

Birthdays and Anniversaries October 2026

- 1 Candace Haskell
- 1 Ron & Carolyn Williams
- 9 Linda Moon
- 9 Carol Hollenbeck
- 13 Sharon Vanderville
- 14 John & Carol Livingston
- 22 Ralph Livingston
- 26 Curt & Celie Norton
- 26 Ed & Mary Atwood

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

Are you looking for a way to
make your offering/giving
process easier?

Stop by the office and fill out an Electronic
Fund Transfer Authorization form.



Visit www.youtube.com and search
Manistique First UMC where you see the
magnifying glass at the top of the page.
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
October 2026

PASTOR'S WORDS

October has a way of reminding us that change is part of life. Here in the U.P., the colors deepen, the days grow shorter, and the air carries the signs that another season is passing. Creation itself reminds us that life moves in seasons—and the same is true in our lives and in the life of the Church.

Some seasons bring joy and excitement. Others bring uncertainty, loss, or unexpected change. Yet through every season, one thing remains constant: God is faithful.

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”. These words do not promise that every season will be easy, but they remind us that God is present in all of them.

October is also a natural time to think about gratitude. As gardens are harvested and the growing season ends, we are reminded of the many ways God provides for us: food, shelter, family and friends, the beauty of creation, and the community we share.

But Christian gratitude goes deeper than being thankful when things are going well. Gratitude is an act of faith. It is choosing to look for God’s presence even when life is complicated. It is remembering answered prayers, the people God has placed in our lives, the strength we received when we thought we had none left, and the grace that has carried us farther than we could have gone on our own.

Paul writes, “Give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). He does not say we must give thanks for every circumstance. Some circumstances are painful or heart-breaking. Yet even then, we can give thanks that God has not abandoned us.

That same gratitude should shape the life of our congregation. I am thankful for the people of our congregation—for those who worship, serve, give, pray, provide music, teach, lead, care for our building, and quietly encourage others.

As we move through autumn, I encourage each of us to ask: What has God given me for which I have not recently said thank you? Where have I seen God at work this year? What gifts, time, abilities, or resources has God entrusted to me, and how might God be asking me to use them?

PASTOR'S WORDS

The leaves will soon fall and another season will begin, but the mission of the Church continues: to love God, love our neighbors, proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, and be a community of grace, hope, and belonging.

Whatever season of life you are experiencing, remember this:

God has been faithful before.

God is faithful today.

And God will be faithful in whatever season comes next.

May this October be a month in which we notice God’s blessings, give thanks for God’s grace, and continue faithfully walking together in the way of Christ.

Pastor B.J.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL REPORT:

The annual District Charge Conference with the District Superintendent was held on September 12, 2026 in Gladstone. All of this church’s required reports were completed, submitted, and approved. The next Administrative Council meeting will be held on October 20 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Helmbold, chair
Administrative Council



Are you hungry for
a delicious
homemade pie or
a special craft?

Join us for a
Pie/Craft Auction
on October 11
at 1 PM!

Please join us as
we look to raise
money to
maintain the
general fund!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION BREAKDOWN—August 2026	
GENERAL FUND	\$8,097.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,830.00
BUILDING FUND	\$405.00
NOISY OFFERING (BACKPACK BUDDIES)	\$354.00
HAL BUNDY ESTATE SALE	\$5,179.47
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AUGUST 2026	\$15,865.47

YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS AUGUST 2026	\$79,164.79
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS AUGUST 2025	\$73,757.47
DIFFERENCE	\$5,407.32



First United Methodist Church

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

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Mission Noisy Offering — Thanksgiving Baskets These boxes are given to local families to provide a nutritious meal for Thanksgiving. God is working through our giving, all donations are welcome!				1 Candace Haskell Ron & Carolyn Williams 	2	3
4 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	5 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	6 Trustees Comm 10 AM Vitality Comm 10 AM UWF 1 PM	7	8 Education Comm 10 AM	9 Linda Moon Carol Hollenbeck 	10
11 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Pie Auction 1 PM	12 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	13 Sharon Vanderville 	14 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10—1 PM John & Carol Livingston 	15 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10—1 PM	16	17 Open Mic Night 6:30-8 PM
18 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Progressive Dinner 4 PM	19 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	20 Ad Council Meeting 10 AM	21	22 Ralph Livingston	23	24
25 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	26 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Celie Norton Ed & Mary Atwood 	27	28	29	30	31 Trunk or Treat 4:30-5:30 PM

Prayer Chain

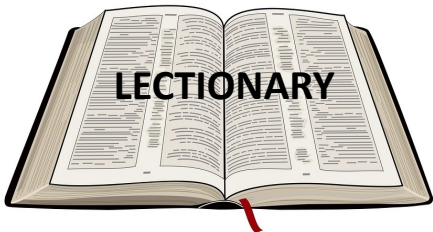
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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.



Visit www.facebook.com and search **1st United Methodist Church** where you see the magnifying glass at the top of the page.

Live worship services each Sunday at 11AM.
Visit www.youtube.com and search **Manistique First UMC** where you see the magnifying glass at the top of the page.



Committee updates and newsletter articles are always welcome!

If you have anything you wish to have published in the next newsletter submit before

October 23, 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!



Oct 4 — 19th Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday

Exo 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps 19; Acts 4:5-12; Matt 21:33-46

Oct 11 — 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Exo 32:1-14; Ps 106:1-6, 19-23; Acts 8:14-25; Matt 22:1-4

Oct 18 — 21st Sunday after Pentecost / Laity Sunday

Exo 33:12-23; Ps 99; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 22:15-22

Oct 25 — Reformation Sunday

Deut 34:1-12; Ps 90:1-6, 13-17; Acts 10:44-48; Matt 22:34-46

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

Gayle & Bill Tufnell, Mary Prater, 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 October 2026

Felicitations from the bell tower! I offer an apology to this church congregation! I just re-read my newsletter article for September, and realized I was totally confused, perhaps even befuddled, when I wrote it! Part of it reads as if I am a mosquito instead of a mosquito eater! Either that, or I was talking to my food (a mosquito, of course), which is a very silly thing to do, since generally food doesn't talk back unless you consider having indigestion a form of talking back. Anyway, I assure you that I have NOT changed into a mosquito. I expect that I was so hungry due to a paucity of mosquitoes that I confused myself (Benny the Bat) with the topic under discussion (a meal on the wing, the mosquito). At any rate, I shall try to do better. Either that or the C.O.L. will fire me and find something other than a remorseful and still hungry bat to take over this column. Any takers?

September is still very much here, but by the time you read this it will be almost October. It seems that I have been offered the trip of a lifetime! I am going to travel to Africa, mosquito heaven and thus also bat heaven! Actually the C.O.L. is going there, and I am sneaking along in her luggage. (Shhh! She doesn't know this, and if she finds out I may end up staying somewhere over the middle of the Atlantic Ocean or something.) Anyway I will certainly return before Halloween, and since they changed the date of the pie auction, I'll be here for that, too. As always, you Methodists are finding ways to keep yourselves busy as well as having fun in the process. This year I'm trying something different myself! Every year I suggest that somebody might be willing to bake a small mosquito pie, and every year, nobody does. Well, I have concluded that my chances of getting a beautiful mosquito pie are close to none at all, so I am proposing something different. How about a multimoth pie? What is a multimoth pie, you ask? Simple! It's a pie containing at least 3, and sometimes as many as 8 or 9, different kinds of moths! Just think! You could feed a lot of hungry bats with one pie, plus you could clean a lot of those nasty moths which eat your clothes out of your closets! You can feed hungry bats and protect your clothes at the same time! Pretty slick, eh?

Well, before the C.O.L. starts yelling at me for going off topic, I better let you know things about the church happenings. The charge conference we had in Gladstone went well. You voted on the plans and forms and reports your committee members and leaders had submitted, and everything was approved, so you people are set for another year. The pastor will still be paid, all the bills will still be paid, apportionments will still be paid, the administrative assistant, the tech support person, the music picker and supplier will still be paid, the youth Sunday School supervisor will still be paid, the custodian will still be paid, but the bat living in your belfry still won't be paid, probably not even one little mosquito pie! We also met a woman from the Newberry church, with which we now share a minister! She was very nice and even gave Penny Tracy a ride home when that undependable C.O.L. just left poor Penny in the lurch!

As far as coming events, we can look forward to the annual pie auction, the open mic night, the trunk or treat fun on Halloween, cooler days, colored leaves on the trees, and all the usual meetings and committee work we have each month. Pasties will also be made and sold, and the church women are already getting things ready for UWF Sunday, when they assume responsibility for the entire service! Since the days are getting shorter, that might mean that you don't have as much time to get ready for all that you're doing! With the mosquitoes vanishing this time of year, at least a few of us may be facing slim pickings as far as our meals are concerned. But don't worry! I'm sure someone will bake a multimoth pie, right?

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In its last few meetings, the Education Committee has been exploring ideas for replacing the Vacation Bible School. Committee members agreed to end VBS because of a lack of participation. So members have been brainstorming ways that will bring more people, especially youth, to the church.

At its August 27 meeting, committee members developed the idea of a Cookie Walk. It builds on the church's very successful Halloween Trunk or Treat, which draws in about 50 kids and their families. The Cookie Walk would be held next year, and it will be set up much like Trunk or Treat, without the costumes. It will be set up in the parking lot with each car having a different cookie.

Bags would be given to each attendee, and each bag would have a printed label with a Bible verse and the church's name and address on it.

Members also discussed having hotdogs available and having one station set up where Bible stories aimed at the younger set would be read.

More planning and details will be discussed at future committee meetings.

In a related matter, the committee talked about what to do with the Vacation Bible School materials that have already been purchased. Pastor BJ noted that Mary Livingston has a connection to another Methodist church. He suggested the materials be sold to that church at a reduced price. The committee voted in favor of that idea.

The August Open Mic Night had a good variety of acts and people enjoyed themselves. Based on that response, another Open Mic Night will be held on October 17 from 6:30-8 p.m. Janet Helmbold presented the committee's financial report. She said it's in pretty good shape and she asked about future budgeting. The committee said spending will probably stay about the same in the coming year.

The next Education Committee meeting will be October 8 at 10 a.m.



Join us at the
October 17
from 6:30-8:00 pm

First United Methodist Church
190 N. Cedar Street, Manistique

Refreshments will be available!

A lift is available for entertainers and those who have difficulty using the stairs.

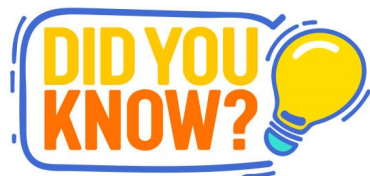
All forms of family friendly entertainment are welcome: skits, music, song, dance, poetry, and other readings will be held in our relaxing fellowship room.

To sign up or for more information, contact :
Carol Hollenbeck at 906-341-6073, carolh930@gmail.com, or the church office at 906-341-6662, office@manistiquemethodist.org.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER—October 18

- 4:00 pm - APPETIZERS - Cedar Grove Mennonite Church
1724N W. Kendall Rd, 8 miles North East of Manistique
- 5:00 pm - SOUP - Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
435 Oak St, Manistique
- 5:30 pm- SALAD - First United Methodist Church
190 N. Cedar St, Manistique
- 6:00 pm - MAIN ENTREE - First Baptist Church
319 Walnut St, Manistique
- 6:45 pm- DESSERT - Church of the Redeemer Presbyterian
314 Main St, Manistique

There is a sign-up sheet in the conference room/office area if you would like to bring a salad. It can be dropped off anytime before 5 pm on October 18th.

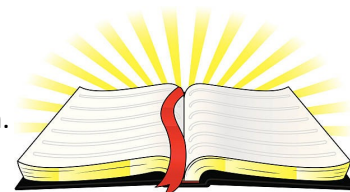


1. Where did Moses die?

- A. In Egypt B. In Moab C. In Gilead
D. In Jericho E. Nobody knows

2. What did God show to Moses before he died?

- A. God revealed His face to Moses.
B. God showed Moses all the nations of the earth.
C. God showed His back to Moses.
D. God showed Moses the movie *Exodus*.
E. God showed Moses all the lands He was giving to the descendants of Abraham.



The answers to these questions can be found in Deuteronomy 34:1-12.



United Women in Faith

The September meeting of United Women in Faith pursued a vigorous monthly agenda. After the devotional, opening prayer and the various reports were given, Connie and Sharon F. reminded the group of our mission service pledge which celebrates the work of UWF at local, state, national and international levels. We believe as women we have the skills to inspire, influence and impact. We

commit to empower women and youth to fulfill their human potential. We each selected a shell on which to write our name and date and exchanged them as a symbol of our sisterhood. Monetary pledges were collected. Regarding the proposed UWF book club, Ruth renewed her offer to host the event in her home and Janet will lead the discussion. Several members plan to participate. Our first book is *Personal Librarian*, the remarkable story of J.P. Morgan's personal librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray. Allowing time to obtain and read the book, a discussion date will then be determined.

As the end of the year approaches, Connie offered general encouragement to fill out individual reading logs with reminders that audio books and Response Magazine count as books read. Members who missed the September meeting submitted their "Woman of the Year" nominations to Rosemary, who will sort and count the ballots. The program goal of exploring various religions continued with Candace's presentation of Islam. Both religions recognize God as the supreme Being and differ in the belief of Jesus as our Savior.

The October 5 meeting will focus on planning the November 8 UWF worship service. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm, and Sharon F. provided dessert.

Submitted by Char Crosby

Greetings from your Worship Committee,

Hoping you are enjoying the new green "Worship and Song" book that you will find in the pew backs, and wonderful addition to our music library.

We had a large group of visitors from the campground who it was discovered had connections to Louise's family, it's a small world. They stayed for fellowship and shared with Pastor B.J. that they had a positive visit with a very welcoming congregation. The camp directors from the state park returned again this summer also and really enjoy our church.

Here we are in October which means November is next and it's going to get busy! After Laity Sunday October 18th we will move on to All Saints' Day November 1st, then UWF November 8th, Pastor B.J. will be off deer hunting November 15-22, and that takes us to Thanksgiving Sunday November 22. There will be an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service held at the First Baptist Church November 24 at 7 pm. Pie will be served afterwards so we will need a couple of pies donated to help. The week of November 22nd will be the "Hanging of the Greens", then before we know it November 29 and it's the first day of Advent. Please watch for updates and sign up sheets for these special events! Let's all pitch in. Starting in October if no one signs up for Fellowship the church will be serving coffee, cookies, cheese, crackers, juice and water. Please sign up to help set them out and please help with cleanup at the end. We welcome any who choose to prepare more or sign up for a Sunday as in the past. Thank you to all who have participated in and supported our fellowship.

As always remember to sign up for Usher/Greeter, Altar flowers, liturgists, Youth Sunday school helper.
Blessings, Candace

Join us on October 31 from 4:30—5:30 pm as we welcome the neighborhood children and their families in our parking lot!

There will be treats and goodies available free of charge.

If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, please drop off your donation in the office. Someone will be happy to share your donation.

