

## FROM THE



### LENT SEASON

It is another time we are focusing on a very important season in the Christian calendar. The season of Lent.

## Pastor **What is Lent?**

Lent is a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity. The 40-day period is called Lent after an old English word meaning 'lengthen.'

### **Purpose of Lent**

The purpose of Lent is the preparation of believers for Easter through prayer, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, simple living, and self-denial.

### **What does Bible say about Lent?**

Today, Lent is connected with the 40-day fast that Jesus undergoes (Mark 1:13). Mark tells us that Jesus was tempted by Satan, but it is in Matthew and Luke that the details of the temptation are fleshed out. All three accounts say that Jesus went without food for the 40 days.

### **Christian Traditions of Lent**

**Prayer** - Prayer accompanies fasting as a historic tradition of Lent. We should pray to improve our communion with God and strengthen our spiritual discipline during the preparation of Easter Sunday.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." ~ Philippians 4:6

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ~ Matthew 26:41

**Fasting** - Fasting is a well-known aspect of Lent, inspired by the fast of Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness. Christians partake in fasting to increase their self-control over worldly desires, such as food.

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ~ Matthew 4:1-4

**Giving** - Helping others is also a tradition of the Lent season, inspired by the command of Jesus to "love your neighbor as yourself." While we should likewise give to others in love throughout the entire year, an extra emphasis is added during the time of Lent.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." ~ Hebrews 13:16

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." ~ Philippians 2:4

### **What Are Your Motives for Observing Lent?**

"It is important to check one's motives for observing Lent. Christ told the disciples "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that others may see their fasting. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward" (Matthew 6:16). A small personal sacrifice should not be "a badge of pride." The intent of a Lenten

observance is to recognize our need for repentance and our depravity apart from God (1 John 1:9; Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13), to draw closer to God, and to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.”

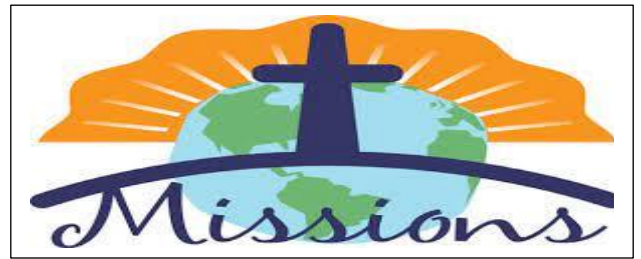
Is Lent a matter of obedience to tradition or obedience to God? A means of achieving works-based salvation or of giving praise and thanks to Christ that He finished that work for eternity? A way to achieve a resolution or a means of growing closer to the Father?

Undertaking something difficult (giving to charity, serving the poor, abstaining from certain foods, memorizing Scripture) makes one feel needy and weak; humble: the perfect posture from which to approach God Almighty. For people whose lives are generally easy, Lent is a time to empathize better with those who genuinely go without luxuries or even simple needs. Lent can help establish a stronger sense of one’s need of God minute by minute and to develop a more disciplined, intimate, and authentic prayer life.

Finally, I am calling all of you in the name of our Lord Jesus to observe Lent and reflect the suffering and temptation of our Lord Jesus. I am calling you if you are able, you can fast at least one meal as a spiritual reflection. Commit yourself in prayer in Jesus’ name.

Be blessed

Rev Dr. Douglas Obwoye PhD



**March – Youth Ministry** – This will be used for our youth group and can also be used for our youth to attend camps and youth conferences if they want to attend.

**April – Crossroads Farms** – 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 counties 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.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Missions Chair

PALM SUNDAY



## MEF Spaghetti Dinner and Auction

**Friday, April 14**  
**Mancelona High School**  
**Dinner begins at 5:30 pm**  
**Auction: 6:30 pm**

Does Spaghetti dinner sound good? Mark your calendar for Friday, April 14th for the Mancelona Education Foundation Spaghetti Dinner and Auction. 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](mailto:loriderror@gmail.com) Put April 14th on your calendar as it is a fabulous community event.



### NURTURE AND OUTREACH NEWS

#### YOUTH GROUP PLANS – Meet & Eat

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our February *Meet & Eat* youth gathering due to a conflict with the Mancelona High School Girls' Basketball practice that was set up to prepare the girls for the District competitions.

Our next *Meet & Eat* youth group gathering will be on Sunday, March 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. We will start off with a dinner of pizza, soda pop, and dessert. There will be some fun "get-to-know-you" activities, music, and a message from Pastor Douglas. Spread the word!

#### EASTER EGG HUNT

Plans are being made to have an Easter Egg Hunt for the community at the Mancelona Labyrinth of Hope on Saturday, April 8, 2023. Jackie Bates will be leading this project, and we need you to sign-up to help.

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

#### Address Changes:

In January, we shared Pat's new address via our email. Pat is in the same park, just a little larger place.

Pat Derror  
11141 Memory Lane,  
Dade City, FL 33525





**MANCELONA UNITED METHODIST**  
**WOMEN NEWS**

Empty the Treasury

From our President Carol Kingsley: "Thanks to all of our congregation for supporting UMW Projects! Your support enabled us to "Empty our Treasury" and donate \$2500 to various organizations and pledge \$500 to our NWD UMW. Local giving was \$1500; International Giving: \$500 to our Kenya Mission Project and \$500 to state and national causes." Pat yourself on the back! Here's a list of our \$1500 for local giving:

- \$400 – Mancelona's Community Meal Program
- \$200 – Au Sable Institute
- \$400 – Our Church's Youth Program (Meet & Eat)
- \$200 – Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop
- \$200 – Mancelona Baby Pantry
- \$100 – MEF Auction

Coffee Hours and Potlucks

Our United Methodist Women's group organizes the church's coffee hours and potlucks. That means we prepare snacks for coffee hours (usually on the fourth Sunday of each month) and set-up and clean up coffee hours and potlucks (potlucks are usually on the second Sunday of each month). However, if you would like to help now and then, we would appreciate it! Just see one of our UMW members. We did make some changes to our schedules for the coming months. So, mark your calendars:

- Potlucks – March 12, March 26, **No Potluck in April (Easter is 2nd Sunday), May 21 (changed because Mother's Day is on 2nd Sunday)**
- Coffee Hours – March 26, April 23, **May 21 (3rd Sunday, combined with potluck)**

Valentine Cards

After our UMW meeting in February, we made Valentine cards for our friends who are unable to attend church as well as several cards to be taken to Meadowbrook for residents there who do not receive such blessings.



Upcoming Meetings

Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. We typically meet the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. Location is usually in the Fellowship Hall at church, but during the warmer months we often meet at members' homes. Here's an upcoming schedule:

- March 8 at 1:00 pm at the church – Ellen Whitehead Program and Host – Our Pledges and Planting "Seeds" of Kindness
- April 12 at 1:00 pm at the church – Evalyne Kwamboka Program, Sue Thomas, Host
- May 10 at 1:00 pm at the church – Carol Kingsley, Host and Program

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, UMW Secretary







## **Community Meal Update**

### **Community Meal Update**

The Community Meal cooking teams are providing some excellent “comfort” food meals that are well balanced and always have a special dessert! There have been two snow days in January and February. However, we have been blessed with angels that see that the defrosted meat finds a good home and does not go to waste.

We are serving an average of 56 meals each night including seconds and takeouts. Takeouts after every one has been served are very popular with our attendees. So, this means that they will have another good meal or they are sharing with another person. Seconds are very minimal due to the generous portions that are offered.

Sandy Neumann has done an excellent job of shopping through Manna and the Food Coalition to get a variety of food items such as frozen pies, submarine buns, pumpkin streusel muffins, and Chick-fil-A cubed chicken to name a few of the items. Of course, the Manna truck needs to be met and items put in freezer and on the shelf. Sandy, again!

It does take a village each week to staff the community meal. There are supplies to be bought, soiled linens to be washed, just some of the things we can thank Brenda Lockman for and her assistant, Ken!

We are blessed to have Lou Patton and John Sterner each week heading up the dish and kitchen clean up. From our church, Gerry Deater faithfully serves beverages and pitches in where needed. Recently, assisting with meal preparations.

In a past article, the cooking teams have been acknowledged, however, meals need to be

served, tables need to be cleaned, garbage and recycling handled, so we salute our servers and cleanup crew members from our church: Margaret Chapman, Dave Curtis, Robin Fisher, Carolyn Grody, Kathy Johnson, Evalyne Obwoge, Denise Plakmeyer-Vliet. Dave Curtis recently added substitute dishwasher to his duty.

And always there to greet our patrons, Ruth Johnson! Of course, the Pathways and Lutheran’s teams have support from their members.

We are blessed that many of the team members and church family substitute when called upon!

Then, sometimes our Community Meal provides a temporary shelter. Ellen Whitehead shared the story where a lady came around 2:00 pm and found comfort in our Fireplace Room and later a warm meal. Rhonda Allen and Ellen found she needed gas money and they helped her out. Thanks, Ellen, for sharing this heartwarming story!

You have an opportunity to support not only our community meal, but our local food pantry and baby pantry by attending the following event. If you can’t attend, online donations can be made by using the “Get Your Tickets” link below.

Come join your community in support of our food insecure neighbors by attending the Empty Bowls fundraiser benefiting Northwest Food Coalition’s Farm2Neighbor program benefiting over 70 food pantries, community meal sites, and baby pantries. Enjoy a bowl of soup and bread along with a hand-crafted artisan bowl to take home. Local entertainment will be provided as well at the event on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Howe Arena in Traverse City. The costs for the event is \$25 in advance for adults, children 6-13 is \$15, and children 5 and under are free. [Get your tickets](#) online!

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

## Alba Birthdays

### March

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

### April

11<sup>th</sup> – Shannon Marsh  
11<sup>th</sup> – Heather Olds  
15<sup>th</sup> – Darline Olds  
18<sup>th</sup> – Mabel Price  
20<sup>th</sup> – Erin Stevens  
21<sup>st</sup> – Thomas Gapinski  
21<sup>st</sup> – Steve Olds  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Ean Rusnell  
26<sup>th</sup> – Karen Gates  
29<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Olds  
29<sup>th</sup> – Perry Rusnell



## Mancelona Birthdays

### March

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

### April

2<sup>nd</sup> – Dean McCulloch  
16<sup>th</sup> – Ruth Closser  
18<sup>th</sup> – Jossie Castle  
18<sup>th</sup> – Izzy Thompson  
25<sup>th</sup> – Sue Thomas  
30<sup>th</sup> – Isabel Felton  
30<sup>th</sup> – Ellen Whitehead

## Anniversaries

### Mancelona:

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Judy Plunkett  
March 26<sup>th</sup> – Mike & Rhonda Allen  
April 1<sup>st</sup> – Jim & Virginia MacArthur  
April 14<sup>th</sup> – Les & Judy Cota

### Alba:

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



Church Trustees



Hard to believe February is almost over and spring is right around the corner.

Thank you to the Fishers and the Kingsleys who shoveled the walks around the church in January and February. Dave Curtis agreed to keep walks clear in March. Hopefully we won't need snow removal in April.

We did find a big problem at the top of the stairs in the newer part of the church. Over the years water leaked in from snow melt and had done a considerable amount of damage to the landing at the top of the stairs, a huge amount of rotted supports and flooring under the tile. I noticed this the Sunday before we had scheduled the funeral for dad. A huge thank you to Troy who brought in a crew and had everything fixed and safe in record time. We need to keep snow away from that emergency exit even though we don't use the north ramp into the Narthex.

Just a reminder.....keep the thermostats above 60 to prevent freezing pipes. 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

Remember, as of March 1, Family Fare is discontinuing their Sales Receipt program. Now, you can toss your receipts.

### **Potluck and Coffee Hour Changes**

There will not be a coffee hour on Easter Sunday. (April Second Sunday) or Mother's Day (May Second Sunday).

In May, Coffee Hour and Potluck will be combined and held on Sunday, May 21. (Third Sunday)

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 Douglas' message for the week which is posted on Facebook. If you wish to be on that email list, send an email request to [carolkingsley62@gmail.com](mailto:carolkingsley62@gmail.com)

March 12 – Potluck

March 26 – Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center

April 9– No Potluck – Cinnamon rolls before church – Easter Sunday

April 23 - Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

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

Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Rev. Douglas Obwoye will be preaching a 9:00 am service at Boyne Falls UMC on the Sundays he is not preaching at Alba. With this change, the pastor will now be a full-time appointment. The new church will cover all additional expenses this entails.

Submitted by Mike Allen, SPRC chair

***Mancelona United Methodist Church***

PO Box 301

117 E. Hinman St.

Mancelona, MI 49659

Sunday Service @ 11:00 am

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 @ 9:30 am



## *Holy Week Activities*

**Palm Sunday – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Good Friday – April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Sunday - April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Boyne Falls UMC:**

9:00 AM Easter Service

**Mancelona UMC:**

10:30 AM Fellowship in Welcome Center

Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls

11:00 AM Easter Service

