

FROM THE Read Acts 15:1-21



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pastor

We have come once again to the time of year when students of all ages will begin to emerge from their summer vacations and return to school. Though school will look drastically different this year when compared to previous years, I still find myself reflecting on my own experiences of going back to school. I remember back to school shopping for supplies, shoes, and clothes. I remember excitedly waiting to hear who my teacher(s) would be and waking around the familiar yet still new and exciting halls of the school trying to find my classes and my locker.

Yet what I remember most of those days was the *feeling* of the first day of school, a curious mix of excitement, dread, and nerves. Had any of my friends changed over the summer? Had our life experiences while separated by summer brought us closer together or further apart? Were the clothes and shoes I had picked out (with the help of my mom) be 'cool' enough? Would I have any classes with my friends? Would I make new friends?

While it has been some years since I have lived the 'back to school' experience, I find that these feelings (and many of these same questions) tend to arise whenever I am poised to start a new venture. Indeed, I think many of us still live the 'back to school' experience more than we realize. Certainly, Paul might have been experiencing this as he headed up to Jerusalem for what would eventually come to be known as the Jerusalem Council, the first great test - the

budding Christian movement. I imagine him walking the road from Antioch to Jerusalem, feeling those same butterflies of excitement and nervousness, wondering if his friends were still his friends or if they had changed too much during their time apart. And like many of us, I imagine that while his experience in Jerusalem ended up being a mixed bag of compromises that would allow all parties some semblance of peace, he left the city feeling at least a little *relief*.

Relief is one of the best feelings we can experience, for it signals an end to anxiety and distress that have been pent up within us. It is good to find relief, to get to that place of rest and relaxation, that place where even if it's for a brief moment, we can breathe. That moment when we can remember that God is in control, that God desires for us to be at peace, that God desires us to 'Be still and know' that God is present. This quarantine time has been hard on everyone, it has taken (and may continue to take) its toll on each and every one of us in greater and lesser degrees. It is my hope in the days and months to come that we each take the time to release our anxieties and distresses, time to give all those feelings to God, time to 'Be still and know' that God is in control. May you continue to care for yourselves and others to the best of your abilities and may we all find little moments of relief both this day, and all the days to come.



The peace and love of Christ be with you all,

Pastor Bryan

Community Meal News

Sandy Neumann is keeping on top of what we should do by checking with the Health Department, Food Coalition, and MANNA where we purchase items for our pantry.

As you are all aware, our Bishop is recommending that we use caution and follow CDC guidelines regarding the opening of our church sanctuary and church activities.

Sandy is closely monitoring what is happening at the Kalkaska Methodist Church. Kalkaska Methodist has a much larger facility where they can easily offer recommended social distancing for their community meal. Even with that, they had very low attendance, so closed. Based on that, we feel it is not wise to open yet as we want to ensure that our kitchen staff, servers, and guests remain healthy.

The Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop is open where folks can obtain nutritious food to prepare in their own home. Hours are 9 am to 3 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with entry at the N. Maple door.

Submitted by

Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley



If you will be heading to warmer climates for the winter, please be sure that Rhonda H. Administrative Assistant or Rhonda Allen in her absence, has your winter address and the dates that you will be away, so we can keep in touch. You can also keep abreast of the sermons and prayers on our website – www.mancelonaumc.org.



Alba

Bob & Jeannie Marsh – September 8
Keith & Melissa Rusnell – September 26
Gary & Judy Zimpfer - October 23

Mancelona

RaeAnn & Burt Thompson – September 7
Carol & Marv Kingsley – September 12
Don & Mary Beth Cook – September 13
George & Ginny Moeke – September 20
Dave & Michelle Curtis – October 12
Mike & Sue Tubacki – October 13
Ron & Wendy Aldrich – October 23



Trustees August 2020

Thank you to all who have helped maintain the church grounds. Usually by August the grass doesn't need mowing.

We had a successful garage sale the second weekend in August. Thank you, Maureen Naumcheff, Lori Derror and Sue Thomas for helping. We didn't have as much stuff as last year, but we made \$400. This will go towards the deductible on our insurance claim for a broken sliding door pane at the parsonage. I think we had a large bird strike while the pastor and family were on vacation in July, it shattered the outside pane. The door will be repaired this week.

Installing a newer double sink vanity in the main bathroom at the parsonage will take place sometime this fall. When I have a tentative date, I will be seeking some volunteer labor for removal of old vanity, and installation of new one.

Submitted by Laurie Allison



Mission Committee

REMINDER: Our church will not be doing the "Operation Christmas Child" boxes this year. This year we will be doing Hygiene kits for November. 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.

Our September Mission will be the 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.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

ANNUAL HARVEST SUPPER CANCELLED

As much as we wanted to continue this annual tradition each year, we decided it would be best to cancel the Harvest Supper due to health concerns during the pandemic.



OTHER NEWS

Our UMW group has not been able to meet due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. In the summer months we typically share devotions in lieu of a formal program. Since we did not meet, we did ask if any members wanted to share devotions via email in lieu of our face-to-face share time. The following devotions were submitted:

From Wendy Aldrich:

Lord, help me to live from day to day,
in such a self-forgetting way
that even when I kneel to pray,
my prayer shall be for others.
From my heart to yours, Wendy

From Ellen Whitehead:

Everyone knows I love being out in nature and feel close to God there. These quotes are my devotion:

“The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature.” — Anne Frank

“We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass – grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need

silence to be able to touch souls.” — Mother Teresa

"The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew." – Proverbs 3:19-20

From Carol Kingsley:

My devotion for August would simply be the Lord’s Prayer. For me, it says it all. Gives thanks, acceptance, forgiveness, asks for guidance. Some days, I repeat, and try to give thanks each day with that simple prayer:

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead



NURTURE & OUTREACH NEWS

MANCELONA LABYRINTH OF HOPE

We were thrilled that the Village of Mancelona brought fresh bark chips to the labyrinth. In the past, we asked our church volunteers to help spread the chips; but this year the Village workers did that for us! We are so grateful to Mike Allison for making this happen and the maintenance staff for sprucing up the labyrinth! Just an FYI – Lynn Cummings had to remove the bench in the center of the labyrinth as a piece had rusted off and he is repairing it. The bench was purchased by Lynn in memory of Jan.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead

2020 Church Conferences

Hub gatherings will not be happening this year as large gatherings remain unadvisable at this time. This year's annual Church Conference *and* Charge Conference for Alba/Mancelona will be held on Thursday, October 21st, at Bellaire UMC. Forms are available at:

<https://Michiganumc.org/resources/clergy/resources/forms/>

There will also be printed copies available in the church office. Please have all forms turned in by October 7th to allow time to copy and mail (due to district on Oct 14th).

The SPRC meeting will be at 6:30. Following the SPRC meeting (approximately 20 to 30 minutes long), the meeting will open to those attending the Charge Conference. While the Charge Conference is open to all, if we are still under gathering restrictions for Covid 19, we will need to restrict the meeting to 10 people.

Church Worship Services

While our Sanctuary remains closed, due to the latest Governor's Executive Order, (around July 30) indoor social gatherings are restricted to 10, thus MUMC will continue to hold outdoor services. In case of inclement weather, sermons will be on Facebook.

NEWSBREAK: We can now broadcast our outdoor church services via your car radio thanks to some new technology! If you prefer to remain in your car instead of sitting out in the open, just turn your car radio dial to FM 89.1 while parked in our church parking area. This will be available when the weather does not permit you to sit outside.

Church and related activities will reopen as determined by Pastor and Ad Council. This is also based on the recommendation from Bishop Bard. As he noted in an email, "...the common good and the well-being of others." July 30, 2020

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.

Masks and social distancing are encouraged for the outdoor service. We encourage you 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.

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.

If you are still unsure or uncomfortable gathering together, no worries! We will still be offering online worship through the church Facebook page.

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**



<u>Alba</u>		<u>Mancelona</u>			
Alayna Marcus	September 13	Amanda Felton	September 2	Jater Castle	September 26
Macklyn Rusnell	September 20	Sue Tubacki	September 3	Richard Rock	October 3
Kathy Blasko	September 23	Carson Olds	September 5	Calene Hunrath	October 4
Chelsey Blasko	September 30	Michelle Curtis	September 8	Les Cota	October 12
Peggy Stevens	September 30	Hunter Cook	September 7	Jacob Hamilton	October 12
Tylor Blasko	October 1	Jennifer Toms	September 10	Michele Bates	October 13
Jason Marcus	October 5	Brian Lirones	September 15	Alexis Malbouef	October 13
Leigh-Anne Marsh	October 7	Ruth Johnson	September 16	Judy Cota	October 14
		Thomas Cook	September 19	Don Cook	October 15
		Virginia MacArthur	September 19	Mike Tubacki	October 18
		Brian Nixon	September 20	Carolyn Hines	October 24
		David Brooks	September 24	Sharon Brooks	October 28
				Amy Derrer	October 31