

GraceNotes

The Newsletter of

The United Methodist Church of Manton

Church phone: (231) 824-3593

website: www.mantonumc.com ~ email: umcmanton@charter.net

Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-Noon, Thursday 9-11 am.

February/March 2019

Pastor Jeff's Jottings

I walked into my church office this morning and shivered. Now most of you know this is a common event because the heat struggles to make it to my office anyway. But today I shiver more than usual. It is 55 degrees and the furnace doesn't seem to be working. It's almost zero outside and colder days lie ahead. My first thought is to complain, but then I start to think about those people in our community who may not have heat at all. Many may not even have a reasonable place to live. And all of a sudden, I am happy that it is 55 in here... it could be worse.

God calls us to care for those less fortunate than us. What better time of the year to set an example that we love our community and all the people in it. What can you do to help? It might be easier than you think.

There has been a fund established at the Cast Iron Kitchen restaurant for those that need a hot meal to come in and be fed. The resources in that fund have been provided by churches, businesses, and individuals that feel they have been called to help feed the hungry.

There are clothing racks inside the gazebo in the park downtown where you can leave your gently used clothing and those in need can come by and claim what they can use. Again, this service is provided by those who feel called to clothe those people who need warm clothing.

We host a community dinner in our fellowship hall every Wednesday evening. In the corner of the fellowship hall there is a table where occasionally you will find food and clothing that has been donated. This has been done knowing that many of the people that attend this dinner each week, have a need for food and clothing the rest of the week, also. Please feel free to add a donation to that table if you feel led.

Finally, the senior class at Manton HS is participating in a service project that will provide daily essential needs to local homeless shelters. We will have a box available in the fellowship hall to help collect items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, non-perishable foods, brushes and combs, deodorants, feminine products, tissue, toilet paper, wet wipes, band-aids, and socks. I saw a report this week that the most needed item at homeless shelters is socks... warm socks!!

These are just a few of the ways you can help care for the less fortunate in our own community, and as always, we can cover them in prayer. May God bless each of you, our church, and our community.

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy, and to the poor, in your land."

~Deuteronomy 15:11

Ladies Birthday Luncheon

Ladies Birthday Luncheon will be February 21 at 12 noon at the Northside here in Manton.

Kid's Crafts Club!
Every month.



Tai Chi

Tai Chi has resumed. Please join us on Monday's at 7 pm. The cost is \$2.00 per person. Class will be cancelled if Manton Consolidated School is cancelled due to bad weather.

New District Superintendent

On January 7th Bishop David A. Bard welcomed the Rev. Jodie Flessner and thanked the Rev. Anita Hahn for service on The Michigan Conference Cabinet and the Northern Waters District.

JANUARY 07, 2019 | LANSING MI — The Northern Waters District of The Michigan Conference will welcome a new district superintendent **beginning July 1, 2019.**

Bishop David Alan Bard today announced the appointment of the Rev. Jodie Flessner, currently serving as the pastor at Caledonia United Methodist Church, to be the next district superintendent for the Northern Waters District. She follows the Rev. Anita Hahn who has served the maximum of eight years as a district superintendent.

"In discerning a person to succeed Rev. Hahn, I wanted a person who also has a passionate faith in Jesus Christ and deep desire to help the church flourish in these changing times," said Bishop Bard. "I wanted a person who has a solid record of leadership in local congregations and the wider United Methodist Church. In appointing the Rev. Jodie Flessner, I found such a person. Rev. Flessner has leadership experience in congregations, cooperative parishes, in the conference and the wider United Methodist Church. She brings to this position a deep faith, a pastor's sensibility, experience with creative forms of ministry in rural areas, and a passion for helping the church be its best. I know she will work well with her colleagues and enhance our shared ministry as The Michigan Conference."

Bishop Bard also praised current District Superintendent Rev. Anita Hahn who served the Grand Traverse District, one-fifth of the Heartland District, and finally in the newly formed Northern Waters District. "In the midst of significant changes in our Michigan Conference, not to mention significant changes in the religious landscape of the United States, Rev. Hahn has led out of her deep faith in Jesus Christ and her passionate heart to reach new people in new ways with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ." Bard continued, "Her compassion, creativity, enthusiasm, and warm-hearted faith have been a gift to me, to the Cabinet, and West Michigan and Michigan conferences."

The bishop added, "I hope you will join me in expressing gratitude for both Rev. Anita Hahn and Rev. Jodie Flessner, and in praying for them both in this time of transition."

Why ashes?

On Ash Wednesday many pastors dip a finger or thumb in black ashes and make the form of a cross on the foreheads of worshipers. Many Christians keep the symbol on their head for the entire day. It is a reminder of one's sorrow for one's sins. It is a sign of humility and the need for forgiveness. Also, the cross on the forehead reminds us of the death of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

Church Council Minutes for December 13, 2018

PRESENT: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston, Bob Swanson, Lois Matteson, Lyle Matteson, Noelle Wallace, and Ruth Ann Ward

Lighting of the Candle: Bob Swanson lit the candle and opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotions: Lois Matteson

November 15, 2018, meeting minutes were distributed, read by council members, voted on and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION: Beth Hissong has resigned as education chair. The Nominations Committee will need to nominate possible replacements.

TRUSTEES: Dick Raymer reported to Bob that he has an electrician who will be starting on the list of items which need attention. The second furnace has been inspected and has been found to be working correctly. Also, the church's new sign is currently being installed.

MEMORIAL: Nothing new reported. However, Lois Matteson resigned as chair after serving for more than twenty years.

ENDOWMENT: Lyle Matteson reviewed those accounts that are invested in stocks and in bonds. Lyle's name also needs to be added to certain accounts.

STEWARDSHIP: Nothing new reported.

MISSION AND OUTREACH: Diane and Char will co-chair this committee in the new year.

WORSHIP: A Healing Service will be held on December 16th at 6:00 pm. There will be two Christmas Eve Services. They will be held at 7:00 pm and at 11:00 pm.

STAFF PARISH: Church employee reviews will begin.

FINANCE: Noelle distributed the church's balance sheet as of November 30, 2018. Discussion followed. Motion made to accept balance sheet, voted on and approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: Pastor researched and brought in information on three possible safes that may serve the church's needs. Discussion followed. Information will be forwarded to the Trustee Committee.

PASTOR JEFF UPDATE: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston stated that his next course of study will begin in January. Also, on January 27, 2019, Leadership Training will be held in Cadillac. All of the those who will be in leadership positions with the church in the new year should attend. Pastor will be reviewing submissions for the church's vision statement. Twenty people have signed up for small group study. They will be divided into two or three groups. Pastor is looking at new video equipment to better recorded church services to be viewed online by those who cannot attend in person. Pastor is also still looking for new logo ideas for the church. Finally, Pastor discussed the possibility of forming a men's breakfast group.

Next meeting is scheduled for: January 24, 2019

Volunteer for devotions for next meeting: Noelle Wallace

Closing prayer: Jeffrey A. Swainston

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ruth Ann Ward

Think camping at one of our United Methodist Camps

Have you ever been to church camp? It's fun! It's exciting! There are lots of activities and a chance to meet new friends. Give the gift of a changed life by camping at one of our United Methodist camps. Check it out today at www.umcamping.org. Nancy Swainston is our local contact person.

Scholarships are available.

Ad Council Minutes for January 24, 2019

PRESENT: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston, Bob Swanson, Cheryl Peterson, Dick Raymer, Dana Raymer, Liz Dykgraaf, Sandy Moffit, Diane Siddall, Jane Fleming, and Ruth Ann Ward

Lighting of the Candle: Bob Swanson lit the candle and opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotions: Cheryl Peterson

December 13, 2018, meeting minutes were distributed, read by council members, voted on and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION: Liz Dykgraaf and Jessica LaFreniere will act as co-chairs of the Education Committee. Beth Hissong will continue to do crafts with the children.

TRUSTEES: Dick Raymer reported that the new sign in front of the church is complete and looks great. The lights in the office have been repaired. An estimate of \$2,400 was received to fix the lighting in the sanctuary. Dick will see about getting additional estimates. The upstairs has been cleaned and organized. Also, the toilet in the nursery will be replaced. There was also discussion on the placement of the American flag in the sanctuary. Pastor will inquire about any changes.

MEMORIAL: Jessica VanderBrook will be the new chair of the Memorial Committee.

ENDOWMENT: Nothing new reported.

STEWARDSHIP: Jane Fleming will act as the new chair of the Stewardship Committee. Cheryl Peterson stated that the church has received pledges in the amount of \$87,220 for 2019. However, last year's pledges were over \$86,000 and only just over \$72,000 was received.

MISSION AND OUTREACH: Diane Siddall and Charlene Anderson will act as co-chairs of the Mission and Outreach Committee.

WORSHIP: Terri Swanson reported through Bob that a fund raiser in the form of a variety show is still in the works.

STAFF PARISH: Dana Raymer is the new chair of the Staff Parish. Dana will organize a meeting of the committee members. The reviews for the church employees will go forward.

FINANCE: Cheryl Peterson distributed the church's balance sheet through December 31, 2018. Cheryl explained the accounts, the income, and the expenses of the church for the benefit of the new council members. Cheryl stated that there has been a change in church policy with regard to the payment of the pastor's health insurance. Pastors are now responsible for one half of that expense. Motion was made that the church would pay that expense for the pastor, seconded, voted on and approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: On Sunday, January 27, there will be leadership training at the Methodist Church of Cadillac. All committee members are encouraged to attend. Pastor suggested that we hang the extra TV from upstairs in the fellowship hall. We could use it to scroll church events and church announcements. Then there was discussion on the timing of the committee meetings. It was decided that the Church Council will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. This will give the other committees an opportunity to meet and report to the Church Council.

PASTOR JEFF UPDATE: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston states he is continuing his course studies. He states that there will be two small group studies. Pastor also discussed the discretionary fund. He receives request for money all the time. He struggles to determine if the requests are for a genuine need or if the requests are from people playing the system. He will continue to do his best to determine real needs. If a person request cash for gas for a genuine need, he does not simply give them cash, but will walk across the street and pay for the gas. The consensus was that he is doing a great job in this area.

Next meeting is scheduled for: February 26, 2019

Volunteer for devotions for next meeting: Noelle Wallace

Closing prayer: Jeffrey A. Swainston

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ruth Ann Ward

The United Methodist Church of Manton

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Address Service Requested



Open hearts, open minds, open doors.

February/March 2019

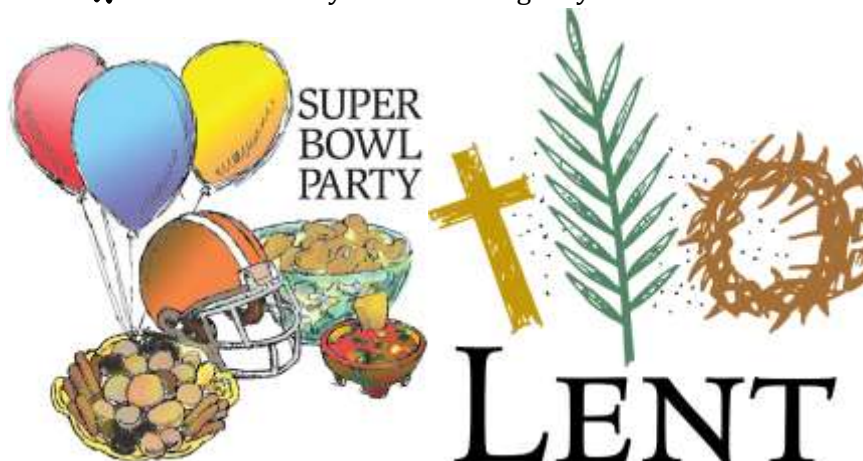
There are no visitors in God's house, only family members we have not yet met.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, welcome home.

We are always glad to meet new members of God's family.

If you are looking for a church home, please join us as we follow Jesus.

Welcome! We love you and are so glad you are here.



If you have an address change or no longer want to receive this newsletter, please notify us.