



- 5 Connie Meade
- 5 Jack LaRose
- 8 Tom & Phyllis Burge
- 11 Susan Barry
- 20 Phyllis Burge
- 28 Pastor B.J. Ash
- 29 David Hokenson

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: Office Hours T-W 10-2 pm, plus working
remotely M, Th and F, cell 989-289-2799 or
email: office@manistiquemethodist.org
www.manistiquemethodist.org

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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
September 2025

PASTOR'S WORDS

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
As we reflect on the month that has passed, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the fellowship and community we experienced at our church picnic. With around 35 of us gathered under (mostly) clear skies and warm sunshine, it was a beautiful reminder of God's blessings and the strength of our bonds as a congregation. These moments of shared joy and camaraderie are essential to our spiritual life together.

In addition to these fellowship events, we have been diligently working on educating our members about the SAS model. This is an important step for us as a church family, and I am encouraged by the engagement and thoughtful questions from many of you. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has had the opportunity to understand this model fully, so that by next month, we can address any remaining concerns or queries. The Ad Council will then review our progress and determine if it is appropriate to bring this matter to our charge conference meeting in November. I am confident that through open dialogue and prayerful consideration, we will find a path forward that honors God and serves our congregation well.

If you have any questions or concerns about the SAS model, please feel free to contact me. I will do my best to answer any questions and address any concerns that you may have.

Another area where your involvement is crucial is in the financial stewardship of our church. We are currently seeking two volunteers to serve as backup treasurer and backup financial secretary. These roles are vital for ensuring the smooth operation of our church finances, especially if either of the primary roles becomes unavailable for an extended period. If you feel called to serve in this capacity, please let myself or Connie know. Your skills and commitment would be a great blessing to our church.

As we move forward into the coming month, let us continue to support one another in love and prayer. Remember the words of Paul in Ephesians 4:16 (NLT), "He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." May we be a body of believers that grows in unity, love, and service to one another.

Pastor B.J.

A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL:

Last year this church began exploring the SAS (Simplified Accountable Structure) approach to managing the business of the church. A Discernment Team was formed, and we have had a few meetings as a team and with the church congregation to explain and discuss the program. So far we have heard from a few people regarding their questions and concerns about this program, but we would like more input from the congregation as a whole. We would like to bring this item of business up at our Annual Charge Conference scheduled for early November. Before we can do this, however, we will need to address the issue at an Ad. Council meeting. Since Ad. Council now meets quarterly instead of monthly, we should address it in the September meeting.

To deal with it at Ad. Council, we need to hear from the congregation regarding any questions, concerns, thoughts, preferences, opinions, and complaints you may have before our September Ad. Council meeting. After all, this is your church body, we are all in ministry together, and all should have a voice in deciding how to best meet the needs of our church to fulfill our ministry goals!

We have distributed pamphlets about SAS with our church bulletins on Sunday morning. We have also made this information on the SAS program available on Facebook, email and in the newsletters. You are also invited to contact any of the Discernment Team members to learn more about this program. Team members are Janet Helmbold, Connie Kelsey, Pastor B.J. Ash, Penny Tracy, Char Crosby, and James Gaffney.

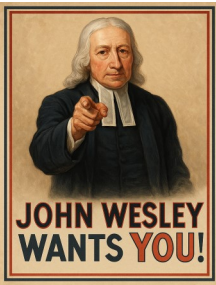
Respectfully Janet Helmbold, Pastor B.J. Ash, and Connie Kelsey

VITALITY COMMITTEE UPDATE by Connie Kelsey

Ron Elrod performed to a welcoming audience on August 17th. Normally he uses his own keyboard but he was so impressed with our Clavinova, he played beautifully on it. Everyone enjoyed the Gospel and a few oldies music. For those who were unable to attend in-person watched it live on our YouTube channel. It is still available there if you missed it.

It was a blessing to have Pastor Ash and Kelly open their home/deck to the congregation for the annual picnic. Thanks Pastor B.J. and Kelly! I heard that everyone enjoyed the fellowship and there was plenty of food. I do not believe anyone left hungry!

The Pie Auction will be held on October 12 at 12:30 PM. All types of pies or desserts will be welcome! If you would like to donate a pie please let Connie know. Our next meeting will be Sept. 18 at 10 AM..



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION BREAKDOWN—JULY 2025

GENERAL FUND	\$6,777.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,365.00
BUILDING FUND	\$180.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
NOISY OFFERING (SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW)	\$339.00
JONELL RUBICK MEMORIAL	\$140.00
FOLKFEST PASTIES	\$2,500.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JULY 2025	\$11,351.00
<hr/>	
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS JULY 2025	\$62,731.47
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS JULY 2024	\$63,295.00
DIFFERENCE	-\$563.53



First United Methodist Church

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

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 United Women in Faith 1PM	3	4 Worship Meeting 10 AM	5 Connie Meade Jack LaRose	6
7 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	8 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Tom & Phyllis Burge	9 Trustee Meeting 10 AM	10 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	11 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM Susan Barry	12 Ad. Council Meeting 10 AM	13
14 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	15 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	16 SPPRC Meeting 10 AM	17	18 Vitality Meeting 10 AM	19	20 Phyllis Burge
21 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	22 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	23	24	25	26	27
28 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Pastor B.J. Ash	29 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM David Hokenson	Mission Noisy Offering — Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Shoebox Operation Christmas Child This noisy offering provides Christmas shoeboxes to needy children throughout the world! God is working through our giving, all donations are welcome!				

Prayer Chain

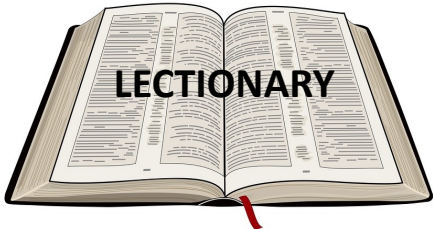
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community. These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor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



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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 **September 23, 2025** deadline.

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

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

Thank you for your support!

- September 7** — *13th Sunday After Pentecost*
Jer 18:1-11; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854); Philem 1:17-27; Luke 14:25-33
- September 14** — *14th Sunday After Pentecost*
Jer 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps 14 (UMH 746); 1 Tim 1:12-17; Luke 15: 1-10
- September 21** — *15th Sunday After Pentecost*
Jer 8:8-9:1; Ps 79:1-9 or Ps 4 (UMH 741); 1 Tim 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
- September 28** — *16th Sunday After Pentecost*
Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps 91:1-6, 14-16 (UMH 810); 1 Tim 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



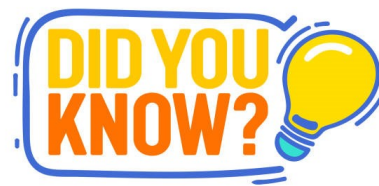
FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Ken & Cyndi Burgin, Mary Prater, Char Crosby, Carol Weinert, Penny Tracy, Jean Smith, Curt & Celie Norton, Barbara Schneider, Ted & Louise Burson, Lynn LaRose, Katie Putnam, Joel Prater, family of Jo Nell Rubick,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



A View From the Belfry September 2025

Howdy from the belfry! I don't believe it, and from what I hear, many of you people types don't believe it either! Although we had some hot, muggy, uncomfortable days in July and August, more recently we've had a few which makes everybody think there's a hint of autumn in the air!! How could this be? Didn't we just celebrate Independence Day? I'm sure we did, yet Labor Day is just around the corner, school's about to start, kids are already preparing for football season, and the sun is setting earlier and earlier...that means fall's about here, all right! I remember when I was just a little bat, summer lasted for an eternity! Now it's done almost before it begins! At least we're going to say good-bye to summer with a treat! By the time you read this we will have had the annual "roast the reverend" picnic out by the lake at the Ash house! As I understand it everybody is welcome (well, I guess bats not so much, unfortunately, according to the C.O.L. [crabby old lady] who thinks she runs everything evidently). Huh??? (Sorry for the interruption, but that C.O.L. claims that we aren't going to roast the reverend after all. Well, I never said we were! I just thought we should have a formal name for such a grand affair, but obviously the C.O.L. doesn't like what I came up with. Huh again? Oh for Pete's sake! Now she says I can't end a sentence with a preposition! What's a preposition, anyway? Good grief!) Anyway, now that I'm finishing this article after we had the picnic (which was great, by the way!) I was saying bring a dish to pass, a chair to sit on, and come and have a great time! Since the picnic is now behind us, people already did that and it worked out really well! After that, the calendar says there will be some church meetings within a few weeks, including an Ad. Council meeting at which the SAS plan for church administration is scheduled to be discussed and maybe voted upon. Hopefully you'll hear more about this before the meeting date.

You've heard about the beautiful sculpture of a bat which resides in the church, or at least by now you should have heard, since I've mentioned it a lot in this column. Well, nobody except for Connie Kelsey ever seems to find it, and I haven't seen anybody looking for it since forever. Is it possible that none of you are really fond of bat sculptures? I can't really believe that, but stranger things have happened. Anyway, I've decided, and Connie seemed to readily agree with me, that maybe it's time to put the bat sculpture away. Oh, I'll get it out for Halloween and our Trunk or Treat celebration, so any of you who will sorely miss it can have a chance to come and enjoy its beauty, but I think we'll just lay the "find the bat" contest to rest, at least for awhile. Now, if that is very disappointing for any of you, just tell Connie or the C.O.L. and we'll be happy to reconsider. Considering that some of our church members are dealing with bats in their homes, and one of our church people was once bitten by a bat hiding in a potted plant (not any of MY family, honest!), it may be that some of you are feeling a little over exposed to bats, kind of like feeling over exposed to telemarketers and telebeggars and telescammers and telepests in general. If so, you can relax; at least the bat sculpture will give you all a break, at least until Halloween! (Now if we could just get rid of all those telepests...)



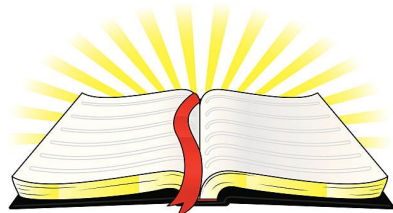
1. Paul wrote a letter to Philemon, telling him that Onesimus, Philemon's slave, was with him and that Paul was returning Onesimus to Philemon. What did he ask Philemon to do?

- A. Send Onesimus back to Paul to assist him while Paul was in prison.
- B. Welcome him with open arms as a brother, and not as a slave.
- C. Scold him soundly for running away and threaten to whip him if he ever does something like that again.
- D. Sell him to somebody else.
- E. Make him work twice as hard as he had before running away.

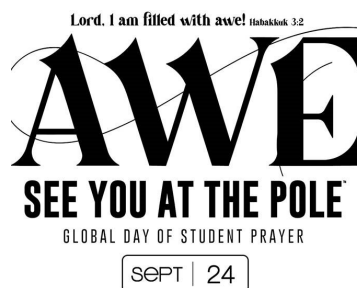
2. What did Paul say he would do for Philemon?

- A. Take Onesimus off his hands so he wouldn't have to deal with an unruly and disobedient runaway slave.
- B. Keep Onesimus for his own and relieve Philemon of the burden of dealing with an untrustworthy slave.
- C. Nothing, because he had already done enough when he returned Onesimus to him as a forgiven Christian.
- D. Promise Philemon to repay any debts Onesimus owed him.
- E. He reminded Philemon that Onesimus was now a more trustworthy slave than he had been, so Paul didn't owe him anything.

The answer to these questions can be found in the book of Philemon.



Students in Manistique to Join Global Day of Prayer at "See You at the Pole™" 2025



Manistique students will join millions of others worldwide on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, for the annual See You at the Pole™ (SYATP) day of prayer. This year's theme, "AWE" (from Habakkuk 3:2), emphasizes a call for revival and renewed faith through student-led prayer.

In Manistique, all middle and high school students are invited to gather at 7:30 a.m. around the flagpole at Manistique Middle & High School. Following the prayer time, students from St. Francis de Sales School may walk together to their building. There will be hot beverages and a break-

fast snack available for participants.

See You at the Pole™ is more than one day of prayer. As part of the Global Week of Student Prayer, September 21–27, students are encouraged to find new and unique ways to pray at their schools, in small groups, or within their communities. On September 24, students across every time zone will lift prayers for their schools, friends, families, churches, and communities—covering the globe in prayer for 24 hours.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of See You at the Pole™, a student-initiated, student-led movement that began in 1990 in Bursleson, Texas. Since then, it has grown into a worldwide event that unites students in intercession for their leaders, campuses, and nations, asking God to bring moral and spiritual awakening.

For more information about the Manistique event or to get involved, please contact Jill Connin at 906-286-3327.

United Women in Faith News

Submitted by Connie Kelsey



United
Women
in Faith

Hello everyone! It has been a warm summer filled with many blessings!

The United Women in Faith held their annual picnic on August 5 at noon. Kelly Ash was the guest speaker and boy did she tug on our heartstrings as she shared about her life journey. She did an excellent job, thank you Kelly! Everyone brought a delicious dish to provide a wide variety of food for the picnic. Lynn provided a heartfelt recognition of our long-time friend, JoNell Rubick, who passed away earlier this year. JoNell's daughter, Becky Frasch, was very moved to receive a pin and the Person of Recognition certificate in JoNell's honor. What a joy divine to have fellowship like this!



Pasties will be made on September 10 and 11. Seven batches will be made between the two days. If you are interested in making pasties, please join us in the church kitchen at 7:30 AM. There are many different jobs so everyone could find a useful task.

Our next meeting will be held on September 2nd at 1 PM. There will be our Pledge to Mission section included in this meeting.



Put on your "thinking caps" as the United Women in Faith Women's Sunday Service plans need to be starting soon. The UWF Sunday service will be held November 9th.

All women are invited to attend the local United Women in Faith meetings. They are normally held on the first Tuesday of every month. We hope to see you there.

Note from the Worship Committee:

Our next meeting will be held on September 4 at 1 PM. If you have any suggestions for our worship services please let me know. Anyone who is interested in becoming a liturgist for our Sunday services please let Connie know.

Submitted by Candace Haskell

