



- 7 Bob & Mary Whinnen
- 8 Rev. B.J. & Kelly Ash
- 9 Emma Jones
- 21 John & Candace Haskell
- 24 Carol & Peter Hollenbeck
- 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](mailto:pastor@manistiquemethodist.org)  
Office Hours: Pastor B.J. M-F 8 am-12 pm, Off Wed  
Connie: Office Hours T-W 10-2 pm, plus working  
remotely M, Th and F, you can reach her by cell or  
email: [office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)  
[www.manistiquemethodist.org](http://www.manistiquemethodist.org)

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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)  
May 2025

### PASTOR'S WORDS

Most of us have heard the wise instruction to “hate the sin and love the sinner.” It’s a clear lesson in living true charity and mercy while simultaneously standing up for what we believe. As our world becomes more complex, however, it’s gotten harder to explain, and sometimes, to live. It’s a saying that’s now misunderstood and viewed with hostility as many people have been on the receiving end of this and have felt the pain of judgment. But the truth remains, and Paul has the keys to living it today—and explaining it to others.

The original saying is most likely taken from the letters of St. Augustine from Letter 211 with his translated words of “With love for mankind and hatred for sins.”

Mahatma Ghandi also restated this teaching in 1929 from his autobiography where he writes, “Hate the sin and not the sinner is a precept which, though easy to understand, is rarely practiced, and that is why the poison of hatred spreads in the world.”

Here this from a 15-year-old in today’s world: “People won’t accept that. Today, people *are* their choices. Nothing’s just an external decision. It’s all personal. Especially in a culture that tells you to live *your* truth.”

In 1 Corinthians 4: 3-5, Paul says, “I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.” Paul reminds us that our knowledge always falls short. It is incomplete. Even our knowledge of ourselves. In fact, he writes to the Christians of Corinth that he does not even judge *himself* because he recognizes that his knowledge of his own heart is woefully lacking.

PASTOR'S WORDS

Only Christ knows the depths of the human heart and the true motives behind our actions. We are limited human beings. We are tremendously fallible creatures, incomprehensibly ignorant of our very own selves.

So how could we possibly understand the heart and mind of another? Can we enter into the depths of another's heart, conceive of their wounds, and comprehend the most intimate mysteries of their soul?

Impossible. In fact, we can't even count the times that we have each done something and later wondered, "Why did I do that? What on earth was I thinking?"

Despite the controversies that threaten to divide us today, and the intense ways in which people defend their beliefs, we do not and cannot know the truths of their hearts. That is why we guard against judging the sinner, and strive to love them, even when we see the sin and its evil consequences clearly.

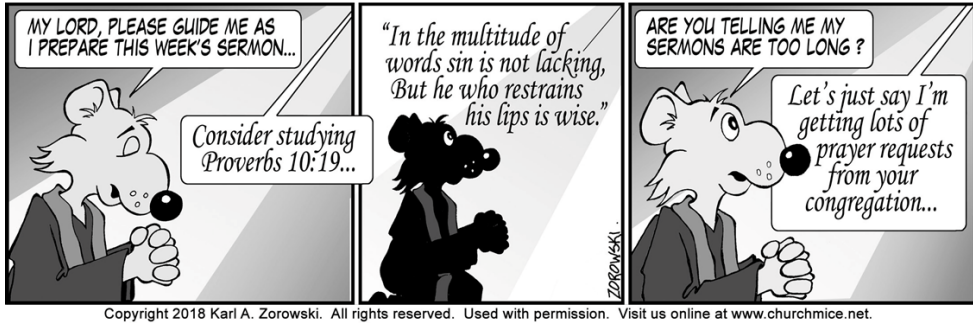
The foundation isn't a knowledge of sin and its effects. The foundation is simply love. Paul also writes in Galatians 5: 14-15, "For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another."

Yes, we should abhor all sin. Sin offends God and harms the sinner. We must be genuine Christians, not false ones, acting as though sin isn't a big deal. We should recognize that we are all steeped in sin and love one another accordingly. In following Paul's advice, we can hate the sin and love the sinner as a beloved child of God.

Pastor B.J.



Church Mice



First United Methodist Church

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

May 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Pastor B.J. will be out of the office May 29-June 1. He will be attending the Michigan Annual Conference in Traverse City.  Connie will be attending Annual Conference on May 30-June 1. She will be downstate from May 16 working remotely through June 10. You can call or text her on her cell or email: office@manistiquemethodist.org.				1 National Day of Prayer	2  United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Retreat Comfort Inn in Manistique Registration 5pm Meal 6pm	3  Welcome 9am
4 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	5 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	6 Trustee 10 AM UWF 1 PM	7 Bob & Mary Whinnen	8 Education 10AM  Pastor B.J. & Kelly Ash	9 Emma Jones	10
11 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	12 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	13	14 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	15 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	16	17
18 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	19 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	20	21 John & Candace Haskell	22	23	24 Carol & Peter Hollenbeck
25 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	26 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	27	28	29	30  Pastor B.J. at Annual Conference, May 29-June 1  Connie at Annual Conference	31 John Livingston

Mission 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.  
Drop your donation in glass jar as you enter or exit the sanctuary! Thank you for your donation!



Prayer Chain

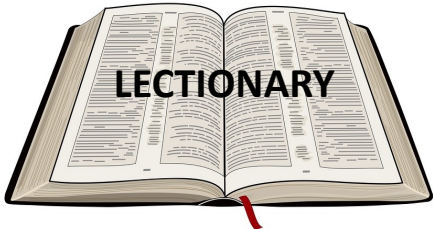
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community. These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor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

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Committee updates and newsletter articles are always welcome!

If you have anything you wish to have published in the next newsletter submit before **May 23, 2025** deadline.

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

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

- May 4** — 3rd Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday  
Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Ps 30 (UMH 762); Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-9
- May 11** — 4th Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day; Festival of the Christian Home  
Acts 9:36-43; Ps 23 (UMH 754); Rev 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
- May 18** — 5th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 11:1-18; Ps 148 (UMH 861); Rev 21:1-16; John 13:31-35
- May 25** — 6th Sunday of Easter; Graduation Sunday  
Acts 16:9-15; Ps 67 (UMH 791); Rev 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

**FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION** Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Char Crosby, Carol Weinert, Penny Tracy, Ken Burgin, Jean Smith, Curt & Celie Norton, Barbara Schneider, Ted Burson, Lynn LaRose, Katie Putnam, Joel Prater, Jo Nell Rubick, Phyllis Burge, Martha Weeks, Kerry Billings family concerns, Mary Prater, Connie Meade, Connie Whatsitt, Sharon V. & Celie’s N. brother, Betty Tracy, Jesse Baker, Sandi Kolder, Michael Haynes, the leaders in our church, our community, our country, the world, our unspoken requests, and the joyous blessings that we have received.



A View From the Belfry  
May, 2025

**Howdy from the belfry!** A silly little ditty has been going through the mind of that crabby old lady who used to write those boring Lay Leader Lines before Connie Kelsey mercifully took over that job. Frankly, I don’t much mind what, if anything at all, goes through her mind, but this particular little ditty seems appropriate for the season, even though that crabby old lady bothers everybody (well, this bat anyway) with her singing, which leaves a LOT to be desired. It goes:

’Tis springtime, ’tis springtime,  
Cold winter is past.  
Warm breezes are blowing.  
And May’s here at last.

The birds are returning,  
Their songs fill the air,  
And meadows are blooming,  
With blossoms so fair.

Well, it is springtime, the coldest part of winter seems to maybe be past. May is almost here and probably will be by the time you folks get this, the birds do seem to be returning, judging from the numbers of them which I’ve seen fluttering around my belfry perch, and they do seem to be singing now and then. I don’t know that the meadows are blooming yet, but I’ve seen some of the early spring flowers such as crocuses in bloom. Overall, I’d say it must really be spring! (OK, there was a little snow falling early last Monday morning, but it quickly changed to rain and didn’t accumulate at all.) Anyway, it’s spring in northern Michigan! Stupendous! Now we can really get into planning ahead for all the things we do around the church in spring, such as spring cleaning and raking and planting flowers and spring cleaning and planning for Vacation Bible School and spring cleaning and... uh, I think I mentioned that already, didn’t I? Actually, in this church cleaning goes on all the time! A special thanks to all of you who participate in all that cleaning, and especially to Emily Deyo. Many of you don’t know Emily, because she sneaks in when nobody is looking or hanging around to get in her way, and she cleans! It’s likely that her work goes unnoticed because it’s always done well, but if it wasn’t, you’d know it because the place would be cruddy or something! Why do I bring this up? Well, sometimes it’s easy to not notice when things go well, even though we can always tell when things go wrong and give them lots of attention (mostly negative attention). I was thinking (yes, even bats do thinking on occasion) that maybe I should try to find things to notice which we don’t often mention and actually mention them! We’ll see how that works in future columns! Meanwhile, I guess I’ll go looking for that bat effigy, since nobody seems to have found it since Penny did back in March. I just looked in Pastor B.J.’s little office refrigerator, but it wasn’t there. He has some water in it, though. No mosquitoes, however. Maybe I’ll have to talk to him about stocking a few of those snack packs of mosquitoes in that little refrigerator! We’ll see...

So long for now from Benny,  
your belfry denizen!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN—MARCH 2025	
GENERAL FUND	\$6,598.97
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,830.00
BUILDING FUND	\$225.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING (HELPFUL HOTSPOT)	\$61.00
MARCH NOISY OFFERING (UMCOR)	\$286.00
<b>TOTAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH 2025</b>	<b>\$9,050.97</b>
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YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS MARCH 2025	\$23,797.47
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS MARCH 2024	\$25,313.00
DIFFERENCE	-\$1,515.53

A Note from the Administrative Council:

The last Administrative Council meeting was held on March 8, and the business conducted at that meeting was reported in the March newsletter. No special meetings have been held since then, and the next regular meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2025 at 10 am. In the meantime, the business of the church has been continuing as usual. We had a busy Lenten season, and currently are looking forward to summer, when we will be involved with Vacation Bible School, Folkfest, and some new additions in our summer schedule, such as an Open Mic event planned for later this summer. The church continues to be financially sound, ongoing and new maintenance projects are in the works, and all committees are working smoothly. There is nothing new to report on the S.A.S. program at this point, but those involved are continuing to learn about the program and what to expect in the future.

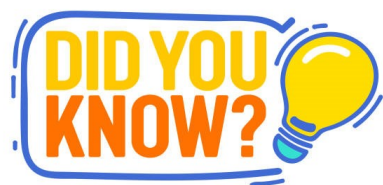
Respectfully submitted, Janet Helmbold

Thanks for all the cards and prayers during my recent surgery. It was quite a lesson in patience and grace but all went well and I am almost back to full functioning. God is good all the time—All the time God is good! — Carol Weinert



Thank you everyone who participated in our Craft Day Event on April 26! It was fun! Many people participated in making cup flower arrangements and decorated ornaments that will be given to patients in local care facilities.  
Vitality Committee

Be sure to pick up the new May/June Upper Room Devotional. They are located on the bookshelf by the stairway and lift. Large and regular print editions are available!

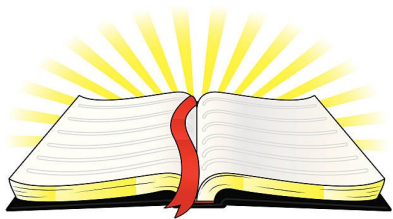


1. Saul was on the road to Damascus for a specific reason. What was that reason?
- A. He was charged with delivering an important message to the Jewish community there.
  - B. He was intending to escort some Jews to Jerusalem who had gone to Damascus and needed a guide to get them back home.
  - C. He needed to visit Ananias, who lived in Damascus.
  - D. He was following a group of Jews who were straying from Jewish law, intending to return them to Jerusalem for legal reasons.
  - E. He had heard that Damascus was a great place to spend a vacation.

The answer to this question can be found in Acts 9:1-2.

2. While Peter was in Joppa, he was called to the nearby town of Lydda, to attend to a faithful Christian woman who was well known for her good works, but who had died. Two names were given for the woman, one in Aramaic and one in Greek. What were these two names?
- A. Elizabeth and Artemis.
  - B. Deborah and Tamara.
  - C. Esther and Ruth.
  - D. Dorcas and Tabitha.
  - E. Athena and Peggy.

The answer to this question can be found in Acts 9:36.



United Women in Faith News

Submitted by Candace Haskell



Many thanks to Carol Hollenbeck for being our speaker representing "Schoolcraft County Community Foundation" at our annual Reflection breakfast on April 12th.

We were blessed with a great turnout, wonderful fellowship, song, and worship. Thanks to all who were involved in planning and executing the program.

Bette Jahn delivered our program at the April UWF meeting sharing information on Dorcas, a dress-maker as part of our ongoing theme of "Women of Faith through the Ages". Our quote of the month "The way we spend our time defines who we are".

The Northern Skies District Spiritual Growth Retreat will be held May 2-3 at the Comfort Inn here in Manistique. There are 43 people registered and everyone is looking forward to hearing our guest speaker, Cola Hill. We are grateful to Pastor B.J. for presiding over Communion and we are providing the elements.

Our next meeting will be May 6 at 1:00 pm. Seven batches of pasties were made in April. Many, many thanks to Sharon Feichtenbiner who after many years will be stepping down as our ServSafe manager when her license expires 5-26-2026. Please search your hearts and consider becoming her replacement as it is vital for our pasty making. We cannot proceed without filling her position. For additional information, please speak with Sharon about what's involved.

Education Committee

If you know what totes, dry ice and picture frames have in common, then there's a place for you in this year's Vacation Bible School.

At its April meeting, the Education Committee compiled lists of what's needed to make the June 16 through 19 event fun, exciting and educational. Totes, dry ice and picture frames are just a few of the items on the list.

The four-day VBS features Bible stories, crafts, science experiments and music. Volunteers are still needed to help with the activities. Volunteers do not need to commit to all four days or even a full day. Helping out for an hour or two is welcome. Adults are also invited to attend the VBS adult classes in the church while youth are participating downstairs.

Transit buses will be scheduled at specific locations as needed for anyone who needs a ride to and from the VBS. To make that process work well, anyone who needs ride assistance is asked to register and request Transit by June 2. registration may be done over the phone by calling the church office at 906-341-6662. Once the number of riders is known, pick-up locations will be determined.

Over the next month, the Education Committee will be creating flyers and posters to be put in businesses and taken door-to-door in some area. Press releases will also go out in May.

The Education Committee is also still looking for names of individuals or groups to perform in the Aug. 9 Open Mic Night. A list of performers is being compiled and letters inviting them to take part will be sent out.

The Sunday School was also on the agenda. Discussion centered around graduating the sessions to a Youth level, since the children's programs are too easy for the youth who participate, and more challenging material is needed. Committee members agreed to try a four-class session called Traditions. It includes a 7-9 minute video and an 'anti-work book' that gives youth a chance to doodle, journal and draw. Attendees will be asked how they like the new series.

The next Education Committee meeting is Thursday, May 8, at 10 a.m.