



The Parish Print

June, 2020

Phone: 815-468-3722

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

Email: mantenoumcoffice@yahoo.com

Website: Mantenoumc.org



When you are having a 93rd birthday it seems insignificant compared to all the things that are causing pain and unrest in our country. However, thanks to my church family and especially my UMW and Bible Study friends my day was filled with numerous phone calls and beautiful cards. My family also responded in so many beautiful ways. It made me feel truly blessed. So truly grateful for you all.

Gussie Mansfield



Since March, it has been difficult for the Mission Team to function in our normal way. There has been no Bingo at Manteno Springs, or May baskets or help for some of the other missions we support.

During the season of Lent, we pledged to send monies to both the Baby Fold and local missions. Through the IGRC a matching grant was available to help local families during the pandemic. Thanks to Jen Stawick we were able to procure the money to help with this project.

Many of our ministries, through the Methodist Church, have been hurt during this pandemic. If you would like to help, donations can be sent to the church office. Please mark that it is for missions.

Thank you, Sue Turner



Engraved garden pavers are still for sale. The price is \$75 each or \$60 each for two or more. If you are

thinking of ordering one, do so as soon as possible. Honor a friend, relative, family member or special group by making a purchase. Checks may be made out to Manteno United Methodist Church. Order forms are available on the church bulletin board or from Mary Gibson. Ordering deadline is September 30, 2020. We would like to sell at 10 – 12 pavers in order to cover the installation cost. At this time only 4 have been ordered. Please, Please, Please, order yours now. Any questions, call Mary Gibson at 815-468-8012.



The finance committee would like to thank Gordon Hamann and Jim Vaughn, co-chairmen of the trustees, and Sue Ross for their hard work in obtaining the forgivable loan under the Paycheck Protection Program. Sue also helped the church obtain a forgivable loan from the conference. We also thank Gordon and Jim for their successful renegotiation of our church loan, which resulted in a saving to our church.

We anticipate a shortage of funds this church year are thankful for the congregation's support of the church.

The Parish Print



Free Masks – Keep safe – Take some to share!

Marj Cilley has been busy sewing masks to keep us all safe. She

has set these free masks outside on her front sidewalk and many people have benefitted from her creativity and service.

Her masks have been delivered across the country and the world including the Navajo Nation in Arizona, Ohio, California and even Vienna, Austria. People in doctors' offices, local stores, an IGA store in Eureka, our neighborhood, our church and the Babyfold in Normal, Illinois have been blessed with Marj's masks.

Through God's providing hand she has had enough fabric and elastic to create almost 1,200 masks for adults and children. Praise to the Lord!! Marj feels blessed to have the energy and ability to serve others through God's continual blessings.

If you need a mask or two, especially some for the kids, be sure to stop by and pick them up. 409 Stonegate Way, Manteno



Vacation Bible School

Please be on the lookout for details about our NEW VBS program this summer. It is going to be a

different and unique experience. We are excited about what we are planning for the kids in Manteno!



May's Finance Report:

\$ 13,437.35 Income from Sunday/online offering to be used for the General Fund budge

\$ 16,610.21 General Fund expenses
-3,172.86 Shortage

\$ 2,082.50 Income from Sunday/online offering to be used for mortgage payment

\$ 3,466.76 Mortgage payment
-1,384.26 Shortage

**Mortgage balance as of May 31 is:
\$565,669.86**

If you have questions, please contact the Finance Chairperson, Park Hollenbeck, or the Church Treasurer, Sue Ross.

Grocery Distribution Program

Do you know of anyone struggling financially right now that a few extra groceries would help? Please have them stop by our church on Mondays from 10-noon to grab family

friendly groceries. If you know of a family in need and you want to pick up groceries for them, please do! We want to make sure no one in Manteno goes to bed hungry.



New Church Directory Photo Session

Please sign up now!

Please sign up online Monday-Friday only.

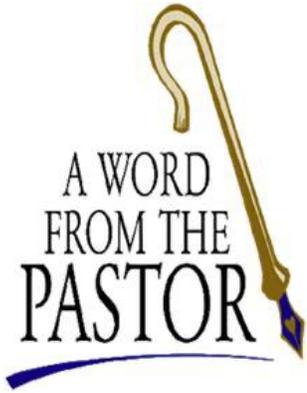
Directions to sign up online:

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

- Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
 - Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "click here to schedule your photography session"
 - Enter your church code **il146**
 - Enter your church password **photos**
 - Click on the Enter button
 - Click on the desired photography date (June 29th or June 30th)
 - Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
 - Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
- Enter your email address if a confirmation email is desired
 - Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
 - If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
 - Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
 - **Contact Jenny Stawick (your church's online scheduling administrator) to change or cancel your photography appointment at (815) 468-0057.**



The Parish Print



“Creating a Life with God,” is the name of an online course that I finished this week, led by Dan Wolpert, the author of the book by the same name. Each chapter of the book is a lesson on a different

form of prayer, and the class sessions involved actual time practicing prayer with 90 or more participants in a virtual classroom. (The class is still available through the Upper Room, though the lessons are recorded, not live.

<https://urelearning.upperroom.org/courses>)

I know that when I pray, I am never alone, but there was a surprising quality to praying while connected to people living in many different places, and seeing several of them on the computer screen! Much of our prayer time was spent in complete silence. Yet I really felt like we were praying together! It is another way that this pandemic situation has turned out to teach me a lesson and offer an opportunity.

I have studied and tried practicing all of the prayer practices in the book except one, which Rev. Wolpert calls “The Impossible Project”. The premise of this practice is that God can actually do things we think are impossible. Sure, of course, I think most of us believe this statement. But practicing “The Impossible Project” means stepping out in faith in a particular area. **It means trying to do something that you’re sure you could never do on your own power.**

After all, if we only plan on doing things we can figure out ourselves, where is our trust in the power of God?

We have celebrated both Easter and Pentecost Sundays during this pandemic, worshiping in our own homes, connected by computers and telephones. At the heart of both of these holy Christian holidays, is something

impossible (for us humans, that is)—the resurrection of Jesus AND the coming of the Holy Spirit to the gathered people who became the church. In fact, we can’t even imagine how God could come up with such an amazing idea!

Do you think that God is still in the business of accomplishing the impossible? If you said yes, then I’m asking you now to pray about what amazing and seemingly impossible thing God might be wanting to do in our church and our community? Maybe we start that kind of prayer by thinking about the amazing things that we have already seen God do. For me, I stand amazed at what God has done in my life and in the life of the churches I have served.

I have a long list of amazing things that God has done right here in Manteno, and through our church in particular. Top of my list right now is how God so quickly got people together from 8 churches in town to pay for and coordinate weekly packages of food for families in need in our community! Jenny Stawick gave leadership to that project, but she would tell you that God seemed to already be at work on it before we even got the idea!

When you start praying for God to do the impossible, get ready to be amazed! But of course, such a project must be rooted in seeking a prayerful connection to what God wants to do in us and through us. And, of course, we should never underestimate what God can do!

I’m praying that we will come back together in the coming weeks with renewed passion for serving our community, helping the hurting, and being united in the love of Jesus Christ! If we do that, what “impossible project” do you think God might be preparing to do in us, for us and for God’s world?

Still believing in the impossible!

Rev. Joy Schlesselman

The Parish Print



Moments With Miles

Well, it's been an interesting time in Manteno, Illinois, my hometown, our there amidst the finally planted corn and bean fields. According to my research 92% of the corn has been planted, and 88%

of the beans are in the ground. Now let us pray that the farmers have a good growing season this year. Last year was a challenge for them, and so far, this year it's not been much easier. They could use our prayers. For the truth is, my friends, when the farmers do well, we all benefit.

My word, what to talk about this month...I don't want to talk about the virus, we've all heard plenty and know how much it has impacted our lives. I don't want to talk about injustice...not that it's doesn't need to be talked about it, it does. I don't want to talk about the weather...tropical storms, too much wind and rain, too hot, too humid...no, I don't want to talk about that either.

So, what to talk about? I want to talk about tomatoes! Not the tomatoes you buy in the store, but the ones you grow yourself. I love growing tomatoes. I'll bet a lot of you grow them too. There is nothing like picking and eating a vine-ripened juicy tomato that you've grown yourself. It's kind of a midwestern thing, growing your own tomatoes. And interestingly, everyone who grows tomatoes has their own "special" method of doing it. Some cage, some stake; some sucker, some don't; some fertilize, some amend the soil; some grow from seed, some transplant; everyone does it a bit differently. And then

there are everyone's favorite varieties...heirloom, hybrid, slicing, cooking, cherry, red, yellow...the list is endless. And that's just great! There are so many variables in growing tomatoes that everyone can be an individual and still be together in the love of growing tomatoes.

You know, tomato growers know exactly what we as Members of The Manteno United Methodist Church are going through right now. We are separate, but still together. Even though we are currently worshiping individually at home, we are still one body in Christ. Until we can safely gather together again in Christian fellowship, we must pray and worship via Facebook, Zoom, conference calls, however. But though we may be physically apart, we still gather together in spirit to proclaim our love of Christ and for each other.

It says in Matthew 6:6 – "...when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." And in Acts 2:42 – "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." So, you see, we can, like tomato growers, be both individual and united in our Christian faith.

My dear kind hearts and gentle readers, in time these challenging days will pass and we will once again be together in fellowship. But until then, know that I miss seeing all of you every Sunday. But I am looking forward to our gathering together again which will be made all the sweeter for these trials we have endured.

Till next month...that's Moments With Miles in Manteno Illinois, where you can see from horizon to horizon, and all of our hills are called overpasses. God bless!