



- 1 Mary Whinnen
- 1 Ken & Cyndi Burgin
- 7 Carol Weinert
- 17 Curt Norton
- 23 Kerry Billings
- 29 Kathleen Haynes

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

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First United Methodist Church
 190 N. Cedar Street
 Manistique, Michigan 49854



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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
March 2025

PASTOR'S
 WORDS

As we prepare for Easter by entering this holy season of Lent, we begin Lent by remembering our need for repentance (turning) and our reliance on the forgiveness of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ. We do so in the hope that Lent may be a time of renewal, growth, and transformation.

Hear the words from the Ash Wednesday service:

I invite you in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, self-denial, and giving to those in need, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Lent is a time of self-examination, a time of having our hearts converted and opened for more spacious love. We ponder our habits, fears, anxieties and actions (and inactions). We reflect on all that distance us from the community of faith, from our families, from our loves, from those yearning for connection, from those lost and wandering. Self-examination does not mean to be harsh and self-critical, but it is a willingness to understand our woundedness. Self-examination leads us into the way of making room to love more fully, more deeply, and more honestly. Self-examination helps us repent and turn toward love.

Opening our hearts so that we can love more spaciously takes time, self-examination, prayer, and turning around.

Lent is also a time for us to engage in spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, self-denial, and giving to those in need. These practices turn our focus from ourselves toward others. These disciplines occur in the life of the community and are transformative for moving from the tragedy to hope. They lead to understanding, healing and forgiveness, all these things prepare us for Easter.

PASTOR'S WORDS

Easter is our celebration of God's generosity. Generosity is what saved and continues to save the world. God's generosity is the gift of Jesus Christ. It is God's giving to us what we need. Implicit in the invitation of Ash Wednesday is the gratitude and justice for all in need.

Lastly, meditating on the word of God helps us contemplate the meaning of God's generous love in its many expressions. Through worship, prayer, meditation in our communities, listening to our neighbors, working for justice, standing with those who are migrating from one place to another, being companions with those living in the hard conditions of poverty moves us into the joy of resurrection.

May this season of Lent bring forth the joy of the resurrection for you as you consider all the things that bring you closer to God.

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice



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A Note from the Administrative Council:

At the end of 2024, the Administrative Council decided to meet quarterly instead of monthly. Thus we have not had a regular meeting since the last one in December. However, as previously noted, we did have a special meeting in January to approve the members of the two SAS teams. They have met with the coach, Rev. James Noggle, and are in the process of completing some assigned work which will enable them to discern where we are currently in regards to the management structure of the church, so that we can move forward in deciding not only where we are, but where we want to be, and the best way to get there. The SAS Discernment teams have met on February 25 to complete homework assignments. Pastor B.J. is sending the gathered information on to Rev. James Noggle for review. He will let us know what our next step will be.

The Administrative Council will have its next regular meeting on March 18th at 10 AM.

Janet Helmbold, chair, Administrative Council

Thank you Darrell Dixson for blessing us with Special Music on February 23. You are very much appreciated!



If you have an idea for special music or a talent you would like to share, let us know!



First United Methodist Church

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

March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p align="center">Mission Noisy Offering — UMCOR United Methodist Committee on Relief This collection will be used by UMCOR to assist in disaster relief. Drop your donation in glass jar as you enter or exit the sanctuary! Thank you for your donation!</p>						1 Mary Whinnen Ken & Cyndi Burgin
2 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	3 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	4 UWF 1 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7 PM	5 Ash Wednesday Service 5 PM	6 Education Committee 10 AM	7 Carol Weinert	8
9 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	10 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	11	12 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	13 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	14	15
16 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	17 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM Curt Norton	18 Ad Council 10 AM	19	20	21	22 UWF Reflection Breakfast 9:30 AM
23 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Kerry Billings	24 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	25	26	27	28	29 Kathleen Haynes
30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	31 TBD-Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	<p align="center">BE SURE TO PICK UP THE NEW MARCH/APRIL EDITION OF THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL! REGULAR AND LARGE PRINT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE WALL BOOKSHELF BY THE STAIRWAY AND LIFT.</p>				

Prayer Chain

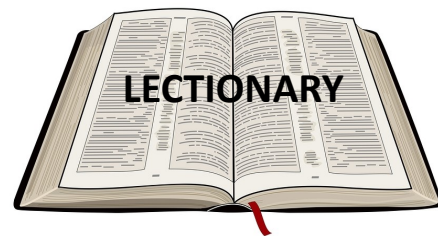
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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 **March 24, 2025** deadline.

Pictures and other additions can be emailed to: office@manistiquemethodist.org

The collection amount for February Mission Noisy Offering for Helpful Hotspot will be announced soon. Thank you for your support!

March 2 — Transfiguration Sunday

Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99 (UMH 819); 2 Cor 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

March 5 — Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Ps 51:1-17 (UMH 766); 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10; Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9 — 1st Sunday in Lent, Scouting Sunday, Daylight Savings Time begins (forward 1 hr.)

Deut 26:1-11; Ps 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810); Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 16 — 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 27 (UMH 758); Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 23 — 3rd Sunday in Lent

Isa 55:1-9; Ps 63:1-8 (UMH 788); 1 Cor 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 30 — 4th Sunday in Lent, UMCOR Sunday

Josh 5:9-12; Ps 32 (UMH 766); 2 Cor 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Char Crosby, Carol Weinert, Penny Tracy, Jean Smith, Curt & Celie Norton, Barbara Schneider, Ted Burson, Lynn LaRose, Katie Putnam, Joel Prater, Jo Nell Rubick, Phyllis Burge, Martha Weeks, Kerry Billings family concerns, Mary Prater, Connie Meade, Connie Whitsitt, Sharon V. & Celie's N. brother, Betty Tracy, Jesse Baker, Sandi Kolder, Michael Haynes, the leaders in our church, our community, our country, the world, our unspoken requests, and the joyous blessings that we have received.

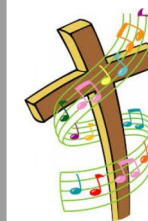


A View From the Belfry March, 2025

Howdy! It's everybody's favorite bat living in the church belfry, Benny. (I'm safe in saying that because I'm the only one up here!) I hear that it's March, or will be very soon, and spring is coming! So far it still looks a lot like winter to me, but maybe...Days are getting longer, anyway, so can green grass and abundant mosquitoes be far behind? We'll see.

The people on the SAS discernment and prayer teams have met with their coach, Rev. James Noggle, and they were assigned some homework! So far a few of them have met informally to talk about doing their homework, and, the truth be told, they seemed pretty confused by it all. Anyway, they're working on it, but it may take awhile to get it all figured out. I snuck a peek at their ZOOM (or some such thing) meeting with Coach Noggle, and quite frankly, I think he may not be a real coach after all. He didn't have any sports equipment, no balls and bats or football helmets or anything. In fact, he didn't even mention any sports at all as far as I could tell. As I understand it the SAS team players will be meeting again soon, and with any luck, they'll get it figured out. I hope so, because as I understand it, these are the folks who are supposed to be telling everybody else about it!

There are still a lot of busy people around the church! By the time this newsletter comes out the carpets will have been cleaned (I think). You people are also preparing for Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday and continuing with the soup and bread suppers every Wednesday during Lent. There are also sign-up sheets for bringing soup, bread, desserts, and devotions for the suppers, so if you'd like to help out, there are plenty of opportunities to do so. There are also sign-up sheets for a few other events, such as the Easter dinner after church on Easter Sunday. We also have plenty of openings in the sign-up sheets for supplying altar flowers, serving as ushers, and providing juicy bugs and mosquitoes for a hungry bat. This time of year those food items are in short supply! Well, I can always sleep through rest of winter, so I won't starve at least. In fact (yawwwn), I think I'll take a little pre-spring nap before things really heat up around here! Try to keep the noise down for awhile, OK? By next month I'll probably have a lot more to report, and chances are I'll be a little more awake! Anyway, happy almost spring!



DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

Cyndi is taking requests from the black "Faith We Sing" Hymnal! She is asking that you let her or the office know in advance so that she can have time to practice before the next Sunday. She is more familiar with the red hymnal but would love to learn more songs.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN—JANUARY 2025

GENERAL FUND	\$5,409.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,455.00
BUILDING FUND	\$180.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
NOISY OFFERING (Deacon's Fund)	\$518.00
FELLOWSHIP HOUR	\$40.50
INITIAL OFFERING	\$20.00
HUMAN RELATIONS DAY	\$11.00
TOTAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JANUARY 2025	\$7,683.50

YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS JANUARY 2025	\$7,683.50
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS JANUARY 2024	\$8,716.00
DIFFERENCE	-\$1,032.50

Education Committee

Are you ready for a ROAD TRIP?

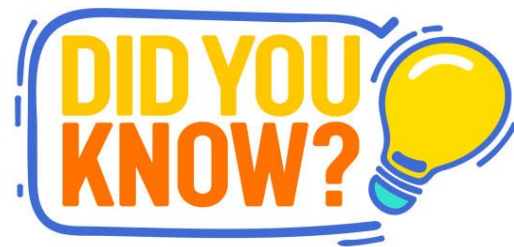
That's the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School. It's based on Joshua 1:9, "The Lord is with you wherever you go." A tentative date for the adventure has been set for Monday through Thursday, June 16-19.

And everyone knows that road trips aren't just for kids. This year, for the first time, adults will be invited to take part in our Vacation Bible School, in which they join the Bible story, then the adults move upstairs to discuss the lesson. Details are still being planned for them to rejoin the youth for more activities. If anyone would be interested in leading the adult discussion, please contact Connie or Penny Tracy.

The Cokesbury Road Trip VBS teaches kids that God is always with them as they explore new places in the company of the Navigator and a pup named Scout. They will learn about biblical travelers from both the Old and New Testaments.

Also at its February meeting, the Education Committee discussed the Open Mic Night, set for August 9th at 7 p.m. We're asking our church family to help out by thinking of performers of all kinds to join us that night to share their talents. We encourage people from the community to join us. Perhaps you know someone who is great on guitar or can toot on a tuba or maybe some other talent. We would like to send them an invitation.

Our next meeting will be held on March 6 at 10 a.m.



1. What animals are people advised to not be like?

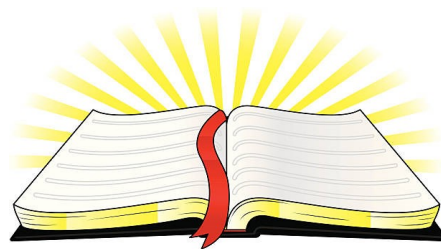
- A. Vicious dogs and wolves.
- B. Senseless horses and mules.
- C. Gluttonous pigs and swine.
- D. Garrulous parrots and mynahs.
- E. Dangerous badgers and wolverines.

The answer to this question can be found in Psalm 32:9.

2. When the Israelites celebrated the Passover meal at Gilgal where they were camped, what did they eat?

- A. Manna sent from God to sustain them.
- B. Chicken McNuggets.
- C. Roasted grain and unleavened bread from the land of Canaan.
- D. Pork chops and shrimp scampi.
- E. Nothing, for they were fasting.

The answer to this question can be found in Joshua 5:10-12.



United Women in Faith News

Submitted by Char Crosby



United
Women
in Faith

The February meeting of the United Women In Faith was opened by Bette Jahn with a devotional, "Priorities," advising to "stop telling God how big your storm is. Instead tell your storm how big your GOD is."

UWF has been busy. Many helped to clean the kitchen. The trustees arranged to have the fellowship hall floor polished and to repair/stretch the stairway carpet. New non-slip strips will be applied. A point made by Penny regarding our new name prompted discussion about how to better include our community beyond the church. The Reflection Breakfast is March 22 at 9:30 AM. Traditional hot cross buns and coffee/tea will be served. We are urged to invite a friend(s) and all women in the community also are invited. Please make your reservation by Saturday, March 15 by calling the church office.

Outreach actions included receiving small stuffed animals for the Christmas Shoebox project. A Hot Spot Junior is starting at Emerald Elementary. Support was approved in a motion to make a financial contribution of \$300. Motion carried. The UWF members were given a list of necessary items.

Cyndi gave a clever presentation of "Name That Tune" to acquaint us with Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) who wrote lyrics for more than 9000 hymns! This was the first presentation of this year's study of "Women of Faith Through the Ages." Sharon F. will present the March study.

District meeting reservation forms were distributed. Connie will be Louise's backup for the Sunshine committee. Connie graciously prepared a local UWF directory. A talk about "Our Peruvian Sisters" was given as part of the Call to Prayer and Self Denial. Thank you to Mary Whinnen, Cyndi Burgin and Janet who assisted in this program. Thank you Janet, Mary and Cyndi for assisting. Seven batches of pasties were made for the February sale.

The next UWF meeting is March 4. The United Women in Faith is open to all women interested in the welfare of women and children. For more information, contact UWF President Bette Jahn. The meeting was adjourned. Dessert was provided by Char.

Vitality Committee Update Connie Kelsey

Invite your friends and family to join us in the Fellowship room for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4 from 5-7 p.m.

Our Soup & Devotion Suppers will be held every Wednesday, beginning on March 12 at 5:30 p.m. through April 16.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make these a fun filled time of fellowship as we enter the Lenten season.

Thank You

It has been awhile since we got together and made quilts for the LAYETTES. We will have to do it again in the distant future. Thank you Char for the cute onesies. Remember the baby t-shirts with the tabs, that we pinned to the diaper many moon's ago? Everything got wet!

Connie did some super shopping and bought several winter sleepers. She wasn't sure if I needed them and I don't right now. But will one day.

Candace also found a great bargain for several stuffed bears. So don't pass up a bargain.

An anonymous donor donated a couple of sleepers for Valentine's Day.

I am always looking for flannel. Hobby Lobby is a good place when they have it 40% off.

Blessings to the bargain shoppers,

Lynn LaRose