



The Grand Blanc UMC

"Connection"

May, 2021

May 2

5th Sunday of Easter

"The Woman at the Well"

Sermon Series:

"Women of the Bible"

John 4: 4-33



May 9

6th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

"Mary, the Mother of Jesus"

Sermon Series:

"Women of the Bible"

Luke 1:26-33, 38

John 19: 25-27



May 16

7th Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday

"Forever Limping"

Genesis 32: 24-31



May 23

Pentecost

"Searching for Words"

Acts 2: 1-15



May 30

Trinity Sunday

Memorial Day Sunday

"Persona"

John 14: 1-21

Imagine

In 1971, a Beatle turned solo artist released a song that quickly became one of the hallmarks of the global music stage. The song, "Imagine" was written and sung by the late John Lennon, and it captured the imagination (pun intended) of the world as he invited all those with ears to hear to imagine a world with the central goal of uniting one another rather than breaking down and breaking apart an already fractured world. It was then, following each movement of imagination, that Lennon provided this well known chorus:

"You may say I'm a dreamer,
but I'm not the only one.
I hope some day you'll join us,
and the world will be as one"

As I write this, I've had the song playing in my head all morning, and I've been reflecting on these words, considering what it means to be a dreamer. To me, it seems that dreaming for something that *can* be – that *needs* to be – is more than just a matter of *hoping*. Dreaming, in Lennon's sense, meant that we must actively pursue what it is we dream of. For Christians, we actually have a name for that: we call it "God's kingdom." And John Lennon isn't the only one with a catchy chorus. Let's say it together:

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

As strange as it may seem to compare the two – and it's admittedly strange – this part of the Lord's Prayer is very much our *Imagine* chorus! And like Lennon's invitation to join the dreamers, this prayer is God's invitation for us to join God – to join God in bringing about a world that more closely resembles God's vision of kingdom. And now, for the million-dollar question: *How do we get there?* To answer that, we turn to Scripture (*big surprise, right?*).

"Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

To be fair, I share this scripture passage a lot, but I think with really good reason. When we ask the question, "How can we achieve God's vision of kingdom, here on earth as it is in heaven?" I find myself beginning right here with what I argue is Jesus central teaching. If what we are doing in our effort to bring about God's kingdom vision is loving God and loving all our neighbors, then we are on the right track! If our efforts do not love God and do not fully love our neighbor, then we are actively working *against* the kingdom goal. I know that sounds extreme, but I believe we *must* begin to understand that when we, especially as Christians, fail to love God and neighbor, we are actively causing ourselves and others to take steps backward from that kingdom goal. And when we do so in the name of God, perhaps the failure is even greater.

And so, in all that we do, say, believe and teach, let it be in complete, whole, and beautiful love for God and for neighbor. May it inspire us to imagine a world in which fractures are mended, brother and sister may stand with brother and sister, and the strife of this world caused by our collective hands would cease.

In the name of God, I offer this prayer.
Amen.

-Pastor Brian



FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Marge
Woody

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Shirley
Donna
Aaron
Cheryl
Sharel
Ed
Marcia
Al
Rosie
Eleanor
Dick
Phil
Mary
Paul
Eileen
Dick

FOR OTHERS:

Randy
Robin
Deanna
Tony
Pat
Shelia
Alexandra
Donald
Chris
Scott
Robert
Michael
Jay
Kathy
Cheryl
Billy
Justin

Gerry
Wayne
Carl
Carol
Ruth
Jennifer
Naomi
Charlie
Betty
Connie
Jeff
Donna
Marty
Barb
Sunny
Jim

Autumn Ridge of Clarkston
Shirley
Great Lakes Christian Home
Helen



~ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Rita Brackrog, who passed away on April



To My Church Family:
Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, texts and meals during my bout with Covid-19. Your support and encouragement mean so much to me. What a wonderful example you are of the love God asks us to share with each other.
Thank you again. Marilyn H.

WORSHIP INFORMATION
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

In-person in the church parking lot and also available on YouTube

Pastor Brian will continue his "Women of the Bible" Sermon Series through Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day) when he will conclude the series by speaking on Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

On Sunday, May 16 we will be celebrating our Confirmands. Please join us for this long overdue recognition.

Pentecost Sunday is May 23. Remember to wear red!!! 

Sunday, May 30th: This Memorial Day weekend, we're doing things a bit different. Our regular 11am worship service will not be live in the parking lot, but will be pre-recorded and streamed online at 11am via our YouTube channel and the regular sources, much like this past winter. At noon, however, a brief in-person outdoor service will be held in the Memorial Garden for a Service of Remembrance, celebrating all those who have been inhumed this year, and in years past. This noon memorial service will be recorded and shared later in the afternoon, as well.

Looking ahead to June:

Beginning June 6, we will move the worship service time to 10:00am, to avoid the hot weather of our summer days and take advantage of the trees providing shade in the parking lot.

Sunday, June 13, we will recognize our 2021 High School Graduates!

Pastor Brian's sermon series beginning June 13: "Games We Play" is a fun and light-hearted series that helps us understand our faith and the Bible just a little bit deeper through the lens of some of our favorite board games. Whether you're "passing go" in Monopoly, or playing a "triple letter" in Scrabble, we can learn something about ourselves, our faith, and our God.

Senior High Youth Group

Congratulation to all GBUMC Youth who will celebrate their Confirmation this May!

For our Sr. High Youth Group activity this month, we encourage you support your fellow youth group members.

Confirmation Sunday is May 16, 2021. How can you support your friends?

- Attend Service on May 16th
- Send them a note, email, or text
- Create a short video to share with the group (send to Jennifer for distribution 😊)
- Create something (draw, paint, form...) for the person to remember the day
- Give a balloon or flower

Or any other fun way you think of!

May God always be in your life so that you have someone to lean on as you grow, learn, and become who you're meant to be!

Ryan Anderson
Chloe Haggerty
Kimberly Lutton
Karl Martin
Charlie Smith
Charlotte Roth



Junior High Youth

Saturday, May 22

Feed the Bus

11am—1pm

In the High School Parking Lot



Sunday, May 23, 2021

Immediately following the worship service: Cookout and games!!



Please feel free to contact Jessica Smith with any questions



Donna Hedding is collecting items for the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic. (G.C.F.M.C.) If you are interested in helping, please save empty pill bottles with labels removed, summer clothing for men and women (ages 21-99) and medicine that you no longer use (cross your name off the bottle). Please get these items to Donna on May 24 or contact the church office.

5K

There is a fund raiser for the G.C.F.M.C. It is a Healing Hands 5K run/walk on Saturday, May 22, @ 9:00 a.m at Mott Community College. This is organized by Genesee County Medical Society Alliance, Pi Delta

Chapter of STTI Nursing Honor Society and Sovita Credit Union. All donations go to G.C.F.M.C. Donna Hedding has entry forms or you can call the HOTLINE: 810-235-7430 or visit the website:

www.enmotive.com, if you would like to participate.

Thank you so much for helping the underprivileged in the county this way and of course as you have done for so many years with FISH here in Grand Blanc!



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.

* Watch Pastor Brian's Daily *
* Devotionals on YouTube! *
* They are uploaded every *
* Monday through Friday. *

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.





Confirmation

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF
CONFIRMATION FOR:

Ryan Anderson, Chloe Haggerty,

Kimberly Lutton, Karl Martin,

Charlotte Roth & Charlie Smith

Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church

*NOTE: CHARLIE SMITH WILL BE CONFIRMED ON MAY 23RD

Peace with Justice Sunday

On May 30, 2021 we will celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday which is one of six special Sunday offerings in the United Methodist Church. Our gifts support ministries in the annual conference and internationally.

When you support Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift becomes a voice for advocacy around the world. Together we are an agent of change that shifts systems of inequality to empower people and communities; making it possible to plant new seeds of peace with justice in God's garden of creation. There are many programs supported by this offering including providing sustainable organic healthy foods; helping youth recover from substance abuse through education and rehabilitation; and offering laundry services to homeless families just to name a few.

Half of the offering goes to Peace with



Memorial ★ Day ★

Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country.

One of the Earliest Memorial Day Ceremonies Was Held by Freed Slaves. At the close of the Civil War, freed slaves in Charleston honored fallen Union soldiers.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide; he was commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of and for Union Civil War veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois. Memorial Day became an official federal holiday in 1971.



The Prayer Shawl group meets in the parking lot once a week. They look at the weather and choose the best day. If you are interested in joining them contact the church office for details.

PUZZLE



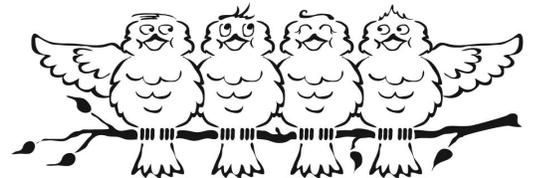
A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q W A W B C O X E E
 J E A A X E' U N O J Q W A W
 B C O N L U A E J E A A
 N L U A B C O A M W E N A W
 J E A A X W F A
 N W E N A W U N O
 B C O A X E E A
 F A X E E A RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
	N	S	P	M

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

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

Kindly direct any questions or comments to Bob Mills

You may also contact the church office to volunteer.

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...

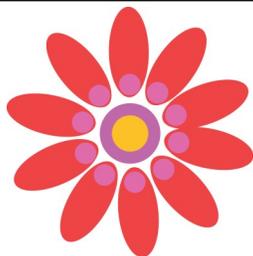
Wednesday Dinner videos by Pastor Brian are uploaded to YouTube every Wednesday morning for use during your family dinner!

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

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



Seasoned Citizens



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

Information on May's Full Moon and the Lunar Eclipse

May's full Moon rises on Wednesday, May 26! This full Moon will be the closest full Moon of the year, making it the second of two supermoons, don't miss it! Plus, it will coincide with a total lunar eclipse in some areas. May's full Flower Moon reaches peak illumination at 7:14 A.M. (EDT) on Wednesday, May 26. It will be below the horizon at this time, so plan to venture outdoors the night before (Tuesday, May 25) or on Wednesday night to get the best view of the bright full Flower Moon!

In some parts of the world, this month's full Moon coincides with a total lunar eclipse! A lunar eclipse occurs when Earth stands directly between the Moon and the Sun, which results in Earth casting its shadow on the Moon. During a total lunar eclipse, the Moon is fully obscured by Earth's shadow, giving the Moon a reddish hue. This phenomenon is where the term "blood moon" comes from.

This total lunar eclipse occurs in the very early morning hours of May 26 and will be visible for stargazers in western North America, western South America, eastern Asia, and Oceania. In the U.S., those who are located east of the Mississippi will experience a partial lunar eclipse instead. The Moon will be very low in the sky during the eclipse, so find a high vantage point with a clear horizon for the best view!

Information from *The Old Farmer's Almanac*

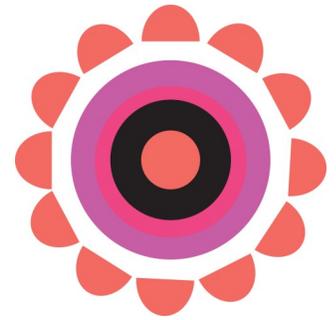
MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

- 1st Christopher
- 3rd Adriana
- 4th Gregg ,Brandi
- 5th Marilyn, Craig ,Carole
- 6th Dawn , Jennifer ,Jeff
- 7th Erwin, Vera
- 8th Bayleigh
- 9th Karen
- 10th Conlan
- 11th Karl , Shirley
- 12th Ronald
- 13th Margaret
- 14th Cheryl
- 15th Laurie
- 16th Roger , Luann, Cameron
- 17th Brent
- 19th Graham, Shar
- 24th Bill
- 25th Brad , Leah
- 26th Ryan
- 30th Angela , Ed
- 31st Anna

Anniversaries

- 12th Deb & Frank
- 13th Jennifer & Jason
- 18th RaeDeane & Randy
- 21st Becky & Matt
- 22nd Angela & Eric
- 22nd Vicki & Brian
- 25th Lynelle & Gregg



MAY 22, 2021 • 9AM-3PM

**FEED
THE BUS**

**GRAND BLANC HIGH SCHOOL
PARKING LOT**
11920 S. Saginaw St.
Collecting donations of...

- Non-perishable food
- Hygiene Products
- Paper Products
- Laundry/Cleaning Products

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

WITH FISH OF GRAND BLANC

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
 Building and Roof Mortgage Summary
MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 03-31-21)
 Mortgage Balance with UMF = \$175,330.72
 Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 03-31-21) = \$11,845.89
 Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 03-31-21) = \$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



Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Group

Brookdale of Grand Blanc
 Hosted Outdoors
 5130 Baldwin Road, Holly

If you have any questions or if they can be of help in any other way, please contact Elizabeth Delaney 810-522-7998

We received this note from the South Flint Soup Kitchen, with a special thanks to all who help with this important ministry!

Dear Melinda and friends,
 Thank you so much for the amazing chili lunch! We served 92 clients that day and they really enjoyed all of the goodies. We appreciate you all so much and we pray we can partner on something else besides the fabulous Saturday lunches again soon.
 Sincerely, Katelyn Maylum
 Sr. Program Manager



WOJO'S Greenhouse & Garden Center and Lake Orion United Methodist Church

FUNdraiser to support Blessings in a Brown Bag Lunch Program

Wednesday, May 5th and
 Wednesday, May 19th



Everything you need including trees and shrubs, annuals, perennials, vegetables, planters, roses, ornamental grasses and professional landscape design.
 Fundraiser does not include purchase of gift cards.

Mention **LAKE ORION CHURCH** at checkout for us to receive credit.



10% of your Total Sales will be donated.
 Visit one of the two locations:

Wojo's

2570 Oakwood, Ortonville 248-627-6498
 7360 E. Court Street, Davison 810-658-9221

Please help us feed the children this summer when schools are closed. Our Blessings in a Brown Bag (BBB) program feeds students in Lake Orion. Surrounding communities are eligible for federal funding, Lake Orion is not. This is our fourth year of this program. It cost approximately \$175 to feed a child for the summer, and we have served over 125 students by having volunteers make and deliver lunches each weekday to the child's home.