



The Grand Blanc UMC "Connection"

July, 2021

"An ING Kind of Church"

ING

I remember years ago while watching the Superbowl, there was a commercial that came on somewhere between the Budweiser Clydesdales and a Doritos ad that caused quite a bit of confusion. That commercial was for something called "ING." The commercial simply showed a pristine park on a beautiful spring day with a park bench that simply displayed the letters "ING." An intrigued passerby asked the gentleman sitting there on the bench, "What is ING?" The gentleman simply shrugged his shoulders. Then, fade to black. No answer, no information, no catchy jingle to play in your head for the next three days. Just those three letters: "ING."

Almost immediately, conversations online began: what is ING? It began to trend as a top search on Google.com and eventually, you found yourself down the rabbit hole of ING U.S., an investment and retirement group. A commercial for a company that would have likely served as the Superbowl half-time bathroom break suddenly turned into the talk of the town, asking the same question as the commercial's passerby: "What is ING?"

The "E" Word

The word "Evangelism" has garnered for itself a bad reputation. Maybe it's due to the seemingly endless number of times we've been subjected to the street corner signs reading "Repent" and "Are you going to heaven?" while the bullhorn guy shouts about hell while waving a well-worn leather Bible. Or maybe we've simply received too many tract pamphlets that serve more to instill fear about salvation rather than hope about God's grace. Was it the distrust instilled by televangelists like Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker? Or maybe the images of the hate spread by the few at Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. But I want to introduce to you the idea that "Evangelism" is, in actuality, a wonderful thing and something that ought to be part of our practice as a church...just maybe not in the way you might think.

Let's start with the word itself. The word "Evangelist" is derived from the Latin, "Evangelista" which literally means, "*bringer of good news.*" Hard to be upset with that, right? You'll discover within the word an even more familiar one:

Ev-angel-ist. Do you see it? Even the word "angel," with its meaning of "messenger," is part of this idea of evangelism. Putting the etymology aside, "evangelism" is really just about being a messenger of good news! Again, hard to be upset with that, right?

Back to ING

It strikes me as interesting that ING's marketing department was able to convince its budget manager to invest in a multi-million dollar Superbowl commercial that does not tell viewers what ING is all about! Oh, to be a fly on the wall of that meeting! But, consider the genius of it all. By giving almost no information – by refusing to begin with

-continued on next page

July 4

6th Sunday after
Pentecost

Sermon Series:
Games We Play
"Operation"

Matthew 9: 27-35

July 11

7th Sunday after
Pentecost

Sermon Series:
"Games We Play"
"Monopoly"

Matthew 19: 16-24

July 18

8th Sunday after
Pentecost

Sermon Series
"Games We Play"
"Clue"

Matthew 18: 1-20

July 25

9th Sunday after
Pentecost

"Baskets"

Matthew 14: 13-21

the tagline, what was sparked was interest. Interest in something that would have been otherwise ignored, no less! It was a clever away of saying, “We’re here!” without inundating the audience right off the bat. It allowed the viewers’ interest, coupled with the power of internet search engines, to dive deeper – deeper than anyone would have otherwise.

An ING Kind of Church

Every evening, Grand Blanc’s Bicentennial Park is flooded with families all summer long. We’re talking kids of all ages, parents, grandparents, aunts uncles, etc. And they’re all there for the same purpose: little league sports! Now, imagine you’re part of a group from Grand Blanc UMC that commits to going to some of the games, all the while wearing a shirt with the Church name on the front and the words “Cheer Team” on the back. When you arrive at the fields, you simply sit in the stands and do the best job in the world: cheer on the kids! Now, one or two nights would pass by with out much comment, but eventually, a parent walks up to you and says, *“Someone was here yesterday and the game before with that same shirt on. I’m just curious.”* Your response is this simple: *“Oh, yeah! I’m from Grand Blanc United Methodist Church. We’re really wanting to commit ourselves to caring for families in our community, and we thought an easy way to do that would be to make sure that every kid here would have at least one more person cheering them on.”*

That’s it! No pamphlets. No scripture passages to recite. Not even a commercial about our worship services. It’s almost like sitting on a park bench with ING printed on the back, except now it simply reads “Grand Blanc UMC.”

But Isn’t There More?

But isn’t there more? Sure, there is! But we’re not there yet. No one started an account with ING simply because they saw the commercial. The commercial sparked an interest. What comes next is the connection...and that will be next month’s article. But until then, let’s cheer!

~ Pastor Brian



FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Marge
Woody

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Donna
Carol
Cheryl
Becky
Al
Rosie
Eleanor
Ellen
Dick
Phil
Marcia
Mary
Paul
Eileen

FOR OTHERS:

Peter
Don
Deanna
Tony
David
Pat
Shelia
Jamie
Alexandra
Betsy
Donald
Chris
Scott
Lynn
Whitney
Robert
Michael
Jay
Kathy
Barb
Doug
Gerry
Wayne
AJ
Rachel
Carl

Mark
Ruth
Thomas
Naomi
Charlie
Betty
Connie
Jeff
Donna
Marty
Barb
Sunny
Jim
Sharon
Kevin

Autumn Ridge of Clarkston
Shirley
Great Lakes Christian Home
Helen



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

C.A.R.E. Team

Did Pastor Brian's Article Intrigue You?

If you would be interested in helping to put together a GBUMC Cheer Team like the one he described in the article, please reach out to Pastor Brian at the church office!

Pastor@grandblancumc.org

(810) 694-9040



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 where we can have conversations around faith and scripture. Each month you are invited to watch a video or movie, and then join the discussion

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.

- At 10:00am on **Thursday, July 15** we will be watching and discussing the film **The Shack**.
- At 10:00am on **Thursday, August 19** we will be watching and discussing the film **Just Mercy**.

Join us for one or both!! We look forward to seeing you.



Hey GBUMC Kids! (Elementary age) Come join us every Wednesday in July from 9am till 11am for a fun filled morning. We'll talk about our amazing God, play games, have snacks and do a fun project.

Please have your grown up use the sign up genius so we know you will be there! Bring a friend or 2! Super Fun! We'll be outside, dress accordingly. Tennies are the best choice for shoes! If it's rainy we will move that date to August 4th.

[GBUMC Kids: Summer Fun \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Thanks FOR PITCHING IN!

Thank you so much to Bob Mills, Ron Blakemore, Bernie Waisanen, Jake Waisanen, Paul Roth, Dan Carvill and Gary Hajek for working so hard at the church on Saturday, June 19, moving the 30 yards of mulch along the pathway at the church. You guys were all on time and really worked hard. Not only the mulch but the mowing, the trimming, the blowing off of the parking lot and all by 11:00am and the first drops of rain.

Special thanks to Charlie Crossno for his big John Deere and front bucket. Typically one can find Charlie at Dawn's Donuts around 10:30am to 11:00am most days. Charlie is a great guy and he volunteered his time and his equipment when he heard me telling what we were going to be doing. Thanks to Charlie... Yeah!!

Once again to all you guys... Thank you. You help make GBUMC look good.

God Bless each of you!

NEW SERVICE TIMES!!

BEGINNING JULY 4

9:30am Outdoor parking lot

11:00am Sanctuary Service

Please see the article "A NEW STEP TOWARD REOPENING" for details.



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 4th, 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 continued 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



JULY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1st Brian, Christopher
 2nd Phil
 4th Graham
 6th Jennifer
 7th Rebecca, Jacob
 8th Gary
 10th Rosie
 12th Chuck
 13th Lynelle
 14th Janet, Gavin, Mary
 15th Pat
 16th Sam, Kelsey, Jeremy
 17th Olivia
 18th Michael
 19th Emily, Bill
 20th John, Nathan
 22nd Bea, Norma
 25th Shawn, Charlie
 26th David, Allison, Bob, Linda
 28th Chloe, Todd
 29th Bob, William, Ashlyn
 31st Gina, Dave, Chad

Anniversary Blessings

1st Bev & Gary
 9th Laura & Steve
 20th Dianne & Jim
 21st Karen & Chuck
 26th Rosie & Al,
 Amanda & Donley
 28th Lisa & Pat,
 Hilary & Daniel
 30th Sandra & Brian



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)

NEW WORSHIP TIMES!!

Beginning Sunday, July 4

—9:30am Outdoor service in the church parking lot

—11:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary (masks and social distancing required)

—The 9:30am service will be recorded and streamed on YouTube for those who preferred to worship from home.

—Please see the article "A NEW STEP TOWARD REOPENING" for details.



Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Building and Roof Mortgage Summary

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 05-31-21)

Mortgage Balance with UMF = \$173,492.21

Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 05-31-21) = \$10,590.89

Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 05-31-21) = \$16,134.90

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



New Temporary Office Hours:



Cathy or Angela will be in the church office on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00am to Noon. 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. If you would like to stop by to see Pastor, it is always best to call ahead 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
5130 Baldwin Road, Holly
Hosted Outdoors

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

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 ago as a project of the United Methodist Men under the approval of the Trustees.