



The Grand Blanc UMC "Connection"

November, 2020

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



November 1

22nd Sunday after

Pentecost

All Saints Day

"God In Our Lives"

Revelation 5:11-14



November 8

23rd Sunday after

Pentecost

"Things In our Lives"

Exodus 15:11-30



November 15

24th Sunday after

Pentecost

"Those In Our Lives"

Philippians 1:1-11



November 22

Christ the King Sunday

"Giving Throughout Our Lives"

2 Corinthians 9:6-12



November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

"Peace"



Exercising Hope: For All the World to See

For the third month in a row, I wanted to use my column inches in the *Connection* newsletter to continue sharing my reflections on the mission and vision statement of Grand Blanc UMC: **"Friends in Christ Exercising love, hope and grace to enrich all lives."** So far, I've written about "Friends in Christ" and all that it means to take seriously our call to be neighbors, brothers, sisters, and friends in the broad and limitless family of Jesus Christ. Last month, I reflected on a connecting word in the statement: "exercise" (everyone's favorite word, right?). I hope you've had the chance to read these articles, but if not, don't bother looking in the NY Time's Best Seller list. They're not there. But they are on our website (grandblancumc.org), just waiting to be read!

For this month, I want to look at another way that this congregation is committed to exercising as friends in Christ (remember, exercise is like practice. We actually have to do it to get better at it): *Exercising hope*.

Hope is one of those words that we use all the time in so many different contexts: "I hope the Lions can keep the 24 point lead in the 4th quarter" (they won't); "I hope the power doesn't go out" (it's allowed to flicker at most); "I hope my candidate wins!" (If it's November 3rd when your reading this, did you remember to vote?); "I hope my paycheck is big enough" (if you've never thought that, consider the privilege that carries with it). The list of "hope" statements can go on and on, and they are all correct uses of the word "hope."

So, what does it mean for a church to *exercise hope*? Well, to answer that, we first have to answer a similar question: *Is it the same as believing in hope*? To some degree, it is the same, or at least related. When we say that we "believe in hope," especially in the context of our Christian faith, we are announcing that we believe that Jesus Christ represents and is hope for all of us. He's hope for all who feel broken and lost. He's hope for all who discover that one cannot physically lift him/herself up by their own bootstraps (think about it – it makes no sense). Christ's redemption is hope that we don't need to live as slaves to sin, but are freed from the chains that have become rusted-shut around our limbs. These are all things that we believe and hold true as faithful Christians. And so, if that's what it means to *believe in hope*, what does it mean to *exercise it*?

Remember in the last article how I talked about exercise being a routine of practice in an effort to be more perfect (or at least better)? To exercise love is to take what we believe about love, and make it part of our every day lives of how we treat one another, care for one another, and value one another. We work at it, and work at it, and work at it more (in other words, we exercise it) until loving our neighbor becomes second nature to us.

Well, the same thing is true for exercising hope. It requires us to live our lives hopeful that Jesus' promise of redemption was sincere and true. It's taking leaps of faith in ministry, believing that we might come alongside God in our discipleship and become the answer to someone's hopeful prayer to be fed, loved, housed, clothed, valued, taught, healed, and so much more! It's believing that we can go through a virus-filled storm and come out of the fog having become stronger. It's stepping out onto the waters of uncertainty, trusting that Jesus will reach out for us when the waves begin to consume us.

You see, exercising hope is doing all of these things, and putting it on display for all the world to see that belief in the hope God promises is not a fool's errand, but rather our moment of grace realized. So, the next time, as a member of this church, you are faced with the invitation from Jesus to step out onto the water or gather the loaves and fishes, believing it to be enough, believe in hope enough to do it.

Don't look now, but you just got stronger.

Peace, my friends!
Pastor Brian



FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Marge
James
Woody

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Donna
Jim
Pat
Cheryl
Eleanor
Marilyn
Dick
Phil
Karen
Mary
Paul
Amanda
Eileen
Robert
Norma
Mary

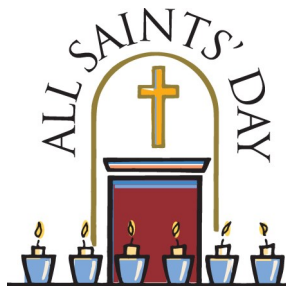
FOR OTHERS:

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

Autumn Ridge of Clarkston
Great Lakes Christian Home

Shirley
Helen

On Sunday, November 1, 2020, we will be honoring those church members that we have lost during the past 12 months. While we honor every soul, and we will be recognizing others as well, we pay special tribute to: Judy Banfield who passed away on November 27, 2019; Phyllis Carter who passed away on January 14, 2020; Roger Hall who passed away on January 24, 2020; Don Floyd who passed away on February 2, 2020; Jo Kingston who passed away on February 15, 2020; Ted Gratsch who passed away on March 7, 2020; Linda Bendall who passed away on March 25, 2020; Loise Hubler who passed away on April 1, 2020; Bob Scott who passed away on April 10, 2020; David Rahn who passed away on July 17, 2020; David Dutton who passed away on August 30, 2020 and Marian Becker who passed away on September 23, 2020.



THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

We would like to thank our whole church family, especially Pastor Brian, for all of the heartfelt prayers, concerns, cards, support and showering of kindness poured out surrounding Dave's passing.
Nan Rahn and family



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.



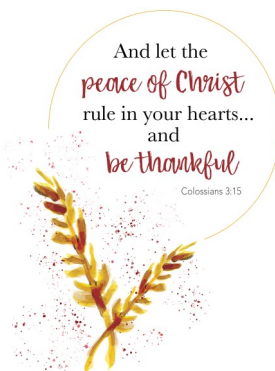
Requested items: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, canned fruit, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, toilet paper, paper towel, facial tissue, dish soap, laundry soap

Please drop off your donations on

Wednesday, November 18 and/or Thursday, November 19.

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

If you would like to receive prayer concern emails from the church, please contact the church office at office@grandblancumc.org. You can also receive church updates through email and this newsletter too! Just let us know!



To our Church family,
You have been wonderful to our family during David's illness. Thank you for the ongoing cards, visits and support that you have given us throughout David's illness.. A special thank you to Dr. J for his many visits and calls as well as to Dale Wolfram and Bruce VanVlack. Your continued support and love have helped us through this difficult time.
Blessing to all,
The Dutton Family

WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!

Our C.A.R.E. Team is ready and willing to contact you or anyone you know who could benefit from a phone call or card or whatever it is that would help them with what they (or you) might be dealing with today. Feel free to contact them at care.team@grandblancumc.org

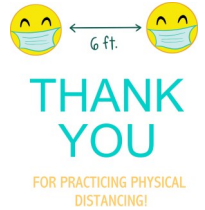


Outdoor worship services in the church parking lot!

Sundays at 11:00a.m.



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.



You will be able to listen to the service through your car radio!!

For those of you that do not have internet or would just like to listen to the service from your car, you are welcome to pull into the church parking lot and listen every Sunday at 11:00am, rain or shine!

Pastor Brian's sermon series for November is "Gratitude and Generosity."

We will be celebrating All Saints Day on Sunday, November 1.
We will also be celebrating Stewardship during the month of November and celebrating our Gratitude and Generosity on Sunday, November 22.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29.

During worship, we will be focusing on

"Finding Peace, Joy, Hope, and Love in Unfamiliar Spaces"

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus, in new and exciting ways!

Mark your calendar for our Christmas Eve Services at 7:30pm and 11:00pm.

There will be a live nativity and candle lighting.

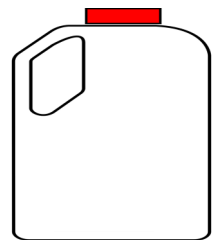
Come and join us, in person or via Facebook or YouTube.



VOLUNTEERS are key!

We are looking for volunteers for Christmas Eve. We need drivers to pick up anyone that would like to attend but who does not drive at night. If you are willing and able to help, please contact the church office. We will, of course, be following all health guidelines regarding masks and safety.

We are looking for donations of empty, clean and dry plastic gallon milk jugs. Please drop them off at the church when you come to attend Sunday worship.
Thank you!



Daylight Saving Time Ends!

Sunday, November 1 at 2:00am

Remember to set your clocks back one hour, before you go to bed on Halloween!



The shopping cart for FISH will be placed in front of the church every Sunday, from 10:30am to 12:30pm, weather permitting. Please feel free to drop off any donations for FISH at that time.

Youth Group

Senior High

The Senior High youth has been active this year, while remaining safe!

So far this Fall, they have gotten together to play outdoor games, served a free to-go pasta dinner, had a pumpkin carving contest and then on October 31, they spent the afternoon helping to distribute food and other non-perishables in Burton.



Mark your calendars for an event TBD on Saturday, November 28 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm!

Senior High Leaders:

Jennifer Lengyel
Brian Rice



Junior High and Senior High Youth gather safely for a pumpkin carving contest and fellowship!

Junior High

"And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

Leaves, Leaves and more Leaves!!!
Grab a rake! Meet at the church from 10 to 1 on Saturday, November 7th. We'll do a little work and then grab lunch. Many hands make light work! Bring your own rake, work gloves, mask and dress for the weather!

Feed the Bus: November 21st from 10 to noon in the high school parking lot. We will help load the bus with groceries. Let's help our community! Together we can make a difference!



December 6th from Noon –1:30pm: Join us for a winter nature hike and let's explore God's beauty together. Dress accordingly (winter coat, boots, gloves and a hat!) Mask required.

December 13th from Noon to 2pm: Christmas party with yummy snacks, games and a \$15 gift exchange. We will draw names in November. Mask required.

All events are subject to change based on public health recommendations.

Questions?
Call/Text Jessica Smith

November 29 – United Methodist Student Day

On Sunday, November 29th there will be a special offering taken for United Methodist Student Day. Your support helps United Methodist students who don't have the resources to attend a school of their choice with Gift of Hope college scholarships.

This offering helps provide over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church. The fund is administered by the [General Board of Higher Education and Ministry](#). When you support United Methodist Student Day your gift enriches ministry and connects students to their faith and your gift transforms lives through education. Thank you for your generosity!

AN EXCITING STEWARDSHIP SERIES?? You bet!!!

Our 2021 Stewardship Series, “*Gratitude and Generosity*” will begin on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020.

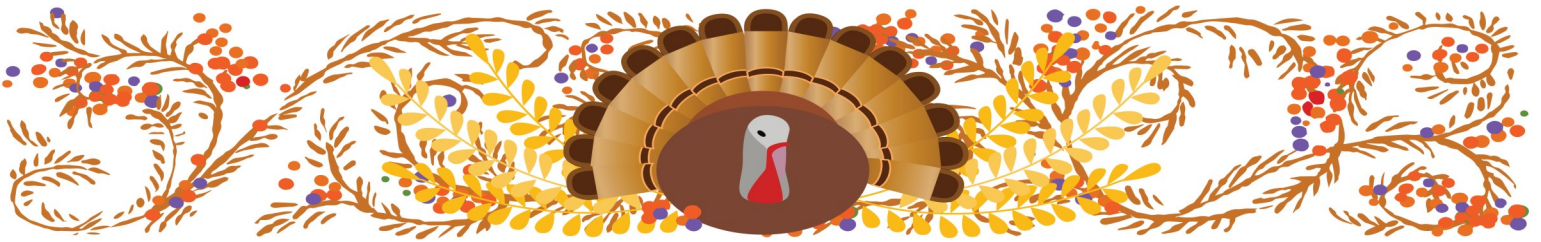
We are “*Friends in Christ Exercising Love, Hope, and Grace to Enrich All Lives*” and we will continue to celebrate the ministry of Christ with our pledges. Join us during the first 4 weeks of November as we look at the many reasons we have to be grateful and how we can use our resources to further the ministry of Grand Blanc United Methodist Church.

Gratitude Journals will be available for you to use at home. They will be a way to remind ourselves of the ways that God has impacted our lives each day.

We have also ordered several copies of the book: **Enough: Discovery Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity**, by Adam Hamilton. “*Enough* is an invitation to rediscover the Bible’s wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. In these pages are found the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. This book could change your life, by changing your relationship with money.” The cost of each book is \$9.00 and will be available for purchase at Sunday worship services or you can contact the church office for a time to stop by to pick up a copy. We will conclude the series on Sunday, November 22, 2020 and we look forward to celebrating with you!

You shall rejoice in all the good
that the Lord your God
has given to you.

Deuteronomy 28:11, ESV



Would you like to watch our Sunday morning services live on Facebook, but don't have a Facebook account? Are you unsure how to set up an account? Are you worried that if you have a Facebook account then you have to be “on” Facebook all the time? RELAX. Setting up a Facebook account is EASY! Just follow these simple steps below:



1. Go to facebook.com and click Create New Account.
2. Enter your name, email or mobile phone number, password, date of birth and gender.
3. Click Sign Up.
4. To finish creating your account, you need to confirm your email or mobile phone number.

It is that quick and easy! Next, go to the upper left-hand corner of the page and there is a search bar. Type in “Grand Blanc UMC” to find our Facebook page. Click the thumbs up icon on the page to “like” our page. Go to this page every Sunday morning at 11am and you will be able to watch the live video stream of our services! Here is some other useful information about Facebook:

- Facebook has a wonderful, easy to use help features. Just type “help” in the search bar, or in Google and it you will get a whole list of topics.
- You can set your security settings so that you can't be “found” by others on Facebook.
- Lastly, remember that this is your account. If you only want the account to use for church on Sunday, then that is all you have to use it for.
- See you Sunday!!

**This is an article about helping children cope with stress,
but maybe we could all learn something from it!**

I was attending our online Sunday School class for first through fifth graders. The kids got on the conference call happy, waving hello to each other with smiles on their faces! As usual, their energy was great and it took us a few minutes to help them settle and focus! I thought to myself, "My, these kids have really adjusted so well to COVID-19, the racial tensions, the upcoming election stresses, home school and wearing masks!" Outwardly, these kids looked as happy and carefree as ever!

The teacher, Janet, invited the kids to take a deep breath, and another and another and as she lit a small candle, she invited them to type into the chat box anything they needed prayers for. The scroll of prayer concerns began: COVID, getting sick, COVID, my grandmother getting ill, COVID. We were all reminded that kids are good at masking their feelings under smiles, play and silliness.

How can we help our kids through this time? I invite you to begin using a simple healing ritual at least once a week at home with your child. (This can certainly be used by Christian Educators and pastors with groups of children as well.) This healing ritual will help them acknowledge their stress and discover positive ways to express themselves followed by a time of stillness in the presence of God.

You will need a few items for this ritual: A can of unopened soda pop, a candle and lighter and your finger!

The Healing Ritual Part One: Acknowledging our stress

Sit down with your child and start shaking the pop can! This will definitely "get their attention!" And when they ask you about it, say, "This pop can is you and this pop can is me! And we have been shaken! Each bubble in this can is a feeling we are having. Let's see if we can name the bubbles in our pop can! Because, do you know what will happen if we don't let our bubbles out? This can will explode! When we don't let our feelings out, they grow and we explode (we say things we wish we hadn't, we yell at the people we love, and we might even hit someone or throw something and hurt someone!). So, let's name our feelings right now and get them out of our can."

Spend some time naming your feelings. And then you and your child should spend a few minutes thinking of some ways you might get your bubbles out of your cans. Things like: kick a ball, go for a walk, dance, sing, write in a journal, paint or draw a picture. Choose one activity to do regularly for the next week. Promise each other that you will do this activity during the coming week.

Part Two: Be still

After your child and you share time together identifying your feelings, and coming up with ways to express them, light the candle. Candle light is calming and kids are universally drawn to it. Light the candle and ask your child to sit with you in its light, breathing in and out the love of God for 1 minute. After a minute, invite your child to blow out the candle, and hug them!

Part Three: Bless them

A blessing is a time where you look your child in the eye and tell them that they are strong, that they are resilient, that you know that they are trying their best and that God is always with them! Then, using your finger, make a symbol (a heart or cross) on your child's hand or forehead as a reminder of God's love for them!

Does this sound too easy?

It is a very simple ritual and an extremely healing ritual for children. The only difficult part of this ritual is that the adult who is guiding it must also share their authentic feelings. It is a shared ritual between adults and children.

Let's face it, we are all stressed out right now and none of us wants to be interrogated about how we are doing. Kids resist being quizzed or pushed to share their deepest feelings as much as adults do. So instead, let's gather, share, light a candle, breath together, bless each other and trust, that where two or more are gathered, there God and God's healing touch will be!

Ritual is a gift. It is my prayer that this healing ritual will become a regular part of your home prayer life and that, through it, you will find the strength and hope only God can truly bring us in uncertain times!

**The Rev. Leanne Hadley has spent her career working in children's ministry in a variety of settings. She is the founder of A Time for Children.*

The Giving Tree

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.



Church trash pick-up has been reduced but the dumpster has been getting filled lately with garbage that did not come from church use and so a lock has been placed on the gate around the dumpster.

Trustee's Committee

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/. 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

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1st Traci , Alexander
4th Tammy
6th Matt , Shirley, Celia
8th Lee
9th Ethan
10th Henry
11th Jim
12th Thomas, Evelyn
13th David , Shirley
14th Brian
15th Kassidy, Alexis
16th Nathan
17th Marjorie
18th Ellen, Laurie, Emily
19th Chad
21st Mary
24th Carol
25th Jenna, Bob
27th Steven
29th Wanda
30th Jack

Anniversary Blessings

2nd Cathy & Jeff
15th Jan & Tom
18th Angela & Kevin
19th Donna & Dick



Plumbers get
50% more calls
on the day after
Thanksgiving than
any other day of the
year.



Why?

Turkey bones in the garbage
disposal.

40% of Campbell's
Cream of Mushroom soup
sold in the US goes into
making green bean
casserole.



Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Building and Roof Mortgage Summary

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 09-30-20)

Mortgage Balance with UMF = \$183,122.52

Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 09-30-20) = \$15,015.52

Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 09-30-20) = \$17,034.90

If you have any questions, please contact
Kevin Cook, Finance Chairperson, finance@grandblancumc.org

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
515 Bush Avenue
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

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



2020 CROP Walk

Thank you to all those that participated in the walk this year. Pastor Brian and family, Carol Capell, Carol Cerny, Angela Cherniawski, the Hedding family, the Lutton family, Bob Mills, Virginia Sullivan and RaeAnn Waisanen. It was a short notice walk/virtual. However, we all knew that the organizations that receive this money are in need more than ever before because of the virus. Thank you to all that made a donation to each of these walkers. The total that all these walkers collected was \$3,921. Last year we collected \$3,475.

All UMW CIRCLES

Ladies we have a number of things to do, please check with your treasurer to see if you are up to date.

-PLEDGES

-PRAYER and SELF DENIAL

-FISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Please make checks payable to UMW

Checks can be mailed to the church
(ATTENTION) Donna Hubler

I will let your treasurer know what you paid

Thank You, Donna Hubler



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



I bring THANKS from Mert for those of you who sent birthday cards. If I miss someone, please forgive me. I had to fire my secretary(me) and things are not always the most coordinated.

Thank You Roger and Dorothy, Brian and Bev, Marcia, Rae Ann and Bernie, Kelli and Grace, Donna, Vera, Sharon, Colleen and Ron, Eileen, and please forgive me if I skipped your name.

Mert was VERY TOUCHED by your reaching out to him like this. We more than doubled the number of cards he received. He does not have TV or radio so he spends most of his time sitting in his chair looking out onto the back lawn. If you ever would like to drop him a note at some future time, you can always send them to me and I will share them with him. He is interested in life and wishes he could be more engaged.

Peace, Dale Wolfgram

Have you
been
watching
Pastor

WORTH



Brian's daily devotionals? He shares his recordings every morning, Monday through Friday. Go to our website: www.grandblancumc.org and you can find a link to the devotionals on our home page.