



The Parish Print

February, 2023

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A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

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Mission Committee Report

A very special thank you to the congregation for the donations of hats, gloves and scarves for the warming tree. There were many beautiful hats and scarves made by the Loving Stitches members who meet once a week here at the church. The donations were donated to The Baby Fold in Normal, IL and also to the Manteno High School Closet. I am certain that they will all go to many who need the warmth this winter.

Your generous donations for our Rice Packing Project is complete and that project is scheduled for February 12 after the worship service. If you would like to help with the project, you can sign-up online or call the church office (815-468-8722).
Blessings, Susan Turner



Mums met on January 20th for pizza. Fourteen people were in attendance. Our next luncheon will be held on Friday, February 17 at noon for a Tailgate Party. Bring a dish to pass. All are welcome!



On March 25th the United Methodist Women of Faith will host their 2nd Annual Craft Show. If you know of anyone who might like to participate as a vendor in the show, please contact Sue Ross or Sue Gallois.



United Women in Faith

New Meeting Time!

United Women in Faith wrapped up 2022 with a

Christmas potluck dinner and white elephant gift exchange. We were honored to host several new faces as well as one returning guest: Pastor Joy, who was presented with her retirement quilt! It was an evening full of fun and laughs, as you can see from the photos!

We will be taking January off and returning on February 7 - meetings will now begin at 6pm. Be sure to mark your calendars for this year's craft show on Saturday, March 25!



VBS 2023 Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, June 11th - Thursday, June 15th
Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light
Registration materials will be

sent out at the beginning of March.



Midwest Distribution Center Rice Packing

Feb. 12, 2023, after worship service at 11:00. Sign up here to volunteer to pack manna packets that will be shipped to those in need throughout our world.

[2023 Rice Packing Event -- Midwest Mission Distribution](#)

Blessing Box Needs

We will be highlighting a need for the Blessing Box every month. Please grab a few items and drop them off at the church! In January/February, we are collecting cleaning supplies. Here are a few ideas: dish soap, laundry detergent, bleach spray, toilet bowl cleaner, glass cleaner, disinfectant liquid or spray. Thank you for supporting this mission.

Education Committee



Our students did a great job Sunday December 18 definitely closing our calendar year on a high note. A thank you to Jen and Zack Carroll for their help putting the program together.

We remember the news the angels said, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." This is the news we start our year off with, because of that Child we can have the Peace of knowing our Father is always in control. The Love that Christ has shown us by loving us and showing us how to love. Joy we have living in His loving care. As we start the New Year may we live with and spread that Peace, Love, and Joy throughout the year.

Thank you to our staff Sarah and Pete Falk, Megan Pilbeam, Dianne Preston, Gail Hulford and Jen Stawick. Bob Hulford, Committee Chair



815-468-6652

M-Th 8:30-11:00 a.m.

We are having fun learning all about Polar Bears, Snow and all things Winter! Registration opens for the 2023-2024 school year on February 1st for Current U are U Families and Manteno

UMC Families. Registration will open to the public on February 15th. To register please visit www.uareupreschool.com/register. Please see Tonya Hoots if you have any questions.



Thank-You Notes from Pastor Lana

- 1) Thanks so much to everyone for many lovely Christmas cards and gifts. I'm dedicating the special collection that the congregation gave me on Christmas Eve to my missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I'll be on a vacation/mission trip in the DRC for three weeks. Watch for pictures on Facebook! I look forward to seeing you and sharing more about Congo missions after I return Feb. 10.
- 2) Thanks to Rev. Herb Thompson, Jeanine Lauridsen, and Jill Forrestal for preaching the three Sundays I'm gone. Thanks to others who are covering other parts of the worship service.
- 3) Thanks to Rev. Herb Thompson and Rev. Scott Henley and Rev. Amy for being on-call for me while I'm gone. Sue Gallois can help you get in touch with them if you have an emergency.

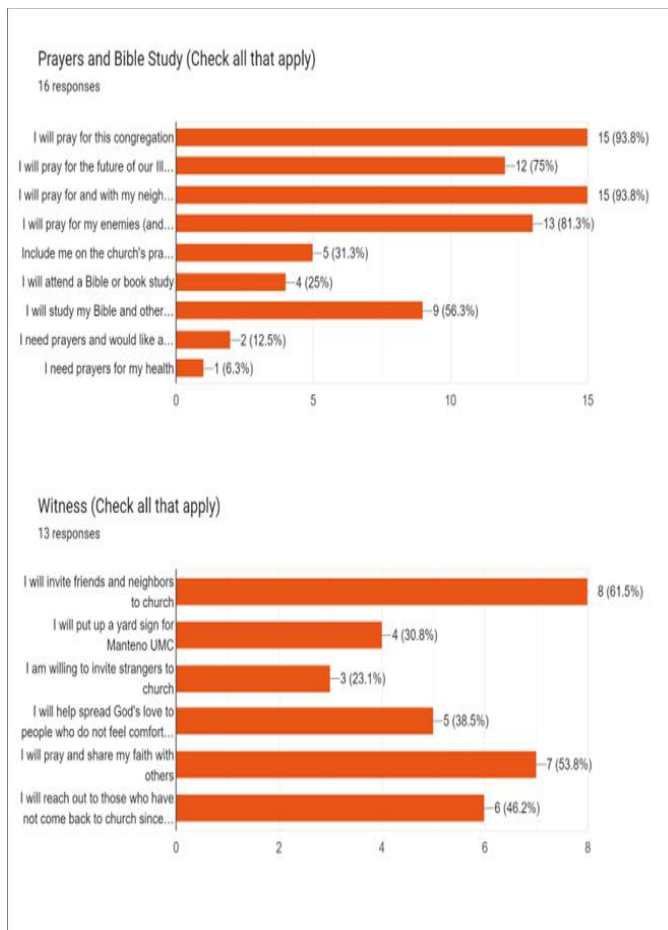
Monday Night Bible Study 7pm in Lent -- Place yourself as a witness of the cross and determine what your own testimony will be! In *Witness at the Cross*, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby. Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing. Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with a new insight. The witnesses at the Crucifixion watch Jesus die, and we watch with them, and we watch them. And we will come away transformed during the 6 weeks of Lent. Book Cost - \$14, starting Feb. 20.

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2023 Commitments Report

We are excited so many of you turned in your 2023 commitments. We had 33 submissions (18 on-line, 15 paper, some representing family units). It's not too late if you still want to fill it out at <https://forms.gle/CSfDHQyaAxsfRh19>. It would be great to get responses from 100% of our congregation, members and friends alike.

The nice thing about the on-line version is that we get graphs and stats summarizing us as a church together...like the following. Clearly, we have room to grow!



The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent Begins Wednesday February 22!

Lent is a special season of 40 days to prepare spiritually for Easter. It also means special services with other UMCs and pastors in our area. We encourage as many people as possible to attend.

We are taking a special Lenten offering for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, <https://shpbeds.org/> a great non-profit to help children who do not have their own beds. Then we'll all come together to actually build the beds and cover them with bedding. Watch for more ways you can get involved!

February 22, Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM at Asbury UMC

Sunday, February 26 6:30 PM at Manteno UMC

Sunday, March 5 6:30 PM at St. Mark Pastor Valerie Mezger Wengstrom

Sunday, March 12 6:30 PM Trinity Pastor Julie Smith

Sunday, March 19 6:30 PM Wesley Pastor Amy Smith

Sunday, March 26 6:30 PM Grant Park Pastor Scott Henley

Sunday, April 2 6:30 PM TBD

April 6, Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM, Pastor Lana Robyne preaching, location TBD

April 7, Good Friday 7:00 PM TBD

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Beware – The Golden Calf by Rev. James Barnett, our Conference Superintendent for the Vermilion District (originally published in the Current news for Illinois Great Rivers Conference, January 2023)

The Old Testament narrative shares with us an unfortunate turn of events in the life of the people of Israel: When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” – Exodus 32:1 NSRV The context here is that the Israelites found themselves in a wilderness – unsure of the future, impatient with Moses who was delayed in coming down from the mountain. Desiring to move forward, to take matters into their own hands, they insisted that Aaron fashion for them a graven image: He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” – Exodus 32:4 NSRV

Wow – just wow! Doesn’t that make your head spin? There is just all kinds of wrong about that! Today, The United Methodist Church finds itself in a wilderness. Our world has changed. Our culture has changed. All forms of media constantly berate Christians and Christianity. Many folks don’t even know that we exist. Ask most unchurched folks what words come to mind when the word Christian is mentioned, and you get words like “hypocrite,” “judgmental,” and “negative”. Quite a departure from “they’ll know we are Christians by our love”. Today, some United Methodists find themselves impatient – General Conference just doesn’t seem to want to get here. Some, no matter what happens at General Conference 2024, have made up their mind and are ready to strike out on their own – to chart a new way into the future. Consequently, voices have been raised that a new way forward be fashioned. That new way forward is “disaffiliation.” This disaffiliation may take on various forms – going independent, uniting with another denomination, joining the Global Methodist Church. Whatever the form, it is largely fashioned upon the theological and philosophical framework of the Free Methodist denomination. The Free Methodist denomination

was formed around 1860. They have been in existence for around 160 years. Over the course of 160 years, that theological and philosophical framework has yielded a church that is currently just under 70,000 members strong.

The United Methodist Church has somewhere in the neighborhood of 6.5 million members in the United States. So, we are being told in essence that the Free Methodist Church has it right, and The United Methodist Church has it wrong. Please allow me to paraphrase – “Come, make for us a new way forward. The path of disaffiliation is what shall deliver us and guide us.” Wow-just wow! Yes, we are in a wilderness. Yes, many have grown impatient over delays and disputes over rules and the behavior of the UMC. However, disaffiliation is a false god, fashioned by the hands of men. Please permit me to suggest a different approach:

- Be patient – prayerfully wait upon the Lord (not General Conference) to guide the pastors and members of our congregations to receive guidance on how we might most effectively engage our modern world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Take Action – train our congregants on how to see and to respond to the hurts and hopes of the people in their communities – all the people – not just those who dress like them, think like them, behave like them.

In Second Corinthians 6:2, Paul writes: “See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!” There is no need to wait for a better time and way to be effective churches impacting the lives of people who are like sheep without a shepherd. We have a Shepherd who can lead us in mission and ministry which will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

You may also be interested in reading the following article:

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/12/09/methodist-church-lgbtq-slavery-00073112>

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<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Book Study – 2pm Men’s Bible- 5:30pm	2 Groundhog Day Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm	3 Yoga – 8am	4
5 Choir practice – 8:15am Worship/ Sunday School – 9:30am Rice Packing	6 Bible Study – 7pm	7 UWinF -m 6pm	8 Book Study – 2pm Men’s Bible- 5:30pm	9 Loving Stitches – 1pm Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm	10 Yoga – 8am	11
12 Choir practice – 8:15am Worship/ Sunday School – 9:30am	13 Bible Study – 7pm	14 Valentine’s Day AD Council – 7pm	15 Book Study – 2pm Men’s Bible- 5:30pm Outreach Team – 6:30pm	16 Loving Stitches – 1pm Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm	17 Yoga – 8am	18
19 Choir practice – 8:15am Worship/ Sunday School – 9:30am	20 President’s Day Bible Study – 7pm	21 <u>Articles due for Parish Print!</u>	22 Ash Wednesday – Asbury 7pm Lent Begins Book Study – 2pm Men’s Bible- 5:30pm	23 Loving Stitches – 1pm Praise Band Practice – 6:00 pm	24 Yoga – 8am	25
26 Choir practice – 8:15am Worship/ Sunday School – 9:30am Lenten Service – Manteno – 6pm	27 Bible Study – 7pm	28				