



Lent Season

Lent is a significant season in the year for Christians – a time of solemnity and self-reflection where they confess their failings and resolve to live a godlier life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It lasts for just over six weeks leading up to Easter.

Traditionally, it was a time of fasting from certain foods such as eggs, meat, fish, and fats. Nowadays people might give up a luxury food – such as chocolate. They may also give up an activity such as using social media or drinking alcohol. It is called Lent in English because it is the time of the year when days are lengthening in the Northern Hemisphere. Like Easter, Lent falls on different dates each year. Christians in different church traditions around the world celebrate slightly different periods of Lent. Some church buildings are made to look plainer during Lent with flowers and other decorations removed.

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In most churches, the first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday. Many Christians go to church that day to seek forgiveness from God for what they have done wrong. In some churches, the priest or minister will take some ash and use it to mark a cross sign on the forehead of each person. It is a symbol of their remorse. The ash is traditionally made from burning palm crosses which were distributed on Palm Sunday the year before. During Lent, many Christians use

special studies to guide their times of personal prayer and reflection.

What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting, (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.

Prayer during Lent focuses on the need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling social media, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity, and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donating money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never earn Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue humanity.

I wish you a blessed and spirit-filled Lent.

Rev Dr. Douglas Obwoye PhD



MEF Spaghetti Dinner and Auction

Friday, April 11
Mancelona High School
Dinner begins at 5:30 pm
Auction: 6:30 pm

Does spaghetti dinner sound good? Mark your calendar for Friday, April 11th 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 11th on your calendar as it is a fabulous community event.



Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all your wrongdoings and offer you forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give you an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting, and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter even more meaningful to you.

Douglas



A huge thank you to all those that gave to **UMCOR**. We collected \$1626.00 for the fire victims in California.

Submitted by: Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair





MANCELONA

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

Summary of Our Recent Meetings

At our January meeting, Carol Kingsley led our program entitled “The Garments of Healing.” There are many “garments” that can help with healing such as good health care, yoga, and centering our spirits. Our scripture lesson was from Mark 5:25-34, when Jesus healed a woman from her illness after she touched Jesus’ garment. When we take care of ourselves, we are in a better position to take care of others. Jesus’ teachings help with healing. Everyline mentioned the importance of church in our healing. The church is not just a building. It is the people.

After the meeting, several of us volunteered to dismantle the Christmas trees and other Advent decorations.

February’s meeting is one we look forward to every year! It is typically when we “Empty Our Treasury” with donations made to missions locally, nationally, and internationally. The chart (top left column) lists our donations:

In February, we also discussed having future programs that offer us opportunities to learn about other religions and discover ways that we share our love for God, our creator. We will plan a field trip to the Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church in Williamsburg. We are also checking into having Pami Sprague, who is a counselor with Mancelona Public Schools and a member of the Jewish community, present a program on Judaism.



International Giving – Total: \$700

- Kenya Mission, Masango - \$700

National & State Giving – Total: \$900

- Spring Forth Deaf Church - \$300
- Community House - \$300
- Henderson House - \$300

Local Giving – TOTAL: \$2,000

- Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop - \$300
- Au Sable Institute - \$500
- Baby Pantry - \$300
- Community Meal - \$500
- MEF Auction - \$100
- Communities in Schools (CIS) for College Admission Fees - \$300

District Northern Skies Contribution
– TOTAL: \$500

GRAND TOTAL: \$4,100



Upcoming Meetings & Events

March 12 - Nancy Wheeler is leading our program. The meeting will be in the Sanctuary with treats in the lobby prepared by Jackie Bates. We will watch an episode of *The Chosen*, a series about the life and ministry of Jesus.

April and May – Programs have not been determined as of this printing, but our meeting dates will be April 9 and May 14.

June 11 – We typically have our Annual “Friendship” Lunch at the Dockside restaurant in Alden. Watch for more information in future announcements.

July 9 – Possible program on Judaism at our church.

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, UMF Secretary

March

1st – Tommy Thompson
8th – Lauren Felton
10th – Kris Moeke
11th – Drew Moeke
11th – Nicole Derror
12th – Jack Meeder
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





Community Meal Update

Tuesday night at 5:00 pm, our church parking lot is usually full! We are privileged to host the Community Meal. Our guests have become family as many return each week. We are blessed with a team of volunteers who set up, cook, serve, and clean up! Many of our attendees come early where Ruth Johnson welcomes them in the gathering area. From infants/preschool to seniors, the camaraderie is heartwarming. Hearing “thank you” as you offer them milk, water, hot tea, or coffee feels good. Many Tuesdays we have guests from local group homes! Love that we give them a night out!

Every month this article praises the meals that are prepared! With two closings due to weather, we still provided 234 meals which includes take outs. We are talking: baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, pork chops and au gratin potatoes, goulash with cheese on top, salads, vegetables, *always* with delicious homemade bread from the Hen’s Den. Desserts this last two months were pecan pie, cake, brownies, and cheesecake. Old fashioned Sunday dinner on Tuesday! *Had a busy day, too tired to cook, please come!* If you are uncomfortable with a free meal, no worry, there is a Donation Jar. All donations support the Community Meal.

Sandy Neumann as “Chief Chair” keeps her finger on the storeroom and accepts deliveries from MANNA. Early in January, the storeroom offered our cooks lots of choices with chicken breasts and leg quarters, pork loin chops, fully cooked pork taco meat and pulled pork mix, ground beef, 1# tubes of breakfast sausage, pollock fillets, and assorted cheeses.

Manna and Food Rescue have provided us with fresh apples and oranges which are usually put on our “free” table. Manna has supplied us with lots of fresh onions. Onions go a long way to enhancing an entre and are just simply nutritious!

At the monthly meeting which Mike Allen attends, Rachael Cougler, Northwest Food Coalition Coordinator, reported on the statistics for 2024. Mancelona Meal Site served a total of 2,250 meals in the year 2024. That’s commendable. Special thanks to Brenda Lockman for doing the monthly report.

NMCAA Free Tax Program

Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency provides Free IRS-Certified Tax Preparation to help eligible community members who make at or below \$100,000 annual gross income. Check out more details at <https://nmcaa.net/free-tax-help/>. (*Information Courtesy of Northwest Michigan Food Coalition*)

Empty Bowls is back!

Empty Bowls presents “**Heroes Against Hunger**” This event will provide funds for healthy foods to help meet child food insecurity.

When: Sunday, May 4, 2025

Times: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: Howe Arena in Traverse City MI

Ticket Pricing: Adult Advance Purchase (online link below)

\$28; Adult at the door \$34; Children 15 and under free with paid adult ticket ONLINE LINK: northwestmifoodcoalition.org

Bring the kids to the event! A fun event where you will

- ✓ Receive an artisan bowl
- ✓ Fun kid activities
- ✓ Live Music and Bowl Making Demonstrations
- ✓ Silent Auction and Arts/Crafts to Purchase
- ✓ Chef-Made Soup and Artisan Bread from Area Establishments

Funds generated contribute to providing fresh produce and protein from local farms to over 80 food and baby pantries and meal sites in our six-county area.

The Empty Bowls event raises money and awareness regarding food insecurity in Northwest Michigan. This year the focus is on child food security and the Northwest Food Coalition notes that, "The need for food is greater than ever." Here are some statistics provided by the Northwest Food Coalition:

- 39% increase in our food pantry visits
- 24% increase in our meal site visits
- 41% of Michigan families do not earn enough to afford basic living expenses up 13% from 2019 to 2022 (2024 ALICE Report)
- 1 in 8 Michigan children are food insecure (Feeding MI Families Report 5/24 U of M)
- 40% of our pantry food recipients are children

Visit the NWFC Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthwestFoodCoalition/>.

Additional ways you can help with Empty Bowls is volunteering for the event, helping us find sponsors (if you get the names, we will do the outreach), or creating items for our Buy-It-Now table.

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

Anniversaries

Mancelona:

March 7th – Bill & Judy Plunkett
March 26th - Mike & Rhonda Allen
April 14th – Les & Judy Cota



Church Trustees



Now that March is here, I'm hoping winter will not be hanging around much longer. It's been quite a winter with over 200" of snow. A huge thank you to all the snow shovelers; Doug Derrer, Chris and Lori Derrer, Robin and David Fisher. The new person who kept the parking lot cleaned out has been great. Dan has agreed to plow again for us next year.

We had some really cold weather in January. This is when the furnace at the parsonage chose to go out, the coldest night of the winter. Tim Moore came immediately, but unfortunately the furnace was terminal and needed to be replaced. We rounded up several space heaters, thank you Maureen Naumcheff and Craig Hart. Pastor and family were able to stay at the parsonage and a new furnace was installed the next day.

Next up will be the summer lawnmowing schedule. With the amount of snow still on the ground it will be quite a while before we need to worry about cutting the grass.

Submitted by Laurie Allison – Trustee Chair

Just a few left of our church notecards. Five in a package for \$5. These come in handy when you want to send that special note. Inside inscription reads, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light." John 1:5" Check on Sunday morning with Rhonda Allen, Brenda Lockman, or Carol Kingsley and we will get them for you. Checks should be made out to: Mancelona UMW

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' 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 9 – Potluck

March 10 – 4:00 Ad Council meeting in the conference room.

March 12 – 1:00 United Women in Faith- We will meet in the Conference Room.

March 12 – 3:00 Book Club - "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" – Read Chapters 3 and 4.

March 23 – Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center.

April 9 - 1:00 United Women in Faith

April 11 – 5:30 MEF Spaghetti Dinner and Auction.

April 13– Potluck in Fellowship Hall

April 20 – Easter - Cinnamon rolls in the Welcome Center BEFORE church.

April 27 – Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center.

MUMC May/June Newsletter deadline will be April 30, 2024.

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 – April 13
Good Friday – April 18

Easter Sunday – April 20

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

