



- 6 Alex Ash
- 7 Celie Norton
- 8 Pixie Livingston
- 16 Jean Smith
- 17 Lisa Jones
- 22 Bette Jahn
- 29 Rita Salter

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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Manistique First UMC where you see the
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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
November 2025

PASTOR'S
WORDS

As we step into the cold gales of November, I am grateful for the many ways our church family gathers to worship, learn, and serve. This month brings a special mix of remembrance, renewal, and anticipation: All Saints Sunday, United Women in Faith Sunday, an ecumenical Thanksgiving service, and Advent's first step that invites us all into a shared celebration of God's provision.

We begin the month by honoring every believer who has walked with Christ—past, present, and those who have gone on to perfection. We lift up our prayers for the fallen, pray for those still struggling, and celebrate the living faith that unites us all.

On UWF Sunday, the women of our congregation will lead the entire service. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear their gifts in action—preaching, singing, and serving with joy. We invite everyone to come and support them, and to reflect on how we can each step forward together as a united body of faith.

We are delighted to host the ecumenical Thanksgiving service in our sanctuary this year on Nov. 25th at 6 PM. Local churches from across denominations will join us for a shared worship of gratitude, followed by a pie fellowship—please bring your favorite pie to share! It's a chance to build bridges with neighbors and to celebrate the bounty that God has poured into our lives.

PASTOR'S
WORDS

With the first Advent candle lit, we turn our hearts toward the promise of God’s presence and consider how the quiet anticipation of Bethlehem speaks to our own moments of waiting.

We continue to deepen our understanding of the SAS (Simple Accountable Structure) model. The discernment team is working to answer questions, concerns, and hopes from all members so we can present a well-informed recommendation to the Ad Council.

I will be out of the office from November 13 through Thanksgiving. During this time, please direct any urgent pastoral care matters to Connie or Janet.

May the grace that has brought us this far continue to guide our steps as we honor saints passed, celebrate women’s faith, anticipate Advent, share thanksgiving, and discern the path ahead together.

Pastor B.J.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION	
CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN—SEPTEMBER 2025	
GENERAL FUND	\$5,346.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$990.00
BUILDING FUND	\$360.00
NOISY OFFERING (Operation Christmas Child)	\$358.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025	\$7,054.00

YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS SEPTEMBER 2025	\$80,811.47
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS SEPTEMBER 2024	\$84,149.00
DIFFERENCE	\$3,337.53



First United Methodist Church

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

November 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Mission Noisy Offering — Christmas Adopt a Family Box These box is given to a local family to provide a nutritious meal and basic needs for the Christmas season. God is working through our giving, all donations are welcome!						1 All Saints’ Day
2 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Charge Confer- ence 2 PM Glad- stone UMC	3 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	4 Trustees 10 AM United Women in Faith 1PM	5	6 Worship 10 AM Education 11AM Alex Ash	7 Pastor B.J. out of the office Celie Norton	8 Pixie Livingston
9 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	10 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	11	12 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM Assemble Christ- mas Shoeboxes	13 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM Pastor B.J. out of the office	14	15
16 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM UWF Sunday Worship 11 AM Jean Smith	17 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Lisa Jones	18 Pastor B.J. out of the office November 13 through November 25	19	20	21	22 Bette Jahn
23 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Pastor B.J. out of the office	24 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	25 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service FUMC 6 pm	26	27 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving	28	29 Rita Salter
30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM						

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.

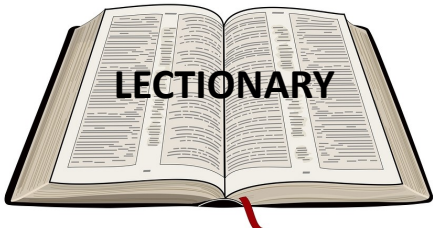
These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor B.J. Ash at 906-341-6662 (church) or 906-286-1492 (Pastor B.J. cell). You may also call Carol Weinert at 906-341-4499.



Visit www.facebook.com 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 **November 24, 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!

- November 2** — *21st Sunday After Pentecost; All Saints Sunday*
Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Ps 119:137-144; 2 Thes 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
- November 9** — *22nd Sunday After Pentecost; Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday*
Hab 1:15b-2:9; Ps 145:1-5,17-21; 2 Thes 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
- November 16** — *23rd Sunday After Pentecost*
Isa 65:17-25; Isa 12; 2 Thes 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
- November 23** — *Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday; Thanksgiving Sunday*
Jer 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Col 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
- November 30** — *1st Sunday of Advent; UM Student Day; Beginning Lectionary Year A*
Isa 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44



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

Cyndi Burgin, Mary Prater, Char Crosby, Carol Weinert, Penny Tracy, Ken Burgin, Jean Smith, Curt & Celie Norton, Barbara Schneider, Ted & Louise Burson, Lynn LaRose, Katie Putnam, Joel Prater, Phyllis Burge, Martha Weeks, Kerry Billings family concerns, Connie Meade, 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 November 2025

Happy felicitations from the vestibular rudiments of a belfry, the abode of Benny, your resident Chiroptera! (I am trying to improve my vobula...my cabulev...the words I use!! I'm trying to learn some long hi-falutin' ones!) By the time you get this, Halloween will have come and gone, sad to say. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves, dressed up in your best batty costumes, ate enough candy to satiate (another fancy word!) yourselves until Thanksgiving comes around, and are now preparing yourselves for turkey time! October was a busy month, and November promises to be the same. We just had our ZOOM meeting near the end of October, and are heading into November with the church conference, to be held November 2, 2025 at 2 pm at the Gladstone Memorial United Methodist Church. (I'm pretty sure that church must be in Gladstone, right?" I guess that you'll be voting on a bunch of issues there, like whether or not to pay the staff, and if so, how much to pay the staff, and a lot of other important things. (I hope that somebody has proposed stocking one of your freezers with frozen mosquitoes so this nonhibernating bat will have enough to eat during the hunger-time winter months when mosquitoes have all migrated to a swamp in Florida or somewhere). It's my understanding (not that I really understand much about such things) that all of the church members can vote on these issues, but of course you'd have to go to the meeting. I think you can all do that, too. Judging from the 10,000 or so forms people had to fill out to prepare for this meeting, you apparently are going to cover a lot of business! Not to worry, however, because even if you filled out 10,000 forms, it won't take an hour for each form to be considered. In fact, it may not take even an hour for all the business to be conducted! (That will depend, of course, on whether the *C.O.L. is given a chance to talk. That woman can go on for hours and say nothing important at all!)

In addition to the church conference, I guess all the normal November activities will be in full swing. Pastor B.J. will be at hunting camp, valiantly attempting to provide meat for his family for the coming year. This means that your certified lay servants will have an opportunity to try out the amplification system in the sanctuary again as they deliver inspiring messages on the days Pastor B.J. will be away in the woods. The pasty crew will also be hard at it, supplying pasties for all the hunters in the U.P. forests. As I am writing this, it is still October and they already have orders for a whole lot of pasties, and they'll probably have more coming in! In November we also have all the usual activities, plus the Thanksgiving dinner which the church sponsors at the Big Boy Restaurant, the ecumenical Thanksgiving service sponsored by the Manistique Ministerial Association, the Adopt-a-Family program in which food and money are donated for a Thanksgiving Day dinner for some families who would otherwise have to go without, plus you will be working on the Christmas boxes for Samaritan's Purse. Help with the boxes is always welcome! See Bette Jahn, Mary Whinnen or Connie Kelsey for more information about how you can help. Also, this might be a good time to plan to visit some of the shut-ins. Hopefully the information you need will be posted somewhere by the time you get this newsletter. That *C.O.L. should have had everything done by now and posted somewhere, but who know??!! She's slower than molasses in January at getting things done these days, and it isn't even January yet! Well, it figures. She's about 114 years old or something, and I guess she's slowing down with age (not that she was ever very speedy). Anyway, I hope you enjoyed Halloween, and that you will enjoy Thanksgiving and the days leading up to it as well!

(*C.O.L.: crabby old lady.)

A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Our last regular Administrative Council meeting was held in September. However, along with the Trustees, Staff-Parish Committee, and Finance Committee, the Administrative Council has been busily preparing for the upcoming Church Council meeting with the District Superintendent. All of the relevant and required forms have been completed and submitted which are necessary to complete some of the important business of the church, such as setting the budget for the coming year, determining the goals toward which the church will be working, and the like. All registered members of the church are allowed to attend. The meeting will be held on November 2, 2025, in Gladstone. (See that annoying bat’s column for further information. As always, he’s overstepping his bounds by making announcements which others should be making!)

Respectfully submitted, Janet Helmbold

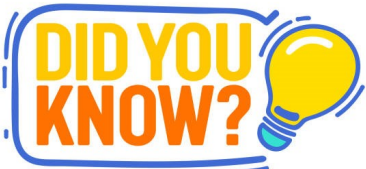
VITALITY COMMITTEE UPDATE... by Connie Kelsey

Fall has been full of activities. On September 28th, a potluck fellowship was held to celebrate Pastor B.J. Not only was it his birthday, but he has completed his course of study for being our local pastor. Congratulations, Pastor B.J.! We also participated in the Ecumenical Progressive Dinner. There were 91 visitors, including the servers. Trunk or Treat will be held on Oct. 31, we hope to have a lot of visitors as we have lots of goodies to give away! November brings Festival of Lessons & Carols community choir practices every Sunday from 1-2 pm at the Presbyterian Church here in Manistique. Pastor B.J. will be out of the office from Nov. 13-25. He will be back for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service which will be held on Nov. 25 at 6 pm. The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27. The advent season starts on Nov. 30. If you would like to sign up for an Advent candle lighting reading, see Connie. A sign up sheet will be in the conference room soon.



1. When John the Baptist was preaching in the wilderness, he was described as eating locusts and wild honey. What kind of locusts did he eat?

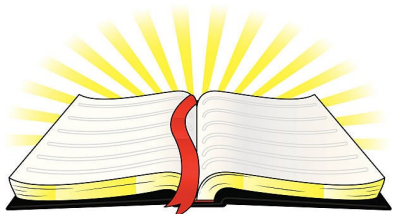
- A. An insect like a grasshopper with short antennae.
- B. Parts of a tree with white flowers, thorny branches, and durable wood.
- C. The sweet pods of the honey locust tree.
- D. The fruit of the carob tree.
- E. All of the above.
- F. None of the above.
- G. The Bible doesn’t say which kind.



2. What did John the Baptist wear?

- A. Clothing made of linen, with a leather belt.
- B. Clothing made of rabbit fur and a leather belt.
- C. Woolen clothing.
- D. A fine tuxedo
- E. Clothing made of camel’s hair and a short leather belt.
- F. Clothing made of camel’s hair.

The answers to these questions can be found in Matthew 3:1-12.



United Women in Faith News

Submitted by Candace Haskell



United Women in Faith

As part of our ongoing “Women of Faith Through the Ages”, Ruth chose Pondita Ramabai, a Hindu woman of faith.

Discussion of the UWF Sunday program took place and we finalized the music selections. November 4th is the next and final meeting of the year. Please attend so we can put the finishing touches on that program and make the Christmas Tea plans.

Also we will choose the missions we will support with the 2025 UWF funds.

New officers have been selected: President Candace Haskell, Vice President Connie Kelsey, Secretary Carolyn Williams, Treasurer Linda Moon. They will begin January 2026.

If you were unable to attend the October meeting which was “World Thank Offering” day. Boxes are available, please ask one of the officers.

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.

Many thanks for the prayers, cards and well-wishes from the congregation during my recent surgery. It is so comforting to know that the Lord has put me in such a caring church family.

Carol Weinert

BE SURE TO PICK UP THE NEW NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EDITION OF THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL! REGULAR AND LARGE PRINT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE WALL BOOKSHELF BY THE STAIRWAY AND LIFT.

Lynn LaRose will be stepping down as our church hostess after many years. Thank you Lynn for all of your guidance and devotion to this very important position, “the face of the church if you will.” You have held us together and kept everything running smoothly with grace and love in at times a challenging position. Through Progressive Dinners, UWF programs, funeral luncheons you kept us all on track and kept track of it all for future reference. There are not enough words to thank you!



Submitted by Candace Haskell

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO SIGN-UP for USHER/GREETER, ALTAR FLOWERS, FELLOWSHIP, and an adult’s caring eye during CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

We realize that everyone is busy with their fall plans and busy schedules. Everyone enjoys the beauty of the Altar flowers, the pleasant greeters and the delicious treats during fellowship. Your talents are appreciated by all.

If you would volunteer to assist in any of these areas it would be appreciated! Maybe a friend would like to work with you.