



"Connection"

October 3

19th Sunday after

Pentecost

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

"A Word for the Shaken"

Psalms 46

Rev. Steven Buck



October Sermon

Series:

"Already Blessed"

October 10

20th Sunday after

Pentecost

"A Present Abundance"

Proverbs 3:1-12

October 17

21st Sunday after

Pentecost

"Live Simply"

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

October 24

22nd Sunday after

Pentecost

"Giving to Possibility"

Luke 16:1-13

October 31

23rd Sunday after

Pentecost

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

"The Legacy of Giving"

John 21:15-17

Does Prayer Work?

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." -
Philippians 4:6*

Odds are good that you've heard my theology of prayer before, but in case you haven't, I'll give you the CliffsNotes version of it: Sometimes, we think about prayer as God's newspaper. We let God know what is going on in our lives and in the world, and God chooses how to respond to the things we've made God aware of. The problem with this way of thinking about prayer is that it forgets that God is all-knowing. In other words, God already knows the things we raise up in prayer long before we ever pray the words or think the thoughts. So, are we just wasting our breath with prayer? No! We're not wasting our time or our breath. Rather, I believe that God uses prayer as a time for us to accomplish two things: (1) First, we become more acutely aware of the needs of our neighbors and our world. Prayer forces us to come face to face with the celebrations and concerns of those around us. (2) Secondly, we become more intimately aware of what matters most to God, how God is responding in our world, and how God *is* (not "*might be*") calling us to be God's hands and feet in the world, responding to needs.

With that understanding of prayer, let's ask the question again, "Does prayer work?" Our good Christian instincts might have us shouting, "YES!" but let's think through why it is. In Philippians, we are encouraged to lift every petition, thanksgiving and request to God. We are to do this in *all* situations, even those that might cause us anxiety.

As I'm writing this, I'm only 22 hours removed from praying inside an ambulance as our one year old daughter, Jane, was being taken to the hospital following a 5 minute seizure during which this scared-half-to-death dad held her in my arms just hoping and praying that her breathing would continue. As we were rushed to the ER, I remember looking out the backdoor window, trying to determine how far away we were, only able to pray the deep guttural prayers – the kind for which no words can be found. I firmly believe God heard my prayer, even though I wasn't sure what I was praying, exactly. As I stood by her gurney in the ER bay, surrounded by doctors and nurses, I texted a quick prayer request to some clergy friends of mine who I was supposed to be with on retreat. For that whole afternoon, I received messages that they were praying for us. With only Stephanie, Jane, and I in the ER room waiting for test results, we felt an acute awareness that we weren't alone in that moment. Not only was God's Spirit present with us, but so were the spirits of all who were praying. As our prayer request made its way to the church prayer chain, we immediately began feeling as though we were surrounded by our church family.

So, how did the wordless prayers of a frightened dad work? Or the prayers of a near breathless mom hurrying from her office to the ER? Or the prayers of friends

Continued on next page

Does Prayer Work? Continued...

and church families? How did they work? I believe that it was those prayers that helped to remind Stephanie and I that we weren't alone in a scary moment. It was those prayers that allowed God to dispatch so many words of love, support, care, and concern from so many who love us. It was those prayers that bolstered the energy of doctors, nurses, techs, EMTs, and hospital staff, and reminded them of the sacred task of life and compassion to which they, too, are called. It was those prayers that made space for the hand of God to be laid upon a little girl who was scared and not feeling well.

But, What About When the Prayers Don't Seem to Work?

Even as I write this, I'm sitting in the living room defending my keyboard from the alsdkjfsklfdjskdjf energized fingers of the same little girl who is now feeling much better, and my heart is aching for those parents whose experiences are not as reassuring, or medical emergencies without good outcomes. Did prayer not work there? Did God simply not care enough? Did God forget to bolster the energy of the doctors, or were the prayers of friends and churches just not effective? It can be tempted to think that, can't it? But notice that it was never about God interjecting in the situation to defend certain nerve-endings in Jane's brain and not in other children. It was never about God's preference for one child or another, or the sins of the parents visited upon the children. As much as it breaks my heart to say, there are times when the body does not work the way it is supposed to. Sometimes microscopic cells misbehave, and sometimes accidents occur because the laws of physics always remain constant. Sometimes the amazing accomplishments achieved through chemotherapy work, and sometimes it's just not enough or in time. These aren't things I say lightly, but things we must acknowledge.

And so, when our hearts break in this world, we find comfort in God's dispatch of those who have been praying who now surround us in our grieving. We find comfort that the peace we've prayed for is still possible, and that suffering is no longer endured.

It's never that our prayers didn't work! Prayer just doesn't work that way! The joy of prayer is that we become more connected to one another and to God, and God becomes more connected to us! And when we are connected in that way, we can journey every storm...together.

Pastor Brian



FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Marge Berryman
Woody Woodbeck

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Gary Atchison
Donna Brookins
Cheryl Cottrell
Janet Davis
Becky Doran
Eleanor Hall
Dick Hubler
Marcia Johnson
Mary Manning
Paul Manning
Eileen Scott

FOR OTHERS:

Don Baxter
Kim Brown

Deanna Cook
Tony Conklin
Warren Crawfis
Cynthia Crawford
Shelia Dirrim
Jeanne Dobes
Mike Dunn
Jamie Emmendorfer
Alexandra Faulkner
Betsy Fisher
Wendell Griffus
Colin Harper
Chris Hayes
Scott Haze
Lynn Hunt
Scott Jawors
Whitney Jensen
Robert Koerkel, Sr.
Catherine Labron
Michael Lackey
Jay Latimer
Kathy Latimer
Barb Lott
Doug Lott
Gerry Moody
Joshua Nelson

Wayne Nixon
Laura O'Neill
AJ Ozanich
Rachel Ozanich
Bonnie Spencer Parks
Carl Pate
Mark Phillips
Naomi Rimmell
Thomas Sadler
Charlie Sheridan
Betty Shimel
Connie Skinner
Eleanor Smith
Jeff Sumerix
Donna Van Orden
Marty Weaver
Barb Wickersham
Sunny Wilson
Jim Winn
Sharon Woodard
Kevin Yoss
George Zanca

Autumn Ridge of Clarkston
Shirley Robertson
Great Lakes Christian Home
Helen Floyd



~ We express
our deepest
sympathy to
the family and
friends of Ellen

Hansen. Ellen passed away
on September 15, 2021.

~ We express our deepest
sympathy to the family and
friends of Elena Trinidad, who
passed away on September 2,
2021. Elena is Alex Trinidad's
grandmother

Jim Bunker is
excited to share
that he is going to
be a grandpa!! His
son, Aaron and his
wife, are expecting
a child. Please pray for a
healthy pregnancy.

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*



Sunday School Resumes!

Beginning Sunday, October 3, 2021

Our Christian Education Team has been working hard to resume meaningful programs and ministries to our church family.



J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) will start on Sunday, October 3, at 10:00am. This class is for children in Kindergarten through 5th grades. A church that wants to grow and increase its ministry with and for families, youth, and children needs all hands on deck! Adult volunteers are needed to assist the Lead Teachers. If you would like to help, please sign-up on the Christian Education Board (found outside of the sanctuary toward the education wing), or contact the church office.

Junior High and Senior High Sunday School will also begin meeting at 10:00am on Sunday, October 3.

GBUMC is looking to hire a Christian Education Director. If you or someone you know would be interested in this purposeful and worthwhile position, please contact the church office.

Kid's Worship Zone

Available 9:00am & 11:00am

This section of the sanctuary is set up specifically for kids. The space will be designed for elementary-aged children to sit together, with adult supervision, and observe, experience, and even participate in the worship services in age-appropriate ways.

This is a meaningful step toward fostering a family-friendly environment in the church, as well as a focus on children's discipleship.

This program is certainly not a requirement of all children, and families are also more than welcome to utilize this space.

Remember, at their baptism, the congregation promised to help you raise your children in a loving church family.

This is our turn to do that!

We are looking for some adults that would sit with the kids during worship. Please sign up on the Christian Education Bulletin Board (found outside of the sanctuary toward the education wing), or contact the church office.

Jr. High & Sr. High News!



Sunday, October 10: Meet right after church. We will have lunch and then head out to the corn mazes for some fun and donuts



Sunday, October 24:

It's Fall!! Church needs our help! We'll meet right after church, help pick up some leaves and have pizza and a treat. Bring a rake and a helping heart!



Halloween Party: TBD



Feel free to contact us with any questions

Jr. High

Jessica Smith: 810-287-8506

Sr. High

Jennifer Lengyel: 810-241-2343

Brian Rice: 810-265-6886

Seasoned Citizens

The 2021-2022 year got off to a good start on 09-09-2021 with 35 in attendance. Looking ahead we encourage you to put the following dates on your calendars for the once a month potlucks:

Thursday, October 14
Thursday, December 9
Thursday, February 10
Thursday, April 14

Thursday, November 11
Thursday, January 13
Thursday, March 10
Thursday, May 12

Our schedule for each occasion will be:

12:00 Noon- Gather
12:25 Prayer/Meditation
12:30 Potluck
1:05 Announcements/Birthdays/Anniversaries/Etc.
1:20 Program
2:00 Adjourn

We will continue to follow Covid protocols including:

- 5 per table with food served.
- Use paper plates, plasticware and other disposable items so as to keep out of the kitchen and reduce cleanup. (Speaking of cleanup... could always use help)
- Have disinfectant available
- Provide bottled water for all
- In general just seek to keep everyone safe.

It is our tradition to collect donations:

- In November for a needy family at Christmas.
- In May to help the F.I.S.H. organization

Program for Thursday, October 14, Seasoned Citizens Gathering

You all know Marylee's friend, John Batson. John has a daughter and son-in-law that live in Tanzania, Africa and work for their nonprofit organization, SON-International. Ann and Todd, a couple of Michigan Tech graduates, are here for a few weeks. They have agreed to share their story of how they discovered they had a heart for reaching out to those in physical and spiritual need. The bio-sand water filters they build in their workshop, and install in Tanzania homes, are life changing. Come hear their amazing story!!



All retirees or anyone interested are invited to come. If you have not been with us before, come, you just might like what you see!

Pastor Brian's Sermon Series: "Already Blessed" (October 10, 17, 24)

In our everyday lives, as well as in the life of the church, it's not uncommon to feel a need for more; more time, more energy, more resources, more money, etc. What we often forget is that God has already blessed us with so much that is already at our fingertips. We just have to learn how to see it! During this sermon series, we will also explore how each one of us can contribute what God has already blessed us with in order to make a real impact for God's kingdom.



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





S.O.S: Support Our Students

We like to remind our college students that their church family cares about them!! If you are interested in sponsoring a college student by praying for them, sending them cards and maybe a package, please check out our sign-up genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AAFA82BA7FE3-sos> Please consider sponsoring a student or two! If you do not have internet and would like to sponsor a student, please contact the church office.

In November our Youth Groups will be assembling care packages for the college students and we are looking for donations: Food items: microwave popcorn, candy/suckers, licorice, gum, breath mints, hot cocoa, coffee packets, cheese & crackers, peanut butter crackers, etc.

Non-food items: pens, pencils, markers, highlighters, lip balm, little 'samples' of shampoo, conditioner, hand cream, little packages of kleenex, bookmarks, little 'mementos' that communicate "your church family loves you", etc These items are just suggestions, use your imagination and don't forget the 'after Halloween' sales!!



Speaking of college students, did you know that there is a Wesley Campus Ministry on 8 college campus' throughout the Michigan Conference? For countless students, Wesley has offered community during times when life's challenges are at their peak. Serving as a safety net for the current needs of young adults and a springboard for what comes next, Wesley has had a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of students, even long after graduation day. Make sure your student(s) at Central Michigan University, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Kalamazoo College, Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University, University of Michigan and Wayne State University, know about this important ministry.

I Dear Church Family,
I can't thank you enough
for all of the thoughts and
prayers during my cancer
journey.



I have felt embraced by
all of the love and support.
Thank you so much!

Becky Doran

MEN'S DINNER

Monday, November 1

Dinner at 6:00pm

Program at 6:30pm; Speaker: Pastor Brian West
Men & Boys of all ages are welcome! Childcare provided
A freewill offering will be accepted.
Please RSVP by October 25 to Bob Mills 810-694-6196

Just Finish It!

Do you have unfinished craft projects tucked away? Now is the time to pull it out and **Just Finish It!**

We will meet in Fellowship Hall on the first and third Thursday of each month, from 9:00am to Noon (or stay as long as you wish!) beginning Thursday, October 7.

Can't come every time, no worries, just come whenever you can! This is a great opportunity to get those projects finished!! (maybe even in time for Christmas!)

Bring your knitting, embroidery, scrapbooking, quilting, card making, jewelry making, paper crafting, painting, crocheting or whatever craft you do!!!

We will motivate each other to get our projects done! Invite your friends!



Our 9:00am Sunday morning worship service is available on our church YouTube channel: Grand Blanc UMC. Pastor Brian's Daily Devotionals are available on the YouTube channel: Focusing on Faith. We hope that you will find these videos helpful and meaningful. Please be sure to subscribe to each channel. Like and share the videos so that we can share God's love with as many as possible.



Focusing On Faith A Daily Video Devotional
Created by Pastor Brian West

United Methodist Women (UMW)

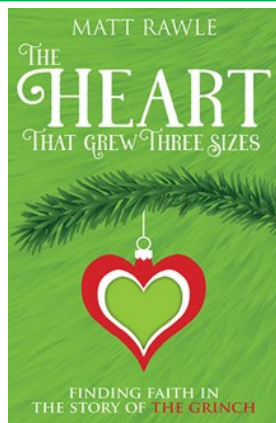
Julia Paradine-Rice, President of the Michigan Conference UMW, announced on September 9, "After much consideration, the 3rd Annual Celebration of the United Methodist Women of the Michigan Conference is going virtual. Our Leadership Team felt it was best to avoid state-wide travel to accommodate a live event with the current pandemic statistics."

All are invited to join the gathering online via Zoom on Saturday, October 23, at 9:30 am.

Emily Jones, UMW Executive for Racial Justice is the keynote speaker. Jones is the executive for racial justice at [National United Methodist Women](#). She leads the UMW's campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. Prior to her current position, Jones served as the director and lead organizer for the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty.



Susannah/Rebekah Circle will meet on
Wednesday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. in
Fellowship Hall.



Advent Study

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

Wednesdays during Advent at 1:00pm

Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Led by Angela Campbell

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

You are welcome to get the book on your own, but if you would like the office to order it for you, please let us know by November 14. Cost of the book is \$13.00.



Our church group had a fun night at the Lansing Lugnuts ballgame on September 18, 2021!!



Fall Lay Servant Classes are being offered by the District. If you are interested in any of these classes, please go to their website:

<https://eastwinds.michiganumc.org/uncategorized/2021/09/16/2021-fall-lay-servant-classes/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

Altar Flowers

10/03
10/10 Petrie
10/17
10/24
10/31 Mitchinson



There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the prayer room, or feel free to call or email the office to order flowers for the Sunday of your choice. Flower arrangements are \$15.00 each from Grand Blanc Florist and you may take them home following the 11:00am worship service.



10/03 Memorials & Gifts
10/10 Outreach
10/17 Worship & Arts
10/24 Finance
10/31 Seasoned Citizens

11:00am Worship Ushers

1st Sunday Jim Wise
2nd Sunday Virginia Sullivan
3rd Sunday Bob & Barb Mills
4th Sunday Dennis Brudnak
5th Sunday Sallie Farrell



COUNTERS

10/03 Carol Cerny & Dave Russell
10/10 Tom Cerny & Jim Wise
10/17 Jim Scrimger & Nick Federici
10/24 Carol Capell, Jim Bunker,
Ron Blakemore
10/31 Jessica Smith, Tom Cerny



October

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1st Rose Marie Shick
3rd Paul Rahn, Jessica Smith
4th Anna Slogor, David Woodbeck
5th Jack Hitchens (92)
6th Megan Bunker
7th Allison Koerke, Grace Williams
9th Becky Dick, Nancy Fiederlein
10th Caity Cox
14th Isabella Briscoe, Kim Gordinier,
Jason Lengyel
16th Julius Del Pino
18th Cheryl Herrmann
19th Matthew Black
20th Matthew West, Micah West
21st Robyn Bjorkman,
Elizabeth Joseph, Louisa Stack
23rd Vicki Greenlees
25th Jesse Gould

26th Mini Armstrong, Brendan Brinn,
Pam Eklund
27th Cheryl Cottrell, Andrew Tyckoski
30th Hilary Holtz, Jo Williams (81)



Anniversary Blessings

5th Laurie & Andrew Dick (25)
14th Tracy & David Sanborn
Lisa & John Stafford
15th Anna & Paul Roth
Karen & Martin Seaman
20th Angela & Shawn Lock
22nd Felicia & Chuck Lawcock (32)
23rd Kristin & Chad Ivan



October is Pastor Appreciation Month!! Let's show Pastor Brian how much we appreciate him! Send him a note, watch and share his daily devotionals, subscribe to the Focusing on Faith YouTube Channel! But most of all keep him in your prayers!

Thank you for all you do, Pastor Brian!



Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Building and Roof Mortgage Summary

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 08-31-21)

Mortgage Balance with UMF = \$169,189.27

Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 07-31-21) = \$8,894.52

Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 07-31-21) = \$16,434.90

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



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FRIENDS IN CHRIST EXERCISING
LOVE, HOPE AND GRACE TO
ENRICH ALL LIVES



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 3rd is World Communion Sunday, one of the special Sundays authorized by the General Conference to be observed with the taking of an offering throughout the denomination.

World Communion Sunday is observed the first Sunday in October and the observance focuses the attention of United Methodists on the universal and inclusive nature of the church. In United Methodist Churches around the world, a special offering is collected on World Communion Sunday to fund scholarships for seminarians. One half of the proceeds is for World Communion Sunday Scholars administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. The remaining one half is for the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program, which are administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

When we celebrate World Communion Sunday we celebrate our unity. When we give on World Communion Sunday our offering goes directly to equip world-changers who might otherwise go unnoticed without these financial gifts.

We believe all God's children have been created and gifted to build the kingdom Jesus ushered in, and your generosity on this day helps the United Methodist Church do just that.

Please give generously to this special Sunday offering. Envelopes will be provided with your program on October 3rd. Thank you for your continued support!



Protection of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults Class

On Tuesday, October 12 at 1:00 p.m., we will be offering this important class. Our goal is to maintain a safe, secure, loving environment where children, youth and vulnerable adults may grow and where those who care for them may minister to their needs in responsible ways. All staff and volunteers, who are in leadership roles, are requested to take this one hour class every three years. Please call the church office at 810-694-9040, to register for this class.

If you are interested, but cannot attend this class, please contact the office and another class will be scheduled.

Zone 4 Chili Cook-off and Family Fun Day!

Saturday, October 2
12-4pm

South Mundy UMC
10018 S. Linden Road
Grand Blanc

They are looking for someone from each church in Zone 4 to make a chili for the cook-off. If you would like to donate chili, please contact Barb at South Mundy UMC smhumc01@gmail.com. All are welcome to join the fun!!



DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Along with The Upper Room, we will now be offering copies of Our Daily Bread. While we receive The Upper Room for a small fee, Our Daily Bread is a free publication.

We will continue to offer both and we encourage you to try them to see if one of them would be something that would benefit you.

Our current copies of The Upper Room, provide daily devotionals for September and October and we have both large print and regular print copies.

Our Daily Bread has provided us with 90-day introductory editions and then we will begin to receive dated editions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

