

## FROM THE



## Pastor

Brothers and sisters in Christ!

We are in the midst of the Lenten season! Not only does this mean that Easter is fast approaching (April 4th), but also that Spring is on the way!

As we approach the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding quarantine, I have found that like so many of you, I am thinking a lot about loss. I think back across this past year at the loss of our in-person Easter service for 2020, the lost days of friendship and fun that my children will never get back due to the necessity of digital learning, the lost opportunities to gather together with friends and loved ones.

Then last night, as I was lying in bed trying to fall asleep, I found a rare moment of quiet in my normally boisterous home. In that moment, my mind began wandering, and I found myself reminiscing on the sound of spring and summer evenings. In the stillness of that night, I found myself longing for a warm gentle breeze blowing through my window, carrying upon it the sounds of frogs and crickets. In that moment I became excited, because I know that with Spring on the way, those symphonic summer nights will soon be returning in all their splendor.

Friends, we have experienced much and lost much over the past year, yet we have discovered more about ourselves than at any other point in recent history. We learned that from out of the ashes of what was, come the bloom of promises of what can be. We learned that we don't have to rely on older formulas of ministry to

continue reaching out into our communities. More importantly, we learned even more about why Easter is the most important holiday in the Christian life.

Easter brings with it new promises from the old ways of doing things, promises that the cold, snowy times will give way to the warmth and green of spring, promises that with every death comes a resurrection. I truly believe that this past year has reminded each and every one of us that we are strong, we are capable, we are Easter people.

I leave you today with words from the Hymn of Promise (#707 in the Hymnal), which speaks to resurrection and new beginnings, in the hope that we might continue to be inspired as this year unfolds, with whatever challenges and triumphs it may bring, for we are truly Easter people:

In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

Pastor Bryan  
Kilpatrick



## MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

At our February UMW meeting, we felt blessed to be able to donate \$1,500 from our treasury to local, state, and international organizations. We call this our annual "Empty the Treasury" and is something we look forward to every year! The following groups will be receiving donations:

- \$100 to SON International (International)
- \$100 to Grace Children's Hospital (International)
- \$200 – United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids (State)
- \$200 – Crossroads Farm North West (Local)
- \$200 – Hands & Feet (Local)
- \$200 – Communities in Schools (Local)
- \$200 – Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop (Local)
- \$200 – Mancelona Baby Pantry (Local)
- \$100 – Mancelona Education Foundation (Local)

We also talked about our monthly programs for 2021. These programs vary month to month and cover a variety of topics. Some programs for the coming year include *Sacred Grounds* (see Nurture & Outreach article), a trip to the Mancelona Labyrinth of Hope, making cards for church friends we don't often see, sharing devotions, and Harvest Supper planning (We hope to have our supper this year!). Dorothy Francis from the Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop was our program speaker in February. (See Carol Kingsley's Community Meal article in this newsletter.)

It was nice to have our former president Wendy Aldrich come to our meeting and have Jeanette Hayes join us from her new home in Grand Rapids via Zoom!

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead - UMW secretary



## NURTURE AND OUTREACH

Jackie Bates and Ellen Whitehead are the co-chairpersons for Nurture and Outreach. We both met with Pastor Bryan in late January to talk about programs for 2021. We have a full slate of activities scheduled and hope that we will be able to carry out most of them if the pandemic begins to wane. Here are some highlights:

1. Snowshoeing at Ron Oyer's home – Ron has 40 acres of beautiful, wooded property. He even created a prayer walk along his trails!
2. Easter Egg Hunt – Jackie Bates and Pastor Bryan are being creative about planning this activity in unique ways.
3. Sacred Grounds Native Plant Garden – AuSable Institute secured a grant through the National Wildlife Federation to establish native plant landscaping on church properties. We met with Paul Wiemerslage, AuSable's coordinator, and are excited to announce we have been accepted as one of the churches participating in the grant program! We will be receiving \$1,000 worth of native plants, help in planning the garden, and help with its installation. Watch for more information in the coming weeks and ways in which you can participate.
4. Bike & Book Bash – Pastor Bryan suggested this event as a way to reach out to the youth in our community. Our first Bash was in 2019. We had a bike safety course, inspected children's bikes, gave away free bikes, provided educational games, gave away trinkets on the labyrinth walk, and gave children free books and a bookbag via the PoWeR! Book Bag program. We had to cancel in 2020 due to the pandemic but hope to have our second event sometime this summer.
5. Girl Scout Recognition – Jackie Bates is our go-to person for interacting with the Girl Scout troop that meets at our church each week. She is working with their leader to plan a recognition Sunday for these active young ladies! We hope to involve the troop in other activities around our church.
6. Veteran's Day Recognition – Carol Kingsley does such a wonderful job coordinating this recognition each year and we look forward to honoring our veterans.
7. Mancelona Fall Sports Tailgate – This has always been a fantastic way to give back to our Mancelona youth. We hope to be able to do this again this fall.

For a small community church, we do BIG things!  
Thank you all for your support

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead –  
Nurture and Outreach co-chair

## Mission Projects - 2021

### **January – Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale and Light House Food Pantry and Resale.**

The money collected will be divided between the two.

**February – UMCOR CWS** (Church World Service) distributed thousands of blankets around the world in 2020.

Disaster Response and Recovery....

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds to disasters in the United States and around the world by working with communities and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established after a crisis. "Early in and last out" is a guiding principle of UMCOR.

With \$10.00, CWS can purchase a blanket, or this year you can donate a blanket.

**March – Haiti Children's Project.** Your donation will provide food, shelter, clothing, healthcare & education to the children of Haiti. Help us with one of our most important fundraisers ever to continue efforts in Haiti to fight COVID-19. Our graduate Doctors and Nurses are going village to village to educate, treat, and share the gospel to those affected by the coronavirus crisis.

**April – Native American Sunday.** 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 – Nothing But Nets.** "Nothing But Nets" is a global, grassroots campaign of the United Nations Foundation to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria, a leading cause of death among children in Africa. The distribution of mosquito nets or bed nets impregnated with insecticides such as permethrin or deltamethrin has been shown to be an extremely effective method of malaria prevention. **Long-lasting, insecticidal bed nets (LLINs)** protect people sleeping under them and simultaneously kill mosquitoes that contact the nets.

**June – Book & 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 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.

*Don't feel obligated to give each month, but please pick the ministry closest to your heart and give generously.*

*We, on the Missions Committee, are grateful for your generosity to others within the community and around the world.*

**July – Mike and Fawn Southwell.** Mike and Fawn Southwell are full time missionaries in Budapest, Hungary. Mike is the high school principal of the International Christian School of Budapest. He serves the children of missionaries from all over Europe, international business people’s children, and many Hungarian children. Fawn is very involved with mentoring Moms of Preschoolers and also in a ministry called Friday Night Blend. Women from all over the city come for a night of dinner, a devotional, and crafts. She is also learning Hungarian. Mike is a former Mancelona Middle School teacher.

**August – Community In Schools – Mike**

**Hayes.** “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.

**September – 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.

**October – Punt, Pass & Give.** More information to follow

**November – UMCOR** To be announced in November.

**December – Christmas Family.**

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Missions

**Alba Birthdays**

**March**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Spencer Olds
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Melissa Rusnell
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Teena Blasko
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Jason Marsh
- 31<sup>st</sup> - Ariole Betz

**April**

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Shannon Marsh
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Heather Olds
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Darline Olds
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Mabel Price
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Erin Stevens
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Thomas Gapinski
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Steve Olds
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ean Rusnell
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Karen Gates
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Matt Johnson
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Olds
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Perry Rusnell

**Mancelona Birthdays**

**March**

- 8<sup>th</sup> – Lauren Felton
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Don Johnson
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Kris Moeke
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Drew Moeke
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Nicole Derror
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Jack Meeder
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Jeanette Hayes
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Gerry Deater
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – David Derrer
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Lucas Tubacki
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Lauren Kirby
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Sandy Neumann
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Bill Plunkett
- 29<sup>th</sup> – George Moeke

**April**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dean McCulloch
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rosie White
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Cece Kilpatrick
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Ruth Closser
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Jossie Castle
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Izzy Thompson
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Sue Thomas
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Isabel Felton
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Ellen Whitehead



## Community Meal

### Food Assistance is Available

While our Mancelona Community Meal has been postponed during the COVID pandemic, that doesn't mean that nutritious food is not available.

Recently, we emptied the Mancelona Community Meal freezers and shared the meat such as pork loins, hams, ground beef, and taco filling with the Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop. In addition, canned goods that were close to expiring were given to the Food Pantry. It may be Fall before our Community Meal will be able to open, so this donation will provide the Food Pantry with some excellent meat, canned goods, and a very blessed traditional Easter meal. Some good Samaritans, namely, Sandy Neumann and Brenda Lockman, will be cleaning the Community Meal two freezers and refrigerator, so they will be fresh when we open up. Our canned goods shelves are still fully stocked and ready for that eventual opening!

Our Community Meal and the Mancelona Food Pantry is a part of the Northwest Food Coalition which currently meets via Zoom. Sandy Neumann attended the Zoom meeting for Mike Allen who will resume participation once meetings are in-person. Out of 38 participants attending this meeting, those that serve sit down meals all are still closed.

Once we are back in operation, we will have the opportunity to take advantage of the many items that the local food pantries now have such as the Farm2Neighbor program which provides lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. From the Coalition's January minutes, it was noted that ". . . we are blessed with many resources. Unlike many regions

across the country, we have not been seeing many long lines for food, shortages, etc." In addition, the pantries are emphasizing healthy foods (low sodium canned goods and fresh produce).

Once Mancelona Community Meal starts up, we will continue to offer our participants healthy food choices such as fresh salads, fruits, and low sodium canned goods when available. The NW Food Coalition also gets lots of carrots, green cabbages, sweet potatoes, and onions from local farmers which you will find in your local food pantries.

In December, Food Rescue delivered more food than in any December ever – 177,000 pounds! The total food that Food Rescue delivered for 2020 was 1.96 million pounds, which is 260,000 pounds more than the 2019 total. This included a 16% increase in produce and an 8% increase in certified healthy foods (fruits, veggies, dairy, meats, and grains) over last year.

So, while Community Meal is not open, there are many healthy food opportunities at your local food pantry so no one should go hungry.

At the February 10 UMW meeting, Dorothy Francis, Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop (serving residents of Antrim County) gave a very enlightening presentation. Dorothy also noted that healthier food is arriving, and they post recipes for healthy dishes. She also mentioned that monetary donations are better than donating food items because they can get a better deal from Manna. (For example, you might buy a 69 cent can of green beans, which can be purchased by the Food Pantry from Manna for 20 cents. Check out their Facebook Page: **Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop**. A couple of other highlights of Dorothy's presentation follow:

1) The Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop has once again been chosen as the recipient of the Gaylord Meijer "Simply Give Program." This event started on Sunday, February 14, and ends on April 10. Really important dates to remember are: **Saturday, March 13 and Saturday, April 3** as your donation will be doubled by Meijer. Your \$10 donation, doubled by Meijer, added to your \$10, thus giving Mancelona Food Pantry a \$30 Meijer Food Only Gift Card. Can't get to Meijer in Gaylord? Then, you can drop off your donation at the Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop (201 N Maple St, Mancelona), noting that it is for the Meijer Simply Give Double Match. Thus, you are helping the Mancelona Food Pantry help your neighbors who need food assistance. **Here's how:** When you checkout, let the clerk know that you want to participate in the *Simply Give* Program. You can purchase a \$10 Simply Give donation card. Once it is purchased, the donation card will be converted into a Meijer Food-Only Gift Card and donated directly to the Mancelona Food Pantry. Meijer has helped food pantries stock their shelves since November 2008.

2) **Free Grant Writing Class** - If anyone is interested in helping the Food Pantry write grants, they will pay the \$49 fee for each class. The classes are Livestream. Two classes will be offered. 1) Grant Basics on Wednesday, March 10 from 6-8:30 pm; 2) Grant Resources: Wednesday, April 7, 6-8:30 pm Instructor for both classes: Mary Bevans Gillett. Please note, by attending one or both classes, your knowledge could also be used to benefit our church. If interested, contact Dorothy Francis at [dorothy.do.francis@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.do.francis@gmail.com)

**Volunteers Wanted** - If you would like to volunteer at the **Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop**, please contact Dorothy Francis at [dorothy.do.francis@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.do.francis@gmail.com)

Submitted by Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley

Community Meal Co-Chairs

Sources: Northwest Food Coalition, January 14, 2021 Minutes

Dorothy Francis UMW presentation – February 10, 2021

Meijer Simply Give Program 2021

r

<b>Anniversaries</b>	
<b>Mancelona</b>	March 7 <sup>th</sup> – Bill & Judy Plunkett March 26 <sup>th</sup> - Mike & Rhonda Allen April 1 <sup>st</sup> – Jim & Virginia MacArthur April 14 <sup>th</sup> – Les & Judy Cota
<b>Alba</b>	March 18 <sup>th</sup> – Ron & Lea Kenny March 21 <sup>st</sup> – Mitch & Karen Gates April 19 <sup>th</sup> – Clinton & Yvonne Olds

Church Trustees



## Trustees March 2021

What a mild winter we've had so far. Our snowplowing expense should be greatly reduced. A big thank you to Carol and Marv Kingsley who kept the walks clean during January and Doug Derrer who shoveled and salted in February. Mike and I will handle the first part of March, but we will need someone to help out in the second half of March when we are hoping to get away. Please call me if you can help March 20 and 27, I will get you the key to the garage for the small snow blower. I don't think it's been used much this winter.

It won't be long before I'm asking for help with the church grounds and lawnmowing.

I still plan on doing some painting at the church, just haven't carved out the time yet.

Submitted by Laurie Allison – Trustee Chair



## What's Happening

MUMC May/June Newsletter deadline will be April 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](mailto: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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month/Odd  
Months at 4PM



***Holy Week Activities***

**Palm Sunday – March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Good Friday – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Good Friday Service at the Mancelona UMC - Noon**

**Easter Sunday - April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**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

