



FROM THE Happy New Year 2023! I thank God all of us are together to begin the new year. I hope you are taking care of the Christ child within by protecting him, giving him the best diet, and covering him with

warm clothes this winter. Don't kill him spiritually. Continue nurturing him in your life.

My reflection for the next two months, January and February, is growth and working and walking with Jesus Christ in our everyday life. As a member of Mancelona United Methodist Church, are you ready to grow in your Christian life? Are you ready to work and walk with Jesus in your life? I am encouraging you to walk the talk.

What is growth?

Growth is a positive change over a period of time. Although growth can be for many, different things, areas, or purposes. There is spiritual growth, financial growth, economic growth, health growth, business growth etc. But I want to focus on encouraging us about anything we as Christians begin in our lives, which will grow with time. Many Christians have given up all hope for things to grow in their life.

When we read the book of Job 8:7 it says: "Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be."

In the above verse, it confirms that yes, your beginning was small (past tense) because your beginning has started this

year. You can't go back, you can't give up, you can't lose hope, because it has started. As long as you've prayed and received confirmation of that thing you start, then be rest assured that there will be increase.

But the verse also said that it will flourish, it will grow. It's like a seed. Don't give up, don't let people discourage you this year, push on; God will see you through. Believe it. Today I pray for you that God will increase your beginning in the mighty name of Jesus.

If you want to grow and flourish this year, you need to maintain the growth, and remember that there is going to be an increase as long as effort is put in. For something to grow, it must be looked after. If you plant a seed, you have to water it. If you buy a new car, you will need to service it regularly. If you buy a new house, you will need to clean and maintain the inside and outside, like a garden.

Again, when we read 1 Corinthians 3:7 the Bible says: "So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."

If you want to grow, please pray this prayer.

1. Lord thank you for the new beginnings in my life.
2. Lord Jesus for everything I lay my hands on, I pray it shall prosper.
3. I pray to obtain, to maintain, and to retain my blessings in the mighty name of Jesus.
4. Lord, give me the grace to endure in everything I start in the name of Jesus.

5. Lord let your presence never depart from me and from everything I start in my life in the mighty name of Jesus.

6. God, I give you all the glory through our Lord Jesus.

How do you walk and work with Jesus?

Ephesians 4:11-12

“11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

In his letter to the Ephesian Christians, the Apostle Paul uses two great figures of speech or word pictures to help us understand the true nature and functioning of the church. Paul likens the church, first, to a human body of flesh and bones, made up of many members articulated and coordinated together. Paul likens the church, second, to a building which he describes as growing through the centuries to be a habitation for God through the Spirit.

I want to request you to use your talents wisely for the growth of the Church. Walking in the light and work without complain.

First, your walk; then, your work. Your work for the Lord must always be the overflow of your walk with the Lord. I define ministry as being full of Jesus Christ and spilling over onto others. That means that your ministry will be backed by a life of integrity; you are imparting to others what you have because you walk in reality with Christ. If we all would learn this simple but profound principle, that our walk with Christ is the necessary basis for our work for Christ, we would avoid burning out, bombing out, and fading out in the work He has given us to do.

Reverend Dr. Douglas Obwoye



NURTURE AND OUTREACH NEWS

CHURCH OUTINGS

Let us know your ideas on outings you would like to participate in! (See below for our planned events so far.)

YOUTH GROUP PLANS – Meet & Eat!

Our first scheduled *Meet & Eat* youth gathering was scheduled for November, but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to snow and slick roads. So, we rescheduled our first event for the last Sunday in January - January 29, 2023. The times will be 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Our plan is to have a program once a month on the LAST SUNDAY of EACH MONTH. At this time, the only exception would be Memorial Weekend (May 21st) and December will be determined at a later date. So, MARK YOUR CALENDARS, PROMOTE the events with youth you know, and PRAY for good weather and much success!!

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 the remaining planned programs for 2023:*

- *Meet & Eat* Youth Programs – Meetings will be held from 7 to 9 pm on the last Sunday of each month. See above for more information.
- 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. We can always use help in weeding or planting. Note: Gerry Deater had an excellent idea to plant herbs in the Sacred Grounds area and we can use them for our Community Meal planning!
- 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 Girl Scout Recognition Sunday in 2022 and plan to do it again in 2023.
- Church Outings will continue in 2023 and we hope to have an activity for each season of the year.
- The Concert in the Park last July was a great time! So, we will be looking at the schedule later this year to schedule another potluck at the concert in Triangle Park.

* 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,
Nurture/Outreach co-chair



MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Our latest Treasurer's Report dated January 3, 2023, now shows a total of \$3756.35 (this includes revenue received from all our recent fundraisers). Thank you to everyone who helped or participated in our fundraisers that included a Craft Show, Bake Sale, Harvest Supper, RADA sales, etc.

Wave of Love Awards

The United Methodist Women organization sponsors an award called the Wave of Love. The criteria for awarding this honor are that it be someone in the congregation who is active in church, active in the community, shows faith through action and prayer, and supports youth, children, and friendship. In December, we awarded two Wave of Love awards. Drum roll please! The awards were presented to Mike and Rhonda Allen. One nominator had this to say about Mike and Rhonda "Both are very competent and skilled whether it's finance, techie skills, or cooking. They are a great couple to work with. They are willing to help wherever they are needed. "Congratulations" to Mike and Rhonda!

Advent Projects

At our UMW meeting in November, we prepared Christmas cards for those church friends who have moved away or we have not seen at church often such as those who are homebound or for other reasons.

In December, we held a Christmas luncheon with soups and salads prepared by our UMW members. We have been offering this luncheon for several years now but had to take a hiatus during the COVID pandemic, so it was wonderful to offer the luncheon again. Special invites were sent to Mancelona Schools and Village of Mancelona staff as well as UMW groups in our area.

January Meeting

Our January meeting will be held on January 11, 2023. After our business meeting, our program will be to help clean and organize church rooms.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, UMW Secretary



Missions for 2023

January – Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop & Community Light House -

This money will be divided between both Pantries.

February – Kenya Mission, Masango - Masango is a Methodist church in Kenya. They are building a church. The majority of the people who attend there including Pastor Douglas' parents are unable to put up a sanctuary. With God's blessing, they have gathered the material needed for construction. They will start if they can get money for labor and materials to complete the project. The church has 20 members, mostly family people.

March – Youth Ministry - This will be used for our youth group. Also, it can be used for our youth to attend camps and youth conferences if they want to attend.

April – Crossroad Farms - Crossroads Farms 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.

May – UMCOR - The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. Our mission, grounded in the teaching of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering, whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people. This cannot be emphasized enough. This offering is the source of the largest amount of "undesignated" money received by UMCOR and can be used as needed to meet emergency situations.

June – Water Wells in Africa - We will be having a speaker, Mr. Tom Hawkins. He goes to Kenya every year to help build water wells. He will be speaking to us on Sunday, June 4th.

July – Native American Ministry - Native American Ministries recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. Gifts help develop and strengthen Native American ministries within the annual conference if the conference has Native American Ministries. If an annual conference has no Native American ministries, the offering is used to expand the number of target cities in the Native American Urban Initiative. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology and other schools approved by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

August – Stuff the Bus - Communities in Schools of Mancelona is proud to present "*Stuff the Bus*" a school supply drive, which benefits students in the Mancelona Public School District. The supplies are distributed to the students via the CIS site coordinator in each building based on a referral from the student's teacher or counselor.

September – Student Assistance Fund - "The Student Assistance Fund," (known to our congregation as the Mike Hayes Apple Pie Fund) 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.

October – Mancelona 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, and toiletries at no charge.

November – Habitat for Humanity - At Habitat for Humanity, we build. We build because we believe that everyone everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. When a family helps build or improve a place they can call home, they are also building a better community, a better life for themselves. Your donation will help families in need of a decent place to build long-term financial security with an affordable, stable home. Families have more to spend on food, medicine, child care, education, and other essentials. Your support can help us do more in all the many ways that Habitat builds. Thanks to you, Habitat is transforming lives around the world.

December – Christmas Family. Our church will get the name of a family from the school or the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Ellsworth, Michigan who provides for families in Antrim County. We always ask for a Mancelona Family.

**We, on the Missions Committee, are grateful for your generosity to others within the community and around the world. The Bible teaches us to share our blessings and to be generous to others.*



Starting on January 22 and the last Sunday of every month we will be passing the offering plate for our Mission Giving. The Mission Box will still remain on the table in the back of the sanctuary for the monthly missions, but the offering plate will be passed on the last Sunday of each month for those who want to give at that time.

The January Mission Project will be the Mancelona Food Pantries. Our giving will be divided between the Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop and the Community Light House.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Missions Chair



Community Meal Update

Community Meal is into our seventh month since starting up after the COVID shutdown, and, we continue to be pleased with the volunteer commitment! A commitment, not only of time, but of the monetary contribution that many cooks and team members give to purchase items for their meal!

Why does our church and community do this? Not only are we rewarded with this outreach of a hearty and well-balanced meal, but to witness each week, the camaraderie of our guests!

It's winter, so remember, Community Meal follows the Mancelona Public School closings regarding weather. We feel blessed that during the recent blizzard the power remained on at the church. Our full freezers and refrigerator were not affected.

Our Cooking Team Leaders have been providing us with some outstanding menus from goulash, chicken and biscuits, mock stuffed cabbage roll casserole, and whitefish fillets. On December 21, Pathways Cooking Team of Dale Stephenson and Bob Barr were very generous by donating and preparing a holiday meal of glazed ham and homemade cheesy potatoes with green beans and cake for dessert. A very nice gesture which was greatly appreciated by our guests.

Every team does a wonderful job of providing nutritious meals which include an entrée, vegetables or salad, plus bread from Shirley's! All of our meals include dessert which makes each meal and our guests feel special. Many guests look

over the dessert table before getting in line for their dinner! Some teams have baked their own cakes or made a cobbler when the food truck did not have any desserts.

November and December totals are 193 meals served; 13 seconds; 93 take outs for a total of 299 meals. We have noticed an increasing amount of take outs as our cooks share the extra prepared food. Health Department rules do not allow us to freeze and serve leftovers, so we are pleased that our guests will have food for another day. We closed for December 27 and January 3 so that our volunteers had the time to travel and spend time with their families.

As co-chairs, we try and review the Community Meal storeroom to keep it orderly. Rhonda Allen suggested we have a list of spices, so now we have an alphabetical spice list taped inside the cabinet door.

Whenever many cooks and staff work together, it's important that each team does its best for the common goal of keeping our kitchen, dining area, and storage area organized as well as following Health Department rules. It might mean, if you wear an apron on your Tuesday, then put it in the "Soiled Linen" container, so that it can be washed. Then, there are those recycling containers that need to be lined. Yes, it's kind of like home.....no one wants to replace the liner! A simple, kind act that helps the next team.

As we begin 2023, we give a GREAT BIG THANKS to all who make this outreach possible!

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



Financial *Update*

Finance Update 2023

It has been sometime since we have provided a financial update on the status of our church. We have been pretty much breaking even with our income covering expenses as long as we treated billing to Alba as received not in arrears. The Ad Council has continued to review the financial picture every two months.

The District Superintendent requested that we cover the full cost of our new Pastor. In addition to sharing the Pastor's salary, Alba was covering 30% of the parsonage, some office expense and health insurance. We were overjoyed when a former member bequeathed a significant sum to us in her will. The amount is expected to cover at least two years of shortfall in funds.

The best way to understand the financial picture is to not look back. Ignore the impact of Alba going forward. Over the six months since the Rev. Dr. Douglas arrived, our income is up \$1,571 while this trend is wonderful to see our increase in expenses is very concerning as the net income (income minus expenses) was -\$8,941 for the last six months of 2022.

The biggest driver of expense increase has been:

- Pastor's expense as noted above
- Church and parsonage natural gas
- Church electricity
- Annual conference

There were one-time charges refurbishing the parsonage.

Other increases were in the one-to-two-hundred-dollar range.

Most expense increases we have little control over. As we continue to feel the impact of inflation, we will need to seek ways to keep our church afloat. Please also consider adding the church as a beneficiary in your will. We depleted the memorial fund restoring the parsonage.

Submitted by Mike Allen - Finance Chair





Trustees January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We received a partial payment for the damage to the basement carpeting. A payment schedule will be set up for the remainder of the cost to replace the basement carpeting with vinyl flooring.

Thank you to those of you who signed up for snow shoveling for the rest of the winter. Mike and I handled December with the help of Chris and Lori Derror. Cleaning up after the Christmas weekend blizzard took quite a while, I am thankful for our trusty little snowblower. I hope we don't get a storm like that anytime soon.

The supply cupboard from the Sunday School room has been moved to the conference room. Children's Sunday School will take place in the conference room during the church service; a more visible option than taking them back to the classroom wing of the church.

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



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 Douglas' Gospel Lesson, Music, and Message for the week. If you wish to be on that email list, send an email request to carolkingsley62@gmail.com

January 22 – Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center

January 29 – 7-9 pm – Youth Meet and Eat

February 12 – Potluck

February 26 - Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

MUMC March/April Newsletter deadline will be February 25, 2023.



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



January 17th – Don & Ruth Johnson

January 26th – Dave & Robin Fisher

January 29th – Kenneth & Dana Proffer

February 13th – Michael & Laurie Allison

Mancelona United Methodist Church

PO Box 301
117 E Hinman St
Mancelona, MI 49659
Sunday Service @ 11:00 am
231-587-8461

**Ad Board Meeting – 2nd Monday of month/odd Months
at 4 PM**

Alba United Methodist Church

PO Box 136
5991 Alba Highway
Alba, Michigan 49611

Sunday Service @ 9:30 am



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