



2	Vic & Sharon Vanderville
4	Ted & Louise Burson
4	Michael Haynes
8	Ruth Annelin
8	Kerry & Larry Billings
9	Jim & Sara Blanchard
14	Vic Vanderville
16	Mary Livingston
22	Katie Putnam
26	Bob Whinnen
31	Jim Blanchard
31	Louise Burson

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-Sat, cell 989-289-2799 or**  
**email: [office@manistiquemethodist.org](mailto:office@manistiquemethodist.org)**  
**[www.manistiquemethodist.org](http://www.manistiquemethodist.org)**

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Manistique First UMC where you see the  
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*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)**  
**August 2025**

**PASTOR'S  
WORDS**

As we step into the month of August, I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant life and ministry of our church family. July brought us many opportunities to share God's love with our community, and I am proud of how our congregation stepped up to serve.

What a blessing it was to see so many friendly faces cheering us on during the 4th of July parade! Our float—a trailer adorned with a charming little church building—was again a hit, reminding everyone that our church is not just a place but a community of faithful people. I chuckled when the spectators stated, "Great church!" I replied, "Yes, they are great, and the building is pretty good too!" It was a wonderful moment of fellowship and outreach.

Our participation in FolkFest was another highlight. We served 480 pasties, raising funds for much-needed building improvements. Your hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed, and I am grateful for your service. Let us continue to be a blessing to our community, sharing God's love in tangible ways.

We are making great strides in educating our congregation about the Sustainable Church Model (SAS). Our goal is to ensure that everyone's questions and concerns are addressed so that we can make an informed decision at Ad Council in September to send it to our charge conference in November for a decision. I encourage each of you to engage in these discussions and to pray for God's guidance as we navigate this process together.

Our Ad Council would like to put out a call for two volunteers to serve as backup treasurer and backup financial secretary. These roles are crucial for the smooth operation of our church's finances, and your willingness to step into these positions would be greatly appreciated. The people filling these positions would only be used if the primary people were unavailable for a long period of time. Please contact me if you feel called to serve in this way.

Mark your calendars for our church picnic on August 23rd from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at my home. Please bring a chair and know that BBQ (hamburgers, brats,

PASTOR'S WORDS

hot dogs) will be provided. It's a time for us to relax, enjoy each other's company, and strengthen the bonds of our church family.

In closing, let me leave you with a verse from Scripture that has been on my heart: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NRSV/NLT). My friends, our labor in the Lord is never in vain. Let us continue to serve Him with joy and enthusiasm, knowing that He is with us every step of the way.

Pastor B.J.

Vitality Committee Update

We sure have been busy in July! The Independence Day parade is always fun. Pastor B.J. was able to drive our float through the parade while Rita and Carolyn rode on the float. Ruth, Connie K. and her son John handed out taffy again this year. Everyone loves the taffy but the heat melted some pieces together. We ran out of candy this year before we reached the end.



Folkfest had so many people involved from the church and community. We were a little concerned about the weather but thankfully the major storms missed downtown Manistique. It looks like we raised \$1500 in profits! Thank you everyone who was involved. The money will be used for a Trustee's church project. There are a few that they have been holding off on due to high costs.



We have several fun events coming up in August! Ron Elrod, a traveling Gospel Pianist, vocalist and song writer will perform here in our sanctuary at 6 p.m. on August 17th. Also, Pastor B.J. and Kelly have invited the congregation to their house on August 23rd from 3-5 p.m. for our annual church picnic. They have asked those who are attending to bring their



own chair. Please sign up on the sheet on the conference room table how many will be coming and what your dish to pass will be. Burgers, brats, hotdogs, pop, water and lemonade and condiments will be provided by the Vitality Committee. We hope to see everyone there. Enjoy your summer!

Respectfully submitted by Connie Kelsey

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN—JUNE 2025	
GENERAL FUND	\$7,593.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,455.00
BUILDING FUND	\$275.00
UMCOR	\$45.00
NOISY OFFERING (God's Country CM –June)	\$363.00
JO NELL RUBICK MEMORIAL	\$130.00
TOTAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE 2025	\$9,961.00
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YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS JUNE 2025	\$51,380.47
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS JUNE 2024	\$53,475.00
DIFFERENCE	-\$2,094.53



First United Methodist Church

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

August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Vic & Sharon Vanderville
3 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	4 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Ted & Louise Burson Michael Haynes	5 United Women in Faith Picnic 12PM	6	7	8 Ruth Annelin Kerry & Larry Billings	9 Jim & Sara Blanchard
10 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	11 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	12	13 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	14 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM Vic Vanderville	15	16 Mary Livingston
17 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Ron Elrod Concert 6 PM	18 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	19	20	21	22 Katie Putnam	23 Annual Church Picnic @ Ash residence 3-5PM
24 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	25 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	26 Bob Whinnen	27	28	29	30
31 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM  Jim Blanchard Louise Burson	<p><b>Mission Noisy Offering — Backpack Buddies (Zion Lutheran Church)</b></p> <p>This collection provides meals to local school age children up to the age of 19 who are in need of food assistance in our community.</p> <p>God is working through our giving, all donations are welcome!</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.

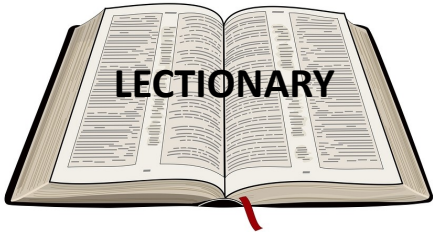
These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor B.J. Ash at 906-341-6662 (church) or 906-286-1492 (Pastor B.J. cell). You may also call Carol Weinert at 906-341-4499.



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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 **August 22, 2025** deadline.

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

Be sure to check out the slide on Sunday to find out our Noisy Offering collections!

Thank you for your support!

- August 3** — *8th Sunday After Pentecost*  
Hos 11:1-11; Ps 107:1-9, 43 (UMH 830); Col 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
- August 10** — *9th Sunday After Pentecost*  
Isa 1:1, 10-20; Ps 50:1-8, 22-23 (UMH 783); Heb 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
- August 17** — *10th Sunday After Pentecost*  
Isa 5:1-7; Ps 80:1-2, 8-19 (UMH 801); Heb 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
- August 24** — *11th Sunday After Pentecost*  
Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6 (UMH 794); Heb 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
- August 31** — *12th Sunday After Pentecost*  
Jer 2:4-13; Ps 81:1, 10-16 (UMH 803); Heb 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

**FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION** Let us please keep the following people in our prayers:

Ken & Cyndi Burgin, Rita Salter, Char Crosby, Carol Weinert, Penny Tracy, Jean Smith, Curt & Celie Norton, Barbara Schneider, Ted Burson, Lynn LaRose, Katie Putnam, Mary Prater, Joel Prater, family of Jo Nell Rubick, Phyllis Burge, Martha Weeks, Kerry Billings family concerns, Connie Meade, Connie Whatsitt, Sharon V. & Celie's N. brother, Betty Tracy, Jesse Baker, Sandi Kolder, Michael Haynes, Kathleen Haynes granddaughter Chloe, the leaders in our church, our community, our country, the world, our unspoken requests, and our joyous blessings.



## A View From the Belfry

August 2025

**Whew! Busy, busy July is about over!** We had a great float in the Independence Day parade, with lots of compliments from those who were watching this church's church go by. We also baked pasties, baked more pasties, sold pasties, and guess what!?! We sold almost all of them, even though we get a little of the rain which was predicted to drown out the entire FolkFest extravaganza! All in all, it was a great day! Never a church to rest on its laurels, however, we didn't just fold up our borrowed tent and go home! Nope! We still have a few summer events ahead. The United Women in Faith group is planning their annual picnic event, and later in the month we will be holding the annual church picnic at the Ash residence on Indian Lake! We will also be baking even more pasties to sell at our regularly scheduled time during the second week of August, so if you haven't had your fill of them yet, you'll have another chance to indulge!

Last month I was so busy keeping track of everything going on that I almost forgot about the beautiful bat sculpture which was hidden, supposedly somewhere here in the church. Well, imagine my shock when I learned that Jack and Lynn LaRose spotted it at their house!! What's more, it was apparently flying around, under its own power, inside their house, and from their comments, it hadn't even been extended an invitation to do so! They suggested (strongly suggested, rather unhappily suggested), that it was probably one of my kin! I couldn't believe it at first! However, after giving the matter a great deal of thought, I came to the conclusion that it couldn't have been the sculpture flying around, because after all, as genuinely life-like as it is, the sculpture is exactly that-a sculpture, and not really alive. There is no motor on it, nor any living parts. Thus it couldn't have been the bat sculpture, because the sculpture can't fly. However, I do believe that both Jack and Lynn are highly intelligent, completely honest people not given to hysteria or hallucinations involving bats. This led me to carefully consider a thought they had, that it was a real bat, and probably one of my relatives! As much as I would like to strongly deny that any member of my bat family would wantonly fly unwelcomed into any church member's home, I must confess that there ARE a couple of my relatives who might just have done such an unscrupulous thing! Now only a couple, you understand. The vast majority of my batty family are too lazy, or too wimpy, or too cowardly, or maybe even to considerate, to ever do such a thing! However, I do have a couple of sneaky and somewhat simple-minded distant cousins, who could have teamed up to pull off such a stunt. Jack LaRose described the bat he saw as having a rather long wing span for a local bat. My third cousin four times removed on my father's side of the family, Bituminous Bat, fits that description exactly. Further, he and my fourth cousin three times removed on my mother's side of the family, Bitty Bitty Billy Bat, often team up together to pull off their nasty schemes. Bitty Bitty Billy has mentioned a time or two about flying into places where he was neither expected nor wanted, and Bituminous has bragged about snooping around where he isn't welcome! I haven't seen either of them around for awhile, but I promise that I'll keep looking until I get to the bottom of this! After all, it doesn't seem right that anyone, including any bat, should intrude in a home where they really aren't very welcome. Besides, it isn't at all safe for the poor bats, because you never know what some people might do to them! Meanwhile, we should all keep an eye open for the sculpture. It really should be around the church somewhere! (And it really shouldn't be flying!!)

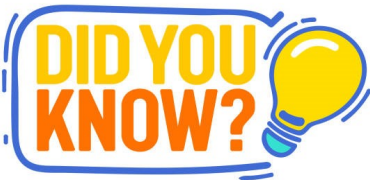
**A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL:**

The Administrative Council last met in June, and the report for that meeting was included in the July newsletter. Our next scheduled meeting will be in September. To date, everything is moving along smoothly, even through the busy June and July months. The discernment group met with Rev. Noggle regarding the SAS program. So far we are still in the discernment stage of the program.

Janet Helmbold Chairperson, Administrative Council

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

1. A woman who was bent over and unable to stand straight was in the crowd around Jesus, who was teaching in the synagogue at the time. Jesus called her over and talked to her, placed His hands on her, and healed her. She immediately stood up straight. The leader of the synagogue was very upset with Jesus. Why?

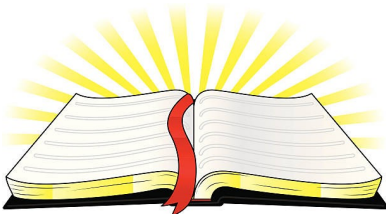


- A. The woman was a Samaritan and should not have been in the synagogue.
- B. The woman was a Samaritan and did not deserve to be healed because she was considered an outsider by the Jews.
- C. Jesus didn't have a license to practice medicine.
- D. Jesus was healing her on a Sabbath, and that was working, which was not allowed on the Sabbath.
- E. Many others were in line to be healed ahead of her, and she was cutting in line.

2. What did Jesus say to the leader of the synagogue?

- A. I'm sorry!
- B. He said that the leader of the synagogue was out of line and should wait his turn to be healed.
- C. He said that the Jewish leaders worked on the Sabbath when they watered their livestock, and if they could do that, He should be able to heal somebody.
- D. He said that God gave Him the right to practice medicine, so He didn't need a license.
- E. He said the woman couldn't afford to go to a doctor, so He was doing her a favor, not working.

The answer to these questions can be found in Luke 13:10-17.



**United Women in Faith News**

Submitted by Char Crosby



A quick note . . . Greetings from United Women in Faith. Even though there is no meeting scheduled for July, we do have some upcoming events we would like you to keep in mind. Our annual UWF picnic will be Tuesday, August 5, here at the church in the fellowship hall at noon. Please bring a dish to pass and maybe even a friend. It's always a fine time of food and fellowship. Don't miss it. Next, mark your calendar for our September 2 meeting which is our Pledge to Mission Service. Be thinking also about traveling to Cheboygan for the District Annual Celebration, October 3-4, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Details will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, enjoy summer with family, friends, travel, projects – or just the peace and tranquil beauty of our beloved Upper Peninsula.

(An update from Char - Thank you for your prayers, friendship, cards calls, visits and kind thoughts. Each is a special blessing. Corrective surgery may be scheduled for October. While I wait – not always patiently – my faith is unshakable and buoyed up by the fellowship of this remarkable congregation and pastor. I'm slowly - emphasis on "slow" - regaining walking skills and hope to show up in church some Sunday. Blessings abundant!)

The next United Women in Faith meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on September 2. All women in the congregation and community are invited to attend.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Education Committee analyzed its Vacation Bible School with an eye to improving it next year. Brandon and Alex Ash 'graduated' from being attendees to being volunteers this year. They were a big help, and younger kids look up to them, members noted.

Breakfast was a planned part of the VBS this year, and it made it easier to work into the activities. In the future, both breakfast and lunch will be offered during VBS.

The science portions were, as always, popular. The youth are interested in even the simplest things. Two things that were tried this year will be dropped. The adult Bible study that was planned to run with the youth activities had no response, and the rides offered through Transit also received no calls. The committee felt the June timing for our VBS is working well. The Cokesbury kits also seem to be working well for committee members and volunteers.

In other business, the committee agreed to postpone Open Mic Night to January or February. Originally planned for August, committee members received no responses to requests sent to performers. They feel summer is just too busy for most people. A winter event, when students are in school and available may work better.

There has been no feedback on the new curriculum for the Youth Sunday School. There were about five sessions geared to teens. It was noted that we need to stay prepared for younger kids, if they are 'drop-ins' to the classes.

Committee members also looked to the future. One suggestion was having our youth join with other youth groups to help with housing projects, such as Habitat for Humanity.

Pastor BJ also plans to hold a membership class in the near future. The class would be open to anyone interested in the United Methodist Church, its history, modern day practices, any questions that come up about the church. He said there are some people interested in joining our church, as well as existing attendees, who would benefit from the class.

The Education Committee is on hiatus until planning begins on next year's VBS. The committee's next meeting will be Oct. 14 at 10 a.m.