

# FROM THE PASTOR



## Pastor's Corner

What joy!!!! Last year, July and August were the most joyful months for me and my family! I went back to Kenya not sure whether my family would get visas to join me in Michigan. Guess what? God is never late. We got the visas, and I was once more fully

reunited with my family. Thank you to everyone who prayed for me! Especially the four churches that prayed for me: Brooks Corner UMC, Tecumseh UMC, Mancelona UMC, and Alba UMC. As a family, we say **A BIG THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

I would like to thank Mike and Rhonda Allen for the ride from Tecumseh to Mancelona. My family is grateful and appreciative. We would also like to thank all the members who worked to make the parsonage look beautiful and up-to-date. We have everything that we need, and it is now 95 percent finished. I hope the basement will soon be finished. I would also like to thank Lori Derror for taking me around the schools to make sure my kids were registered. Also, Lori helped to make sure Bidwell was on the cross-country team, and he is doing very well! I hope Bridged and Fiona will start cross-country soon when their physicals are done. I would also like to thank Wendy and Ron Aldrich and Laurie Allison for being close to us as a family to give us help when needed. We cannot mention you all by name, but be **ASSURED YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS**. No more family stress again, I promise.

I have Bible studies every Sunday after church for 30 minutes from 12:15 to 12:45 pm (except second and fourth Sundays which are potluck and coffee hour). I warmly welcome you to join so that we can learn in depth the Word of God. If you need clarity on my sermon, due to my accent, you will have the opportunity to ask questions, that way we can grow

spiritually together. I do not want to leave others behind because of my communication. I want all of us to understand me as I work to better my accent.

I am delighted to know all your birthdays so that I can visit, and we can enjoy them together. This way, I can learn where you live so that I can provide pastoral care to you and your family. In addition, I may be able to meet your friends who are not our members and share the love of God with them as well. Pastoral care is my passion. Do not hesitate to invite me to your home, your apartment, and place of work for prayers.

## **I want to give an encouraging word from 1 Corinthians 13: 2-10**

2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

The scripture is telling us about **GOD'S LOVE**. Even if we do everything, where there is no love, we are nothing. So as a church, let us embrace love. Love surpassed all human understanding. Love helps families to communicate well, love breaks barriers that are built by humanity. So, the Love of God is everything in our daily activities. As the Mancelona UMC, God loves you, and I also love you. Continue with that same love.

Reverend Dr. Douglas Obwoye



## Nurture and Outreach

At our May meeting, we decided to honor our graduates with a presentation during church on May 21. We gave each of our graduates a gas card and booklet as well as having a cake during potluck. Rhonda Allen prepared an AV presentation.

Mancelona High School students planned their annual "Give Back Day" on June 6. We agreed to provide cookies and thank you cards for students on this day. The students helped with many community deeds including working outdoors at our church, planting and weeding at the Mancelona Labyrinth of Hope, cleaning up outdoor areas at the homes of Gerry Deater, Ruth Johnson, and Barry Moeke.

Carol Kingsley led us in our program "The Bold Women of Faith." She read the story of Mary and Elizabeth from Luke 1:39-45 (The story of Mary and Elizabeth when Mary was with child.) As women, we share with each other and seek comfort from each other. We were reminded to be kind to each other, pray for each other, and to take care of ourselves.

In June, we did not have a formal meeting. We gathered as friends at our annual lunch at the Dockside Restaurant. All women are invited to join us at any of our meetings and for our summertime luncheon.

### Upcoming Meetings

Please consider coming and bring a friend!

- July 12 (1:00 pm) – Rhonda Allen will host at her home: 7377 Sunset Trail NE, Mancelona. The program will be our own personal devotions.
- August 9 (1:00 pm) - Meet at the church for a ride to the labyrinth – Ellen Whitehead will lead us in a walk at the Mancelona Labyrinth of Hope and host with treats at the labyrinth. Bring your own chair.

We hosted two funeral lunches in June. One for two longtime attendees Ruth Closser and Marian Grody. Thank you to all who provided food and worked at the luncheons. This is something that the UMW is happy to do!

### Meet & Eat Youth Group

Our Youth Group met on June 25 and had fun playing indoor cornhole at the church. Pastor and Everyline played along with the youth. Hmmm, Pastor is pretty good at cornhole. It was a lot of fun! There was also some singing and dancing going on with Bidwell's expertise on the microphone and AV equipment. We all went over to the Dairy Delite for some ice cream funded by our Youth Group account. Thanks to all who have made contributions! We got caught in the rain on our return trip back to the church, but that was fun too. Lori Derror and Ellen Whitehead taught Everyline and Fiona the song, "Singing in the Rain!" Lots of laughter and togetherness made the evening a success.

We will meet again on **July 30** and the times will be **5:00 pm to 8:30 pm**. Youth should meet at the church to carpool to the home of Dave and Ellen Whitehead. We will have a hot dog & chips picnic and enjoy summertime on Little Twin Lake. Swimming, pontoon boat rides, kayaking, and fishing will be on the agenda! Youth in middle and high school are welcome to come.

There will be no meeting in August, but we plan to set a schedule for September and beyond later this summer. We welcome your ideas!

### Church Outings

On June 24, we made a trip to Lake Michigan at Norwood Township Park. We enjoyed a picnic lunch overlooking our favorite Great Lake and then went down to the beach to look for rocks. It was a warm summer day, and the cool waters of Lake Michigan were very refreshing. Thank you, God, for blessing us with such beauty near home.

The next church outing is planned for Tuesday, August 8. We will meet in downtown Mancelona at Triangle Park for the Chamber of Commerce's "Concerts in the Park" series. The featured musicians are a Christian band called "Story of Grace." Times: 7 to 8:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass.

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



## Community Meal

### ServSafe License – Jackie Bates

In separate phone interviews with Jackie Bates, Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley want to share some “behind the scenes” licensing that is required by the State of Michigan Health Department so that our church can host the Community Meal. For several years, Jackie has been our ServSafe licensed person.

Recently, Jackie, graciously volunteered to renew her license so that our church could continue to offer the Community Meal.

The license is good for five years, and the fee is \$120 for the book and test. A **BIG THANK YOU** to Jackie for the giving of her time and money to complete this licensing process.

Jackie noted that the licensing involves lots of studying for the online class plus a very intensive test! Jackie said that there were 100 questions; 90 must be passed with 70% grade. Ten questions are not graded. For the online class that Jackie recently took, she spent about 42 class hours preparing for the test. The questions require a lot of application and analysis, not simple memorization. Jackie noted that at her recent testing site, two attendees were repeats who had failed the last test. Jackie said that what is particularly difficult is the section on viruses. So, when Jackie shares the Do’s and Don’ts, please respect her training. Her goal is to keep our church in compliance and our attendees healthy!

Yes, at home, you can freeze leftovers, however, due to the 5-hour process of getting food quickly down to the required temperature, we cannot freeze leftovers for another Community Meal. So, our cooking teams are asked to prepare meals to the closest number possible and give the leftovers away. It is very gratifying to see the happy faces accepting meals that will provide another meal!

For the months of May and through third Tuesday of June, Community Meal has averaged 64 meals served with 15 takeouts.

Such delicious food comes from the kitchen! From that first Tuesday in May when it snowed (**WHAT?**), there was Troy and Michelle’s delicious homemade Shepherd’s Pie. Then, Rhonda Allen and Ellen Whitehead’s Cornbread Casserole and Chili Cornbread to the Avery sisters homemade buns, rhubarb/strawberry cobbler, and delicious apple salad utilizing the fresh apples from the Food Coalition, then Troy Orman’s and Papa K’s gift of pizza. The Pathway Church team, led by Dale Stephenson, comes up with some delicious entrees and sides, green bean casserole, cheesy jalapeno cornbread, and corn casserole. With five Tuesdays in May, the Lutheran team, led by Betty Sell, got to shine with Cheeseburger Pie and Chicken Pasta Salad.

And as always, thanks to Sandy Neumann, who keeps our pantry and freezers WELL STOCKED, keeps Cooking Team Leaders informed of what is available, and suggests what should be used. Brenda and Kenny Lockman faithfully see that Community Meal has a supply of cleaning and paper products, plus other pantry items.

In the last few weeks, our kitchen clean-up team, Lou Patton and John Sterner, have requested extra help in washing silverware. Not a problem, each team was willing to put in the extra time, and on some Tuesdays, we have been so BLESSED that our attendees have willingly volunteered. One Tuesday, we had FOUR attendees volunteer! One being a teenager! The first volunteer got the job! One attendee who volunteered said, *Look at all that you have done for me.*”

If you are feeling the world, is not what it used to be, come visit Community Meal, maybe volunteer, see the caring folks, multi-generational workers and attendees! They will lift your spirits! Our experience in attending a Community Meal is as Ellen Whitehead noted, *A good, happy crowd last night.*

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



**April Mission:** Crossroads Farms we gave \$221.00

**May Mission:** UMCOR we gave \$223.00

**June Mission:** Water Wells in Kenya – To be announced.

**Our July Mission project is – 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 American attending United Methodist schools of theology and other schools approved by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

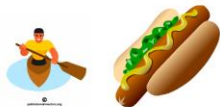
Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair

*When we give, we simply offer him a small portion of the abundance he has already given to us. Giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God. It comes from a heart of worship that recognizes everything we have and give already belongs to the Lord.*



*Bidwell, Bridged, and Fiona enjoying an afternoon at Lake Michigan. A church-sponsored outing on July 24.*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT



YOUTH GROUP MEET AND EAT!

⇒ WATER FUN AT LITTLE TWIN LAKE ⇐

SUNDAY, JULY 30TH

5:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 5 PM TO CARPOOL  
TO DAVE AND ELLEN WHITEHEAD'S HOUSE FOR PICNIC  
DINNER, SWIMMING, BOATING, KAYAKING, AND FISHING

DAVE AND ELLEN WHITEHEAD

7197 CRESCENT ROAD, MANCERLONA

EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE THROUGH FUN, FOOD, LAUGHTER, AND RECREATION!

## Church Trustees



UPDATE

Summer is finally here. Thank you to all who have signed up to help with lawn care at the church. As dry as it has been, there has not been much grass to mow, just weeds. There are still opportunities to mow in July and in the fall. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Dave and Sharon Brooks have been planting hostas and flowers around the church. Thank you, it has not gone unnoticed.

Troy Orman has been working on new doors. They will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

Give Back Day, sponsored by Mancelona High School, was held on June 6. At Church, we had a group of high schoolers who weeded flower beds, raked, shoveled, and relocated sand and gravel left by the snow plow. Groups also worked at the homes of Ruth Johnson, Gerry Deater, and Barry Moeke trimming, raking, and weeding. A huge thank you to the teachers who organized this!

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 Rev. Douglas's Gospel Lesson and 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) text or call 231.360.9029

July 4 No Community Meal on Tuesday, July 4.  
Community Meal resumes on Tuesday, July 11.

July 9 – Potluck

July 23 - Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

August 8– 6pm potluck picnic, 7pm concert in Triangle Park on 131.

August 13 –Potluck

August 27 - Coffee Hour in the Welcome Center.

MUMC September/October Newsletter deadline will be August 25, 2023.

## 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 Derror	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	Douglas Obwoge	July 14
Matthew Olds	August 11	Fiona Mochama	July 22
DJ Reynolds	August 12	Cooper Thompson	July 28
Jayden Stevens	August 16		
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