



- 1 Connie Kelsey
- 7 Gordie Barry
- 13 John Haskell
- 23 Michael & Kathleen Haynes
- 26 Cyndi Burgin
- 28 Ellen Derber

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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Stop by the office and fill out an Electronic
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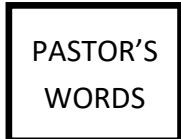


Visit www.youtube.com and search
Manistique First UMC where you see the
magnifying glass at the top of the page.
Live worship services each Sunday at 11AM.



THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

First United Methodist Church
190 N. Cedar Manistique, MI
www.manistiquemethodist.org
office@manistiquemethodist.org
February, 2024



As we step into the month of February, the air is filled with love, warmth, and the promise of new beginnings. Our community continues to flourish, and we are excited!

This February, let us reflect on the power of love and unity within our community. It is through the bonds we create with one another that we find strength, support, and a sense of belonging. As we navigate life's journey together, may our shared experiences deepen our connections and bring forth a sense of peace and harmony.

Upcoming Events:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: As we prepare for the season of Lent, join us February 13th at 5:00 PM for fellowship and a delicious pancake supper.

Valentine's Day Celebration: On February 14th, I invite you to celebrate love in all its forms. Whether it's the love between partners, friends, or family, show it to one another for a day of joy, laughter, and appreciation.

Ash Wednesday Service: On February 14th at 5:00 PM, join us for our Ash Wednesday service and imposition of ashes as we enter into our season of Lent this year.

Lenten Soup and Devotion: Join us during the season of Lent every Wednesday at 5:30 PM for 2 varieties of soup, bread, dessert, and a devotion each week.

Community Resources:

Support Circle: In times of need, it's essential to have a supportive community. Our support circle continues to be available for those who may



PASTOR'S WORDS

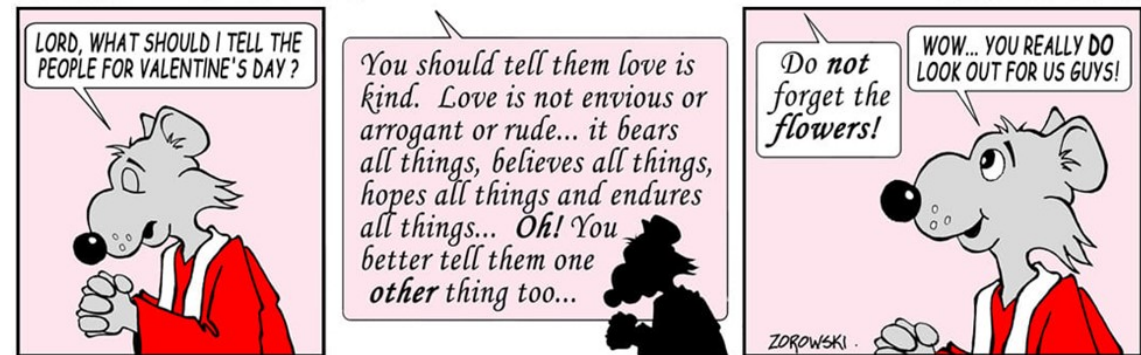
need a helping hand, a listening ear, or just a friendly face. Reach out if you need assistance or if you'd like to offer support to others.

As we embrace the spirit of love and unity this February, let us continue to build a community that thrives on compassion, understanding, and shared experiences. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and activities.

I wish you a joyful and fulfilling February!

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice



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1. How were Jesus' disciples told to give alms?

A. Have someone march in ahead of you and sound a trumpet so people will know you have given a large amount. This will inspire those who observe you to also give generously.

B. They were instructed to use the approved Temple currency rather than the coins minted by the Romans.

C. Give alms quietly so that others don't know how much you are giving and won't be impressed by how much you give if it happens to be a lot.

D. Put one hand in your pocket so it won't know how much your other hand is giving.

2. Why did Jesus instruct people to not store up treasures for themselves on earth?

A. Thieves might break in and steal them.

B. Your heart will be where your treasure is, and pursuing earthly treasures will distract you from pursuing heavenly treasures.

C. He felt that preparing for the future was wrong because we don't know what the future may bring.

D. He felt that it was wrong to show off what you have to others because they might be tempted to steal from you.



The answers to these questions can be found in Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-21.



First United Methodist Church

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

February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
150th Commemorative T-Shirts on sale! Limited quantities! Adult sizes: M—L—XL Blue or Gray—\$18 each				1 S/PPRC 10AM Connie Kelsey	2	3
4 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	5 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	6 UWiF 1 PM	7 Gordie Barry	8	9	10
11 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	12 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	13 Ad Council 10AM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5 PM John Haskell	14 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM Ash Wednesday Service 5 PM	15 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	16 Education 9:30AM	17
18 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	19 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	20	21 Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30PM	22	23 Michael & Kathleen Haynes	24
25 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	26 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Cyndi Burgin	27	28 Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30PM Ellen Derber	29		

February Mission Noisy Offering — Middle School/High School Helpful Hotspot

This collection will be used at the Manistique Middle School/High School to assist students in need!
Thank you for your contribution!

Prayer Chain

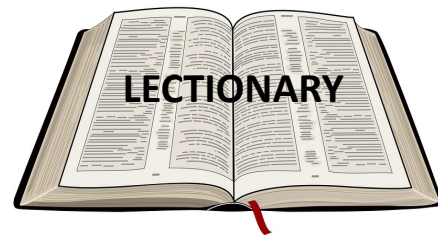
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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 **February 23, 2024** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to: office@manistiquemethodist.org

January Mission Noisy Offering collected \$48 for the Manistique Ministerial Association. Thank you for your support!

February 4 — 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa 40:21-31; Ps 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859); 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 11 — Transfiguration Sunday; Scouting Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps 50:1-6 (UMH783); 2 Cor 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 14 — Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Ps 51:1-17 (UMH 785); 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10; Matt 1-6, 16-21

February 18 — 1st Sunday in Lent

Gen 9:8-17; Ps 25:1-10 (UMH 756); 1 Pet 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 25 — 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps 22:23-31 (UMH 752); Rom 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

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



A View From the Belfry February, 2024

Howdy from the belfry! It's I, everybody's favorite bat, Benny. Well, maybe not quite everybody's favorite; there is that crabby old lady who USED to write the lay leader column, who seems not as thrilled as she ought to be to have me around. By the way, I wanted to say that "it's me" up in the first line of this article, but she insisted that to be grammatically correct it has to be "it's I" not "it's me." Talk about fussy!

Anyway, I can tell that it's winter for sure finally. The way January started with no snow at all, I think we were all wondering. Anyway, the snow has come, the temperatures got really cold, and those church folks who like warmer more than cooler have left for those warmer places. Yep! It's winter! Although days are really getting longer, meaning that we should be done with winter in 4 or 5 or 6 months!

It may be winter, but this church is still busy, although maybe not quite as busy as we were in November and December. The crabby old lady is whining about all the tax forms and Conference forms and District forms and all the other forms which must be completed and filled out and submitted and revised and whatever. All the usual activities are also still going on, such as committee meetings and pasty baking and Bible study and doing all the routine work a church involves. Also coming soon there will be Lenten services and soup suppers. (How about some nice mosquito broth this year, folks? You should try it!) However, there may actually be a little more time to reflect on things, try new things, rest up a little, and generally take things a little easier for awhile. If you are interested in trying new things, how about coming to adult Sunday school or *Bible* study (or both) if you haven't done that before? There's also the prayer time which meets right after *Bible* study. We could always use more prayers and more people praying! This might also be time to attack those projects which are on the "gonna do some day" list. Maybe now is the time! We have some file cabinets around the church which are full of stuff nobody every uses which could be made available for other stuff which needs a place to go. I was told (well, ordered) to suggest that you not clean out a file cabinet or drawer without first finding out who claims ownership or at least managership of the stuff in those cabinets and drawers and asking if they want or need the stuff in those places before tossing it all. It may also be a good time to try to find that beautiful image of me! As you were told, the bat was first found in a drawer in the cabinet with the safe in it! It has now been moved to a new location, and so far nobody seems to know that spot. Are you not looking? Or are you hoping it will stay put and not scare the bejeebers out of you? It really is a charming bat likeness, and totally harmless, just like us bats! There is one thing about this bat likeness that I haven't figured out, however. We had a report from a very intelligent and honest source that the bat was seen in Germfask!!! I am POSITIVE that I never took it to Germfask! Now, Germfask is a fine place, but it's a little far for me to fly with that bat statue! Perhaps somebody in Germfask is honoring the bats there with a similar image, which would be a lovely tribute, by the way. Or perhaps my mischievous 4th cousin 12 times removed, Bituminous Bat, is up to his shenanigans again and somehow without my knowledge or permission, had it transported up there. Well, if that's the case, some kind person (or guilty bat) must have brought it back again, because it's here now! (I think I'm going to have a bat squeak session with Bituminous about this.) Anyway, on that note I'll close, and wish you a warm winter and happy bat hunting.

Lay Leader Lines—Connie Kelsey

Thank you to all who volunteered to be involved in our church committees. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or interests in helping out.

Committees and Work Areas for 2024-2026

AD COUNCIL

Pastor	Rev. B.J. Ash
Co-Lay Leaders	Connie Kelsey & Janet Helmbold
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Connie Kelsey
Alternate to Annual Conference	Janet Helmbold
Administrative Council Chair	Janet Helmbold
Recording Secretary	Connie Kelsey
Finance Committee Chair	
Financial Secretary	James Gaffney
Church Treasurer	Janet Helmbold
Assistant Treasurer	Bette Jahn
Vitality/Mission Chair	Connie Kelsey
UWiF/UMW President	Bette Jahn
Worship Chair	Candace Haskell
Trustee Chair	Gordie Barry
Staff Parish Relations Chairperson	To be elected

WORK AREA CHAIRPERSONS

Sunday School Superintendent	Janet Helmbold
Church Historian	Rita Salter
Membership Secretary	Janet Helmbold
Communications Coordinator	Connie Kelsey

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Pastor	Rev. B.J. Ash
Financial Secretary	Jim Gaffney
Member to MAC	Connie Kelsey
Trustee Rep	Gordie Barry
Ad Council Chair	Janet Helmbold
UWiF/UMW Treasurer	Linda Moon
Church Treasurer	Janet Helmbold
Assistant Treasurer	Bette Jahn
Co-Lay Leaders	Connie Kelsey & Janet Helmbold

STAFF PASTOR PARISH RELATIONSHIP COMMITTEES

2024 (Ending)	2025 (Ending)	2026 (Ending)
Katie Putnam	Janet Helmbold, Lay Leader	Bill Tufnell
Linda Moon	Connie Kelsey, Lay Leader	Mary Whinnen Penny Tracy

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2024 (Ending)	2025 (Ending)	2026 (Ending)
Gayle Tufnell	John Livingston	Ted Burson
Vic Vanderville	Ellen Derber Bette Jahn	Gordie Barry Ken Burgin

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE—Pastor B.J. Ash

2024 (Ending)	2025 (Ending)	2026 (Ending)
Gayle Tufnell	Janet Helmbold, Lay Leader	Ralph Livingston
Ellen Derber	Connie Kelsey, Lay Leader	
Louise Burson (vice chair)		
Penny Tracy		

VITALITY/MISSION COMMITTEE

2024 (Ending)	2025 (Ending)	2026 (Ending)
Janet Helmbold	Ruth Annelin	Susan Barry
Penny Tracy	Bette Jahn	Rita Salter
Mary Whinnen	Carol Livingston	Connie Kelsey, Lay Leader

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2024 (Ending)	2025 (Ending)	2026 (Ending)
Janet Helmbold, Lay Leader	Pam Tallman	Char Crosby
Louise Burson	Connie Kelsey, Lay Leader	Penny Tracy
Linda Moon		

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Candace Haskell
Music	Cynthia Burgin & Janet Helmbold
Usher/Greeter	Rita Salter & Candace Haskell
Altar Flowers	Rita Salter
Banners	Lynn LaRose
Communion	Lynn LaRose & Candace Haskell
Fellowship	Candace Haskell
Decorations	Vic & Sharon Vanderville
Lay Leader	Connie Kelsey

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Pastor B.J. Ash
Ellen Derber
Gordie Barry
Sharon Vanderville



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith News
Submitted by Char Crosby



The United Women in Faith launched the theme for the new year, “Finding Our Talents.” Throughout 2024 our meetings will be a hands on approach to help identify our own individual gifts and to recognize/encourage talents in others. Bette Jahn will lead by example for the February meeting: Discovering Our Unique Talents. It was also unanimously decided to open the group to all women of all faiths.

Program leaders for 2024 are: Spiritual Growth, Ruth Annelin; Education Interpretation, Connie Kelsey; Member Outreach, Janet Helmbold; Social Action, Lynn LaRose, Reading Program, Connie Kelsey.

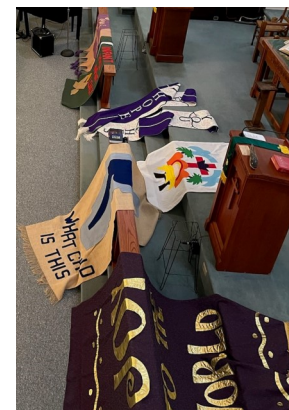
Sharon Feichtenbiner’s January birthday was recognized and a get-together with birthday cake at Medicare for friends of Mary Prater was hosted by Lynn LaRose.

We are looking for someone to take over in the Secretary position. We appreciate all the years Louise Burson has volunteered in this position. Thank you Louise!

The meeting concluded with advice - the first two words each day should be “Thank You.”

The next general meeting will be held on February 6, 2024. This meeting will include the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program.

**The Worship Committee has been very busy organizing our banners.
Thank you Lynn, Candace and Rita!**



FELLOWSHIP SIGNUP

We are seeking individuals to be responsible for fellowship. We have ample food supplies on hand so that all that you would need to do is serve and cleanup.

If you would prefer to bring your own treats that is appreciated to!

The signup sheet is in the conference room by the office.

If you notice the kitchen supplies are low, please write it on the kitchen bulletin board.