Birthdays and Anniversaries January, 2025

- 5 Connie & Dan Kelsey
- 11 Mary Atwood
- 12 Larry Billings
- 14 Sharon Feichtenbiner
- 16 Mary Prater

BE SURE TO PICK UP THE NEW JANUARY/FEBRUATY EDITION OF THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL IN THE WALL BOOKSHELF BY THE STAIRWAY AND LIFT.

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, you can reach her by cell 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

January, 2025

PASTOR'S WORDS Dear friends in Christ,

We see it everywhere we look after Christmas through New Year's Day: the year in review. I saw it when I took down the 2024 wall calendar in the church office that shows the events

and meetings that we had this past year. I looked at the amount of writing that was done on that calendar and thought: Yes, we were busy in 2024.

I thought about the gift card scam that someone had used the phone numbers from our church directory to TXT everyone claiming to be me. I smiled when I remembered nobody having said that they were a victim of that deception. I also smiled when we used the prayer chain to communicate this alert to everyone and how we all prayed for the person or organization that was responsible.

From the news on TV, we saw how other organizations across the U.P. feed their neighbors by offering holiday meals (Christmas dinners). I smiled yet again when I thought about our holiday meals at our local Big Boy and the partnership that we share in ministry with them and their staff.

I smile when I think about the year ahead and wonder what God has planned for us. How will we be different at this time next year from where we are now?

Our local church Ad Council is looking into the Simple Accountability Structure (SAS) to help streamline many functions within our church. We are assembling a small discernment group of people that will meet over PASTOR'S WORDS Our local church Ad Council is looking into the Simple Accountability Structure (SAS) to help streamline many functions within our church. We are assembling a small discern-

ment group of people that will meet over the next couple months to help us discern if this is what God is calling Manistique First UMC to be. Please pray for this group of people as they help to discern God's calling for our church.

Finally, there were many ways that we existed in being the church this past year to our world. I want to encourage everyone to continue that movement in reaching people in the year to come. Through that reaching out to help and love one another, we also grow closer in our

relationship with God. Be the church!

Pastor B.J.



A Note from the Administrative Council:

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, members of the Administrative Council attended a ZOOM meeting with Rev. James Noggle to discuss a new model for organizing the way a church operates as it fulfills the necessary functions and duties of administering the work of the church. Called the Simplified Accountability Structure (SAS), the goal of this model is to streamline the operational system of the church by eliminating overlaps in functions, unnecessary meetings and reports, and overly burdening church members with work which can be handled more efficiently than is presently the case. The meeting which was held was simply the first step in introducing the new model. After this session, it was voted by those in attendance to seek more information before making any firm decision regarding whether or not to pursue it further. We will meet again in the near future to discuss the matter. We were given the names of a few churches which are trying the program or which have adopted it and are experienced in its use, and we will attempt to contact some of these churches to get their perspectives on how it is working for them. No date has been set for the next meeting, but we hope to hold it soon. If you are interested in the SAS program or have questions about it, you are welcome to attend the upcoming meeting. We will notify the congregation in advance when the date is set.

Janet Helmbold, Administrative Council Chairperson



First United Methodist Church

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

January, 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
January Mission Noisy Offering — Pastor's Discretionary (Deacon's) Fund This noisy offering is used by Pastor B.J. for needs per his discretion outside the church walls in the community. Drop your donation in glass jar as you enter or as you exit the sanctuary! Thank you for your donation!			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee 10AM	3	4
5 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Connie & Dan Kelsey	6	7 UWiF 1 PM	Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	9 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	10	11 Mary Atwood
Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Larry Billings	Trustees Stairway 9 AM Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	14 Worship Committee 10am Sharon Feichtenbiner	15	Vitality Committee 10am Mary Prater	17 Education Committee 10am	18
19 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	20	21 Trustee's Meeting 10 am	22	23	Newsletter information deadline	25
26 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	27	28	29	30	31	

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.

Live worship services each Sunday at 11AM.



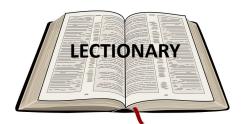
Committee updates and newsletter articles are always welcome!

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

January 24, 2025 deadline.

Pictures and other additions can be emailed to:

office@manistiquemethodist.org



The collection amount for December Mission Noisy Offering for God's Country Community Ministries will be announced soon. Thank you for your support!

January 5 — Epiphany Sunday

Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795); Eph 3:1-12; Mt 2:1-12

January 12 — Baptism of the Lord

Isa 43:1-7; Ps 29 (UMH 761); Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19 — 2nd Sunday After Epiphany / Human Relations Day Isa 62:1-5; Ps 36:5-10 (UMH 771); 1 Cor 12:1–11; John 2:1-11

January 26 — 3rd Sunday After Epiphany / Ecumenical Sunday

Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19 (UMH 750); 1 Cor 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

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



Penny Tracy family concerns, Bill Tracy and family, Jesse Baker, Sandi Kolder, Char Crosby, Curt & Celie Norton, Barbara Schneider, Ted Burson, Lynn LaRose, Katie Putnam, Joel Prater, Jo Nell Rubick, Phyllis Burge, Martha Weeks, Kerry Billings family concerns, baby Brooklyn, Mary Prater, Connie Meade, Connie Whitsitt, Sharon V. & Celie's N. brother, Michael Haynes, the leaders in our church, community, country, our unspoken requests, and the joyous blessings that we have received.



A View From the Belfry January, 2025

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ. ZZZZ. Huh? Oh, my gosh! I'm late!! Or am I?

What time is it, anyway? Oh, my! (Yawnnnnn.) Is it New Year's Eve yet? It's WHAT??!!? You mean I slept right through all the excitement of watching the ball drop in Times Square in New York City? How about the one that drops in Marquette, Michigan? Huh? My newsletter article? What newsle...oh, yeah, that newsletter article! Oops! Well, actually, I think it's still not New Year's Eve yet, since I write these articles in time for all you great Methodists and your friends to get your newsletters before the next month is quite here yet. So that means I'm not really late after all. (I hope.) Anyway, by the time you read this, most, if not all, of the busy Christmas season will be over and life can return to normal. Well, not actually. For most people, the Christmas season is pretty well over by December 26, unless, of course, you are British and are still looking forward to Boxing Day. Since I don't think most of you are British, that probably isn't a big day on your agenda, and Christmas may well be over except for putting away all the Christmas decorations and taking down the tree. However, according to the lectionary calendar for the church, Christmas season has now just begun and will last through Epiphany, also known as January 6. That's why the crabby old lady who chooses the hymns for Sunday services (NOT the organist; she's not a crabby old lady!) will have you singing Christmas carols after you think the season is finished! As for me, I kind of like keeping it Christmas for awhile beyond Christmas Day. All the beautiful decorations, special music, happy faces, and general good wishes which abound at this time should last all year round, if you ask me. (Not that any of you did, but...) If we'd get tired of having all the scrunched up wrapping paper and crumpled ribbons and smashed bows around, I guess we'd probably not want to keep them all year long. The same could apply to all the sugary Christmas treats, the expense of giving all those presents every day, to say nothing of trying to think of new gifts to get everybody every day... I guess Christmas as we celebrate it could be pretty hard to manage if it went on all year. Perhaps what we should really try to hang on to would be the kindness, love, generosity, and feelings of good will and peace, which we seem to

have at Christmas more than at other times. Maybe, instead of all the Christmas trimmings, a small rustic manger with a special little baby in it left on a fireplace mantle or a shelf in the living room for the entire year, could serve as a reminder of why we celebrate Christmas. If somebody asks why you haven't put away all your Christmas stuff yet when it happens to be July or something, maybe you could tell them about that baby. He isn't just for the Christmas season, you know. He's for every season, all year long, all life long! Maybe you could tell them about Him!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I also wish to give a big thanks to the entire church family for all you did to make this Christmas season special, for this happy bat, and for each other!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS:

Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to meeting all of your educational needs. Currently, there is a weekly Sunday School Class, and a Bible Study/Prayer Group. We are looking for ways to build your education in Christian beliefs. If you have an idea or suggestion please let us know. Our Vacation Bible School will start planning soon.

Penny Tracy, Education Committee Chairperson

Trustee News Update—Gordie Barry

Your trustees have been busy over this past year and look forward to 2025. Some of our responsibilities include: maintaining the building and property, taking care and purchasing of all equipment in the church, supporting the vision and future capital needs of the church. At the same time, in the area of finance, the trustees develop guidelines for receiving and managing wills, trusts, and bequests given to the church. Just to name a few of our responsibilities.

Looking ahead into January, we have some projects we have scheduled:

- 1. The floor of the fellowship hall will be stripped and rewaxed either the week on January 13th or 20th. Which ever can be scheduled. We will be moving the furniture to half the room one day for the work, and then the other half the next day. This will be completed in one week.
- 2. As the stairwell and landing carpet is showing its wear, we will be pulling off all the carpet and backing to see what the wood looks like, and determine what our next step will be and what we will install that will be a nonslip material. This stripping of the carpet is planned to begin January 13th.
- 3. Also, it was decided to get rid of the heavy wooden folding table and replace them with lighter plastic folding tables. We have the plastic table and will be setting the wooden table out for anyone to take home. These tables will be available in Jan-

That's all for now. Have a happy new year everyone!!

Vitality/Mission Committee Update—Connie Kelsev

A new year, a new beginning for the church and community! 2025 brings new hope through sharing our love, compassion and hope of a bright future for building friendships near and far! From our Book of Discipline, the mission statement of the UMC is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs by proclaiming the good news of God's grace and by exemplifying Jesus' command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world. As we make disciples, we respect persons of all religious faiths and we defend religious freedom for all persons. "

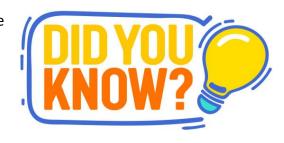
Our next Vitality/Mission committee meeting will be held on January 16th at 10 AM. If you are interested in helping our church be the "spark" to keep our church growing, be sure to share your ideas!

We have new committee members, be sure to check out the posted lists!

- 1. According to passages in the Old Testament, kings would some day bring gifts to a new King who would come from God and rule with justice for eternity. Some kings would also bring gifts to this new king. When Jesus was born, these prophecies came true. What gifts were foretold in the Old Testament?
 - A. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
 - B. Gold and myrrh.
 - C. Myrrh and frankincense.
 - D. Frankincense and gold.
 - E. Copper and silver.
- 2. In the New Testament, we are told that the magi or kings who searched for the new King came from the East, but where in the East was not specified. Passages from Isaiah and Psalms in the Old Testament are more specific in announing where the kings would originate, but only one location is mentioned in both Psalms and Isaiah. Which one is it?

The answers to both these questions can be found in Isaiah 60:1-6 and Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14.

- A. Tarshish.
- B. Sheba.
- C. Midian.
- D. Seba.
- E. Ephah.



United Women in Faith News



Submitted by Char Crosby

December brought the Christmas Tea held on December 7th at 1 pm. There were a lot of laughs, delicious food and beautiful ornaments. Char Crosby was the guest speaker!

Thank you to everyone who planned and enjoyed this special event! Thank you for submitting your photos. It looks like everyone had fun.

Our next regular meeting will be held on January 7th at 1 pm. All women are invited to attend. Happy New Year!



Christmas Poinsettia Recognition

In Memory of Gilbert Hillby Ron & Carolyn Williams In Memory of Mary & Warren Sadlerby Sharon Feichtenbiner In Memory of Orma Hovey & Janet Whinnenby Bob & Mary Whinnen In Honor of Our Grandchildrenby Carol & John Livingston In Honor of Our Parentsby Vic & Sharon Vanderville In Memory of Ash & Freberg Familiesby Pastor B.J. & Kelly Ash

Artificial Poinsettia Gifts

In Memory of George & Emma Tufnell In Honor of Joseph & Theresa Carlsonby William & Gayle Tufnell In Memory of Edward & Gunhild Hokenson and Mary Ann Mills-by David Hokenson In Memory of the Hoar & Salter Familiesby Rita Salter In Memory of Parents & our siblings

In Honor of Children & Grandchildrenby Ted & Louise Burson





\$114,036.37

-\$13,997.30

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN—NOVEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND	\$5,147.07
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,275.00
BUILDING FUND	\$255.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
NOISY OFFERING (Adopt-A-Family)	\$299.00
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	\$50.00
PAPER POINSETTIA	\$10.00
TOTAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2024	\$7,036.07
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS OCTOBER 2024	\$100,039.07

YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS OCTOBER 2023

DIFFERENCE