



# *The Grand Blanc UMC* "Connection" *October, 2020*

Worship Services will be held in the parking lot (weather permitting) and are always available on Facebook and YouTube.



## Deep in My Heart Sermon Series:

October 4

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost

World Communion  
Sunday

*"Hurt and Forgiveness"*

Genesis 37:5-20

October 11

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost

*"Fear and Hope"*

Matthew 14:22-33

October 18

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost

*"Desire and Joy"*

Matthew 7:7-12

October 25

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost

*"Concern and  
Compassion"*

Philippians 2:1-13



## Exercising Love: For

For this Month's *Connection* newsletter article, I wanted to continue my article series, exploring deeper Grand Blanc UMC's Mission and Vision Statement: **"Friends in Christ Exercising love, hope and grace to enrich all lives."** If you had the chance to read the September article, you'll remember that I commented on a caution regarding mission and vision statements. Unless we, as a church, fully embrace what the statement truly means, and pursue its fulfillment with *all* that we do, it will always just remain 12 words on paper. But, the reality is, these are 12 powerful words that we ought to spend time exploring.

In my September *Connection* article, I shared some thoughts about what it truly means to be "Friends in Christ." For this month's article, I want to explore the next two words: "Exercising love." To do that, we're all going to have to think about something that is most unpleasant for many of us, including your pastor (*sigh*): exercise! It's a great word choice, even if it makes my muscles and skeleton hurt just thinking about it. But, all kidding aside, our mission and vision statement obviously is not talking about physical exercise, like running on a treadmill. It's talking about the work of doing something; in this case, *loving*.

That being said, I'm not entirely sure we should throw the physical exercise baby out with the proverbial bath water. We might be able to learn more about what exercising love is all about by exploring the kind of exercise that causes my shin splints to flare up! Physical exercise is not just about burning calories, though it is a nice byproduct. It's also about conditioning the body, taking our muscular/skeletal system, one step at a time, from it's current condition to what it can (and probably should) be.

During my parental leave, time of grace, since Jane was born, I have been taking her for a walk each day in her stroller. I do it to try to give Stephanie some peace and quiet, but also so that I can get out for a walk and take advantage of this beautiful weather we're having. Jane also falls asleep, which is an added bonus! The first walk that she and I took was the epitome of father-daughter bonding time. Physically, though, it destroyed me! My body was not ready for that kind of exercise! I hadn't walked that kind of distance since before the pandemic began, and my body did not let me forget it! But Jane likes her walks, and I love her napping even more, so the next day we set out again. At first, my body was still sore, but ever so gradually, it began to feel a bit better. The third day, it was like I was walking on sunshine! Fast forward to now, my body doesn't much mind the walks. In fact, I'm even able to go a bit further in the same amount of time.

You see, my exercise has become practice for my body. With each moment of intentional exercise I put my body through, my muscular-skeletal system gets stronger, more attuned to the rigor of pushing a stroller, and something wonderful starts to happen: my exercise becomes more fruitful!

So, what might it mean to be a church that exercises love? Well, just acknowledging that we need to *exercise* our love ought to tell us something: we're not the best at doing it! (Did you audibly gasp? If not go ahead and gasp dramatically). Please understand that this is not an insult or a slight at this church. In fact, I have to own it, too. When I joined you as your pastor back in July, your ranks of imperfect love grew by the size of a 6'8", 33 year old United Methodist pastor. Love is something we could all stand to exercise.

Continued on next page...



### **FOR THE HOMEBOUND:**

Marge  
James  
Woody

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

Donna  
Cheryl  
Val  
Eleanor  
Dick  
Phil  
Karen  
Mary  
Paul  
Amanda  
Eileen  
Robert  
Norma  
Mary

### **FOR OTHERS:**

Chris  
Michael  
Randy  
Robin  
Tony  
The Determan Family  
Bill  
Ginger  
Cal  
Jim  
Robert  
Irene  
Cathy  
Fran  
Pat  
Evelyn  
Gloria  
Ed  
Marty  
Sunny

We send out prayers to everyone dealing with the wildfires out West and the hurricanes in the Gulf.

### **Exercising Love (Continued)...**

I think Paul understood that when he wrote his letter to the church in Corinth: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres"* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 CEB). Paul knew that the church in Corinth needed an exercise regimen in order to establish a more perfect love. So do we! So do all Christians!

This morning, a good friend of mine posted a comic on his Facebook page that I thought addressed this well. In it, Jesus is addressing the crowds from atop a mount (sound familiar). The conversation goes like this:

Jesus: "Be kind to everyone"  
Crowd: "Wait, even Gary? Yeah, Gary's the worst."  
Jesus: "Look, we've been through this. Yes, be kind to Gary, as well."  
Gary: "Ha! Suck it losers!"  
Jesus: (palm to forehead) "Not now, Gary."



This is where our exercise of love meets the pavement, though, right?! As Jesus says, it's easy to love those who love you back. But how are we at loving those with whom we disagree? How are we at loving those who

care about things that are different from the things we care about? Let's go one step further, and just dip our toes into the waters of discomfort: how are we at loving those who don't love us back? Who wish us harm? Who want to get in our way? In other words, how are we at loving Gary?

My prayer for you today, this month, this year, etc. is that you would find in the passage from 1 Corinthians 13 a work-out routine of sorts for exercising you love. May we, as a church, exercise our love more fully, and may we be known as a Gary-loving Body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Brian

### **We extend our deepest sympathy:**

~to the family and friends of David Dutton.  
Dave passed away on August 30, 2020.



~to the family of Irma Elmore, who passed away on September 8, 2020 at the age of 98. Irma was Melinda Elmore-Hajek's mother.

~to the family and friends of Brigitte Skinner, who passed away on September 13, 2020. Brigitte was Frank Skinner's mother.

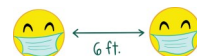
~to the family and friends of Marian Becker. Marian passed away on September 23, 2020, the day after her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Autumn Ridge of Clarkston Shirley  
Great Lakes Christian Home Helen

If you would like to receive prayer concern emails from the church, please contact the church office at [office@grandblancumc.org](mailto:office@grandblancumc.org).

# Outdoor worship services in the church parking lot!

Sundays at 11:00a.m.



THANK  
YOU

FOR PRACTICING PHYSICAL  
DISTANCING!

## *What's happening in October?*

Outdoor worship in the parking lot this fall has been great! We plan to continue worshipping in the parking lot for the foreseeable future. We have room for folding chairs and if the weather is too brisk, you are welcome to enjoy worship from your car. Park around outer edges or back of the parking lot.

In October Pastor Brian's sermon series will be Deep in my Heart.

Our theme will be Tailgating, come early, stay late, bring out your blanket and snacks!  
Have some fun!

Harvest will be our November theme! As we begin our stewardship campaign, we will be focused on gratitude and generosity as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Come and join us, in person or via Facebook or YouTube.

## CROP Walk

**October 4, 2020** will be held virtually

If you are interested in walking or making a donation, please contact Donna Hedding you may also mail a check to the church and it will be given to a walker. Please make checks out to CWS/CROP Walk

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk events held in cities and towns across the United States raising funds to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Twenty five percent of the funds raised are returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.



## FALL FOOD DRIVE

Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to hand out paper grocery bags, this year, but we will still be collecting food. All donations will be going to the Neighborhood House in Flint. They have been struggling to provide assistance because they have not been receiving many donations.

Please drop off your donations of non-perishable food items, paper products and health and cleaning products on Wednesday, November 18 and/or Thursday, November 19.

The church will be open from 2 to 6pm both days.



You are welcome to donate to FISH anytime, just contact the office for times to drop off items.



Senior High Youth will be serving at the South Flint Soup Kitchen (3410 Fenton Road, in the former Lincoln Park UMC) on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Please arrive at 9:30am. Remember to wear your mask and a hat!

Jennifer Lengyel

Brian Rice



# October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Let's show Pastor Brian how much we care and appreciate him!!!

October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month with the second Sunday designated as Pastor Appreciation Day. It is a time to say "thank you" to the people who may be most visible as preachers and teachers, but who, in reality, are on-call 24/7 standing with congregants and others to offer spiritual and other support in times of confusion and transition, times of heart-wrenching sorrow and times of overwhelming joy. They laugh, cry and pray with those whom they shepherd and serve. Here are some ways to extend appreciation to pastors or other clergy. And remember, these suggestions are also good for birthdays and other times when the congregation or individuals want to say "thank you."

1. Send a handwritten note or greeting card with a message of gratitude.
2. Have children draw pictures or create other artwork for a clergy member.
3. Pray for your pastors (see below).
4. Give a "thank you basket" filled with his or her favorites.
5. Provide a meal via a gift card to a favorite restaurant or a home-cooked or take-out meal.

Excerpts from 16 ways to thank your Pastor, by Kathy Noble resourceUMC.org



## **Ways to pray for your pastor:**

Pastoring a church is not a job that can be done well under the pastor's power alone. Every pastor relies heavily on God's guidance, strength and peace as they live into their call. One of the best ways we can support our pastor and show them our appreciation is to regularly pray for them.

1. Our pastor's spiritual lives are important to their finding the wisdom, strength and guidance necessary to lead a church. Pray for your pastor's growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit works through them to serve your congregation and community.
2. With all of their responsibilities, United Methodist pastors need to become masters of their calendars. John Wesley knew this back in the 1700s. He instructed the preachers, "Never trifle away time." Pray for your pastors to use time wisely, including blocking out occasions for Sabbath rest, prayer, work and family.
3. Speaking of families, it is important to remember that our ministers may also be a spouse, a parent, and a child to parents who have needs. Remember to pray for your pastor's family.
4. Delivering a great sermon (and the ones that are less than great) takes hours of study and preparation. Pray for your pastors as they prepare worship services, sacraments and sermons. May they have the words to communicate what God has placed on their hearts.
5. The work of a pastor requires reserves of spiritual and emotional strength. Ask God to bolster ministers' hearts and minds, especially on days when they feel weak, inadequate, or unqualified.
6. Visiting people in hospital rooms, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, memory centers, hospice units, homes and jail cells, is an important part of your pastor's job. Pray for his or her ability to connect with those who are struggling and to share God's comfort, peace and hope.
7. Pastors shepherd their congregations, lead individuals to Christ and guide the church as a witness to the work of God in our communities. Pray for your pastor's ability to lead your congregation.
8. Being a leader includes making difficult decisions. Sometimes that means making a call when the "right answer" is elusive. Other times it is about making an unpopular choice. Pray for God to guide your pastor's decisions.
9. Pastors are called upon to help those who do not have enough food, rent money, or the ability to pay a utility bill. They also lead their congregations to do the same. Pray that your pastor has the wisdom and resources necessary to help those in need, and that he or she might represent Jesus well to those who feel forgotten.
10. We've all sent a note, email or text that is misunderstood by the recipient. Ministers reach out to so many people, miscommunication is nearly impossible to avoid. Ask God to make your pastor's communication clear and for grace when he or she is misunderstood.
11. Conflicts sometimes arise when people miscommunicate and disagree. Some conflicts are serious, while other are petty. Pray for your pastors' strength, wisdom, patience and discernment as they navigate the conflicts that arise.
12. United Methodist pastors help set the vision for their congregations. Pray that your pastor may clearly see where God is leading your church and for opportunities for ministries to grow in those areas.
13. Money worries can be a big distraction. Pray for financial peace for your pastor, both with the congregation's budget and his or her family finances.
14. Your pastor's physical health is important. Pray for them to take time to care for their bodies through rest, exercise, and eating well.
15. Pray for your pastors to be encouraged today. Pray that they might know in their hearts the differences they make in the lives of individuals, in your congregation, and in your community.

You can be the answer to prayer when you encourage your ministers. Write a note, text or email to let them know what a difference they make in your life. They will surely appreciate it!

Excerpts from 15 ways to pray for your pastor by Joe Iovino UMC.org

Phone number update:

Susan Shelburne

Call the Office for the number



### **A Prayer as I put on my mask:**

Creator,

As I prepare to go into the world,  
Help me to see the sacrament  
in the wearing of this cloth -

Let it be "an outward sign  
of an inward grace" -

A tangible and visible way of living  
love for my neighbors, as I love  
myself.

Christ,

Since my lips will be covered,  
uncover my heart,  
that people would see my smile  
in the crinkles around my eyes.  
Since my voice may be muffled,  
help me to speak clearly,  
not only with my words, but with my  
actions.

Holy Spirit,

As the elastic touches my ears,  
remind me to listen carefully -  
and full of care—to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be  
shield and banner,  
and each breath that it holds,  
be filled with your love.

In your name and in the name of  
love, I pray.

May it be so. May it be so.

*In response to the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order, the GBUMC Finance Committee is prayerfully requesting that each member make every attempt to honor their Stewardship pledge by mailing your offering to the church office or utilizing the on-line giving system (Vanco) at the following link on the Church website: [www.grandblancumc.org/tithe/](http://www.grandblancumc.org/tithe/). Carol Capell and I will be meeting on a limited basis to count and deposit offerings so that funds are available to meet routine operating and salary obligations.  
Kevin Cook, Finance Committee Chair*

# OCTOBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **Birthday Wishes**

1<sup>st</sup> Rose Marie  
3<sup>rd</sup> Paul, Jessica  
4<sup>th</sup> Anna, David  
5<sup>th</sup> Jack  
6<sup>th</sup> Megan, Bill  
7<sup>th</sup> Allison, Grace  
9<sup>th</sup> Becky, Nancy  
10<sup>th</sup> Caity  
14<sup>th</sup> Isabella, Kimberly, Jason  
16<sup>th</sup> Julius  
18<sup>th</sup> Cheryl  
19<sup>th</sup> Matthew  
20<sup>th</sup> Matthew, Micah  
21<sup>st</sup> Robyn, I Elizabeth, Louisa  
23<sup>rd</sup> Vicki  
25<sup>th</sup> Jesse  
26<sup>th</sup> Mini, Pam  
27<sup>th</sup> Cheryl, Andrew  
30<sup>th</sup> Hilary, Jo

### **Anniversary Blessings**

5<sup>th</sup> Laurie & Andrew  
8<sup>th</sup> Stacey & Bill T  
14<sup>th</sup> Tracy & David (25)  
Lisa & John (31)  
15<sup>th</sup> Anna & Paul (15)  
Karen & Marty  
20<sup>th</sup> Angela & Shawn  
22<sup>nd</sup> Felicia & Chuck (32)  
23<sup>rd</sup> Kristin & Chad

## **TALENT SHOW!**

**Wednesday, October 7**  
**at 6:00pm**

In the church parking lot.

All youth and children are  
invited to participate.

Sign-up on sign-up genius.

All are welcome for the  
performance!

Please invite your friends to  
come and enjoy this evening of  
entertainment!

Bring your own chairs.

Free will offering will be  
accepted for the GBUMC  
general fund.

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for the calls, cards and  
Senior High MYF plant to help in  
my healing from Thyroid illness  
and car accident injuries. Many  
Thanks. Much appreciated.  
Dick Smith



Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
Building and Roof Mortgage Summary

### **MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 08-31-20)**

Mortgage Balance with UMF = \$184,005.70

Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 08-31-20) = \$15,829.74

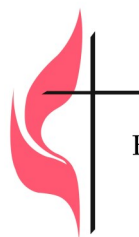
Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 08-31-20) = \$16,994.90

If you have any questions, please contact  
Kevin Cook, Finance Chairperson, [finance@grandblancumc.org](mailto:finance@grandblancumc.org)

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
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Church Office 810-694-9040 fax 810-694-1916  
www.grandblancumc.org

Rev. Brian West, 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



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FRIENDS IN CHRIST EXERCISING  
LOVE, HOPE AND GRACE TO  
ENRICH ALL LIVES



A special message written by Bill Prim:

### The Biggest Gift of All...

...goes to those who so bravely gave their lives in America's darkest hour. Not only to those courageous Policemen, Firemen, and EMT who train for emergencies, but to the ordinary citizens who without thought for personal safety sprang into extraordinary action. Giving selflessly to help others in distress. Ultimately, often giving their most precious gift, life itself.

...goes to the fine young Men and Women who serve our country in the Armed Services. Supporting wholeheartedly the need to bring to justice those who threaten our way of life, our Democracy itself. Never in the recent past has the call to military action been met with so little protest, in fact, been received in such a positive, decisive manner.

...is given to those who have so freely offered their leadership, time, talent, and donations to bring relief to those suffering from this devastation. Charity, both spiritual and financial is alive and well. It is inextricably woven into the very fabric of our life.

...is for Each of Us who after witnessing such tragic atrocities, pick up the banner of Patriotism and Justice, again, making it our way of life. Remembering the struggles of our forefathers, learning from their achievements and mistakes. Practicing tolerance for differences while pursuing rights for the innocent. But always moving forward to spread our gifts of **Freedom, Peace, and Love.**

Written at Christmas 2001, commemorating 9-11-2001



## Seasoned Citizens!!

**Thursday, October 8, 2020**

**1:00pm**

All-Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 1, 2020

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one during the past year and would like to have them recognized during our All-Saints worship service, please provide their name to the church office by October 25<sup>th</sup>.



## The Giving Tree

Watch for information in the November Connection and in future emails.



Since we will be unable to put up our usual Giving Tree and ask you to take tags from it, we will be doing an online version through the sign-up genius website. We will notify you when the sign-up is up and running. If you would prefer that we do your shopping for

you, you are welcome to mail a check to the church. Please designate that the funds are to go to the giving tree and we will help you make someone's Christmas brighter.

### Free Breast Screenings

**Thursday, October 15th from 5pm to 7pm**

**Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute**

302 Kensington Avenue, Flint

Women and men of all ages are welcome to take advantage of a FREE breast cancer screening.

The exam is performed by a physician. If the physician determines a mammogram is needed, it will be scheduled and also offered at no charge for those who do not have insurance coverage.

Screenings are offered to any person, any age.

No appointment or registration is necessary

Walk-in between the hours of 5pm to 7pm

For more information call 810-762-8226