

FROM THE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Grace and peace to you in the name of the One who is, was, and will forever be!

Pastor

As I sit in my office typing this article, snow is lightly flurrying down around the church, and while it's not sticking, it's hard to not already be thinking about the holiday season. In thinking about the upcoming holidays, I am reminded of the Easter we were unable to have in person, and hope that Christmas will not be the same.

This year has been difficult for most, if not all of us. Lives have been altered, routines shattered and rearranged, and I think at this point it is safe to say that we are all just about over 2020 and the trauma it has brought into many of our lives. We're tired, we're frustrated, we're over it. In short, I think many of us now have a better understanding of how George Bailey felt as he stood on that bridge over the icy river in the holiday classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

For those who have not seen the film, George's life had been anything *but* perfect. Injured after rescuing his younger brother, George is forced to stay home while his friends go off to fight in WWII. He takes over his father's business, and though he marries the girl of his dreams, they are unable to go on the honeymoon they had always wanted. Though business had been generally good, some misplaced money forces George to find himself on the brink of

financial ruin. After snapping at his family, George, standing on the bridge, seems to be both literally and figuratively at the end of his rope, having decided that the lives of the people around him would be better off if he were no longer around. Enter Clarence, George's angelic guide, who shows George that his life has indeed been a wonderful life.

This year has been a struggle for many of us as one thing after another have continuously piled upon us. Yet despite this, Advent is just around the corner, a time of expectation, a time of preparation, a time to remember that God calls us to 'Be still and know...'

Perhaps this year, Advent is meant to be our Clarence, that angel (or thing) that causes us to slow down and count our blessings, to remember the joy fresh fallen snow can instill within us, to prepare for the light that will inevitably come at the end of our darkness.

May God reveal to you blessings both great and small, may the Spirit serve as a constant reminder that you are not alone in your struggles, and may you always seek to see Christ in those around you.

Pastor Bryan



VETERAN'S DAY RECOGNITION – HONORING OUR VETERANS

On Sunday, November 8, Nurture and Outreach will honor and offer thanks to our church family who are veterans, a spouse of a veteran, or have a family member currently serving in the armed services. We will do this in a special way via a video presentation that Rhonda and Mike Allen have graciously volunteered, once again, to put together. We hope all veterans and their family members will be our guest for Second Sunday Potluck after church on November 8. Masks will be encouraged and social distancing practiced. All past participants will be included in the video. Additional information for new participants has been covered in the all-church email and church video announcements prior to this newsletter.



Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, Nurture and Outreach

MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

We held our October 14 meeting in the Fellowship Hall at the church. It was our first meeting since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We felt blessed to be back together again! A luncheon was prepared in honor of Jeanette Hayes for her many years of service to our church and our United Methodist Women group here in Mancelona and for our District. We will miss her gentle and passionate spirit for doing God's work. Jeanette presented a program that she gave at the Northern Waters District Annual Celebration. It centered on our "uncomfortable journeys" in life and how we can travel these journeys with a contemplative spirit.

We approved our slate of officers for 2021 and 2022. Our officers will be: President – Carol Kingsley, Vice President – Dana Proffer, Treasurer – Rhonda Allen, and Secretary – Ellen Whitehead. Submitted by Ellen Whitehead

Rada Sale Coming Up

CHRISTMAS IS COMING ~ ~ ~ RADA products make a great gift and proceeds go to UMW to serve others in need.

Catalogs are available in Visitors Center. Order forms are in the catalogs. The extra forms are for orders you may want to take from friends and family. If you use them, please put your name on the form too. Orders are due by November 15, 2020. Give Dana your order at Church, by mail, text Dana at 616-957-5102, or email to d.d.proffer@mail.com. Please include all information ask for on the form...Page#, Item # etc. Make checks payable to Dana Proffer. Please call or text Dana at 616-957-5102 with questions. Thank You! Dana Proffer

Prayer Shawls

Do you know someone who could use some loving comfort during a prolonged illness or the loss of a loved one? Prayer shawls made by members of the Knit Chicks are available for the asking! These shawls can be given to anyone you know; it does not have to be a church member. We also have lots of yarn and knitting needles if you would like to make one. Contact Sharon Brooks for more information. Submitted by Ellen Whitehead

PoWeR! Book Bags

UMW has been working with the PoWeR! Book Bag organization to provide free books and book bags to children in Mancelona. The Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop had been our site for this program, but after talking with the volunteers there, it was decided to remove the program from this location due to lack of space, the bookcase being in a crowded location, etc. The program is being supported in our community through the Health Department located near the Mancelona Early Childhood Center and the elementary school in Mancelona. We will continue to sew book bags and are working with the art teacher at Kalkaska High School who will have students sew bags as well. If you have material you would like to donate, see Ellen Whitehead. Submitted by Ellen Whitehead

Community Meal News

Sandy Neumann faithfully keeps up with what is going on in area community meal locations. In late September, Sandy emailed all the Community Meal Team Cooks an extensive report and noted:

“Life in the time of Covid” has certainly been a journey. The days seem to speed by in many ways and drag in other ways. I’m looking for silver linings still. Trying to let go and let God direct. Like Pastor Bryan said in one of his sermons.....God says, “watch this!” I’m counting on it.”

At the end of September, Sandy touched base with Val Stone, Chairman of the Five-County Food Coalition, of which we are a part. Val noted that the Coalition has approximately 60 members and 28 have meal programs similar to ours. Eight of those programs closed temporarily in March as we did. Those that continued seemed to do some form of takeouts. Some are big programs like Goodwill or Salvation Army. Sandy noted that Central Methodist Church in Traverse City had served 3500 meals a month in January. At the end of September, they had 256 paper bag style lunches. As of late September, Sandy and Val Stone had no knowledge of any Coalition location serving inside sit down meals. Sandy talked to the person in charge of the Rapid City Pantry. The Pantry is open now, and they do serve takeout meals. They have a couple of people that walk to their facility and they allow them to come in and eat on the day they prepare a meal. They also try to prepare takeout meals to some clients on the food distribution day.

Sandy talked to her good friend, Dee Miller, who is in charge of the Community Meal at the Kalkaska United Methodist Church. They are not part of the Food Coalition. They had tried in summer to resume their community meal program and didn’t find it successful. Near the end of September, they resumed and had 40 come to their meal plus they offered takeout meals. Approximately 25 or so wanted

takeout and the rest came in to eat. They have a huge facility and can easily space out and can also spill into their Fellowship Hall if needed. They have **one team who comes every week.....**two men who cook and have for approximately 14 years and 4-5 others who volunteer to set up, serve, and clean up.

So, as you note, Sandy is staying on top of when to open Community Meal. As you know Church has opened in a safe, social distancing manner. In October, about 18 UMW members met in our Fellowship Hall in a social distance manner. We enjoyed lunch under Jackie Bates’ direction on how to meet, serve, and eat. Keeping the proper distance, our max would be about 27 in Fellowship Hall.

Remember, we have to consider not only our guests, but the health and safety of our workers. In the course of a month, we have approximately 35 plus volunteers from our church, other churches, and the community that cook, serve, and clean up.

Sandy continued to share in that email with our Community Meal team, “We are easing back into things. We want to respect all differing opinions and responses in dealing with this unprecedented pandemic. I’m looking forward to the day that we reopen our Community Meal program. ***I’m still convinced that it is “the best thing our church has ever done!”***”

Submitted by Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley



Alba

Robert & Kathy Olds – November 8

DJ & Ashley Reynolds – November 29

Mancelona

Bob & Jackie Humphrey – November 5

David & Amy Derrer – November 24

Jack & Jan Patterson – December 7

Dean & Cindy McCulloch – December 12

Ken & Brenda Lockman – December 30



Mission Giving

Instead of passing the offering plate on the fourth Sunday of the month, there will be an offering box in the back of the church every Sunday labeled with the month's **Mission Project**. Whenever you want to give to "Mission for the Month" put it in the labeled offering box as you leave the church. You may put money in anytime during the month. You don't have to give every month, but if you see a Mission Project that you feel passionate about, give if you can to that one, however you want to do it.

November Mission Project: On the table in the back of the church is a box with zip lock bags for our Health Kits. If you would like to participate in this worthy project, please take a bag (each bag contains the directions). Enclose a hand towel, washcloth, adult toothbrush, finger or toenail clippers, comb, bath size soap, 10 band aides. These bags will be sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Hygiene kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes.

December Mission Project – Heifer Project

Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. The Heifer Project distributes animals, along with agricultural and values-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency.

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

We're on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities.

- Please remember the Mancelona Food Pantries during the holidays.
- Our Giving Tree - We will be putting up our giving tree the first Sunday of Advent, November 29th. The gifts and food basket will go to a local family for Christmas.

Church Giving

Our regular offering plate is now in the back of the church. (The box with the cross on it.) We will not be passing the offering plate.

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin; God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff... including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for the entire world to see.



Happy fall

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Missions

Church Trustees



Trustees November 2020

Still waiting for time on the contractor's calendar to upgrade the parsonage bathroom. Tentative date is November 10th.

Winter will be arriving soon. We had briefly talked about pricing out a tractor last Spring for snow plowing our lots but did not proceed. Instead, we will probably be continuing with our previous snowplowing company. I'm not sure we have anyone who wants to be responsible for keeping our lot cleaned out for an entire winter. Keeping the sidewalks cleared is enough. I'll have a sidewalk shoveling sign-up sheet in the Narthex posted soon. Thank you to all our lawn mowing people this past summer. We'll be trying to get the leaves cleaned up if it stops raining.

Submitted by Laurie Allison

What's
Happening

RADA orders due November 15.

Our Giving Tree - We will be putting up our giving tree the first Sunday of Advent, November 29th.

MUMC January-February Newsletter deadline will be by Saturday, December 12.

Beginning Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 pm via Zoom - Advent Study – *To Live Again: An Advent Journey Using the Christmas Classic, It's a Wonderful Life.*



Keep saving Family Fare receipts – There is a box for them in the Narthex.



Due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid and quarantines, the Christmas Eve plans will be announced closer to Christmas. Watch for updates on the website or on Facebook.

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

**Ad Board Meeting – 2nd Monday of month/Even
 Months at 6PM**

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 month/Odd
 Months at 4PM**

Dated Material – Please Rush - - November/December 2020 Volume 22 #6



<u>Alba</u>	<u>Mancelona</u>	
Scott Coon – November 6	Margaret Chapman – November 1	Jackie Bates – December 4
Cheryl Olds – November 10	Ronald Oyer – November 1	Brenda Lockman – December 4
Hailey Gapinski – November 14	Kathy Shuman – November 2	Ryan Naumcheff – December 18
Ruth Ann Gates – November 16	Jackie Humphrey – November 5	Jason Naumcheff – December 23
Jeannie Marsh – November 27	Robin Fisher – November 7	Kenneth Proffer – December 24
Terry Gapinski – December 3	Alexis Deater – November 11	Marian Grody – December 27
Ron Kenny – December 4	Mike Allen – November 13	Dave Whitehead – December 28
Lea Kenny – December 12	Wendy Aldrich – November 14	
Bob Marsh – December 13	Rhonda Allen – November 16	
Gary Zimpfer – December 19	Sandy Churchill – November 16	
Grace Smith – December 24	Sarah Nixon – November 17	
Judy Zimpfer – December 30	Patti Dykhous – November 19	
	Judy Plunkett – November 21	
	Beth McKaig – November 26	