

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.

October/November 2019

Pastor Jeff's Jottings

As I perused through my Facebook account this morning, I noticed many of my friends mourning the passing of summer. Then, the memories came up. Facebook likes to remind us of everything we did during the recent summer months. I am thankful for the time spent with friends and family, and a chance to take a much-needed vacation with my wife, Nancy.

Summer always seems to be so short, especially in Northern Michigan. But that also means that we are one of the areas that get to celebrate the beauty of each of the four seasons that God has created. As we head into fall, days get shorter, nights get cooler, and the colors get vibrant. Baseball season is winding down and football season is upon us.

But most importantly, fall is the season of the harvest. Not only in an earthly sense but it is a great opportunity to share our harvest with those in need. God calls us to provide for each other. Leviticus 23:22, "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you."

If we are good stewards, as God has called us to be, we have the ability to take care of those in need in our church family and in our community. In November, we will be conducting our annual stewardship campaign. Please take time to pray and ask God how you can be the steward he calls you to be with the harvest you have reaped. No matter how bad we think we have it, there is always someone who is less fortunate than us. We have a great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Blessings to each of you,

Pastor Jeff

They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish.
~Psalm 107:38-39



November 3

Church Craft Show

Help support our craft show by getting information out to the community. Post it on your Facebook page and have your friends share it. Our craft show this year is on **October 12 from 10 am – 3 pm**. So far we have crochet items (including toys and hats), hanging towels, homemade jewelry including Paparazzi, knitted hats and scarfs, wind chimes, sun catchers, a 31 Rep with some of her bags and accessories, Pampered Chef, a bake sale, Lemon Grass, purses, totes, bowl cozy's, aprons, felt Christmas ornaments, key fobs and Color Street Nails. I'm sure there will be fall items on sale as well.

Church Rummage Sale

Our Education Committee is having a rummage sale on **October 18 and 19**. Need to clean out that closet? Are you finding items you're not using any more? Then feel free to donate to the rummage sale. More information will become available at a later time.

What if.....

What if we began to treat our Bibles the way we treat our cell phones?

What if we...

- ...carried it with us everywhere?
- ...turned back to get it if we forgot?
- ...checked it for messages throughout the day?
- ...used it in case of an emergency?
- ...spent an hour or more using it each day?

Gratitude

Be grateful for the kindly friends that walk along your way;
Be grateful for the skies of blue that smile from day to day;
Be grateful for the health you own, the work you find to do,
For round about you there are souls less fortunate than you.

—Edgar A. Guest

Project Christmas

It's not too early to be thinking about Project Christmas. We received a letter from Jill Benson, Chairperson for Human Shopping Carts (231) 286-9474 / bensonfarm8@gmail.com

Jill invited any youth and adults to come to the Wexford Civic Center in Cadillac on Saturday, December 7 to help make a difference to those in need at Christmas. Help is welcome in two-hour shifts. With the first shift starting at 8 am. Arrive 15 minutes prior to your shift. The time is 8 am until 3 pm ending when the last customers exit the building. They would like one or two helpers to assist each family to "cart" the gifts they choose.

If you are interested in helping with this event contact Jill by phone, text or email. Copies of the letter she sent are on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. The letter includes all the instructions. Mary made copies if you'd like to take one.

Ad Council Minutes for August 27, 2019

PRESENT: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston, Bob Swanson, Terri Swanson, Cheryl Peterson, Lyle Matteson, Sandi Moffit, Dick Raymer, Dana Raymer, Liz Dykgraff, Noelle Wallace, Jane Fleming, and Ruth Ann Ward
Lighting of the Candle: After the lighting of the candle, the meeting was opened with prayer.

Devotions: Bob Swanson

July 25, 2019, meeting minutes were distributed, read by council members, voted on and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION: Liz reported that junior church will begin again on September 8, 2019. The church's rummage sale will be held on October 18, and October 19. Bibles will be given to the third graders this year on September 8, 2019.

TRUSTEES: Dick reported that he is working on getting rid of the wasp nest above a window in the back of the church.

MEMORIAL: A check was issued to Lois in the amount of \$100 for flowers in the memorial garden in the front of the church.

ENDOWMENT: Nothing new reported.

STEWARDSHIP: Nothing new reported.

MISSION AND OUTREACH: It was reported that Diane Siddall provided shoes from the church's shoe ministry to 18 children last week and 19 children in need this week.

WORSHIP: Terri reported that there will be a "blessing of the pets" held in the park on September 22, at 2:00 pm.

STAFF PARISH: Dana discussed the District Superintendent meeting to be held on October 8, and the Church Conference which will be held on October 27. Each committee will need to prepare their report.

FINANCE: Noelle distributed the church's balance sheet, discussion followed, and they were accepted as presented. A motion was made, seconded, and passed, that the funds on deposit in the "Keep it Local" account be transferred into the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to be used for those in need in our community. Cheryl stated that the church's shortfall has been reduced to \$2525.83, given a large donation made by a church member. However, we still need to increase the church's income.

OTHER BUSINESS: Pastor Jeff discussed Crossroads Farm. Crossroads Farm is a nondenominational organization who has a large youth program. They have kids from sixth grade to twelfth grade and from 27 different churches. They offer activities, music, worship and snacks for the children. They also have buses to transport the kids to and from. They are looking for volunteers and Pastor Jeff states that he is interested in volunteering and he would like one other individual from the church to volunteer to go with him for three hours on a Sunday once a month. This may be a good fit for our youth.

Also, this year's pig roast at the Grant church will be held on September 7, 2019. The praise band will again be performing.

PASTOR JEFF UPDATE: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston: Pastor states that his new class has just begun. He showed us the Manton's sports schedule with the advertisement of the church in it. Also, there will be another townhall meeting on September 15.

Next meeting is scheduled for: September 24, 2019

Volunteer for devotions for next meeting: Jane Fleming

Closing prayer: Jeffrey A. Swainston

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ruth Ann Ward

Ad Council Minutes for September 24, 2019

PRESENT: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston, Bob Swanson, Cheryl Peterson, Lyle Matteson, Dick Raymer, Dana Raymer, and Ruth Ann Ward

After the lighting of the candle, the meeting was opened with prayer.

August 27, 2019, meeting minutes were distributed, read by council members, voted on and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION: Liz reported to Bob that Junior Church is down one helper. She will need to be replaced. Also, that she is working on the rummage sale. It is planned to be held Friday, Saturday, and possibly Sunday after church, October 18, October 19, and October 20.

TRUSTEES: Dick reports that the door handle at the parsonage has been repaired. Donna Foxworthy has offered to donate Lynn's piano to the church. The church's current piano is in need of repairs. Dick will investigate this possibility. It was also discussed that the placement of the TV in the basement might be better on the wall beside the nursery rather than in the corner over the piano.

MEMORIAL: Nothing new reported.

ENDOWMENT: Nothing new reported.

STEWARDSHIP: Pastor's sermons on November 17 and November 24, will be focused on stewardship. Also, Diane had reported to him that the shoe ministry has provided 40 pairs of shoes to those in need. Also, she has been contacted by a couple of adults who are in need of steel toed boots so that they may secure employment.

MISSION AND OUTREACH: Nothing new reported.

WORSHIP: October 6, 2019, is Laity Sunday. Pastor wants to get more people involved. He needs people who will get up and speak.

October 13, 2019, is World Communion Sunday.

November 3, 2019, is All Saints Sunday.

November 10, 2019, Pastor will take a renewal week.

November 17 and November 24 will be Stewardship Sundays. Immediately after church on November 24, 2019, we will be decorating the church.

STAFF PARISH: Dana and the committee are working on the church's annual reports. Dana also produced a document specifying the terms under which Pastors are reimbursed for expenses. Pastors are to produce the amount of the expense, what its business purpose is, what the date of the expense is, and the place of the expense all within 60 days from the expense. This was made a motion, seconded, and approved.

FINANCE: Cheryl distributed the church's balance sheet, discussion followed, and they were accepted as presented. There was a discussion with regard to the church's budget. The budget would be on point if the donations were coming in as they were pledged. The shortfall as of August 31, is \$6,150.17. The financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

OTHER BUSINESS: Pastor Jeff is waiting to get the proofs for the church's directory so that it may be approved, completed, and distributed. Pastor would also like to see if there is any interest in having another membership class.

The meeting with the District Superintendent is scheduled for October 8, 2019, at 7:00 pm, at Crossroads in South Boardman. Pastor's meeting is at 3:00 pm. The Church Conference is set for October 27, 2019, at 6:00 pm in Lake City UMC. Dinner is at 5:00.

Pastor and Cheryl discussed how best to get the third graders to use their Bibles. They thought about some kind of assignments to do in exchange for candy or some other type of reward. Also discussed was getting the congregation involved in a similar fashion so there would be closer attention paid to Sunday sermons as well closer attention paid to Pastor's articles in the News Letter.

PASTOR JEFF UPDATE: Pastor states that his current course study is in Worship and Sacraments.

Next meeting is scheduled for: October 22, 2019

Volunteer for devotions for next meeting: Jane Fleming

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.

October/November 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.