

Mission for 2017

January 22 – Community Love Fund: Our church set up this fund for the many needs in our own community at this difficult economic time and the increasing numbers of people coming to our church doors for help. Money in this fund will be used by Pastor Todd at his discretion.

In our song book “The Faith We Sing”, the words of the refrain, “And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they will know we are Christians by our love” state the intention of this Community Love Fund. As the song says, “We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we will spread the news that God is in our land.”

February 26 – Blanket Sunday: This offering is directed to Church World Services to be used for their blanket program. For just \$10.00 a blanket, we can provide warmth to someone who has had their world torn apart by war or have lost their home to flooding or hurricanes or simply provide shelter from the wind.

March 26 – District Youth Camp fund: This offering will be given to the Traverse City District Youth to be used for scholarships, campsite updates and full time counselors and directors.

April 16 – Mancelona United Methodist Church-----Easter Gift for the Church.

May 28 – United Methodist Church Community House: The United Methodist Community House is a non-profit agency based in Grand Rapids, Michigan with a mission to increase the ability of children, youth, adults and families to succeed in a diverse community.

The history of the United Methodist Community House (UMCH) can be traced back to 1902 when a group of Methodist women came together to do settlement work. Through the years, the program was expanded to meet the growing needs of the community. Today, UMCH is truly a place where the community gravitates for its daily necessities. The UMCH collaborates with area agencies to offer a range of family friendly programs, from childcare to family and senior programs.

June 25 – Shalom: This fund is used to meet needs, which may exist within our own church family. It is administered through Pastor Todd.

July 23 – Haiti Children’s Project: Children have been neglected, abandoned, abused and most were malnourished. They were sick, lacked education, and were living in absolute poverty. Some children may have had family, but those families

were unable to care for them; so the children were abandoned. The problems escalated after the earthquake. Our goal is to place abandoned children in a healthy, Christian environment; and to give them an education and to help them learn the life skills to bring about change in their society. We believe that this will be a permanent solution to the poverty, unemployment, and the lack of education in Haiti. We believe that this program will work and will become self-sustainable in a short period of time. Our children have already shown such achievement and maturity since we became involved in 2007. We have nine young people in universities in different areas of Haiti this school year. These young people had a very late start in school, but they have been able to catch up and surpass our expectations.

August 27 – Wesley Foundation: Wesley House is an open-armed and open-minded United Methodist Campus Ministry. A Wesley Foundation is a United Methodist campus ministry sponsored in full or in part (depending on the congregation) by the United Methodist Church on a non-church owned and operated campus. Wesley Foundations claim ancestry in the founding "Holy Club" of the Methodist movement, a group of students at Oxford University guided by Wesley in "methodical" (hence "Methodist") study, prayer, and self-discipline. Today a Wesley Foundation is the presence of the United Methodist Church on or near, and in service to, a state-run, non-church affiliated college or university (Church-related schools have Chaplains that may guide similar groups).

The first Wesley Foundation was established October 13, 1913 at the University of Illinois. Bishop James C. Baker's work in organizing this first Wesley Foundation chose the name Wesley Foundation to emphasize two spheres of outreach. Wesley refers to John Wesley the founder of the Methodist Church and first campus minister at Oxford University. While Foundation was selected to mean an "open movement," an ecumenical movement available to all college students.

September 24 – Crop Walk: CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Services and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day to get food, water and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because we want to end hunger, one step at a time.

October 22 – Mission Sunday:

We have scheduled Vicki Ulrich who is the Community Resource Coordinator for Antrim/Charlevoix/Emmet County DHHS. She will be here to talk about what they do for children in those counties.

Substance abuse has infiltrated the very fabric of our communities. Unfortunately we have homeless children in our county. Most of them say they are “couch surfing”, but some are truly homeless. The only way to build a strong caring, prosperous community is to raise happy, healthy, well-grounded children. The only way that we can have happy, healthy, well-grounded children is to have them raised in loving, caring homes. Substance abuse is tearing families apart. Children of all ages are the victims of domestic violence and unsafe, unstable homes. DHHS, along with other community partners is fighting hard to address these issues head on. It really does take a village to raise a child.

At the end of the service we will take a love offering to be sent to DHHS. This money will stay in Antrim County and 100% will be used for these children here in our own county.

November 26 – Operation Christmas Child (Shoeboxes): We will not have a 4th Sunday offering in November, but encourage those who want to pack a shoebox for our Operation Christmas Child project. You can collect shoebox items all year. Shoeboxes will be available Sunday, October 29th, or you can use a regular shoe box. A donation of \$7.00 is needed inside your shoebox. This money is used to ship the cartons to over 118 countries. National Collection Week this year is November 13 – 20. Our boxes will be due at the church on November 19th. How to pack a shoebox is available online at <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box>. See Brenda Lockman if you would like to look at a brochure. If you would like to donate money, please see Brenda before the 20th.

December 24 – Mancelona Food Pantry and Re-Sale Shop and the Community Light House. This money will be divided between both Mancelona Food Pantries.

2017 Mission Team: Gerry Deater, Brenda Lockman, Dean McCulloch, Linda Olds, Jan Patterson and Mary Ann Peterson. We welcome new ideas. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us.