



- 7 Bob & Mary Whinnen
- 8 Pastor B.J. & Kelly Ash
- 21 John & Candace Haskell
- 24 Carol & Peter Hollenbeck
- 27 Joe & Sandi Kolder
- 31 John Livingston

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

Are you looking for a way to
make your offering/giving
process easier?

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

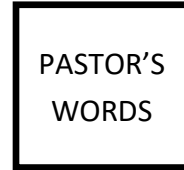


Visit www.youtube.com and search
Manistique First UMC where you see the
magnifying glass at the top of the page.
Live worship services each Sunday at 11AM.



THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

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



What I have to say in this pastoral letter, I believe with conviction,
will determine the health, vitality, and the future of our church.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, declared,
“The world is my parish.” We are fully committed to preaching the gospel
of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of our church through our weekly Sunday worship
that is livestreamed to a global community.

Ever since the 60’s with the cultural revolution, mainline denominations have
seen a steady decline in membership, and it’s only been accelerating. Across all the
denominations we are witnessing the closing of churches due to multiple factors and
reasons. The point is this: the needs of human beings remain the same. People hun-
ger and thirst for spiritual food that will heal, transform and empower their lives.
We’ve got the goods—the life transforming power of Jesus Christ. What needs to
change is the form and the delivery system of that product. Our work is to constantly
remain vigilant with forward thinking to stay relevant in our constantly changing
world. In our moment in time, we have come to a bridge that can only be crossed all
together.

This is where you come in. When you became a member of the church, you
made a commitment to God and to your faith community to support the ministry
and the mission of the church through doing five things:

Prayer: Praying for the people and the ministry-mission of the church.
Presence: Regularly coming to worship and participating in various church sponsored
events and activities.

Presence: Regularly coming to worship and participating in various church
sponsored events and activities.

Gifts: Supporting the church through pledges, offerings, and legacy gifts.
Service: Volunteering your time and energy with your gifts and grace to sup-
port the ministry-mission of the church.

Witness: Witnessing your faith to others through inviting people to the church
and leading them to Christ.

PASTOR'S WORDS

These are five things that every member since John Wesley had to promise before becoming a member of the Methodist church. Of these five things, I have to say, the single most important thing that you can give to support the church is your presence at Sunday worship. The health and strength of our church is only strong as your participation in the life of the church. The church is not a building but the people in it. Our church will be alive only as long as we are alive in Christ. And the church alive is worth the drive!

If you are parents with children (and grandchildren), bring them with you to worship. You should feel good and confident about bringing your children to Sunday worship service. When you show up for worship, you are making a statement with your children and fellow members that you believe and support what we stand for. How do we know what that statement means and stands for?

That's where we come in as a church family. We use our combined life experiences and our faith to define who we are as this local church through our ministries to the world around us. This is what we plan to do at our meeting this Tuesday, April 30th at 9:30 AM. Come and join us and share your part of our story!

I will commit to giving Children's messages almost every Sunday, along with our congregation's support of the Children's Worship Service downstairs. Even though you think children are not paying attention to what's going on in the service, they observe what we do in worship and hear what we sing, how we pray, what we read from the Bible, words spoken in preaching. Effortlessly and subconsciously our children are absorbing Christian spirituality. Just bringing your children to worship will ensure your children will receive solid, quality Christian faith formation which they will need to navigate through life.

When you baptized your child, you, along with the faith community, promised to God to raise the child in the Christian environment where the child's faith formation can take place. Mary and Joseph understood this, that God entrusted them to raise God's son to the best of their abilities.

I'm all in. Are you?



First United Methodist Church

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

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
AD COUNCIL NOTE: For the rest of 2024 the Ad Council will meet quarterly. The meeting dates are: June 11, September 10, December 10 All meetings will start at 10 AM			1	2 National Day of Prayer 	3 UWIF Spiritual Growth Retreat Comfort Inn Manistique Reg 5 PM 9:30-1:30 PM Meal 6 PM	4
5 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	6 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	7 Trustees 10 AM Education 10 AM UWIF 1 PM? Bob & Mary Whinnen	8 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM Pastor B.J. & Kelly Ash	9 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	10	11
12 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	13 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	14	15	16	17	18
19 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	20 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	21 Vitality 10 AM John & Candace Haskell	22 UWIF Sewing Bee 10 AM 	23	24 Carol & Peter Hollenbeck	25
26 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	27 Memorial Day Office Closed Joe & Sandi Kolder	28	29	30	31 John Livingston	
				Pastor B.J. at Annual Conference, May 29-June 1 Connie at Annual Conference, May 30-June 1		

May Noisy Offering — Red Bird Mission/Henderson Settlement

A mission, as part of the body of Christ, to lift up Jesus Christ by providing basic needs to people in the Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky, through God's love. God is working through us, all donations are welcome!

Prayer Chain

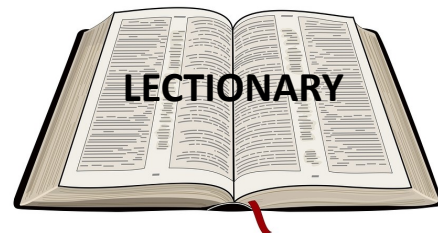
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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 **May 22, 2024** deadline.

Pictures and other additions can be emailed to: office@manistiquemethodist.org

April Mission Noisy Offering for Heifer International will be announced soon. Thank you for your support!

May 5 — 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Ps 98 (UMH 818); 1 John 5:1-5; John 15:9-17

May 12 — 7th Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday; Mother's Day

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps 1 (UMH 738); 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Ascension of the Lord Lections:

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47 (UMH 781); Eph 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 19 — Pentecost; Heritage Sunday

Acts 2:1-21; Ps 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826); Rom 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 26 — Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday

Isa 6:1-8; Ps 29 (UMH 761); Rom 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Joe & Sandi Kolder, Carolyn Williams family health, Curt & Celie 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, Kerry Billings family health, baby Brooklyn, Connie Meade, Connie Whitsitt, our unspoken requests and all the joyous blessings received.



A View From the Belfry May, 2024

Greetings from Benny in the belfry! You know, I am more and more convinced that it really is spring! We seem to have mostly rain instead of snow, and temperatures in the 50's and even 60's have been spotted, more than those in the 20's and low 30's! Some day soon most people will even be able to shed their jackets!

I'm hearing rumors that we are going to have a church get-together and everyone is invited! We want to know how you all think the church is doing, where we are strong and where we could be stronger! We want ideas and suggestions for improvement (like have a bat house near the belfry where homeless bats could come to hang out), as well as ideas on what we do well and should keep doing (being friendly and welcoming people to church for example), and ideas on what we could do better (that bat house idea, for instance). Everybody in this church has a lot to offer, and we want to hear from you! Please come to this get-together and share your suggestions, ideas, comments, concerns, and maybe even your criticisms! It's scheduled for April 30th at 9:30 AM.

As always, the women in the church are busy keeping out of mischief by doing more important and valuable things. In early May many of them will be attending an annual District Spiritual Growth Retreat at the local Comfort Inn beside the Big Boy! Several of our members will be going, and Pastor B.J. will be serving communion during the event. The United Women in Faith (formerly the United Methodist Women) in the Northern Skies District have held this event in this location for several years, indicating that it is a convenient location and a good place to gather for fun, worship, and interesting and informative programs. Good going, Manistique!

Finally, the bat statue update: The Benny replica was found by Rita Salter behind a black umbrella in the umbrella rack behind the coat rack by the door in the library area which leads into the narthex. (Gee. Maybe that sentence needs a roadmap or something!) From there it was moved to....???! The bat sculpture is on the loose again!

On a related subject such as honoring bats and giving them the recognition and accolades they so deeply deserve, Pastor B.J. recently shared a smart phone item which showed a wonderful representation of bats...on a U.S. quarter, no less! Now, for years quarters have been used to honor all kinds of things. There were quarters issued for each state in the country, the colonies, national parks and refuges and historic places, prominent people, and so on. Well, this time those quarter people really hit the jackpot! They outdid themselves! They produced a quarter with two bats on one side!!! I feel so honored! Oh, I'm not so egotistical that I think all of those quarters were issued in MY honor (although that would have been very nice, and if somebody were to nominate me for such an honor I would of course be very gratified). However, it is a real treat to know that somebody somewhere recognizes the outstanding place bats play in making the world a nicer, more habitable, more productive, more interesting, safer, more lovable place in which to live! This is predicted by bats everywhere to be the most sought after, most beautiful, most valuable quarter of the entire series of special quarters! A big thank you to Pastor B.J. for bringing this great honor to the attention of a select few in this congregation! (I wonder if he could put it on the screen in church so everybody could see how fantastic that quarter is...)

Well, I seem to be running out of space, so I'll sign off with a wish for a great spring and a hope that you will all rejoice that God made bats, too, as well as everything else in this amazing world!

Lay Leader Lines—Connie Kelsey

This is a quick overview of the General Conference and how it serves The United Methodist Church. Three main bodies govern the United Methodist Church: The General Conference, the Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council. The General Conference is the body that sets official policy and speaks as the entire denomination.

What does General Conference do?

As the highest legislative body of The United Methodist Church, General Conference holds the power to revise The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions while also initiating amendments to the denominations constitution. General Conference normally meets every four years. The Council of Bishops may also call a special session to address a specific topic. Only two special sessions have been called since The United Methodist Church formed in 1968. Any congregation, conference, organization or person may submit a petition to General Conference to change the Book of Discipline or the Book of Resolutions. Further petitions may also be introduced from the floor by delegates. Most legislation requires a simple majority vote to pass. Amendments to the denomination's Constitution require a two-thirds vote of the General Conference followed by a two-thirds aggregate vote of the lay and clergy members present and voting of the annual conferences. However, changes to Restrictive Rules 1 and 2 in the constitution, which establish the doctrinal standards, require a three-fourths aggregate vote of the lay and clergy members present and voting in the annual conferences. General Conference also approves the budget allocating apportioned funds, official documents such as The United Methodist Hymnal and The Book of Worship and official teachings on subjects such as baptism and Holy Communion.

How are General Conference delegates elected?

Delegates are United Methodists from around the world elected by their annual, missionary or provisional conference. The total number of delegates at General Conference must always fall between 600 and 1,000 people. The General Conference consists of an equal number of lay and clergy delegates. All delegates are eligible to vote on all legislation considered by the General Conference. Bishops preside during the General Conference session, but have neither voice nor vote. They do not address the Conference unless given permission by the General Conference.

What happens after General Conference?

The Book of Discipline, the Book of Resolutions and other official documents affected by General Conference are updated following the session to include newly adopted legislation. In most instances, legislation becomes effective on Jan. 1 of the year following year. Amendments to the constitution become official only after they are ratified. The Judicial Council may be petitioned to review any resolution or legislation passed by General Conference to determine its constitutionality or legality, meaning or effect. In summary, The General Conference sets the policies for the work of the church. It also adopts the worldwide denominational budget. By doing these things, the General Conference seeks to strengthen the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To learn more check out chapter 4, section 1 of the Book of Discipline.

This information is provided by: resourceumc.org what is the general conference



1. In Psalm 98 we are told to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Which of the following are we **not** told to do?

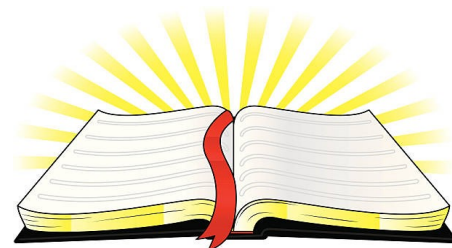
- A. Sing praises with the lyre (harp).
- B. Let the floods clap their hands.
- C. Blow trumpets and horns.
- D. Play drums and tambourines.
- E. Let the hills sing together.

You can find the answer in Psalm 98.

2. After His resurrection, Jesus was with His disciples several times. Where did Luke say they saw Him return to Heaven?

- A. In Jerusalem.
- B. In Bethany.
- C. In Galilee.
- D. In the Garden of Gethsemane.
- E. In Nazareth.
- F. In Bethlehem.

You can find the answer in Luke 24:50-51.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News

Submitted by Char Crosby



The April 2 UWIF meeting was called to order by Bette Jahn and all women were welcomed. Carolyn Williams delivered the devotional.

Members were reminded of the Northern Sky Spiritual Growth Retreat May 3-4 at the Manistique Comfort Inn. The Lenten soup suppers and Easter potluck were very successful and enjoyed by many.

Discussion and tentative plans were made for programs and projects for the rest of the year.

June - Manistique High School Hot Spot. August - UWIF picnic. September - Mission offering.

October - Habitat for Humanity. November - UWIF Sunday. December - Christmas Tea.

Our next general meeting will be held on May 7th at 1 PM.

Additional plans include card making with Rosemary McCormick and a salad luncheon. The date is yet to be determined. May 22 we will meet at 10 AM to sew baby quilts. Bring a sack lunch. The UWIF will provide a luncheon following the funeral for Linda Curran on June 26.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 with a delicious blueberry dessert.



A Note from Lynn LaRose

I would like to thank Rita and Candace for the very cute stuffed animals. Candace got fancy with her sewing machine and made a beautiful quilt for the layette. Sharon and Vic are always searching for a bargain and have donated several baby sleepers.

I find baby items left in the church not knowing who left them. Thank you whoever you are! If I have forgotten anyone I apologize. I have gotten a bit lax on my record keeping!!

We are planning a sewing bee May 22nd at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. If you can sew a straight line or tie a knot, please join us. Bring your sewing machine, your own straight pins and thread that you use on your machine. Everything else will be provided. Bring a sack lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided.

Any questions please call Candace, Sharon F., or Lynn. The UWIF has given us a contribution for use for the layettes. As of now my shelves are full. We will use some to furnish what we may need for the sewing bee. I will continue with your help to watch for sales for items for the layette.

Thank you for helping to keep our mission going for so many years. BLESS YOU!

