

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

## FROM THE



## Pastor

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ!

As we begin this new year as well as the season of Epiphany, I find myself continuing to reflect on where we have

been as a part of the body of believers and where we might go over the course of this new year. While many things feel the same (COVID, winter weather, the lull after the holiday season, to name a few) my heart can't help but still feel excited about the possibilities that come with a new year.

Epiphany has been seen throughout the life of the Church Universal as a time of discovery. The name itself attests to this, meaning 'to appear.' The season begins with the coming of strangers to a strange land, hoping to pay homage to a newborn king of significance, and culminates with a discovery by the Disciples watching in awe atop a mountain as Jesus confers with Elijah and Moses. Truly, it seems that everything that transpires between the birth of our Lord and the Transfiguration in some way calls us to discover something new, exciting, and never before seen.

The season of Epiphany not only calls us into a time of discovery, but also invites us to expand our curiosity. This season allows us the space to ask questions we never thought of asking, questions that we have been afraid to ask out of embarrassment,

even questions whose answers we think we already know. *Could* we try something new? What *does* this passage in the Bible mean? Why *did* Jesus get baptized? Who is *this church* meant to invite in? The beauty of questions is that they remind us that there is no end to what we can learn from God, this creation, and each other. They remind us that just when we begin to think we have it all figured out, there is still a long way to go.

My request of you this year is to be unafraid to ask questions, no matter how simple or complicated the answer might be. The Wise Men didn't know when they set out on their journey all that it would entail, and they certainly weren't expecting to go home via another route, yet still they went to see the newborn king. Their curiosity ended up leading them to the ultimate discovery, and who knows, perhaps if we become more curious, we might discover what they did all those years ago.

It is my hope that this new year has been kind to you thus far, and in case it hasn't, I leave you with one of my favorite old Irish toasts: May the saddest days of your future be no worse than the happiest days of your past.



Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Bryan Kilpatrick

## NURTURE AND OUTREACH

The Nurture & Outreach Team is meeting this Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 12 noon. If this newsletter comes out prior to that meeting, feel free to join us! We are always looking for new members. Jackie Bates and Ellen Whitehead are the co-chairpersons. We will be reviewing the plans and activities we accomplished in 2021 and make plans for the coming year. Some highlights from our 2021 activities were:

1. *Sacred Grounds Native Plant Garden* – This project was a great success – thanks to all of you! We worked with AuSable Institute who secured a grant through the National Wildlife Federation to establish a native plant garden at our church property. Several church members joined us in planting the garden which will help native pollinators and provide a sacred place to sit, contemplate, and pray. We are also hopeful that the garden will help with water runoff and keep dampness out of the church basement that happens occasionally with a torrential downpour.
2. *Bike & Book Bash* – Northwest Michigan Communities in Schools led this year's event. Pastor Bryan and Ellen Whitehead were also on the team. Mancelona Schools provided lots of volunteers and so did our church. Thank you! Children in our community enjoyed riding the bike course, picking out books and bags from the PoWeR! Book Bag program, a yummy picnic meal, and more. Thanks to your donations we were able to give away two free bikes!
3. *Veteran's Day Recognition* – Carol Kingsley does such a wonderful job organizing this program every year and Rhonda Allen always puts together a great video. We appreciate our veterans!

Let us know if you have any ideas for new programs and activities. We can always use creative people who think "outside the box!" We had planned a couple of activities to spend time together outside of church, but due to weather and illnesses we were unable to have our annual snowshoe walk or kayak trip.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UPDATE

### November Meeting

Our program in November was centered around our annual World Thank Offering. This offering is used to help fund the UMW's missions and advocacy programs in the United States and

around the world. Ellen Whitehead led our program. We discussed the story of the Woman at the Well and how Jesus interacted with her despite the Jewish custom of the time not to have men talk with women or Samaritans. Jesus offered her "living water" through him. We shared thoughts of those who have mentored us in our faith journey.

### December Meeting

At our December meeting we enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon with yummy dishes prepared by all! Our program was centered around addressing Christmas cards to shut-ins, members who have moved away, and those friends we haven't seen at church in a while. It was a good time to just be together and relish in the joy of Christian friendship during the Advent season!

### FUNDRAISER UPDATE

As of the beginning of January 2022, our UMW has raised \$2,400.35 from our fundraising efforts to help local, national, and international charitable programs. So far, we have raised money through participation in a Craft Show held at Mancelona Elementary School (organized by Pathways Church), RADA sales, a bake sale held at Family Fare, and Rhonda Allen's beautiful handsewn/embroidered bags. In February, we will "Empty Our Treasury" by designating these funds to a variety of programs as voted upon by our members. If you have a suggestion for a worthy organization, please let one of our UMW members know before our February 9 meeting.

### WAVE OF LOVE AWARD

Jackie Bates was honored by receiving our *Wave of Love* award for 2021. United Methodist Women seek to honor someone each year who goes above and beyond to become a "Wave of Love" to others. The criteria for this award, sponsored by our Northern Waters District of United Methodist Women, includes: "someone who is active in church, active in the community, shows faith through action and prayer, and supports youth, children, and friendship." Jackie is so deserving of this award for all she does to make our community and church a better place by spreading the love of Christ. Congratulations, Jackie!

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting is this Wednesday, January 12 at 1:00 pm and will be held in Fellowship Hall at the church. Our program will be led by Ruth Johnson and Laurie Allison will be our hostess. Join us!

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, UMW Secretary and Nurture/Outreach co-chair



## Community Meal Update

Our Church does SO MANY THINGS to make our world a kinder place. Community Meal had an opportunity to reach out and make lemonade from lemons. Mancelona was without power from approximately Thursday morning, December 16 to Saturday evening, December 17. Our Community Meal freezers were well stocked as we had anticipated starting up Labor Day. Fortunately, a call to Jackie Bates helped save the day! Jackie quickly contacted Starr Township Volunteer Fire Department, and with Jackie's supervision, they were able to come and help unload the freezers and provide food parcels to many area folks in need. According to research, 48 hours seems to be critical for freezers that have not been opened.

The Starr Township Volunteer Fire Department was delighted and grateful as you can imagine. We were pleased that our gift could help as Starr Township Volunteer Fire Department serves 500 people twice a week with food parcels from their pantry.



The following partial reprint is from Val Stone, Food Coalition Coordinator, Northwest Food Coalition and Food Rescue Coordinator, Goodwill Industries of Northwest Michigan.

. . . I just read the stories in the Leelanau Ticker about all the good deeds folks have been doing for their community and it reminded me of each of you and what you do for your pantry guests, week-in and week-out. Few realize the superhuman effort it takes to receive, buy, clean, stock, lift, pack and repack all the boxes and bags of food and other needed items that you give out at your site. Many of you also have to fundraise to be able to buy those needed items. All these jobs are because you chose to work this hard! Some are acquired because there is no one else to do those needed jobs. You inherited them but still said yes. It's ok (and even fun) when the weather is nice, the guests are grateful and there is plenty to give out. But we know that is not always the case and some days, we need bite guards as we have to do a lot of teeth grinding to avoid saying what we want to say.

But then God sends that shy little girl who looks at you like you are her hero or a bent, hurting senior who you know will have a really great meal because your pantry and the work you and your volunteers do truly makes a difference. That's why this year has been such a mixed blessing. Bad things happened and will continue until the world gets these viruses under control. But good things have and will continue to happen because you CHOOSE to be that kind hero who gives of your time, skills, money, aching body and above all- your love to those who have little and need your KINDNESS more than anything. I am SO proud of you and the work you continue to do in whatever manner is needed. . . ."

Submitted by Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley

Community Meal Co-Chairs

## MISSIONS UPDATE



Our January Mission Project is the Mancelona High School “Iron Vault”. This is a free store for high school students. They will be open two days a week so students can get what they need in clothes, food items, toiletries at no charge.

They will be accepting the following items:

- Men’s clothing & outerwear sizes S-3xl
- Men’s footwear Sizes 7-12
- Women’s clothing & outerwear s-2xl
- Toiletries & Sanitary Products
- Food which must be
  - Nutritional
  - Simple Prep
  - Non-Perishable
  - Prefer Individual Sized

Contact people for more information are:

Michelle Scott 231-350-6367

Kathy Lightbody 313-587-6677

I had the chance to have a tour of the store and was very impressed. It’s very well organized and displayed. Monetary donations they receive can buy food and snacks much cheaper than store bought items. They also have an Amazon wish list. For more information flyers are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

## 2021 Mission Projects

January – Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale	\$224.00
February – UMCOR – Blankets	\$205.00
March – Haiti Children’s Project	\$145.02
April – Native American Sunday	\$190.00
May – Nothing But Nets	\$247.44
June – Book & Bike Bash	\$258.00
July – Community in Schools – Mike Hayes	\$238.00
August – Mike & Fawn Southwell Mission	\$750.46
September – Stuff the Bus School Supplies	\$227.00
October – Punt, Pass & Give	\$1868.01
November – UMCOR – Water & Sanitation	\$107.00
December – Two Christmas Families-Gifts and Food Baskets	

*We, on the Missions Committee are grateful for your generosity to others within the community and around the world. Each year we give Nationally, Internationally, and Locally.*

2022 Projects will be in our next newsletter.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman – Mission Chair



Church Trustees



## Trustees January 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hard to believe a new year is here. There is a snow shoveling sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex. If you sign up to shovel, don't be surprised if our snow shoveling angel has it done before you get to it. He's pretty sneaky! He beat me to shoveling several times in December.

A big thank you to Troy and Ethan who fixed the door into the Sanctuary which was coming apart at the bottom. The doors may eventually have to be replaced; they are almost 30 years old. I would like to postpone that project for as long as I can.

I plan on doing some painting in the furnace room this winter. The walls will need a good cleaning (probably never has been done) and then painted with a sealer that penetrates the cement to help keep moisture out. I also plan on installing additional lighting over our library area in the fireplace room.

To prevent freezing pipes, please don't turn the thermostats down below 60 degrees. In addition, during the winter we also keep the cupboard doors open in the kitchen to let more warm air in around the drains and water lines.

Submitted by Laurie Allison – Trustee Chair

## What's Happening

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 [carolkingsley62@gmail.com](mailto:carolkingsley62@gmail.com)

January 23 – Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

February 13 – Potluck

February 27 - Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

MUMC March/April Newsletter deadline will be February 25, 2022.



Keep saving Family Fare receipts. There is a box for them in the Narthex.



January 17<sup>th</sup> – Don & Ruth Johnson

January 26<sup>th</sup> – Dave & Robin Fisher

January 29<sup>th</sup> – Kenneth & Dana Proffer

February 13<sup>th</sup> – Michael & Laurie Allison

**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**



<b>Mancelona Birthdays</b>		<b>Alba Birthdays</b>
<p><b>January</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> – Kathy Cameron            3<sup>rd</sup> – Barbara Castle            4<sup>th</sup> – Marv Kingsley            7<sup>th</sup> – Pat Derror            7<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Johnson            8<sup>th</sup> – Ruben Mandez-Holman            8<sup>th</sup> – Kathy VanBruggan            10<sup>th</sup> – Ron Aldrich            10<sup>th</sup> – Braedon Moeke            15<sup>th</sup> – Jackie Allsopp            15<sup>th</sup> – June Beatty            16<sup>th</sup> – Emma Miller            16<sup>th</sup> - Burt Thompson            18<sup>t</sup> - Bob Geer            19<sup>th</sup> – Warren Shafer            24<sup>th</sup> – Diane Lirones            27<sup>th</sup> – Carol Kingsley</p>	<p>28<sup>th</sup> – Alex Mandex-Holman            28<sup>th</sup> -- Dana Proffer            29<sup>th</sup> – Ken Bronson            31<sup>st</sup> – Julia Kirby</p> <p><b>February</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> – Martha Jurma            6<sup>th</sup> – Carolyn Grody            8<sup>th</sup> – Ronda DelBosque            8<sup>th</sup> – Denise Nixon            9<sup>th</sup> – Michael Allison            16<sup>th</sup> – Jim MacArthur            18<sup>th</sup> – Lynn Cummings            18<sup>th</sup> – Gage Johnson            21<sup>st</sup> – Rhonda Headapohl            25<sup>th</sup> – Garret Derrer            25<sup>th</sup> – Cody Derrer            25<sup>th</sup> – Rae Ann Thompson            27<sup>th</sup> – Linda Olds</p>	<p><b>January</b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> – Annette Marcus            8<sup>th</sup> – Jeremy Gates            8<sup>th</sup> – Brooklyn Stevens            9<sup>th</sup> – Alaina Stevens            15<sup>th</sup> – Derrick Marsh            15<sup>th</sup> – Ashley Reynolds            23<sup>rd</sup> – Cecile Woodward            25<sup>th</sup> – Ashley Olds</p> <p><b>February</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> – Terry Olds            5<sup>th</sup> – Chris Olds            12<sup>th</sup> – Valeria Rusnell            13<sup>th</sup> – Penny Coon            14<sup>th</sup> – Jordan Stevens            21<sup>st</sup> – Louise Jewell</p>