

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## June 2025

- 1 Jack & Lynn La Rose
- 4 Robert Morrow
- 5 Carolyn Williams
- 9 James Gaffney
- 10 Janet Helmbold
- 14 Kelly Ash
- 17 Ted Burson
- 21 Brad & Lisa Jones
- 24 MacKenzie Billings
- 24 Ken Burgin
- 25 William Tufnell
- 25 Sara Blanchard
- 25 Penny Tracy
- 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



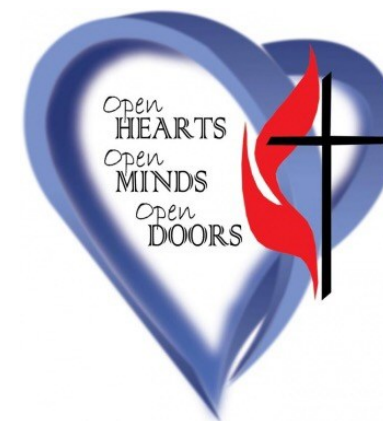
**First United Methodist Church**  
Church Phone: (906) 341-6662  
Pastor: Rev. B.J. Ash Cell: 906-286-1492  
email: [pastor@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:pastor@manistiquemethodist.org)  
Office Hours: Pastor B.J. M-F 8 am-12 pm, Off Wed  
Connie: Office Hours T-W 10-2 pm, plus working  
remotely 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)

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 2025**

### PASTOR'S WORDS

As summer begins, I'm grateful for all the ways God is working in and through MFUMC. This month, we gather as a Michigan Conference for our work at Annual Conference together. A part of the agenda are four constitutional amendments from General Conference, which we will vote on together.

These amendments address:

- Regionalization (giving all regions flexibility to adapt the Book of Discipline),
- Expanding inclusiveness (adding gender and ability to our protected categories),
- Strengthening anti-racism commitments, and
- Clarifying educational requirements for clergy voting on delegates.

Please keep our Annual Conference in your prayers as we discern these together.

Locally, we continue discerning the Simple Accountable Structure (SAS), a governance model that simplifies church leadership by combining roles of key committees into one Leadership Board. This helps us focus more energy on mission and ministry, and less on meetings.

Our communication plan for this process that we are working through includes newsletter articles, meeting notices in our bulletins, worship announcements, and at least two listening sessions. A visual chart comparing our current model to the SAS model is available in the office.

Our Charge Conference will likely be held in late October. If Ad Council votes to proceed with implementing the SAS model, the congregation will vote on whether to adopt the SAS model, with a two-third majority needed. Please pray, participate, and be ready to vote when the time comes.

Thank you for your faithful commitment to this church and the mission of Christ. Let's move forward in hope and unity into this season of spring and newness of God's creation together!

Pastor B.J.



GRADUATES  
2025  
Congrats!

Joele' and Kaylynn



### Vitality Committee Update

Our church is blessed with so many talents, it leaves me almost speechless! Every one of you are involved in some way with bringing people into our church building. The Bible Study group has several new people that attend, plus we have welcomed several new people into our church services. Two graduates participated in a graduate recognition ceremony. Joele' and Kaylynn. We have enjoyed getting to know them and their families! God will be with them in their journeys!

A group of ladies put together tea cups and the Youth Sunday School class decorated ornaments that will be handed out in the very near future. Thank you ladies and the Youth Sunday School class.

The Lowell UMC Youth Group will be making an overnight pitstop at our church Friday, June 13. Perhaps we can make an extra batch of pasties and donate them to this group. Some of our delicious cookies or bars would be appreciated also. Let Connie know if you are able to help.

Folkfest is rapidly approaching! Folkfest pasties will be made June 25th and 26th, starting at 7:30 AM. Everyone In the congregation is encouraged to volunteer. Perhaps you will enjoy making them so much you would like to join the United Women in Faith and make them every month. A sign-up sheet will be available soon to prepare for our Folkfest sale. July 12th will be our Folkfest pasty sale!

Respectfully submitted by Connie Kelsey



### First United Methodist Church

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

June 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Jack & Lynn LaRose	2 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	3 Trustees 10 AM UWF 1 PM	4 Robert Morrow	5 Education 10AM Carolyn Williams	6	7
8 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	9 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM James Gaffney	10 Janet Helmbold	11 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM Vitality Meeting 10:30 AM	12 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	13 Ad Council 10AM Lowell UMC Youth Group Overnight Stay arriving at 1 PM	14 Kelly Ash
15 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	16 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	17 Ted Burson	18	19	20	21 Brad & Lisa Jones
22 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	23 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	24 MacKenzie Billings Ken Burgin	25 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM Penny Tracy William Tufnell Sara Blanchard	26 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	27	28
29 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	30 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Norm & Sharon Feichtenbiner Ralph & Pixie Livingston	<b>Mission Noisy Offering — God's Country Community Ministries Coordinator Randy Hildebrant</b>  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!				



Prayer Chain

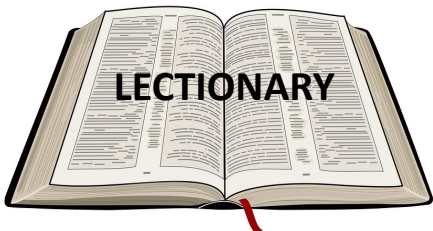
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community. These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor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

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.



Committee updates and newsletter articles are always welcome!

If you have anything you wish to have published in the next newsletter submit before **June 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 was \$424.00.

Thank you for your support!

- June 1** — *7th Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday*  
Acts 16:16-34; Ps 97 (UMH 816); Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
- June 8** — *Pentecost*  
Acts 2:1-21; Ps 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826); Rom 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)
- June 15** — *Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday; Father’s Day*  
Prov 8:1-4, 22-31; Ps 8 (UMH 743); Rom 5:1-5; John 14:8-17, 25-27
- June 22** — *2nd Sunday After Pentecost*  
1 Kings 19:1-15a; Ps 42 (UMH 777); Gal 3:23-39; Luke 8:26-39
- June 29** — *3rd Sunday After Pentecost*  
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Ps 77:1-2, 11-20 (UMH 798); Gal 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62



**FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION** Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Rita Salter, Kathleen Haynes granddaughter Chloe, 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 our joyous blessings.



A View From the Belfry  
June 2025

**Hello from the bell tower.** The bell tower stub, that is, since the largest part of the bell tower is long gone. A lot has happened since I last wrote! For one, spring really has come! While some of the days are still a little chilly, the grass has turned green, the dandelions are out, more flowers can be seen, the trillium are covering the hardwood forests with their beautiful blossoms, and while the leaves aren’t fully out on the trees, they are coming and soon will be! Best of all, there are mosquitoes in abundance for hungry bats! Black flies too, but they aren’t nearly as delectable, at least to this particular bat. There’s also more good news! The bat effigy which had disappeared for so long was found! Connie Kelsey spotted it among the books in the church library, lying on top of some books in a bookcase! It has since gone into hiding again. You know Connie has found it more than anybody else, maybe because she is probably in the church building more than anybody else. However, she could use some help keeping her eyes open for it, so how about it? Maybe you could all take a quick look around now and then with a missing bat effigy in mind!

I haven’t mentioned them before, but I see that some comfortable chairs have replaced the orange love seat or short sofa or whatever it was in the library/lift room! They look very nice, and maybe more comfortable than that sofa thing. I don’t really know, of course, because I wouldn’t dare sit on the furniture; I might scare the bejeebers out of somebody if I was seen! I still don’t quite get it that a harmless little bat such as myself could be so frightening to some people, but that seems to be the case! I also saw some new chairs in the pastor’s office, replacing a chair which was broken before it fell apart when some crabby old lady or something sat in it! Thanks, Gayle Tufnell, for finding and purchasing those chairs!

As always, this church keeps very busy. The Education Committee members are planning for a really super Vacation Bible School in June. Among other things apparently Pastor B.J. is going to have a pillar of smoke going or something! He sure comes up with some odd things for a church program, doesn’t he? Remember the clown outfit and the baseball uniform he wore during church awhile back? Well, he sure keeps things exciting! If you want to see what’s going on, how about volunteering to help out with Vacation Bible School? Some of our regulars can’t do it this year, so a little extra help might be welcome! If you would like to volunteer, talk to Penny Tracy or Connie Kelsey about it!

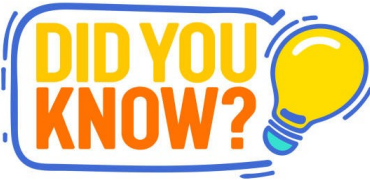
Well, I just saw a couple of fat, delicious looking mosquitoes hum by, and I’m a bit hungry, so I think I’ll sign off and go have lunch! So long folks!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN—APRIL 2025	
GENERAL FUND	\$7,991.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$990.00
BUILDING FUND	\$225.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
APRIL NOISY OFFERING (HEIFER INTERNATIONAL)	\$324.00
PAPER LILY	\$25.00
<b>TOTAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL 2025</b>	<b>\$9,605.00</b>
-----	
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS APRIL 2025	\$33,402.47
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS APRIL 2024	\$34,858.00
DIFFERENCE	-\$1,455.53

**A Note from the Administrative Council:**

The Administrative Council has not met since our March meeting. The next meeting will be on June 13 at 10 A.M. We anticipate continuing our discussions of the SAS program, and some recent information regarding some legislative decisions which may impact many churches in regard to issues pertaining to building use. In other respects we continue to function smoothly. The Lenten and post-Lenten seasons have been busy, and this will probably continue, with recognition of our high school graduates, Vacation Bible School and Folkfest coming in the next month or two. The relevant committees are busily involved with plans for these events.

Janet Helmbold, Chairperson, Administrative Council

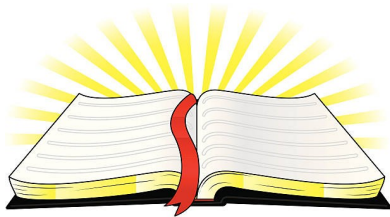


1. What significant event happened on the day of Pentecost?
- A. Jesus ascended into Heaven as His disciples watched.
  - B. All of the disciples began speaking in languages which they did not know in preparation for their mission of carrying the Good News of Jesus' resurrection to many other lands.
  - C. The curtain of the temple in Jerusalem was torn in two.
  - D. The Holy Spirit descended on the believers who were gathered there in the form of tongues of fire.
  - E. The Holy Spirit descended on the believers who were gathered there in the form of doves.

The answer to this question can be found in Acts 2:1-4.

2. While Paul and Silas were in Philippi, a slave girl began following them around and shouting that they were servants of the most high God. Paul became very annoyed by this and drove a demon out of her which had caused her to behave this way. The girl's owners were very upset by this and dragged Paul and Silas before the magistrates, charging them with disrupting the city and advocating customs which were not lawful. Why were the owners so upset?
- A. The owners were law-abiding citizens and were upset because Paul and Silas were breaking the laws of their city.
  - B. The slave girl had been telling fortunes to people, and they had earned much money from this. She could no longer tell fortunes so their income was lost.
  - C. The slave girl had been telling fortunes to people, and they had earned much money from this. Now all the fortunes she told were very negative and nobody wanted to hear them, so people quit having their fortunes told and the owners lost money.
  - D. The owners were afraid that Paul and Silas were going to steal their slave girl and use her themselves.
  - E. The owners were racists and hated Jews.

The answer to this question can be found in Acts 16:16-23.



**United Women in Faith News**

Submitted by Candace Haskell



Ruth shared a devotion, "The fifth voice" one harmony created by four singers, afterwards we sang "They will know We are Christians by Our Love".

Our ongoing "Women of Faith through the years "program was presented by Candace on Susanna Wesley the "Mother of Methodism".

Somewhere in the meeting several of us were called "Block"heads just because we are making a quilt for Baycliff Health Camp.

Our annual UWF potluck picnic will be held August 5, at 12:00pm. It will not be advertised to the public however all ladies of the church are welcome and we can invite a close friend or family member.

Seven batches of pasties will be made in May. Lynn will provide the June program. The quote for May was "th, th, th, that's all folks".

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The planning phase for this year's Vacation Bible School is just about complete. Now, we just need a team of intrepid explorers to join in for an exciting, fun Road Trip on June 16-19 here at the church. And remember, adults are welcome to attend as well. They will spend part of each day with the kids, listening to bible stories and enjoying snacks, but will go upstairs for a separate adult bible study.

Anyone who needs transportation to the VBS must pre-register by June 2 by contacting the church office.

While the planning is done and leaders are in place for bible study, arts and crafts, music and science, the Education Committee is still looking for volunteers to help out. Anyone who can offer even an hour will be welcome. Hours are from 9 a.m. to noon each day of VBS. Please call the church office at 906 341-6662 or e-mail [office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org) if you can spare some time to help.

Meanwhile, if you go downstairs, you'll see the decorations are already going up for VBS. The banner is in place and supplies are ordered. Soon, flyers will be seen in businesses and delivered door-to-door.

Committee members also heard an update on the Open Mic Night, set for Aug. 9 at the church. Contacts are being made to area musicians, theater groups and others. Anyone interested in doing a 10-15 minute presentation of any kind, or who knows someone who might like to perform, is asked to call or e-mail the church office with their contact information and someone will get in touch with them.

The Education Committee also discussed the new Youth Sunday School curriculum. It is geared toward older youth, and included a 10-minute DVD and an 'anti-workbook' that lets attendees doodle, draw or journal, whatever they prefer. The initial 4-week course has gotten thumbs up from everyone. Pastor BJ explained that the short course is very Methodist-specific, almost a mini confirmation course. The Education Committee agreed to purchase the longer, 40-plus week curriculum, based on the success of the shorter course.

The Education Committee will meet again on June 5 at 10 a.m.

