

On the Outskirts of Promise  
Read: Deuteronomy 34:1-3

FROM THE

Brothers and sisters in Christ!



Pastor

How fast this year is flying by! It seems like just yesterday that we were gathering in our cars on Christmas Eve, yet Easter has come and gone, Spring has arrived, and summer is on the horizon! As the weather

slowly begins to warm and the plants continue to bloom and blossom, I would like to draw our attention once again to the Israelites as they near the end of their wilderness wandering. Some of you may remember that we spent a good amount of time at the beginning of this pandemic following along with the Israelites as they escaped from slavery and were made to wander in the desert for forty years. It is my hope that in doing so, we were able to come to terms with our new reality of physical distancing, mask wearing, etc., and perhaps their story brought comfort to your own story as we have been wandering as well.

Now it is my hope that we are coming to the end of that journey. Like Moses and the Israelites, we stand on the outskirts of a long-awaited promise, and perhaps we are filled with the same hope as they were. Vaccines are going in arms, restrictions are slowly being lifted, and as I sit here writing, I have a genuine hope that something like normal will be arriving sometime this summer. However, like the Israelites outside the promised land, there is still much to be done to fully realize this hope. Upon entering the land promised to them by God, the Israelites would be faced with battle after battle, campaign after campaign, and it would still be some years before they would be able to live peacefully in their land.

I am not saying this because I believe we have years to go in this battle we have been fighting for so long; rather I raise this point because though hope and promise lie on the horizon, there is still work to be done. I am pleased to report that based on the average worship attendance from January until now (which we were using to determine potential herd immunity for gatherings of our congregation) when compared to the number of people vaccinated in our congregation suggests that we are in a position to begin lifting some restrictions for our time in worship. This process will be carried out with caution and will take some time, but should things continue to transpire as they are, we will be back to a normal form of worship sometime this summer, which is something I think we can all celebrate together. In the meantime, I continue to encourage us all to keep wearing masks whenever necessary, and to make decisions based not on what is best for us, but what is best for our neighbors, whom God has called us to love in both word and deed.

Celebrate today, for hope truly is on the horizon!

Pastor Bryan Kilpatrick



## MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Here is a summary of our March and April meetings:

- March – We decided to help the Education and Nurture/Outreach teams by honoring our high school graduates. This year's graduates include Lauren Kirby, Ethan Stiltner, and Asia Martin. They will be honored on **Sunday, May 23**. A donation in memory of Phyllis Starkey was given to the mission programs through the Northern Waters District of United Methodist Women. Ruth Johnson presented our program with interesting information on St Patrick who became the Patron Saint of Ireland. Patrick used the three-leaves of the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. Laurie Allison, Brenda Lockman, and others on our team took care of sending Easter cards out to church friends we haven't seen in a while. Sandy Neumann was our hostess.
- April – Laurie Allison invited Amy Derrer to speak about the Communities in Schools program. Amy gave us an overview of the many programs that the nation-wide Communities in Schools (CIS) organization coordinates for children. Communities in Schools of Northwest Michigan is headquartered in Mancelona. They have expanded into areas such as East Jordan and Kalkaska. CIS acts as an ambassador organization for our community's needs. During the COVID-19 pandemic they have been extremely busy working with youth on organizational skills to help with remote learning, delivering free food through federal grant dollars, counseling support, and more. Laurie was our hostess for the meeting.



UMW meetings are held at 1:00 pm, the second Wednesday of each month. Future meetings are as follows:

- May 12 – Program will be a presentation about the Sacred Grounds native plant garden. Speaker: Paul Wiemerslage from Au Sable Institute. Hostess: Ellen Whitehead. Meeting held at the church.
- June 9 – Annual Lunch Get Together at The Dockside restaurant.
- July 14 – Held at Laurie Allison's home. Program will be devotionals chosen and read by UMW members.
- August 4 – (**NOTE: Meeting changed to first Wednesday of the month** to accommodate our speaker.) Held at Rhonda Allen's home. Speaker: Fawn Southwell will share her experience in the mission field.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead - UMW secretary



## NURTURE AND OUTREACH

### Sacred Grounds Native Plant Garden



Plans are being made to create a native plant garden on our church grounds. The garden will also be a place for prayer and contemplation. We are blessed to be a recipient of the Sacred

Grounds program through a partnership with Au Sable Institute via a grant from the National Wildlife Federation. Watch for announcements on ways you can help. We are working with Au Sable on setting up dates for site preparation and plantings. Enclosed in this newsletter is more information on the Sacred Grounds project. **WE ARE EXCITED!**

#### Bike & Book Bash

We are still waiting to hear if we can have the Bike & Book Bash this summer. Communities in Schools is our partner for this program, and they are still making plans for summer school opportunities. More to come!

#### Girl Scout Recognition

Girl Scout Troop 4995 meets at our church on a regular basis. They are an energetic and caring group, and we are blessed to have them give back in a myriad of ways to our church and our community. They will be marching in the Memorial Day parade in town and at the Bass Festival parade. Wouldn't it be great if we could have a group come and support them with lots of cheers?

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead –  
Nurture and Outreach co-chair



## **HOUSES OF WORSHIP WILL IMPLEMENT HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS**

The Au Sable Institute, in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has been awarded a grant by the Frey Foundation to implement “Sacred Grounds - Northern Michigan.” Funding will allow Au Sable to install native plant gardens at houses of worship in northern Michigan in 2021.

NWF created the Sacred Grounds program more than a decade ago and has implemented the program in Toledo, OH, Detroit and Grand Rapids, MI. The program is designed to mobilize people of faith to better understand their responsibility in caring for the earth. Houses of worship receive funding and technical support to install native plant gardens on their property or in their neighborhood.

“We’ve been really pleased with the success of the Sacred Grounds program bringing houses of worship and community members together across faiths and other differences around the common, shared interest of caring for the earth and caring for each other,” said Manja Holland, NWF Habitat and Education Manager. “Au Sable Institute’s decades of work of educating students in northern Michigan about the environment and their established connections to communities of faith makes them a great partner for this program.”

*(From Au Sable Institute’s Website)*



## Community Meal

### Community Meal Update

Monthly Zoom meetings with other Food Coalition members have been held during this COVID period. I started attending when initially our faithful representative, Mike Allen, thought he was going to have a conflict. That has been resolved and Mike has assured me he will be able to continue attending meetings. I found it was beneficial to attend the Zoom meetings where I learned that things have not changed very much. Most sit-down meal sites are still closed. From the Food Coalition April Notes, KAIR in Kalkaska reported an increase in meals through their curbside service.

Pantries are open with restrictions and some only have drive-up options. Around January when 38 members attended the Zoom meeting, they were asked the question "when do you think your organization will be able to go back to normal?" - no one thought it would be before fall. That was before vaccines. Now I feel more confident. Maybe by summer instead of fall. I will continue to take my direction from the Food Coalition, but I do feel encouraged. Fingers crossed.

It is to our benefit to be part of the Food Coalition. We are part of 60 some members that range from big organizations like Salvation Army, Father Fred Organization, Goodwill, Women's Resource to churches, pantries, baby pantries, and meal sites like ours in a surrounding five-county area. The Food Rescue Truck that brings produce and other food every Tuesday is a wonderful benefit that we would not have without our membership in the Food Coalition. Occasionally, we receive a bonus monetary disbursement from the Food Coalition.

In March, we received a check for \$325. We also received a \$500 gift card from the Mancelona Food Pantry to be spent at Meijer. The Pantry is also part of the Food Coalition. The Food Coalition sponsors a program with Meijer to raise money for participants. The Mancelona Pantry was chosen by Meijer to be the beneficiary in a monetary matching program. (See closing paragraph regarding the current program.) It was so successful that the pantry wanted to share with community organizations in Mancelona and chose us to receive a gift card worth \$500. I want to mention also that our Community Meal Board donated all our frozen foods and some canned goods to the Mancelona Food Pantry. We cleaned and organized the storeroom, as well as cleaned the freezers and refrigerator. All is clean, empty, and waiting to be replenished.

So, we are preparing and looking forward to a grand reopening. You will be posted.

SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM continues at Gaylord Meijer store. The Mancelona Food Pantry is a recipient. This program allows the Pantry to use the proceeds "to do bigger and better things for our clients and to reach out and share with other "caring-giving" groups in our wonderful community. "The program has started and will go until July 3rd. Your past support has been wonderful. Remember DOUBLE MATCH DAY IS SATURDAY, JUNE 19. Source: Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop

Submitted by Sandy Neumann

Community Meal Co-Chair

## News from Missions - May 2021

Our Mission Project for April was Native American Ministries. In the past we have been proud to support Northport United Methodist Church as part of our commitment to Native American Ministries. They currently have a building project underway to repair the church's foundation in an attempt to prevent their sanctuary floor from sinking. Your contributions for April's mission emphasis of \$190.00 will be going toward this capital campaign.

*We have made a change in our Mission giving for July and August. We have reversed these two months. Please note these changes on your calendar.*

### **July – 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.

**August – 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 as well as many Hungarian children. Fawn is very involved with mentoring Moms of preschoolers and 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. Mike will be speaking at our church on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Our May Mission Project will be:**

**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. Effectiveness. 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. ... ITNs protect people sleeping under them and simultaneously kill mosquitoes that contact the nets.

### **Our June Mission Project will be: 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.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair



## Trustees May 2021

I think winter is finally over. It will be time for lawn mowing soon. I will have a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex soon. Mike and I will handle May. There is a bit of repair that needs to be done around the parking lot from winter snowplowing, if it would just warm up a bit.

The repair done to the front steps did not winter well. We are getting bids on cutting out the cement and possibly installing an additional hand railing.

We are signed up to participate in the M-88 Garage Sale, June 19. If anyone has gently used "stuff" we will be collecting things probably the week before. No clothing. If anyone would like to help set up and work that day, please let me know.

Submitted by Laurie Allison – trustee chair



## What's Happening

MUMC July/August Newsletter deadline will be June 25, 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



MAY and JUNE  
**birthdays**

Barry Moeke	May 1	Laurie Allison	May 18	Ashley Kilpatrick	June 6
Shaylee White	May 2	Bryan Kilpatrick	May 19	Yvonne Olds	June 9
Denise Plakmeyer-Vliet	May 4	Elsa Brenner	May 20	Devon Harvey	June 9
Doris Felton	May 8	Donna Simons	May 20	Ken Lockman	June 14
Emily Nixon	May 11	Angela Gapinski	May 21	Mary Ann Petersen	June 18
Jan Patterson	May 11	Christian Marcus	May 22	Mitch Gates	June 18
Nate Derror	May 12	Annemarie Rasor	May 22	Chris Derror	June 22
Chester Gapinski	May 12	Emily Sheldon	May 23	Lori Derror	June 24
Victoria Rusnell	May 13	Jeanette Rusnell	June 5	Keith Rusnell	June 29
				Bob Humphrey	June 30
				Lucas Kilpatrick	June 30

**Anniversaries**

Don & Teena Blasko	May 2
Brian & Diane Lirones	May 10
Perry & Jeanette Rusnell	May 21
Jeremy & Grace Smith	June 6
Jennifer & Kyle Toms	June 7
Robert & Cheryl Olds	June 10
Scott & Penny Coon	June 17
Bob & Charlene Geer	June 17
Sandy Churchill	June 20
Jim & Michele Jewell	June 21

