

Seek First the Kingdom of God

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you."

Matthew 6:33

"Seeking God's Kingdom first" is a phrase, primarily from Matthew 6:33, that means making God's will and righteousness the top priority in your life, ahead of worldly concerns like wealth, career, or personal needs. It involves a daily commitment to live according to God's teachings, trust in His provision, and focus on His purposes over personal desires. This is achieved through actions like prayer, studying the Bible, loving others, and seeking to advance God's Kingdom here on Earth.

Core principles

Prioritize God's will: It's a conscious choice to put God's agenda ahead of your own and to seek His guidance in decisions.

Live righteously: This includes pursuing what is good and just, showing compassion, and acting with humility and obedience, rather than just going through religious rituals.

Trust in provision: The promise is that if you prioritize God, He will provide for your needs.

Focus on spiritual things: The principle encourages a focus on God and spiritual matters rather than being consumed by anxiety over material needs or worldly ambitions.

Practical steps to take

Evaluate your priorities: Reflect on how you spend your time, money, and energy to see if it aligns with God's Kingdom.

Seek guidance through prayer and the Bible: Consult God for direction before making big decisions and spend time reading His Word.

Live a life of service: Focus on serving others and promoting God's message through acts of mercy, grace, and truth.

Simplify your life: Reduce focus on materialism that distracts from your spiritual commitments.

Be transformed: Actively work to have your mind renewed to align with God's will, which allows you to discern His purpose.

How can you seek God during Christmas?

You can seek God during Christmas by prioritizing spiritual practices like daily prayer and scripture reading, attending worship services, and reflecting on the birth of Jesus. Other ways include listening to worship music, engaging in acts of service, and creating Christ-centered traditions with family and friends

Service and community

Serve others: Engage in service projects or perform small acts of kindness for those around you, like helping a neighbor with Christmas shopping.

Share with others: Invite friends and family to join you in spiritual activities, like reading a devotional together or attending a service.

Finally, I wish you Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and New Year!

Rev. Dr. Douglas Mochama Obwoye. Ph.D



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



United Women in Faith

HARVEST SUPPER – A Special Way to Give and Receive



Our Annual Harvest Supper was once again a huge success! As they say, many hands make light work.

Our event had planners, cooks, servers, cleaner-uppers, dishwashers, and of course our attendees. We couldn't have done it without your help and support. THANK YOU all!!

We prepared dinners for approximately 90 who came for the meal and 40 who had takeout meals. Our profit from the supper totaled \$1293. These proceeds will go toward mission projects to be selected by our United Women in Faith members early next year. Until next year, let's remember the fundraising, camaraderie, compliments, dedication, and YES – the yumminess our Harvest Supper provides!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

In addition to our Harvest Supper, we have two upcoming fundraisers to earn money for missions:

1. Craft Show at Mancelona Elementary School - Saturday, November 22 (9am - 3 pm)
Several of our UWF members and other church folks have been busy making crafts, food items like jams and jellies, and other contributions in preparation for the Annual Craft Show sponsored by Pathway Community Church. If you have items you would like to donate, see Carol Kingsley.

New this year to the Craft Show!

Wanted: Your pieces and parts of crafts for the Pathway Community Church's "This and That" table. Here's how to do it: Put craft items that you aren't using such as buttons, material, googly eyes, beads, etc. in small Ziplock bags. Pathway will be selling these baggies for 50 cents each. These funds will go

toward Pathway Community Church's Youth and Community Outreach activities. A box labeled "This and That" will be in our Welcome Center the first of November.

2. Bake Sale at Family Fare – Saturday, December 6 (9 am to 3 pm or until sold out, so come early! We sold out last year around 1:00 pm)
Jackie Bates is the chairperson for our upcoming Bake Sale at Family Fare. We welcome your cookies, candies, pies, cakes, or whatever delicious treats you like to make! See Jackie for more information.

RADA Orders – We will again be selling RADA kitchen/cooking items. Laurie Allison will be selling them at the Craft Show and Kathy Johnson will also have a catalog throughout the coming months if you would like to order something.



MEETING UPDATES

OCTOBER – Note: We did not have a UWF meeting in September as we dedicated our time to preparing for and putting on our Harvest Supper. At our October meeting we met at McGee's Restaurant in Williamsburg for lunch and our meeting. After the meeting, we toured the magnificent Archangel Gabriel Church (Greek Orthodox) with Father Ciprian Streza. What a wonderful experience it was! Father Streza led us on a tour of the church and outdoor gardens. The church sits high on a hill and a glimpse of Lake Michigan can be seen on the horizon. Father Streza talked about the Greek Orthodox religion and answered our questions about this faith. He noted that artists from Greece will be painting the inside of the dome with portraits of Biblical patriarchs. We enjoyed learning about this Christian religion and how much we have in common.

- NOVEMBER – Our meeting will be held on November 12th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at our church. Our program will center on

our World Thank Offering led by Jackie Bates. We will also be preparing Christmas cards to mail out to church friends who have moved away or are not able to attend services. On November 23rd – “Hanging of The Greens” will be taking place and our group will be providing Snacks & Chat goodies. We welcome you to join us in decorating the church for the Advent Season!

- **DECEMBER** – On December 10th, our Annual Soup and Salad Luncheon will take place in our Fellowship Hall. Our UWF members will be making homemade soups, salads, and desserts. This luncheon is provided free-of-charge as a thank-you to our Church Family, Mancelona Schools staff, Community in Schools staff, Mancelona Village employees, as well as an invite to Boyne Falls United Methodist members.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and forever. AMEN!

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead - UWFaith Secretary

“Young at Heart” Women’s Ministry Group

3RD ANNUAL BINGO NIGHT

Young at Heart Women’s Group



THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 13TH

6:00 Church Fellowship Hall
Please bring a dessert, or an appetizer,
a small prize, and a friend.

Veteran’s Day Recognition – Honoring Our Veterans



On Sunday, November 9,
our church 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 9. 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.

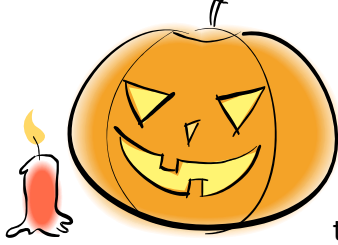


MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Currently working of scheduling special music to be offered to God in worship. We want to thank many folks who will be sharing their gifts God has given to them. You will be hearing piano solos, piano-organ duets, the Omnicord, Hand Bells, Kristal Bells, and Vocal solos, along with the occasional African Drum, and YouTube music as requested.

Thank you for requesting favorite hymns so our worship leader and instrumentalists can include them throughout our services. Your input is appreciated.

Blessings,
Nancy Wheeler and Carolyn Grody



Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin; God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff....including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for the entire world to see.

2025 Christmas Family

It's that time of year to be thinking of helping a family at Christmas with gifts and a food basket. Lori Derror has helped us in the past and is willing to help again this year. The Mission Committee will be putting the tree up in the Narthex on the first Sunday of Advent with tags for the family at the beginning of Advent, November 30, 2025. If you would like to help, please take a tag from the tree, wrap the gift and attach the tag. Place it under the tree in the Narthex on December 21.

Submitted by Brenda Lockman, Mission Chair



Poinsettias

Our UW/Faith will be doing poinsettias in memory of a loved one. Please place your poinsettia in the Altar area starting December 7.

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 14-21st.

We encourage you to take your poinsettia home on January 4.



MUSINGS FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

Hi! I'm just bursting with thanksgiving and gratitude!! Let's take time to thank God for His many blessings!

I heard someone singing the other day as they passed me in the hall, "Count Your blessings, name them one by one." It reminded me how thankful I am for this nice warm church building here at MUMC!

HAVE YOU COUNTED YOUR BLESSINGS TODAY?

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." I Chronicles 16:34

--Musings from Charlie



INSPIRATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study

Conference Room at 1:00 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursdays
Philippians, continuing in Chapter 2

Women's Christian Book Study

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

2nd Wednesday, 2:30 p.m., Conference Room
Chapter 6, "Kitchen Service."



Community Meal



Special thanks to Mike Allen, a very faithful servant. Mike has stepped down as our Food Rescue Coalition representative after serving almost 10 years. Sandy and Carol will alternate attending these required monthly meetings which can be done via Zoom. Some of the topics covered at this meeting are what farm foods will be available. Mike has relayed this information to Sandy who, in turn, shares with each Community Meal team, thus they are able to plan their menus around these free items. Thank you so much, Mike, from all of the Community Meal teams and our church!

Thanks to technology, our communication is so efficient via email! Sandy lets each team know such things as: the number served, what was served, and what is in the freezers and new items on the pantry shelf. What a job if Sandy and I had to contact people by phone! We appreciate the team's attention to these emails!

Community Meal will be closed during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays. This gives our volunteer staff the opportunity for time with family and friends.

The dates are as follows: November 25 – 4th Tuesday; December 23 and 30 – 4th and 5th Tuesday

Our Community Meal has been blessed with lots of fresh garden items in September and October through the Northwest Food Coalition Program. Our cooking teams prepare delicious and nutritious meals using these fresh garden fruits and vegetables from the greater Traverse area farmers. Each cooking team picks up the items from the Mancelona Food Pantry. Any items left over are put on the FREE food table, so not only, do our guests have the opportunity for a delicious meal, but they also can take home some great fruits and vegetables. We also encourage each team to put out extra cakes and cookies rather than store them in freezer. Just like home they can build up and lose their freshness!

Food Rescue of Goodwill Northern Michigan received a grant of \$116,000 from Impact 100

Traverse City. They will use this money to purchase a new cooler so that they can keep perishables longer. As Taylor Moore, Manager, Food Rescue, said, this will enable them to provide better quality food to area food pantries and community meals. Great timing as area apple farmers provided 25,000 pounds of apples from going to waste.

Published 10.01.25 Gatini Tinsley, 9 & 10 News - Full story at:

<https://app.9and10news.com/2025/10/01/northern-michigan-nonprofits-celebrate-grant-funding-for-community-support/content.html>

Brenda Lockman reports our required monthly attendance numbers to the Food Coalition. Totals as of press date for September and October are 578 which includes 160 take outs. As you can see take out is an important part of our program. We feel great that another nutritious meal or so is sent home.

Matthew 25:35: for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

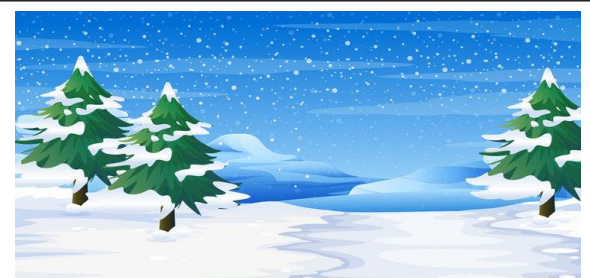
As Sandy has shared to our teams, *Thank you all for your faithfulness!*

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

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 25
December 23 and December 30



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' 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 2 – All Saints Day

Sunday, November 2 – Clocks fall back

Tuesday, November 4 – 5:00 pm, Community Meal, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, November 6 – 1:00 pm, Bible Study, Conference Room

Sunday, November 9 - We honor our veterans

Sunday, November 9 - Potluck in Fellowship Hall following our service with our veterans as our special guests.

Tuesday, November 11– 5:00 pm, Community Meal, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 12 – 1:00 pm, UWF, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 12 – 2:30 pm – Women's Book Study

Thursday, November 13 – 6:00 pm Young at Heart Bingo Night, Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday, November 18 – 5:00 pm, Community Meal, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 22 -9:00 am to 3:00 pm Annual Mancelona Community Craft

Sunday, November 23- Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center and Hanging of the Greens.

Tuesday, November 25 – No Community Meal

Tuesday, December 2 – 5:00 pm, Community Meal, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 4 – 1:00 pm, Bible Study, Conference Room

December 6- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm or til sold out - UMFaith Bake Sale at Mancelona Family Fare. Your baked good donations will be very much appreciated! If you have questions, check with Jackie Bates.

Wednesday, December 10 - 11:00-1:00 – Soup and Salad Luncheon provided by the UWFaith

Sunday, December 14- Potluck in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 16 – 5:00 pm, Community Meal, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 17, Women's Book Study

Thursday, December 18 – 1:00 pm, Bible Study, Conference Room

Tuesday, December 23 – No Community Meal

December 24, 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service.

Tuesday, December 30 - No Community Meal



Bob & Jackie Humphrey – November 5

David & Amy Derrer – November 24

Dean & Cindy McCulloch – December 12

Ken & Brenda Lockman – December 30





Update on Trustee projects.....The Native Garden has been cleaned up and put to bed for the winter. It will need to be weeded in the spring, but for now it's good. There will be some leaves to take care of in the church yard once they are all on the ground. For now, the few on the ground can just be mowed and mulched.

The leak in bathroom that damaged the ceiling in the storeroom was fixed and the ceiling had to be taken down to allow for the joists to dry. It was a big mess! With the help of Troy and crew, the ceiling has been replaced with a drop ceiling instead of drywall. If the toilet ever leaks again, we'll just need to replace a tile and not the whole ceiling. Troy also replaced the old fluorescent lights with LED can lights.

Troy and crew also replaced three original toilets, the 2 in the basement and the 1 in the classroom area right above. This was also a bigger job than we thought. The upstairs toilet had also been leaking. The new toilets are much more efficient. We should see a decrease in our water usage.

A new garage door has been installed at the parsonage. We also replaced the automatic garage door opener. Hopefully this is the last large project at the parsonage for a while.

Tressie Peterson's home is an ongoing project. We did take advantage of the village trash pick-up and got rid of some larger items that were either broken or just undesirable. If you noticed the microwave oven in the welcome center, that was from Tressie's home. It's already come in handy for warming things for Snack and Chat after church.

There is a snow shoveling sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Submitted by Laurie Allison- Trustee Chair



Margaret Chapman – November 1
Bridged Mochama – November 1
Ronald Oyer – November 1
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

The Worship Committee met in August and announced their members as follows: Pastor Douglas, Jackie Bates, Chair and Sanctuary Decorations, Ellen Whitehead (Worship Leader), Nancy Wheeler and Carolyn Grody, (Music); Rhonda Allen (Audio Visual).



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

