



- 5 Connie Meade
- 5 Jack La Rose
- 8 Tom & Phyllis Burge
- 11 Susan Barry
- 11 KayLynn Johnson
- 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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Fund Transfer Authorization form.



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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
September 2026

PASTOR'S
WORDS

It is good to be back! After a wonderful family vacation to Italy, I am grateful to return home and to the life and ministry we share together as a congregation. One of the great joys of our trip was visiting our first exchange student and his family. What began years ago as welcoming a young person into our home has grown into a lasting relationship that stretches across an ocean. It was a beautiful reminder that hospitality has a way of creating connections that endure long after the original visit has ended.

Now, as one season of travel concludes, another season of learning begins. It is back-to-school time for students, teachers, administrators, staff, and families throughout our community. Whether there is excitement about a new year, anxiety about what lies ahead, or perhaps a little of both, this season reminds us that all of life involves learning and growing.

Our family is experiencing another new beginning as well. We are delighted to welcome our next exchange student, who has come to us from Brazil. Once again, we have the privilege of learning about another culture, seeing the world through someone else's eyes, and extending the gift of hospitality. Experiences like these remind me how rich our lives become when we make room for one another.

That same spirit of learning is at the heart of our current sermon series, "Lessons in Leadership." Together, we are exploring several realities that every leader—and really every follower of Jesus—must learn to navigate: Power, Acceptance, Conflict, and Grace.

Power raises the question of how we use the influence and responsibility entrusted to us. Acceptance challenges us to consider how we welcome and value people, especially those whose experiences or perspectives differ from our own. Conflict is an unavoidable part of relationships and community, but our faith can teach us how to face disagreement without allowing it to destroy fellowship. And grace reminds us that Christian leadership is never simply about being right, strong, or successful. It is about reflecting the mercy and love that God has first shown to us.

PASTOR'S WORDS These lessons are not limited to people with titles or positions. We all exercise leadership somewhere—in our homes, workplaces, schools, friendships, church, and community. Every day we have opportunities to influence others through our words, choices, attitudes, and actions.

May we remain curious enough to learn, humble enough to listen, courageous enough to face conflict, generous enough to welcome others, and faithful enough to use whatever power we possess in the service of love. And above all, may we be people of grace.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL REPORT:

Also please submit committee reports to Connie by Oct 12 so they can be given to the Ad Council members prior the Ad Council meeting on October 20 at 10 AM.



**Join us for a
Pie Auction on
September 20 at 1 PM!**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION BREAKDOWN—JULY 2026

GENERAL FUND	\$7,424.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,365.00
FOLKFEST PASTY SALES	\$2,639.00
NOISY OFFERING (SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW)	\$516.00
TED BURSON MEMORIAL	\$565.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JULY 2026	\$12,509.00
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS JULY 2026	\$64,041.32
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS JULY 2025	\$62,371.47
DIFFERENCE	\$1,669.85



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

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Join us at the National Back To Church Sunday September 20 at 11 AM A Pie Auction will be following this fellowship service at 1 PM!		1 Trustees Comm 10 AM UWF 1 PM	2	3 S/PPRC Comm 10 AM	4	5 Connie Meade Jack La Rose
6 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	7 Labor Day Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	8 Tom & Phyllis Burge	9 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10—1 PM	10 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10—1 PM	11 Susan Barry KayLynn Johnson	12 Charge Conference 10 AM Gladstone Memorial UMC
13 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	14 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	15 Worship Committee 10 AM	16	17 Vitality Committee 10 AM	18	19
20 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Pie Auction 1 PM Phyllis Burge	21 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	22	23	24	25	26
27 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	28 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Pastor B.J. Ash	29 David Hokenson	30			

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

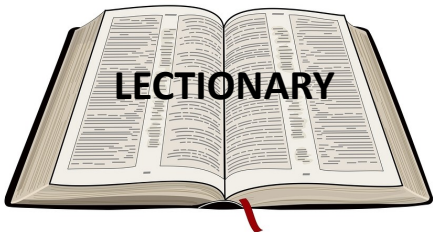
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

These prayer requests may be called in to Carol Weinert at 906-341-4499 or Pastor B.J. Ash at 906-341-6662 (church) or 906-286-1492 (Pastor B.J. cell). You may also call Connie Kelsey at 989-289-2799.



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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 24, 2026** 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!

Sept 6 — 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exo 12:1-14; Ps 149 or 148; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

Sept 13 — 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exo 14:19-31 & Ps 114; Exo 15:1b-11, 20-21; Rom 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

Sept 20 — 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exo 16:2-25; Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 or Ps 78; Acts 1:14-21, 33-35; Matt 20:1-16

Sept 27 — 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exo 17:1-7; Ps 78:1-4, 12-16; Acts 3:1-19; Matt 21:23-32



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers:
Mary Prater and family, Ken & Cyndi Burgin, Gordie and Susan Barry, Katie Putnam, Martha Weeks, Louise Burson, Ron Williams, Char Crosby, Carol Weinert, Phyllis Burge, Penny Tracy & family concerns, Jean Smith, Curt & Celie Norton, Barbara Schneider, Lynn LaRose, Kerry Billings family concerns, Connie Meade, Betty Tracy, Jesse Baker, Michael & Kathleen Haynes family concerns, Sandi Kolder, the leaders in our church, our community, our country, the world, our unspoken requests, and our joyous blessings and concerns.

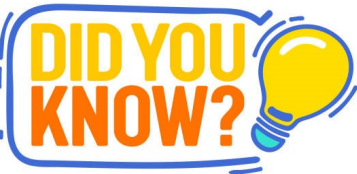


A View From the Belfry September 2026

Greetings from the belfry! I don't understand it! You Methodists have been super busy all summer long, and by now the summer is supposed to be winding down, but you're all still at it! Don't you ever quit??! Well, probably not, since you seem to be having a lot of fun! It seems that you'll continue to have fun, with things like the auto show on Labor Day weekend for the whole community, and better yet, the church picnic at the Ash residence on Indian Lake coming up the last weekend in August! Also, school will be starting soon, and pumpkins will be ripening, and you all know what that means, right?? Huh? Yes I know its almost two months until Halloween! (Crabby Old Lady again; sorry!) Sheesh! I was just thinking a little reminder of big things to come would be appropriate, right? Well, there are things coming before that, like the annual Charge Conference, where you make big decisions, like how much to spend on what, and what goals you should try to reach, and who can fill out the most forms for the conference...what? (C.O.L. again) Well, they do have a lot of forms! Pages and pages of them!! OK, so maybe they're important, but sometimes it seems as if you people are using up a lot of trees to make the paper to use in the forms! Actually, it really is important to plan ahead and set goals to be reached, and find people to fill the offices and jobs and so forth in the church. Each year the process is the same yet different. It really is important to carefully set the goals, divvy up the money, select the leaders for the leadership positions, and the like. We have several committees in the church, each of which is charged with tasks to perform, goals to set, and meeting to attend. It's good to see how well this church works together to get it all done! By the way, if you've never held a church office, you might think about trying it out! The Nominations Committee would welcome your volunteering! Also all the other committees could use volunteers, too, but probably you should go through the Nominating Committee, since finding the people to fill the positions is their job!

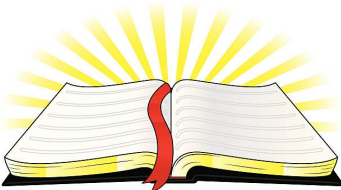
As you know, we had a great time on open mic night! We had a good turnout and more participants than we have had at times. We also had an evening with Ron Elrod on his return trip through Manistique since he came last yar. This guy sings well and plays a piano like a pro! (Maybe because he is a pro!) we enjoyed hearing songs we recognized from the days when many of us were young. Those who weren't there yet because they hadn't even reached the young stage also enjoyed his music! (Pastor B.J. actually knew a lot of those songs! Either he's older than we thought, or he likes historical music!)

Well, it's about time this hungry little mosquito flies around and searches for some supper. That can be a really dangerous job, you know. I sure wish people wouldn't get so slap-happy when a poor little old mosquito happens by! How would you like it if the carrots and tomatoes and cans of beans and stuff in the grocery store slapped at you ever time you tried to pick them up? I sure wish I could order home delivery for mosquito vittles! Well, on that sour note I guess I'll sign off until next month!



1. The Israelites were told to sing to the Lord a new song of praise. What musical instruments were they told to use to accompany their singing?
- A. Drum and lyre. B. Lyre and harp. C. Horn and harp.
D. Zither and rattles. E. Clavinova and kalimba
2. What weapons were the Israelites to hold in their hands to execute vengeance on the nations?
- A. Maces B. Bows and arrows. C. Slingshots.
D. Two-edged swords. E. Squirt guns.

The answers to these questions can be found in Psalm 149.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE



They say third time's the charm, and our third Open Mic Night on Aug. 15 may have been the best yet. We had 7 performers, and 24 people attended. And who knew we even had rappers (no, not the ones the pasties go in)? Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success.

Special thanks to Pastor BJ for being the MC so soon after returning from Italy, and for some really bad jokes that 'motivated' the performers to take the mic. Thanks to Kelly, Brandon and Alex for attending, as well.

Thanks to our performers: Gopher Baroque, the community recorder group consisting of Janet Helmbold, Sonja Blomster and Ann LaBreck; Mary Whinnen, who did a reading about the Grumble Corner; Marco Pazienza, who performed a guitar/vocal solo set; Ron Lee, who also performed a guitar/vocal solo set; Carol Hollenbeck, who did a reading from the Farmer Girl's interpretation of Psalm 23; God's Posse, our very own rap group consisting of Janet Helmbold, Connie Kelsey and Carolyn Williams who rapped the poem *Hey, Folks*.

A big thank you to the Vitality Committee members who brought cookies and other goodies, and worked on set up and clean up.

Special thanks to Connie who keeps us all on track and handles everything from planning to pictures for Open Mic!



VITALITY COMMITTEE UPDATE by Connie Kelsey

August has been a busy, hot month! We have enjoyed the Open Mic Night. In addition to a night of music at the Ron Elrod concert, 17 people were certainly uplifted. The annual church picnic is sure to be a fun, filled afternoon of fellowship at Pastor B.J. Ash's house!

We look forward to the busy, hopefully, cooler month of September. We along with other churches in the community and throughout the nation join in celebrating National Back to Church Sunday on Sept 20. There is an empty spot in the pew waiting for you! We welcome you to join us for our Sunday Service at 11 AM. If you need a ride, please call the church at 906-341-6662. We'll be happy to assist you!

Also, Pie Auction will be held after fellowship on September 20th! A sign-up sheet is in the conference room or see Connie to donate a pie or two! The proceeds will go into the General Fund!

What a Wonderful time of Celebration of Sisterhood and Sharing God's Love occurred on August 4th!



United
Women
in Faith

The annual UWF Picnic, with a 50's and 60's theme, was an extraordinarily sharing of good food, reminiscing of past life experiences and re-examining of national and local events.

Most dressed in 50s and 60s fashion with 2 members, Carolyn Williams and Sharon Vanderville being picked best dressed.

Janet shared a Ditty (with a Rap Beat) about Manistique during a slightly earlier time period the 1920's. Needless to say, everyone had a delightful time and are looking forward to next month's meeting on September 1st.

Submitted by Carolyn Williams



Worship Committee Greetings

New Worship & Song hymnals are in the pews. They are the green songbooks that will help us learn some of the new songs Cyndi is playing. As always check the clipboards hanging in the conference room along with sign-up sheets on the table. If you would like to help with any of these don't feel you are expected to do it alone. Grab a friend or ask someone you would like to get to know better as we have several new people. Don't feel you need to supply a full meal, donuts and coffee, cheese and crackers are more than sufficient. We are there for fellowship!

Submitted by Candace Haskell

Trustees Report

The next meeting will be held on September 1 at 10 AM.

Nello,

Just an update on the Layettes. We do need a few items: Onesies for girls, hats, socks for girls and boys, stuffed animals (but only without eyes and buttons that can be pulled from the toy. They are making stuffed animals with cloth eyes). Also, no glitter can be on the stuffed animals or clothing. A good time to buy us after a holiday and at the dollar stores.

We need quilts so get out your sewing machines, ladies! I have enough for the next three months. We are doing good. We have been donating layettes to the family health department since before I took over in 2008.

Our church ladies have always donated enough to deliver the gift on time. They are so grateful as are the parents. The staff can't wait to see the quilts.

*Blessings to all who have been so generous,
Lynn La Rose*