



From the Pastor's Desk

NEW YEAR 2025

There's no better time to start fresh than the first day of the New Year. From celebrating new beginnings with a toast on New Year's Eve to setting goals on New Year's Day, the arrival of a new year is full of meaningful traditions. For many, it's also a time to connect with loved ones and revel in the joy of the season. If sending heartfelt messages to friends and family hasn't been part of your routine, now is the perfect time to add it to your to-do list. You can initiate this special tradition in 2025 by sharing these inspiring New Year's wishes with the people who matter most!

My message as we start 2025

I want to draw our attention to the letter of Paul to the Church in Rome (Rom. 4:3). "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,"

When we take a step of faith of believing and trusting in God, He does miracles. In my message on entering God's Promised Land, I am sensing from the Lord right now about what we can expect to see in 2025.

I want to grab this opportunity to talk to you because of what I'm sensing for this next year. I feel like the Lord set us up with promise; He's drawing us into a hope-filled future with promise. There's an inheritance that we can earn if we trust in the Lord.

One of the key factors about seeing God's promises come into fulfillment is trusting in the Lord along

the journey, knowing that He is more than able to bring us exactly where we need to be as a church which is the right of the world. This is a lesson we can learn from the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

The whole idea of God drawing us into our future through promises fascinates me. As your pastor, His desire for me is greater than my desire. His plans for me are greater than anything I could dream of or wish for. It's not just what He has intended to do in heaven...but His intention for me in this life is even beyond what I have the intelligence to ask for or the faith to pray for.

In this year 2025, God does not desire us to stay in the wilderness as a church, but rather He wants to deliver us to the Promised Land that He has prepared for our lives. It takes us diligently following Him and trusting Him to see these things come to pass.

The quickest way to destroy the gift that God has given you is the finger of accusation and the spirit of complaining, and Israel did that to the point they despised the creative miracle of daily provision, and they forgot all about the God who made Himself known among them. The solution, first, is that we guard our hearts, our minds, and we guard ourselves from fear, from anxiety, from the things that pull us away.

Our journey in 2025 is that, we can trust God and place our hope in His faithfulness, knowing that every promise He has given us is "yes and amen" through the name of Jesus. Amen!

Reverend Dr. Douglas Obwoye

YOU ARE INVITED TO SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME 10:45 a.m. in Pastor's Office --Prayers for: Pastor as he delivers his Sunday message, Worship Assistant, Pianist, other worship leaders and congregation as they receive God's message and go out to share His love.



November and December were Busy Months!

Wow! November and December were indeed busy months for our United Women in Faith (UWF) group. We held three different fundraisers and our annual Soup and Salad Luncheon.

In November, we participated in the Craft Show organized by Pathways Church which was held at Mancelona Elementary School. Several members of our UWF made crafts and we raised \$1,062 that will go toward missions.

At our November UWF meeting, our program's theme was the World Thank Offering which supports the total program of missions that the national United Women in Faith organization oversees. We took some time to contemplate what we are thankful for based on each letter of the word "THANKFUL." Then we imagined ourselves as someone who is facing difficult circumstances such as war, poverty, or hunger; and made a "THANKFUL" list even in such circumstances. Donations were then offered for the World Thank Offering.

We also addressed Christmas cards at our November meeting, included a letter from Pastor Douglas, and prepared them for mailing. We do this each year to connect with church members and friends who have moved away or are unable to attend church services.

In December, we typically do not have a regular meeting, but instead hold our annual free Soup and Salad Luncheon for folks in our community. This year's luncheon was well attended with about 50 people in attendance. We were honored that Tina Frollo, Superintendent of Mancelona Schools came along with teachers and staff, Community in

Schools staff, TBAISD professionals, Village mayor, Mike Allison, Village staff, Maureen Naumcheff brought Jen Seeley, the Mancelona Police Chief, a group from Boyne Falls church and many from our own church attended! There were plenty of Christmas cookies, delicious soups, salads, rolls, and lots of holiday cheer!

We also held a Bake Sale at Family Fare in town with lots of tasty treats. From this fundraiser we raised \$282 for missions.

Upcoming Happenings

Our UWF meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. At these meetings we conduct business matters and have a special program usually led by one of our members, but occasionally we invite guest speakers. Have an idea for a guest speaker? Let our President Carol Kingsley know.

Following our January 8th meeting at 3:00 pm, Nancy Wheeler led a study on the book "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World." We welcome all ladies to join us, even if you are not a member of our UWF group. See Nancy if you would like to purchase a book (\$15).

At our February 12th meeting, our main focus will be to decide on which organizations we wish to donate to from the fundraisers we held this past year. We call this our "Empty the Treasury." We like to donate to local, national, and international missions with a focus on as many local charities as possible. If you have a group, you think we should consider, please let one of our members know.

We wish everyone a blessed, peaceful, and joyful New Year!

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, UWF Secretary



Community Meal Update

Community Meal is back in 2025! While we were only open a total of six Tuesdays for November and December due to holiday closings, giving our volunteers time with family and friends, we served 327 meals including 98 take outs! As Pastor Douglas notes, "God is good, all the time!"

November First Tuesday began with new cook, Laurie Allison and sous chef, Denise Plakmeyer giving Troy Orman more time to concentrate on his work. First Tuesday also has a new volunteer server, Kathy Pecar Lightbody. Thank you, Laurie for making the contact!

Ellen Whitehead, who cooks with Rhonda Allen for Second Tuesdays, has drafted some new servers for their team from the Big Twin area. Kim Pope and Margaret "Emmy" Weeber are friends of Ellen. Thank you, Ellen!

We are pleased that Lou Patton is back after surgery and recuperation! Each Tuesday, Jack Porter, handles the dishwasher, and our faithful teams prepare delicious meals!

In November, Mike Allen reported on the monthly Food Coalition meeting. The good news is that there are small grants available for meal sites and pantries to purchase or replace items like freezers, shelving etc. Good to know!! Also, carrots, winter squash, potatoes, sweet potatoes, ground beef, and eggs will be available in upcoming weeks. And finally, Mike reported that Food Rescue "rescued" 197,000 pounds of food in October.

Great comfort food for cold wintery nights has been the theme of all our teams! Think roast beef

(provided by the Mancelona Food Pantry), mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, tacos, ground beef and noodles, baked spaghetti, and Swedish meatballs with a traditional Swedish red sauce.

Every week the cooking staff makes sure there are nutritious salads and/or fruit. Come snow, rain, or ice, (sometimes the same day), a volunteer goes to the Mancelona Food Pantry to pick up fresh vegetables, desserts, and salad greens and to the Hen's Den for their generous donation of homemade bread!

And *so many thanks* to each cooking team for the many monetary contributions they make to ensure that their meal is healthy, nutritious, and special! Many weeks, salad ingredients are not available so they donate salad items, as well as entrée items! We do encourage cooking teams to use the many cans of fruits and vegetables in lieu of salads which are in our pantry. Just like the old days (1950s) when our moms served us a side of canned fruit rather than a salad. We are always grateful for our "milk angel" who makes weekly trips to Mancelona Family Fare and gifts milk for our guests.

So, 2024 was wrapped up with our caring volunteers! And here we are, the first full week of 2025!

REMEMBER.....if school is closed, there is no Community Meal.

Submitted by Sandy Neumann and Carol Kingsley

Community Meal Co-Chairs





A huge thank you to all who participated in helping the family we chose for our Christmas Tree tags. Lori Derror knows the family and they were very much appreciative for all we did for them. We also put together a food basket to give the family.

If anyone knows of a project they would like to do, please let our team know, Brenda Lockman, Gerry Deater or MaryAnn Peterson. Yet, I feel like the church as a whole is on the Mission Committee.

"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed."

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair



The Young-at-Heart women's group had a busy and festive end to the year with events in both November and December. During the 2nd annual Bingo Night, about 15 women gathered to enjoy snacks, socialize, and compete for prizes as they marked off their winning bingo cards. In December, the group hosted a cozy cookie exchange. Participants brought trays of their favorite holiday cookies to share, and while sipping on hot chocolate, assembled plates of cookies to deliver to those in need of a little extra holiday cheer. Now, with the winter months upon us, the group will take a break from events, as the snowy weather can make planning and attendance more challenging.

Submitted by Lori Derror- Young at Heart Chair

Administrative Council:

News from finance is a bit better than last year when we were \$7700 in the red. We finished this past year \$4000 in the hole. Income was up \$9639 but it wasn't from giving by the congregation, which was down by \$5300. Boyne Falls was principally responsible for the better financial picture. The upcoming year will bring an increase of \$2000 in insurance costs, so we need to work together to bring in more people and dig a little deeper to support our church.

Submitted by Mike Allen- Finance Chair

Church Trustees

UPDATE



Winter has returned. We have received three times more snow than this time last year. A huge thank you to Doug Derrer who has been shoveling the month of December and into January. Mike and I will take care of the second half of January unless there is someone who really wants to shovel. Lori and Chris Derror and Robin and Dave Fisher have signed up for February and March. Hopefully there won't be much snow into April.

We do have a new person to plow the church lot. Doug Hick, who plowed for us last year, has taken the winter off and his replacement is Dan Williams. Dan is a local man and has done a great job. He is plowing at the same rate as Doug.

I mentioned this in church, but it is worth repeating. When using the elevator please make sure that both doors, (the accordion door and the metal door) are closed and latched. **The elevator will not work unless they are both securely closed.**

Also make sure when you leave the church building that the doors are locked. We've found doors left unlocked.

One more thing.....during the winter months we keep the lower cupboard doors open in the kitchen. There is plumbing on the outside wall of the kitchen. Keeping the lower cupboard doors open lets in some heat, less chance of freezing pipes.



January 26th – Dave & Robin Fisher
February 13th – Michael & Laurie Allison

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 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

January 12 – Potluck
January 13- 4:00 pm Ad Council meeting
January 14 – 5:00 pm, Community Meal
January 21 - 5:00 pm, Community Meal
January 23, 1:00 pm., Bible Study
January 26 – Snacks and Chat - Welcome Center
January 28 - 5:00 pm, Community Meal
February 4 – 5:00 pm, Community Meal
February 6 – 1:00 pm., Bible Study
February 9 – Potluck
February 11 – 5:00 pm, Community Meal
February 12 – 1:00 pm United Women in Faith
February 12 – 3:00 pm Book Club – Chapter 2
February 18 – 5:00 pm, Community Meal
February 20 – 1:00 pm., Bible Study
February 23- Snacks and Chat -Welcome Center
February 25 - 5:00 pm, Community Meal
February 25 - MUMC March/April Newsletter Deadline

Community Meal every Tuesday at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. If Manelona Schools has a snow day, the meal is cancelled.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY began Thursday, January 9, continuing every other Thursday each month. Meet in the Conference Room at 1:00 p.m. John talks about when God became a man. Study led by Nancy Wheeler.

Through John's eyes we will be able to witness the life of Christ, the center of God's eternal plan-- Salvation. Our first session will be a review of John Chapter 1 and right into Chapter 2 where Jesus Turns Water into Wine.

You are encouraged to come and study the Gospel of John together. Let God's light shine into your life!

Boyne Falls UMC Fundraiser

That's A Wrap Sub Sale! Only \$6 each. Have in time for Super Bowl!

Order today! Orders due by Sunday, February 2.

Pickup Sunday February 9 from 10:15 -1:00 pm in our Welcome Center/Lobby.

Proceeds will assist the Boyne Falls United Women in Faith in helping women, children, and youth around the world.

See below for what's available. Use Order Form to make your choices.

Note on Form: Sub or Wrap. Circle your choices.

Make check payable to Boyne Falls UMW. Print out order form and place in envelope with check. Return to large envelope (Boyne Falls noted on envelope.) on Round Table in Welcome Center. Always open on Sunday am.

On the order form circle the items you want as follows:

Wraps – Circle the type you want: Multigrain, Whole Wheat, Garden Spinach, or Sun-Dried Tomato Basil (**Note: This is on top line of form.**)

Subs – Circle the type of bun you want: White or Wheat (**This is on second line of form. There are only two sub choices white or wheat.**)

For both Wraps or Subs – Circle one meat and one cheese

Sounds like a great Super Bowl Sunday Meal!

THAT'S A WRAP SUB SALE

Proceeds benefit the Boyne Falls United Women in Faith, whose vision is turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

<u>WRAPS/SUBS</u>	<u>MEATS</u>	<u>CHEESES</u>
Multigrain	Ham	Swiss
Whole Wheat	Turkey	Colby
Garden Spinach	Roast Beef	Cheddar
Sundried Tomato Basil		Provolone
White / Wheat Sub		

ONLY \$6 EACH

HAVE IN TIME FOR SUPER BOWL!
ORDER TODAY!

Orders due by Sun., Feb. 2nd / Pickup Sat., Feb. 8th

THAT'S A WRAP SUB SALE - Order Form

Multigrain / Whole Wheat / Garden Spinach / Sundried Tomato Basil

White/Wheat Ham/Turkey/Roast Beef Swiss/Colby/Cheddar/Prov

Multigrain / Whole Wheat / Garden Spinach / Sundried Tomato Basil

White/Wheat Ham/Turkey/Roast Beef Swiss/Colby/Cheddar/Prov

Multigrain / Whole Wheat / Garden Spinach / Sundried Tomato Basil

White/Wheat Ham/Turkey/Roast Beef Swiss/Colby/Cheddar/Prov

Multigrain / Whole Wheat / Garden Spinach / Sundried Tomato Basil

White/Wheat Ham/Turkey/Roast Beef Swiss/Colby/Cheddar/Prov

Multigrain / Whole Wheat / Garden Spinach / Sundried Tomato Basil

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White/Wheat Ham/Turkey/Roast Beef Swiss/Colby/Cheddar/Prov

Multigrain / Whole Wheat / Garden Spinach / Sundried Tomato Basil

White/Wheat Ham/Turkey/Roast Beef Swiss/Colby/Cheddar/Prov

Multigrain / Whole Wheat / Garden Spinach / Sundried Tomato Basil

White/Wheat Ham/Turkey/Roast Beef Swiss/Colby/Cheddar/Prov

Customer Name _____

Phone # _____



United
Women
in Faith

Total # of subs/wraps _____

Price per _____ x \$6

Order taken by: _____

Total \$ _____

Mancelona United Methodist Church
PO Box 301
117 E Hinman St
Mancelona, MI 49659
Sunday Service @ 11:00 am
231-587-8461

**Ad Board Meeting – 2nd Monday of month/odd Months
at 4 PM**

Boyne Falls UMC
3057 Mill St
Boyne Falls, MI

Sunday Service @ 9:30 am



Mancelona Birthdays

January

1st – Kathy Rick
3rd – Barbara Castle
4th – Marv Kingsley
7th – Pat Derror
7th – Kathy Johnson
8th – Kathy VanBruggan
10th – Ron Aldrich
16th - Burt Thompson
24th – Diane Lirones
27th – Carol Kingsley
31st – Julia Kirby

February

6th – Carolyn Grody
8th – Denise Nixon
9th – Michael Allison
18th – Lynn Cummings
18th – Gage Johnson
25th – Garret Derrer
25th – Cody Derrer
25th – Rae Ann Thompson



You are always welcome here!