



- 5 Dan & Connie Kelsey
- 9 Joe Kolder
- 11 Mary Atwood
- 12 Larry Billings
- 14 Sharon Feichtenbiner
- 16 Mary Prater

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](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)

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Stop by the office and fill out an Electronic  
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Visit [www.youtube.com](http://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](http://www.manistiquemethodist.org)  
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PASTOR'S  
WORDS

*"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." (Matthew 9:37b-38 NLT)*

Do you think that verse above has pretty much summed up our past year of ministry here at Manistique First United Methodist Church? I think it has. We have had quite a year of activities! There has been quite a harvest and more workers out in His fields that we have seen this past year in our local church.

We think about these kinds of things with the passing of each calendar year, especially around New Year's Day. We look over what has been accomplished in the year past and we also look forward to the coming year and wonder what will come. With the wonder of Christmas still fresh in our rearview mirror, it is with this hope that we strive to push ever forward toward the cross (Hey, Lent is coming! Eventually...).

Before I get ahead of myself with our Lenten season, let us think about where God wants us to do ministry in this new year. If we read on past the verse ahead, we find the following command that Jesus charged the 12 apostles with:

*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! (Matthew 10:8 NLT)*  
That sounds like pretty good marching orders and I can think of

**PASTOR'S WORDS**

many of those that we can witness to during the past year, well maybe not raise the dead unless you count someone that was spiritually dead before. The last part of verse 8 is definitely something that has happened this past year and it has happened in so many different ways. With our increasing of our adopt-a-family numbers, our holiday meals, UMW shoe-boxes for Operation Christmas Child...the list goes on and on. Through our giving, we empower Christ's presence to make a difference in our community and the world. Our presence in ministry is the embodiment of Christ at work: healing the sick, raising the (spiritually) dead, curing those with ailments, and casting out evil in our world. It is such a powerful thing for us to be in this kind of work. When you see what you give going to someone in need, the feeling that you receive in return is far greater than what you first delivered.

Happy New Year!

Pastor B.J.



**First United Methodist Church**

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

**January**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4 Worship Committee 10 AM	5 Dan & Connie Kelsey	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	8 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	9 Ad Council 10AM Joe Kolder	10 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	11 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM Mary Atwood	12 Larry Billings	13
14 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Sharon Feichtenbiner	15 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	16 Education 9:30AM Mary Prater	17 Vitality/Mission 10 AM	18 Trustees 10 AM	19	20
21 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	22 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	23	24	25	26	27
28 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	29	29	30	31		

**January Mission Noisy Offering — Manistique Ministerial Association**

This collection will be used by the Manistique Ministerial Association to help those in our community in need of financial assistance!  
Thank you for your contribution!

# Prayer Chain

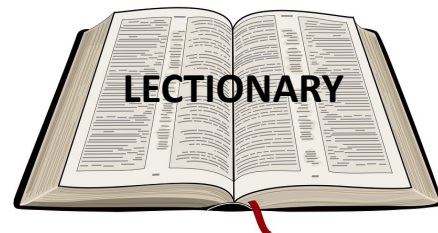
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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.



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Live worship services each Sunday at 11AM.



## January 6 — Epiphany of the Lord

Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795); Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

## January 7 — Baptism of the Lord

Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29 (UMH 761); Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

## January 14 — 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany; Human Relations Day

1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854); 1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

## January 21 — 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12 (UMH 787); 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

## January 28 — 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111 (UMH 832); 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:29-39



Newsletter suggestions are always welcome! If you have anything you wish to have published in the next newsletter submit before **January 18, 2023** deadline.

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

November Mission Noisy Offering collected \$157 for Four Thanksgiving Baskets. December Mission Noisy Offering will be announced soon. Thank you for your support!



## FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Carol Weinert, Catherine Koch, 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 January, 2024

**Happy New Year from the belfry!** Out with the old, in with the new! Hopefully 2024 will be at least as good as 2023 was, and maybe even better! We could certainly get along without any wars, or pandemics, or new COVID strains!

As you undoubtedly recall, November was a very busy month! Well, as I predicted, December was even busier! As a result, I was spinning like a whirling dervish trying to keep up! First, there was a church open house, with displays around the church showing several of the activities you folks have, plus a bit of the history of your church. About everybody who came was from this church and the attendance wasn't great, but you all had a good time just chatting with each other and snacking on goodies. Next the United Women in Faith hosted a Christmas tea. Char Crosby, Candace Haskell, and all the other women baked about a gazillion cookies for the cookie exchange and had a splendid buffet, with almost all kinds of goodies on it. (Almost, but not one single mosquito dish or snack could be found anywhere. Sigh!) In addition, Laurie Jasmin presented a great program about the Christmas tree ship. She included facts that nobody else had heard before. She neglected to tell about the part that mosquitoes played in the adventure, but then I got to thinking that maybe the mosquitoes didn't actually play any role in it because it did happen in November, and that isn't a very popular month with mosquitoes. Most have gone into their winter quarters by then. Anyway, a big thanks to Laurie for giving us such a great program. Shortly after that, the Festival of Lessons and Carols was held, with Pastor B.J. and Kelly Ash both having a part. Pastor B.J. was one of the speakers and also sang in a quartet, while Kelly rang bells in the bell choir. (Oh yeah, that crabby old lady who writes that boring lay leader column also was there, clanging a bell and trying to sing in the choir.) Overall it was a really good program and it was well attended.

Also the same day, just a few hours before the Festival, Dan Kelsey sang a solo in church, and what a solo it was! First, there was this loud horn thing called a shofar, which was blown from somewhere we couldn't find! Now I'd never heard of a shofar, but I guess it was a kind of musical instrument in the Middle East back a few thousand years ago. Where he go it I have no idea, but it certainly woke everybody up! After that he sang while walking through the sanctuary. It was a really moving performance! We have also had, or will have had by the time you read this, a children's program featuring the kids playing handbells, a performance by the handbell quartet from this church, a quiet time when the church will be open for those who want to get away from all the hustle and bustle of the season for a little while, a beautiful Christmas Eve service, support from this church for the Christmas adopt-a-family program, bell jingling in local stores to raise money for those in need in Schoolcraft County, and activities all over the county such as Christmas concerts, the arrival of Santa, special meals at various locations, the Christmas buffet dinner at the Big Boy which this church helps support, and on and on! In addition, we will also have the usual things such as Sunday worship services and the routine business of the church, although a few of the meetings will be canceled or postponed until January. Again, I'm worn out just thinking about it!

continued on page 5

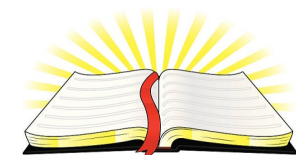
**Lay Leader Lines**  
**Connie Kelsey**

Happy New Year! As the newly appointed Lay Leader I feel that I need to congratulate Janet Helmbold for all that she has done and continues to do in the church. She has been involved with so many committees for so many years that she definitely deserves to step back.

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The fundamental way we fulfill our mission is to reach out to people in the name of Jesus Christ, to relate people to God, to nurture and strengthen them in their journey of discipleship, and to send them into the world to be the church-inviting and receiving others in the name of Jesus Christ.

My role as Lay Leader will be serving as primary advocate for the laity sharing my gifts and talents to model and embrace Christian discipline and teachings to enable the congregation to use their gifts and talents to the fullest potential. I plan to use these four functions in this leadership role: Discovering Current Reality; Naming Shared Vision; Discovering Bridges and Monitoring the Journey of faith. My goal is to continue to be a helpful link to building our faith and making disciples.

If you have any questions or ideas that you would like to develop please let me know.



1. After Jesus was baptized by John and was coming up out of the water, what three things happened?
  - A. He was handed a towel so he could dry off.
  - B. The Holy Spirit descended upon Him.
  - C. A voice came from Heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son. I will send you out to spread the Good News of salvation to all people."
  - D. The heavens were torn apart
  - E. A voice came from heaven and said, "You are my beloved Son. In you I am well pleased."
  - F. John invited Jesus to share a meal of wild honey and locusts with him.

2. As Jesus began his ministry, he called various men to become his disciples. One of these was Philip. Philip in turn told Nathaniel about Jesus, and said he was from Nazareth, and was the one about whom the prophets had written. What was Nathaniel's response?

- A. He said, "I won't believe it until I see him."
- B. He said, "I will be glad to follow this Jesus."
- C. He said, "Where is Nazareth? I've never heard of it."
- D. He said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
- E. He said, "Why would this Jesus want to meet me? He's never even heard of me."
- F. He said, "I'm too busy right now. How about tomorrow we get together?"

The answers to these questions can be found in Mark 1:4-11 and John 1:43-51.



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith News  
Submitted by Candace Haskell



Our UWIF group enjoyed a very informational program "The Christmas Tree Ship" hosted by Char Crosby and special speaker Laurie Jasmin of the Thompson Historical Society. All in attendance enjoyed the program, a Christmas tree charcuterie and many songs before embarking upon the famous Cookie Exchange. Then came the prayer star reveal and drawing of a new star for 2024.

The new program guide will be available at the general meeting on January 2, 2024.

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



**A View From the Belfry** (continued from page 3)

Well so far nobody has found the statue of me! I think I found a place nobody goes or uses or something! I'll give you a hint: it isn't in the sanctuary. (I was warned by that crabby old lady not to hide it in there because it would be sacrilegious or something.) Anyway, keep looking! It really is a great likeness of me!

One more thing, and I am so pleased with this I could hand out congratulatory mosquitoes to everybody, if I could find any mosquitoes this time of year! The crabby old lady who writes the boring column about lay leaders or something is retiring! Well, kind of. As of January 1 she will be the secondary lay leader instead of the head lay leader. Connie Kelsey will assume the head lay leader role, and will have the privilege of writing the column for the newsletter. I am sure you will note a vast improvement in that column!

Well, I see I have used up more than my allotted space, so I'd better sign off. It really isn't my fault, though. You people have been so busy and so active in this church and community that it takes a lot of space to cover it all! Maybe by next month's issue things will be back to normal! We'll see!