



# *The Grand Blanc UMC* "Connection"

March, 2022

March 2

Ash Wednesday

*"Company In the  
Wilderness"*

Luke 4: 1-13



March 6

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

Sermon Series:

1800 Feet to the Street

*"Need To Go"*

Matthew 28: 16-20

Acts 1: 6-9



March 13

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

Sermon Series:

1800 Feet to the Street

*"Who Is Going?"*

Exodus 3: 1-14; 4: 1-5, 10-13



March 20

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

Sermon Series:

1800 Feet to the Street

*"Into the Unknown"*

Jonah 3: 1-5a



March 27

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

Sermon Series:

1800 Feet to the Street

*"The Message We Bring"*

2 Timothy 2: 15

1 Peter 3: 15

Matthew 10: 7-8

## "Care Is Christian"

*God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
forever in the next.*

*Amen.*

*"Serenity Prayer" by Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)*

As I have shared openly before, I am grateful for the availability of mental health care, counseling, and psychotherapy (*a technical word for talk therapy with a mental health provider*) in my life and for the way it helps me to not only treat and control my depression and anxiety, but also for the ways that it can help me make the enormity of life and all of its chaos a bit more manageable. I sincerely believe that destigmatizing mental health and the care and treatment of it is one of the most important things we can do to care for the whole person.

And so, I say once again, if you are ever feeling as though it would be helpful to talk to someone about your mental health, there are a number of starting points. The first is that you can talk with your primary care provider (the doctor you go to most). They can help to point you in helpful directions for care that will best fit your needs. Also, it is not uncommon for our physical and mental health to overlap considerably. A second starting point is with me, your pastor. While I can offer pastoral care and limited counseling, I can also provide helpful referrals to mental health professionals who can be of considerable help.

As I share this, I am wanting to also share an experience that I had in my own counseling session just weeks ago. While talking with my therapist, I was describing how I responded, emotionally, to the experience of our family all having COVID-19. I happened to mention that I fought the temptation to react with frustration or exasperation, choosing instead to focus on naming what I could control verses what I could not control. For instance, I could *not* control that we were all sick at the same time. What I *could* control was my decisions to rest rather than work when time (and naps) allowed.

During this conversation, my therapist, Paul, reminded me of the serenity prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr and its reminder that there are things we can change, and things we can't, and that the things we can't change can actually teach us something about ourselves and perhaps even our faith. And so, he asked the question: *"What did you learn from having COVID-19, and will you share it with anyone?"*

*Continued on next page...*

**"Care is Christian" Continued...**

And so, my answer is this: I did learn something from the experience of having had COVID-19, and that is that life is fragile. And I don't mean that in a doom and gloom sense. Instead, I mean that we are not invincible people who never need care, compassion and love. In a world that so often tells us to pull ourselves up, jump back on our feet and to get back to work, we *need* to be kinder to ourselves. We *need* to be kinder to one another. There is no weakness to be found in seeking help, and there is no weakness in naming that we have our limits.

Brothers and sisters, in this season of Lent when we turn our attention to our common humanity, let us reflect on the reality that we are all in need of God's grace, we are all in need of one another's kindness, and to care for ourselves as well as others *is* Christian!

Love for you,  
Pastor Brian



**FOR THE HOMEBOUND:**

Marge Berryman  
Eleanor Hall

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

Mini Armstrong  
Peggy Carlson  
Cheryl Cottrell  
Becky Doran  
Lisa England  
Dick Hubler  
Mary Manning  
Paul Manning  
Eileen Scott  
Norma Stanbury

**FOR OTHERS:**

Don Baxter  
Hudson Bennett  
Nancy Bilas  
Kim Brown  
Roger Carter  
Deanna Cook  
Tony Conklin  
Warren Crawfis  
Betty Crawford  
Cynthia Crawford  
Shelia Dirrim  
Betsy Fisher  
Alea Gardner  
Donald Gibson  
Wendell Griffus  
Robert Hall  
Emily Harder  
Whitney Jensen  
Andrea King  
Jeffrey King  
Michael Lackey  
Rev. Marvin Lamb

Jay Latimer  
Kathy Latimer  
Barb Lott  
Doug Lott  
Lisa McGehee  
Mosher Family  
Joshua Nelson  
Wayne Nixon  
AJ Ozanich  
Rachel Ozanich  
Mark Phillips  
Jennifer Prim  
Betty Shimel  
Eleanor Smith  
Bettie Stach  
Jeff Sumerix  
Ed Truhan  
Linda Vincil  
Rev. Joel Walthers  
Rev. Megan Walthers  
Sunny Wilson  
Jim Winn  
George Zanca

**Shirley Crane**

Abbey Park  
3221 East Baldwin Rd, #239  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

**Shirley Robertson**

Autumn Ridge of Clarkston  
5700 Water Tower Place  
Room 104B  
Clarkston, MI 48346

**Helen Floyd**

Great Lakes Christian Home  
2050 S. Washington Road,  
#3012  
Holt, MI 48842

**Donna Brookins**

Regency at Grand Blanc  
1330 Grand Pointe Court  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

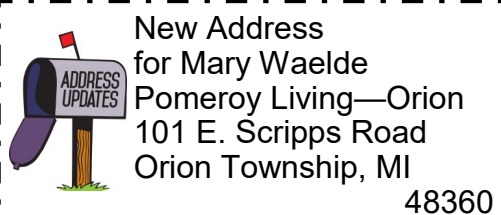
**Jeanne Dobs**

Symphony Linden  
202 S. Bridge Street  
Linden, MI 48451



Daylight Saving Time  
Begins on Sunday,  
March 13 at  
2:00a.m.

Please remember to  
set your clocks ahead  
before going to bed  
on  
Saturday, March 12!



Branden and Jessica  
(Haggerty) Reed  
welcomed a baby  
girl, Riley Kae on  
January 31, 2022!  
Best Wishes to the  
parents and big  
sister, Charlotte  
Mae!



~We extend our deepest  
sympathy to the family and  
friends of Robert Koerkel,  
Sr., who passed away on  
February 2, 2022. Robert is  
Bob Koerkel's father.

~We also extend our deepest sympathy to  
the family and friends of Doyle Johnson  
who passed away on February 12, 2022.



**BIG**  
THANK YOU

Donna Van Orden (Marylee  
Hubel's daughter) would like  
to thank everyone for all of  
their prayers these last several  
months. Her doctor has informed her that her  
foot has returned to full function and she is able  
to return to most of her normal activities!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Lent is a season when many of us make a special focus on enhancing our relationship with God. It is a journey – through ups and downs just as Jesus experienced during his time on earth. We remember Jesus' life, ministry and death during this season. It is a time to think about how God is with us all the time. It is also a time to look at our own lives and draw closer to God. We do this through prayer, meditation, reading, exploring nature, fellowship, outreach – anything that connects you to God is a great practice.

**"Lent in a Bag"** equips you with symbols of the season of Lent to help you have prayer and/or conversation at home. In the bag will be a devotion page for each week of Lent that focuses on one of the symbols in the bag. Included are questions that are intended to start conversation/personal reflection. There are also suggested bible passages. Use whatever version of the bible you like. Use these props and devotions during your weekly Lenten meditation as you journey with Jesus to the cross. There will be additional bags for children. There is a Lenten bag for each household. You may pick up one Lenten bag on Sunday, February 27 or Ash Wednesday, March 2 or on the first Sunday of Lent, March 6. They will be located on a table in the gathering space. If you are not attending church in person at this time, and would like a bag, you can come and pick one up anytime during the week from 9am-4pm. It is my hope that these bags will help to deepen your Lenten journey.

**NOW**  
*Available*



Hello Church Family! I am excited to announce that our church has a subscription to Amplify! Amplify is a multimedia platform, like NETFLIX, but with thousands of Christian videos you can use for study, reflection, worship and inspiration. I will be including different Lenten suggestions in the weekly church emails.

Amplify has videos that can be used in your small groups, Bible studies and, of course, in your own personal faith journey. You can access all these videos anytime and on almost any device, including on your TV using Roku.

To access your **FREE** Amplify account, just follow these simple steps:

Go to: <https://my.amplifymedia.com>

Enter our Access Code: **pzybg**

(You will be asked to create your own login name and password)

If you have any questions, our church Amplify team is here to help. Feel free to get in touch with me and I will be more than happy to answer any questions.



I wanted to thank SPRC for a wonderful and thoughtful reception during the 10am coffee hour on Sunday, February 20th. I want to thank everyone for their well wishes, congratulations and especially for their blessings and faith in me. I have always felt welcomed here at GBUMC as a visitor, a parent, a parishioner, an employee... and to have that love outpoured with any and every "hat" I have worn is a wonderful testament to just how amazing you, the congregation, are here at GBUMC. It is not something to be taken lightly or overlooked, and I am so grateful for all the ways I am a part of GBUMC. I am beyond excited to see where God is continuing to call me and all of us here at GBUMC!

Director of Christian Education  
Angela Campbell  
[christian.education@grandblancumc.org](mailto:christian.education@grandblancumc.org)  
810-694-9040



The Education Team is looking for additional members. I would like this team to be reflective of the culture of our congregation, and would love to welcome new members—young and old. This team is not a team of worker bee's, though if you would like to I will NEVER say no to working hands, but rather it is a team of planning and visioning. Our job is to collectively

brainstorm and imagine where we, as disciples of Christ, are going... how we will get there... and how we will grow!

If you would like to be a part of this team, join us on **Tuesday, March 22 @ 7pm!**



## UMCOR Sunday is March 27<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a special offering for UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) which is observed the fourth Sunday in Lent. Your gift allows UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

For over 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in this special offering. Your gift to UMCOR Sunday pays the administrative costs so when you donate to UMCOR for disaster relief such as hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, etc., ALL the funds donated can go directly to the relief effort 100%. Together, we reach children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.

Thank you for your generosity towards helping out when disaster strikes!



Have you considered becoming a member of Grand Blanc United Methodist Church? We have just the thing!!! Pastor Brian will be offering membership classes on the last Sunday of every month.

No need to sign-up for these one-time, 45 minute gatherings! Just meet in the Narthex at 10:00am. Our next opportunity will be on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

Men's Coffee  
Friday's at 10:00a.m.  
All are welcome!

The Prayer Shawl group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Join us as we knit and crochet, prayer shawls, hats and scarves for the FISH families, etc. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.



**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](mailto:office@grandblancumc.org) or (810)694-9040



The United Methodist Church offers camping opportunities for all ages! Check out [www.umccamping.org](http://www.umccamping.org) GBUMC has camp scholarships available. Please check with the church office.

**FOCUSING ON FAITH: A Daily  
Video Devotional  
Created by  
Pastor Brian West.**

**Focusing  
On Faith**

A Daily Video  
Devotional

Created by Pastor Brian West



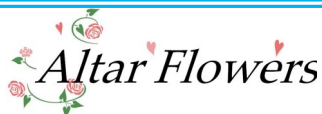
Be sure to subscribe and share.  
These videos will also be available on  
the GBUMC YouTube channel.

**Pastor @ Panera**

Every Tuesday from **Panera**  
10am to noon. Prayer,  
Chat, Advice or a listening ear. All  
are welcome. Invite your friends  
to stop by to meet Pastor Brian.

**Just Finish It!** Do you have unfinished craft projects tucked away? Now is the time to dust it off and **Just Finish It!** We will meet in the community room (at the end of the education wing) on the first and third Thursday of each month, from 9:00am to Noon (or stay as long as you wish!) Can't come every time, no worries, just come whenever you can! 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!





03/06 Mitchinson  
03/13  
03/20  
03/27

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. Your name and who the arrangement is in honor/memory of will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.



Join us for refreshments and conversation Sunday mornings @ 10a. Volunteers are needed.

Sign-up in the hallway or contact the office!

03/06 Tammy Martin & Laurie Tritten  
03/13  
03/20  
03/27



### 11:00am Worship Ushers

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

### COUNTERS

03/06 Jessica Smith, Carol Cerny  
03/13 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise  
03/20 Jim Bunker, Tom Cerny  
03/27 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore



## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### Birthday Wishes

1<sup>st</sup> Tony Jablonski  
3<sup>rd</sup> Pat Cooper  
4<sup>th</sup> Grace Hedding, Brennen Mueser  
5<sup>th</sup> Matt Anderson, Kaja Mraz  
6<sup>th</sup> Zach Atchison, Nathan Bunker  
7<sup>th</sup> Rich Charmoli (80)  
8<sup>th</sup> Bob Briscoe, Shelly Rice  
9<sup>th</sup> Don Martin, Dianne Scrimger  
11<sup>th</sup> Susie Hagenstein  
12<sup>th</sup> Carol Cerny  
13<sup>th</sup> Jacob Waisanen  
14<sup>th</sup> David Sandrock, Alyssa Warburton  
15<sup>th</sup> Tessa Zahrt  
18<sup>th</sup> Melanie Federlein, Stephanie West  
19<sup>th</sup> Kristin Ivan, Zach Manning  
21<sup>st</sup> Kelli Hedding, Alexis Trinidad  
22<sup>nd</sup> Carrie Church, Libby Greenlees

24<sup>th</sup> Alexandria Harper, RaeAnn Waisanen  
25<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Roth, Henry Roth  
26<sup>th</sup> Nicole (Cottrell) Beyer  
27<sup>th</sup> Lisa England  
28<sup>th</sup> Sandy Jones (80), Karen Lawcock  
29<sup>th</sup> Renee Eggert, Carrie Kurosky  
30<sup>th</sup> Seth Hagenstein  
31<sup>st</sup> Laura Bjorkman, Betty Marks (83)



### Anniversary Blessings

3<sup>rd</sup> Gail & Mike Lutton  
5<sup>th</sup> Judi & Ken Cottrell (34)  
7<sup>th</sup> Barb & Bob Mills (63)



Friends in Christ, on behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, as well as on my own behalf, I'd like to extend a heartfelt word of gratitude to Nancy Petrie for the extra work she put forward in the last few months, directing and leading rehearsals for the chancel choir. Throughout that time, Nancy has insisted that helping where you can is just the right thing to do, and she is correct! Nancy, as we join together in expressing our thanksgiving to you, please know that the ministry of music you continue to provide is appreciated and an important part of our life of praise! With joy, Pastor Brian and the SPRC

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
Building and Roof Mortgage Summary

### **MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 12-31-21)**



Mortgage Balance with UMF = \$147,400.08

Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 12-31-21) = \$14,244.52

Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 12-31-21) = \$16,434.90



# MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>6 9a Gathering in the Spirit 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 11a Traditional Worship</p>	<p>7 6p F. H. in use</p>	<p>8 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga 7p Worship &amp; Arts</p>	<p>9 10a Prayer Group 10a Prayer Shawl 7pm Ash Wednesday Service 5p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers</p>	<p>10 9a Just Finish It! 10a Drop-In Bible Study by Zoom 6p Common Grace</p>	<p>11 10a Men's Coffee 6p F.H. in use 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>12 10a O.A. 10a Yoga</p>
<p>13 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS! 9a Gathering in the Spirit 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 11a Traditional Worship Noon: Jr High Youth</p>	<p>14 6p F. H. in use 6p Outreach 7p Ad Council</p>	<p>15 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga</p>	<p>16 10a UMW Circle 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers</p>	<p>17 9a Just Finish It! NO Bible Study</p>	<p>18 10a Men's Coffee 6p F. H. in use 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>19 10a O.A. 10a Yoga</p>
<p>20 9a Gathering in the Spirit 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10a Trustee Meeting 11a Traditional Worship</p>	<p>21 6p F. H. in use</p>	<p>22 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga</p>	<p>23 10a Prayer Group 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers</p>	<p>24 10a Drop-In Bible Study 6p Common Grace</p>	<p>25 10a Men's Coffee 6p F.H. in use 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>26 10a O.A. 10a Yoga</p>
<p>27 9a Gathering in the Spirit 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a New Member Class 10a Coffee Hour 11a Traditional Worship</p>	<p>28 6p F. H. in use</p>	<p>29 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga</p>	<p>30 10a Prayer Group 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers</p>	<p>31 10a Drop-In Bible Study</p>		



## Lent and "In lieu of Lilies" Donations

Easter Sunday is April 17, 2022. This year we will be supporting God's Country Cooperative Parish in Newberry, MI with our Lent offering and Grace Children's Hospital & Pediatric Clinic in Haiti with our "In lieu of Lilies" offerings.

Please use the Yellow Lent/Easter offering envelope provided in your offering envelopes or mark your donation for Lent/Easter in order for it to go to **God's Country Cooperative Parish** (GCCP). GCCP is comprised of seven churches spread over 250 square miles in the eastern part of the U.P. which combine their resources, share their faith, and actively work to bring aid to the surrounding area. They also host mission teams in the summer to do home repairs, improvements, and distribute food and clothing. *Place these envelopes in the offering plate anytime.*

The "In lieu of Lilies" collection will go to **Grace Children's Hospital & Pediatric Clinic** located in Haiti where they care for and create hope for children and families suffering from TB, HIV/AIDS, and chronic illnesses. Both children and adults are treated at their outpatient clinics and receive vaccinations, prenatal care and other basic services. This area has been severely struck with hurricanes and earthquakes but remains open to help all.

Please fill out the "In lieu of Lilies" donation sheet below (forms will also be provided on Sunday mornings or you can pick up one in the office) and attach your check or cash. The "In lieu of Lilies" form must be turned in to the office accompanied by your payment by Sunday, April 10, to be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity!



Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

(or)

Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

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, Director of Christian Education  
and Office Assistant

Gary Brandt, 9:00 Music Director/Director of Common Grace  
Mike Yaros, 11:00 Music Director/Director of Chancel Choir  
Nancy Petrie, Bell Choir Director



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## SEASONED CITIZENS

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Meet at noon for coffee & conversation

12: 25pm Devotion and Prayer

12:30pm Potluck Dinner (please come  
whether you bring a dish to share or not!)

1:00pm Program

This month our presenter is Stephanie K  
(formally known as Mike and Stephanie  
from CK105.5 morning show hosts for 21  
years!).

Stephanie is now director of  
Communications and Public Relations at  
MTA. She hosts their podcast, "On the Road  
with MTA".

MTA just celebrated their 50th year  
anniversary. They are the leaders in  
Transportation with the largest fleet. Our  
MTA was voted 2019 Urban Transit System  
winner out of over 1000 agencies and the #1  
medical transportation by a public service in  
the country. MTA offers FREE rides to  
veterans and their spouses and or widows.



**Volunteer Opportunity!!!**  
We have a volunteer to put  
together the PowerPoint  
slides for the 11am worship  
services, and we have a  
volunteer to share the slides  
for one Sunday each month.  
How about you? Would you  
be willing to sit at the back  
of the Sanctuary during an  
11am service to advance the  
slides throughout the  
worship service? (You just  
need to push a button!) If  
you are interested, please  
contact the church office.



**Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>:** Meet after church for  
lunch and games

**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Meet after church for  
lunch and a nature hike.  
Weather permitting. Dress  
accordingly.

**Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Meet at the church at 11:30a.m. We will  
grab lunch and head out to volunteer  
with Habitat for Humanity. We will be  
outside so dress accordingly with boots  
or tennis shoes. No Flip Flops!!

Questions? Contact Jessica Smith 810-287-8506

## VOICES OF LENT

AN @ HOME STUDY



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Voices of Lent" is a virtual home-study series that is created by Pastor Brian, and is designed for the whole congregation to use at their leisure. Each Wednesday, beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 2<sup>nd</sup>), an email will be sent out to the church with a "Voices of Lent" video and an accompanying Study Page that will help you and any others in your household experience Lent through the perspectives of those who journeyed with Jesus, as well as those who were witness to his final days. With that same weekly email, there will also be a "Voices of Lent" video and accompanying Study Page that is designed specifically with children in mind. The children's video and Study Page will teach the same themes, shared in a way that is age appropriate and accessible.

Pastor Brian hopes that you will be able to use this program throughout the season of Lent as an opportunity to dig deeper into your faith, beliefs, your spiritual practices, and more. Please feel free to forward these emails to friends and family who you feel may enjoy them, as well.