



"Connection"

A Reason to Come to the Tomb

When my sister, Mallory and I were kids, our school's Spring Break was always scheduled for the week following Easter. Whenever Easter was, Spring Break always followed. At that time, my aunt and uncle lived in Newport Beach, California, and, for years, invited my sister and me out to visit for that Spring Break week so that we could do lots of fun things without our parents! After all, isn't that every kids' dream? And so, we'd fly there by ourselves, go to Mighty Ducks hockey games, visit Mickey at Disney Land, and eat delicious Ruben Sandwiches at Ruby's on the Pier. This was always a highlight week.

When I think back on those Spring Break trips, some of my best memories are of the leadup time that preceded. The week prior (which happened to be Holy Week), Mallory and I could barely contain our excitement. We'd count the hours until our plane would take off and we could sit in our coach seats, sip that first parent-free Pepsi (that's when they used to give you the whole can), and await warmth, palm trees, and Mickey Mouse. It just so happened that Holy Week, every year, seemed to be *the slowest week of the year*. All that we wanted to do was be on that plane. If we would have been granted just one wish, it would have been that we could just skip ahead to Easter and get on with the California-bound show! But, alas, we couldn't. We still had school Monday through Wednesday, Maundy Thursday services, Good Friday services, and of course Easter. But, at least Easter felt like we were on the precipice of the excitement.

As an adult, I still look forward to Easter, and some of those memories still come flooding back to me. But one thing I have come to discover about Holy Week and the celebration of Easter is that Easter loses so much of its zeal if we skip over the more difficult parts of Holy Week. In a book titled Falling Upward by a Franciscan priest named Richard Rohr, he makes special note of this: like Easter, no resurrection of any kind as ever taken place without there first being a death. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are absolutely essential to make it possible for us to celebrate a resurrection! If we jump to Easter because we simply cannot wait to celebrate; or if we jump to Easter because Jesus' talk of death and the cross is just too uncomfortable, then we really will never discover the true depth of Easter's celebration.

To this end, I want to invite you to fully experience and embrace the discomfort of Holy Week this year, and fight the temptation to jump right to Easter Sunday. As a church, we will be sharing in these experiences with two unique and very meaningful virtual services. On both Maundy Thursday (April 1) and Good Friday (April 2), the services will be posted to our various streaming platforms at noon, as well as transmitted in our parking lot via FM radio. Whether by yourself or with loved ones, I want to encourage you to take part in them. Easter will come, but it only truly comes if we have a reason to visit the tomb in the first place.

On Easter Sunday, we'll gather in the parking lot and online from the many places we will call *holy ground*, and we'll sing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" and hear a message of victory over the grave and sin. We'll greet one another with smiling eyes and with shouts of Alleluia. But first, like Mary, we need a reason to come to the tomb with burial spices.

Let us not rush through this Holy Week. Instead, let us embrace it all. Only then will we truly appreciate the unmistakable gap between the stone and the tomb.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!
Pastor Brian

In-person parking lot

services will resume on

Easter Sunday, April 4

 April 1

Maundy Thursday

"The Fitness to Loosen"

John 13: 1-17

Luke 3: 16

Luke 22:14-20 & 39-44

 April 2

Good Friday

"The Seven Last

Words of Christ"

Clergy & Laity from our

District Mission Zone

 April 4

EASTER

"Victory!"

Mark 5: 1-13;

Mark 16: 1-6

Parking lot service

 April 11

2nd Sunday of Easter

New Member Sunday

"Pharaoh's Daughter"

Exodus 2:1-10

 April 18

3rd Sunday of Easter

"Esther"

Esther 8:1-8

 April 25

4th Sunday of Easter

"The Canaanite

Woman"

Matthew 15:21-28



FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Marge
Woody

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Shirley
Donna
Cheryl
Sharel
Ed
Marcia
Eleanor
Marilyn
Dick
Phil
Mary
Paul
Bob
Eileen
Dick
Bob

FOR OTHERS:

Rita
Randy
Robin
Tony
Pat
Shelia
Ray
Alexandra
Nancy
Chris
Scott
Robert
Michael
Terry
Jay
Kathy
Gerry

Wayne
Carl
Carol
Ruth
Naomi
Charlie
Betty
Connie
Carnet
Gloria
Jeff
Donna
Marty
Barb
Sunny
Jim
Sharon

Autumn Ridge of Clarkston

Shirley Robertson

Great Lakes Christian Home

Helen Floyd



~ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Marilyn Alarie, who passed away on March 24, 2021. Marilyn is Stacey Tyckoski's mother.

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!

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sundays at 11:00a.m.



Maundy Thursday, April 1, the service will be available in the parking lot, through your car radio at noon and available on YouTube and Facebook, any time noon or later.

Good Friday, April 2, the service will be available in the parking lot, through your car radio at noon and available on YouTube and Facebook, any time noon or later.

Easter, Sunday, April 4, ***We will be resuming our in-person worship in the church***

parking lot!!! Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ!!! Bring your lawn chair or if you are more comfortable, you may stay in your car and listen through the car radio. For those of you that are more comfortable at home, feel free to tune in through Facebook or YouTube. There will be a COVID-safe activity for kids following the service! (the kids will be using the path, so please bring appropriate footwear)
CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!!!



Beginning April 11th through May 9th, Pastor Brian will be sharing a 5-part sermon series called "Women of the Bible," highlighting five remarkable women of the Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament. By understanding who these women of audacious faith were, we will find ourselves drawing closer to God, more convinced of God's call to faithful discipleship, and excited to serve as God's hands and feet in the world.

While we are hopeful for a safe return to the sanctuary as soon as possible, providing meaningful opportunities for worship, alongside our responsibility for one another's safety and care for our neighbors remain our primary concerns. Genesee County's current COVID risk level is very high. We are currently following CDC guidelines and a couple of the resources that we check to see how things are going are www.covidactnow.org and www.globalepidemics.org. Thankfully, the weather is getting warmer and we can resume our parking lot worship services beginning with Easter Sunday!

Sr High Youth Group Spring BREAK

Make your Spring Break plans right here as we celebrate ALL MONTH LONG! Each week in April we'll find something fresh and new to do. Watch your email and the GBUMC weekly emails for more information. Please contact the church office (810-694-9040) for questions. Can't wait to see you!

B - Mon 3/29 - Bike the Iron Belle! Did you know that the Iron Belle Trail - a 791-mile bicycle that runs from Belle Isle Park in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula - runs right by GBUMC?? Join us at 5:00 at Church as we take a ride on part of the trail. Expect about a 4-5 mile bike ride from Church, down Perry Road to East Middle School and Back. Learn more about the Iron Belle here: <https://michigantrails.org/trails/featured-trails/iron-belle-trail/>

R - Tues 4/6 - Relax! It's Spring Break. We'll meet virtually at 4:00 to learn how to calm our mind, our body, and practice mindfulness with a 15-30 minute meditation session.

E - Wed 4/14 - Eat - one of my favorite Spring Break activities :). Meet up at 7:00 Ziggy's for a cup or a cone of your favorite frozen treat.

A - Th 4/22 - Get creative with Art! In this 5:00 virtual meeting, we'll explore our creative side and design something truly unique.

K - Fri 4/30 - Klean Up! Spring is a time for freshening up and cleaning out. We'll help with grounds clean-up at the church, the parsonage, or at the home of a church member who may need assistance. Bring your gloves! More info TBD.



SPRING BREAK

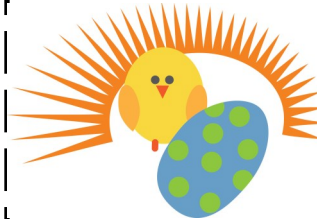
Jr High Youth

Saturday, April 3rd
At 2:00 p.m.

Happy Easter!

Come and have a treat and help us stuff eggs for the Easter egg hunt!

Who knows, maybe the Easter Bunny will bring you an early treat.



Sunday, April 4th
At 10:30 a.m.

If you want to help hide eggs, show up at 10:30 a.m. on Easter!

Sunday, April 25th
Cookout right after church!
Bring your bikes and scooters.
Bring a friend too!



Ways you can
SERVE

If anyone is looking for volunteer hours, please see the article, in this newsletter, about helping maintain the church grounds. Your help would be greatly appreciated!!! Feel free to contact Cathy, in the church office, if you can help.



Save the Date: May 16, 2021

Confirmation Service

at the 11:00 Worship Service

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS HAVE WAITED OVER A YEAR TO BE CONFIRMED. PLEASE JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION.

"A Great February"

A Story of Good News from Your GBUMC Finance Committee

Believe it or not, there is actually a lot to celebrate from our Finance Committee. First of all, we are beginning our year with a balanced budget, ready to do and fund remarkable ministry! This is a direct result of a combination of two things: your pledges and generosity, along with the creativity of so many in leadership positions. Without your help and your giving, funding these amazing ministries simply would not be possible. Thank you!

And the second thing? ...(drumroll, please)... February 2021 ended with the second highest giving total for one month out of the last 2 years. Which month took first place? December 2019. Not only was December 2019 aided by Christmas Eve and the holiday itch for giving, but it was also pre-pandemic. Now, keep in mind that, outside of the importance of Black History Month and the joy of some church birthdays, February might be considered by many to be the least exciting month of the year. It was in that month that this generosity was demonstrated by so many of you. In essence, you broke the mold, disobeyed assumptions of pandemic scarcity, and demonstrated what God can do when we believe in a fishes-and-loaves kind of miracle.

So now, let's look at how this was accomplished. Your generosity as those who made pledges and are remaining committed to that giving certainly had a lot to do with that. Additionally, there were a number of donations made from individuals and families who are not necessarily a part of Grand Blanc UMC, but are excited about the ministry we are doing. They are folks that are watching and worshiping with us online. They are folks who've heard about the ministries we're creatively engaging in. They are people who believe that we are actively making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

So, what does this mean for the months to come? Well, quite simply, it reminds us of our capability and the importance of our continued generosity. It reminds us that, while not every month will be record breaking, we absolutely should keep trying. And it means that all that we do is being noticed by others and when we are faithful to the ministry of Jesus Christ, something remarkable can and *will* happen.

It is my joy to share good news with you, and it is my joy to share in faithful effort of giving and serving alongside you. Oh, and once more...

Thank you.

Pastor Brian



Pastor Brian's Drop-In Online Bible Study

10-11am Every Thursday
No start date or end date. Just come and join us!

A weekly Bible Study lead by Pastor Brian for everyone who has ever wanted to take a closer look at Scripture. Drop-in anytime you want!

Contact the Church office for more information and how to join the Zoom gatherings
office@grandblancumc.org or (810)694-9040



The Zoom link for this Study is available on the church website.



There will be a COVID-safe activity for kids following the in-person parking lot worship

service on Easter Sunday, April 4!! The kids will be walking on the path, so please bring appropriate footwear. We look forward to seeing you!

Help Needed to maintain the church grounds

Wanted

- ⇒ Volunteers to assist with the Beautification of the Grounds of the Grand Blanc United Methodist Church.
- ⇒ Persons of all ages
- ⇒ Small amounts of time or large amounts.
- ⇒ Variety of tasks to be chosen from: Trimming, care of plants, care of islands removal of stumps, limited chain saw work, raking or blowing leaves etc. etc.

Needed

- ⇒ Bags or partial bags or torn bags of: fertilizers, brown mulch, cow manure, topsoil (Just bring to the church and drop off in front of the storage shed)
- ⇒ Perennial flowers: (Again just leave in front of the shed, behind the church)
- ⇒ Shasta daisy 'Becky'
- ⇒ Day lilies 'Stella D'
- ⇒ Butterfly bush

Please contact the church office with any questions (810-694-9040)

This effort was started about five years as a project of the United Methodist Men under the approval of the Trustees.
No monies come from the church and all work is on a volunteer basis.



Hey!!

J.A.M. kids and Families...

Wednesday Dinner videos by Pastor Brian are uploaded to YouTube every Wednesday morning, for use during your family dinner!

(J.A.M. = Jesus and Me)

Join us for our special Easter Activity, for kids, following our in-person parking lot worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4! Invite a friend! We will be using the path at the church, so bring appropriate footwear. We are excited to see you soon!



FISH of Grand Blanc is currently providing assistance to approximately 500 people every week. If you would like to donate any non-perishable food, paper products, cleaning supplies or personal hygiene products, you can drop them off at their collection site at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 9020 S. Saginaw Street on Wednesdays between 5pm and 7pm and Saturdays between 10am and noon. They also appreciate monetary donations and those can be mailed to FISH of Grand Blanc, P.O. Box 367, Grand Blanc, MI 48480-0367



Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute

is offering Free Breast Screening

Thursday, April 22nd from 5 to 7 pm

Women and Men, age 18 and older, are welcome to take advantage of a FREE breast cancer screening.

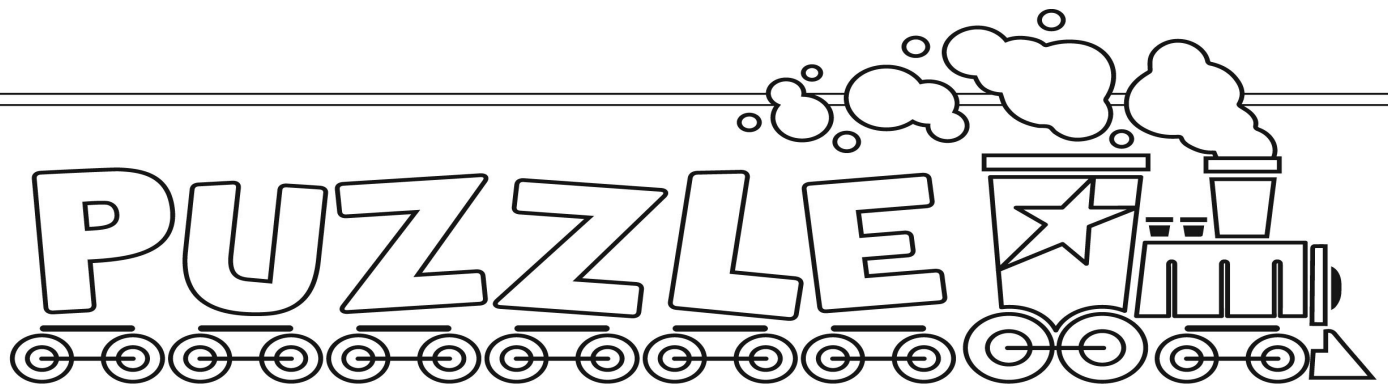
If the physician determines a mammogram is needed, the mammogram will be scheduled at a later date and will be FREE of charge for those without health insurance or are underinsured and can't afford the co-pay.

**No appointment or registration is necessary.

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

If you would like more information about a free breast screening, please call (810) 762-8226.

Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute
302 Kensington Avenue, Flint

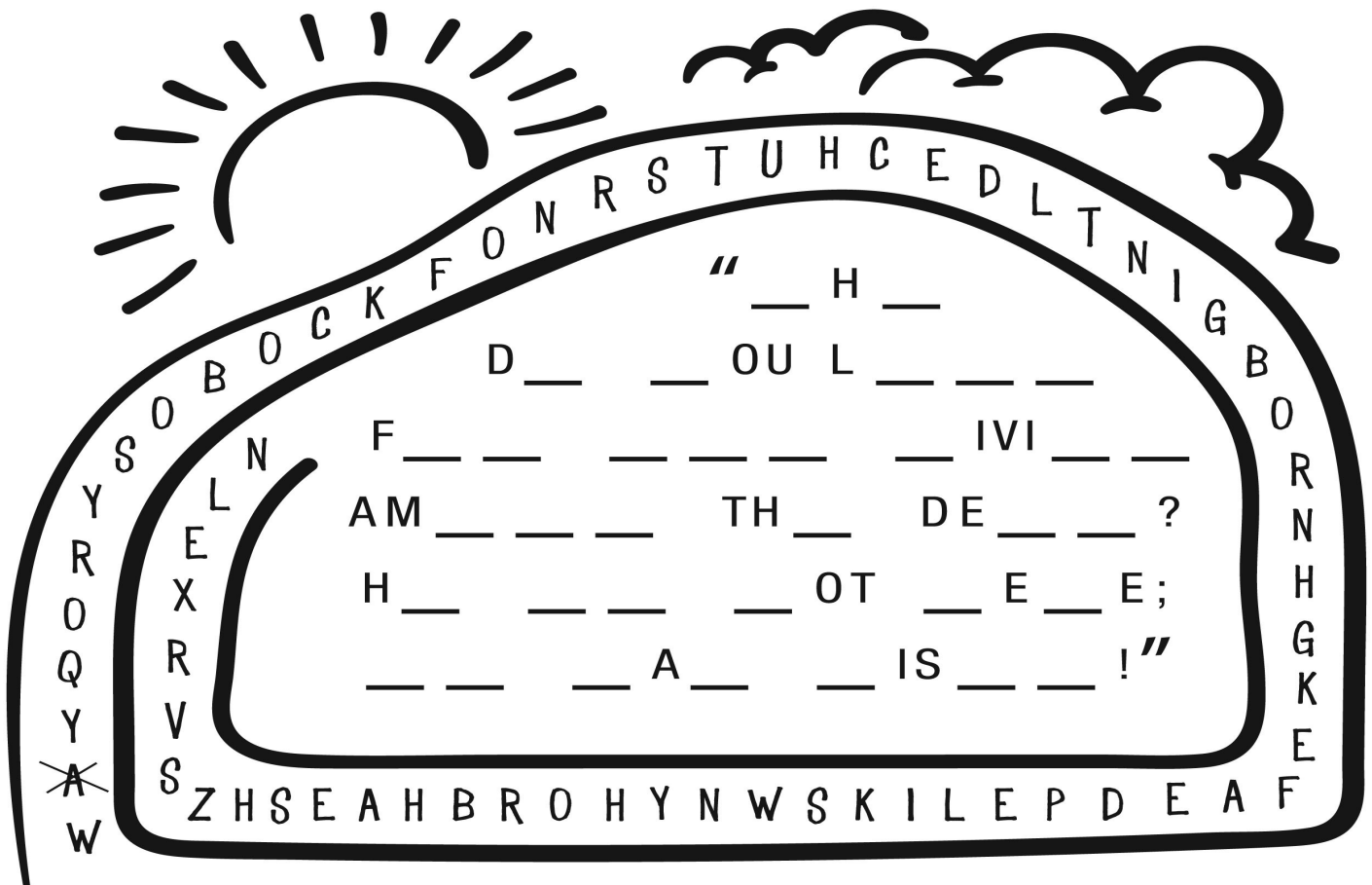


PUZZLE

EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

April is National Poetry
Month

April Rain

The April rain, the April rain,
Comes slanting down in fitful
showers,
Then from the furrow shoots
the grain,
And banks are fledged with
nestling flowers;
And in grey shaw and
woodland bowers
The cuckoo through the April
rain
Calls once again.

The April sun, the April sun,
Glints through the rain in fitful
splendour,
And in grey shaw and
woodland dun
The little leaves spring forth
and tender
Their infant hands, yet weak
and slender,
For warmth towards the April
sun,
One after one.

And between shower and shine
hath birth
The rainbow's evanescent
glory;
Heaven's light that breaks on
mists of earth!
Frail symbol of our human
story,
It flowers through showers
where, looming hoary,
The rain-clouds flash with
April mirth,
Like Life on earth.

Mathilde Blind (1841-1896)



APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1st Scott
8th Pat
13th Andrew,
Zachary
14th Ed, John
15th Bob
16th Dick,
Sharon,
Frank
18th Molly, Dave
20th Emma, Mike
21st Madison
22nd Angela, Jordan
23rd Gary,
Jessica
24th Jayna
25th Karen
26th Jan
27th Brian, Mary Jo,
Joanna
29th Sandy, Randy
30th Mike,
Gretchen

Anniversaries

3th Tammy & Don
6th Jennifer & Adam
13th Gary & Melinda
20th Stephanie & Brian
25th Lee & Phil
30th Lori & Glen



**We are looking forward to
seeing you at our in-
person parking lot
worship service on Easter
Sunday, April 4!!!**

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



Have you been watching Pastor 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.

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Building and Roof Mortgage Summary

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 02-28-21)

Mortgage Balance with UMF = \$178,654.03

Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 02-28-21) = \$12,490.89

Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 02-28-21) = \$16,084.90

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



Easter Sunday, April 4
In-person parking lot services
will resume! We hope to see
you there! Services will
continue to be available online.

☀️ ~ 🦋 ~ 💖 ~ 🌸 **Seasoned Citizens** 🌸 ~ 💖 ~ 🦋 ~ ☀️

May each one of you be doing well and the hope is that all Seasoned Citizens have received vaccinations. Kindly advise the church office or a Seasoned Citizen should you have a special need or concern.

For Thursday, April 8 our monthly get together via Zoom will feature Dorothy Colby speaking of the highlights of her Methodist Service Trip to Puerto Rico. Should you have any questions about getting on Zoom just refer to Tom Cerny at 810-252-6943.

Our guest for our May 13 Zoom meeting will be Pastor Brian! As per usual the May 13th get together will mark the time for our annual donations to F.I.S.H. If you are unable to join us for the May event kindly remember F.I.S.H. with a generous donation. Checks may be made to Donna Hedding and dropped off or mailed to the church: 515 Bush Avenue, Grand Blanc, Mi. 48439

On Thursday, March 11 we had a very moving presentation by our Sheriff, Chris Swanson. Among a number of things, he spoke of a new educational program being provided two hours per day, five days a week to all inmates at the jail. Those of us who were able to hear this presentation support helping this program (IGNITE: Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education) to flourish.

Contributions may be sent to: Grand Blanc UMC attn: Sallie Farrell Make checks to: GBUMC/IGNITE

