



- 1 Jack & Lynn LaRose
- 4 Robert Morrow
- 5 Carolyn Williams
- 9 James Gaffney
- 10 Janet Helmbold
- 14 Kelly Ash
- 17 Ted Burson
- 24 MacKenzie Billings
- 24 Ken Burgin
- 25 Sara Blanchard
- 25 Penny Tracy
- 25 William Tufnell
- 30 Norm & Sharon Feichtenbiner
- 30 Ralph & Pixie 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](mailto:pastor@manistiquemethodist.org)**  
**Office Hours: Pastor B.J. M-F 8 am-12 pm, Off Wed**  
**Connie: Office Hours M-W 10-2 pm,**  
**TH 10-2 pm work from home**  
**email: [office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)**  
**[www.manistiquemethodist.org](http://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](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)  
**June, 2024**



In 1 Corinthians 12:26 the apostle Paul reminds us that "if one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." With our General Conference 2020 being held last month (4 years postponed), there was rejoicing and there was some suffering. We know firsthand the pain of debate, disaffiliation, and division that they have experienced. Yet we also know the hope-filled renewal of Christ's church.

Several actions will shape the future of the UMC. These include the adoption of a plan for worldwide regionalization to restructure the UMC as a truly equitable, diverse, and global church, which now goes to annual conferences for ratification. Regionalization will allow for unity within the worldwide UMC structure, even as members hold diverse opinions on the following actions:

- Lifting a 40-year ban on the ordination of practicing homosexual clergy.
- Lifting restrictions on clergy to officiate at, and on congregations to host, weddings between adults of the same gender.
- Eliminating from the UMC's Social Principles the assertion that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.
- Broadening the definition of marriage to be between either a man and a woman or two consenting adults.

**PASTOR'S WORDS**

As a reminder, our social principles are not church law: they are recommendations and guidelines for helping us to make decisions that follow our common ideology. Social principles offer direction on topics such as global warming, climate change, financial structures, and equality.

Deacons and deaconesses celebrated being granted sacramental authority to preside over communion and baptism.

We also saw the removal of the paragraph on disaffiliation from our *Book of Discipline* that had enabled churches that chose to disaffiliate from the UMC to have a pathway to do so.

We rejoiced over welcoming The Episcopal Church into full communion with the UMC at GC2020. This now awaits action by the TEC General Convention to complete ratification. We also completed our celebration of already welcoming the Moravian Church in America into full communion that was ratified in 2018.

In the next week, we will meet as a Michigan Annual Conference and in my next newsletter, I will share updates from our time together.

Pastor B.J.

**Church Mice**



**First United Methodist Church**

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

**June**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p align="center"><b>June Noisy Offering — God's Country Community Ministries/</b>  <b>Coordinator Randy Hildebrant</b></p> <p align="center">This collection pays for his needs as he coordinates with area churches in the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula. Mission teams from all over Michigan and beyond assist in sharing God's love all summer long. God is working through us, all donations are welcome!</p>						<p>1 Pastor B.J. &amp; Connie @ Annual Conference Jack &amp; Lynn LaRose</p>
2 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	3 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	4 Trustees 10 AM UWiF 1 PM Robert Morrow	5 Carolyn Williams	6	7	8
9 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM James Gaffney	10 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Janet Helmbold	11 Ad Council 10AM	12 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	13 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	14 Kelly Ash	15
16 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	17 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 Ted Burson	18 Vitality 12:30 PM	<b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9 AM-12 NOON</b>			22
23 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	24 Bible Study 11AM Prayer Group 12 Ken Burgin MacKenzie Billings	25 Folkfest Pasty Prep 7:00 AM Sara Blanchard Penny Tracy Bill Tufnell	26 Folkfest Pasty Prep 7:00 AM	27 Linda Curran Memorial 11 AM	28	29
30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Norm & Sharon Feichtenbiner Ralph & Pixie Livingston	<p align="center"><b>AD COUNCIL NOTE:</b></p> <p align="center">For the rest of 2024 the Ad Council will meet quarterly. The meeting dates are: June 11, September 10, December 10 starting at 10 AM. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting, only members can vote!</p>					

# Prayer Chain

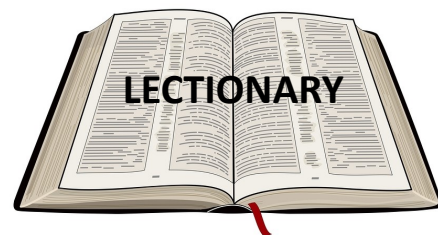
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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 **June 20, 2024** deadline.

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

May Mission Noisy Offering for Red Bird Mission/Henderson Settlement will be announced soon. Thank you for your support!

## June 2 — 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854); 2 Cor 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

## June 9 — 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

1 Sam 8:4-20 (11:14-15); Ps 138 (UMH 853); 2 Cor 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

## June 16 — 4th Sunday After Pentecost

1 Sam 15:34-16:13; Ps 20 or Ps 72 (UMH 795); 2 Cor 5:6-10 (11-13); Mark 4:26-34

## June 23 — 5th Sunday After Pentecost

1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49; Ps 9:9-20 (UMH 744); 2 Cor 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

## June 30 — 6th Sunday After Pentecost

2 Sam 1:1, 17-27; Ps 130 (UMH 848); 2 Cor 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43



**FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION** Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Char Crosby, Joe & Sandi Kolder, Pat Foldenauer, Curt & Celie Norton, Mary Whinnen, Barbara Schneider, Ted Burson, Mary Prater, Lynn LaRose, Katie Putnam, Joel Prater, Jo Nell Rubick, Phyllis Burge, Martha Weeks, Penny Tracy family, Kerry Billings family health, baby Brooklyn, Connie Meade, Connie Whitsitt, Sharon V. & Celie's N. brother, Carolyn Williams brother-in-law Tom, Michael Haynes, our unspoken requests and all the joyous blessings received.



## A View From the Belfry June, 2024

**Greetings from the belfry and its resident bat, Benny!** It really is spring! I know, because those ambitious and hard-working men of the church have been putting the finishing touches on the stairs which go from the parking area to the door of the pastor's study, which is waaaay up high on the back of the church! Those stairs are very nice, and almost done. (I can't even tell what hasn't been done yet!) Those steps look really great! In fact, I overheard a comment that maybe the guys did too good a job, because they look so nice that people are climbing them, thinking they go to the front entrance of the church! Anyway, thanks, Vic Vanderville, John Livingston, Gordie Barry, Ted Burson and Pastor B.J., for making those steps safe and nice looking again! (I hope I didn't miss anyone.)

We are also continuing work on the summer Vacation Bible School program! The volunteers are ready to go with it, and it looks as if it's going to be a lot of fun! It has a camping theme, and we're going to have all kinds of added touches which suggest a forest campground, including a campfire, I hear! (Has anyone mentioned this to the fire marshal? I hear that those people don't even like lit candles in a building, let alone campfires!) Anyway, I was thinking (I do that sometimes!), maybe that replica of yours truly, the lovely bat statuette, could add a touch of décor with its presence. The problem is, nobody seems to have found its current hiding place yet! People, are you looking for it? We could really use it for the campground theme!

Not to be outdone (outbusied??) by the men, the women have decided to help out with the layettes the UWIF women provide for new babies and their parents. They had a quilting bee and were tying, sewing, blocking, creating, and whatever else they do with quilts! A group of them met on Wednesday, May 22, and really went to work on them! Thanks to all you busy women! The group included Lynn LaRose, Sharon Feichtenbiner, Candace Haskell, Carolyn Williams, Char Crosby, Rosemary McCormick, Ellen Derber and Carol Livingston

Now, I know that I haven't mentioned everything which is going on in the church, but that crabby old lady who used to write that boring lay leader column (which has improved greatly since Connie Kelsey took it over, by the way)...as I was saying, that crabby old lady says I can't have more than one page in the newsletter, so I'll sign off. (Why does that crabby old lady have to do with it, anyway? Why does she get to decide how much room I can have for my column? She's not the newsletter boss! Some people...)

**The Vitality Committee is looking for volunteers to help in the design and decorating of our July 6th Independence Day parade float. If you are creative, you can leave your name and idea in the office or contact Connie Kelsey. Our next Vitality meeting will be June 18th at 12:30 PM. This year's theme will be "Blast from the Past".**

**We must try to take life moment by moment. The actual present is usually pretty tolerable, I think, if only we refrain from adding to its burden that of the past and the future.**  
C.S. Lewis, "Letters to an American Lady"

## Lay Leader Lines

I personally want to thank everyone who has been using their talents and gifts in so many ways. We received a thank you letter from one of our Noisy Offering recipients. Here is what they said:

Dear First United Methodist Church Members,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your generous donations to the "Helpful Hotspot". We are so thankful that you thought of us as a worthy recipient of your donation.

I wanted to share a quick update on our progress during the 2023-24 school year.

We have been in school for just over 160 days this year. During this time, we have already assisted students and their families over 175 times. This is a pretty impressive average of more than once per day. In the 2022-23 inaugural year, we met students' needs on 317 occasions.

Your contribution not only helps with the day-to-day needs but allows us to purchase special new items for children in need such as tennis shoes and bathing suits. This winter we utilized monetary donations to purchase new sweatpants, hoodies, and stocking stuffers for five families this holiday season. We have also been able to outfit some students with winter jackets, snow pants, hats, gloves, and boots. Your donation will be put into our school bank account to assist students as needs arise.

It was my privilege this year to help a very appreciative family that needed warm winter clothing and blankets this winter. They are keeping their heat turned down in their house to save money because it is so expensive. Earlier this year, the teen in this family needed new work boots as he does odd jobs to assist with the household income. He was wearing boots that were nailed together. Luckily, thanks to generous donations, we had some beautiful warm new boots that fit him.

These are just a few examples of how your kindness is making a real difference in the lives of those we serve. We couldn't do it without supporters like you. Thank you for being part of the "Helpful Hotspot" family and for helping us make a positive impact on our students and community.

I'm excited about some great future that our Helpful Hotspot student and teacher teams have been working on to expand our offerings to students. Stay tuned for updates!

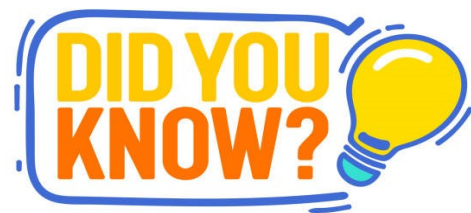
Christi Ryan

Middle School Social Studies Teacher and Helpful Hotspot Coordinator Manistique Area Schools

This reminds us that we are making a difference in our community! Blessings to you today and always!

1. Who was the first king of Israel?

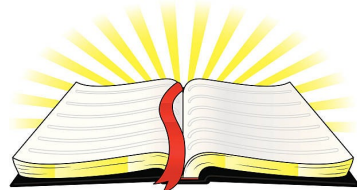
- A. Saul      B. Paul      C. David  
D. Henry VIII      E. Ezekiel



2. What two reasons did the Israelites give Samuel for wanting a King?

- A. All the other nations had a king, and they wanted one, too.  
B. They felt inferior to other nations because they had only judges to rule over them.  
C. Samuel's sons didn't want to rule over Israel, and they would have been the logical successors to their father.  
D. Samuel's sons weren't following in their father's footsteps and the people thought they wouldn't do a good job.  
E. They were jealous of the countries around them who had kings.

The answers to these questions can be found in 1 Samuel 8:4-20.



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith News

Submitted by Char Crosby



In lieu of the May meeting of United Women in Faith, we hosted the Northern Skies Spiritual Growth Retreat at the Comfort Inn on May 3 and 4. Nearly 60 women from the Upper Peninsula and northern lower Michigan attended. The focus of the retreat was "Woman's Suffrage in Michigan and How It Changed Women's Lives." Presenter Kathy Freeland intertwined two themes - the women's suffrage movement and the strong women of faith who moved it forward.

A devoted numismatic, Ms. Freeland highlighted her presentation with interesting collector coins featuring images of several suffragettes and their historical contributions to gain women's right to vote.

In addition, the retreat offered the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with "new friends," peruse, borrow or buy relevant books, and learn about the need for participants to seek district positions as officers or committee chairpersons. Other upcoming district events scheduled for this summer and fall are Mission U in Mount Pleasant July 18-20, District Celebration in St. Ignace, October 12 and the District Conference in Essexville (a suburb of Bay City) October 26.

The retreat concluded with communion offered by Pastor BJ, and a soup, salad, sandwich luncheon with lots of smiles and conversation.

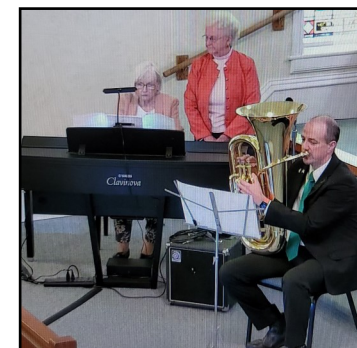
The next general meeting will be held on June 4th at 1 PM. All women are invited to attend.

Special music is a wonderful addition to our Sunday services, yet only one of many talents that we have in our congregation! Unfortunately photos of Darrell Dixon and Don Carlson were not available. I hope to have their photos soon.

*We are blessed,  
thank you everyone!*



### Recognition of Graduates Emma Jones and MacKenzie Billings



Fellowship time is  
always a treat!



Kerry stood in place of MacKenzie as she was unable to attend.