



14 Char Crosby
28 Ron & Ruth Annelin

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
December 2025

PASTOR'S
WORDS

As we approach December, our hearts turn toward the blessed hope of Advent: the anticipation of Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ. This year we are reminded of the prophecies and promises that point to the coming of our Savior in this season of hope and preparation.

Advent is a time of waiting and watching, much like the people of Israel who awaited the Messiah. In this season, we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ and reflect on His second coming. Our scripture readings during this season will guide us through these themes:

November 30: First Sunday of Advent – Hope
Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

We begin with a call to vigilance and hope as we await Christ's return.
December 7: Second Sunday of Advent – Peace
Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12
John the Baptist proclaims a message of repentance and peace, preparing the way for Jesus.

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent – Joy
Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11
We rejoice in the coming of Christ, who brings healing and restoration.
December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love
Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

The love of God is revealed in the birth of Jesus, who saves His people from their sins.

PASTOR'S WORDS

The love of God is revealed in the birth of Jesus, who saves His people from their sins.

Join us each Sunday during worship as we light the Advent candles and prepare our hearts for Christmas. On December 24th, we will celebrate Christmas Eve with a special service of readings, carols, and candlelight at 7:00 PM.

Let us also remember those in need during this season. Our local food pantries are collecting donations to support their food distributions that continue throughout the year. Please remember to donate to them and help us spread the love of Christ to our community.

As we journey through Advent, let us hold fast to the hope that is in us—the hope of a world renewed by the love of God made flesh. May this season bring you peace, joy, and a deeper understanding of God's enduring love for each of us.

Pastor B.J.

A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL:

The Administrative Council has not met since the Annual charge Conference in October. To date everything is going well. The next Ad Council meeting will be on January 13, 2026 at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Helmbold

VITALITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our church hosted the Manistique Ministerial Association Thanksgiving service on November 25 at 7 pm. There were 80 people in attendance. Thank you to everyone who brought in and served pies. Thank you to Candace, Cyndi, and Jean for your help in this service. It was a lovely service!

A Christmas program will be held on December 7th during the youth time of the church service.

Submitted by Connie Kelsey

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION BREAKDOWN—OCTOBER 2025	
GENERAL FUND	\$6,409.96
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,440.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
NOISY OFFERING (Four Thanksgiving Boxes)	\$95.00
PIE AUCTION	\$1,225.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OCTOBER 2025	\$9,219.96




YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS OCTOBER 2025	\$90,031.43
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS OCTOBER 2024	\$93,003.00
DIFFERENCE	-\$2,971.57



First United Methodist Church

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

December 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 United Women in Faith 12 PM Christmas Tea
7 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	8 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	9	10	11	12	13 Bell Jingling at TSC
14 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Char Crosby 	15 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	16	17	18	19	20
21 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	22 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	23	24	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27
28 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Ron & Ruth Annelin 	29 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	30 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service FUMC	31 New Year’s Day Office Closed	<div>December Mission Noisy Offering — God’s Country Community Ministry</div> <p>GCCM is in the eastern part of the U.P.; it covers a 2500 square mile area. Communities of faith combine their resources, share their faith and, through their active presence, work to bring self-esteem, hope and faith to all God’s children throughout their vast parish. Drop your donation in glass jar as you enter or as you exit the sanctuary!</p>		

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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.

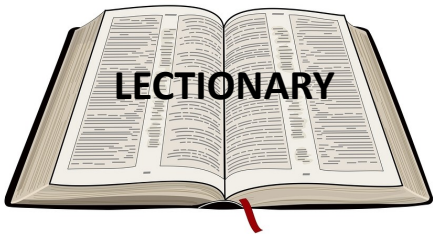
These prayer requests may be called in to Pastor B.J. Ash at 906-341-6662 (church) or 906-286-1492 (Pastor B.J. cell). You may also call Carol Weinert at 906-341-4499.



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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 **December 22 , 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!

- December 7** — *2nd Sunday of Advent*
Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12
- December 14** — *3rd Sunday of Advent*
Isa 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11
- December 21** — *4th Sunday of Advent*
Isa 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25
- December 24** — *Christmas Eve*
Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
- December 25** — *Christmas Day*
Isa 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-4,(5-12); John 1:1-14
- December 28** — *1st Sunday After Christmas Day*
Isa 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23

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

Char Crosby, Ken & Cyndi Burgin, Mary Prater, 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 Whitsitt, 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 December 2025

Oh, my!!! I don't believe it! By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over! Wasn't it just a few days ago that we celebrated Halloween? And wasn't it just a week or so ago that the sun was still bright at 9:00 o'clock in the evening? Now it looks like midnight by 6:00 pm! Well, I guess between days getting shorter by the day and having turned the clocks back already, it's going to be Christmas before you know it! With Christmas the shorter days get even busier! You've had the ecumenical Thanksgiving church service, along with a little pie to enjoy. No mosquito pie again, but then it can be hard to find good fresh, juicy mosquitoes this time of year, and those are the best kinds for baking pies. Well, maybe next year...

So what are all of you busy Methodists up to for December? Well, you already supported another Thanksgiving dinner at the Big Boy, with a lot of help from the wonderful staff there. You've also packed a few dozen shoe boxes full of gifts for kids around the world who wouldn't have any Christmas gifts if it weren't for these presents. Thanks to Bette Jahn and Mary Whinnen for all their hard work in folding boxes, shopping for gifts, and packing the boxes. You make Santa's elves look almost lazy by comparison! In addition, you'll probably have decorated the church by the time you read this, and I know from past years that you always do a bang-up job making the church ready for Christmas inside and out! This year you are doing it on a Saturday rather than during a church service! From what I understand, years ago you did decorate on Saturday, so it sounds as if you are remembering the past and trying to honor it!

Also this time of year, the United Women in Faith will be having their Christmas tea (on December 6), and the Manistique Ministerial association will be holding the Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 7. There will be a community choir and a community bell choir providing music at the Festival, with some of you Methodists participating in both of these musical groups. Of course Rev. B.J. will be participating also in his role as the minister of this church. Bette Jahn and Mary Whinnen will continue in their roles as Mrs. Klaus by filling the Adopt-a-Family box and making sure it goes to the right chimney on Christmas Eve. A special thanks to all the generous people here who have contributed throughout the year by donating funds, giving to the noisy offering jar in church, and providing whatever they can to make lives a little brighter and times a little sweeter than they might be otherwise for some of our families who struggle a bit. In addition to all of this, people are also helping in other ways, such as participating in lighting the advent candles during the church services, and also by doing what they always do, such as ushering, greeting those coming to church, changing the paraments and banners in the sanctuary, preparing and serving refreshments during social time after church each Sunday, contributing funds to support the work of the church, visiting those who cannot get to church or bringing those who can come but need rides to get here, praying for those with special needs, praying to give thanks for all we receive from God, providing music and making sure the slides are shown on the screen during church services, working with our youth in Sunday School, attending the adult Sunday School class, making the bulletins and newsletters, and doing all those things which are sometimes taken for granted but which contribute so much to this church and congregation. All I can say is, YOU PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIC, EACH AND EVERY ONE! Have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas, and take some time from your busy schedules to sit down, relax, look at the beautiful Christmas decorations, and give thanks to God for the best gift of all, His Son!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

It was a short agenda, but a lot was accomplished at the Education Committee’s first meeting of the season on Nov. 6.

Penny, joining the meeting on speaker phone, stressed we need to focus on getting more young people into the church. Janet noted that we get a few youth during movie nights, but that doesn’t bring them into the church. The possibility of offering programs, such as service projects, to get young people interested and involved was discussed. But it was pointed out that adults would have to help out with that. Pastor BJ said that if we’re looking for programs that will hold youth, we don’t have staff for that. Penny said we need to be in earnest prayer concerning this.

Open Mic Night was set for Feb. 7. It will combine music and a Coffee Klatch to bring the community together. The evening will be open to all ages, and it’s hoped it will attract a variety of performances from music to readings or other local talent. Carol will be reaching out to people to see if there’s interest in participating. Performers will be asked to do a short, 10-15 skit, songs, dance, demonstration or reading.

Connie noted that the new material for the Youth Sunday School has arrived, but she hasn’t had a chance to go over it yet. She said the classes may require some materials that we have to obtain.

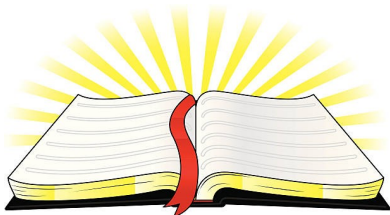
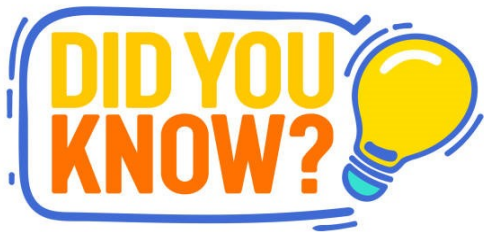
Planning for Vacation Bible School has started with the committee choosing Cokesbury’s Snowball Mountain Challenge as 2026 VBS theme. The school will feature winter sports events with Ollie the Arctic Seal and the Bible verse, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

The Education Committee’s next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Submitted by Carol Hollenbeck

- 1. What does the term Advent mean?
 - A. A coming into place; an arrival.
 - B. Not native to the area.
 - C. Before Christmas.
 - D. A term used to describe creating something which is original and has never been created before.
 - E. A period of over-indulgence in cookies and candy.
- 2. How long does the season called Advent last?
 - A. From Halloween through New Year’s Day.
 - B. From Halloween through December 25.
 - C. For the four Sundays before Christmas through Christmas Eve.
 - D. For as long as the big box stores can make it last.
 - E. Too long, or not long enough, depending on your perspective.

For answers to these questions consult your Advent calendar, your dictionary, and/or Benny the Bat.



United Women in Faith News

Submitted by Candace Haskell



United Women in Faith

November was the last business meeting for United Women in Faith. This year we voted to disburse \$4,000 to the following:

Good Neighbors Food Pantry	\$1,500	St. Vincent’s Food Pantry	\$1,500
UMCOR	\$500	UWF Legacy Fund	\$500

We are fortunate to be able to do this because of the generous committed group of people who give their time to help with our pasty mission. You are an amazing, hard working, devoted group and we want to thank you all! It was predicted the number of batches of pasties made in November would be 10. Well, that turned into 13 batches, more than we make for Folkfest.

December brings our Christmas Tea on December 6 at 12 pm (noon). If you haven’t committed already to decorate a table please do so. We will decorate 8 tables. Those of you wanting to be part of the cookie exchange, please bring 3 dozen cookies. If you could bring a canned good item to be donated to a local food pantry. This year’s theme is “The Christmas Story.” Feel free to invite a friend or family member,

Reading certificates were awarded to: Ruth, Janet, Carolyn, and Connie. Please turn in your 2025 book reading lists to Connie by December 10, if possible. She will need to submit them to the district mid-December.

TRUSTEE UPDATE

The trustees have put the work in the kitchen countertop on hold until after January 1st, when more information will be know. Thank you all for your patience in this process!

Gordie Barry, Chairperson

SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you for signing up for Usher/Greeters, Liturgists, Altar Flowers, Fellowship, Children’s Sunday School, and Special Service helpers. Special service volunteers would be appreciated to be part of this years youth Christmas program.

As always any comments, concerns or ideas of ways to enhance our worship experience are appreciated.

Submitted by Candace

ADVENT READERS

are still needed for December 7, and the Christmas Eve service.
If anyone would like to sign up to be the liturgist on Christmas Eve service, please sign up in the office.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for USHER/ GREETER, ALTAR FLOWERS, FELLOWSHIP, and an adult’s caring eye during CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL.

BELL JINGLERS are still needed for Dec. 13th at the Tractor Supply Company.