

FROM THE



Pastor

A CALL TO PRAY THIS LENT SEASON

Every man or woman whose life has counted for and brought transformation in a church and the kingdom of God has been a person of

prayer. You cannot afford to be too busy to pray. A Christian less prayer is a powerless Christian. Jesus Christ himself spent many hours in prayer. Sometimes he spent the night on the mountain in communion with God. If Jesus felt that he had to pray, how much more do we need to pray? God honors and hears prayers. In Jeremiah 33:3 God tells us to call unto him "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Why does God want us to call on him? Because calling on him is a gesture of our personal connection, communication, and relationship with him. You cannot call on someone that you don't trust or know for help. God wants us to fully depend on and trust him. He tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6 to fully trust in him. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him." It is very easy to trust in our knowledge, effort, education, and help of mortal men, but God is calling us into the deep dependence on him as the ultimate solution to ALL our problems.

You may say well, I have no problems. He reminds us in James 5:13, Is anyone in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. "Praising God is also a form of prayer. David says in Psalms 121:1-2, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord the Maker of heaven and earth.

Prayer draws us close to God, brings us to the place of surrender where we are helpless and totally dependent on God. As we lift our eyes unto the Lord, the things of this world become dimmer and dimmer in the light of his glory. Prayer helps us align ourselves with God's will. It gives us strength and hope and brings peace and comfort. When you pray, there is a sense of relief that you have communicated with the creator of the universe, and this provides solace. Prayer brings us to a point of surrender where we are totally helpless and dependent on God. Prayer is a spiritual weapon that demolishes strongholds, calls God's deliverance, and brings victory over the enemy, taking captive every thought and making us obedient to Christ. 2nd Corinthians 10:5. Every battle in the life of a Christian is worn on our knees with our hands lifted up where our help comes from.

It is not won by self-effort, knowledge, or power, Zechariah 4:6. Prayer is the key that unlocks God's answers to our needs. We cannot afford to fold hands and let things crumble down to our face. As Christians, we are constantly in the battlefield and unless we stay alert and vigilant, then the enemy who prowls around like a roaring lion will be looking for whom to devour, 1st Peter 5:8 "Be alert and sober-minded, your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." The church has to take its rightful position and resist the devil, and he will flee from us. James 4:7 "Submit to the Lord, resist the devil, and he will flee away from you." We cannot resist while engaging in friendship with him, it's a battlefield, and the strong opponent must win. Where do we stand? What's our chance of winning? In complaining, whining, division, gossip, selfishness, malice, and slander? Paul reminds us in Philippians 4: 8 by saying "finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever

is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things." Our thoughts are the centerpiece of what takes place in our lives. In all these things, let's be still and know he is God." Psalms 46:10.

Prayer will solve the mystery and puzzles of our lives, keep us connected to the source of the life-giver and keep us from falling into comfort zones. Prayer is the answer to the world today. Prayer is a powerful tool that every Christian must exercise daily and devotedly to stand and overcome.

Finally let us pray without ceasing this season of Lent. Let us give what we can to the needy, and let us remember to fast and pray.

Be blessed,

Rev Dr. Douglas Obwoye PhD



News from Missions

As of January 1, 2024 we will not have a mission project every month like we have in the past. If you have a mission in mind, please let Brenda Lockman, MaryAnn Petersen, or Gerry Deater know, and we will pass the offering plate the last Sunday of the month. We do have the following two missions coming up: **April will be the – 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. **In July it will be for the Community Meal.**

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Missions Chair

March

- 1st – Tommy Thompson
- 8th – Lauren Felton
- 10th – Kris Moeke
- 11th – Drew Moeke
- 11th – Nicole Derror
- 12th – Jack Meeder
- 18th – Jeanette Hayes
- 21st – Gerry Deater
- 22nd – David Derrer
- 26th – Lauren Kirby
- 26th – Sandy Neumann
- 29th – George Moeke



April

- 2nd – Dean McCulloch
- 18th – Jossie Castle
- 18th – Izzy Thompson
- 25th – Sue Thomas
- 30th – Isabel Felton
- 30th – Ellen Whitehead

MEF Spaghetti Dinner and Auction

Friday, April 12
Mancelona High School
Dinner begins at 5:30 pm
Auction: 6:30 pm

Does Spaghetti dinner sound good? Mark your calendar for Friday, April 12th 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

Put April 12th on your calendar as it is a fabulous community event.



NURTURE AND OUTREACH NEWS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Plans are being made to have an Easter Egg Hunt for the community at Mancelona UMC on Saturday, March 30, 2024. Jackie Bates will be leading this project and will need you to sign-up to help.

Submitted by Robin Fisher and Jackie Bates, Nurture and Outreach Co-Chairs



Summer Camp 2024 - Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat

Lake Michigan Family Campground - Go to graceoutside.org for details.

Early Bird Pricing – Register by April 30 - \$75 deposit secures Early Bird Prices!

Information can also be found on our church web <https://mancelonaumc.org/news-and-events/> or Facebook page.

SPRING



MANCELONA

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

This year, our UWF group had some very successful fundraisers – thanks to you! We raised money from the Craft Show at Mancelona Elementary School, RADA sales, a bake sale held at Family Fare, and through our Harvest Supper. Because of these fundraising commitments, we were able to give \$4,000 to missions around the world and here at home. Here is a list of the organizations we are contributing to in 2024:

International Giving - \$1,000

\$500 – Kenya Mission, Masango (Pastor Douglas’s church in Africa)

\$500 – Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (Southwell Family in Hungary)

National/State Giving - \$600

\$300 – United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids

\$300 – Henderson House

Local Giving - \$1,900

\$500 – Mancelona’s Community Meal Program

\$300 – Au Sable Institute

\$300 – Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop

\$300 – Antrim County Baby Pantry

\$300 – Student Assistance Fund (known by our church as Apple Pie Fund which supports Mancelona High School students with college admission costs.)

\$100 – Iron Vault

\$100 – MEF Auction

Northern Skies District UWF Contribution - \$500

Upcoming Meetings

All women are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. In addition to the business portion of the meetings, we focus on a program theme which may include a guest speaker, one prepared by one of our UWF members. Please consider inviting a friend or joining us. Here are some upcoming dates:

- Wednesday, March 13 – 11:00 am to 2:00 pm – Fellowship Hall: Nancy Wheeler will be leading our program on the theme “*He Still Moves Stones.*” We will be making *Stone Soup*. Do you remember that story? If not, check this out: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_Soup.
- Wednesday, April 10 – 1:00 pm – to be determined (possible Field Trip)
- Wednesday, May 15 – 1:00 pm – Fellowship Hall

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, UMF Secretary



Community Meal Update

As we all know, snow has not been prevalent this winter, so as of press time, we have only had one Tuesday Community Meal in January cancelled due to the weather.

The freezers and shelves are well-stocked with lots of choices for our cooks and they have all made some excellent meals! Drop in any Tuesday at 5:00 pm for a delicious meal! Donations are accepted if that would make you more comfortable. Laughter is abundant!

We have a new team full-time member on the second Tuesday. June Corbett, a neighbor of the Allison's, has graciously volunteered to serve as Dave Curtis will be off for some new life adventures since Michelle has retired. Dave has been a real asset to Ellen and Rhonda's team and his service was very much appreciated!

Thank you to all who volunteer! We are blessed that many serve as "occasional" volunteers so that regular team members have the opportunity for vacations and family times!

Comfort meals have been the theme in January and February. Each team has specially prepared some delicious meals including the Avery sisters who prepared pork loin chops, mac and cheese, and homemade cornbread muffins. Pathway Church followed with barbecued chicken legs and au gratin potatoes. St Matthew Lutheran Church had a delicious hamburger stroganoff and roasted broccoli, carrots, and cauliflower.

February continued "comfort food" as Troy Orman and Michelle McClelland served sloppy joes and mashed potatoes! Ellen Whitehead and Rhonda Allen followed the theme with chili mac with beans. Their Tuesday fell on Valentine's Day and Ellen added something special by combining her Sunday School Class activity with her Community Meal! The pastor's daughters, Bridged and Fiona, delivered Valentines to everyone along with candy

to the Community Meal attendees. They had made the Valentines in their Sunday School class. I heard a rumor that when Ellen announced that the girls had made the Valentines, our attendees went, "oooooooooh!" I wonder how long it has been since some of them received a Valentine! Bridged stayed to serve salad! Well done, Ellen! The Pathway Church Cooking team led by Dale Stephenson served another "comfort" food, beef stroganoff. The last Tuesday in February, the Avery sisters served the Chik-fil-a chicken pieces to come up with one of their many signature dishes, chicken parmesan! Sandy said, "it's delicious! "It was!!! In addition, each Tuesday meal has a fresh salad, and or canned vegetables or fruit from our pantry shelves with a dessert. Every Tuesday a team cook picks up free food from Food Rescue at the Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale Shop. These items will be used for their meal. This could be salad ingredients, desserts, and so forth. Any items not used in that meal preparation go on the "Free Table" or extra desserts go in the freezer for another Tuesday. In addition to Food Rescue items, probably there is not a Tuesday that the cooking leaders donate ingredients to enhance their meal.

On February 21, the Manna delivery included Johnsonville brats, taco meat filling, shredded cheese, cut green beans, and French style green beans. Beginning to sound like spring and summer! We also received, free, a case of beautiful apples and 20# of potatoes. These items plus the great pork loins and chicken in freezer will ensure lots of great meals!

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



Church Trustees



I can't ever remember a winter like the one we are currently having. So little snow, and it's March. We've had some of our worse snowstorms in March or April, but that snow doesn't usually last too long.

We avoided a big mess when a connector to a downstairs sink broke while Carol Kingsley was preparing for our United Women in Faith meeting in February. Quick thinking on her part with a call to us, and Mike had the water shut off under the sink. We took our wet vac up and sucked up all the water before it traveled to carpeted areas. It could have flooded the entire downstairs if someone hadn't been there. Another case of being in the right place at the right time.

I'm still working on getting the light in the bell tower replaced.

We will be putting vinyl plank flooring in the basement of the parsonage soon. Troy is working that project into his schedule. Having the floor finished will give the parsonage more usable space, for our current family, and for future occupants of the parsonage.

I'm hoping the school will schedule another "Give Back Day" this spring. The group of students who helped clean up the church grounds last year was great.

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 Pastor Douglas's Gospel Lesson, Music, 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

March 10 – Potluck

March 24 – Palm Sunday - No Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center.

March 31 – Easter - Cinnamon rolls in the Welcome Center BEFORE church.

April 12 – 5:30 MEF Spaghetti Dinner and Auction.

April 14– Potluck in Fellowship Hall

April 28 – Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center.

MUMC May/June Newsletter deadline will be April 25, 2024.



Anniversaries

Mancelona:

March 7th – Bill & Judy Plunkett

March 26th - Mike & Rhonda Allen

April 14th – Les & Judy Cota

Mancelona United Methodist Church

PO Box 301

117 E. Hinman St.

Mancelona, MI 49659

Sunday Service @ 11:00 am

Ad Council Meeting – 2nd Monday of month/ Odd
Months at 4PM

Boyne Falls UMC

3057 Mill St

Boyne Falls, MI

Sunday Service @ 9:30 am



Holy Week Activities

Palm Sunday – March 24

Good Friday – March 29

Easter Sunday – March 31

Boyne Falls

9:00 AM Easter Service

Mancelona UMC:

10:30 AM Fellowship in Welcome Center
Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls

11:00 AM Easter Service

