

Alba United Methodist Church

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

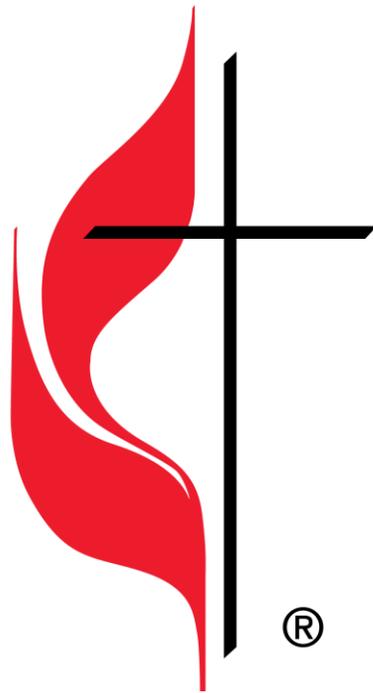
Administrative Council Board Meeting –
3rd Monday of [every month] at 6 PM

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Mancelona United Methodist Church

PO Box 301
117 E. Hinman Street
Mancelona, MI 49659
231.587.8461
Sunday Christian Education @ 9:30am
Sunday Service @ 11:00am

Administrative Council Board Meeting –
2nd Monday of [odd months]



March/April 2020 Volume 22 - #2

Holy Week Activities

Palm Sunday – April 5th
Good Friday – April 10th
Good Friday Service at the Mancelona UMC - Noon

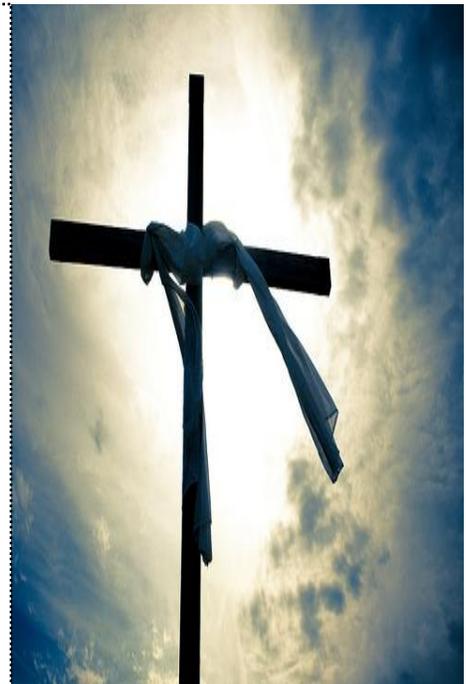
Easter Sunday - April 12th

Alba UMC:

- 9:00 AM Easter Service
- 10:00 AM Breakfast for the Community
- 10:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt

Mancelona UMC:

- 10:30 AM Fellowship in Welcome Center
Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls
- 11:00 AM Easter Service



A Reflection on Love

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I am writing this article the day before Valentine's Day, fully acknowledging that this holiday will have long passed by the time you read this. Nevertheless, it is my hope that you might still be able to gain some insight from this article.

Lately, I've been thinking about something one of my seminary professors once said during an incredibly long discussion one day. We had been discussing the nature of God (who/ what God is) when she explained that if we believe that God is Love, one of the tenants of our faith, then it stands to reason that whatever we say about love should also apply to what we believe about God. She further explained her point by inviting us to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, a passage frequently heard at wedding services, but asked that we replace the word 'Love' with the word 'God.'

Here's how it reads when we make the suggested changes:

"God is patient, God is kind, He isn't jealous, He doesn't brag, He isn't arrogant, He isn't rude, He doesn't seek His own advantage, He isn't irritable, He doesn't keep a record of complaints, He isn't happy with injustice, but He is happy with the truth. God puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. God never fails."

What do you think? Does this align with your understanding of who God is and how God operates? Are there any other passages about love that might further reveal to us the nature of god? More importantly, if we accept the above information as at least moving towards truth, does it move us enough to change how we act in the world?

If we are called to live like Jesus, to be His hands and feet in the world, are we being called to show more patience and kindness? Are we being called to remove jealousy and arrogance from our lives? Are we being called to calm our tempers and put the well being of others before our own? Are we being called to bring the truth to light, even when it conflicts with our long-held beliefs?

I believe that is the life we are being called into. I believe this is the love we are being called to share. I believe this, because the passage also reminds us that God never fails, and if God never fails, then what have we to be worried about?



May each day of your life be filled with more love than the last,

Pastor Bryan



Alba Birthdays

March

8th – Teena Blasko
17th – Jason Marsh

April

11th – Shannon Marsh
11th – Heather Olds
18th – Mabel Price
20th – Erin Stevens
21st – Thomas Gapinski
21st – Steve Olds
22nd – Ean Rusnell
26th – Karen Gates
29th – Kathy Olds
29th – Perry Rusnell

Anniversaries

Mancelona:

March 7th – Bill & Judy Plunkett
March 18th – Ron & Lea Kenny
March 26th – Mike & Rhonda Allen
April 1st – Jim & Virginia MacArthur
April 14th – Les & Judy Cota
April 18th – Ronda & Gilbert DelBosque

Alba:

March 21st – Mitch & Karen Gates
April 19th – Clinton & Yvonne Olds



Mancelona Birthdays

March

1st – Tommy Thompson
3rd – Spencer Olds
4th – Melissa Rusnell
8th – Lauren Felton
8th – Don Johnson
8th – Alejandria Mandez-Holman
10th – Kris Moeke
11th – Drew Moeke
11th – Nicole Derror
12th – Jack Meeder
15th – Melissa Mandez-Holman
18th – Jeanette Hayes
21st – Gerry Deater
21st – Gilbert DelBosque
22nd – David Derrer
22nd – William Smith
25th – Lucas Tubacki
26th – Lauren Kirby
26th – Sandy Neumann
26th – Bill Plunkett
29th – George Moeke
31st – Ariole Betz

April

2nd – Dean McCulloch
3rd – Rosie White
15th – Cece Kilpatrick
15th – Darline Olds
16th – Ruth Closser
18th – Jossie Castle
18th – Izzy Thompson
25th – Sue Thomas
29th – Matt Johnson
30th – Isabel Felton
30th – Ellen Whitehead

United Methodist Women Update

by Ellen Whitehead

Our February meeting was held at the church and hosted by Robin Fisher and Phyllis Starkey who served some yummy Valentine treats!

Here are some highlights from our business meeting:

We opted to donate \$200 to our church's Community Love Fund instead of Community Lighthouse. Our Community Love fund allows our pastor to give money, gas cards, grocery cards, etc. to needy people in Mancelona who come to our church in search of assistance.

We are seeking donations for our basket to be auctioned off at the annual Mancelona Education Foundation's dinner which will be held at the high school on April 17. We are including a check for \$100 in the basket and would like to also fill it with springtime-themed objects. Think flowers, candles, colorful napkins, a bunny plate. Use your imagination! See Laurie Allison for more information.

On April 1, UMW will be sponsoring the monthly birthday party at Meadowbrook Medical Care Facility. We will provide treats and warm smiles. Anyone is welcome to join us. We will meet at the church at 1:30 pm to carpool to the event which begins at 1:45 pm.

Ruth Johnson led our program to prepare us to contemplate our UMW pledges 2020. We participated in teamwork activities and shared thoughts on UMW's importance in the world. During a candlelit ceremony, we offered our pledges and sang ***This Little Light of Mine***.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 11 (1 pm) in the Fireplace Room at the Church. Join us!

Bike & Book Bash – 2020

by Ellen Whitehead

Our committee to plan the 2020 Bike & Book Bash met on February 24 (after this newsletter deadline).

Watch for more information soon. We will update you with bulletin announcements. The event will be scheduled for sometime this summer.

Grants are being applied for, a bake sale will be held (your delicious treats are sought and welcomed), and volunteers will be needed. This event is a great outreach for our church and provides opportunities to work together with organizations in our area that seek to enrich the lives of Mancelona's children and their families. Get ready for summer – Bikes, ice cream, reading books under the shade of an oak tree, and summertime smiles!





May your blessings
outnumber
The shamrocks that
grow,
And may trouble avoid
you
Wherever you go.

Irish Blessing

We give because God
first gave to us.

Mission Giving – 2020

Submitted by Brenda Lockman

No More Operation Christmas Child

We will not be doing the shoe boxes anymore in November. This year we will be doing Hygiene kits for that month. These kits will 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.

January – Mancelona Food Pantries

February – Blankets

CWS (Church World Service) distributed thousands of blankets around the world in 2019.

CWS helps to provide primary health care for displaced and other families in need. In such

far-flung places as Sudan, Pakistan and Nicaragua, CWS gives comfort and care to moms and babies, and helps children get the nutrition they need to grow up strong and healthy. With a \$10.00 donation, CWS can purchase a blanket.

March – Grace Children’s Hospital in Haiti

Grace Children’s Hospital, founded in 1967, is recognized as Haiti’s leading medical facility dedicated to the treatment of children with tuberculosis (TB). Each year, the hospital receives thousands of children who are suffering from TB, HIV, and other diseases. The earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010 forever changed the nation of Haiti, and severely damaged the Grace Children’s Hospital campus. The hospital has rebuilt transitional facilities that continue to serve the people of Haiti, and have new outreaches to the tent communities near the hospital. Even in the aftermath of the earthquake, hospital operations were only halted for a few days, and care for the children staying at the hospital never ceased

April – Native American Ministry

Native American Ministries Sunday recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. Native American Ministries gifts help develop and strengthen Native American ministries within the annual conference. Together, we empower local spiritual development and educate Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully.

May – Book and Bike Bash

Our church is working with Communities in Schools, the Village of Mancelona, and other organizations to provide the children of Mancelona and their families with a summertime free event that includes fun and educational activities outside of the regular school schedule. Many of the families in Mancelona live beneath the poverty line, come from single-parent households, and have no

May – *Book and Bike Bash continued*

church home. We will reach out to these families by enriching their lives and showing compassion as Jesus would have done. The event will take place this summer and includes a bicycle safety program, free books and book bags, nutritious snacks, and more.

June – *Super Summer Social and Fund Raiser*

Out-Door Church Service with Silent Auction, etc. More information to follow.

July – *Community in Schools – Mike Hayes Apple Pie Fund*

The Student Assistance Fund (known to our congregation as the Mike Hayes Apple Pie Fund) administered through Communities in Schools, provides funds for application fees for Mancelona High School students applying for post high school training whose families do not have the financial resources to do so.

August – *Stuff the Bus*

Communities in Schools of Mancelona is proud to present “Stuff the Bus” school supply drive, which benefits students in the Mancelona Public School District. There will be a basket in the narthex to put any supplies you wish to donate.

September – *Crop Walk – Antrim County*

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, 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 – *Punt, Pass and Give Fundraiser*

More information to follow.

November – *UMCOR – Hygiene Kits*

We will 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 – *Heifer Project*

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



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Community Meal Highlights

Submitted by Carol Kingsley

Our numbers for January and February were around 55 meals which are typical for winter. Jeanette Hayes sends our required totals into Manna and Goodwill. Jeanette reported the following totals for January: 272 meals and February: 225 (includes seconds and take outs) and that was with one snow day in February!

As Community Meal serves greater Mancelona, we are blessed that our staff continues to serve so faithfully! When a staff member(s) takes a break, we have great substitutes, such as Laurie Allison, who served as chief cook for 3rd Tuesday in January. Her homemade lentil vegetable soup with warm ham and melting cheese croissants were a hit on a cold winter evening!

There are lots of details each Tuesday besides preparing, serving, that need to be done to make the meal such a success! Thanks go to all the following!

The Allison's, who make sure the lower ramp is clear for the Tuesday meal. The ever-faithful Johnson's who along with Tressa Peterson greet folks! Ron Oyer helps when he can by tending lights, locks, and greetings. Of course, Lou Patton goes beyond her responsibilities by serving the greeters with their meal and personally clearing the attendee's dishes. Robin Fisher picks up the very popular fresh milk donated by Mancelona Family Fare.

In February, the tables were cheerfully set with a Valentine theme and lots of Valentine napkins to let folks know they are SPECIAL! Thank you, Dana and Ken! As the seasons change, the Proffer's continue this outreach! Last, but not least, Patti Dykhouse continues to pick up Shirley's donated bread, meets the Food Rescue Truck each week which supplements the meals with some wonderful choices, and adds some cheer with her music!

Great hearty, nutritious meals welcome our guests each week! Our teams recently featured: Sandy Neumann's, BBQ Pulled Pork Stuffed Baked Potatoes; Ellen Whitehead and Rhonda Allen's, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, and carrots au gratin (recipe found elsewhere in this newsletter); Jackie Bates and Jim Sprague's sloppy joes and vegan baked beans; Dale Stephenson's Pathway's Team, which includes liaisons, Ken and Dana Proffer, salmon patties, potatoes, and peas.

Thanks to Sandy Neumann, Community Meal Chair, who quite often makes the trip to Manna in Petoskey to fill our freezers with lots of pork, ground beef, turkey, ham, cheese, and chicken. Our Community Meal pantry from time to time has a wonderful variety of fresh foods such as apples, potatoes, and carrots as well as shelves filled with au gratin potatoes, green beans, tomato soup, black beans, apricots, and canned salmon.

Who helps Sandy unload? From our Church Family, Troy Orman always answers Sandy's SOS call and his kids, Avery, Ethan, Keith, and Peyton are there to help! Again, the Mancelona community steps up! Amy Derrer organizes Mancelona High School Honor students who efficiently unload the car as part of their Community Service commitment.

Who pays? The well-stocked pantry and freezers are due to some wonderful Samaritans who continue to make generous donations!

**“ . . . I give all that I have
and all that I am for
You. . . ”**

from Wesley Covenant Prayer