



Spiritual Growth

As a seed grows when it's planted and watered, followers of Christ grow in spiritual maturity when they are planted and watered in good soil.

In the Bible, Jesus describes a fictional scene of a farmer planting seed. Some seeds fall on the path, some on rocky places, some on thorns, and some on good soil (Matthew 13:3-8), but only the seeds that fall on good soil grow into healthy plants. Jesus explains the meaning of the story this way: The one who hears the Word of God and understands it is the one who grows in their faith (v. 23).

The Christian life is a relationship with God that develops over time. To grow in spiritual maturity (that is, to grow spiritually) is to look more like the person God designed you to be — increasingly like Jesus. What does it mean to grow spiritually? Journey with us as we explore the answer to this question.

What Is Spiritual Growth?

As we plant the seed and wait for it to germinate and grow is similar to the journey of growing in faith, learning more about God, and becoming the person that He created you to be.

Peter, one of Jesus' closest followers during the time He was on earth, encourages us this way: ***"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, New International Version).***

Paul, a leader in the early church who wrote much of the Bible's New Testament, describes this

growth in another way: ***"We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His [God's] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9-10).***

The type of person that God wants you to be is one who is characterized by His qualities: ***"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).***

What Does the Bible Say About Spiritual Growth?

The Bible has a lot to say about what it looks like to grow spiritually. Here are some important verses of Scripture that can help you understand what it means to be spiritually mature.

God begins the work in believers and will continue it.

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6, NIV).

There is a hunger for knowing God.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6, NIV).

God equips you through His Word.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV).

You can grow by meditating on God's Word.

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on His Law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers" (Psalm 1:1-3, NIV).

The Holy Spirit teaches you to have the characteristics of spiritual maturity.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23, NIV).

The characteristics of spiritual maturity make you productive and effective in serving God.

"Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:5-8, NIV).

Growing in maturity and discernment is the natural and right path. Staying the same is not.

"Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14, NIV).

Let us try to grow spiritually to be the image God intended us to be.

Rev Dr. Douglas Obwoye



CHURCH MOUSE MUSINGS

Happy Autumn! Next to cheese, I love the season called Autumn--leaves start turning all colors! Since the last newsletter, I've seen many people come and go here at MUMC. What a Blessing to be able to share in the Ministry of feeding those in need as well as provide a place to connect with others in our community!

WHO CAN YOU ENCOURAGE? I want to "squeak out" a special THANKS to those who have kept up with the mowing, flowers, and general care of the outside/inside the church building. I saw Bidwell on the mower a few times this summer--way to go!

PRAISE GOD ANYWHERE! Thank you to Evalyne, Carolyn, and Nancy for their music notes to help us worship! HOW WILL YOU PRAISE GOD?

--Musings from Charlie

INSPIRATIONAL BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN AGAIN

Adult Bible Study Begins Sept. 4 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Conference Rm. – Philippians.

WHY READ PHILIPPIANS? If you ever had trouble seeing how faith can be dressed in everyday work clothes, Philippians is for you. It puts truth into practical terms. Along the way, you will experience joy, bitterness, unity, bickering, arrogance, and humiliation. Read Philippians to look into the heart of Paul and be drawn closer to the one who had Jesus Christ first in his life.

Hope to see you soon,

Nancy Wheeler



MANCELONA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

Are you ready? Ready for delicious roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, coleslaw, rolls, tomatoes, and your choice of apple or pumpkin pie! Our annual Harvest Supper is coming up soon.

September 25 – Seating at 5:30 pm
Takeouts Available at 4:30 or 6:00 pm
Tickets: Adults-\$15 / Ages 5 to 12-\$10 / Under 5-Free

We could certainly use your help. Volunteers are needed as follows:

- Peeling potatoes and squash – Meet at church around 9:00 am on September 24.
- Bake an apple or pumpkin pie (or both!) – See Brenda Lockman.
- Donate items needed such as flour, butter, coffee, milk – See Brenda Lockman.
- Be a server during the meal – See Sandy Neumann.

Here's What We Were Up to in July and August!

Our United Women in Faith group, doesn't just have business meetings each month (although we are "taking care of business" as the old rock tune proclaims). We also have informative, enlightening, and fun programs too! At the business portion of our meetings, we review the previous month's minutes as well as the most current treasury report, review correspondence, and take care of old and new items that we are involved in at our church. Our programs for July and August were:

- July – Our speaker was Pami Sprague who is a Behavior Interventionist for Mancelona

Schools. Her topic centered on her Jewish faith and what it has in common with Christianity. Pami shared information about her faith including Jewish holidays, ceremonies, Biblical studies, prayers, and more. She showed us symbols and objects used in ceremonies. Her presentation was both informative and fun. Our hostess was Laurie Allison, and we met in her home with delicious treats served in her pretty backyard.

- August – Ellen Whitehead led our program which was at the Mancelona Labyrinth of Hope. Ellen talked about the history of labyrinths, mentioning that the first Christian labyrinths became popular during the Middle Ages. We walked the labyrinth together after filling out prayer request cards, selecting someone's prayer request, and then praying for their request as we walked. After our prayer walk, we planted a hydrangea and two lavender plants along with a memorial plaque in memory of Jeanette Hayes who, along with husband Mike, started our Community Meal program.

Upcoming Meetings/Programs

- September 24, 9:00 am – Harvest Dinner Preparation. Note that typically our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. This month we will meet the day before the Harvest Supper to help prepare the meal.
- October 15 – A visit to the Archangel Gabriel (Greek Orthodox) Church in Williamsburg. We will meet at our church at 11:30 am and then go to McGee's (also in Williamsburg) for lunch where our meeting will be held. After the meeting, we will head to the Orthodox church for a field trip with Father Ciprian Streza.
- November 12, 1:00 pm – Meeting in Fellowship Hall at our church. Program to be determined
 - Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, UWF Secretary



We raised \$806.00 in July for UMCOR to be given to the Texas Flood Relief effort.

The 2025 Antrim County Crop Walk is scheduled for Sunday, September 28th. This is a fund-raising event to combat hunger locally and globally, sponsored by Church World Service. Participants walk to raise money and awareness.

The money raised helps provide meals to families in need and supports programs that create greater food security in communities worldwide. You can register online at www.crophungerwalk.org

Please make checks out to MUMC. On the memo line write CROP WALK. They can be put in the Offering Box.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Missions Chair

Women's Christian Book Study -Meet Sept. 10, Wed., 2:30 p.m. Purpose: Finish Chapter 5 of "Having A Mary Heart in a Martha World." Also, a time of evaluation and setting new days and times.

Questions? See Nancy Wheeler



Our church could use a few people to be a greeter on Sunday mornings to welcome people as they come into our church. Currently, Dave Whitehead is the only "official" greeter. Ellen assists him after she has completed her Sunday morning duties. We need someone to stand inside the front church door that leads into the lobby. It is an easy volunteer opportunity – you just need to smile, say "Welcome!," and pass out the sermon notes. If the person is a visitor or first-time guest, let Ellen know, and she will get them a Welcome Bag. We could also use people who will sub for Dave when he is unable to be there.

Greeters can sign up on a monthly basis or be willing to serve occasionally as a substitute greeter. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby. See Dave or Ellen if you are interested or you can call them at 231-916-2398.

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."
Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)



Community Meal



In the *Good Old Summer Time*, our Cooking Teams faithfully prepared delicious meals including summer salads, tacos, pulled pork. St Matthew Lutheran Church covered the 5th Tuesday in July with Hungarian-style goulash!

July and August Community Meal served about 41 meals each Tuesday. Attendees can take home servings of food not consumed and that averages 19 each week. Collectively, with meals served and take outs, we furnish an average of 59 meals to the Mancelona Community.

As always, Mike Allen attends the monthly Food Coalition Meetings. Mike reports that July set a record of 181,000 pounds of rescued food. He noted that fresh farm products from the Food Coalition will be coming: broccoli, potatoes, watermelon, carrots, sweet potatoes, and eggs.

Brenda Lockman sends in our required monthly statistics to MANNA and to the Northwest Food Coalition that provides our Food Rescue items every Tuesday. In addition, Brenda picks up supplies that we have to purchase. Dishwashing soap, spices, flour, sugar, paper plates, napkins, cups, etc. We appreciate Brenda's help!

Thank you to Jan VonSeggern and Ruth Kowalski, snowbirds who stepped up and acted as substitute servers this summer! Another snow bird from our very own church, Jackie Humphrey, picks up and delivers clean dish towels, aprons, and potholders which is no easy task! Usually, a large kitchen wastebasket full! Thank you, Jackie!

Lorna Malbouef and Gloria Robbins volunteer almost weekly for clean up! We are so fortunate to have their help! It sure makes the clean-up so much quicker! Our hearts are grateful! Yes, it takes a community to serve our Community Meal! A community of churches . . . our church, Pathway Community Church, St Matthew Lutheran Church, and St Anthony Catholic Church.

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



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



I was recently asked to take back over as leader for Nurture and Outreach. For lack of volunteers, we combined these two groups a few years ago. Outreach has always been dear to my heart to reach out in our community. At present, I'm *reaching out* to ask for help. Ideas are needed and assistance in following through with these ideas. My email is btjacque@yahoo.com My cell is 231-350-9168. Please feel free to contact me. I would really appreciate your ideas and help.

Submitted by Jackie Bates, Nurture and Outreach Chair

It's starting to look and feel a lot like fall. I'm just not ready to say goodbye to summer. Thank you to all who helped with keeping the church yard in good shape, all the "lawn mowers" and those keeping the flower beds cleaned and watered. The native garden needs weeding. If there is a day someone can help me this fall (after the Harvest Dinner), please let me know. It shouldn't take long to get it ready for winter if I have some help.

We've had a slow leak in one of the bathrooms in the new part of the church. It has been leaking for quite a while, affecting the ceiling in the storage room in the basement. The plumber came and has fixed the leak. It will take some time for things to dry out in the basement. The ceiling will probably have to come down to make sure the floor joists are completely dry.

I had to get a quote for a new garage door at the parsonage. It looks like it got bumped at some time, and the supports finally gave out. The first quote was for \$2,900. After talking to Troy Orman, he felt he could replace it for about \$2,100. Troy will have time to take care of this, his project on Lake Huron is almost complete.

We've started the process of cleaning out Tressie Peterson's home. Tressie passed away in June and left the church her house. I've started cleaning and sorting things in the house. We'll have a sale hopefully this fall, but it might have to wait until spring. There are several people who are interested in purchasing her house. She requested that her brother Elihu's WWII uniform and his medals be donated to the Historical Society Museum. That is what I'm trying to find as I sift through a lifetime of saving "stuff." That is a very generous gift that she left the church.

Next thing coming up is the winter snow shoveling sign-up sheet. It will be posted in the Narthex soon.

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. It will include Rev. 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 text or call 231.360.9029

Community Meal -5:00 pm – Fellowship Hall – Every September and October Tuesday

September 3,10,17 & 24– Knit Chicks, 1:00 pm – Conference Room Check with a member to confirm dates.

September 4 – 1:00 pm – Conference Room -Bible Study on Philippians

September 8 – MUMC Ad Council – 4:00 pm - Conference Room

September 10 – 2:30 PM – Conference Room Women's Christian Book Study

September 14 – Potluck after Church

September 18 – 1:00 pm – Conference Room -Bible Study on Philippians

September 24 – UWF Harvest Supper preparation at 9:00 am. All our invited.

September 25 – Harvest Supper seating at 5:30; Take outs at 4:30 and 6:00 pm

September 28- Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center after Church.

September 28 – Crop Walk, Bellaire

October 1,8, 22 & 29 - Knit Chicks, 1:00 pm – Conference Room – Check with a member to confirm dates.

October 2 -1:00 pm – Conference Room -Bible Study on Philippians

October 12 –Potluck after Church

October 16 -1:00 pm – Conference Room -Bible Study on Philippians

October 26 – Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center after Church.

Sunday, November 9 – Honoring Veterans during our service.

Saturday, November 22, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Mancelona Community Craft Fair at Mancelona Elementary School. Our UWF will have a booth.

November/December-Newsletter deadline will be October 25, 2025

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

