



# The Parish Print

July & Aug 2024

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

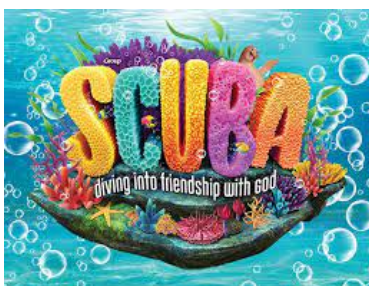
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## VBS 2024 REBOOT Parents Night Out

Mark your calendars! Come dive into friendship with God AGAIN - Thursday, July 25th from 6:00-8:00 PM.



Register here: <https://forms.gle/TYUxxqvZER7KTVCS7>

Please reach out to Jenny Stawick if you are available to volunteer. :)



## Joliet Slammers Game

We will be going to the Joliet Slammers baseball game on Friday, July 19th at 6:35pm. There will be fireworks after the game. Please sign up on the clipboard or contact Sarah at 815-768-5604 if you would like to attend. There will be people carpooling from the church for those who would like a ride. Tickets are \$10.

## Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Discussion Group

This discussion group is open to everyone and will be held on the following Mondays in the fellowship hall at 6pm.

**Monday, July 1** - Creation stories of humanity from the Bible

**Monday, July 15** - What did Sodom and Gomorrah really teach the world?

**Monday, July 22** - Purity codes, relational holiness, sexual no-no's, and other lessons from Leviticus

**Monday, July 29** - What did Paul teach about the body, gender, marriage, sexuality, and our sins?

**Monday, August 5** - What did Jesus say? What would Jesus say today?

**Monday, August 12** - revisiting the Ethiopian Eunuch - Can good come from changing who is included in the church?

*Pastor Lana will be on a trip to South Africa from August 21-September 14.*



*Please pray for safe travels and continuing education for her. Contact Sarah at 815-768-5604 for pastors on call for emergencies.*

### **How is the UMC organized and governed?**

*By. Pastor Lana*

The General Conference meets for more than 12 days in April/May every four years unless there is a pandemic or a specially called GC. This is the only official body which can make denominational decisions and speak for the whole UMC.

All the delegates, all the Bishops, the Judicial Council, the General Commissions, volunteers, and observers make quite a crowd. Over 700 delegates come from the UMC all over the world, although getting visas is not always easy or successful, especially for Congolese.

The UMC General Conference is organized in three branches with checks and balances.

On the floor of our “House of Representatives”, the number of each conferences elected clergy and lay delegates is based on the size of the annual conference. Lay and ordained equal balance each other. Thus, Illinois Great Rivers Conference elects ten GC delegates, five lay and five clergy, plus some alternates. We also have Jurisdictional delegates which I’ll explain another time. GC and JC Delegates are nominated and elected from the pastors and lay delegates who come to Annual Conference from each church. Jeanine Lauridsen has been your delegate for the past 2 years.

The bishops take turn presiding over the plenary sessions with three other bishops to help them. Also of great importance are the general secretary and an expert on the Book of Discipline which contains our rules, heads of general commissions and agencies, and other advisors. Bishops may have much power in their conferences, but at GC they don’t get to vote or make speeches. A select few get to preach in the morning worship services and most of them open

the session they chair with a Bible lesson, devotional thought and prayers.

We also elect a judicial council which rules on the legality of legislation and deal with charges against pastors and bishops.

Every day starts with powerful worship services, and there are also inspiring reports of all the general agencies of the church like UMCOR, Africa University, and General Board of Discipleship showing how we have been making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming the world in the Holy Spirit.

Some decisions take effect on Jan. 1st of the next year. Some come into effect at the end of General Conference. Constitutional changes approved at GC cannot be finalized until it is ratified by 2/3 of the annual conference delegates over the next year.

This is an ever-changing body which makes us an evolving church. There are new delegates every year. You can be nominated if you are an Annual Conference delegate. If you don’t like what it decided, any UM member is welcome to submit a petition for consideration in 4 years. UM members may also submit petitions to our annual conference in June up to 30 days prior.

The first week the delegates are divided up to meet in legislative committees to sort through hundreds of petitions, choose which to take to the floor for vote, amend them, etc. There were over a thousand petitions submitted over the past 8 years.

The second week is spent in plenary sessions all together to hear from the legislative groups and vote on their approved legislation and reports. Some goes through on “consent calendar” while other petitions are debated individually.

Central Conferences in other parts of the world gather to make regional decisions. But the US has to hash out all of its concerns at General Conference. A new plan for regionalization will

make the US its own region to deal with things like pensions that only affect Americans. Regionalization will also help counter the colonial trend of imposing our US-centric concerns and values on other regions in Africa, Asia, and Europe. We are still united and connectional, one body in Christ.

*As always, feel free to reach out to Pastor Lana with any questions you may have.*

## What is the “General Fund”?



This is the first in a series of articles about how our church finances work. I hope you will find these illuminating and informative, and if you have further questions, feel free to reach out to me using the email at the end.

I'm starting with the General Fund first because this is the info given in the weekly bulletin. In the fall, AD Council approves a budget for the following calendar year. This is the amount of money we feel is needed to pay for basic operations like payroll (we have 6 employees), federal contributions, utilities, money for the trustees to fix and improve the building, missions, youth ministry, music, worship, IGRC apportionments, amongst many others. This does not include our mortgage which is from our Building Fund. Our 2024 budget was about \$250,000.

In the bulletin, I give how much income we've received, from you the congregation, towards our general fund in that month (this is not Building or miscellaneous donations

like Advent and Lenten offerings, flowers, VBS, Raise Right, garage sale, etc.). Then, I give the total monthly expenses from that month (again, the mortgage is not included). The last line where I say we are \$25,821.66 below our budgetary needs means that that is how much we are below (for May), 5/12ths of \$250,000. What I don't say in the bulletin is that we are \$9,100 under budget through May, which means we've lost about \$15,700 in actual money so far this year. This does not mean we are not paying our bills or paying our employees. When General Fund is in the red, we have money in other places to help, but this, unfortunately, is not sustainable in the long run.

Next month I will discuss the Building Fund.

**Mike Caparula**

**[mcaparula@gmail.com](mailto:mcaparula@gmail.com)**

## Reminder: Check Out Team Notes & the Church Calendar

Remember that the minutes from Team meetings are now being posted for all to view on the bulletin board. They are also available online at <http://tinyurl.com/mumcnotes>. You can also stay up to date with our event calendar on our church website at <https://mantenoumc.org>. If you are a Google Calendar user, you can add it to your own calendar with this link: <http://tinyurl.com/mumcaddcalendar>. There's always a lot going on, check it out!

Submitted by Denise Caparula, Ad Council Secretary

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**2024 BIG REACH**

**October 13th**

We are getting ready for our Manteno UMC day of community service. Please let Jenny Stawick know of any needs in our community that can use our support.

**Raise Right Gift Cards**

**Orders Placed every Tuesday**

**Visit the church website**

**[mantenoumc.org](http://mantenoumc.org) to view the list of gift cards. The church earns a rebate on each card that is ordered to help pay off the mortgage.**

**MUMS - All are welcome!**

Do you work from home or are you newly retired — you are invited and welcome to join MUMS! It is always a great time of fellowship. Join us on May 21st at noon for a delicious luncheon.

Please RSVP to Sue Cronin at 815-468-9765.

**U ARE U PRESCHOOL  
REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2024**

Happy Summer from U are U Preschool! Registration is open for the 2024-2025 school year. Please visit [www.uareupreschool.com/register](http://www.uareupreschool.com/register) for more information.

**OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY IS  
ONLINE!**

To view the directory online, go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](http://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “[Instant Church Directory](http://Instant Church Directory)” to get the download. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

You may also access the directory on our website at [mantenoumc.org](http://mantenoumc.org) with the password: MantenoUMC. Please contact Jenny at 815-468-0057 with any questions

**BLESSING BOX ITEM OF  
THE MONTH**

**JULY** - Spaghetti Sauce, Peanut Butter, & Jelly in PLASTIC JARS

**AUGUST** - Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies

The Missions / Outreach team will have a basket by the sanctuary door each Sunday for the Blessings Box. Each month we will have certain items highlighted but any items are welcome.



## Raise Right Gift Cards

Did you know you can buy gift cards from the Raise Right app for the stores you are already shopping and the church earns money for free! Use this code: <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=L8FL41D863681>

Also, orders are placed most Tuesdays for physical cards that arrive by Sunday of the same week. Order forms are available at church.

## SUMMER GROCERY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

We are off to a wonderful start for our grocery program. Last week, over 20 families were served. We will serve 3 more Wednesdays this summer: July 10th & 24th, and August 14th. Monetary donations are always appreciated.



**2024 MANTENO GROCERY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM**

5:00-6:30 PM at the Manteno United Methodist Church

Wednesdays: June 12th, June 26th, July 10th, July 24th, and August 14th

Thank you to the following sponsors for making this possible...

Community Presbyterian Church, Rotary Club of Manteno, Christian Church of Manteno, MANTENO CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, Casey's, Manteno United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, Risen Savior Lutheran Church

Text (815) 468-0057 to reserve your pick up!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

The poster features a vibrant design with a blue and orange background. It includes illustrations of various grocery items like bags of rice, boxes of cereal, and fresh produce like bell peppers and tomatoes. The text is clearly laid out, providing details about the program's schedule and location. A list of sponsors is displayed with their respective logos, and a call to action is provided at the bottom.

## **July/August Calendar**

### **Upcoming Events**

- July 2 - UWF, 6pm
- July 9 - Finance Meeting, 6pm
- July 9 - Ad Council Meeting, 7pm
- July 10 - Grocery Distribution Program, 5-6:30pm
- July 19 - Joliet Slammers Baseball Game, 6:35pm
- July 24 - Grocery Distribution Program, 5-6:30pm
- July 25 - VBS Reboot - Parent Night Out, 6-8:00pm
- August 6 - UWF Movie Night, 6pm
- August 13 - Finance Meeting, 6pm
- August 13 - Ad Council Meeting, 7pm
- August 14 - Grocery Distribution Program, 5-6:30pm
- August 18 - Back to School Sunday/Blessing of the Backpacks, 9:30am

### **Weekly Ministries**

- Mondays - Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Discussion Group, 7pm
  - Will meet through August 12 (will NOT meet July 8)
- Wednesdays - Book Club, 3pm

- Wednesdays - Men's Bible Study, 6pm
- Thursdays - Loving Stitches, 1-3pm
- Fridays - Yoga 8am