



- 12 Bill & Gayle Tufnell
- 15 Gayle Tufnell
- 30 Martha Weeks
- 30 Lynn LaRose
- 30 Brandon Ash

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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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
April, 2024

PASTOR'S
WORDS

Easter blessings to each of you as we celebrate Christ's victorious work that was accomplished on the cross!

The cross of Christ marks a moment of transition in our lives from darkness into light; from despair into hope; and even from past into the future. What comes during the transition is sacrifice. The cross of Christ represents the ultimate act of sacrifice based upon the selfless, redeeming love of Christ. When I think about us, Manistique First United Methodist Church, as a community of faith, I give thanks for the countless hours offered sacrificially in mission, ministry, and service in the name of Jesus. I feel that God is bearing fruit through these efforts.

I see fruit in many of our endeavors: fruit in spiritual growth and development, fruit in fellowship with one another to show Christ, and fruit in welcoming the world into the church. All this fruit is born from the toil and sacrifice on the part of servants like yourself, following in the cross-bearing footsteps of Christ. We toil and sacrifice to advance the kingdom of God on Earth because of God's first love for us.

I hope you might consider honoring the sacrifice of our Lord that leads to new life and resurrection by offering yourself in one or more of four ways as the Lord leads you:

- 1.) Sacrifice your pride, and invite a friend to church, even if they might say no. Invite them to one of our services so they might encounter the living Christ through worship.
- 2.) Consider a sacrificial gift to the church, above and beyond your

PASTOR'S WORDS

regular tithes and offerings. Consider these words of Jesus as you contemplate making such a gift:

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
– 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

3.) Contemplate in prayer making a lasting gift to God by leaving a lasting legacy to His church. Consider remembering Manistique First UMC in your estate plans. Many already have, and they have taken care of their church in perpetuity through our Capital Endowments.

4.) Most importantly, offer yourself “in prayer and thanksgiving as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.” (Romans 12:1)

In “The Character of a Methodist”, John Wesley identifies five marks of the Christian life. These are adapted from Jesus’ summary of the Law and the Gospels (Loving God, Loving Others) and the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (rejoice, pray without ceasing, and give thanks).

As Easter people, let us continue to be the church in Manistique: Loving God! Loving Others!

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice

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First United Methodist Church

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

April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 UWiF 1 PM	3	4	5	6
7 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	8 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	9 Trustees 10 AM	10 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	11 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	12 Bill & Gayle Tufnell	13
14 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	15 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Gayle Tufnell Tom Tevelde	16 Worship 10 AM	17	18 Ad Council 10AM	19 Vitality 9:30AM	20
21 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	22 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	23 Pastor B.J. at Clergy Retreat	24	25 SPPRC 10 AM	26	27 Kid’s Game/ Movie Event K-9yr - 3-5 PM
28 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	29 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	30 Martha Weeks Lynn LaRose Brandon Ash Special Planning Meeting 9:30 AM	April Mission Noisy Offering — Heiffer International Works with families in need to create long-term solutions to hunger and poverty. God is Working Through Us. Thank you for your contribution!			

Prayer Chain

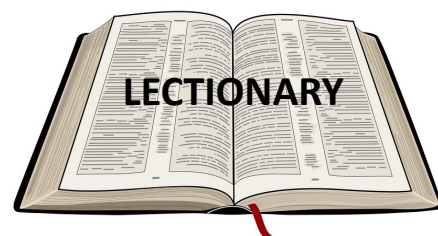
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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 **April 22, 2024** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to: office@manistiquemethodist.org

March Mission Noisy Offering will be announced soon. Thank you for your support!

April 7 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133 (UMH 850); 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 14 — 3rd Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday

Acts 3:12-19; Ps 4 (UMH 741); 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 21 — 4th Sunday of Easter; Festival of God's Creation

Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23 (UMH 754 or 137); 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 28 — 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Ps 22:25-31 (UMH 752); 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION



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



A View From the Belfry April, 2024

Howdy from busy, busy Benny, in the incomplete (nonexistent??) belfry!

Yep! I'm really, really busy, watching everything everybody in the church is doing these days! I'm starting to enjoy this time of year almost as much as I do Halloween! During Lent you gathered every Wednesday to eat soup, bread, desserts, and whatever else people decided to bring in! One day I witnessed a very busy and enthusiastic group of women (and Pastor B.J.) work on planning the Vacation Bible School which will be held in June in this church. They were doing a lot of planning, and so far it sounds great! It has to do with tents and fireflies and hammocks! Campfires were discussed but deemed too iffy; none of those present really wanted an open fire in the social hall! I don't see why; after all, the best way to roast marshmallows is over a nice roaring campfire! Anyway, I hope to be invited, because it looks as if the kids who come are in for a great time! The VBS/Education Committee has a lot of very creative, enthusiastic members, including Brandon Ash, who was able to make it to one of the meeting without skipping school!

In addition to Lenten suppers and Vacation Bible School planning, the women of the church held their annual Reflection Breakfast the Saturday before Palm Sunday, with food and a nice program to boot! After that came Palm Sunday, followed by all the events of Holy Week. You will also probably have survived St. Patrick's Day, rejoiced at the first day of spring regardless of what the weather was doing, and are anticipating the return of birds (some of which seemed to never leave this year) and the sprouting of early spring flowers. (I've seen crocuses already in bloom!) However, if all of this isn't enough, you might try searching for that beautiful bat figurine which is lurking around here somewhere. After having been found in the cup holder boxes of the coatrack, it next turned up in one of Pastor B.J.'s boots in his office! (By the way, this caused him to be running late, so if you noticed that his boots were muddy a couple of Sundays ago, it was because he couldn't wear the clean boots he had planned to wear because he had to fill out the bat sighting form, extract the bat from his boot, and find another place for the bat, and he didn't have time to do all that and still change his boots. You know how it goes when you're in a hurry!) Anyway, the bat has been moved to a new location, so keep your eyes open! Meanwhile, please join us at the events going on. In addition to keeping busy and feeding our faces, we really do take time to fellowship with each other and with the God who created us!

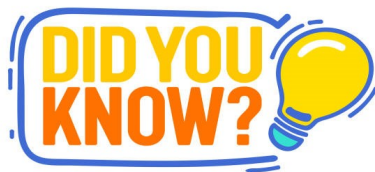
Lay Leader Lines—Connie Kelsey & Janet Helmbold

Q: How do I get more informed about what is happening in the church? What are ways that I can help with the future of our church?

A: If you are wanting to get more informed you should attend the Administrative Council meetings. It is a great way to hear from all the committees. Each committee gives a report on what has happened and their future plans. They are monthly meeting; feel free to stop in and share your thoughts and ideas. The future of our church is in your hands. We need to be looking at our long-term plans and goals for the Manistique First United Methodist Church. There will be a Special Planning Meeting held on April 30th at 9:30 to discuss future projects and goals. The Ad Council hopes to hear everyone's input on project ideas. While we are all concerned about the future of the United Methodist Church as a denomination and the effects on all of the local churches that a possible split in the denomination may have, our main goal is to look at the needs of this congregation and how we can best plan ahead to meet those needs. We are not at this time seeking to make a decision regarding whether or not this church should remain United Methodist or disaffiliate. We won't be able to fairly address that until after the General Conference addresses that issue and decides on the course of action which the denomination as a whole will take.

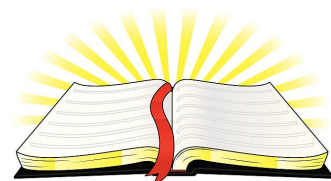
1. Philip was directed to go to a road from Jerusalem to Gaza. There he met someone riding in a chariot and reading some scriptures. Who did he meet?

- A. Candace, the Queen of Ethiopia.
- B. A Roman soldier headed toward Gaza.
- C. A Pharisee who was studying the scriptures.
- D. A eunuch from the royal court of Ethiopia.
- E. A traveling salesman from Athens who was trying to expand his sales territory.



2. What book of the scriptures was the person in the chariot reading?

- A. Genesis
- B. Psalms
- C. Matthew
- D. Isaac
- E. Isaiah



You can find the answers to these questions in Acts 8:26-40.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News
Submitted by Char Crosby



Bette Jahn opened the meeting by welcoming Susan Regfogle from the Presbyterian Church to United Women in Faith. Penny Tracy delivered the devotional and requested prayers for members and friends.

A variety of pancakes and specialty syrups for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper were enjoyed by many from the congregation and friends. Secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved. An ad will be placed in the Advisor and an article will appear in the Pioneer Tribune inviting community women to the Reflection Breakfast on March 23.

Old business: Christi Ryan was contacted regarding a presentation about the Manistique High School Helpful Hotspot program. New business: The Easter potluck was planned with Rita Salter coordinating a sign-up list and necessary supplies. The potluck is Easter Sunday, March 31, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service.

Committee chairs gave brief reports. Lynn (Social Action) commented on the need of a worshiper for baby clothes, diapers and formula. Connie (Reading Program) reported that March 23 was the 155th anniversary of Faith and Hope in Action. Bette and Mary (Shoebox) plan to assemble 30 boxes for 2024.

Members in attendance at the March meeting shared their "talents" as a follow-up to the February meeting. We are a greatly gifted group! March birthdays of Marilyn, Carol, Kerry and Kathleen were recognized. The pasty crew made seven batches of pasties this month.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 2 at 1 PM. Bette adjourned the meeting with a quote, "Whatever the weather, be your own sunshine."

A Note from Your Treasurers

The treasurers for your church need your help! Linda Moon serves as the treasurer for United Women in Faith, and Janet Helmbold holds that position for the United Methodist Church. In these positions both receive and pay bills, each for the specific unit she serves. Usually there is no problem. However, both the UWIF and the UMC have accounts at Jack's, since both groups make purchases for supplies. Jack's has established different account numbers for the two bodies. Unfortunately, there are many times when the bills have been combined into one big bill, times when items have been charged to the wrong account, and times when it seems as if both groups have been charged for the same items. We have discussed the problem with the appropriate person at the store, yet the problems continue. Unfortunately, when we receive the bills we are unable to tell what they are for because all goods are given lengthy code numbers and are not mentioned by the product name. As a result we end up trying to guess what the bill is for and who is the most likely purchaser. Thus, we are asking for your assistance. If you have occasion to order something for the UWIF or for the UMC, please give the relevant treasurer a note or receipt as to what was purchased, the date of purchase, the cost of the purchase, and for which group the purchase was made. We have purchase forms available in the wooden box on the wall of the conference room by the door to the office to use for this information. This should help us route the bills to the appropriate person and will also help us to clear up the confusion which seems to occur at Jack's. Your help is greatly appreciated by both Linda and Janet!