

FROM THE



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we begin our yearly journey around the Sun anew! The dawning of a New Year is often a time for celebration,

hope, and preparation. Yet this year, it feels a little bit different, doesn't it?

I would normally use this article to fill you in on the upcoming plans for this year, however, due to the fact that we are still in the midst of a pandemic (though it seems the end is coming nearer), no such plans exist as of yet. What I can say is that I am in the process of preparing four or five Bible/group studies this year and hope to have them all but decided by the end of January. It is also my optimistic hope that come summertime, we will begin to resume the various activities of the church that connect us to the community. However, that depends entirely on the state of the pandemic.

The question then becomes one of content. If I don't really have anything to share, what should I write in this newsletter article?

Answer: Why not a prayer for all of us for the new year? Though you will undoubtedly receive this article sometime after the start of the new year, I thought it would be a good idea to give each one of us a prayer we can say each day if we so choose. This prayer is from a section of our Book of Worship entitled "Acts of Worship for New Year's Eve or Day," and serves to bridge the gap between the year that was and the year that is now.

May your year be blessed with the peace, hope, love, and joy we spoke so often about during the Advent season, and, as the old Irish proverb states, "May the saddest days of your future, be no worse than the happiest days of your past!"

Let us pray:

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth.

We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears,
new decisions and old controversies,
new dreams and old weaknesses.

Because you are a God of hope,
we know that you create all the possibilities of the future.

Because you are a God of love,
we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past.

Because you are the God of our faith,
we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise,
we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise,
and we serve and bless you. Amen.

Pastor Bryan



MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

In December, our Mancelona United Methodist Women usually serves a soup and salad luncheon for the community to thank school and Village staff for their service. With the coronavirus pandemic, we had to make some changes for safety reasons. We had lunch together as a group and worked on various outreach programs which included:

- ★ Addressing and sending Christmas cards to church family members we haven't seen in awhile such as those who are homebound.
- ★ Packaging cookies made by church members and candy donated by church friends for the Mancelona Food Pantry holiday give away to area needy families. Dana Proffer was the liaison for this project.
- ★ Six UMW members volunteered to make lasagna meals to deliver to school and Village staff. (This was done at a later date.) The six members were Carol Kingsley, Jackie Bates, Robin Fisher, Laurie Allison, Sandy Neumann, and Ellen Whitehead.
- ★ Carol Kingsley, Ellen Whitehead, and Kathy VanBruggen met the following week to arrange Christmas floral gifts and delivery was made to homebound church friends.

Beginning in January, our slate of officers is as follows: President – Carol Kingsley, Vice President – Dana Proffer, Treasurer – Rhonda Allen, and Secretary – Ellen Whitehead.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2021 (1:00 PM) at the church's Fellowship Hall.

WAVE OF LOVE AWARD

United Methodist Women seek to honor someone each year who goes above and beyond to become a "Wave of Love" to others. The criteria for this award, sponsored by our Northern Waters District of United Methodist Women, includes: "someone who is active in church, active in the community, shows faith through action and prayer, and supports youth, children, and friendship."

Our group overwhelmingly nominated a woman in our church who has grown so much in Christ's Spirit over the years and has become an integral part of our church family.

Among the praise submitted for our honoree is this: "Our recipient is hardworking, thinks outside the box, rolls with the punches, and is always willing to help others. She uses faith as her guidepost. She has helped us learn to change, adapt, and continue our church functions while under the uncertainty of a global pandemic. Called a friend by many and an angel by others, we are happy that she has chosen to be a part of Mancelona United Methodist Church."

Our 2020 Wave of Love award went to Lou Patton and we honored Lou at a worship service in early December.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead

Community Meal News

Community Meal Gives a BIG THANK YOU TO Mike Allen!

Community Meal regretfully accepts Mike Allen's resignation as our meal representative to the Food Coalition. This is a responsibility that he has faithfully held for the last five or six years. From monthly trips to Traverse City to Zoom meetings, Sandy notes, "he went faithfully every month. Did a great job! We certainly appreciated his efforts." No, Mike won't be skiing down a hill, simply filling another responsibility.

As you are aware, the Mancelona Community Meal remains closed until it is deemed safe for staff and guests to open. In the meantime, we hope you find time for reflection, health, gratitude, and hope.



Is Your Tank Empty?

Here are ways to regroup-

- Refocusing on what is important
- Focus on family
- Find what makes you happy
- Getting outside in nature
- Work on establishing a routine helps to get your work done and feel accomplished
- It is ok to have a meltdown & give yourself an opportunity to-
- Walk every day to keep yourself centered
- Biking is good and just being active outside
- Having two plans, a what if things go back to normal, and one for if they don't
- Keep in touch with co-workers, friends who lift you up
- Write notes of encouragement to others
- Avoid unnecessary media coverage unless it is positive

The above was an excerpt from the NMAVA meeting (NMAVA is a coalition of professional volunteer administrators from nonprofit organizations across Northwest Lower Michigan.) which was shared by Val Stone, Food Coalition Coordinator, Goodwill Industries of Northwest Michigan.

Submitted by

Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley



Mission Newsletter January 2021

Here is a list of Mission Projects we have done in 2020.

Blanket Sunday	\$229.45
Community Love Fund	\$200.00
Crop Walk	\$285.00
Crossroads Farm	\$118.00
Food Pantry	\$112.00
Grace Children's Hospital	\$70.00
Haiti Children's Project	\$41.44
Bike and Book Bash	\$510.00
Mike Hayes Fundraiser	\$165.00
Shalom	\$200.00
Stuff the Bus	\$90.00
UMCOR	and school supplies \$50.00 and 20 Hygiene Kits

January Mission Project 2021

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

Our Mission Committee will be getting together in January to decide what mission projects we can do for 2021.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman

Birthdays - Alba

Annette Marcus – January 5
 Jeremy Gates – January 8
 Brooklyn Stevens – January 8
 Derrick Marsh – January 15
 Ashley Reynolds – January 15
 Cecile Woodward – January 23
 Ashley Olds – January 25
 Terry Olds – February 2
 Chris Olds – February 5
 Penny Coon – February 12
 Jordan Stevens – February 14
 Louise Jewell – February 21

Birthdays - Mancelona

Kathy (Cameron) Rick – January 1
 Barbara Castle – January 3
 Marv Kingsley – January 4
 Pat Derror – January 7
 Kathy Johnson – January 7
 Ron Aldrich – January 10
 Braedon Moeke – January 10
 Jackie Allsopp – January 15
 June Beatty - January 15
 Burt Thompson – January 16
 Bob Geer – January 18
 Donna Levely – January 18
 Warren Shafer – January 19
 Diane Lirones – January 24
 Carol Kingsley – January 27
 Dana Proffer – January 28
 Ken Bronson – January 29
 Julia Kirby – January 31
 Carolyn Grody – February 6
 Denise Nixon – February 8
 Michael Allison – February 9
 Jim MacArthur – February 16
 Lynn Cummings – February 18
 Gage Johnson – February 18
 Rhonda Headapohl – February 21
 Cody Derrer – February 25
 Garret Derrer – February 25
 Rae Ann Thompson – February 25
 Linda Olds – February 27



Trustees January 2021

We have been fortunate to have no snowplowing needs in November and only 3 plows in December. At \$125 per plow this expense can add up quickly when we get lots of snow.

There will be a new snow shoveling sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex soon. Thank you to Doug Derrer who shoveled the walks when they needed it the end of December. The Kingsleys have graciously signed up for keeping the walks and steps cleared for January and the first week in February. We were keeping the steps into the sanctuary cleaned to reduce gathering in the Narthex. Since that area gets filled with “plow pack” when the village plows the sidewalks, we will ask you to continue to use that entrance but use the handicap ramp instead of the steps. That’s a lot of unnecessary shoveling keeping those steps cleared. The lower ramp on the north side of the church will also be kept clean for entrance to the church.

The parsonage project was completed in November. I’m sure the double sinks in the main bathroom are appreciated by the pastor and family.

I may try to do some more painting this winter. There are walls downstairs that need some sprucing up.

Submitted by Laurie Allison



MUMC March/April Newsletter deadline will be February 15, 2021.

Each week (usually Monday) an email is sent noting prayers, praises, and announcements, that have been shared in our service on Sunday, and it includes Pastor Bryan’s Gospel Lesson, Music, and Message for the week which he posts on Facebook. If you wish to be on that email list, send an email request to carolkings@torchlake.com



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

Alba United Methodist Church

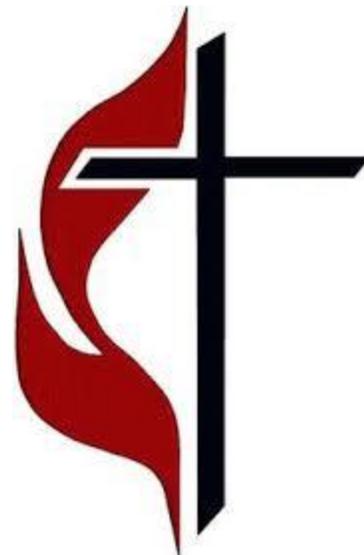
PO Box 136
5991 Alba Highway
Alba, MI 49611
Sunday Service @ 9:30am

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



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Mancelona Anniversaries



January 17th – Don & Ruth Johnson
January 26th – Dave & Robin Fisher
January 29th – Kenneth & Dana Proffer



February 13th – Michael & Laurie Allison