



The Parish Print

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Phone: 815-468-3722

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

Email: mantenoumcoffice@yahoo.com

Website: Mantenoumc.org



The Big Reach! - October 2, 2022, during the Sunday morning worship service.

Please keep your eyes open for projects throughout our community that could use some attention and let Jenny Stawick know.



Manteno Grocery Distribution Program

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered and donated financially to the Manteno Grocery Distribution Program. Last week, we served over 30 families! This program is meeting a big need in our community. We are looking to extend this program past the summer if the need continues.



From the SPRC Committee

Please sign-up for the Meet and Greet with

Pastor Lana. You can find the sign-up sheets on the table in the Narthex by the name badges. Thank you!



In the previous two newsletters, the Finance Team has provided some basic

information regarding your gifts and how they're handled within the budget.

As promised, this month, two different work areas will describe how your gifts are used in service to the church. In the coming months, you'll hear from more of them. This month, we have Mike Caparula, chair of the Technology Committee and Susan Turner and Gail Dodge, co-chairs of the Outreach Committee, sharing their work with you.

In an earlier newsletter, it was suggested that your gifts be directed 85% to the General Fund and 15% to the Building Fund. For those who have begun to do that, thank you! Our financial secretary, Deb Laskey, has a request for those who are doing that that we failed to mention. Instead of indicating it as a percentage (as in 85%/15%) on your envelope or check, please complete the calculation and indicate it as a dollar amount to each fund.

For those who contribute online, Deb will be glad to advise how to make that indication online, depending on which method you use. Just send her an email at deborahlaskey@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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The Mission Team focuses on local, national and global projects to help people in any way we can. UMCOR (United Methodist Church on Relief) supports projects in the US and around the world. We have given money and also provided flood buckets which are crucial in times of disaster. Put a Sock in It provides socks for local communities. Each year we collect money during Advent and Lent to also support local and global projects. There are many ways to help support one another. If you know of any needs, please contact the Mission Team co-chairs, Sue Turner or Gale Dodge.



The obligations of the MUMC Tech Team are many fold. All technology in the building, be it computers, Audio/Video systems (be it in the fellowship hall or sanctuary), the digital piano, praise band equipment and other microphones, projectors and screens, telephones, internet, wi-fi, the narthex screen, and the sign out front all are all the responsibility of the Tech Team.

In the past couple of years, we have needed to spend money to upkeep or replace certain items. New microphones, adapters, and cabling has always been a need for the altar area of the sanctuary, and we have needed to spend money to upgrade/replace these. Specifically, the pastor's wireless microphone is delicate and expensive. We

have needed to replace the antennas and the cords a couple of times. All of these items do not cost more than \$50 or \$60, but with numerous items, it adds up. Also, batteries are expensive. We need batteries for all wireless microphones and we have to keep replenishing new ones. Also, as all of you know, the projector lamps have slowly exceeded their lifespan (about 9 years). We replaced those in May. That was not cheap (about \$1150 total). Hopefully, we can get another 9 years out of these. Other investments have included a new router for the pastor's office and a new wireless adapter for the sanctuary.

Looking ahead, we are working on possibly re-integrating the hard-of-hearing units on the system. This is difficult, because the current system has not been used since the sanctuary was remodeled, but we are working on it. Another item many people have talked about is the process in live-streaming our services. The current process (recording up front on a phone) is effective, but not optimal. The best way would be to use a camera in the back of the sanctuary, but this involves hooking it up to the mixer (we do not know if that works), and hooking it up to a computer to livestream (it would have to be a different one than the sanctuary PC since that's being used for the service). This process would be complicated and expensive. There are also other issues like wi-fi stability in the back and staffing to run the camera.

If you have any questions about the Tech Team please reach out to Mike Caparula (mcaparula@gmail.com). If you are interested in being on the team, let our nominating committee know about it this fall.

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Education Committee

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” - Matthew 19:14

The end of summer seems to be coming upon us quicker than I could realize. We are starting to get ready for another Kids Power Hour year which will begin on September 11 this year.

We are going to be welcoming Megan Pilbeam to our team of Diane Preston, Gail Hulford, Sarah and Pete Falk, Jacob Stawick, Natalie Meyer and Bob Hulford. We are looking forward to a great year and hope everyone is having a great summer.

Bob Hulford - Committee Chairman

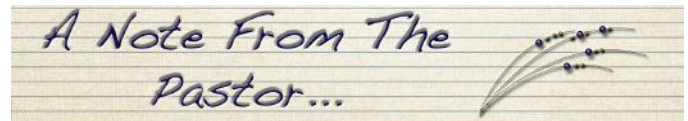


Loving Stitches, the prayer shawl ministry of our church, meets each Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the narthex. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, we would love to have you join us. If you are unable to join us on Wednesdays but wish to contribute a shawl, feel free to drop it off at the church office.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Are you interested in everyday theology, discussing issues across political differences, the connection between faith and art, human flourishing within community, or maybe even the life of an early Christian saint? Then join our book discussion group! The group will resume Wednesday, Aug. 17 4:00-5:30. We meet in the church office and will discuss *Freeing Jesus,* by Diana Butler Bass. Want more information? Call Jill Forrestal at 815-953-4586.



I'm really looking forward to gathering with groups of you in the next month. In fact, I have lots of questions I'd love to ask you! Please answer these questions and bring them with you or send them to me (especially if you live far away and don't attend in person) so I can get to know you better. Don't be surprised if I ask you more questions from time to time on our Facebook group or give you worksheets at church!

Why did you start coming and how long have you been coming to Manteno UMC?

What is something you like about being part of the Manteno UMC family?

What are your favorite hymns and praise songs?

What are some themes/burning questions you'd like to hear addressed in a sermon or a small group (don't be embarrassed!)?

Have you ever been part of another denomination or congregation? What did you like about it? What do you miss? Why did you leave?

How would you like to grow deeper spiritually in the future?

What ideas and hopes do you have for this church to grow deeper spiritually in the future?

How can our church reach more people in the area and on-line? Who should we invite, keeping in mind they may not know they are welcome?

If you've moved away from Manteno, can't come to church anymore, and/or stay connected on our Facebook group, do you have suggestions for how we can stay connected with you?

How did COVID impact this church? How did it affect your life and your spiritual life?

What are some of your biggest worries in life right now?

What is a hobby that brings you joy and peace?

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For my first musings about moving to Manteno, I want to say thank you to all of you for such a wonderfully warm welcome. The house was in perfect shape when I arrived thanks to many of you volunteering your time and skills. Ginny Anderson and the SPRC made sure the red carpet was rolled out for me. Gordy and Tom went out of their way to help me move my things friends had kept for me in Indiana, and then they came back to help move boxes from the parsonage to the church office. Sue Gallois has helped me get oriented in the office and go visit some of our oldest members. Brenda and Tim have been over to offer help and loan me tools. Jackson, Jacob, Luke and their friend Larissa helped me move a ton of books to the shelves in the basement. Jim helped put up a new garage door keypad that Diane got for the house. Diane arranged for the radon to be piped out. Kevin gave me a tour of Manteno, Bradley, Bourbonnais, and Kankakee. Dan and Donna Taylor were the first to invite me to their garden and the first to get me into the ICU at the hospital. Gordy and Helen have opened their pool to me. Mike and Denise got me set up on the laptop. They and Miles get me wired and run so much for worship. Best of all was the potluck. Thanks to everyone who brought food, those who set up and set out the food, and those who cleaned up afterward. I loved the food, but I also loved the questions you asked to get to know me better. For those who missed out, here are a few examples I remember:

What is your favorite hymn/s: “Hymn of Promise” and “This is Our Song,” unless it’s Easter or Christmas. Then they are “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” and “Angels We Have Heard on High.”

What is your favorite praise song/s: “Oceans,” “Give Me Your Eyes,” and “If We Are the Body.”

What hobbies do you have/what do you like to do on your day off: I love to go out in nature—bicycling, hiking, kayaking or canoeing, taking pictures, gardening, swimming, etc.

How do you prepare your sermons: I aim to plan the general framework of my sermons at least three weeks in advance. Sometimes I will do a short series on a theme. However, I also like to follow the Revised Common Lectionary, which covers much of the Bible in a three-year cycle. It includes readings from the Torah (first five books), the Psalms, Prophets, the Gospels, and the Epistles (letters). That’s what I am doing right now. So, I look at the scriptures, reflect and pray about what to focus on, study the historical context and translations, and consider what these have to say to us today. I journal about what I feel I’m being called to preach on, and I have that in front of me Sunday morning. I don’t like to read from it, though. I like to remain spontaneous, flexible, and follow the Spirit. I don’t avoid tough and controversial topics. I could never preach exactly the same sermon, even when I was preaching three sermons on a Sunday. I am always ready to address breaking news and current events that consume all our thoughts. I take the scripture very seriously (not literally) and try to be authentic and honest about how I interpret and apply them. If I ever forget to say it, please know I do not expect you to agree with me in all things. If I ever offend you, or confuse you, please come talk to me about it. If you love my sermons and want to talk about it, please contact me! I love discussing theology, the Bible, history, culture, and I look forward to hearing your opinions.

Blessings!
Pastor Lana



Moments With Miles

Well, it's been a long time since I wrote a *Moments with Miles* here in Manteno, Illinois, my hometown, out there amidst the once parched and now lush corn and bean fields.

The over two inches of rain we got last week was a blessing from God and badly needed. It's been dry out there, folks. I recently returned from a trip to Missouri to visit my mother, and the fields down there in Gasconade County are so very dry that I fear the crops are mostly dead. Now it is well known I have a soft spot in my heart for farmers and my heart aches for the farmers near where my mom lives in Owensville, Missouri. Please join me in offering a prayer for them, and all farmers everywhere who feed all of us with their labor.

It's hard to believe that it is almost August. But, the cicadas have already begun their raucous cacophony and soon Susie and I will celebrate our eighth year of retirement from teaching. I don't know about you, but the time seems to have flown by. And my calendar has been so full this past year - mostly with doctor's appointments. I begin to wonder if we retire so that we have the time to visit all of our professional medical friends.

It's a rare but pleasant surprise some mornings when Susie and I look at each other over our steaming cups of coffee and a silly

grin comes to both of our faces when we realize that we have nothing on our schedule. It doesn't happen very often. But when it does, it proves that it really is the simple things in life that bring the most happiness and contentment.

Paulo Coelho, a Brazilian author once said: "It's the simple things in life that are the most extraordinary; only wise men are able to understand them." That's so very true and especially true for us Christians. Our faith and salvation is a joy that is just about as simple as it can get. It is so simple that there are many "wise" people out there who just can't seem to understand it. It can be summed up in one word - love - love the Lord, and love each other. That's it. That's all there is to it. It is the greatest of all commandments and you can find it in three places in the Bible: Matthew 22:36, Mark 12:28 and Luke 10:27.

There is so much hate in the world these days. Hardly a day goes by without some new report of another shooting, another atrocity another name calling. So, my message this month is simply: Love. Keep it just that simple. If I may quote from the Broadway musical *Les Miserables*: "To love another person is to see the face of God." Let's try to love a little more this week.

And that's *Moments with Miles* from Manteno, Illinois, where you can see from horizon to horizon, and all of the hills are called overpasses.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 United Women of Faith – 7pm	3 Loving Stiches – 1pm	4 Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm	5 Yoga – 8am	6
7 Worship – 9:30am	8	9 Meet the Pastor – Hamman’s – 2pm Finance Team – 6pm AD Council – 7pm	10 Loving Stiches – 1pm Grocery Distribution – 5-7pm Meet the Pastor – Caparula’s – 7pm	11 Meet the Pastor – Turner’s – 2pm Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm	12 Yoga – 8am	13
14 Worship – 9:30am	15 Meet the Pastor – Ross- 6pm	16 Meet the Pastor – Howard – 6:30pm	17 Loving Stiches – 1pm Outreach Team – 6:30pm	18 Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm	19 Yoga – 8am	20
21 Worship – 9:30am	22	23 <u>Articles due for Parish Print</u>	24 Loving Stiches – 1pm Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm	25	26 Yoga – 8am	27
28 Worship – 9:30am	29	30	31 Loving Stiches – 1pm Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm			