

Read: Genesis 2:7

FROM THE



Grace and peace to you brothers and sisters in Christ!

The season of Lent is upon us! As many of us know, Lent is a time in the Christian calendar when we prepare for Easter by reflecting on life and

on the cross. Since some of the earliest days of Christianity, it has been a time when Christians have fasted in preparation for the most Holy of days. Though Lent is not as strictly practiced in many Protestant denominations when compared to both the Catholic and Orthodox churches, it is still a wonderful time for reflection and spiritual growth.

Yet the question remains: What should we give up for Lent?

I remember with fondness the Lenten seasons of my youth. Our pastors would always tell us that Lent is a time to give up something important to you that we might focus more on the spiritual side of life. I also remember my constant insistence that the only real way for me to understand and celebrate the season would be to give up school, which never went over well with my parents.

While fasting is a core component of the Christian faith, for many people the practice invokes abstaining from certain foods or eating as much as we typically do. However, this is only one aspect of fasting. During Lent we are reminded that all roads will inevitably lead to the end of these lives to the beginning of something new. We remember that our time in these lives is finite, and while it's true we have an eternity before us, it is in this life where what that eternity will be like is formed and shaped. If giving up food doesn't seem appealing to you, there are many other ways to

fast. We can fast by cutting out a half hour of TV each day and using that time to read our Bibles instead. We can fast by intentionally setting aside more time in our days for prayer. Perhaps most importantly, we can fast by taking a look at how we have been living our lives and comparing this to how Jesus calls us to live, making any necessary corrections in the hopes of bettering ourselves and the community around us.

However, you choose to celebrate the season of Lent this year, it is my hope that as we officially begin to move toward Easter, you will remember that none of us are perfect, and we all have room for improvement.

May this season of Lent bring you closer to God and closer to one another,



Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Bryan Kilpatrick



NURTURE AND OUTREACH

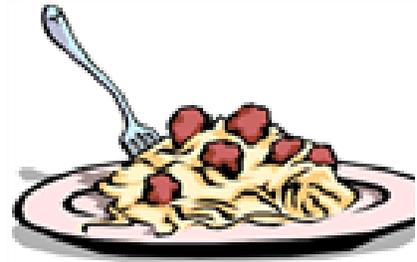
Our Annual Meeting of Nurture and Outreach met on January 12 to review the 2021 activities with respect to developing 2022 activities.

Many great projects will continue such as PoWeR Book Bags, Welcome bags for visitors, maintenance of the Mancelona Labyrinth of Hope and our Sacred Garden. Pastor Bryan is considering another Blue Christmas event. We plan to continue our, Thanksgiving Leaves of Gratitude, Veterans Recognition, Bike and Book Bash, and Prayer Box. We hope to bring back a Mancelona Fall Sports event and focus on the Iron Vault. On April 10, with Jackie Bates' assistance, we will honor our Girl Scout troop followed by our traditional second Sunday potluck with the troop as our guests.

Nurture and Outreach is planning on returning to some church outings. A survey was prepared for our congregation's response. Some possible activities include a return to some "oldies, but goodies" such as snowshoeing, kayaking, an autumn hike, or something new, such as, Mancelona Concert in The Park. We are looking forward to some new suggestions from our members. Once the surveys have been compiled, watch for activities as they are scheduled.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead and Jackie Bates,
Nurture and Outreach Co-Chairs

MEF Spaghetti Dinner and Auction

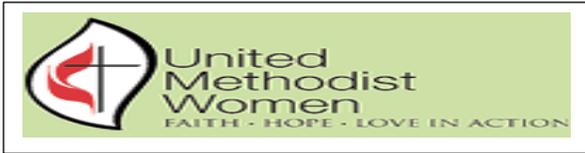


Friday, April 8
Mancelona High School
Dinner begins at 5:30 pm
Auction: 6:30 pm

Does Spaghetti dinner sound good? Mark your calendar for Friday, April 8 for the Mancelona Education Foundation Spaghetti Dinner and Auction. After a very long delay, MEF will finally be able to hold this event. Our church has always been such a great supporter of this fundraiser. Lori Derror will bring complimentary tickets to church as it gets closer. This event enables the Foundation to fund mini grants for classrooms, educational opportunities, and scholarships for our students. MEF is always willing to accept cash donations and donations of items to be auctioned. Please let Lori know if you are interested in donating. You may contact Lori at loriderror@gmail.com Put April 8th on your calendar as it is a fabulous community event.

PALM SUNDAY





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UPDATE

You are invited to our March 9 Meeting!

Bring a friend as our program will be on the Iron Vault. The program begins at 1:30 following our business meeting. As you may recall, our January Church Mission Project was to support the Iron Vault. This is a program at Mancelona High School where students may obtain free clothing, personal hygiene products, and weekend food packages. Michele Scott and Kathy Pecar Lightbody will present a PowerPoint in the Sanctuary. Refreshments follow the meeting.

January Meeting

At our January meeting, we considered possibilities for future fundraisers with consensus that with a November 2022 Craft booth and bake sales, we will be able to raise funds for our 2022 treasury. We may offer a coffee/lemonade/cookie booth at the Trustees June 18 garage sale and possibly a booth at the Mancelona Farmers Market if space becomes available."

UMW members will continue staffing our Second Sunday Potlucks and Fourth Sunday Coffee Hours. However, we hope other members of our congregation will take the opportunity to share in this congregational outreach.

As Ellen Whitehead, UMW Secretary, reported in our January minutes: "Ruth Johnson was our program leader. She read scripture that showed how Jesus cares about the least of these" including children, "tax collectors," and the common man. Jesus was gentle and humble in heart. We should do likewise."

February Meeting

We kept with tradition and the highlight of our February meeting was to "Empty The Treasury!"

Due to the tremendous support of our congregation, the UMW was able to reach out and support several charities by distributing \$3700. We appreciate your contributions whether by making or purchasing *or both* at our November Craft Booth, our December Bake Sale, and your support of the December RADA sale.

Our Northwest UMW received \$500. Then the following charities received our gifts:

International Giving - \$300 to SON International) and \$300 to Grace Children's Hospital)

National/State Giving - \$300 – United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids (State) and \$300 – Henderson House (National)

Local Giving - \$2000 total as follows:

- \$200 – Crossroads Farm North West
- \$300 – Iron Vault for Mancelona High School
- \$200 – Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop
- \$200 – Mancelona Baby Pantry
- \$600 – Mancelona Education Foundation
- \$200 - Power Books
- \$300 – Star Township Fire Department

Another activity at our February meeting was to make Valentine cards for residents of Meadow Brook that otherwise might not receive a card. We give thanks to longtime UMW member, Ruth Johnson, for making this suggestion. As recommended by Meadow Brook, thirty cards were delivered. Many of us went back to our elementary days or early "mom" days by using construction paper, glitter, and lace dollies to come up with some unique cards which we hope brightened some rooms. "Let all you do be done in Love." I Corinthians 16:14

Again, you are invited to attend our UMW Meeting on Wednesday, March 9 at 1:00 pm which will be held in our Sanctuary. Our business meeting will be followed at 1:30 with an Iron Vault presentation by Michele Scott and Kathy Pecar Lightbody.

Submitted by Carol Kingsley, UMW President

Mission for 2022

January- Mancelona Iron Vault - 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.

February – Church World Services – When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blanket program was created, to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregation, and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even **\$10.00** for a single blanket goes a long way.

March – Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale and Lighthouse Food Pantry and Resale

April – Grace Children's Hospital – The current situation in Haiti is difficult to imagine. Since August 2021, Haitians have experienced an earthquake, a presidential assassination, and a tropical storm. Despite these challenging times, it is remarkable to see what we were able to achieve together, yet our work is far from finished. Every day, parents bring their children to Grace Children Hospital here in Haiti to be treated for ailments and to receive preventative care.

May - Bike and Book Bash – More information at a later date

June - The Student Assistance Fund - Known to our congregation as the Mike Hayes Apple Pie Fund. It is 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.

July – Crossroads Farm - Crossroads Farm is the leading ministry focused on loving the American rural teen so that they may know Christ, seek a relationship with Him, and lead others to Him. We see every secondary student in the surrounding countries hearing the Gospel of Christ and having the opportunity to say "yes" or "no" to that message. We desire to win students to Christ, build students in Christ and equip students to serve Christ. One of their much-needed expenses is gas for the buses that go to towns in our area and pick up students. They meet on Sunday evenings in Kalkaska.

August – UMCOR – More information to follow

September- Crop Walk Antrim County - 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.

October –Punt, Pass and Give – Fund raiser for our church

November – Heifer Project – We work in 21 countries around the world to strengthen local economies and build secure livelihoods that guarantee a living income to local farmers.

December – Christmas Families, gifts and food basket

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair



Community Meal Update

Following are excerpts from an email that Sandy Neumann shared with Community Meal Team Leaders regarding the status of the reopening of our Community Meal.

“As you all are aware the COVID numbers are dropping.....averaging around 1,700 per day. And I expect it to continue dropping. We feel encouraged that we can reopen our Community Meal... hopefully by June 7, 2022. Our biggest challenge to reopening is going to be getting enough help. Things have changed drastically. Right now, two key volunteers have had major surgeries, some are away “snow birding”, sadly one key volunteer passed way due to Covid, and I am getting older 🙄 (as are a few of us) and I would like to retire from the cooking challenges. We will need to be creative and come up with answers to these challenges before we can reopen. I am planning to attend the next March 14 Ad Council meeting to share our concerns and hopefully brainstorm with them.

The good news is that the Lutherans are still on board as is Pathways. We still have a good number of volunteers who are willing to continue helping. Carol Kingsley and I have a few ideas also and would welcome more.

I also want to share Food Coalition news. I asked Mike Allen, who attends the Coalition meetings, to find out which meal sites have reopened and are doing sit down meals.

Of the approximate number of fifteen organizations that had some form of community meal prior to Covid, five are still closed like us.

After contacting other meal sites, I found that most are take out.

One is brand new.....the Presbyterian in Traverse City. As they reported to Mike, they currently are doing around 100 take outs every Thursday with hopes of opening to sit down next month. After checking with the other nine, what I found out is that other than Goodwill they are predominately take out. Central Methodist is doing take outs and sit down limiting four to a table. Both of these sites are supported by lots of volunteers.

Other sites that I talked to are doing takeout meals and some allow a few that have nowhere else to go to come in and sit down....maybe two to ten individuals depending on the site. Some prepare take outs on the day of their pantry distribution. None seem to have resumed “sit down” like our community meal style. Having said all this about others, we are certainly free to open when and how we feel comfortable and safe doing it.

So.....any ideas you have will be greatly appreciated. Please contact me, Carol Kingsley, or anyone else involved with the Community Meal if you have a possible solution to our concerns regarding staffing.

We will do this! We are a far cry from the five of us that began this venture ten years ago on March 27, 2012. 🙏”

Submitted by Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley

Community Meal Co-Chairs



Alba Birthdays

March

3rd – Spencer Olds
4th – Melissa Rusnell
8th – Teena Blasko
17th – Jason Marsh
31st – Ariole Betz

April

11th – Shannon Marsh
11th – Heather Olds
15th – Darline Olds
18th – Mabel Price
20th – Erin Stevens
21st – Thomas Gapinski
21st – Steve Olds
22nd – Ean Rusnell
26th – Karen Gates

29th – Kathy Olds
29th – Perry Rusnell



Mancelona Birthdays

March

1st – Tommy Thompson
8th – Lauren Felton
8th – Don Johnson
8th – Alejandria Mandez-Holman
10th – Kris Moeke
11th – Drew Moeke
11th – Nicole Derror
12th – Jack Meeder
15th – Melissa Mandez-Holman
18th – Jeanette Hayes
21st – Gerry Deater
21st – Gilbert DelBosque
22nd – David Derrer
25th – Lucas Tubacki
26th – Lauren Kirby
26th – Sandy Neumann
26th – Bill Plunkett
29th – George Moeke

April

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

Anniversaries

Mancelona:

March 7th – Bill & Judy Plunkett
March 26th – Mike & Rhonda Allen
April 1st – Jim & Virginia MacArthur
April 14th – Les & Judy Cota
April 18th – Ronda & Gilbert DelBosque

Alba:

March 18th – Ron & Lea Kenny
March 21st – Mitch & Karen Gates
April 19th – Clinton & Yvonne Olds



Church Trustees



Trustees March 2022

I can't believe that March is here and Spring is right around the corner. A big thank you to Marv and Carol Kingsley who kept the sidewalks clean for the month of January and first week of February along with the help of Dave Curtis. Troy Orman helped while Mike and I were away. I also need to thank Troy for getting the pilot light going on the boiler last Sunday; the Sanctuary was getting a bit chilly. Lori and Chris Derror have signed up to keep the walks shoveled for the next couple of weeks. Dave Curtis has been great keeping sidewalks and ramps shoveled throughout this winter season.

As soon as the snow is gone, we'll probably need to schedule a church clean-up day. That might not be until sometime in May.

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 text or call 231.360.9029

March 13 – Potluck

March 27 - Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

April 10 –Potluck

April 17 – Easter Sunday - 10:30 cinnamon rolls in the Welcome Center before Easter Services.

MUMC May/June Newsletter deadline will be April 25, 2022.

Lakes Of The North



Arts

Showcase

Sat March 12

Sun March 13

Clubhouse
Public Welcome



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



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

Address Changes:

Pat Derror
11141 Memory Lane,
Dade City, FL 33525

Marian Grody
4354 Mount Hope Road, Apt. 1116
Williamsburg, MI 49690

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



Dated Material – Please Rush - - March/April 2022 Volume 24 #2

Holy Week Activities

Palm Sunday – April 10th

Good Friday – April 15th

Easter Sunday - April 17th

Alba UMC:

9:00 AM Easter Service

Mancelona UMC:

10:30 AM Fellowship in Welcome Center
Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls

11:00 AM Easter Service

