March 1
1st Sunday of Lent
COMMUNION
“Would Be Disciples”

March 8
2nd Sunday of Lent
YOUTH SUNDAY
“You Be You”
Lauren Rice

March 15
3rd Sunday of Lent
“He Was Terribly Misunderstood”
John 4:5-42

March 22
4th Sunday of Lent
“Come Into the Light and See”
Ephesians 5:8-14

March 29
5th Sunday of Lent
ONE SERVICE @ 10
“Stress Fractures of the Spirit”
Luke 24:13-21

This and That from Dr. J.

A Pastoral Letter
Lent/Easter
2020

Dear beloved:

In a world riddled with violence, paralyzed by self-interest, and numbed by despair---where do we turn for comfort, for direction, for hope? The Jesus we celebrate in the season of Lent is our companion as we move in an environment of a violent world.

In recalling the biblical story, storm troopers seized Jesus outside the Garden of Gethsemane. They interrogated him, beat him with a leather strap studded with fragments of glass, and spit on him. In mock homage, they draped him in a purple robe, pushed a crown of thorns deep into his forehead, and pushed him out before the crowd who cried for his blood, and then they nailed him to a cross where he hung, suffering until he died.

Three years of ministry healing, teaching, and empowering, and reconciling people….three years of preaching the good news of God’s love and peace, had come to this. This man, Jesus, drew the crowds and performed miracles….Jesus whom thousands of people had wanted to proclaim King, was not perceived as failure. The despair was fathomless. The world on Good Friday was bleak beyond imagination.

But the final word was with God. They had seized Jesus, they had crucified him, but they could not hold him down. In the rumbling of the earth, God moved with the power of love without limits --- a love so strong and mighty that all human experience was transfigured….so powerful that life overcame death. On Sunday morning the tomb was empty. What the world had judged as a failure became a victory that changed the world forever, and if we believe in resurrection faith, our lives can and will be changed as well. GBUMC WILL BE CHANGED TOO!

The resurrection was God’s validation of life the life of Christ---forgiveness triumphs over hatred…compassion over self-centeredness, and confident love over brutality and violence. As we prepare to take the Lenten journey, may each of us come to live in the power of Christ’s resurrection. May we come to believe that we are empowered to love…to heal…to put an end to violence of the body, mind and spirit…..to be willing and able to keep justice alive for the oppressed, marginalized and forgotten. I invite each of you to take the victory of Easter into your soul and let it strengthen you to live with the power of Easter.

To God be the glory,
Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

~ Roger Hall, who passed away on January 24.

~ Sam Richmond, Rev. Dr. Tara Sutton’s father.

~ Don Floyd, who passed away on February 2.

~ Jim Venos, son of Pete Venos, who passed away on February 4.

~ Jo Kingston, who passed away on February 15. Jo’s memorial service will be here at GBUMC on Wednesday, March 18 at 11:00am.

~ Ethel Cooley, mother of Janet Brabyn, who passed away on February 16.

~ Bob Tresseder, dear friend of Dale Wolfgram, who passed away on February 19.

The CARE Team is starting up a caring card ministry to reach out to members of our congregation who, for one reason or another, are not able to attend church on a regular basis. Receiving a card and note helps people feel loved and special. We are hoping that members of the congregation will join us in this new initiative.

The cards are located on the bulletin board by the prayer room. They are arranged by category; thinking of you, get well, happy birthday, etc. All you need to do is select a card, an address label, and your own stamp. Add a short note to the person and send it off.

GBUMC is a loving congregation and this is another way of showing our love to members we don't see as often as we would like.

We invite you to join us in this vital ministry, reaching out beyond the walls of our church.

With thanks, the CARE TEAM
March
Middle School Youth Group

Fasting, Service, & Youth Sunday!

**Friday 3/6 6:00 p.m. at home**
Begin fasting at home. You don’t have to fast from food, but try to find something that will challenge you – no phone, no video games, no TV, no candy, etc.

**Saturday 3/7 3:00-7:00 p.m.**
Meet at church for service projects, fun times, and to plan Sunday Service. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday 3/8 9:00 & 11:00 Services**
Lead both Services – that you have planned and prepared! – in music, prayer, and message.

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**GET YOUR GREEN ON!**

**It’s the Luck of the Youth Group!**
Sunday 3/22 Breakfast Fundraiser 9:00-1:00
With Senior High Youth Group, we will cook and serve delicious breakfast dishes for the congregation.

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Matt Anderson
Jennifer Lengyel
**Sr. High Youth**  
**March 2020**

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**Fasting and Youth Sunday!**
For 24 hours, from 6:00pm Friday, March 6 through 6:00pm, Saturday, March 7 we will be fasting. You can fast from food, electronics, social media, video games, whatever you choose, just make it a 24 hour sacrifice. Begin your “fast” at home on Friday at 6:00pm. We will meet at the church on Saturday, March 7 at noon. During this time, we will prepare the pasta for our community dinner, plan our Sunday worship services and we will also discuss why we fast. We can also spend some time doing fun stuff, like watching movies, etc.

**YOUTH SUNDAY** is March 8. Please plan to attend both the 9am and 11am worship services.

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**Saturday, March 21**
**Senior High Youth host a community dinner!!**

5:00 pm

Please join us and help with this community outreach! We will be providing a free pasta dinner to anyone who walks through our doors! Please plan to help set-up starting at 3:00pm. We will serve until 6:30pm and then we will need to clean-up.

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**Looking Ahead:**

**April**
8 Culver’s Fundraiser for Sr. High Youth
11 Serving at the South Flint Soup Kitchen
26 Ice Cream Social (Joint Fundraiser with Jr. High)

**May**
2 Help clean up after the Rummage Sale!
3 11:00am ASP Training II
17 Mystery Trip?????? You don’t want to miss it!

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Senior High Youth Group Leaders:
Cathy Mitchinson & Dan Carvill

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**Sunday, March 22, the Junior High Youth Group will be serving breakfast during coffee hour and they will be accepting donations for a mission organization. Please help if you can! Any time between 8:30am and 1:00pm.**

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**May 3 @ 11am Training II**
June 14 @ 10am Commissioning Service
June 14 TBD Construction Training
June 27 @ 6pm load up the vans!
June 28 TBD Depart for West Virginia!
Can United Methodists be both obedient to God’s Word and fully welcoming to LGBTQ persons in the church?

Faithful and Inclusive is a six-session DVD-based study designed to help participants develop their own perspective on the Bible’s passages related to homosexuality.

Presenter Rev. Rob Faquay, pastor of one of the largest United Methodist congregations in the country, creates a safe space to navigate through this thorny issue, relying on the biblical-interpretation approach of Methodism’s founder, John Wesley. Each video session also features the faith journeys of members of the LGBTQ community and their families.

The six 50-minute video/discussion sessions cover these subjects:

- How United Methodists Interpret Scripture
- Old Testament Passages
- The Influence of Culture on How We Read the Bible
- New Testament Passages
- The Jesus Ethic: What Did Christ Say?
- Where Does the United Methodist Church Go From Here?

Tuesday Evenings
Beginning March 3rd
Facilitated by Rev. Del Pino
March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
And April 14
At
6:30 pm

“My hope is that this study can leave United Methodists with the understanding that they can affirm their commitment to the authority of Scripture and seek full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the church.”

- Rob Fuquay
**Just Finish It!**

Do you have unfinished craft projects tucked away? Now is the time to pull it out and **Just Finish It!** We have two monthly gatherings scheduled for your motivation! Come for any or all of the scheduled time.

The first Monday of each month, beginning Monday, March 2 we will meet during the hours of 9:00am to 1:00pm.

The third Thursday of each month, beginning Thursday, March 19, we will meet during the hours of 4:00pm to 8:00pm.

Come every month, come for the full four hours or just come whenever you can! Bring your knitting, embroidery, scrapbooking, quilting, card making, jewelry making, paper crafting, painting, crocheting or whatever craft you do!!! We will motivate each other to get our projects done! Invite your friends!

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**NEW KITCHEN POLICIES!**

Per the health department

- Hats, hairnets and/or beard covers must be worn while in the kitchen working with food!

**FOOD POLICIES:**

- Please, Do NOT put expired, dated food in the refrigerator.
- Food in the refrigerator must be in containers with lids or sealed bags.
- All food in the refrigerator must have:
  1. Name of the Food
  2. Date that the food was put in the refrigerator.
- Food can be in the refrigerator for no more than 7 days. (After 7 days, food will be disposed).
- Food for an event must have:
  1. Event Name
  2. Event Date

Thank you for your cooperation.

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**Wednesday Food & Fellowship!**

**March 4** Stuffed Pork Chops, Mashed potatoes, green beans, salad rolls, assorted pies

**March 18** Broccoli cheese and Potato Soups, Salad, rolls, sheetcake

$5.00 per person or $20.00 per family of 4 or more.

Please sign up on the kiosk or at gbumcff@gmail.com

Please sign up for clean-up for one or two of the weeks throughout the year.

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**The Rummage Sale is coming!**

Start cleaning out your closets, drawers and garages! Bring your items to the church Monday, April 27—Wednesday, April 29.

Sale Days:
Thursday, April 30—Saturday, May 2

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**SPECIAL REQUEST:** On Sunday mornings, please enter the sanctuary quietly. We know how nice it is to see everyone that you haven’t seen since the previous week, but we are all preparing to worship and celebrate God. The musicians have practiced their music pieces for God’s glory. Welcome and greet each other, but please do it quietly and respectfully. Thank you!
DONATIONS ACCEPTED!
Genesee Free Clinic in Flint accepts old medicine. They are also looking for winter clothing for men and women. GFC does not receive any funding from Genesee County nor the federal government. They help others through donations. If you have any medicine that you no longer need or clothing, please contact Donna Hedding.

On-line Giving Instructions
1) Step #1 go to the Church Website at https://www.grandblancumc.org/
2) Step #2 click on the “Giving” tab at the top of the page
3) Step #3 click "Give Now" green square
4) Step #4 on the right hand side, click "Create Profile" button
5) Step #5 Follow instructions to set up your online profile.
6) We utilize Vanco Payment Solutions for our safe, secure, online giving.
   • Credit/debit cards
   • Checking or saving accounts
   • Recurring options

Accountable Leadership
This is the meeting that was supposed to take place in the fall, but due to weather, was rescheduled for January and then had to be rescheduled again, due to weather!!!

A seminar detailing a new format of organization in a local church is being presented on

Saturday, March 21st.

Gary Step from our Michigan Conference office will lead our presentation. This is an important meeting to help structure our church’s administration and focus on discipleship. All are invited to attend. Please join us from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on March 21st.

Maundy Thursday, April 9.
There will be a potluck dinner and Tenebrae Service. Please sign-up for the potluck on the kiosk and if you are interested in reading scripture during the worship service, please sign-up on the kiosk for that, as well!

Prayer Group
Tuesdays at 10:00am
All are welcome

It’s time to think about Summer Camp!
There are camps available for all ages!
Check out the opportunities at www.umcamping.org
You can save $21.00 if you register by April 15, 2020.
We have a campership fund! Please check with the office for information on camp scholarships!

Congratulations to Gail Lutton, who scored the most points at our Euchre Night on February 22!! This was the first time that Gail had ever played Euchre! So glad you decided to join us Gail & Mike!
Lent and “In lieu of Lilies” Donations

Easter Sunday is April 12, 2020. This year we will be supporting our Missionary Paul Webster with the Lent mission offering (the yellow envelope in your giving box). In 2019 due to budget constraints Paul Webster’s support ($2400.00) came directly out of your third Sunday mission giving. Because of this we were less able to contribute to other organizations who needed our help. Paul Webster served as an agricultural specialist at Mujila Falls Centre in Zambia since 2000 but currently is a Mission Advocate for agricultural missionaries deployed by the General Board of Global Ministries. He is scheduled for retirement in June of this year. Please remember that all Lent mission offerings will go to Paul's support.

The “In lieu of Lilies” collection will go to God’s Country Cooperative Parish which is comprised of seven churches spread over 250 square miles in the eastern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. These churches combine their resources, share their faith, and actively work to bring self-esteem, hope, and the love of God to all throughout the area. They host mission teams in the summer and do home repairs and improvements to the communities and coordinate food and clothing distribution.

Please fill out the “In lieu of Lilies” sheet which you will get with your program or can pick up in the office and attach your check or cash. You can also order lilies to help beautify the sanctuary with this form. Your Lent envelope may be placed in the offering plate any time during Lent but the “In lieu of Lilies” form and donation must be turned in to the office by April 5.

Thank you for your generosity!

Easter Flowers

Orders for Easter Lily’s and Hyacinth’s will be accepted until March 16th.
Both flowers will be $9.00 each.
Order forms will be available in your worship program each of the first 3 Sundays in March.

IMPORTANT!
All Christian Formation Groups (e.g. Sunday School classes, small group studies, J.A.M., youth group, etc.) need to be taking attendance and reporting it to the office. This information is required for our end of year reports that are submitted to the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. Also, for those that lead mission/community ministries, we need to submit the number of people serving and the number of people served. Your help with keeping track of this information is greatly appreciated.

Prayer Shawl

Every Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:30am and every Wednesday Food & Fellowship Night from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.
All are welcome! Knit or crochet a comforting prayer shawl to share with those who are dealing with difficult times or need a little extra support.
Seasoned Citizens

Thursday, March 12

Guest Speaker:
Clarence Garner, Superintendent
Grand Blanc Community Schools

Noon: Coffee & Conversation
12:25pm Devotion and prayer
12:30pm Potluck Lunch

Due to a scheduling conflict, Susannah Wesley Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 25, instead of March 18. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Get ready for March Madness and the Big 10 tournament and stop by Culver's on Holly Road near I-75 to grab dinner before the games!

Culver’s will donate a percentage of sales on March 12 from 5-8 pm to the South Flint Soup Kitchen. United Methodist friends from Grand Blanc and Clarkston will run your food to your car.

UMCOR Sunday is March 22nd

On Sunday, March 22nd there will be a special offering for UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) which is observed the fourth Sunday in Lent. Your gift allows UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in this special offering. Your gift to UMCOR Sunday pays the administrative costs so when you donate to UMCOR for disaster relief such as hurricanes, tornados, fires, etc., ALL the funds donated can go directly to the relief effort 100%. Together, we reach children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster. Thank you!
February 24, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Grand Blanc United Methodist Church:

As Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, I wish to announce to you the appointment of Rev. Brian West, our new pastor effective July 1, 2020. Pastor Brian and his spouse, Dr. Stephanie West, were introduced to our Staff Parish Relations Committee by our District Superintendent, Rev. John Hice, on behalf of Bishop David Bard, who set this new appointment. We are excited about the spirit, gifts, and abilities that Pastor Brian will be bringing to our congregation.

Pastor Brian West and his wife, Stephanie have been married since 2013 and have two children, twin sons Matthew and Micah. They are both four years old and are loving life in this big world! They are also excited to announce that they are expecting their 3rd child in August 2020! Pastor Brian received his undergraduate in 2009 from Mount Union College (later named University of Mount Union) in Alliance, Ohio, and then attended seminary at Methodist Theological School in Ohio (Delaware, OH) where he graduated in 2012 with a Master of Divinity. Pastor Brian began his first appointment in the Michigan area as the lead pastor at Laingsburg United Methodist Church in Laingsburg, MI where he served for 8 years.

Pastor Brian has a passion for meaningful and vital worship, passionate preaching, creative and engaging teaching, and engaging in a ministry of presence in the communities he serves. He believes it is important to see the church building and property as just one tool for vital ministry, while also remaining open to the idea that ministry can also be done over breakfast at a diner, in the aisles of the grocery store, in a park, at a high school sporting event, etc. He also enjoys finding and employing creative means of sharing the ministry of the church, such as social media presence, “office hours” in the community, etc.

Pastor Brian also has a passion for leading the church in serving and being in ministry with those at the margins of our communities and society. “The gospel of Jesus Christ calls, again and again, into faithful and meaningful ministry with those who have been forgotten – ‘the least of these’. When we nurture our own discipleship while also attending to the well-being, justice and faith journey of others, we grow closer to the God we serve, while also ‘entertaining angels unaware’.

We will be planning a warm welcome for Rev. West after his arrival in July, when we will begin our shared ministry under his leadership. In the meantime, of course, we will also be celebrating the ministry of Dr. Del Pino, to thank him for his years of faithful service as we pray God’s blessing upon his future.

We are so pleased to make this announcement to you and know that you will enjoy meeting Pastor Brian and Stephanie. Please hold them and their family in prayer during these months of transition. Pray, too, for the whole Cabinet, including Bishop David Bard, as they continue to meet, pray, and discern God’s will in the appointment-making process.

Trusting God’s amazing grace, Christ’s faithful love, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as we move into the future.

Serving Christ with you,

Alex Trinidad
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair
Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MARCH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

FELLOWSHIP TIME (COFFEE HOUR)
- 3/01 Worship & Arts
- 3/08 Endowment
- 3/15 The Luttons
- 3/22 Youth
- 3/29 Finance (one service)

USHERS SCHEDULE

1ST WEEK
- RaeDeane Middleton
- Randy Middleton
- Gretchen Jablonski
- Tony Jablonski

2ND WEEK
- Jim Wise
- Matt Anderson
- Marcia Johnson
- Dennis Brudnak

3RD WEEK
- Dianne Scrimger
- Jim Scrimger

4TH WEEK
- Debi Skinner
- Frank Skinner
- Barb Mills
- Bob Mills

5TH WEEK
- Sallie’s Choice

COUNTERS

- 3/01 Jim Scrimger, Nick Federici
- 3/08 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore, Jim Bunker
- 3/15 Jessica Smith, Dave Russell, Angela Cherniawski
- 3/22 Carol Cerny, Shelly Rice, Bernie Waisanen
- 3/29 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise

Sunday, March 8, 2020
11:00 a.m. Acolytes
- 3/01 Charlotte Roth
- 3/08 Leonard Herron
- 3/15 Levi Skinner
- 3/22 Adriana Lock
- 3/29 Sam Coronado @ 10am

Sunday, March 8, 2020
@ 10am

Sunday, March 29, 2020
@ 10am

One Worship Service

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Building and Roof Mortgage Summary

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 01-31-20)
- Mortgage Balance with UMF = $189,442.06
- Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 01-31-20) = $16,229.31
- Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 01-31-20) = $16,013.25

If you have any questions, please contact
Kevin Cook, Finance Chairperson, finance@grandblancumc.org
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<td>2</td>
<td>9:15a Walk &amp; Talk 3</td>
<td>1:00p Prayer Group</td>
<td>5:30p Staff Meeting</td>
<td>7:00p Al Anon</td>
<td>9:30a O.A.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9:15a Walk &amp; Talk 5</td>
<td>1:00p Prayer Group</td>
<td>5:30p Staff Meeting</td>
<td>7:00p Al Anon</td>
<td>9:30a O.A.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9:15a Walk &amp; Talk 6</td>
<td>1:00p Prayer Group</td>
<td>5:30p Staff Meeting</td>
<td>7:00p Al Anon</td>
<td>9:30a O.A.</td>
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**March 2020**

- 9:00a Gathering/Spirit.
- 10:00a SunSch/Activities.
- 11:30a Traditonal Srv.
- Noon Confirmation.
- Noon Covenant.
- 12:30p Disciple Study.
- 1:00p Prayer Group.
- 6:30p Faithful & Inclusive.
- 7:00p AA Meeting.

**2020-2021**

- 9:00a Gathering/Spirit.
- 10:00a SunSch/Activities.
- 11:30a Traditonal Srv.
- Noon Confirmation.
- Noon Covenant.
- 12:30p Disciple Study.
- 1:00p Prayer Group.
- 6:30p Faithful & Inclusive.
- 7:00p AA Meeting.
Shape Your Future. Start Here.

What is the 2020 Census?
Every 10 years, as required by the Constitution, the federal government counts everyone who lives in the United States. This count includes the collection of basic information, such as age, sex, and race, about every person living in each household.

When will the 2020 Census start?
The U.S. Census Bureau will begin sending 2020 Census packets to households in March 2020.

The value of the census
Our responses to the 2020 Census are vital for shaping the future for ourselves, our families, and our communities, including the people our faith tells us we should help the most. Data collected in the census are used to:
- Provide a picture of our nation that is used to help determine where to build new schools, hospitals, and businesses.
- Inform the allocation of more than $675 billion in federal funding to states and communities each year for programs that support education, housing, health care, transportation, food needs, and more.
- Monitor, enforce, and evaluate civil rights laws, regulations, and policies designed to prevent discrimination and ensure voting rights.

How can I respond to the census?
In 2020, for the first time ever, the Census Bureau will accept responses online and by phone, but you can still respond by mail if you prefer. You can respond as soon as you receive your 2020 Census packet. Be sure to count everyone who is living in your household.

Can the information I provide for the census be used against me?
No, it cannot. The Census Bureau is very strict about protecting the privacy and confidentiality of every individual and household. This protection is required by law, with severe consequences for violations. The Census Bureau is not allowed to share information about individuals or specific households, and your information cannot be used against you by any government agency or court—not by the police department, DHS, ICE, FBI, or CIA.

Recruiting Temporary Workers for the 2020 Census
The recruiting of hundreds of thousands of temporary workers for the 2020 Census is now underway. The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting 2.7 million people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. Learn more about the jobs so you can earn some extra income while helping your community.

Easy to Apply
Applying for one of these jobs is simple. Just visit 2020census/jobs or call 855-JOB-2020 and select option 3 for more information. Pay rates for field and clerical jobs can be found at 2020census.gov/jobs/pay-and-locations.

What’s next?
In the coming weeks and months, you’ll hear more from us about the 2020 Census, including information about its value and its confidentiality protections and how the count will be conducted. Together we can stand up and be counted.
You can learn more about the 2020 Census at 2020census.gov.

Sharon Courneya,
City Census Representative
Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
515 Bush Avenue
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Church Office  810-694-9040   fax  810-694-1916
www.grandblancumc.org

Julius E. Del Pino, Ph.D., Pastor
Cathy Mitchinson, Office Administrator
Angela Campbell, Office Assistant
Dr. Lee Pelton, Organist/Choir Director
Gary Brandt, 9:00 Music Director/Director of Common Grace
Nancy Petrie, Bell Choir Director
Adrienne Jablonski, Nursery Supervisor
Allison Jablonski, Nursery Assistant

Office open Mon.—Fri., 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Welcome