

Read: Romans 16:17-20

FROM THE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:



Pastor

Grace and peace to you as we near the end of summer and look toward all that fall brings back into our lives! As we prepare ourselves for this transitional time, I find myself continuing to

process the state of the world around us.

The new school year is going to be rife with the hopeful expectations of the students, underlined by the potential for deeply divided arguments between parents and administrators over whether masks should be mandatory. We continue to find hope in our struggle against COVID-19, while still fighting about the course of action we should take as people of faith and people of convictions.

On top of all of this, we are fast approaching a new season of politics, and the seemingly never-ending battle between the two main parties in our political system. Division seems to surround us with each and every step we take, but as Paul reminds us near the end of his letter to the Romans, we are called to a higher task. As people of faith, we are called to “Watch out for people who create divisions and problems against the teaching you [the collective Church] learned.” Our higher calling is not to be people who divide and create problems, but to be people who bridge those divides and create space for all peoples. To be a

group of people who share a common Love of God, while knowing that we may understand and serve the Lord differently.

The questions I invite us to ponder over the course of the next few months are “How can I be an agent of unity in a world of division?” And “What do I need to do to heal the divisions in my own life?” God has brought His church together not because we are entirely alike, but because he loves each and every one of us for who we are and who we are becoming through His Grace, and we are called to be like God in this regard in our own lives.

In closing (and as an aside), I hope you are looking forward to the things we can celebrate together this fall, to continue to search for moments of peace each day, and to continue to be excited about this faith community and the ways in which we continue to share the Good News of the Gospel within our community and around the world!



Pastor Bryan Kilpatrick



United Methodist Women

Our August meeting was held at Rhonda Allen's home on Big Twin Lake. We really enjoyed our speaker Fawn Southwell. Fawn shared her experiences serving as a missionary family in Hungary. Her husband Mike is the high school principal at the International Christian School of Budapest, and she is involved in women's ministry. She talked about issues such as the language barriers, food differences, cross-cultures, and more. Fawn learned from her experiences in Hungary that we all have God-given gifts to share and one of her gifts is the gift of hospitality. She also learned to "be faithful in the small things." Cindy McCulloch joined us. It was good to see her again! We also welcomed Glenna Southwell, Brenda Lockman's sister and Fawn's mother-in-law.



Here are our future meeting dates:

- September 8 – Hostess will be Brenda Lockman. Meet at the church. Program – Pastor Bryan will present possible fundraising ideas and we will discuss members' ideas too.
- October 13 – Hostess will be Sandy Neumann. Meet at the church. Program – TBD.
- November 10 – Hostess will be Ellen Whitehead. Meet at the church. Program – TBD.
- December 8 – Annual luncheon. Details to be determined.

Back in July, we discussed whether to have the annual Harvest Supper. After some heartfelt conversation, we voted not to do the supper this year because of the risk of the Delta variant of COVID-19 on the rise. However, we will be looking at other ways to raise funds so that we can again donate to local, national, and international missions with a focus on local charitable organizations.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead - UMW Secretary



Alba

Carson Olds	September 5
Alayna Marcus	September 13
Macklyn Rusnell	September 20
Kathy Blasko	September 23
Chelsey Blasko	September 30
Peggy Stevens	September 30
Tylor Blasko	October 1
Jason Marcus	October 5
Leigh-Anne Marsh	October 7

Mancelona

Amanda Felton	September 2
Hunter Cook	September 7
Michelle Curtis	September 8
Jennifer Toms	September 10
Brian Lirones	September 15
Ruth Johnson	September 16
Thomas Cook	September 19
Virginia MacArthur	September 19
Brian Nixon	September 20
David Brooks	September 24
Jater Castle	September 26
Les Cota	October 12
Jacob Hamilton	October 12
Michele Bates	October 13
Alexis Malbouef	October 13
Judy Cota	October 14
Carolyn Hines	October 24
Sharon Brooks	October 28
Amy Derrer	October 31

NURTURE AND OUTREACH

Bike & Book Bash

After missing this event in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were glad to be able to provide the Bike & Book Bash in July. Many thanks to all our volunteers from our church who served in many ways: praying for a successful outreach to Mancelona youth, sewing book bags, donating funds during our June Sunday Missions offering, and event volunteers who served food, passed out free books, worked the obstacle course, and helped register the children for all the fun!

We were able to give away two bicycles thanks to a donation from the local VFW Chapter. This year, Communities in Schools of Northwest Michigan was the driving force behind this event with Marcie Grabruck as lead chairperson. We also received help from the Village of Mancelona. It was great to see community volunteers helping along with students from the National Honor Society. It certainly does "take a village!"

Here are some photos. I think you'll recognize some of these happy faces!!



September Kayak/Canoe Outing

On September 9, we will be floating on down the AuSable River with our kayaks and canoes. Anyone is welcome to come! Invite your friends and family. If you don't have a boat to float, let Ellen Whitehead know, and she will borrow one for you. Here are the details

Date: Thursday, September 9 (Meet at 3 pm)

Place: AuSable River



Trip Details:

We will meet at 3 pm at the Public Launch, 103 S James Street, Grayling. It is in front of the State Police Forensic Lab. We will take out at Burton's Landing, 1500 Burton's Landing Dr, Grayling. It is approximately a two-and-a-half-hour kayak/canoe trip. Afterward, we will go to dinner at Ray's BBQ & Blues, 204 Ingham Street, Grayling.

We will have some cars park at Burton's Landing so we can ferry people back to get their cars.

The AuSable is a beautiful river, and Ray's is a nice place to eat with outdoor seating right along the river!





Community Meal Update

After much discussion our Community Meal Advisory Board has unanimously decided to postpone the reopening of the meals scheduled for September 7. We were all so excited and confident that it was safe to do so back in June when all restrictions in restaurants were lifted except unvaccinated patrons were ask to mask.

If we were to open Community Meal on September 7, it would be necessary to police every person who comes to our meals to see if they have been vaccinated in order to protect Community Meal staff and our patrons.

Our Advisory Board does not want to get into the “policing” business, thus the decision to postpone. None of us were willing to take on that responsibility.

We are confident we will reopen. Hopefully sooner rather than later. Keep safe everyone.

Submitted by Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley
Community Meal Co-Chairs

News from Missions –

September Mission:

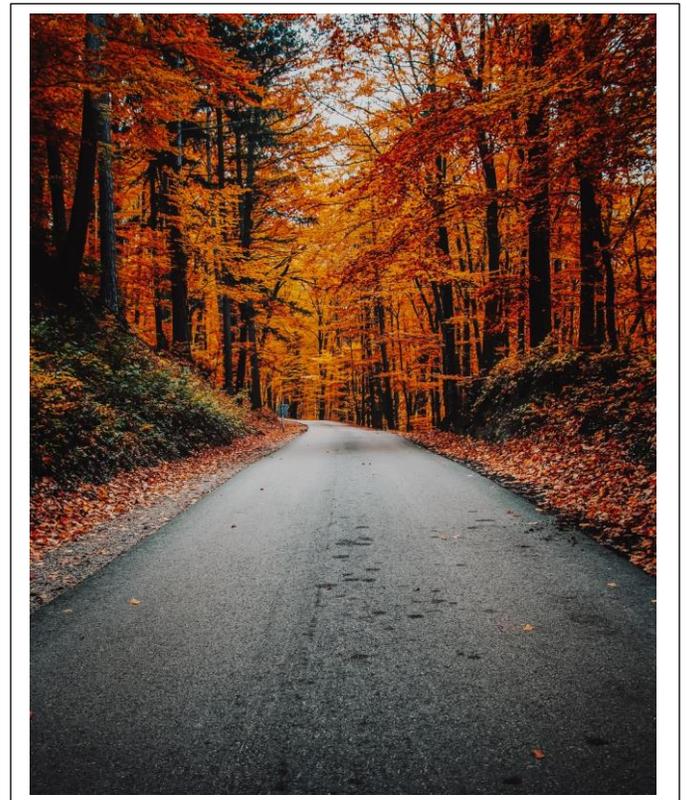
Communities in Schools of Mancelona is proud to present **“Stuff the Bus”** school supply drive, which benefits students in the Mancelona Public School District. If you want to purchase school supplies, there is a basket in the Narthex to put them in, or a monetary donation may be placed in the Mission Box. This will be for the month of September.

October Mission:

Michigan vs Michigan State fundraiser. There will be three jars in the back of the church, Michigan, Michigan State or if you don’t want to choose, I Love My Church.

As in prior years, Pastor Bryan will color his hair to honor the victor.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair





Trustees September 2021

Hard to believe September is right around the corner. A big **Thank You** to those who have helped keep the church grounds looking great all summer. Lynn and Sharon Cummings, Marv and Carol Kingsley, Dave and Sharon Brooks, Kathy Johnson, and Doug Derrer who signed up to mow in September. Usually by August there is nothing to mow, the grass is so dry.

The two hard rains we had in August, on the 7th and the 10th, resulted in a lot of water in the basement through the furnace room. This has been an ongoing problem, the rain gutter helped some, but didn't eliminate the problem. We've been tarring the outside walls of the furnace room for years and that has helped. One morning when I was there to check for water a roofing truck was in the parking lot, (he was looking for the Nazarene Church) I had him take a look at the furnace room. He recommended pouring another sloped slab over the existing roof. That seems like a lot of weight on the existing walls. I've had another roofing contractor take a look, but I haven't heard back from him.

I'm also aware that the double doors into the Sanctuary need some attention as well. I just wanted to let everyone know that there may be some costly repairs happening at the church and suggestions are always welcome.

Submitted by Laurie Allison – Trustee Chair



MUMC November/December Newsletter deadline will be October 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 and YouTube. 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.



The Knit Chicks have been meeting throughout the summer at 1:00 pm at the Mancelona United Methodist Church. We will continue to meet every Wednesday except the second Wednesday of the month (when the UMW meets). Come one, come all, bring whatever you would like to work on. We have yarn, extra knitting needles and ladies that will teach you the basics or help with current knitting and crocheting project. There's lots of good fellowship if you don't do needlework. Please join us.

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



Anniversaries

Mancelona

Rae Ann & Burt Thompson September 7
Carol & Marv Kingsley September 12
Georgy & Ginny Moeke September 20
Dave & Michelle Curtis October 12
Ron & Wendy Aldrich October 23

Alba

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