

# Birthdays and Anniversaries March, 2024

- 1 Mary Whinnen
- 1 Ken & Cyndi Burgin
- 7 Carol Weinert
- 17 Curt Norton
- 23 Kerry Billings
- 29 Kathleen Haynes

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)

Are you looking for a way to  
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process easier?

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)  
[office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)  
**March, 2024**

### PASTOR'S WORDS

On Thursday, February 22nd, I was talking with another pastor in town who was telling me that he was rewriting his sermon for Sunday in order to address the grieving in our community after the tragic loss of a teenage boy who drowned in Indian Lake after the snowmobile he was riding on went through the ice on Wednesday night. My mind went back to a service that we had here in our congregation where I had preached on coping with grief and I had preached out of the Book of Job. I consider how God looks at the loss of any life and I wonder why the loss of one particular life in our community can cause us more grief than another when God considers all of us as precious and his children. How is it that the life of a person who has lived a full life and is on a lengthy period of hospice after many years can be more accepted than a quick death of a child? How long is a "full life" in our perception of time? What does one have to do in order to reach such a milestone to be at peace with death?

Before we move on to acceptance of such a death, we have to move through those other stages otherwise we risk going backwards in our progress. They don't necessarily go in order, and they don't have a particular timeline for happening either. Some stages may quickly progress and others may linger. The important thing to remember is that we don't get unnecessarily hung up on any particular stage so long that it prevents us from doing the other things in our lives that we find happiness in doing.

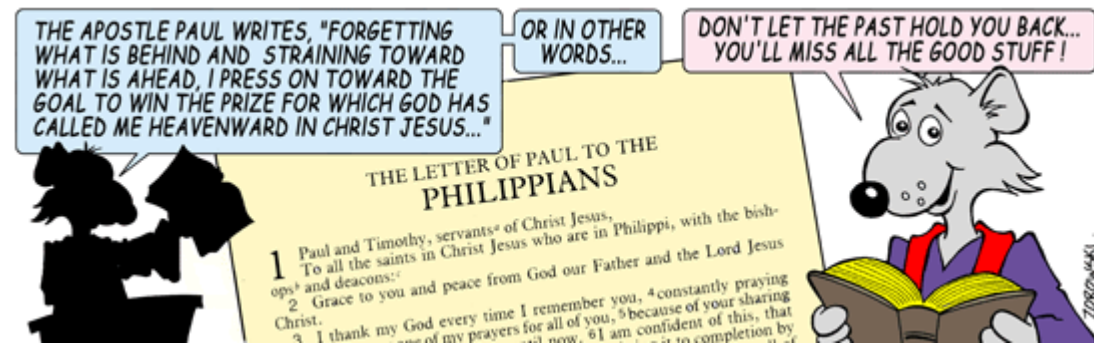
The questions that I mentioned before are interesting questions that we

PASTOR'S WORDS

ask on our journey through our grieving. They're not questions that have a definitive answer and will almost certainly vary from person to person. Regarding my last question about being at peace with death, we can look to the Word of God to find many assuring readings: Revelation 21:4, John 11:25-26, John 3:16, John 8:51, Psalm 49:15, John 5:24, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 1 Corinthians 15:54-55, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14. Feel free to read some of these and see if you feel the same peace that I feel regarding death.

To consider how God looks at the loss of life, I consider how Jesus reacted when he had heard that his friend Lazarus had passed away and was already entombed. It is the shortest verse in *The Bible* with being only 2 words: "Jesus wept." (John 11:35). If God can choose to weep through Jesus' presence here with us, then we too can certainly weep and grieve over the loss of any life. So, as we continue our Lenten journey towards the cross on Easter Sunday morning, let us weep and grieve together for the loss that we are feeling over every life knowing very well what comes after Jesus wept for Lazarus. It's the same thing that comes after Good Friday, and that is the resurrection. Hear the Good News: we are Easter people and we know what eternity looks like and it's wonderful.

Pastor B.J.



Manistique Area Schools needs volunteers taking/selling tickets at the door for athletic events. If you are interested please contact Laurel Ashbrook, Interim Athletic Director after 10:15 AM at 906-286-2784.



First United Methodist Church

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

March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>March Mission Noisy Offering — UMCOR Disaster Relief</b> This collection will be used to assist those in need of disaster relief around the world! Thank you for your contribution!					1 Mary Whinnen Ken & Cyndi Burgin	2
3 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	4	5 UWiF 1 PM	6 Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30PM	7 Carol Weinert	8	9
10 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	11	12	13 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30PM	14 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	15	16
17 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Curt Norton	18 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	19 Ad Council 10AM	20 Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30PM	21	22	23 UWiF 10 AM Reflection Breakfast Kerry Billings
24 Palm/Passion Sunday Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	25 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	26	27 Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30PM	28	29 Kathleen Haynes	30
31 Easter Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	<p><b>150th Commemorative T-Shirts on sale!</b> <b>Limited quantities!</b> Adult sizes: M—L—XL Blue or Gray—\$18 each</p>					

# Prayer Chain

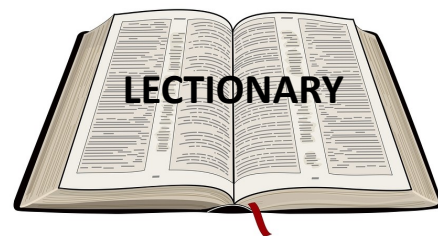
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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](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 **March 25, 2024** deadline. Pictures and other additions can be emailed to: [office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)

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

## March 3 — 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exod 20:1-17 Ps 19 (UMH 750); 1 Cor 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

## March 10 — 4th Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday

Num 21:4-9; Ps 107:1-3, 17-22 (UMH 830); Eph 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

## March 17 — 5th Sunday in Lent

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:1-12 (UMH 785); Heb 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

## March 24 — Passion/Palm Sunday

Palms: Mark 11:1-11; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

Passion: Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

## March 31 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839); 1 Cor 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

## FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION



Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Mary Whinnen, Barbara Schneider, Carolyn Williams, 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, 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 March, 2024

**Greetings from Benny in the belfry!** Well, I see I was wrong. Or was I right? Or maybe I was wrong after all. I'm talking about the weather, of course. Last month I said winter had really come. It had, but it didn't stay very long, and we had spring. Then it was winter again, but that didn't last either, and we had some more spring. Now it's back to winter again! The bats around here don't know if they should be hibernating or out flying around hunting for mosquitoes, none of which seem to be showing up! Ah, me! What's a bat to do?

Well, despite the unpredictable weather, Manistique First UMC is still busy! On Shrove Tuesday there was a nice group of people celebrating the day by scarfing down a bunch of pancakes, with lots of sausages, several kinds of syrup, and even a couple of kinds of egg bake! It all really looked good! No mostquito broth, but I think that will go better with the soup and bread suppers scheduled for Lent anyway. If you missed the pancakes, you might want to come and try the soups on Wednesdays during Lent. We've already had the Ash Wednesday church service, which started the Lenten season. Soup suppers will be held at 5:30 pm every Wednesday through Lent. As of now we could use a few more soups, so if you'd like to help out, find a sign up sheet, which says "soup" on it and put your autograph on any empty line! If you don't have any soup recipes, I could help you out with my Aunt Barbie's Mosquito Broth Bisque recipe! It's really good, and pretty easy, too, except for peeling the wings off the mosquitoes. You kind of have to do that or the broth will be bitter, but the result is worth all the work! Really!! If making soup isn't your cup of tea (or soup!), we have a lot of other sign-up sheet possibilities also, such as serving as an usher/greeter, hosting or hostessing a social time after church, providing altar flowers, etc. Even finding the bat replica has a sign-up sheet (for if you spot it)! All can be found on the table or the wall in the conference room!

I've noticed a few very nice things recently! One is that new members are joining our Bible study! We now have about seven or eight members when they are all present! Now, I understand some of you may be reluctant to come because you picture Bible study as an hour long lecture on the most tedious and erudite books in the Bible, presented by the most boring and monotone-voiced Bible "expert" who especially enjoys reading all the laws in Leviticus and memorizing who begat whom in the begat book of the Old Testament. Well, considering that it's that crabby old lady who teaches it, that's certainly what I would expect, but you know what? That isn't what's going on! Those people laugh a lot, and talk about what the Bible says about a lot of different things. They ask questions, contribute their own thoughts, or sit and listen if they don't want to speak up. And they actually have fun! They enjoy it! There's always room for more! Guys, you especially might give it a try. We had a man attend a few weeks ago, and he lived to tell about it! He'd welcome another guy or two to keep him company!

To wrap this up, I see we have a new technologist to help with the slides on Sunday morning! We've been hoping for someone to serve in this position, and Jeannie Smith has bravely agreed to give it a try! Jeannie is the daughter of Penny Tracy. Please give her a warm welcome if you see her in church on Sunday morning with some of that electronic gadgetry in hand! So far she's doing a great job! Welcome, Jeannie!

A View from the Belfry continues on page 5

## Lay Leader Lines—Connie Kelsey

Q: What is UMCOR Sunday?

A: For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) cover UMCOR's costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. The UMCOR Sunday offering is the primary funding stream for the administrative costs of UMCOR.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

Most congregations celebrate UMCOR Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent (March 10 in 2024). We are also collecting all month in our Noisy Offering.

*This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications*

1. Why did the chief priests and scribes say that Jesus should not be killed during the Festival of Unleavened Bread?

A. They felt that to execute Him during the festival would not honor God.

B. They didn't want to take the time to do it then because they didn't want to miss the festivities going on.

C. They thought that if they crucified Him at that time the people might riot.

D. The streets hadn't been cleaned up yet after the palm branches had been thrown on them the previous weekend when Jesus rode in to town on a donkey.

E. They felt that the Roman soldiers charged with the crucifixion would have too many other demands on their time to get it done during the festivities.

2. For Passover, Jesus sent two of His disciples into Jerusalem to find a place to have the Passover meal. What did He tell them to look for so they would know where to go?

A. A bed and breakfast sign on the wall of a house.

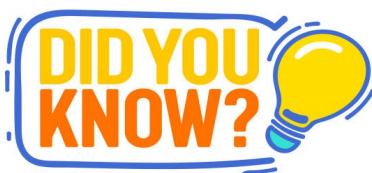
B. A man carrying a jar of water.

C. A woman carrying bitter herbs.

D. A donkey with a young colt.

E. A house where the door posts had been smeared with blood.

The answer to these questions can be found in Mark 14:1-2 and Mark 14:12-15.



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith News  
Submitted by Char Crosby



Bette Jahn opened the UWIF meeting with a devotional encouraging women to strive to really know ourselves and the gifts and talents with which we each have been blessed. Bette also shared her joy in being a grandmother and able to celebrate in person a grandson's first birthday and to meet another newly born grandchild.

Connie Kelsey presented the program - "A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" which focused on care, justice and liberation. She emphasized five points - 1) taking time to listen to our hearts, 2) encouraging each other, 3) committing ourselves to care for one another, 4) becoming instruments of God's love and 5) doing what each can to do to minimize the climate crisis.

Other business included the need for a new secretary to relieve Louise Burson. Small stuffed toys, slender coloring books, colored pencils and small boxes of crayons are needed for the Shoebox project. Numerous valentines were sent to members and friends in nursing homes or out of state.

Programs in the near future will be card making and Habitat for Humanity presentations. Betty LaPointe will be the speaker for the UWIF Reflection Breakfast on March 23. Each is encouraged to bring a friend.

A review of UMiF distribution of funds included the following groups: Backpack Buddies, the Hot Spot, UMCOR and God's Country Parish Cooperative Ministry.

This year's Northern Skies District Spiritual Retreat will be held May 3-4 at the Comfort Inn in Manistique. The speaker will be Kathy Freeland who will focus on the 100th anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. Registration forms must be received by April 26.

Our next meeting will be held March 5, 2024.

### A View from the Belfry (continued from page 3)

Oh yes! On a final note, my bat replica was spotted hiding in the back of a big potted plant on the counter in the office area. It was there quite awhile, but was finally found (with a little help from the one who hid it). After that, it was hidden in the box of cups on the shelf above the coat rack in the library room, where it was found a few days ago. It has now been hidden still again! Keep your eyes open! As for that bat found in Germfask, well, I learned that this very nice but perhaps a bit nearsighted person didn't see a bat after all. Nope! She saw a frog! A big billboard sized frog, sitting with its feet in the river up there! Now, I know some people call bats flying mice (but really we're not!) However, I have never, ever heard of a frog being mistaken for a bat before, nor have I heard of a bat being called a flying frog! Well, there's a first time for everything! And I guess she didn't really mistake the frog for a bat; she just got a bit confused about what she was looking for! Anyway, my mischievous distant cousin Bituminous Bat is off the hook! Now of course I have to go apologize to him, which can be humiliating in its own right, but I guess I really should do it. (Sigh!!!!) On that note, have a great Lent, and try to join some of the events we have going on around here!