



I am the new Pastor at Mancelona UMC and Alba UMC, starting on July 1, 2022. My Name is Rev. Dr. Douglas Mochama Obwoye, a Kenyan aged 44. I am married to Evelyne Kwamboka. We have been blessed with 3 kids: Bidwell 13 yrs.,

Bridged 10 yrs. and Fiona 6 yrs. My wife and kids still live in Kenya. I have tried to have them join me, but it has been hard due to COVID. I trust God that this year July 20, 2022, they will get a visa and join me here.

I am a graduate of Kenya Methodist University, with a degree in Theology, class of 2004, Masters of Arts in Religion from Africa Nazarene University, class of 2010, Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Catholic University of Eastern Africa, class of 2018 and Masters in Theology from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas class of 2019.

My call to ministry started long ago when I was in high school, as a Christian union leader, and in college, I was in charge of worship. Since I joined the ministry, I have worked in various churches and at one time I was in charge of 14 churches. Here in the USA, I have worked in various churches; Brooks Corner 2019-2021 and Tecumseh 2021 to 2022.

I look at the words of John Wesley the Founder of the Methodist church who once said ***“The world is my parish.”*** Pastor and ministers of the word of God have no boundaries, they go wherever they are sent. ***From the book of Isaiah 6: 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I.***

***Send me!”*** These are inspiring words to my calling. We are all called and God is asking Mancelona UMC Church, “Whom shall I send?” As we journey together in this ministry, I urge you to respond faithfully to God’s calling. The church is one body with many parts, we need more people to fill this body of believers. If need be, we need more preachers, teachers, leaders in different offices in the church as God blesses us.

My aim is to preach Christ and to make Him known to many people for the transformation of the hearts. This can be made possible when we do away with the scapegoat that people hold that we did not hear the word of God preached. I am there to prove them wrong because I will preach in season and out of season, as God gives me the grace.

I have a wealth of experience in preaching from the Bible, leading Bible studies, doing community work like helping in the food pantry, joining community clubs, and visiting and giving communion to members who live in assisted facilities. I am also an athlete; I run for my fitness.

As we embrace one another in this journey of faith I am expecting all of us to grow Spiritually, Mentally, Physically and Socially.

I am requesting your prayers for my family to be able to join me soon and also pray for my journey back to Kenya to bring them to the USA.

Reverend Dr. Douglas Obwoye



## MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

In June we held our annual luncheon at The Dockside restaurant on beautiful Torch Lake. It is a time to set our business meeting aside and enjoy fellowship with our Christian sisters!

Our meetings this summer will take place at the homes of Laurie Allison (July 13 – 1 pm) and Rhonda Allen (August 10 – 1 pm). We will conduct business as usual, but our programs will center on the sharing of personal devotions, scripture, inspiring stories, or other things that have touched us spiritually.

We are always looking for more women to join us. Mancelona United Methodist Women meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. We usually meet in the Fellowship Hall where we conduct our business, provide a special program with speakers on topics of interest to strengthen our walk with God, and enjoy some delicious treats supplied by members. Hope to see you at a future meeting!

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead - UMW Secretary

## NURTURE AND OUTREACH

### Church Outings

In May, we dodged just a few sprinkles to enjoy a wildflower walk at Grass River Natural Area that took us through a lovely cedar, tamarack, and hardwood forest sprinkled with soft green moss and spring wildflowers. It is easy to feel God's spirit in the beauty of his handiwork throughout nature! Afterward we enjoyed dinner at Shorts Brew Pub in Bellaire.



Concert in the Park in downtown I  
July 27. Join us for this free, outd  
Triangle Park at the intersection c



88. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and a dish to pass. We will meet there at 6 pm for our potluck picnic. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The featured band that night will be Yankee Station. Check out their music at <https://www.yankeestationband.com/>. A sign-up sheet with food suggestions will be in the church lobby soon. COME and bring friends and neighbors!



### Goodbye Potluck for the Kilpatrick Family

On June 12, we said goodbye to the Kilpatrick family. We collected funds to make a money tree for Bryan & Ashley and separate "piggy" banks for Cece, Lucas, and Bradley. Lucas said, "I didn't know money could grow on trees!" A photobook of memories was given to Pastor Bryan highlighting special times while serving our church. Lots of good food. Lots of hugs. Lots of tears. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this special send-off. We will miss them dearly and wish them well.

### Bike & Book Bash Cancelled – A New Event is in the Works

After a heartfelt discussion with a representative from Communities in Schools, who was our partner for this program, our Nurture & Outreach team felt it would be best to cancel the Bike & Book Bash as Pastor Bryan has moved on and he played a key role in its success. They have also had a lot of turnover in staff and our church will be focused on helping acclimate Pastor Douglas and his family to our church and community. Instead, the Nurture & Outreach team agreed to donate \$500 to Community in Schools to sponsor a summertime event CIS could plan for elementary and middle school children. We will follow up with them and see what they plan to do and ask for volunteers from our church to help with the event. More to come!

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead - Co-chair Nurture Committee

# Community Meal



We did it! After almost 2 ½ years, Community Meal started up again! So far, so good! We have had three very successful Community Meal dinners, and, by the time you read this, we will have completed our first month!

Remember to share with your friends and neighbors, that each Tuesday at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall there is a free dinner.

One new thing is that the Food Rescue Truck which had been dropping off free food each week at the Church will only make one stop at the Mancelona Food Pantry. This makes it necessary for the team to pick up their own items, usually salad, vegetable, and dessert items. So far, each team has taken on this responsibility without a hitch.

Once again, Lou Patton and John Sterner have returned to their responsibilities to get those dishes clean and back on the shelf!

Remember, to thank the cooking and serving team if you attend the meal or see them at Church or in Mancelona as many have spent several hours the day of the meal from cooking, to sanitizing tables before and after each meal, serving, seeing that all food is given away, removing recycling and trash, and washing all linens.....It IS A BIG JOB! Our volunteers do it with kindness and love! They start by planning their meal a few days ahead, then on Sunday, putting meat in refrigerator to defrost, and Tuesday usually start food preparation by 1:00 pm and it's 6:30 before the last server leaves!

**We salute: - First Tuesday Team Leaders:** Troy Orman and Michelle McClelland

**Second Tuesday Team Leaders:** Jackie Bates, Rhonda Allen, and Ellen Whitehead. The three of them will share the cooking responsibilities.

**Third Tuesday Team Leaders:** Pathway Community Church lead cook is Dale Stephenson. Pathway's Church provides complete staffing for their Tuesday meal.

**Fourth Tuesday Team Leaders:** Marilyn Avery-Swan and Shirley Tracey will share cooking.

**Fifth Tuesday Team Leaders:** St Matthews Lutheran Church led by Betty Sell. St Matthews provides complete staffing for their Tuesday meal.

In addition, our Church volunteers serving in various capacities include Margaret Chapman, Dave Curtis, Gerry Deater, Robin Fisher, Carolyn Grody, Ruth Johnson Brenda Lockman, Denise Plakmeyer, and Kathy VanBruggen.

We've started up on the first Tuesday with about 48 and second Tuesday was 50, so gradually we will return to the average of around 60.

From a delicious chicken chili soup with black beans and barley, cornbread to chicken fajitas, folks have really enjoyed the meal.

Sandy and I both were at the first Tuesday, and blessed to hear how happy folks were to be back! Ruth Johnson did a great job warmly greeting our guests! As Sandy emailed to Community Meal staff, *"What I heard over and over was how welcomed they felt and how nice it was to share a meal with others. They enjoy the food of course but the sharing and companionship was more important."*

Anytime, you have a suggestion, please feel free to contact Sandy or Carol.

Submitted by Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley

Community Meal Co-Chairs

## News from Missions

### *Missions 2022*

<i>January – Mancelona High School “Iron Vault”</i>	<i>.....\$240.00</i>
<i>February – Blankets – CWS</i>	<i>.....\$227.00</i>
<i>March – Ukraine Relief</i>	<i>.....\$579.00</i>
<i>April – Mancelona Food Pantries</i>	<i>.....\$112.00</i>
<i>May – Mike Hayes Fund</i>	<i>.....\$337.00</i>
<i>Special Offering – Gaylord Tornado Relief</i>	<i>.....\$635.00</i>
<i>June – Nurture &amp; Outreach</i>	<i>.....\$ 37.00</i>

*To be continued.....*

*Our July Mission is Crossroads Farms, August will be UMCOR, September is Crop Walk.*

### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair



Church Trustees



UPDATE

Thank you to all who have helped get the parsonage ready for Rev. Dr. Douglas Obwoye. There was more work to be done than I had anticipated. A big thank you to Troy and his crew who did most of the heavy work, and to Michelle who painted the entire upstairs, including all the ceilings. I hadn't planned on doing that, but it was necessary.

Those of you who came to clean, thank you. I certainly couldn't have done it alone; Kathy, Brenda, Sandy, Lori, Sue, Jackie H., Denise, Carol, and Robin.

Those who helped clean up the yard and flower beds: Lori, Kathy, Carol, Robin, and Dave Brooks, another big thank you.

Thank you to Rhonda and Mike Allen for setting up the new phone system and internet. Also thanks to all who generously gave to help fill the refrigerator and pantry with a few staples.

There is still much work that needs to be done. We will finish up while Rev. Dr. Douglas is in Kenya retrieving his family. Troy and crew will finish installing the flooring in the two remaining bedrooms and hallway, rehang doors, replace trim, etc. I will ask for help with moving some of the remainder of furniture into the parsonage and setting up beds for his children.

We had to remove the carpeting in the basement, I'm not sure what will replace that but I hope to have that finished before he and his family return from Kenya. I have considered just painting the floor, but it's pretty rough from previous installed/glued down flooring.

Lastly, thank you Doug Derrer who has been mowing at the Church for the month of June. That was one thing I didn't have to worry about.

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 will include Rev. Douglas'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) text or call 231.360.9029

July 10 – Potluck – Welcome our new Pastor

July 24 - Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

July 17 – 6pm potluck picnic followed by 7pm Concert in Triangle Park on 131.

August 14 –Potluck

August 28 - Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

MUMC September/October Newsletter deadline will be August 25, 2022.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### Anniversaries

#### Alba

Terry & Angela Gapinski	July 6
Terry & Darline Olds	July 27
Christian & Annette Marcus	August 15
Gary & Tina Tubbs	August 16
Jason & Leigh-Anne Marsh	August 29

#### Mancelona

David & Sharon Brooks	July 15
Dave & Ellen Whitehead	July 18
Chris & Lori Derrer	July 30
Brian & Denise Nixon	August 8
Chad & Courtney Rasor	August 11

**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**



**Alba United Methodist Church**  
 PO Box 136  
 5991 Alba Highway  
 Alba, MI 49611  
 Sunday Service @ 9:30am



*July & August Birthdays*

<b>Alba</b>		<b>Mancelona</b>	
Katherine Rusnell	July 1	Cindy McCulloch	July 1
Margaret Bock	July 9	Dave Fisher	July 5
Jeremy Smith	July 12	Theresa Peterson	July 6
Don Blasko	July 14	Courtney Razor	July 8
Bobbie Sue Marsh	August 1	Kallie Derrer	July 11
Clinton Olds	August 2	Wyatt Derrer	July 11
Derek Gates	August 6	Ann Cole	July 12
Lyndee Zimpfer	August 7	Evan Shafer	July 16
Matthew Olds	August 11	Penny Laws	July 19
DJ Reynolds	August 12	Audrey Headapohl	July 21
Jayden Stevens	August 16	Cooper Thompson	July 28
Collin Olds	August 28		
		Jack Patterson	August 1
		Julie Castle	August 2
		Ginny Moeke	August 2
		Dave Curtis	August 5
		Charlene Geer	August 9
		Sandy Scholl	August 10
		Chad Razor	August 16
		Alexis Felton	August 21
		Cody Aldrich	August 25
		Noah Felton	August 25