



## 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.

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/pastor 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, 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 10**  
**Mancelona High School**  
**Dinner begins at 5:30 pm**  
**Auction: 6:30 pm**

Does spaghetti dinner sound good? Mark your calendar for Friday, April 10th 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](mailto:loriderror@gmail.com)

Put April 10th 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 your 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



SPRING

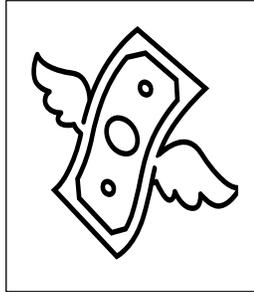


## MANCELONA

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

#### EMPTY THE TREASURY!

For most of us, we don't really like to empty our bank accounts, but our United Women in Faith group enjoys "Emptying the Treasury" every year (except for a smaller amount as needs/programs arise) in order to support missions here at home and around the world!



At our February 11, 2026, meeting we decided to contribute a total of \$4,000 to the following organizations:

1. International Giving – \$700
  - a. Kenya Mission, Masango - \$350
  - b. Kenya Church for Local Needy Families - \$350
2. National/State Giving - \$600
  - a. Henderson House - \$300
  - b. United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids - \$300
3. Local Giving - \$2,200
  - a. Baby Pantry - \$300
  - b. Community In Schools (CIS) for College Admission Fees - \$300
  - c. Community Meal - \$500
  - d. Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop - \$300
  - e. MEF Auction - \$100
  - f. Iron Vault - \$500
  - g. Crossroads Farm - \$200
4. Northern Skies District UWF Contribution - \$500

Thank you to all who supported our many fundraisers to make our gift-giving happen!

### OUR UPCOMING PLANS

At our recent meeting, we also reviewed our fundraising activities for 2025 to see whether we want to continue with them for 2026. We agreed to participate again in the Community Craft Show at Mancelona Elementary School, our Harvest Supper, and in the Bake Sale at Family Fare. Thank you to all who supported these activities and to our group members who organized these fundraisers as well as those who worked hard to make them happen!

We typically meet every month on the second Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2026, (1:00 pm) in the Fellowship Hall at church. Ellen Whitehead will be leading a program on prayer. If you have ideas for programs for future meetings, we would be happy to hear them! We don't always just have meetings at our church. Last year, we visited the Mancelona Labyrinth of Hope, enjoyed a tour of Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church, listened to Pami Sprague talk about how her faith in Judaism and our faith in Christianity have more in common than you think (at Laurie Allison's comfy home), and visited Patti Dykhouse at Eden Center. So, if you have suggestions or ideas for topics or places to visit, let one of our members know. We love exploring new ideas and places!

Submitted by Ellen Whitehead, UWF Secretary





## **Community Meal Update**

No surprise to anyone that our Community Meal attendance was down in January and February! As we follow Mancelona Public Schools closing due to weather, we shut down two Tuesdays.

Our Community Meal program applied for a \$1000 grant which we needed to use by January 31. We did it! Sandy and I were able to stock our pantry with some much-needed items that are generally not available at reduced prices through Manna. We also were able to purchase pork tenderloins, pork loin roasts, frozen meatballs, canned chicken, and a couple of boneless turkey breasts which will give our guests and cooks some variety! The meatballs and canned chicken will help when cooks ask do I defrost meat starting Sunday or wait to see what the weather will bring.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteer staff who continue to support Community Meal each Tuesday. We could not do it without you! Every Tuesday, without fail, we can depend on Jack Porter to be there washing dishes! Lou Patton is also there to assist in putting dishes away. This fall, Evalyne Magare volunteered to wash the weekly towels. Brenda Lockman does an excellent job reporting our required numbers to the Food Coalition. We are blessed! In addition, Community Meal has a very large donation that can be used to purchase items at Manna.

Let's not forget to acknowledge the cooking teams! The same teams have served for several years with little change. Many of them contribute several dollars each week to complete the menu they want to serve! Mainly, they purchase salad fixings. These items generally are available from our weekly pickup at the Mancelona Food Pantry. However, if they are not then the cooking teams will pick up salad fixings at Family Fare that day. We are trying to encourage the teams to serve canned fruit or vegetables when salad fixings are not available. We are thankful that our cooking teams value serving nutritious meals! Recently, June Corbett donated pork tenderloins which Rhonda turned into a delicious meal!

Our weekly deliveries from the Northwest Food Coalition continue to support nutritious meals. Some items coming will be apples, carrots, cabbage, potatoes, and eggs.

Remember to consider the Northwest Food Coalition Empty Bowls event on Sunday, May 3 at Howe Arena in Traverse City from 11 am to 2 pm. It includes a lunch of bread and artisan soup. Two local chefs that are James Beard finalists will be offering soup! There are farm-focused activities for kids! You will receive an artisan bowl to take home. There will be live music. Watch for details on donating items for their craft table/baskets. The event is described in the flyer in this newsletter. Discounted tickets can be purchased in advance online. Go to [northwestmifoodcoalition.org](http://northwestmifoodcoalition.org). Donations can be made there also as well as volunteering to help with the event.

At the end of January, we had served a total of 73 customers, no seconds and 50 takeouts for a total of 123 meals. One night we had 9 people. One night we were closed because schools were closed. One night we had 22 people. Clear results of the weather. February had a closed Tuesday. February, totals are: 105 served and 79 take outs.

**14 th Anniversary for Community Meal!**

**March 27, 2012 to March 27, 2026**

***Spring Break***

***No Community Meal on Tuesday, March 31***

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

# The Northwest Food Coalition - Empty Bowls



presents:



**Where Farmers & Families Grow Together!**  
Come Explore, Taste and Celebrate the Local  
Farms that grow healthy food for our neighbors in need!

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**  
**Howe Arena, Traverse City**  
**11am to 2pm**



**Bring  
the Kids!**

Kids 15 and under are free  
with a paid adult

Tickets Available  
at both Oryana Community Co-op  
locations or  
[northwestmifoodcoalition.org](http://northwestmifoodcoalition.org)

**Artisan Bowl to Take Home**  
**Fun Farm Themed Kid Activities**  
**Live Music & Bowl Making Demonstrations**  
**Harvest Heroes Market**

**Chef made Soup & Artisan Bread from Area Establishments**

Funds generated contribute to the Northwest Food Coalition's Farm2Neighbor program,  
providing fresh produce and protein from local farms to over 75 food & baby pantries,  
and meal sites in our 6 county area.



Learn more & purchase advance tickets  
at [northwestmifoodcoalition.org](http://northwestmifoodcoalition.org)





# EASTER EGG HUNT

**Age Groups: 5 & Under, 6 to 9, 10 to 12**

**Saturday  
March 28  
12:00 (noon)**

**Mancelona United  
Methodist Church  
117 West Hinman Street**

**Please Bring Your Own Basket**

It seems like winter just started and now we are looking forward to Spring.

No one has signed up for snow shoveling for March, maybe we won't get any more snow. If a couple of people would sign up for just 1 week, we would make it through the season. Next up will be yard clean-up and lawnmowing schedule.

We will begin work on Tressie Peterson's house as soon as the snow enables us to get into her house and garage. I will probably set up some work bees and will ask for help. There is A LOT that needs to be cleaned out and sorted through, looking for Elihu's (Tressie's brother) WWII medals. Tressie wanted them donated to the Historical Society Museum. We will also combine our annual church yard sale with Tressie's estate sale. It will be a busy summer. Once all this is done, her house will be for sale. There are several individuals interested.

Tressie had no family and the gift of her house to our church is much appreciated.

Submitted by Laurie Allison – Trustee Chair



### March

1<sup>st</sup> – Tommy Thompson  
10<sup>th</sup> – Kris Moeke  
11<sup>th</sup> – Drew Moeke  
11<sup>th</sup> – Nicole Derror  
12<sup>th</sup> – Jack Meeder  
21<sup>st</sup> – Gerry Deater  
22<sup>nd</sup> – David Derrer  
26<sup>th</sup> – Lauren Kirby  
26<sup>th</sup> – Sandy Neumann  
29<sup>th</sup> – George Moeke

### April

2<sup>nd</sup> - Dean McCulloch  
18<sup>th</sup> – Jossie Castle  
25<sup>th</sup> - Sue Thomas  
30<sup>th</sup> – Ellen Whitehead



### Anniversaries

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



# 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'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](mailto:carolkingsley62@gmail.com)

March 5 – 1:00 pm, Adult Bible Study

March 8 – Potluck

March 9 – 4:00 Ad Council meeting in the Conference room

March 11 – 1:00 United Women in Faith, Fellowship Hall

March 11 – 2:00 pm, Stuff Easter Eggs

March 11 – 2:30 pm, Women's Bible Study

March 19 – 1:00 pm, Adult Bible Study

March 22 – Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center.

March 28 – 12 noon, Easter Egg Hunt

March 29 - Palm Sunday

April 2 – 1:00 pm, Adult Bible Study

April 3 - Good Friday

April 5 – Easter - Cinnamon rolls in the Welcome Center BEFORE church.

April 8 -1:00 United Women in Faith

April 8 – 2:30 pm, Women's Bible Study

April 10 – 5:30 MEF Spaghetti Dinner and Auction.

April 12– Potluck in Fellowship Hall

April 16 - 1:00 pm, Adult Bible Study

April 26 – Snacks and Chat in the Welcome Center.

MUMC May/June Newsletter deadline will be April 30, 2026.



## Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

2:30 p.m. Conference Room

March 11 - Chapter 9 "Martha's Teachable Heart"

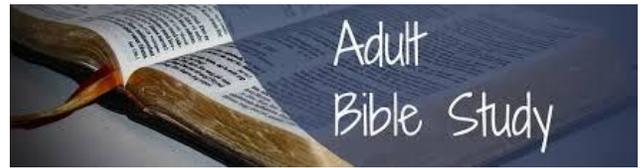
April 8 - Chapter 10 "Mary's Extravagant Love"

May 13 - Chapters 11 & 12 (to finish)

"Balancing Work & Worship" and

"Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World"

THOUGHT TO SHARE: The women of the study group would like to share this final lesson from the story of Lazarus, which still echoes today: "The end is never the end; it is only the beginning." p. 132



## ADULT BIBLE STUDIES (Conference Room.)

Amos--the Old Testament = 1st Sunday following Worship: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

MARCH 1--Chapter 4 (Sun)

March 5 -- Chapter 4 (Thurs)

March 19--Chapter 5 (Thurs)

No Bible Study on Easter (Sun)

April 2 --Chapter 6 (Thurs)

April 16--Chapter 7 (Thurs)

Note: should complete our study

during May (chapters 8 and 9)

**Mancelona United Methodist Church**

PO Box 301

117 E. Hinman St.

Mancelona, MI 49659

Sunday Service @ 11:00 am

Ad Council Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – March 29**

**Good Friday – April 3**

**Easter Sunday – April 5**

**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

