



It is almost the end of the year and God has been glorious to all of us, and we are approaching Christmas and the new year.

There's maybe no season that inspires as many fond feelings as Christmas. From the childlike wonder of the season to the wistfulness as we remember times gone by, Christmas means so much to us—so much, in fact, that it can be hard to put into words. Fortunately, great writers and luminaries throughout history have also been inspired by the season, and they've had a few thoughts about what this special time of year means.

During Christmas and the new year, you can generally expect a time of heightened festive cheer, family gatherings, gift-giving, special meals, religious services, holiday decorations, festive music, watching Christmas movies, attending parties, and participating in various traditions depending on your culture, often focusing on spending quality time with loved ones and reflecting on the year past while looking forward to the new one.

Key aspects of Christmas and the New Year:

1. Decorations: Homes and public spaces adorned with Christmas lights, trees, ornaments, garlands, and festive displays.
2. Gift-giving: Exchanging presents with family and friends, often wrapped in festive paper.
3. Family gatherings: Spending time with loved ones at large meals, often including special holiday dishes.
4. Religious services: For Christians, attending church services, especially on Christmas Eve.
5. Christmas music: Listening to traditional carols and holiday tunes.

6. Holiday movies: Watching classic Christmas films like "It's a Wonderful Life" or "A Miracle on 34th Street."
7. New Year's Eve celebrations: Attending parties, watching fireworks, and making resolutions for the upcoming year.
8. Shopping: Increased retail activity with holiday sales and Black Friday deals.
9. Seasonal activities: Baking cookies, decorating gingerbread houses, ice skating, and attending holiday events.

My 2025 New Year Message

As we bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, the air is filled with anticipation and excitement. The arrival of the new year brings with it a sense of renewal and a fresh start. It's a time to reflect on the past, learn from our experiences and look forward to new opportunities and adventures.

1. Wishing you a year filled with joy, laughter, and love. May each day be a new beginning and may you find strength in the face of challenges. As the clock strikes midnight, let's leave behind the worries and burdens of the past and step into the future with a light heart and a determined spirit.

2. Here's to new beginnings and the endless possibilities that the new year holds. May you discover new paths, overcome obstacles and achieve the goals you set for yourself. As you reflect on the past year, remember that every experience has shaped you into the person you are today. Carry the lessons learned into the new year and let them guide you toward personal growth and fulfillment.

3. In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it's easy to lose sight of the things that truly matter. This new year, take a moment to appreciate the simple joys of life – the warmth of friendships, the love of family, and the beauty of nature. These are the

treasures that make life meaningful and bring happiness into our hearts.

4. Sending you warm wishes for a year filled with good health and well-being. May you take care of your body, mind, and soul, and may each day bring you vitality and energy. Remember that self-care is not selfish; it's a necessary investment in your overall well-being. Make a commitment to prioritize self-care in the coming year and watch as it transforms your life.

5. As we set our intentions for the new year, let's not forget the power of kindness. In a world that can sometimes seem chaotic, a small act of kindness can create a ripple effect of positivity. Whether it's a smile, a helping hand, or a thoughtful gesture, let's strive to make the world a better place, one act of kindness at a time.

6. May the coming year be a time of personal and professional success for you while your endeavors be met with recognition, and your hard work with rewards. Remember that success is not just about achievements but also about the journey. Enjoy the process, celebrate your victories, and learn from your setbacks. Each step forward is a victory in itself.

7. In the spirit of the new year, let's cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Take a moment to appreciate the people who have supported you, the experiences that have shaped you, and the opportunities that have come your way. Gratitude opens the door to abundance and attracts positivity into our lives. As you step into the new year, carry a heart full of gratitude and watch as it transforms your outlook on life.

8. As the clock counts down, let's celebrate the possibilities that lie ahead. May the new year bring you joy, success, and fulfillment. May you find the courage to pursue your dreams, and the strength to

overcome any obstacles that come your way.

Here's to you ... a year of growth, resilience, and endless possibilities. Happy 2025 New Year to you and yours!

Rev Dr Douglas Obwoye



Join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary at Mancelona United Methodist Church.





United
Women
in Faith

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN/UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

It is still hard for me to remember our group is now called United Women in Faith instead of United Methodist Women. Habits are hard to break! I did look up a bit of history about this change from the UWF website: "In 1972 we became United Methodist Women, and in 2022, United Women in Faith. They say a rose by any other name is still a rose. The same is true for United Women in Faith. We will continue our legacy of being in mission for women, children, and youth."

I think it's nice we changed the name because aren't all of us united in our faith to God? There are many religions in the world, but when we all work together to make this world a better place, we are indeed united!

A Look at Our Autumn Happenings

- ★ Harvest Supper, October 3 – This is one of our biggest events each year! It does indeed "take a village" to make this supper a success from planning, promoting, baking, peeling, cooking, setting up tables, serving, cleaning up, and so much more! We appreciate all the help we get from our church family and the community. So far, our net sales totaled \$2,292.00 and our net profit is \$1797.51. All proceeds will go to missions locally, nationally, and worldwide. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!
- ★ On October 12, Carol Kingsley and Nancy Wheeler attended the Northern Skies District Annual Celebration in St. Ignace. They both agreed it was a wonderful event and spiritually uplifting.
- ★ We decided to have two craft show work sessions for the November 23 Craft Show at Mancelona Elementary School. These sessions were October 21 and October 28 at the church.

What's Coming Up?

- ★ Craft Show – Saturday, November 23 (9 am – 3 pm) at Mancelona Elementary School. Our group is working hard to make crafts to sell at this show and our proceeds will go toward missions. If you have artwork or crafts you would like to donate, please let Carol Kingsley know.
- ★ Bake Sale at Family Fare – December 7 (9 am – 3 pm or sold out). Do you like to bake? We could use some yummy items for this bake sale. See Robin Fisher if you can contribute. If not, please come and buy some delicious goodies!
- ★ November 13 UWF Meeting – Program will be World Thank Offering. Ellen Whitehead will lead the program and be our hostess. We will also be addressing Christmas cards for church members who cannot be with us in church. If you know of someone you think we should send a card to, let Carol Kingsley know.
- ★ Soup and Salad Luncheon – December 11 (11 am to 1 pm). We've been holding this event for several years now. We invite staff from Mancelona Schools, the Village of Mancelona, and other community folks to come for a free lunch and fellowship as a Christmas season treat from our group.
- ★ November 24 – Snacks and Chat will be set up in the lobby as usual and we will most likely be decorating our church for Advent, also known as "Hanging of The Greens."



May your upcoming holidays be full of joy, thankfulness, and love. We look forward to Thanksgiving and the birth of Jesus. God Bless!

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead - UWFAith Secretary

Veteran's Day Recognition –



Honoring Our Veterans

On Sunday, November 10, Nurture and Outreach will honor and offer thanks to our church family who are veterans, a spouse of a veteran, or have a family member currently serving in the armed services. We will do this in a special way via a video presentation that Rhonda and Mike Allen have graciously volunteered, once again, to put together. We hope all veterans and their family members will be our guests for Second Sunday Potluck after church on November 10. All past participants will be included in the video. Please contact Carol Kingsley at 231.360.9029 (phone or text) by November 1 if you would like to add a new participant.

“Young at Heart”

Women's Ministry Group

Our “Young at Heart” women's ministry group had their first get together on Thursday, October 19th, 2023 in our Church Fellowship Hall. The 21 ladies in attendance brought food and prizes galore. There was conversation and laughter as the women ate and played competitive rounds of Bingo. It was such a success that we are bringing it back this year.

We will once again have a Bingo night – Food Fun – Prizes, sponsored by the Young at Heart Group.

Wednesday, November 20, 6:00-7:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dessert or an appetizer, a small prize, and a friend!

Submitted by Lori Derror



We received \$530 for the hurricane aid through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Hurricane Helene has devastated parts of the southeastern U.S., bringing catastrophic wind, rain, and flash flooding to many states and communities. In response, UMCOR is coordinating with affected annual conferences and supporting their local relief efforts. So far, UMCOR has awarded solidarity grants to the North Georgia, South Georgia, Western North Carolina, and Holston annual conferences. Additionally, UMCOR trained Early Response Teams (ERTs) who are coordinating efforts to support the removal of debris, tarping of roofs, and the cleaning out of homes in hard-hit areas.

Our Mission Committee (Brenda Lockman, Gerry Deater, and MaryAnn Peterson) welcomes you to join our team. Every time we do a special offering, the whole church pitches in to help. Thanks be to GOD.

We will once again put tags on our Mission Tree for a family at Christmas time and will also include a food basket.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair

Community Meal Holiday Hours

In order that our volunteers may have time to spend with their family and friends, there will be no Community Meals on the following Tuesdays:

November 26

December 24 and December 31

Community Meal

Food Rescue means a lot to our Community Meal and to our Mancelona food pantries as well. We are indebted to the work of Taylor Moore as he heads up the Food Rescue, a program of Goodwill Northern Michigan.

The following paragraphs are from, "Food Rescue Tackles Northern Michigan's Growing Food Insecurity Challenges." This article is available in full at 9 and 10 news <https://www.9and10news.com>

Each week, Moore coordinates teams of staff and volunteers to pick up excess food from grocery stores, bakeries, and farms. From there, food is distributed to food pantries and community meal sites in a large five-county area twice the size of Rhode Island, where an estimated 16,000 people use food pantries and community meal sites to access the nutritious food they need." As Taylor notes, "I want to live in a fairer and more just community, and my work with Food Rescue is a means to achieving that."

Taylor has seen the need for Food Rescue services increase. "Last year, food pantries saw over a 30% increase in demand for assistance year over year; this year, demand for healthy food in the five-county area Food Rescue serves has climbed 41%."

Five days a week, Food Rescue's team of drivers pick up and distribute 8,000 pounds of food from 210 food donors, including nearly every northern Michigan grocery store and bakery, and 77 farms. The organization focuses on collecting healthy food for distribution, with 80% of the food distributed consisting of fresh or frozen fruits, vegetables, meat, bread, or dairy.

Just as our Mancelona Community Meal depends upon volunteers, this article notes, "The work of Food Rescue would not be possible without volunteers, from those who help load trucks and deliver food to pantries, to those who repack fruits and vegetables from large containers into family-sized bags, to those who harvest excess fruit and vegetables from farms for delivery to neighbors in need. Recently, more than 20 people helped Food Rescue collect 648 pounds of strawberries. Food Rescue believes the team could have rescued 10,000 pounds of strawberries if more volunteers had been available.

Food Rescue Volunteers are always needed, however, as this article notes summer and fall, are particularly needed as fields are ready to harvest. For more information, or to sign up for a volunteer slot, visit [Food Rescue](#); Food Rescue also is dependent on donations, including monetary donations that help keep

trucks going. In fact, 78% of the expense related to pickups and deliveries is covered by donations. Find out more and make a donation.

Why do we do it? Perhaps this, "Recently, a father who had come to a pantry with his daughters told us how delighted they were to get a bag of locally grown cherries during cherry season. Just being able to provide food that is grown here—food that families might otherwise not be able to afford—is such a gift. It offers families a sense of normalcy, enabling them to be present in the season."

Thank you 9 and 10 News Site Staff!

Taylor Moore wants to extend special thanks to the drivers, Gordon Pons and Don Ferguson, who make weekly deliveries to Mancelona.

Mike Allen attends the monthly meetings of the Food Coalition in Traverse City and Mike reports that we can look for Food Rescue to be delivering potatoes, onions, carrots, cauliflower, eggs, sweet peppers and ground beef throughout the month. Mike also reported that Food Rescue distributed 190,000 lbs. of food in September.

We are so fortunate to have such a kind and loving church and community. When we need substitutes, within a matter of hours, volunteers come forward! We needed a substitute cooking team the week of Harvest Supper. Thank you, Sandy Neumann, whose generous donation of Stouffer's Lasagna, made the cooks' job so much easier!

Recently, we requested a 1st Tuesday Cooking Team for the next few months. Thanks to Laurie Allison and Denise Plakmeyer who will serve as cook and sous chef.

Hats off to volunteer, **Patty Atkinson!** Each first Tuesday, Patty picks up the food pantry items, sets the tables, the beverage service, plates the dessert, and cuts the bread!

The Mancelona Community Meal Teams have cooked, served, and cleaned up for a total of 511 meals served in September and October. But that's not all 134 take outs went home for another meal! Hardly a Tuesday goes by that our Free Table doesn't provide some outstanding fresh vegetables, fruits, and salad greens all courtesy of Food Rescue.

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

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 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 text or call 231.360.9029

RADA - Kathy Johnson will send orders in sometime in November. Books are in the Narthex on the table near the Conference Room.

- Sunday, November 3** – 12-12:30 pm Bible Study
Tuesday, November 5 – 5:00 pm Community Meal
Sunday, November 10- Our Church honors our veterans. Followed by a potluck in Fellowship Hall with our veterans as our special guests.
Tuesday, November 12 – 5:00 pm Community Meal
Wednesday, November 13 – 1:00 pm – UWF in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 17 - - 12-12:30 pm Bible Study
Wednesday, November 20 – Bingo Night – 6:00 – 7:30 pm – Fellowship Hall
Saturday, November 23 -9:00 am to 3:00 pm Annual Mancelona Community Craft Show – Our UMW will have a booth. Contact Carol Kingsley if you have questions.
Sunday, November 24- Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center and Hanging of the Greens .
Tuesday, November 26 – No Community Meal
Sunday, December 1 - 12-12:30 pm Bible Study
December 7- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm or until sold out - UMF Bake Sale at Mancelona Family Fare. Your baked good donations will be very much appreciated! If you have questions, check with Robin Fisher.
Sunday, December 8- Potluck in the Fellowship Hall.
Wednesday, December 11 - 11:00 am-1:00 pm – Soup and Salad Luncheon provided by the UWFaith
Sunday, December 15 - 12-12:30 pm Bible Study

- Sunday, December 22** – Snacks and Chat
Tuesday, December 24 – No Community Meal
December 24, 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service.
Tuesday, December 31 - No Community Meal
Monday, January 6 – **January-February News Deadline**



Mancelona

- Bob & Jackie Humphrey – November 5
David & Amy Derrer – November 24
Dean & Cindy McCulloch – December 12
Ken & Brenda Lockman – December 30



Poinsettias

Our UW/Faith will be doing poinsettias in memory of a loved one.

Please place your poinsettia in the Altar area starting December 8.

Use the sign up sheet on the table as you enter the Sanctuary if you would like to have the name of the person(s) you wish to remember for your poinsettia.

Acknowledgement will be on the video screen from December 15-22nd.

We encourage you to take your poinsettia home on January 5.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 3rd

10:30 a.m. in Pastor's office (brief time)

Praying For:

1. Pastor as he delivers the Message God has laid on his heart.
2. Worship Assistant, Pianist, and other participants leading in worship.
3. Congregation as they receive God's message and go out to share His love.



We are still working on the water damage on the ceiling in the Sanctuary. I contacted the company that installed our metal roof. They have been here and don't think the leak is coming from the roof or flashing at the base of the bell tower. They think water is coming in from higher in the bell tower. There is evidence that someone tried to repair the leak from the inside with some type of seal. But, while the roofing rep was in the bell tower, I had him replace lightbulbs. The stained-glass windows are once again illuminated at night.

Very little mowing needed to be done in the months of September and October due to so little rain. There will be lots of leaves to be taken care of once they have all fallen. Next up is the snow shoveling sign-up.....brrrr!

Submitted by Laurie Allison- Trustee Chair

- Margaret Chapman – November 1
- Bridged Mochama – November 1
- Ronald Oyer – November 1
- Kathy Shuman – November 2
- Jackie Humphrey – November 5
- Robin Fisher – November 7
- Alexis Deater – November 11
- Mike Allen – November 13
- Wendy Aldrich – November 14
- Rhonda Allen – November 16
- Sandy Churchill – November 16
- Sarah Nixon – November 17
- Patti Dykhouse – November 19
- Judy Plunkett – November 21
- Beth McKaig – November 26
- Jackie Bates – December 4
- Brenda Lockman – December 4
- Ryan Naumcheff – December 18
- Jason Naumcheff – December 23
- Dave Whitehead – December 28

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN - ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays following Worship, 12:00-12:30, in the Conference Room.

We are studying the Gospel of John; the theme is Salvation. We will study the Bible a bit at a time. Like eating, we don't eat for the whole week at one meal. Our body needs a steady diet to be strong, and so does the soul. Even though we may have read the Gospel of John many times, God always has something new for us to learn. John talks about when God became a man. Through John's eyes we will be able to witness the life of Jesus Christ. From the very first verse of John, he sets Jesus in the center of God's eternal plan--Salvation.

Schedule: Nov. 3 - John 1:29-34; Nov. 17 - John 1: 35-42; Dec. 1 - John 1:43-51; Dec. 15 - John 2:1-11

2025 - We will continue unless otherwise announced.

Mancelona United Methodist Church
PO Box 301
117 E. Hinman Street
Mancelona, MI 49659
231.587.8461
Sunday Service @ 11:00am

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

