

FROM THE Seasons



Pastor

It is fall which is a new experience to my family - seeing leaves falling down and expecting snow falling down during winter. There is a lot of leaves to clean up before winter. It gives us as a family good time to clean

up as part of our physical fitness and caring for the environment. My reflection for November and December 2022 is from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The book of Ecclesiastes was written for a lofty purpose. Solomon, as leader of a people dedicated to Jehovah, had the responsibility to hold them together in faithfulness to their dedication. He sought to fulfill this responsibility by means of the wise counsel of Ecclesiastes. In Ecclesiastes 1:1 he refers to himself as “the congregator.”

A Time for Everything

1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

A Time to be Born and a Time to Die

Things like abortion, birth control, mercy killing (euthanasia), and surrogate parenthood may give the impression that humans control birth and death, but Solomon said otherwise. Birth and death are not human accidents; they are divine appointments, for God is in control. We may foolishly hasten death, but we cannot prevent it when our time comes, unless God wills it, such as in the case of King Hezekiah in Isaiah 38:1-8. I am not giving my stand but I am reflecting from the Biblical point of view that life begins at conception and it should be respected. Solomon is arguing about the importance of life and how it blossoms until fall and the winter starts. Life is all round.

A Time to Plant and a Time to Harvest.

Farmers may plow and sow, but only God can give the increase (Psalm 65:9-13). “Harvest” translates a word that may refer either to reaping or pulling up unproductive plants.

A successful farmer knows that nature works for him only if he works with nature. This is also the secret of a successful life: Learn God’s principles and cooperate with them. I know Spring is coming when all farmers go out to plow the field and plant. Out of the seeds they will get the harvest. The seed is the word of God which is always planted in our hearts. The farmer who is our Lord Jesus is expecting to harvest a good harvest.

Casting Away Stones and Gathering Them

Israel is indeed a rocky land, and farmers must clear their fields before they can plow and plant. To hurt an enemy, you would fill the enemy’s field with stones (2 Kings 3:19, 25). People also gathered stones for building walls and houses.

Whether stones are good or bad depends on how they are used. If your enemy fills your land with rocks, don’t throw them back. Instead, build something out of them! This means that every situation in your life has a purpose. Don’t cast it out

use it for the glory of God. Remember Jesus is in the boat. Don't burn bridges you might need them to cross over.

A Time to Tear and a Time to Sew

This tearing and mending probably refer to the Jewish practice of tearing one's garments during a time of grief or repentance (2 Samuel 13:31; Ezra 9:5).

God expects us to sorrow and grieve during bereavement but not like unbelievers who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). At times, we must get out the needle and thread and start mending. Mending is very important, putting together pieces in our lives is a sign of growth. We need to look into our lives and mend it where necessary.

A Time to Love and a Time to Hate

God's people are expected to love others, even the unlovable, following Jesus' example. But are they allowed to hate? This is very complicated question to answer. The fact that the next phrase mentions "war and peace" suggests that Solomon may have had the nation primarily in mind.

However, believers are expected to hate some things such as covetousness (Exodus 18:21), evil

(Psalm 97:10), the deeds of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6), the doctrines of Balaam and sexual immorality (Revelation 2:14), and the seven things that God hates in Proverbs 6:16-19.

The inference in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 is plain: If we cooperate with God's timing, life will not be meaningless. Rather, everything will be "beautiful for its own time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11), even the most difficult experiences of life. Life is something like a doctor's prescription. Taken alone, the ingredients might kill you, but properly blended, they bring healing.

Finally, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2023. I love you all!

Rev. Dr. Douglas Mochama Obwoye Phd.



Join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary at Mancelona United Methodist Church.

MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Our October meeting was held at the beautiful home of Marv and Carol Kingsley on Big Twin Lake. Here are some highlights from the minutes of that meeting:

- From the Treasurer's Report: We have \$1,051 in our accounts. We had a \$1,290 profit from Harvest Supper, but our bottom line in our accounts is a bit lower due to expenses.
- The Northern Waters District Celebration was held on September 24. Carol Kingsley attended this event. Our UMW group received a Certificate of Achievement Award for qualifying as a Mission Today Faith Unit. There was also a memorial presentation for members who have passed and Phyllis Starkey was honored.
- We discussed "Hanging of the Greens" and decided to do this after church on **November 20**. This will help us be ready for the Advent Season. Please note there will be **no Coffee Hour** in November.
- Mark your calendars! Two more fundraisers are coming for our UMW so that we will be able to donate more to missions here at home and around the world.
 - Saturday, **November 19**, we will participate in the Craft Show held at Mancelona Elementary School. If you have crafts, you would be willing to donate, please let Carol Kingsley know.
 - Saturday, **December 17**, we will be having a Bake Sale. Jackie Bates is our point person and our Girl Scouts Troop will help. Hours will be 9 am to 3 pm at Family Fare. We will need bake goods, so dig out those favorite recipes!
- On Saturday, **October 29**, there was a fundraiser for the Iron Vault at Mancelona High School. Several women from our church attended to enjoy a scrumptious dinner catered by Smoke & Porter and enjoyed a fashion show the students put on with clothes from the Iron Vault free store!
- Our December "meeting" will be a free Soup & Salad luncheon in the Fellowship Hall for people in our community. We had to stop this tradition during the COVID pandemic and are happy to start up again by serving homemade soups and salads to teachers, township/village workers, and anyone else in the community who would like to come. Here's the scoop: Wednesday, **December 14** from 11 am to 1 pm.
- Wendy Aldrich was our October program presenter. The theme was "Cloud of Witnesses" in preparation of All Saints Day. We were reminded of the blessings of our ancestors and that, we too, will become ancestors for future generations.

**Soup & Salad
Luncheon
December 14**

**Hanging of
the Greens
November 20**

NURTURE AND OUTREACH NEWS

CHURCH OUTINGS

In October, we enjoyed a church outing to the Jordan River Fish Hatchery for a walk along the river, followed by dinner at The Railside Grill in Elmira. The autumn trees were beautiful and we were thrilled to see giant salmon swimming up the river. I think Bidwell, Bridged, and Fiona were especially excited to see those big fish as well as all the baby salmon and trout being raised inside the hatchery. A good time was had by all!

We will plan a snowshoe hike sometime this winter, so stay tuned for the details!



PASTOR APPRECIATION

October is Pastor Appreciation month and on Sunday, October 16, we honored our pastor, Reverend Dr. Douglas Mochama Obwoye, with gift certificates from businesses around our community. We know the family will enjoy pizza from The Pizza Shoppe, chicken tenders from Shirley's Cafe, ice cream and other goodies from Rooted, and help in filling up their car's gas tank from Derrer's BP gas station. Thank you, Pastor Douglas, for your service to our church!

NURTURE & OUTREACH PLANNING MEETING

On October 17, the Nurture & Outreach team met to review the programs we organized in 2022 and to make plans for activities in 2023.

The most exciting news is that Pastor Douglas is hoping to launch a Youth Group which would meet once a month at the church. The youth gatherings would include dinner (pizza, hot dogs, or other stuff kids like), music, and a relevant message from our pastor. A team will be meeting on Tuesday November 1 (6:00 pm at the church), to get this program off the ground. We would love to have you join us in the planning! The Youth Group will most likely be geared for youth in Grades 7 through 12.

The purpose of the Nurture & Outreach program is to *nurture* our own church congregation and to provide *outreach* opportunities for people outside of our church. Here are our planned programs:

- Veteran's Recognition – Sunday, **November 13**
- Thanksgiving Gratitude Leaves – Sunday, **November 20**
- New Member Sessions – Are you interested in joining our church? Talk to Pastor Douglas and sessions will be set up between now and Easter 2023
- Sacred Grounds/Labyrinth – These two nature areas were funded by grants and are available to anyone who would like a place to sit or walk to spend some time with God and find peace.
- Easter Egg Hunt – Plans are being made to have an Easter Egg Hunt for the community at the labyrinth on Saturday, **April 8**, 2023.
- Girl Scout Recognition – Jackie Bates works with the Girl Scout Troop that meets at our church. She is planning on providing a cooking class in the coming year so they can earn a badge. We enjoyed a Girl Scout Recognition Sunday in 2022 and plan to do it again in 2023.
- Church Outings will continue in 2023 with an activity for each season of the year.



If you are interested in helping plan or have ideas for our activities/programs, please see Ellen Whitehead or Jackie Bates, Co-Chairs of the Nurture & Outreach Team.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead & Jackie Bates,
Nurture & Outreach Team co-chairs

Community Meal News

Well, Community Meal has been back from the Pandemic closing for several months. The meals continue to be very impressive! The dedication of the cooking teams in providing excellent meals is unbelievable! Think meat loaf, mashed potatoes, Caesar salad, pork loin, homemade dressing and gravy, and chicken fajitas! Cooking teams have made cakes and desserts when needed such as homemade cobbler, carrot cheesecake, and German Chocolate cake just to name a few. Shirley's donates bread which complements most meals other than when the team is making homemade biscuits or cornbread! Not good that this is being written right before dinner!

There are times when the Food Rescue Truck has not provided salad items or much in the way of desserts. So many of the volunteers are filling in the gaps by going to the store and buying additional salad items and making desserts. Our community source for milk is not able to do it anymore, so one dedicated volunteer has been providing milk each week including picking it up at the store.

In September, 190 meals were served, 14 seconds and 51 take outs for a total of 255 meals. As of press time, three Tuesdays in October has served 104 meals, 8 seconds, and 57 take outs for a total of 169 meals. That's a lot of meals with a lot of volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean up! Eight to ten volunteers per meal or 40 per month and 50 on 5th Tuesdays.

One of our Community Meal volunteers, Todd Avery, passed way in early October. Todd and his wife, Surina, had volunteered through Grand Traverse Industries on the first Tuesday team. They and their mentor and supervisor, Lea Kenny, have been so faithful to us for several years. Our hearts are heavy for Surina and all their friends at GTI. Please keep them in your prayers. Quickly, two volunteers said, "yes!" We are welcoming Everyline Magare and Kathy Johnson to our first Tuesday team. We appreciate you both responding to our plea for help.

Our Community Meal is fortunate to purchase food at a great discount at Manna which is located north of Petoskey. In years past, we have had to make trips to their facility to get our food items (pasta, canned goods, frozen meats and vegetables.)

Now, their truck delivers, and this makes it so much easier to have a well-stocked pantry and freezers.

What is Manna? Manna Food Project started in 1987 in Petoskey. Manna provides food assistance to the hungry in Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet counties. Manna is a partner organization of the [Feeding America Food Bank Network](#) and is funded entirely through the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations. Manna has over 250 volunteers and a staff of seven. Manna has a food bank where we receive our pantry items but there is also a food pantry, and the "[Food 4 Kids](#)," backpack program. Several local fruit and vegetable farms donate fresh fruits and vegetables to Manna. *Thank you, Kitchen Farms!* Our Iron Vault high school students are also receiving benefits from Manna. In addition, Manna also partners with community agencies and local businesses to host cooking classes, community dinners, and other events highlighting the importance of [healthy, fresh food](#).¹

¹The information is from mannafoodproject.org

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



Alba

Robert & Kathy Olds – November 8
DJ & Ashley Reynolds – November 29
Kathy and Chuck Blasko – December 28

Mancelona

Bob & Jackie Humphrey – November 5
David & Amy Derrer – November 24
Jack & Jan Patterson – December 7
Dean & Cindy McCulloch – December 12
Ken & Brenda Lockman – December 30



Mission Giving

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, more information to follow.

Our September Crop Walk Mission project gave us \$173.00

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin; God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff.... including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for the entire world to see.

Happy fall



Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Missions

VETERAN'S DAY RECOGNITION – HONORING OUR VETERANS



On Sunday, November 13, Nurture and Outreach will honor and offer thanks to our church family who are veterans, a spouse of a veteran, or have a family member currently serving in the armed services. We will do this in a special way via a video presentation that Rhonda and Mike Allen have graciously volunteered, once again, to put together. We hope all veterans and their family members will be our guest for Second Sunday Potluck after church on November 13. All past participants will be included in the video. Please contact Carol Kingsley at 231.360.9029 (phone or text) if you would like to add a new participant.



Church Trustees



Since the last newsletter we've had to replace the washer and dryer at the parsonage. The dryer quit working the end of August, and we had a repairman come and check it out. It was a fuse, an easy fix. However, 2 weeks later, it quit again. Being the set was 13 years old, I felt it was time for new instead of multiple repair bills. We also installed an outdoors clothesline for summer use. A couple other repairs had to be made this past month; a new seal for the toilet in the half bath (leaking into the basement) a worn-out bathtub drain stopper and a small leak in a copper pipe in the basement. I'm hoping this will take care of parsonage repairs for a while.

We've contracted with the same snow removal company for the church parking lot. They have done a good job in the past. The cost increased by \$25 per plow, not unexpected with the cost of fuel. This is the first increase in many years. I am hoping the Farmer's Almanac is wrong in its prediction of heavy snow and a cold winter. I will be posting a snow shoveling sign up in the narthex in the next couple of weeks. Mike will be changing the oil in the snowblower, getting it ready for winter. We used it only a couple of times last year.

I'm concerned about heating bills for the winter. Thermostats must be kept at a reasonable setting, around 70 degrees when in use, and turned down to 60 degrees when no one is there.

A big thank you to David Brooks who has been keeping the church yard mowed for the month of October.

Submitted by Laurie Allison, Trustee Chair

What's Happening

RADA Kathy Johnson will send orders in the second week of November. Books are in the Narthex on the table near the Conference Room.

Sunday, November 13 - Our Church honors our veterans. We will honor all our veterans from past years. If you would like to add a veteran, please check with Carol Kingsley at 231.360.9029 (phone or text) or carolkingsley62@gmail.com

Sunday, November 13 - Potluck in Fellowship Hall following our service with our veterans as our special guests. Sponsored by Nurture and Outreach and UMW.

Saturday, November 19 - Annual Mancelona Community Craft Show – Our UMW will have a booth. *Start crafting* Contact Carol Kingsley if you have questions. About \$1519 was raised at the craft show last year. This included RADA sales at the show.

Sunday, November 20 – Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 11- Potluck in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, December 14 11:00-1:00 – Soup and Salad Luncheon provided by the UMW group.

December 17- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm or til sold out -UMW Bake Sale at Mancelona Family Fare. Your baked good donations will be very much appreciated! If you have questions, check with Jackie Bates. Alba Church will be making their "Train Life Savers!"

December 24, 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service.

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

Alba United Methodist Church

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



<u>Alba</u>	<u>Mancelona</u>	
Scott Coon – November 6 Cheryl Olds – November 10 Hailey Gapinski – November 14 Ruth Ann Gates – November 16 Jeannie Marsh – November 27 Terry Gapinski – December 3 Ron Kenny – December 4 Lea Kenny – December 12 Bob Marsh – December 13 Gary Zimpfer – December 19 Grace Smith – December 24 Judy Zimpfer – December 30	Margaret Chapman – November 1 Bridged Mochama – November 1 Ronald Oyer – November 1 Kathy Shuman – November 2 Jackie Humphrey – November 5 Robin Fisher – November 7 Alexis Deater – November 11 Mike Allen – November 13 Wendy Aldrich – November 14 Rhonda Allen – November 16 Sandy Churchill – November 16 Sarah Nixon – November 17 Patti Dykhouse – November 19 Judy Plunkett – November 21 Beth McKaig – November 26	Jackie Bates – December 4 Brenda Lockman – December 4 Ryan Naumcheff – December 18 Jason Naumcheff – December 23 Kenneth Proffer – December 24 Marian Grody – December 27 Dave Whitehead – December 28