



- 12 William & Gayle Tuffnell
- 15 Gayle Tuffnell
- 30 Brandon Ash
- 30 Lynn La Rose
- 30 Martha Weeks

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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 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
April 2025

PASTOR'S WORDS

We are people who truly desire to live in God's service. We are not perfectly faithful, but much of the time and in many ways, we offer ourselves to Him. We want Him to have His way in us, and we want others to receive their share in the blessedness He so freely offers. We have taken up our cross to follow Jesus, and He gives us the privilege of laboring for His kingdom in ways that involve sacrifice, self-denial, and even dying. Because He commissions us to minister in a world that's under the influence of sin, there is a risk of weariness as Paul's exhortation implies. Following Jesus puts us in contact with negative influences that could, if we face them apart from Him, leave us exhausted and worn. We even carry some negative influences in the unhealed places in our own souls, and we must invite His presence into these places that need more thorough conversion. Following Christ is not an inherently wearying life, rather we may get confused and go about it in a way that exhausts our inner wellbeing. Fundamentally, taking up our cross and following Christ is a life of joy because our lives are now rooted in the only real source of joy that exists.

What do we really think about our lives of service and sacrifice? What do we understand sacrificial self-giving to be? A right understanding of it protects us from weariness while a wrong understanding makes us vulnerable to utter exhaustion and emptiness. God led me into this exploration by showing me something in my own heart. I was dialoging with Him about weariness when a symbol came into my awareness. Henri Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved* summarizes his life as a Christian by saying, "I am called to become bread for the world: bread that is taken, blessed, broken, and given." Similarly, Oswald Chambers equates the Christian call to becoming broken bread and poured out wine. "Keep right with God and let Him do what He likes, and you will find that He is producing the kind of bread and wine that will benefit His other children." Many sermons and worship songs draw on this metaphor to symbolize what it means to live in God's service.

PASTOR'S WORDS

The images we hold in our hearts shape our choices and our very grasp of reality, and if the symbols are distorted, we will be distorted. While our hearts can take this symbol, not every picture, story, and symbol we take in provides a right and true perception. Certainly, the broken bread picture resonates with our experiences of being spent, exhausted, and consumed. But our own subjective sense of reality may not be a reliable guide. So let us consider as we draw nearer to the cross of Easter resurrection whether the image of us becoming bread and wine poured out for others provides our hearts with a true picture of Christian life and service.

Pastor B.J.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) Update

The SAS discernment team is charged with exploring a change in administrative structure to determine if the simplified accountability structure (SAS) would benefit our church. This plan is designed to streamline traditional legacy administrative (management) structures, reduce the number of meetings, and allow church committees to function more efficiently.

We met with our SAS coach, Rev. Jim Noggle, and began the initial aspect of the discovery process-discernment. Our task was to decide if and why the SAS approach might warrant consideration.

Having completed the necessary homework and thoroughly discussing advantages and disadvantages, the team discerned that SAS would be advantageous because it streamlines administrative processes, provides built-in efficiency, and accountability while empowering the laity-that's us, the congregation-for more missional work in our community.

The team's responsibility is to learn, assess, and keep you informed. Your job is to ask questions and/or seek clarification. Change can be awkward and uncomfortable, but the better the understanding, the better the ability to make an informed decision. Ultimately, the decision whether or not to

adopt and employ the simplified accountability structure will be made by the congregation.

As the SAS team continues to learn about the process, we will keep you updated and informed. We are accountable to you, so please ask your questions to any team member: Pastor B.J., Jim, Connie, Janet, Penny, and Char.

MISSING?

A heavy clear glass vase with three leaves embedded into it has come up missing from the church.

This vase was donated by Alma Bundy years ago.

It has a very special meaning to us!

If anyone has seen it or knows where it is, please let us know! We would appreciate it being returned to the church. It is used for special occasions!



First United Methodist Church

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

April 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 UWF 1 PM Clergy Retreat Pastor B.J. out of office	2 Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30 PM	3	4	5
6 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	7 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	8 Trustee 10 AM	9 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30 PM	10 Pasty Prep 7:30 Sales 10-1 PM	11	12 UWF Reflection Breakfast 9:30 AM William &
13 Holy Week Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	14 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	15 Education 10 AM Gayle Tufnell	16 Lenten Soup & Devotion 5:30 PM	17 Maundy Thursday	18 MMA Good Friday Service 1 PM	19
20 Easter Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	21 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	22 Vitality 10 AM	23	24	25	26 Family Fun Craft Day 3-5 PM
27 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	28 Bible Study 11 AM Prayer Group 12 PM	29 Worship 10 AM	30 Brandon Ash Lynn La Rose Martha Weeks			

Mission Noisy Offering — Heifer International

This collection works with families in need to create long-term solutions to hunger and poverty around the world.

Drop your donation in glass jar as you enter or exit the sanctuary! Thank you for your donation!

Prayer Chain

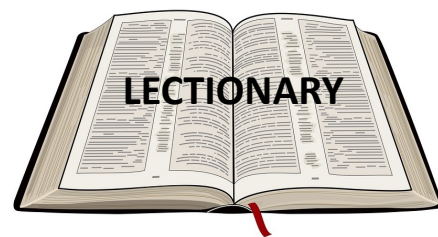
As many of you know we have a group in this church, called the Prayer Chain, that offers daily prayers for individuals, situations, and problems brought to them. Prayer requests can also involve individuals, situations, etc. outside our church community.

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.



April 6 — 5th Sunday in Lent

Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126 (UMH 847); Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

April 13 — Passion/Palm Sunday; Holy Week

Palms-Luke 19:28-40; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

Passion-Isa 50:4-9; Ps 31:9-16 (UMH 764); Phil 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49

April 20 — Easter Sunday; Festival of God's Creation Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839); 1 Cor 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

April 27 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-35; Ps 150 (UMH 862); Rev 1:4-8; John 20; 19-31

FOR OUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Let us please keep the following people in our prayers: Char Crosby, Carol Weinert, Penny Tracy, Ken Burgin, 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.



Committee updates and newsletter articles are always welcome!

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

April 25, 2025 deadline.

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

The collection amount for March Mission Noisy Offering for UMCOR will be announced soon. Thank you for your support!



A View From the Belfry April, 2025

Happy Easter egg hunting from the belfry! Actually, it isn't Easter quite yet, but it will be in just a few weeks! You know, I've never quite figured out what rabbits have anything to do with eggs. In fact, I've never figured out what they have to do with Easter, either! You people sure do have some rather odd ways to celebrate your special occasions!

Last month I commented that the members of the prayer and discernment teams would be meeting with their coach, Rev. Jim Noggle soon. Well, they have met, and it helped the team members a lot! They don't look quite so puzzled any more, and are beginning to understand what SAS is all about. They went over their homework from the last meeting (nobody failed the assignment, by the way, probably because they weren't graded on it), and they asked a lot of questions, which Rev. Noggle answered. One thing I figured out was that if you have questions about what SAS is, you can ask the team members! Also, I learned that you will be kept informed through the newsletter and through notices on Sunday morning, I also learned that nobody is trying to keep secrets about it from anybody else! In fact, the church members will be given as much information as the committee (oops! That's going to become Team, not committee!) gets! Eventually, if things go as well as is hoped, the church members will all have a chance to vote on whether this is something they want or not! (If you aren't a church member but want to vote on SAS, all you have to do is join the church. You can talk to Pastor B.J. about that!) The vote won't be for quite a while yet because the SAS teams have a lot more work to do before the church will be ready to vote, but so far they are making progress!

I have good news! The bat figurine was found! It was hiding in the conference room, on top of the wooden frame surrounding the glass windows of the doors leading into the sanctuary! Penny Tracy found it, and Penny sometimes doesn't have the sharpest vision! Good going, Penny! It has been hidden again, awaiting discovery by another sharp eyed church person! Happy hunting! (I wonder if there will be Easter eggs hiding with it??!)

Everyone is kneaded out of the same dough, but not baked in the same oven!



DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

Cyndi is taking requests from the "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 service.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN—FEBRUARY 2025

GENERAL FUND	\$5,427.00
GENERAL FUND EFTS	\$1,365.00
BUILDING FUND	\$180.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
FELLOWSHIP HOUR	\$40.00
INITIAL OFFERING	\$1.00
TOTAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JANUARY 2025	\$7,063.00

YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS FEBRUARY 2025	\$14,746.50
YEAR TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS FEBRUARY 2024	\$15,773.00
DIFFERENCE	-\$1,026.50
Feb. Noisy Offering (Helpful Hotspot) deposited 3/3/25	\$61.00

A Note from the Administrative Council:

The Administrative Council met on March 18 to address business of the church. The following topics were discussed:

Financially the church is doing well and paying all bills. It was noted, however, that expenses are up because of the need for heat, snow removal, and more electricity during the cold and shorter days during the winter. At the same time contributions have dropped because some people leave for the winter, fewer visitors are here than in the summer, and attendance is down when the weather makes it difficult to get here. Despite this, total overall expenditures for 2024 were significantly under the amount budgeted for the year, despite the need to go over the amount budgeted in specific areas, mostly in which we have no control such as utilities and withholding taxes. Thanks to the congregation for so faithfully providing the financial support needed to carry out the mission of this church!

In other business, we discussed a revised building use policy to address concerns regarding the use of the church. The revised policy retains the current policies and procedures to follow when the church is used. A list of these will be given to those who have asked for and been granted permission to use the church building. These include specifications as put forth in the Book of Discipline, such as no gambling, smoking, or alcohol use. Those requesting to use the church will also be asked to complete a request form for this purpose. The form will be submitted to the Ad Council for approval or denial. Hopefully this will simplify and clarify the procedures and rules for building use while also addressing issues of concern regarding such uses which may be objectionable to some. No action was taken of the policy at this time. We also heard reports from all of the church committees (see the articles from the committees for further information on their activities in this newsletter), and voted to pay all bills. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on June 13, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Helmbold

1. Before Jesus went into Jerusalem as Passover approached. He sent two of His disciples ahead of Him to bring Him something. What did He want them to bring Him?

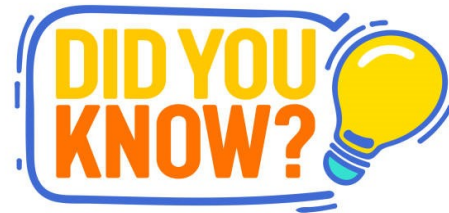
- A. A Confirmation that a room would be prepared for Him in which He and the disciples could celebrate the Passover.
- B. Palm branches.
- C. A white horse.
- D. A colt which had never been ridden.
- E. Bread and wine with which to celebrate the Passover.

The answer to this question can be found in Luke 19:30.

2. When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus had been laid, which three of the following did she see? Which two things did Simon Peter see?

- A. The stone had been rolled away from the tomb.
- B. Two angels sitting in the tomb.
- C. A bunny with a basket of colored eggs.
- D. The linen wrappings which were used to wrap Jesus' body.
- E. The gardener who maintained the garden in which the tomb was located.
- F. The resurrected Jesus.

The answer to this question can be found in John 20:1-18.



United Women in Faith News

Submitted by Char Crosby



United
Women
in Faith

Bette opened the March meeting with a devotional, "Confidence to Be Different." Candace, Sharon F. and Lynn displayed blocks for a Baycliff quilt for the summer camp. A sheet set will also accompany the quilt for a lucky camper.

As part of "Women of Faith Through the Ages," Sharon F. presented the story of Amanda Barry (1817-1915), born into slavery but whose freedom was eventually purchased by her determined and hard-working father. She overcame many significant difficulties and became one of the first black female ministers. UWF members voted to provide Camp Michigamme scholarships this summer for Brandon, Alex and one additional camper selected by the camp administrators in the amount of \$425.00 each. In addition, a gift card for Vic and Sharon was approved for their clever work on the kitchen drawers. Eight batches of pasties were prepared in March. The corrected date for the Reflection Breakfast is Saturday, April 12, 9:30 AM. Reservations can be made with Connie by April 8.

Committee Reports: Social Action—Lynn can always use flannel fabric for blankets and burp cloths. Connie donated a lovely baby blanket made by her mother-in-law, Gene Hastings, years ago and beautifully preserved. Education Interpretation—The new Response magazine is available. Member Outreach—The suggestion was made that we make an effort to invite women we think might be interested. Reading Program—It is going well, and anyone can check out a book from the church library.

Birthdays were recognized (Carol W. and Mary W.) as was a 50th wedding anniversary (Cyndi and Ken B.). The next UWF meeting is April 1 at 1 PM and is open to all women. The meeting was adjourned with wise words, "Wherever you create beauty around you, you are restoring your soul," after which we savored a rhubarb custard cake by Lynn.

Education Committee

The March Education Committee meeting was a brainstorming session.

Plans are being finalized for the Vacation Bible School "Road Trip" scheduled for Monday through Thursday, June 16-19.

Some of our regular volunteers will be unable to help with this year's VBS. While there are crew leaders, volunteers are needed to help with everything from food service to music to crafts. Please contact Penny Tracey or the church office, 341-6662, if you are able to help out this year.

The committee is looking into offering transportation to kids attending VBS. In part, the level of interest in this service will help determine whether or not it's offered. We'll have more information on this soon.

The Education Committee is asking our church family to help out with the Open Mic Night, Aug. 9, by thinking of performers of all kinds to join us that night to share their talents. We're also interested in people who are not members of a church or regular church goers. Give us their name and address, and we'll send them an invitation to join us. Please call the church office, 341-6662, with your ideas.

The Education Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, April 15 at 10 a.m.

Vitality Committee Update— Connie Kelsey

Join us at the Soup & Devotion Suppers held every Wednesday through April 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on April 22 at 10 AM. A Family Fun Craft Day will be held on Saturday, April 26th from 3-5 p.m. These crafts will be given to area care facilities in Manistique in May.