

Alba United Methodist Church

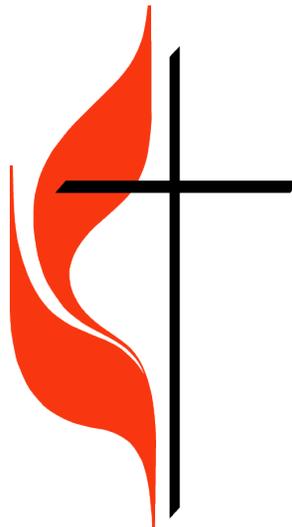
PO Box 136
5991 Alba Highway
Alba, MI 49611
Sunday Service @ 9:30am

Ad Council Meeting – 2nd Monday of [even months] at 5PM

Mancelona United Methodist Church

PO Box 301
117 E. Hinman Street
Mancelona, MI 49659
231.587.8461
Sunday Service @ 11:00am

Ad Council Meeting - 2nd Monday of [odd months] at 4PM



Dated Material – Please Rush - - July/August 2020

Volume 22 #3

Anniversaries

July

Terry & Angela Gapinski	July 6
David & Sharon Brooks	July 15
Dave & Ellen Whitehead	July 18
Terry & Darline Olds	July 27
Chris & Lori Derror	July 30

August

Brian & Denise Nixon	August 8
Chad & Courtney Raser	August 11
Christian & Annette Marcus	August 15
Gary & Tina Tubbs	August 16
Jason & Leigh-Anne Marsh	August 29



*Another Year
Together*



Read Joshua 4:4-9

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ!

As I write this article to you today, Mancelona is preparing itself for our first outdoor service of the summer! Currently, members of the church are out in the yard, visioning what our worship space will look like, and how we can do everything in our power to ensure that you are able to feel comfortable gathering together. We have been studying best habits and practices, finding ways to limit contact between individuals, and striving to make our outdoor services not only as safe as can be, but also a time when you may feel a connection to God as if we were in our sanctuary worshipping together.

Because of our current sermon series (all of which can be found on our church website at www.mancelonaumc.wordpress.com and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mancelonaumc) I have been spending much of my time reading through the Old Testament. One of the things that strikes me as I continue to read, is that throughout Genesis and into Exodus, the people of Israel have no place to worship God. God's people, instead, experience him in the wilderness, and whenever they have a meaningful experience with God, they often erected a basic stone monument to remember that place as a place where God came near and did something amazing. Even after the construction of the

Tabernacle, the wilderness home of God prior to the construction of the temple, God's people will, on occasion, erect monuments to remember that God is near.

When I think about our outdoor services, both at Alba and Mancelona, I can't help but think about this idea, that as we move out of the comfort of our sanctuary and our homes, we are building something new; we are creating a place that we can look at each time we pass and think to ourselves, "God is there."

As of this writing, Alba has had two outdoor services, both of which have been a blessing to my ministry and (as far as I have heard) to those who have attended. There is something simply special about having a choir of birds sing along with the music and something calming about speaking of the presence of the Spirit while the wind blows through your hair and around your face. We have found a way to get together as safe as we can, and though we cannot sing aloud, members have been humming or singing to themselves as we hear the music of the day, adding a deeper underlying sound of praise to that which nature is already providing.

It is my deepest hope that you will come and see what the Lord is doing in our outdoor services, while remaining hopeful that we will all do our best to care for one another in God's love.

See you soon!

Pastor Bryan





Trustees June 2020

Happy almost summer, I think. There will soon be a lawn mowing sign-upsheet posted in the Narthex. Thank you to Lori Derror who mowed a couple of times, and to David and Sharon Brooks for their work around the church yard. We had a small leak in the gas line of the riding mower, Mike is taking care of that this week. I wondered why I ran out of gas when I mowed Saturday morning.

We have a project in the parsonage, installing a newer double sink vanity in the main bathroom. I will have to coordinate with the Pastor and family and a plumber to make installation quick and with as little disruption as possible. When I have some tentative dates, I will be seeking some volunteer labor for removal of old vanity, and installation of new one.

The Narthex received a fresh coat of paint in February. There are other areas that will need painting perhaps this fall when the weather turns. I don't want to schedule inside projects during our short summer months.

Community Meal Update

A great deal of time discussing and researching on when to open Community Meal in our Fellowship Hall was done by Sandy Neumann. Based on Sandy's research and conferencing with our Community Meal Advisory Board, Sandy reported the following decision to all Community Meal staff:

"We will resume the congregate Community Meal when our church opens for worship in the Sanctuary. We decided not to initiate offering takeout only. We have considered all who responded to my [Sandy's] email, labored over all the pros and cons, and sought advice from others [Kalkaska UMC, Manna, Central United Methodist] . . ."

For your information on what is happening regarding Community Meals in the Greater Grand Traverse area, Sandy shared the Food Coalition report as of June 1.

"Of the 25 meal sites that report to them, seven closed in March. Central Methodist Church in Traverse City reported 3412 meals in January, 382 in April, and 197 in May. Interesting. I'm assuming those sites that stayed open had takeout only."

Our Advisory Board is comprised of Sandy Neumann, Carol Kingsley, Jackie Bates, Brenda Lockman, Carolyn Nicholson (community member on Sandy's team who remains a part of the original team), Dana Proffer, Ellen Whitehead and, of course, Jeanette Hayes, Ex Officio Chair and Founder of Community Meal. Five were opposed to takeout and two would do what the majority wanted, and one was ready and willing to do takeout.

Startup details will be worked out following guidelines from the State of Michigan, our Bishop, and most importantly our own Ad Council and Pastor Bryan.

Submitted by Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley

Community Meal Co-Chairs

NURTURE & OUTREACH NEWS

Links of Love

Earlier this year, we resurrected the Links of Love program to stay in contact with those church members who do not use a computer and, therefore, cannot keep abreast of church happenings, prayer requests, announcements, etc. If you know someone who could use some one-on-one personal contact by phone or a visit, please let us know. Also, if you would like to be a “link” and volunteer to be part of this program, we would like to hear from you.

Mancelona Labyrinth of Hope

Gerry Deater and Ellen Whitehead spruced up the labyrinth this spring by pulling weeds from the bark chip pathways and planting flowers. We are waiting to hear if we will receive new bark chips from the Village of Mancelona. If we can secure the chips, we could use volunteers to help spread them. If you have a friend who could benefit from a guided walk through the labyrinth, please let Ellen Whitehead know. We are also interested in leading groups (with proper social distancing) on walks for special events, prayer dates, etc.

Bike & Book Bash – Most Likely Cancelled this Year

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we had to cancel our annual Bike & Book Bash for Mancelona children and their families. We hope to offer this fun and educational event next summer.

MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our UMW group has not been able to meet due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We sure miss each other and look forward to the day we can meet once again! During this time apart, several UMW members kept busy with a local mission project of sewing face masks for community members and organizations in need. Among the needy groups we served were the Blue Lake Township Fire Department, Veterans Administration Clinic in Traverse City, Wexford County Mental Health Center, Safe Harbor of Traverse City, PoWeR! Book Bags, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, a hospital and sheriff’s department downstate, and many elderly individuals. Seamstresses included Kathy VanBruggen, Rhonda Allen, Ellen Whitehead, Carol Kingsley (who contributed material) and friends who lived in their neighborhood. Laurie Allison also sewed several face masks. We lost count, but I am sure the total was over 500!



July & August Birthdays

Mancelona

Cindy McCulloch	July 1
Ruby Collins	July 3
Dave Fisher	July 5
Theresa Peterson	July 5
Courtney Razor	July 8
Kallie Derrer	July 11
Wyatt Derrer	July 11
Evan Shafer	July 16
Penny Laws	July 19
Audrey Headapohl	July 21
Phyllis Starkey	July 24
Jack Patterson	August 1
Ginny Moeke	August 2
Dave Curtis	August 5
Charlene Geer	August 9
Sandy Scholl	August 10
Chad Razor	August 16
Alexis Felton	August 21
Cody Aldrich	August 25
Noah Felton	August 25

Alba

Katherine Rusnell	July 1
Margaret Bock	July 9
Jeremy Smith	July 12
Don Blasko	July 14
Cooper Thompson	July 28
Bobbie Sue Marsh	August 1
Clinton Olds	August 2
Derek Gates	August 6
Lyndee Larson	August 7
Matthew Olds	August 11
DJ Reynolds	August 12
Jayden Stevens	August 16
Collin Olds	August 28

Mancelona UMC to start Outdoor worship

After much discussion, the Ad Council and I have decided that Mancelona UMC will begin holding outdoor services on Sunday, June 21st at 11:00 am.

While we are excited about our ability to worship together once again, we must all take the precautions necessary to ensure that we are doing our part to keep one another as healthy as possible, doing all we can to reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19.

To this end, here is what you can expect when you arrive that Sunday:

All attendees will be required to sit a minimum of six feet apart to maintain physical distancing standards.

While studies are still unsure about how singing affects the radius of potential contact, we will be foregoing congregational singing for the time being. However, we are going to try and do all that we can to ensure that there will be music of some kind offered during the service, either played over the speaker or soloists.

Worship services will be limited to 30-45 minutes in length.

You are encouraged to bring your own chair, thereby reducing the amount of sanitization necessary after the service. If you do not have a chair to bring, there will be some made available. Masks are encouraged. You are welcome to come and sit in your car as an alternative option.

If you are still unsure or uncomfortable gathering together, no worries! We will still be offering online worship through the Church Facebook page and the Church website at www.Mancelonaumc.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again!

Blessings,
Pastor Bryan Kilpatrick, MDiV