

THE MESSENGER

Newsletter

October 2023

First Congregational Church UCC

412 4th Street Manistee, MI 49660

Moderator's Musings....

I am writing this on the last official day of summer, but I am expecting to enjoy some beautiful autumn weather in the next few weeks. I hope we can all agree that the summer of 2023 in Manistee, MI was a beautiful gift from God!

On Sunday October 1st we will be welcoming Pastor Liz back to the pulpit after her well-deserved sabbatical. I am confident that she will return to us refreshed, renewed, and ready to resume her leadership in our mutual faith journey. We will be celebrating her return as well as showing support for our favorite football teams at our annual Tailgate potluck right after our worship service that Sunday.

We were so fortunate to have our Sunday services led by pastors Jane Lippert and Chris Lane during Pastor Liz's sabbatical. They both combined to provide us with thoughtful messages on what it means to be a family of faith and what we should all be doing to demonstrate our beliefs in helping find and deliver whatever is needed to achieve the greater good for all people.

I have previously written about our loan to pay for the new boiler system that is in the final stages of being installed in the basement. This \$60,000 project will provide us with a heating system that will be much more energy efficient and simpler to maintain. We are currently working with DTE, our natural gas supplier to obtain a fuel efficiency rebate to help cover the cost of both our new boilers. We have also received good news from our loan supplier that our interest rate has been reduced which will make our monthly payment drop from \$430 to \$350. This should make it even easier for members of our congregation to consider picking up one month's loan payment to help us balance the budget and minimize the amount of principle dollars we have to take from the endowment fund. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out by covering one month of our loan payment.

See you in church!



Sunday October 1st, 2023



October Birthdays:

- 5 . Karen Pomeroy
- 7 . Susan Flarity
- 13 . Thomas Amor
- 19 . Eric Rose
- 21 . Albert Ault
John Rowe
- 22 . Andrew Ault
- 23 . Josh Swenson
- 25 . Emmalyn Helge-Langvardt
- 27 . Barbara Knudstrup
- 29 . Tricia Carlson

October Anniversaries:

- 26 . Nanci & Josh Swenson

Wednesday Mornings

CRAFT GROUP

Everyone and Every Craft is Welcome
9:00am - Noon

We will be working on projects for the
bazaar, or just bring something you are
working on! There is help and
fellowship!

Summer is coming to a close and the craft group has been very busy. We made 150 Christmas placemats that will go to the senior center and meals on wheels. A big thank you to the people who dropped off fabric to use. We have another 50 that will be non-holiday made by the Victorian Quilters. Ask and you shall receive. We are making mini quilts (mug rugs) for the people at Medical Care. We make a few each month when their birthdays roll around. They have the recipients' names embroidered on them. Kate tells me they have been well received.

Drop by any Wednesday morning we can put you to work or we would just love your company. Bring your own crafts to work on we would love to see what you are working on. We say we meet 9 to 12. We often stay till 5.

Moving On...

Jan Williams is moving to Grand Rapids to be near her children.

Her contact information will be:

Address: 2151 Arbor Trail NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534 Phone: 616-850-4198

email address: jannelsonwms2769@gmail.com

Jan is looking forward to keeping in contact with her Manistee Congregational friends via text, phone, email and in person visits are welcome.



Mission for the Month of: **October**

Stockings for Troops

Third Coast Boutique, a Manistee shop that is veteran owned and stocked by veterans, is supporting a mission that will provide stuffed stockings for our active and veterans of the US military services. They have provided us with 150 stockings that need to have the words MERRY CHRISTMAS written on them with the puffer paint that is provided.

In addition to the stockings, they would like the following items to have to fill the stockings (**we will NOT be filling the stockings**). Our donations will be given to Third Coast Boutique

- Assorted candy, gum (no mint - it makes everything smell/taste like mint.
- Individual drink packets - ie. coffee, gatorade, lemonade, fruit drinks, protein shakes
- Baked goods - can be homemade or store bought (again no mint)
- Snacks - ie. goldfish, snack crackers, pretzels, chex mix trail mix, nuts
- Jerky and slim jims
- Granola bars, energy bars, cereal bars, pop tarts

They could also use:
baggies, snack size and sandwich size

Unscented baby wipes, chapstick, disposable gloves

Outreach....

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK SCHEDULE

All dates are at 11:45AM on Wednesdays except the two that are noted for 11:45 on Mondays.

2023

10/11 10/25 11/8 11/20 (Monday) 12/6 12/18 (Monday)

2024

1/3 1/17 1/31 2/14 2/28 3/13 Spring Break 4/3 4/17 5/1 5/15 5/29

Worship....


We welcome Pastor Liz back to the congregation next week on October 1st! We pray that her sabbatical time was what she needed, wanted, and more! Delivering the message next week will be our Michigan Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ, Rev. Lillian Daniel, who wishes to meet all of the congregations personally. We will also celebrate the coming of Fall with our Tailgate Potluck. Please bring a dish to pass. Meat, drinks, condiments, and buns will be provided.

We have been blessed to have Rev. Jane Lippert and Rev. Chris Lane serve as pulpit supply in Pastor Liz's absence. We have enjoyed their messages and getting to know them. We wish them joy in their getting to know Manistee as their community in retirement. We also thank those individuals who received calls these three months when there were congregational needs.

There will soon - I promise - be a new email or paper copy of an updated Directory.

Finally, we are looking for an individual who would be willing to serve with one of us on the Ministry Committee for a term. Please talk with either of us for a little more information. It is a rewarding ministry to be part of.

~ Nanci Swenson and Joanne Cotugno

 Practice started on Monday, September 25 for the Manistee Choral Society. We will meet every Monday from 6-8 at our church. The concert will be the kickoff to the Sleighbell Festival and held in our sanctuary on Thursday night, November 30. All are welcome to join in the fun. We will be singing familiar carols as well as some great new ones, too. Think about this - we would love to have you join us. Thanks. Joanne

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Needed: **ALL BAKERS !**

The summer is behind us and our fall bazaar is right around the corner! I will post a signup sheet where we sign the birthday cards. Please consider generously contributing by providing cookies, brownies, breads, fudge, etc! They do not need to be packaged as I will be packaging the items on the Friday before the bazaar. Please do indicate whether it contains nuts or is gluten free! I am so excited to be helping in bringing the bakery back to our annual bazaar!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 269-352-9644.

Happy baking !
Kristen



**LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
AT 7:00PM:**

Banned Book Club

**JOIN US EACH MONTH FOR COMMUNITY AND CONVERSATION
AS WE EXPLORE STORIES.**

October 25th 7pm : The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian / By: Sherman Alexie