



## FROM THE MAKING GOOD DECISIONS

How Do You Hear from God When Making a Decision?

### Pastor

Before we begin, let's examine what the Bible

says about decision-making. Let God's Word be the foundational basis for making wise decisions.

#### 1. Stay close to God daily.

We should seek God regularly through prayer and the Word, not just when we need an answer. As we spend time in the Word, we become more able to discern His will.

Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (NIV).

Staying consistently close to God helps us make godly decisions, as we become more sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Philippians 2:13 says, "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." God not only changes our desires; He enables and empowers us to walk in His will.

#### 2. Ask God for wisdom first.

When facing a decision, ask God for the wisdom that you need. This means not going first to a friend (or Google) for answers.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." God is more than willing to give us wisdom if we would go to Him first.

#### 3. Be willing to lay down and surrender all possible options.

This means saying, "Not my will, but Your will be done." Sometimes, God gives us exactly what we want. Sometimes, the choice is left to us.

Other times, He changes our hearts to want what He wants and then gives us those desires. Psalm 37:4 says, "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." In any case, be open to His leading.

#### 4. Ask for counsel from trusted Christians.

After praying for wisdom, seek counsel from the wise people that God has put in your life. This might include Christian family members, friends, pastors, or leaders.

Proverbs 19:20 adds, "Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise." Wisdom won't be found in a vacuum. Let's be willing to humble ourselves and put aside any self-sufficient pride to ask others for help.

#### But What If You Still Can't Hear God's Voice?

What if you've done all these things, and you're still at a loss as to what to do in a certain situation? Sometimes, when God seems silent, it's not because He doesn't care.

In His goodness and graciousness, God gives us considerable freedom to make our own choices. We are the stewards of the resources gifted to us. And He might want us to make the decision ourselves, trusting that He'll guide us along the way.

The Bible teaches us wisdom, but it doesn't give us specific guidance on which business deal to take, whether to homeschool, or if this is a good year to install solar.

So how can we go about evaluating these kinds of decisions? Given that you are walking closely with God daily, here are some other approaches to making wise decisions.

## **Science-Based Tips for Making Wise Decisions**

### **1. Limit your choices.**

Sometimes we can become overwhelmed by the sheer number of options available to us in our modern age. When making decisions, purposely limit yourself to a few choices, rather than an exhaustive list of options.

Limiting choices helps us focus on the quality, rather than quantity of our decisions. It also reduces second-guessing and leaves us with the energy to make other important decisions.

### **2. Write out your thought process.**

Putting our thoughts on paper helps us see the situation in front of us. Make a pros or cons list. Alternatively, make a list of the consequences of each option and decide that way.

### **3. Make a list of your commitments.**

Make a list of your current commitments and then prioritize your commitments by importance. Weigh your choices and evaluate your decision considering this list. Clarifying our values helps clarify our decisions.

### **4. Imagine what you would tell a friend.**

Imagine what you would tell a friend in your position. Studies show that we're more objective in the third person. That's why it's easier to give advice than to receive it. Gain a different perspective this way.

### **5. Consult professionals if needed.**

God gives us differing amounts of abilities and resources to manage and steward (Matthew 25:14-30). It's okay if you lack the expertise to

make an informed decision. But if God has given you the financial means, the best decision may be the decision to outsource.

Outsourcing can be a wise and shrewd use of our time and money, allowing us to multiply our limited resources. Examples would be hiring a tax preparer, financial planner, or general contractor.

### **6. HALT when you are Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired.**

Being hungry, angry, lonely, or tired increases the likelihood of making an impulsive or poor decision. As Robert Schuller once said, "Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods." Wait until you feel better.

But if you absolutely must make an important decision while in any of these vulnerable states, eat something first. Remember the impact that a simple meal had on the Israeli judges in granting parole.

### **7. Put the decision in perspective.**

Remember that this world isn't our real home. Ask yourself, Will this decision matter a year from now? 5 years? In eternity? If the decision isn't that important, avoid wasting precious time and energy. Make a decision that is "good enough," rather than perfect.

### **8. Consider your first gut reaction.**

For some people, anxiety and fear about outcomes can lead to analysis paralysis. But remember that not making a decision is also a decision. If you truly care about the outcome, it's better to make a decision, rather than leave things to chance.

Rev Dr Douglas Obwoye



## **MANCELONA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Autumn will soon be upon us. If you would like to join our group, we would be happy to have you! Our upcoming meetings for September and October are:

- September 11 at 1:00 pm – Program: We will be making final plans for the Harvest Supper. Meeting will be in the Church Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday, October 9 at 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday, November 13 at 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.

### **Report on July and August Gatherings**

#### **July**

Laurie Allison led our meeting as Carol Kingsley was attending a friend's funeral. We discussed the upcoming District Superintendent's meeting being held at the church. Laurie noted we will need donations for snacks and beverages and help with set up. We also discussed the need to update our church directory.

For our program, Ellen Whitehead was going to lead us on a labyrinth walk, but the weather was rainy. So, she passed out two documents: one about walking the labyrinth and a second on How to Practice Mindful Walking as a Christian. Ellen also said she would go with any individual who would like to walk the labyrinth on their own in the future.

#### **August**

Carol Kingsley hosted our August meeting at her home on Big Twin Lake. Our program focus was sharing personal devotions. We read from Pastor Douglas' article in the July-August Newsletter, entitled "A Symphony of Gratitude" focusing on Psalm 34:1 – "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Other personal devotions were also shared. Our business topics included:

- Church Directory – Rhonda Allen will be updating the directory as time allows. Our UWF team will help her put it together.
- Community Meal Update – Sandy Neumann gave us an update on the Community Meal program as we work with Donna's replacement at the Food Pantry.
- Fundraisers
  - Harvest Supper – We discussed whether we should hold the supper this year and later we voted to have the supper on Thursday, October 3.
  - Craft Show – Will be held on Saturday, November 23 at Mancelona Elementary School. We are asking you for help with making and donating crafts.
  - Bake Sale – The date this year will be December 7 at Family Fare in Mancelona. We will be asking for baked good donations

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead - UMF Secretary





# Harvest Supper

**Mark Your Calendars - Thursday, October 3**

United Women in Faith (UWF, aka UMW) is pleased to sponsor our Annual Harvest Supper! The date chosen is Thursday, October 3 in our Fellowship Hall. The dinner will feature roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, cole slaw, dinner rolls, and apple or pumpkin pie. We will have one limited seating of 100 at 5:30 pm. There will be take outs at 4:30 and 6:00 pm. Tickets available at the door or from church members. For more information, contact Rhonda Allen at 231.587.1278.

All proceeds benefit local or national mission projects. Last year, tickets were: \$15; 12 and under: \$10; Under 5: free. We hope to keep the prices the same, depending on the price of the meat.

UWF is asking for your support in helping us prepare for this event.

- 1) We will need volunteers to serve.  
Contact: Sandy Neumann, 231.384.5784.
- 2) We will need pies.  
Contact: Brenda Lockman, 231.632.6349.
- 3) We will need potato and squash peelers on Wednesday, October 2 and a cleanup crew.  
Contact: Carol Kingsley 231.360.9029.



Rae Ann & Burt Thompson	September 7
Carol & Marv Kingsley	September 12
George & Ginny Moeke	September 20
Ron & Wendy Aldrich	October 23



Amanda Felton	September 2
Hunter Cook	September 7
Brian Lirones	September 15
Ruth Johnson	September 16
Thomas Cook	September 19
Brian Nixon	September 20
David Brooks	September 24
Jater Castle	September 26
Les Cota	October 12
Jacob Hamilton	October 12
Michele Bates	October 13
Judy Cota	October 14
Carolyn Hines	October 24
Sharon Brooks	October 28
Amy Derrer	October 31



# Community Meal



Our Community Meal offers a beloved community where everyone can have a place at the table.

*As [people] of faith, we must also work to put our faith and gifts into action and commit ourselves to uphold God's love for all of creation and human dignity in the center of everything we do. Only then can we start the work of building our beloved community and ensure that all of God's Children have a place at the table. \**

As Sandy and I work together with the following team members:

Laurie Allison	Repair Emergencies
Mike Allen	Food Coalition Meetings
Rhonda Allen	Financial Records/Health Department Licensing
Jackie Bates	SERV Safe Certification & Volunteer Training
Robin Fisher	Weekly Milk Pick Up
Ruth Johnson	Greeter
Brenda Lockman	Food Shopper, Donations, MANNA and Food Coalition Stats
Lou Patton	Greeter and Kitchen Clean-Up Crew
Jack Porter	Kitchen Clean-Up Crew
<b>Five Community Meal Cooking Teams</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Troy Orman and Michelle McClelland
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Ellen Whitehead and Rhonda Allen
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Dale Stephenson and Bob Barr Pathway Community Church
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Marilyn Avery-Swan and Shirley Tracey
5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Betty Sell St Matthew Lutheran Church

As you read through the names of the cooking teams and support staff, you will recognize many from the Mancelona Community . . . yes, it is a COMMUNITY MEAL. Denise Plakmeyer shared that a man approached her and said that this was his first time attending and it made him "feel so good to be there."

Each week many from our own congregation support the cooking teams: Carolyn Grody, Kathy Johnson, Everyline Magare, and Denise Plakmeyer and from the community Patty Atkinson, June Corbett, Christine Levi, Gloria Robbins, her daughter, Lorna and several ladies from the Big Twin and Pickerel Lakes area support Ellen and Rhonda. We are blessed that so many caring people sub at the drop of a hat: Laurie Allison, Dottie Hublick, many from the teams, and as co-chairs, Sandy and Carol.

Community Meal for July and August served 498 meals and 118 take outs. Excellent favorites were served: Pork tacos, Mexican corn, enchiladas, refried beans, Spanish rice, collard greens with cheese, tuna casserole, lasagna, pizza and bread sticks, breaded chicken with buttered noodles and gravy, pork loin cutlets with mushroom gravy, au gratin potatoes, green beans, tossed salads, Hen's Den bread, creamy cukes, fresh yellow summer squash, zucchini, pumpkin pie, lemon cake, and cupcakes with lots of frosting!

Thanks to Sandy for purchasing extras and meeting the Manna food delivery truck. Sandy also sends an email update each week to all the cooking teams letting them know what was served and how many attended.

Mike Allen attended the August 8th meeting of the Food Coalition and shared interesting news. The Farm2Neighbor program had originally planned to spend \$50,000 per year due to grants and fund-raising success, it has grown to spending \$250,000 with local farmers per year. The grant from the Grand Traverse Band is in its third and final year. It is a Covid program and won't be renewed. There is a push in the federal legislature to make a food insecurity grant part of the yearly Farm Bill. As Mike says expect to be asked to write your congressman.

*Thanks to all for your dedication and support. We appreciate you all so much. It couldn't be done without every single one of you! Sandy Neumann*

*\*United Women of Faith Program Resource 2022-2023, page 110*

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



## Trustees September 2024

A big thank you to all who have mowed the church lawn this summer. Doug Derrer in June, Robin Fisher in July and Bidwell and I have mowed the month of August. We still have September and October, but the grass does slow down. Next up will be a snow shoveling schedule for November through spring.

David Brooks noticed that there was some flaking on the frames around the church's stained-glass windows. We have hired a local painting company to scrape, re-caulk and paint the frames. It should take about 2- 3 weeks to complete, preserving our beautiful windows.

We are still working on the water damage on the ceiling in the sanctuary. I've contacted a local roofing company to come and look at the flashing around the bell tower. I'm hoping we can get on their schedule this year. The outside repair needs to be completed before we tackle the inside.

Thank you to David and Sharon Brooks for keeping up on all the flowers in front of the church and in the planter box around the sign. They add so much color to the front of the church. Another thank you to Kathy Johnson for all her work in the memorial garden. It has been beautiful this summer.

Again, when leaving the church please make sure the doors are locked. Check the handles from the outside. The doors may be locked (the button is horizontal)but when you open the door and leave, it automatically unlocks. Thanks!

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 will include Rev. 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](mailto:carolkingsley62@gmail.com) text or call 231.360.9029

September 8 – Potluck after Church

September 22- Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center after Church..

October 2 – UMW Harvest Supper preparation at 9:00 am. All our invited.

October 3 – Harvest Supper seating at 5:30; Take outs at 4:30 and 6:00 pm

October 13 –Potluck after Church

October 27 – Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center after Church.

Sunday, November 10 – Honoring Veterans during our service.

Saturday, November 23, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Mancelona Community craft fair at Mancelona Middle school. Our UMW will have a booth.

Saturday, December 7, UMF Bake Sale at Mancelona Family Fare - 9:00 am-3:00 pm or until sold out.

November/December-Newsletter deadline will be October 25, 2024



***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

***Boyne Falls UMC***

3057 Mill St  
Boyne Falls, MI

Sunday Service @ 9:30 am



Welcome Fall