

THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

First United Methodist Church
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November 2026

PASTOR'S WORDS

As October gives way to November, we are reminded of the changing seasons and the deeper meaning behind a familiar celebration. Did you know that Halloween comes from "All Hallows' Eve," meaning the evening before All Saints Day? "Hallows" is an old English word for "saints," and November 1st has long been a day for Christians to remember those who have gone before us in faith.

In the United Methodist tradition, we do not have an official list of saints. Instead, we recognize saints as ordinary people through whom God's extraordinary love has been revealed. They are the Sunday school teachers, choir members, faithful volunteers, parents, grandparents, and friends who have helped shape our faith. Many never imagined anyone would call them a saint.

This year, All Saints Day falls on Sunday, November 1st. It is an opportunity for us to remember loved ones whose earthly journeys have ended and to give thanks for their lives.

For some, remembering brings smiles; for others, it brings tears. Often, it brings both. All Saints Day reminds us that grief and hope can exist together. We miss those we love, but we trust Christ's promise that death does not have the final word.

Hebrews 12:1 reminds us that we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." Their faithful examples encourage us to continue following Jesus.

But All Saints Day is not only about remembering the past. It also challenges us to consider how we are living our faith today. Whose life might be touched by our kindness, generosity, or compassion? Sometimes holiness is found in a simple phone call, a shared meal, a heartfelt prayer, or a helping hand.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I encourage you to remember someone who nurtured your faith. Say their name, share their story, thank God for their life, and find a way to carry their love forward.

Thanks be to God for all the saints — those who have gone before us, those who walk beside us, and those we are still becoming through God's grace.

Pastor B.J.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL REPORT:

The Administrative Council met on October 19, 2026. Reports were heard from each of the church committees. All committee reports were accepted. Reports from the financial secretary and treasurer were also heard and accepted. The church continues to be financially sound, even though expenses have increased in some areas. These reflect higher prices for utilities and insurance for the most part, over which we have no control.

In other business, the SAS program was discussed. It was reported that there doesn't not seem to be much interest in adopting the SAS program in this church, and no further action will be taken at this time. Also discussed was the purchase of a new camera for use during the worship services. The camera we had was not functioning properly and was not reliable. A new camera was obtained in time to install it before last Sunday, with the approval of the Council after the fact.

Pastor B.J. gave a report on the status of Camp Michigamme. Earlier in the year a ZOOM meeting was held to discuss the options for addressing the camp situation. Initially it was voted to make the necessary repairs and updates at the camp. It was felt that this could be accomplished using volunteer labor. Some of the repairs were found to be very expensive and probably not possible for the District to fund. Later it was determined that a different governing body was actually responsible for making that decision rather than those present at the ZOOM meeting. The responsible body then made the decision to attempt to sell the camp to an entity which would use it for a nondenominational Christian camp, which would enable the property to be used for the intended purpose.

A motion was made and approved to pay all bills.

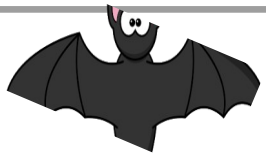
The next Administrative Council meeting will be held on January 19, 2027 at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Helmbold, chair
Administrative Council

Please help us decorate the church at the annual Hanging of the Greens on November 28th at 10 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION BREAKDOWN -OCTOBER 2026

GENERAL FUND	$6,106.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	$1,165.00
NOISY OFFERING (THANKSGIVING BASKETS)	$280.00
BUILDING FUND	$180.00
MEMORIAL (CONNIE MEADE)	$2,000.00
PIE AUCTION	$1,158.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OCTOBER 2026	$10,889.00
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS OCTOBER 2026	$96,996.79
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS OCTOBER 2025	$90,031.43
DIFFERENCE	$6,965.36



A View From the Belfry
November 2026

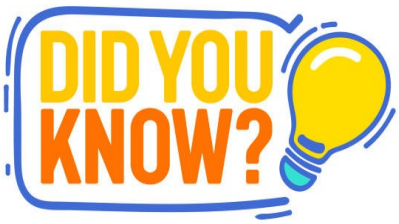
Whoop-de-do from the belfry! It's me, Benny, your really excited resident bat! It was wonderful, wasn't it?!!? What was wonderful? Well, the things I wrote about for October have mostly happened, and they were great! We had a very successful pie auction again, with lots of beautiful and delicious pies, plenty of bidders to buy those pies, and lots of fun for everybody. It was an almost perfect auction, with the only low point being the absence of a mosquito pie, a multimoth pie, or an insect pie, a batfood pie, well, I think you understand what I'm complaining about, right? Actually I never really do expect a pie for bats any more, since we've never had one yet, but hope springs eternal… Anyway, we had a very successful pie auction. We also had a great open mic event. There were only 3 performers, no music was offered. Pastor B.J.'s jokes were just as...uh...good?...no, that isn't right. Just as… well, just about what we expected they would be! So we weren't disappointed at all! Honest! (Well, mostly pretty honest.) But the great thing was, we had a lot of fun! Now, that's honest! It's great that we can enjoy getting together and laughing at the antics of the great big cat the Whinnens have, and scratching our heads trying to come up with answers to the puzzling questions Bob Whinnen threw at us! Thanks Bob and Mary, Carol, and Pastor B.J.! We also had the ecumenical progressive dinner, where lots of people went around to five different churches, and at each church had a delicious food course, so that by the time we were done we each had a 5 course dinner, stuffed ourselves to the gills, and in the process contributed generously to the Manistique Ministerial Association, which sponsored the event. I think it's great how well this community works together to provide for the needs of those among us who are struggling. Great going, everybody!

As I write this, we are still getting ready for the trunk or treat event, but by the time you read this it may have already occurred. Since I'm not sure which it will be try, I'll try to cover any eventuality. The trick-or-treat event (will be or was) great fun! We had (lots, some, a few) kids and their parents go through the trunks, and (everybody, many folks, a few people) seemed to really enjoy it. We saw (lots, some, a few) (scary, funny, weird, pretty, ugly, bizarre) costumes. The weather was (perfect, too hot, too cold, snowy, rainy, sunny), and everybody had a (great, good, mediocre, terrible) time! Now we're moving from Halloween right into hunting season (we'll make zillions of pasties so our hunters won't starve out in the woods), the UWF Sunday (the women will take over the entire Sunday service and then have the social hour after to boot), and Thanksgiving, with the ecumenical Thanksgiving service and the community Thanksgiving dinner at the Big Boy for those who prefer to not have to cook a big meal themselves. As if that isn't enough, we are also planning Christmas events, but I think maybe I should wait until the December newsletter is due before getting too involved with that. After all, I'll need to have something to write for December, too! In fact, I think I'll sign off for now. Have a great November, everybody!

Happy Thanksgiving!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

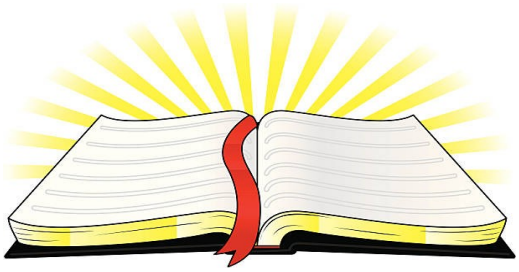
The Education Committee is continuing to explore ways to replace the Vacation Bible School. Some ideas that were discussed at the Oct. 8th meeting include:
*A Cookie Walk – (maybe a catchier name?) similar to Trunk or Treat, it would take place in the parking lot with various kinds of cookies to choose from. Bible verses could be printed on bags given to participants to put their cookies in.
*Triangle Park music event – set in the early evening, a variety of songs could be performed in sets. We need to look into what is needed for permission to use the park.
*Scavenger Hunt – this idea was discussed earlier this year. Location could be in any park or at the boardwalk. Items to find could be natural things like pine cones or things hidden by the organizers. Perhaps a grand prize could be give to the first person/team to complete the list. This will be discussed more at our next meeting.
*Community Clean-up – invite youth groups like YAC and YETI to participate in a clean up of an area like the boardwalk. Snacks and soft drinks could be provided. This might be the first of the four events, so that whatever area chosen is clean for the start of the tourist season.
The committee is thinking of doing all four events in June/July next year. Lots of details still need to be worked out. Vitality committee members will be invited to the Education Committee's next meeting to see if the two groups can work together on some or all of these projects.
A good group of 22 people attended the Oct. 17 Open Mic Night. Thanks to Vitality Committee members, snacks including cider, donuts, a variety of cookies and popcorn were served. Special thanks to Pastor B.J. for serving as MC again, and to Mary and Bob Whnned for a story on How to Give a Cat a Pill, and riddles from the Bible. The Whinnens also brought a beautiful, hand-carved olive wood model of the Last Supper for everyone to admire. Sincere thanks also to Connie who always makes sure everything is running smoothly. This is the last Open Mic that will be held this year.
Youth Time downstairs is being handled well by Natalie and is open to any youth attending services. Adult Sunday School is held at 9:30 a.m., before service begins. Everyone is welcome to attend these sessions.
The Education Committee's next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 5 at 10 a.m.



1. When Jesus taught the crowds of people during His sermon on the mount. He specified how some of the people will be blessed. What blessing will those who are meek receive?
    1. They will be given loud voices with which to praise God.
    2. They will inherit the earth.
    3. They will be called the children of God.
    4. They will see God.
    5. They shall be made brave and confident.

2. What blessings will the peacemakers receive?
    1. They shall inherit the earth.
    2. They shall have peace and quiet.
    3. They will see God.
    4. They shall be called children of God.
    5. Their children will never quarrel and fight.

These answers can be found in Matthew 5:1-12.



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.

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The November UWF meeting opened with prayer and devotional from Psalm 139: 23-24, "Search me, O Lord, and know my heart."

Many UWF plans and responsibilities will keep the Methodist women busy for November and December beginning with the November 8 Worship Service and Fellowship provided by the United Women in Faith. The pasty crew will bake 12 batches (480) pasties for November orders. Following that, the UWF will prepare a luncheon of appetizers and desserts following the memorial service for Rita Salter on November 13. In the midst of these events will be on-going preparations for the Christmas Tea scheduled for December 5 to which all women are invited. Be sure to alert Ruth if you plan to bring a friend(s). We hope to delight our guests with a meaningful program, tasty morsels, a cookie walk and plenty of good cheer. Annual disbursement of UWF funds was determined and $7000 was divided among several local community charities and church affiliated organizations.

The meeting concluded with a World Thank Offering dessert by Mary and wishes for a bountiful Thanksgiving.



Submitted by Char Crosby

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.

Find us on Facebook

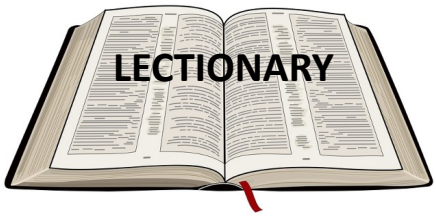
Visit www.facebook.com and search 1st United Methodist Church where you see the magnifying glass at the top of the page.

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 **November 20, 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!

Nov 1 — "All Saints Sunday"
Josh 3:7-17; Ps 107:1-7, 33-37; Acts 11:1-18; Matt 23:1-12

Nov 8 — "*24th Sunday after Pentecost*" "*United Women in Faith Sunday*"
Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps 78:1-7; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13

Nov 15 — "*25th Sunday after Pentecost*"
Judg 4:1-7; Ps 123 or Ps 76; 1 Thess 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30

Nov 22 — "Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday" "Thanksgiving Sunday"
Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps 100; Eph 1:15-23; Matt 25:31-46

Nov 29 — "1st Sunday of Advent"
Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Rita Salter's family, 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 La Rose, Kerry Billings family concerns, Connie Meade's family, Patti Smith, 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.





First United Methodist Church

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

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	2 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	3 Trustees Committee 10AM UWF 1 PM	4	5 Education Committee 10AM	6 Alex Ash	7 Celie Norton
8 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Pixie Livingston	9 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	10 Vitality Committee 10 AM	11 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10—1 PM	12 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10—1 PM	13 Rita Salter Memorial Visitation 10:30 Service 12 PM Luncheon to follow	14
15 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Kathryn Pazienza	16 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Jean Smith	17 Lisa Jones	18	19	20	21
22 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Bette Jahn	23 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	24 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7 PM First Baptist Church	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	27	28 Hanging of the Greens 10 AM
29 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	30 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	31				

Mission Noisy Offering — Christmas Adopt-a-Family

This noisy offering will be given to a local family in need filled with essentials, gifts and food to make their Christmas special. God is working through our giving, all donations are welcome!



6	Alex Ash
7	Celie Norton
8	Pixie Livingston
15	Kathryn Pazienza
16	Jean Smith
17	Lisa Jones
22	Bette Jahn

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
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