



The Parish Print

Sept./Oct. 2025

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

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Basement Damage of 2025

Thank you to everyone who has helped to remedy the water event in the basement of the church over the past few weeks. It was an extremely large job and the entire congregation is grateful to the many people that have helped throughout this entire project.

The reconstruction of the basement walls and floors will begin soon.



MANTENO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GARAGE SALE

WHEN
THURS. SEPT. 25TH &
FRI. SEPT. 26TH
8:00 - 5:00
SATURDAY, SEPT. 27TH
8:00 - 12:00

WHERE
255 W 2ND ST
MANTENO, IL

Manteno United Methodist Church

PROCEEDS BENEFIT VARIOUS MISSION PROJECTS

KITCHEN
JEWELRY
FURNITURE
LOTS OF TOOLS
BABY ITEMS

DECORATIONS
TOYS
PURSES
ART
BOOKS
& TONS MORE!

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LANA

I am blessed to have a friend who lives in Florida within walking distance of the Atlantic



Ocean. I was down there a few weeks ago to take a working retreat to plan worship for the next four months.

GARAGE SALE - ALL HANDS ON DECK NEEDED!

This is our largest fundraiser of the year! Garage sale set up will begin on Monday, Sept. 8th and will continue until the garage sale. Feel free to stop by anytime to lend a hand. Contact Sue Gallois or Gordy Hamann if you have any questions.

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It's very hot this time of year, but I love to go down to the beach in the dark before sunrise or after dark to watch sea turtles. I'll admit it's a bit creepy walking on the beach alone in the dark, especially when there is only a sliver of moon glimmering on the waves. Lights are forbidden to shine from apartments and hotels on the beach side, and you can't use a flashlight, in order to not disorient the turtles coming ashore. It feels like your eyes are playing tricks on you, but then a silent dark mass emerges slowly but surely from the waves. She's looking for the very best spot to lay her clutch of eggs.

I watch the turtles in awe. It feels like time travel in a way when I think how their ancestors have been evolving for approximately 260 million years. That was long before Stegosaurus and T-Rex evolved and roamed the earth. They survived whatever the extinction event was that wiped out dinosaurs. Turtles have been continually threatened by natural predators



digging up their nests or swarming around fresh hatchlings, hurricanes wiping away their nests, and, more and more, by humans invading and disrupting their nesting grounds. God designed them to thrive and gave them what they needed to evolve to survive.

They are threatened today as well, primarily because of humans, but they remain determined survivors.

This year I was surprised to see many more mama turtles than on any visits before – twelve in just a couple of hours one night. In the past I felt blessed to see one or two a night. Locals say there are more than usual and are laying much later into the season this year. That gave me hope.

Did you know female sea turtles come back to same beach where they were hatched to lay their own eggs? This is called their “natal homing instinct.” One night I saw three turtles emerging from the waves at the same spot almost at the same time, they all turned around and went back into the sea. Maybe they were sisters and just needed more space from each other.

Sea turtles may turn around after evaluating potential nesting sites based on several factors. If the density, texture, or temperature of the sand is not perfectly to their needs, they may return to the sea and look for a new approach. Perhaps the beach has eroded or the tide has encroached too high up on the beach. Sometimes they get thwarted by human obstacles. If there are lights shining and televisions flashing, noisy parties, new buildings, raked beaches, or even just some simple beach furniture in their way, they may get disoriented or scared. Perhaps my quiet presence, even at a distance in the dark, was a deterrent. Other times though, I was rewarded with watching a few of these gentle giants settle down, go into a kind of trance as she starts to flip sand out of a hole, lay her eggs, and then slowly, exhaustedly return to the waves having successfully deposited her treasures to their own fate.

As the sun rises each morning, the beach looks like a turtle interstate highway had had a traffic jam. I see some of the tracks are from those who turned around last night, some after only a short path while others are longer and show evidence of starting a nest. Others go all the way up into and over the dunes where there is clearly a new nest.

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There were several things I observe that make me reflect on our own spiritual struggles and encouragement for our faith journeys from these turtles. Our spiritual journeys can be like those mama turtles. I believe we have a kind of homing device that pulls us toward God. We sometimes start a path, but sometimes something about it doesn't feel quite right. Or something scares us away. Don't worry. It's okay to turn around and look for another place and way to put down our roots. Don't ever get discouraged. Keep searching and trying, digging around, until you find the perfect and safest place to invest your whole self. Don't quit. Keep trying. Keep seeking. Keep digging. God has designed you with the tools and determination to thrive, survive, and even evolve in your spiritual journey. Our church isn't perfect for everyone, and if not, I wish you the best finding what's right for you. But I pray that our Manteno United Methodist Church is a safe and healthy place for your faith to thrive and call home. If there is anything I can do to help you find new ways to keep growing in faith at our church, please let me know!

God bless you. Keep the faith, and keep evolving in faith.

HATE DIVIDES, LOVE UNITES



Here is the newspaper article from Capitol News Illinois that explains the meaning behind this new UMC billboard.

BREESE, III. — In response to the uproar over a Proud Boys message displayed on a billboard near Central Community High School, the United Methodist Church has a simple message: “Hate Divides, Love Unites.”

The church purchased billboard space in the same location as the Proud Boys sign, which was removed this week. It paid \$2,100 for the next four months.

“It’s part of our ministry,” said Paul Black, director of communication ministries for the Springfield-based Illinois Great Rivers Conference, which represents 650 United Methodist congregations and about 100,000 members across central and southern Illinois. “One of the focuses for the denomination is eradicating racism, and when you read about this group, there’s no doubt there’s cause for concern.”

The Proud Boys sign, which went up late last week and came down Tuesday, stood along Old U.S. Route 50 and St. Rose Road, about 1,000 feet from the school’s entrance. It appeared to be a recruiting tool for the group, listing a local phone number that went to a full voicemail and featuring its logo alongside the slogan: “Faith, Family, Freedom, Brotherhood.”

The Proud Boys have been designated a hate or extremist group by organizations including the Southern Poverty Law Center and were tied to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Lamar Advertising, which manages the billboard’s ad space, declined to say who purchased the Proud Boys message. The company removed it after a Clinton County Board meeting Monday night where dozens of residents spoke against the sign, and the

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board unanimously passed a non-binding resolution denouncing hate.

Bucky Miller, of Aviston, who helped organize community turnout for the board meeting, said he was relieved to hear about the Methodist sign. He and his wife, Laura Thoman, are raising two children, ages 6 and 4, and they were particularly disturbed by the sign's placement near a school.

The new message, he said, "embodies what our community and Clinton County as a whole is all about."

Black said the design for the new billboard comes from a campaign first launched by the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church. The campaign began after a private citizen erected a similar sign near a Confederate flag flying along a busy road at the Lake of the Ozarks. The church eventually took over funding for that billboard and has since expanded the effort, putting up signs in several locations throughout the state.

Kim Jenne, director of connectional ministries for the Missouri Conference, said other Methodist conferences across the country, including in Ohio and North Carolina, have also adopted the "Hate Divides, Love Unites" message in places where local communities have reported extremist activity, though she was not aware of any other Proud Boys billboards.

Calling all Ring-a-Lings!!

The Manteno UMC bell choir will start practice on September 25th at 5 pm in the sanctuary (due to the construction). Rehearsals will be on Thursdays and last 1 hour. We will play on November 2 and December 7th.



If you are curious about ringing and can read some music, please contact Jill Murphy at 815-370-5459 to set up a time to try ringing. We welcome all ages! It's never too late to start something new!

After School Club "Mid Kids" Begins Thursday, October 2nd 3:00-4:30

We are excited to begin another year of MidKids for students in grades 5-8. Check the clipboard to sign up to volunteer! If you know of a child that is interested in attending share this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDzMLOI41-YJJcBxLD8UvGBpB169Xvn1-1YxSr uRRFR8zVRA/viewform?usp=dialog>

U are U Sunday & All Saints Sunday

Sunday, Oct. 26th we will celebrate U are U Sunday with a special worship service. Please feel free to dress up & wear your Halloween costume to worship if you wish.

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Also, Sunday, Nov. 2nd we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. Please let the church office know if there is a loved one you would like to memorialize during this worship service.



Live Stream!

Thank you to everyone that makes our live stream possible every Sunday. This is a reminder that you can join us for worship from anywhere in the world that you may be! The link is posted every Sunday on our Facebook group or join us here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MantenoUnitedMethodistChurch/streams>.

U are U Preschool News

What a great start to the school year with our 35 adorable students! Our amazing teachers & volunteers have helped make the beginning of the year transition so smooth.

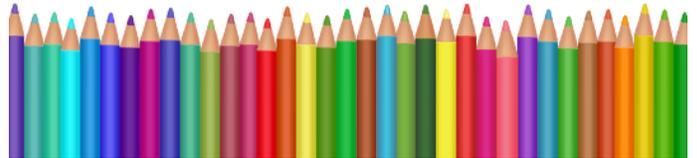
There are still a few spots remaining if you know of any families looking for a

preschool. Visit our website to register today! www.uareupreschool.com/register

NEW Climbing wall — thank you to Sarah Hoerler, Chuck Butterfield, Tom Page and Gordy Hamann for updating the climbing wall at the playground. The students are loving it!

amazon

**U Are U has an
Amazon WishList!**



Check out our Amazon wish list here:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3U1OF24Q5DOSL?ref=wl_share&fbclid=IwY2xjawMj7bBleHRuA2F1bQ1xMABicmlkETFuY2JtYnNaTWxua1Z4dGZBAR6lavOdl2MVX3AjuuV-uF4iTQd9Wh4dJDZ_baFKFWQ2ntjXhi2v0KnVsYZtlA_aem_qCIPPrXvrOyWZ8BGXD-F1g

Also, feel free to drop off any extra paper or new school supplies you may have around your house...washable markers, glue bottles, watercolor paints, etc.

United Women in Faith News

We have had a very busy year. We cannot thank you enough for all the support you have given us throughout the year. Because of your generosity, we have been able to complete our mission giving to many organizations.

Here are some projects you can help with this fall:

**Garage sale café
Paint Night (October 9)
Pancake breakfast(Nov 2)**

We will be collecting items to be sent to the United Women in Faith's Fall meeting that will be held in Streater. If you would like to donate, a box will be in the Narthex for collection.

Cunningham Children's Home Donation List

Epsom Salts – Any Size or Scent
Hand Soap with Pump Tops – Any Scent
Men's Body Wash – Any Size or Scent
Extra Long (XL) Twin Sheets – Any Color or style (Mainly for Boy's 9-18 Years)
Gift Cards – Walmart or Amazon – Any Amount

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House Donation List

Feminine Hygiene Products – Any Size
Deodorant – Men's and Women's – Any Size or Scent – No Anti-Perspirant
Paper Towels – Any Variety or Size
Gift Cards – Walmart – Any Amount

Reminder: Check Out Team Notes & the Church Calendar

Remember that the minutes from Team meetings are now being posted for all to view on the bulletin board. They are also available online at <http://tinyurl.com/mumcnotes>. You can also stay up to date with our event calendar

on our church website at <https://mantenoumc.org>. If you are a Google Calendar user, you can add it to your own calendar with this link: <http://tinyurl.com/mumcaddcalendar>. There's always a lot going on, check it out!

Submitted by Denise Caparula, Ad Council Secretary



UWF Paint Night!
Join us on October 9th
6:00-8:00 PM

Be on the lookout for the sign up to join us for a great paint night taught by Kathi Eastman.

PECANS FOR SALE!



We will be selling 1 lb bags of pecan pieces and mammoth pecans for \$12 per bag. We still have some caramel pecan clusters available for \$10 per bag. The shipment should be in the first week of November. There are only 24 bags of each. If you are interested in purchasing some, please contact Sue Turner at 815-351-6894.

MUMS - All are welcome!

Do you work from home or are you newly retired — you are invited and welcome to join MUMS! It is always a great time of fellowship. MUMS WILL RESUME on OCTOBER 21st at noon!

Please RSVP to Sue Cronin at 815-468-9765.

OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY IS ONLINE!

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login

now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “[Instant Church Directory](#)” to get the download. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

You may also access the directory on our website at mantenoumc.org with the password: **MantenoUMC**.

Please contact Jenny at 815-468-0057 with any questions.

BLESSING BOX ITEM OF THE MONTH

The blessing box at our church is used on a daily basis by those in our community in need. It is often emptied out. Please consider donating the following items,

SEPTEMBER:

Ramen, soup, & kids snacks/crackers

OCTOBER:

Personal items, cleaning/laundry supplies

Canned or boxed meals

PERSONAL ITEMS AND CLEANING SUPPLIES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

The Missions /Outreach team will have a basket by the sanctuary door each Sunday for the Blessings Box. Each month we will have certain items highlighted but any items are welcome.

Blessings Box Donation Requests

Thank you for helping support our community!

Here's what we're collecting each month:

-  **January** Soups, ramen, cup of noodles, crackers
 -  **February** Pasta, sauce, macaroni & cheese
 -  **March** Cereal, dry milk, tuna, canned chicken, canned salmon
 -  **April** Peanut butter, jelly, bread, kids snacks, ramen, cup of noodles
 -  **May** Cleaning supplies, personal items
 -  **June** Cereal, dry milk, snacks, crackers
 -  **July** Peanut butter, jelly, bread, kids snacks, ramen
 -  **August** Cereal, dry milk, snacks, crackers
 -  **September** Ramen, soups, kids snacks, crackers
 -  **October** Personal items, cleaning/laundry supplies, canned or boxed meals
 -  **November / December** Baking supplies - flour, sugar, cake mixes, cookie mixes
-  Personal items and cleaning supplies are always welcome!

Thank you for your kindness!

Take what you need, leave what you can.

You are welcome to swing by and restock the blessings box at any time. **It is being emptied daily.**

Raise Right Gift Cards

Did you know you can buy gift cards from the Raise Right app for the stores you are already shopping and the church earns money for free! Use this code:

<https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=L8FL41D863681>

Also, orders are placed most Tuesdays for physical cards that arrive by Sunday of the same week. Order forms are available at church.

Upcoming Events

- September 7 - Set up garage sale tables, after church
- September 8 - Garage sale help begins, 9am
- September 9 - Finance Meeting, 6pm
- September 9 - Ad Council Meeting, 7pm
- September 14 - UWF Sunday
- September 14 - Missions/ Outreach Meeting, after church
- September 25, 26, 27 - Church Garage Sale, 9am-5pm
- October 7 - UWF Meeting, 6pm
- October 9 - UWF Paint Night, 6-8pm
- October 14 - Finance Meeting, 6pm
- October 14 - Ad Council Meeting, 7pm
- October 21st - MUMS at noon
- October 26 - U are U Sunday - wear your costume to church!

Weekly Ministries

- Mondays - Bible Study, 7pm
- Wednesdays - Wonderful Wednesdays, 8:30am - Starting October 1st

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- Wednesdays - Book Club, 2pm
- Wednesdays - Men's Bible Study, 6pm
- Thursdays - Loving Stitches, 1-3pm
- Thursdays - MidKids, 3-4:30pm - Starting October 2nd
- Thursdays - Bells, 6pm
- Fridays - Yoga 8am