



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

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



THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

First United Methodist Church
190 N. Cedar Manistique, MI
www.manistiquemethodist.org
office@manistiquemethodist.org
January, 2025

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

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.

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 com-
 municate 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?

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 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 discernment 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.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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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	8 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	9 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10AM-1PM	10	11 Mary Atwood
12 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Larry Billings	13 Trustees Stairway 9 AM Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	14 Worship Committee 10am Sharon Feichtenbiner	15	16 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	24 Newsletter information deadline	25
26 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	27	28	29	30	31	

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

Vitality/Mission Committee Update—Connie Kelsey

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.

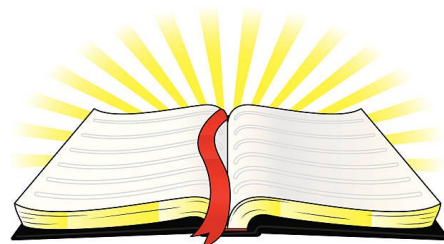
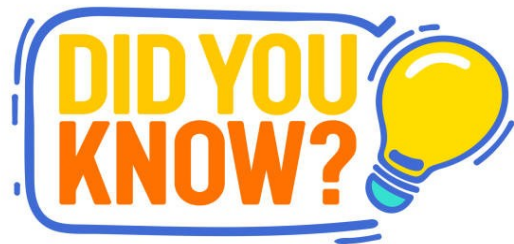
What gifts were foretold in the Old Testament?

- 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 announcing where the kings would originate, but only one location is mentioned in both Psalms and Isaiah. Which one is it?

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

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



United Women in Faith News



United Women in Faith

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 Hill- by Ron & Carolyn Williams
- In Memory of Mary & Warren Sadler- by Sharon Feichtenbner
- In Memory of Orma Hovey & Janet Whinnen- by Bob & Mary Whinnen
- In Honor of Our Grandchildren- by Carol & John Livingston
- In Honor of Our Parents- by Vic & Sharon Vanderville
- In Memory of Ash & Freberg Families- by Pastor B.J. & Kelly Ash

Artificial Poinsettia Gifts

- In Memory of George & Emma Tufnell
- In Honor of Joseph & Theresa Carlson- by William & Gayle Tufnell
- In Memory of Edward & Gunhild Hokenson and Mary Ann Mills- by David Hokenson
- In Memory of the Hoar & Salter Families- by Rita Salter
- In Memory of Parents & our siblings
- In Honor of Children & Grandchildren- by Ted & Louise Burson

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	\$114,036.37
DIFFERENCE	-\$13,997.30