



# The Grand Blanc UMC

# "Connection"

June, 2021

Worship Services will be held in-person in the parking lot at 11:00am.

Services are also available on YouTube

June 6

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

"He Lives"

Matthew 22:37-39

James 2: 14-17

Bob Mills



June 13

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

Graduate Recognition

Sermon Series:

"Games We Play"

"Scrabble"

Proverbs 18: 1-4



June 20

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

Father's Day

Sermon Series

"Games We Play"

"Chutes & Ladders"

Job 1:13-2:10



June 27

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

Sermon Series:

"Games We Play"

"Happy Little

Accidents"

Eric Carlson



## Traditions: The What, the Why, and the That

Each summer, my family would take a two-day road trip out east to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts for a few weeks of vacation. This was all due to the beautiful gift of tradition my grandparents gave to our family when, in 1960, they bought a small little gingerbread cottage in the Oak Bluffs campground. It was there that we'd gather just about every summer with friends, traditions and memories. One tradition we had, no matter the circumstances, is that we'd listen to Carly Simon's song, "Never Been Gone," a song she'd written while on the ferry to Martha's Vineyard, as we'd disembark the ferry with our feet planted firmly on the island home.

The list of traditions went on from there, of course! Pancakes at Linda Jean's restaurant, rides on the Flying Horses Carousel, one of the oldest remaining carousels in America (you can still catch the brass ring to win a free ride), fresh donuts at midnight from Backdoor Donuts, cookouts on the beach at the Menemsha fishing wharf, a last-night pizza at Giordano's, etc. The list goes on and on.

The other day, I was driving down Center Rd toward Flint when I had this overwhelming desire to hear "Never Been Gone." It has become a little trick of mine when I just need to escape for a few minutes. I swear I can smell the saltwater as the song plays. As the song played, I found myself remembering all the trips we took as kids, as teens, and even into adulthood to this home away from home. I remembered the many little things my sister and I would do with my parents each trip. I recalled the little traditions that somehow made these weeks away into an almost sacred time.

I also remembered how it felt when Stephanie and I first took our kids to Martha's Vineyard when Matthew and Micah were just 2 years old. I began to smile as I thought about the traditions we'd created in subsequent trips – early morning walks, walking donuts (so mom wouldn't find out), trips to the beach, and those same Flying Horses. But we've also mixed in new traditions. Things that will just be ours.

It's funny how traditions work, isn't it? We rarely know that they are traditions when they're being formed. It's later as their repetition becomes meaningful that we realize their importance. However, that being said, I often wonder what is most meaningful to us about traditions? Is it the activity or action being repeated, or is it what that activity or action represents to us? I realized as I listened to Carly Simon sing that the latter is the case. The song is beautiful, and it will always be one of my favorites. But as I hear it, I can still picture my dad driving off of the ferry. I can still smell the coffee my mom would brew in the morning. I can still hear the carousel music play in the background, and feel the sand between my toes. For me, that song will always be about family. It will always be a meeting place for me and my dad's memory. It will be played at family gatherings and everyone will just have to suffer for a moment as my mom, sister and I sing along at the top of our lungs.

The same is with traditions in the church. We base traditions on actions and activities: the singing of Silent Night on Christmas Eve; the movement of an action item from one committee to the next for votes and vetoes; choirs, classes, and more. The truth, though, is that over time, the actions we take may change. They have before, and they will again. But that doesn't mean that the traditions disappear or that we're being less faithful than those who took charge before us. It means that the tradition of faith is not wrapped up in *what* we do or even *how* we do it. Instead, the tradition of faith is wrapped up in *that* we do it: *that* we worship, *that* we serve, *that* we give, *that* we share, and *that* we witness.

I am immensely grateful for those who have been a part of the tradition of the church. Though the way we serve as a church may change as we discover, evolve, and grow, the tradition remains the same: faithfulness.  
Peace, Pastor Brian



**FOR THE HOMEBOUND:**

Marge  
Woody

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

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

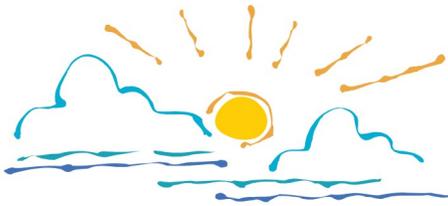
**FOR OTHERS:**

Deanna  
Tony  
Pat  
Shelia  
Alexandra  
Betsy  
Donald  
Chris  
Scott  
Emma  
Robert  
Michael  
Jay  
Kathy  
Barb  
Doug  
Cheryl  
Billy

Justin  
Gerry  
Wayne  
AJ  
Rachel  
Carl  
Carol  
Ruth  
Naomi  
Charlie  
Betty  
Connie  
Jeff  
Donna  
Marty  
Barb  
Sunny  
Jim  
Sharon

**Autumn Ridge of Clarkston**  
Shirley  
**Great Lakes Christian Home**  
Helen

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Ed Ferguson. Ed passed away on Saturday, May 8, 2021. He would have been 90 years old on May 30, 2021.



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](mailto:care.team@grandblancumc.org)



Pastor's drop-in Bible Study will be taking a break for the Summer. In the Fall they will resume studying Exodus at Chapter 14.

During the Summer, Pastor will be offering a monthly study. Each month you are invited to watch a video or movie, and then join the discussion. The study will meet on the 3rd Thursday of June, July and August, at 10:00am.

On Thursday, June 17 we will begin by watching a documentary about Jerusalem.

This small group study will meet in person with a virtual option. If you would prefer to meet virtually, you may borrow the DVD to watch prior to the meeting and then join the discussion virtually on the meeting day.

**WORSHIP INFORMATION**

**Sundays at 11:00a.m.**

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

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.

***Please see the article "A New Step Toward Reopening" on the next page!***

# A NEW STEP TOWARD REOPENING

It is with joy, as well as prayerful hope that positive progress will continue, that I share with you the good news that Michigan, and in particular, Genesee County, is showing improvement in many of the COVID-19 benchmarks that we have been monitoring. While there is still much progress to be made, particularly with regard to increasing vaccination rates (currently at just about 40%), I, along with our church Administrative Council, feel that we are able to safely move forward with the next steps toward reopening. While these won't be our final steps, they are definitely in a desirable direction!

## **An Indoor and In-Person Worship Option**

Beginning Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have an indoor option for in-person worship, in addition to our continued outdoor service. **The outdoor worship service option will begin at its new time of 9:30am and will continue to be LIVE streamed to our YouTube channel. The new indoor worship service option will begin at 11:00am and will take place in the sanctuary.** The indoor service will not be streamed online, though it will include the same scripture and sermon as the LIVE streamed outdoor service. As you make plans for which service you would like to attend, virtually or in-person, it will be helpful to know the following:

- The indoor service will not initially have congregational singing. This can and will change as recommendations from health experts make such recommendations. That said, both services will have worshipful music of some form each week provided by our worship music staff. If congregational singing is important to you, you may want to consider the outdoor service for the time being as the outdoor environment *does* allow for singing due to the obvious ventilation advantage.
- Though in the sanctuary, we will continue to social distance and practice proper mask wearing. Masks will be available, and the building, pews, and more will be set up in such a way so as to promote these continued measures. More will be said about this in just a bit.
- Much about this worship experience will feel familiar and even normal. While there will still be a few things that we're doing differently, both worship services will continue to be meaningful, inviting, and full of grace!
- At this point, recommendations from health experts still discourage activities such as coffee and fellowship hour. Until we can resume that wonderful time together, feel free to use the beautiful outdoor space at the church for greeting one another. We just ask that you remain mindful that everyone has their own comfort levels with regard to handshakes, hugs, etc.

## **Small Groups**

Effective immediately, small groups may resume meeting in the classrooms, Library, and Fellowship Hall if they so desire. Groups who desire, instead, to continue using virtual means are welcome and encouraged to do so. Once again, please keep in mind that all in-person gatherings are asked to continue social distancing and masking practices.

## **Children and Youth**

Programs and ministries that are designed for children under the age of 12 will continue to refrain from indoor gatherings until vaccinations for that age group are approved and made readily available and/or herd immunity is confidently achieved in our area. I am continuing to work with a number of our dedicated children's ministry volunteers to make sure we continue to serve the children in our church and community.

Youth programs, designed specifically for youth between the ages of 12 and 18 years old will continue to take place, whether they be virtually, in-person, indoors or outdoors or any combination thereof. These decisions will be made in consultation with, and at the discretion of parents/guardians, program facilitators, and the pastor.

## **Social Distancing and Masking**

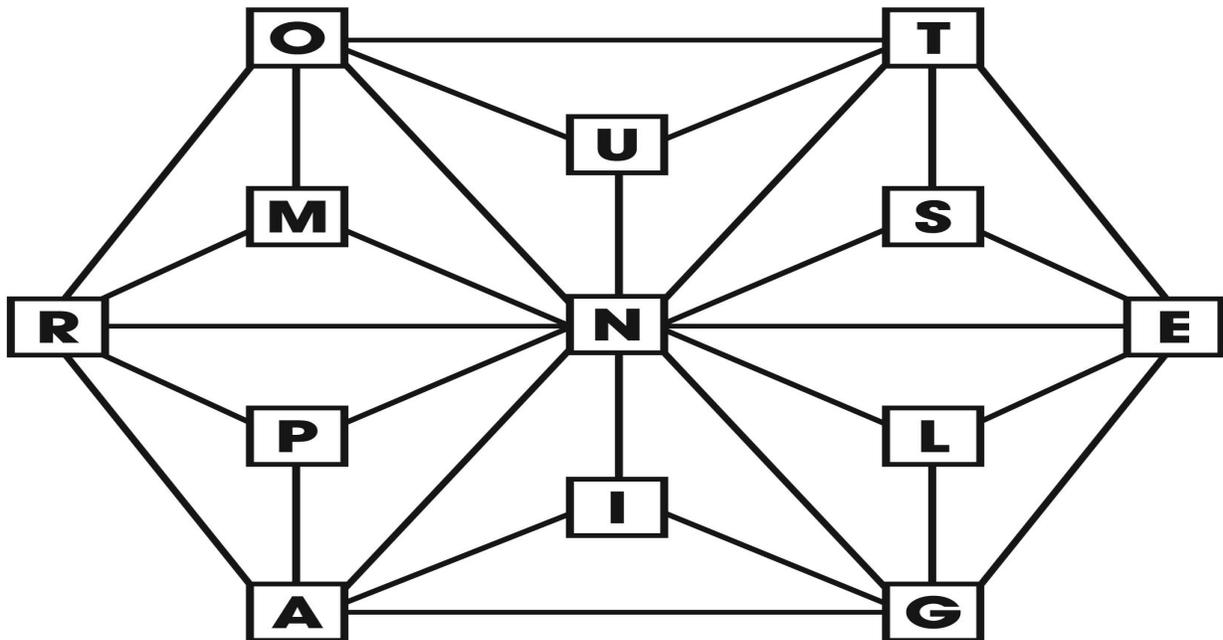
As I've already mentioned a few times, we are continuing to require masking and social distancing when at the church and when participating in the ministries of GBUMC. Despite recommendations that vaccinated individuals do not need to mask any longer, it is important to remember that, in addition to not being able to reasonably determine who is vaccinated and who is not, we are, more importantly, a church family with many who, by no choice of their own, are unable to be vaccinated at this point (children under 12 years of age, as well as those who are immunosuppressed). For this purpose we will all continue with our masking and social distancing practices in an earnest effort to demonstrate a sacred solidarity with *all* our brothers and sisters in Christ during this time. We will remain faithful to this specific effort of safety and hospitality until broad herd immunity is confidently achieved in our area.

As we continue through this challenging time, I cannot thank you enough for your continue patience and understanding. We are certainly making joyful and safe progress forward! As we continue to be the church and the Body of Christ for this world, let us rejoice and give thanks!

Blessings and peace, friends!  
Pastor Brian

# Puzzle!

Try to spell as many words as possible. Start anywhere and move along the connecting lines. Don't skip letters; for example, you can't form *must* because to get from *m* to *u* you'd need to skip either *o* or *n*. You may return to use the same letter twice, as when you form *noun*, but you can't use the same letter twice in a row.



4-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Words with 6 or more letters: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers include: 4-letter words: gain, pain, lens, mote, page, nuts, nest, sent, rant, rain, pant; 5-letter words: giant, paint, tents, notes, stone, stout, motor, mount; longer words: morning, routes, giants, mounts, promote, raging.



# 2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



## *Megan Bunker*



High school has been nothing but ordinary to say the least for Megan and this graduating class, 2021. Megan has always been independent, strong, loving, caring, smart, and a go getter! She has been working while going to High school and through the pandemic. At the moment, she manages 3 jobs: waitressing, babysitting, and a car porter.

Megan will be graduating June 3rd from Grand Blanc High School. Megan received her silver cords and the Ferris State Crimson Scholarship at GBHS honors ceremony. She plans to attend Ferris State University in the Fall where she'll be studying Criminal Justice/Political Science. Her end goal is to become a lawyer.

## *Allison "Allie" Jablonski*



I will be graduating from GBHS. My sophomore year I was selected by the band director to represent the State of Michigan with The Michigan Ambassadors of Music on a 7 country concert tour of Europe. We performed in England, France, Germany, Italy, Lichtenstein, Switzerland and Austria. It was the highlight of my high school experience. All four years of high school I was a member of the L&L Dance School competition team. In addition to being the GBUMC nursery assistant I was also an assistant teacher at L&L. I attended GCI and earned honors in their Veterinary Medicine program.

After graduation I will start a position as a nanny for a local family with four kids. I am undecided between attending Mott Community College or Oakland Community College in the fall to earn my Associates in science. I then plan to continue on to earn my DVM degree.

## *Conlan Mueser*



Conlan Mueser has attended GBHS all four years of high school. During that time he has been highly involved with the Autism community. Volunteering his time assisting those living with Autism at POWER camps, soccer sessions and basketball session, all

through the Autism Support and Resource Center. He has maintained honor roll while in high school earning him silver cords for graduation. He played travel baseball for many years and then switched to golf where he became a member of the high school golf team.

Conlan plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall. Because of his love for volunteering with the Autism community, he was awarded a scholarship through the Gupta Values Scholarship. He will continue his education majoring in nursing or medicine with an interest in anesthesia.

## *Scott Herrmann*

Scott is graduating from Holly High School and will be attending Michigan State University in the Fall.

...DO NOT LET WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING  
OUT OF YOUR SIGHT, PRESERVE SOUND  
JUDGEMENT AND DISCRETION; THEY WILL BE  
LIFE FOR YOU...

Proverbs 3:21-22, NIV

We will be recognizing  
our high school  
graduates during the  
11:00am worship service  
in the  
church parking lot on  
**Sunday, June 13.**



*Celebrating  
our Graduates*



# 2021 COLLEGE GRADUATES



## **Thomas Cook:**

(June 13) Kalamazoo College, Majored in Business, with a Minor in Journalism, Media Studies emphasis

## **Andrew Koerkel:**

(April 30) Slippery Rock University, Physician's Assistant

## **Alyssa Norris:**

(April 30) University of Michigan, Flint, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design

## **Andrew Tyckoski:**

(December 2020) Michigan Technological University, Environmental Engineering with a Minor in Math

THIS IS MY PRAYER:

THAT YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND MORE AND MORE IN KNOWLEDGE AND DEPTH OF INSIGHT...

Philippians 1:9

*Thank  
You!*



## Thank You Boy Scouts!

On Saturday, May 15 Boy Scout Troop 160, sponsored by the Burton V.F.W. and Bentley High School, did a work project here at the church. Frank Skinner took the lead in this activity along with his son, Levi, three other scouts and two other parents.

The scouts cleared out an area of brush and weeds at the North West corner of the parking lot between the walking trail, flower garden and the subdivision fences.



GBUMC is looking forward to the Grand Blanc Fun Fest coming to town this year beginning June 10 through June 13. In the past years, we have had the pleasure of serving the Carnival workers a meal prior to the event at the church. While we cannot serve a meal at the church this year, we do plan to put together a sack lunch and deliver it to the workers prior to the festival opening.

We are still in the process of securing actual details, but we are looking for folks who are willing to help once the plan is in place. If you think you would like to be part of a team of folks who assemble a sack lunch, donate food, or help deliver the lunch, please feel free to contact Melinda ([elmorehajek@aol.com](mailto:elmorehajek@aol.com)) by email, text or even a phone call. Thank you for your servant hearts.



## Overeaters Anonymous (OA)

Meets at the church every  
Saturday (when possible)  
10:00am to 11:00am

We are all Compulsive  
Overeaters & Food Addicts.  
Our program is built on the  
Spiritual, Physical and Mental.  
We follow AA guidelines.  
Everyone who has an eating  
disorder is welcome and no  
cost to come. We are more  
than happy to welcome  
newcomers. If you would like  
more information please feel  
free to call Mary



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)

# JUNE

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthday Wishes

3<sup>rd</sup> Val , Abby  
4<sup>th</sup> Brexton  
5<sup>th</sup> Eric , Jason  
6<sup>th</sup> Nan  
8<sup>th</sup> Melinda  
10<sup>th</sup> Shawn  
11<sup>th</sup> Marylee  
14<sup>th</sup> Laynita , Cameron, Jim  
16<sup>th</sup> Nancy, Barbara  
17<sup>th</sup> Amanda , Maggie  
18<sup>th</sup> Andrew , Greg , Kai , Etta  
19<sup>th</sup> Mackenzie  
24<sup>th</sup> Laurie, Marcia  
25<sup>th</sup> Donna , Judy, Gail, Beverly  
26<sup>th</sup> Ralph  
27<sup>th</sup> Gary , Trevor  
29<sup>th</sup> Emma , Marilyn, James, Eleanor ,  
Virginia

### Anniversaries

2<sup>nd</sup> Judy & Gary ,Katie & Ken  
4<sup>th</sup> Barb & Mike  
5<sup>th</sup> Deb & Dan, Todd & Sandy

8<sup>th</sup> Shelly & Brian  
9<sup>th</sup> Dorothy & Roger, Colleen & Ron  
10<sup>th</sup> Julie & Bob  
11<sup>th</sup> Linda & Greg  
12<sup>th</sup> RaeAnn & Bernie  
13<sup>th</sup> Jessica & Jim  
14<sup>th</sup> Mixsy & Alex  
16<sup>th</sup> Carrie & Jody  
17<sup>th</sup> Celia & Duane  
21<sup>st</sup> Susie & Henry  
28<sup>th</sup> Gretchen & Tony



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.



## GBUMC you helped make it a success!

I'm writing you this thank you on behalf of FISH. May 22 was Feed the Bus for FISH. I turned in our donations from the Seasoned Citizens to Barb Smith that day for \$600! I also want to thank all that stopped by and dropped off food for the FISH food pantry! The bus was filled and we received donations of \$5,304.50. Praise the Lord! Donna Hedding

The ones from church that volunteered were: Angela Cook, Melinda Elmore-Hajek, Marilyn Horton, Gail Lutton, Tammy Martin, Jessica Smith, Virginia Sullivan, Dale Wolfgram, and youth group volunteers were Kim Lutton, Emma Rahn, Charlotte Roth and Charlie Smith.

Thanks,  
Everyone!

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



## New Temporary Office Hours:



Cathy or Angela will be in the church office on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00am to Noon, beginning Wednesday, June 2, 2021. We will of course continue to work from home the rest of the week and there is always a chance that we will be at the office on other days/times. Pastor Brian will be in his church office on Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to Noon. It is always best to call ahead, if you would like to stop by to see Pastor to make sure that he was not called away on emergency.

Please feel free to leave a voice mail (810-694-9040) or email (office@grandblancumc.org) and we will get back to you asap. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the church building and continue to social distance whenever possible. We will update our office hours as we continue to see improvement in our recovery from this pandemic. With that being said, we encourage everyone to get a vaccine!

## 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



The United Methodist Women would like to thank everyone who helped with the Rummage Sale. Thank you to the Senior High Youth who were a great help during clean-up (Gina said she doesn't know how they would have done it without you!). And thank you to Gary Hajek, John Billings and Frank Skinner for the use of their trailers. If you helped in any way, please know that it was greatly appreciated.

## 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.