the extra mile to support each other and serve the local community, as well as to contribute to people in need around the world.

In addition to our church conference, November had the annual United Women in Faith service, in which the women did the entire service. You women did a great job! The only thing is, are you really going to start baking pasties in the sanctuary??? Isn't it going to be inconvenient carrying all those trays of pasties from the altar area to the ovens downstairs in the oven room? Will the local Health Department really approve of that? Just wondering...

To feed the hungry hunters in this area, the women also baked 10 batches of pasties (about 400 of them), and sold every single one of them! Pastor B.J. was one of those intrepid hunters out there, meaning that he was on vacation during that time, although I noticed he snuck back to town once or twice to participate in church related activities.

Also in November, you supported the community Thanksgiving dinner at the Big Boy by contributing \$700 toward providing free buffet dinners for their customers (up from \$500 last year). You participated in the Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service held at the First Baptist Church. Bette Jahn shopped until she dropped getting supplies for filling Thanksgiving baskets for four families in this community (up from 2 last year). Bette and Mary Whinnen packed 30 shoe boxes to be sent to children around the world who would not receive anything for Christmas otherwise. (That's up from 25 boxes in past years.) The church is being decorated for an open house in early December so those who wish can come in, see the pretty Christmas decorations, and have a few quiet minutes to contemplate, rest, and simply let the Christmas spirit envelop them. The women (don't those ladies ever rest??) are also going to have their Christmas tea, and a modified cookie exchange for those who want to participate. Not to be outdone, the men in the church have been working to finish ongoing projects such as putting the last touches on the back stairwell to the Pastor's office. Not only that, Gordon Barry graciously provided pulpit supply for Pastor B.J. on a Sunday morning so he could get out in the woods and terrorize all those hapless deer out there. I'm really glad I'm a bat and not a deer about this time of year!

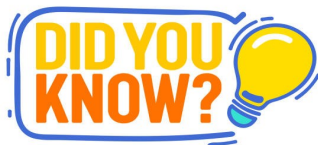
As a very modest and rather shy little bat, I'm a bit embarrassed to share this last little bit with you, but...aw, gee! I was tickled pink, and I really do want you all to know. Back when the church had its trunk or treat event, I noticed that many of the trunks were very nicely decorated for Halloween. Well, you might know that the crabby old lady who writes that boring column about lay leaders or something was too cheap and too lazy to decorate her trunk. All she had in it was a bag of Halloween candy and I think a jug of antifreeze or something. Anyway, Connie Kelsey, wanting to honor ME, little old ME, and hoping to give a little life to that dull trunk, contributed a lovely, very realistic, genuine plastic statue of ME to the crabby old lady! It was beautifully sculpted and looks exactly like me! She hung it in a conspicuous place in the trunk, and let me tell you, it made a huge difference! Everybody was wowed by my likeness hanging in that otherwise forlorn old trunk!

continued on page 4

**Lay Leader Lines
December, 2023**

Q: I have heard that we will soon have a new lay leader. How exciting! I think we should have new blood in our church officers from time to time! Is it true?

A: Yes, it's true! In the past we have traditionally had two co-lay leaders, Mary Prater and Janet Helmbold. Due to Mary's changed circumstances, she is no longer able to serve in that capacity. However, Connie Kelsey has agreed to step in to the chief lay leader position, with Janet Helmbold serving as the secondary lay leader. This change will begin as of January 1, 2024. Connie will also serve as the new lay representative to Annual Conference. She has attended Annual Conferences in the past and will do a fine job in that capacity.



1. When the Pharisees sent men to ask John the Baptist who he was, what was his answer to them?
 - A. I am John the Baptist.
 - B. I am Elijah, sent to prepare the way for one to come.
 - C. I am the son of Zechariah, a Temple priest.
 - D. I am one crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord."
 - E. I am a prophet.
 - F. I am one crying in the wilderness, for I am lost and cannot find my way.

2. Why did the men sent by the Pharisees question John?
 - A. He was baptizing people, and they wondered how he was doing it.
 - B. He was dressed in camel's hair, and they wondered why.
 - C. They heard him crying in the wilderness and came to see what the matter was.
 - D. They wondered what authority he had to be baptizing people.
 - E. They saw he was eating locusts and wondered what they tasted like.
 - F. They wanted to be baptized.

You can find the answers to these questions in John 1:19-28.

A View From the Belfry (continued from page 3)

Anyway, after the event was over, rather than packing that beautiful piece of artwork away in a box in the attic, it seemed to me that it should be displayed somewhere in the church. Now, being the shy, modest bat that I am, I didn't feel that it should be too prominently displayed, such as on the altar or behind the pulpit or something. I also felt that it should be moved around a bit so everybody could get a look at it no matter where they were in the church. Therefore, I have decided that I will display my beautiful likeness in various and sundry places in the church. If you see it, please place a note in the treasurer's box in the stairwell, giving your name, where you saw it, and the date on which you spotted it. I can almost guarantee that the first person to spot it will get a fabulous prize. (Well, that depends on how much you like frozen mosquito pasties.) You could also tell Connie Kelsey where you saw it if you would prefer. Happy hunting!



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News
Submitted by Carol Weinert



The annual presentation of the UWIF (UMW) Sunday worship service held Nov. 12 was well attended with most of its members participating. In keeping with the theme "Hospitality," Ruth Annelin told of a true-life experience in which she and her husband, Ron, were blessed by extending hospitality to a traveler.

The Holy Rollers then presented a pasty-making skit that was entertaining as well as inspirational and informational concerning the background of the long-time FUMC fundraiser.

The highlight of the service was the presentation of the annual service award. This year's recipient was Phyllis Burge, who was honored for her many years of service to the church and our Lord.

The annual Christmas tea hosted by our local UMW will be Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1 to 3 PM. This year the program will be open only to our church family and friends. Included in the event will be a cookie exchange. Those wishing to participate are asked to bring 3 dozen of their favorite cookies in exchange for a 3 dozen variety of other cookies. The event will also hold a mini baked goods bazaar.

Due to "late" scheduling of the Tea, there will be no Christmas party this year.

Those participating in the UMW Reading program are reminded that the 2023 year is drawing to an end. Turn in your completed reading forms by Dec. 20 to Connie Kelsey to receive credit from the District.

There will be no December UMW meeting. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, at 1 PM.

The UWIF (UMW) is open to all women interested in the welfare of women and children worldwide.

Thank You

Janet Helmbold

You are an inspiration and a true asset!
You have been involved in so many areas, member in just about every committee, bell choir, writing songs, weekly call to worship and newsletter articles ("Benny" is a favorite) to name just a few!
Plus you are our church Treasurer!
You have dedicated many years of service.
You are a true blessing!

**United Women in Faith
Sunday Service**

Congratulations to our
Special Award recipient
Phyllis Burge

