

# *The Grand Blanc UMC* "Connection" January, 2023

January 1

New Year's Day  
11am Service only  
**COMMUNION**  
"525,600"  
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13



January 8

Epiphany Sunday/Baptism of  
our Lord  
*"From Manger to River"*  
Matthew 2: 7-12  
Matthew 3: 13-17



January 15

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
*"Dust"*  
Matthew 4: 18-25



January 22

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
Sermon Series: "Saying Yes"  
*"The Audacity to Leave the Docks"*  
Luke 5: 1-11



January 29

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
Sermon Series: "Saying Yes"  
*"Breaking the Mold the Other Way"*  
Isaiah 9: 2-7

## "For Auld Lang Syne and Days to Come"

In May of 2013, the American adaptation of the television series, *The Office*, aired its series finale which was cleverly titled, "Finale." During that heart-string-pulling episode, the character Andy Bernard, played by actor, Ed Helms, reflected on the many memories of his years at the Scranton, PA branch of Dunder Mifflin Paper Company (true fans would demand that I mention the fictional Sabre Electronics division to that title). In that moment of sentimentality, Andy says: *"I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them."*

I was thinking about those words the other day as I was surrendering to the speed at which the 2023 new year seems to be approaching (though, it will have arrived by the time you read this). Andy's reflection actually got me thinking a bit about how we can approach the new year, specifically this time around the sun. What if, instead of approaching this year as if it is just another year – a year of our lives, a year of our careers, a year of our relationships... perhaps a year of our ministries? – what if we approached it as *THEE* year of our ministry as church? *THEE* year of our lives as family people, relational people, even working people. In other words, what might happen if we approach 2023 as if it was already a year that we'd remember with excitement for all our lives to come?

To do this, we have to first accept a few nuances:

1. It is safe to say that 2023 will not be perfect! We need to anticipate that there will be moments of disappointment and dissatisfaction during the year. There will also be moments of heartbreak and seemingly failure. This is part of life and is unavoidable. That said, how we approach those inevitable challenges makes all the difference! If we go into January 1<sup>st</sup> expecting 2023 to be a fruitful and special year in our lives, then we can approach difficulties with a reminder within ourselves that God has already overcome anything that seems insurmountable. The grief we'll face, the loss we'll experience – it doesn't get to define us! Perhaps we can reflect on these words from the Gospel of John,

"In the world you have distress.  
But be encouraged! I have conquered the world."  
-John 16:33 (CEB)

2. We have to put some energy into making it true! Like with planning our New Year's resolutions, we sometimes forget that nothing magical happens as we hang our new calendars on the wall or as we watch the ball drop in New York City. If I resolve to eat better, I have to actually change my grocery shopping habits. The calendar won't step in to start making me kale salads, much as I might want it to. And yet, we mark time by dates and years, and so we can certainly enter 2023 with a desire to make it special. But then we have to join forces with God to begin doing something to make 2023 special and memorable for all the right reasons. IF this is the year that we're going to see ministry at GBUMC flourish, then we all have to, not only get excited about that, but we have to start *making* it happen!

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3. 2020-2022 weren't all bad. Were they difficult years for a variety of reasons? Absolutely! Were there moments when we faced fear and uncertainty? Absolutely! Did we grow in areas during that time? We sure did! Did we learn as we experienced life in new ways? Of course! Like #1, we will face challenges in the year to come. We should expect that! But, we can't forget that we've faced challenges in the years gone by.

I look forward to all that we will be as a church in 2023. I do believe it will be a year we will look back on with memories of growth, new beginnings, and fruitful ministries! Do you believe it? Will you help to make it so? If so, take a seat at God's ever-growing table with me and all others, and let's begin to feast!!!

For auld lang syne and for days to come,

Pastor Brian.



**FOR THE HOMEBOUND:**

Marge Berryman  
Shirley Crane  
Eleanor Hall

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

Donna Brookins  
Carol Cerny  
Roma Corey  
Cheryl Cottrell  
Judy Gratsch  
Carole Hitchens  
Dick Hubler  
Paul Manning  
Lisa McGehee  
Eileen Scott  
Bob Tritten

**FOR OTHERS:**

Hudson Bennett  
Nikki Bigler  
Nancy Bilas  
Megan Burke  
Benny Burner  
Deanna Cook  
Patricia Crawfis  
Cynthia Crawford  
Fred DeYound  
Shelia Dirrim  
May Doran  
Robert Elliott  
Christopher Etheridge  
Karen Ferguson  
Larry Fox  
Alea Gardner  
Wendell Griffus  
Art Hubler  
Dave Jones  
Jay Latimer  
Kathy Latimer  
Ellie Lauth

Adrianna Martell  
Heavenly Martin  
Carter Michael  
Hunter Molyneux  
Joshua Nelson  
Ed Nixon  
David Oden  
Rick Palmer  
Dave Pilon  
Frank Polehanki  
Linda Polehanki  
Jennifer Prim  
Martin Ryder  
Bill Shier  
Bettie Stach  
Barb Stephenson  
Easton Stephenson  
Monna Suess & family  
Marvin Thompson  
Sara Toth-Perkins  
Linda Vincil  
Ed Woodard



~We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and

friends of Ed Nixon, who passed away on December 3. Ed is Bev Atchison's brother.

~We also mourn the loss of a dear friend of GBUMC, Jeanne Dobes. Jeanne passed away on December 4.

~ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Doug West, who passed away on December 15. Doug is Pastor Brian's uncle.

~ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jack Hitchens who passed away on December 18.

## ***I Said a Prayer For You Today***

I said a prayer for you today  
And I know God must have heard-  
I felt the answer in my heart  
Although He spoke no word!  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame  
(I knew you wouldn't mind)-  
I asked Him to send treasures  
Of a far more lasting kind!  
I asked that He'd be near you  
At the start of each new day  
To grant you health and blessings  
And friends to share your way!  
I asked for happiness for you  
In all things great and small-  
But it was for His loving care  
I prayed the most of all.

By Diana T. Johnson



Please be sure to contact the church or Pastor Brian if you or someone you know could use our prayers. We also have a prayer

group that meets weekly and they are more than willing to include you in their prayers. Your prayer request can be shared with the congregation during Sunday morning worship and/or through our prayer concern emails, or if you would prefer it be kept privately with Pastor Brian, it will be handled however you prefer.



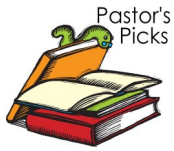
# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Director of Christian Education  
Angela Campbell  
christian.education@grandblancumc.org  
810-694-9040

## Pastor's Picks!

Each month Pastor Brian will be offering his "Pastor's Picks." He will offer a book recommendation. This book could be one that he is highlighting in his sermon series, one that goes with the current church season, or one that is just a good book to read. In addition, he will be "picking" a video too. These videos can be viewed for free using Amplify Media (see the handout on the table outside the Sanctuary or contact Angela on how to use Amplify Media). Hope you enjoy. The church will be purchasing a copy of each of Pastor's book picks for the church library. If you are interested in reading any of them, you are welcome to "check them out!"

### January 2023 picks:



#### Book:

"Inspired: Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again"  
By Rachel Held Evans

#### Video:

"Made for a Miracle"  
By Mike Slaughter  
A 6-Part Video Series



If you do not have access to the internet, but would like to watch Pastor Brian's Daily Devotionals, a church service or perhaps check out some of the videos available on Amplify, the television in the conference room has access to both YouTube and Amplify. Feel free to come and check out these options anytime that the church is open!



Help is needed in our Sunday School classes (10am to 11am) and in our Nursery on Sunday mornings (two "shifts" 8:45am to 10:30am and 10:30am to 12:15pm). We have a sign-up available through the sign-up genius website. Please contact the office for the link or we can sign you up, if you don't have access to the internet.

**Popcorn in the education wing on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month!**



**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



Classes for all ages at  
10:00 a.m.  
Every Sunday morning!

Please note there will be no Sunday School on New Year's Day.

## Pastor @ Panera

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

**Panera**  
BREAD®



# MORE

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS

- 1 PETER 4:10 -

It is with a lot of excitement that we share our newest chance to embrace our Community.

It really is very simple. We let folks know we are serving a meal, we prepare the meal, serve it and clean up, along with meeting new people and making the evening fun and special for all. This meal might be reminiscent of the church, Food and Fellowship, of the past. It might, also, offer a chance to reach to those with food insecurities, or someone who just doesn't want to cook and we can't forget that it could offer us a chance to INVITE and WELCOME. No matter the reason, it's golden for us because we get to be the hands and feet of God and co-labor with Christ to love, serve, and heal the broken, hurting, and hopeless in our part of this world. ♥

Yes, there is a chance to help and if you are interested, please indicate on your Connect Card, the sign up sheet in the narthex or contact the church office.

All  
are  
welcome!

Beginning in January, 2023,  
GBUMC will be hosting a

## COMMUNITY DINNER

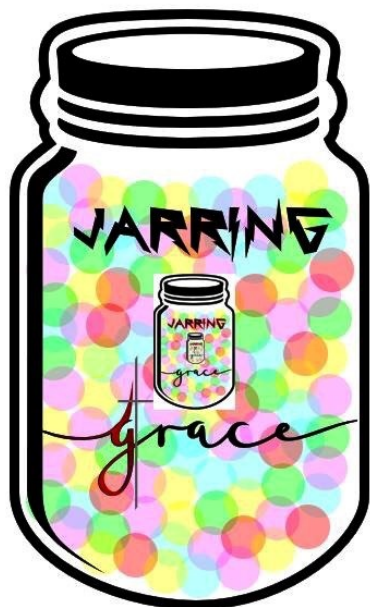
Join us on **January 4** for a  
wonderful **PASTA DINNER**  
Takeout available!

The **FIRST Wednesday**  
of each month, 5 - 6 pm  
(freewill offering will be accepted)

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
515 Bush Ave ♥ Grand Blanc ♥ MI  
810 694-9040 grandblancumc.org

*"Do all the good you can, by all the  
means you can, in all the ways you can,  
in all the places you can, at all the times  
you can, to all the people you can, as  
long as you ever can."*

*John Wesley*



**JARRING GRACE**—This wonderful **Community Engagement** is quietly happening each month by faithful, self driven volunteers who deliver candy to local businesses. A BIG THANK YOU to Tom and Carol Cerny, Gail Lutton, Bob Mills, Laurie Tritten, Marilyn Horton, Mariann Quaderer and Melinda Elmore-Hajek. Through their effort, 39 local businesses receive a visit every other month, relationships are evolving and, ask any volunteer, it takes so little time, but brings so much joy.

If you are interested in taking candy to your favorite business and thanking them and letting them know GBUMC is here and appreciate what they do, please reach out and become part of the TEAM (all supplies are provided and a brief exciting pep talk will get you started ☺).

Every United Methodist church organizes itself to plan and carry out its ministries within their community. This is one of the ways we engage and it's working. Contact Melinda Elmore-Hajek for more information.

# **2023 Opportunities for Giving Back**

Your contributions to GBUMC have regional, national and international impact through our connectional giving system. In 2023 we are asking you to consider giving to the special six Sunday offerings listed below.

## **January 15 – Human Relations Day**

Together, we extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles, nurture at-risk youth, strengthen communities' self-improvement efforts and advocate for the oppressed in the United States. Your gift encourages acceptance of all of God's children.

## **March 19 – UMCOR Sunday**

When you give to the UMCOR Sunday special offering, you support the operating activities of our worldwide relief agency, enabling it to assist churches and communities in times of disaster. The offering ensures that 100 percent of every designated gift made through UMCOR for disaster response and other critical needs goes directly to address those needs.

## **April 23 – Native American Ministries**

Your contribution supports aspiring Native American pastors and enriches outreach in their communities. Together, we empower local, spiritual development and educate Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully, who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries and to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

## **June 4 – Peace With Justice Sunday**

Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. As a congregation we may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.

## **October 1 – World Communion Sunday**

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. Your gift funds World Communion and Ethnic Scholarships and Ethnic In-Service training. Your gift provides acceptance and love.

## **November 26 – United Methodist Student Day**

Together, we educate students so they can make a difference in the world. When you support United Methodist Student Day your gift transforms lives through education. Your contribution enriches ministry and connects students to their faith.

**Thank you for your continued support for missions in  
our community, country and world!**



**Thank you**, for your support to the Giving Tree this Christmas. Cathy Mitchinson set us up with the Sign Up Genius and it was successful, thank you Cathy!. This year we had 15 children whose parent is currently in prison. \$25 was donated per child to the **Angel Tree (Prison Ministry)**. We also had 15 gifts that went to individuals at **MediLodge Nursing Home**. These gifts are for residents that don't have any family living in this area. **FISH CLOTHES CLOSET** received approximately 95 pairs of socks for boys and 76 pairs of socks for girls, 53 pairs of underwear for boys and 152 pairs of underwear for girls. This year we received approximately 60 toys/games/balls and these were delivered to the **Asbury Community Center/Salvation Army in Flint**. Both were very grateful to receive these toys/games/balls. **The Methodist Children's Village** received 40/\$20.00 gift cards. Because of the pandemic this year things were done differently with the FISH families. **G.B.U.M.C** had 11 groups or individuals sponsor a family for FISH this year. The First Congregational Church sponsored those same 11 FISH families for Christmas with cleaning supplies, paper products and toiletries. The food was given to all 11 families by way of the **FISH** organization. **GBUMC** and **FCC** have been doing this for many years. The women of the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** made the hats for each child in each of the families....10 boys and 12 girls! A \$25 gift card for gas was also given to each family.

This year the FISH organization found sponsors for 250 families wanting help for Christmas. A few others in our church or friends of our church volunteered to help out a family. Those sponsoring a family this year were: Barb Benson (1), Bella Vista Bunco Club (1), Dan, Deb and Emily Carvill (2), Pam Eklund (1), Ron & Colleen Fitch (1), Don Sawyer (1) Junior & Senior High MYF (1), Faith Circle (1), Seasoned Citizens (1), and Stepping Stones Sunday School Class (1).

A special thank you to Emily Carvill, and Joann Lepri who shopped for me this year. Pat Cooper for taking care of the Angel Tree gift tags. RaeAnn Waisanen taking care of and delivering to MediLodge. Donna Hedding and Becky Doran delivered to Asbury Community Center and the Salvation Army. David Sanborn for taking the gift cards to the Methodist Children's Village. Of course, special thanks to all of you that helped to make this a successful year. You certainly have helped a lot of people have a better Christmas this year. Don't you know Jesus is smiling on this loving, and caring congregation! Praise the Lord and AMEN!

This year **GBUMC** is the staging sight for the Christmas presents for FISH. Pastor Brian was wonderful in allowing this to happen when we needed to have a place to hold them! The church family and FISH family of volunteers were once again tremendous!



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



Both of our worship services are available for viewing on our YouTube Channel! Now you have your choice of watching either (or both!) of our Sunday morning worship services from the comfort of your home! We continue to do our best to keep everyone safe while they participate in worship at their comfort level, whether in-person or online.

Like to make people feel welcome?  
Like to share that smile in your heart?

Be a "Greeter"!

Greeters are needed for both worship services to welcome all who come through our doors. We help visitors learn about GBUMC, enjoy greeting old friends and meeting new friends in Christ. Greeters can sign up for either one or both Sunday services, on regular rotation or as a sub. A signup sheet is available on the table in the Narthex or call or email Tom Cerny to learn more or to sign up.

810-252-6943 [tomcerny1@aol.com](mailto:tomcerny1@aol.com).

PS—We'll help you get comfortable with the role and equip you with the tools (aka information) so you can respond to questions or know who to introduce the person to, based on their interests.



Be sure to check out Pastor Brian's daily devotionals on our YouTube Channel:

Grand Blanc UMC

We hope you will also "like & share!"

The Prayer Shawl meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Join us as we knit and

crochet, prayer shawls, hats and scarves for the FISH families, etc.





01/01  
01/08  
01/15  
01/22  
01/29



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.

### Coffee Hour

01/01 No Coffee Hour  
01/08 Lutton  
01/15 United Women of Faith/UMW  
01/22 Memorials & Gifts  
01/29 West



### 11:00am Worship Ushers

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

### COUNTERS

01/01 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore  
01/08 Jessica Smith, Carol Cerny  
01/15 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise  
01/22 Jim Bunker, Tom Cerny  
01/29 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore



## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### Birthdays Wishes

**1<sup>st</sup>** Sarah Carlson, Mary Rimmell  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Jacob Sanborn  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Dorothy Colby, Jan Pettit,  
Sandy Sandrock  
**6<sup>th</sup>** Jacob Russell  
**7<sup>th</sup>** Frank Maxwell (99)  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Sharon Bohms, Ernie Brookins  
**9<sup>th</sup>** Kevin Cook  
**11<sup>th</sup>** Shirley Andrews (87)  
**12<sup>th</sup>** Curtis Cantley,  
Angela Cherniawski,  
Julie Koerkel, Felicia Lawcock  
**13<sup>th</sup>** Melba Arrowood  
**14<sup>th</sup>** Dave Griffus, Ashley Trinidad  
**18<sup>th</sup>** Julia Greenlees, Sophie Rahn  
**19<sup>th</sup>** Dennis Brudnak (81)  
**20<sup>th</sup>** Paul Roth  
**21<sup>st</sup>** Jody Church

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Lianna Williams  
**24<sup>th</sup>** Bob Mills (86)  
**25<sup>th</sup>** Gary Bendall, Charlotte Reed  
**27<sup>th</sup>** James Cook, Leland Mitchinson  
**28<sup>th</sup>** Ashton Bjorkman,  
Leonard Herron, Brian Martin  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Donna Hubler, Tracy Sanborn  
**31<sup>st</sup>** Lee Pelton, Eleanor Reed



### Anniversary Blessings

**16<sup>th</sup>** Wanda & David Roberts (52)



### Greeters

9:00am/Education wing	11:00am/Education Wing
12/04 Marylee Hubel	Jeff & Lisa McGehee
12/11 Becky Doran	Jeff & Lisa McGehee
12/18 Dick Shick	

*Would you like to volunteer? The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk.  
Or contact Tom Cerny with questions tomcerny1@aol.com*

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
Building and Roof Mortgage Summary

### **MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 11-30-22)**

Mortgage Balance with UMF = \$128,587.20

Mortgage Reserve Fund Balance (as of 11-30-22) = \$8,394.52

Roof Reserve Fund Balance (as of 11-30-22) = \$17,434.90



# JANUARY 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>COMMUNION</b> 11a Worship Service FELLOWSHIP HALL IN USE	<b>2</b> 6p Mission Team Mtg	<b>3</b> 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga	<b>4</b> 10a Prayer Shawl 10a Prayer Group 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 10a Drop-In Bible Study	<b>6</b> 10a Men's Coffee 7p AI Anon	<b>7</b> 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
<b>8</b> 9a Gathering in the Spirit 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 11a Traditional Worship Noon Choir Rehearsal Noon: De-hanging of the Greens	<b>9</b> 7p Ad Council via Zoom	<b>10</b> 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga 7p W & A Meeting	<b>11</b> 10a Prayer Shawl 10a Prayer Group 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	<b>12</b> NO Drop-In Bible Study Noon: Seasoned Citizens	<b>13</b> 10a Men's Coffee 7p AI Anon	<b>14</b> 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
<b>15</b> 9a Gathering in the Spirit 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 11a Traditional Worship Noon Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga	<b>18</b> 10a Women's Circle 10a Prayer Shawl 10a Prayer Group 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 10a Drop-In Bible Study	<b>20</b> 10a Men's Coffee 7p AI Anon	<b>21</b> 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
<b>22</b> 9a Gathering in the Spirit 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 11a Traditional Worship Noon Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 10a Zentangle Class	<b>24</b> 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga	<b>25</b> 10a Prayer Shawl 10a Prayer Group	<b>26</b> NO Drop-In Bible Study	<b>27</b> 10a Men's Coffee 7p AI Anon	<b>28</b> 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
<b>29</b> 9a Gathering in the Spirit 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 11a Traditional Worship Noon Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 6:30p Yoga				



In Harper Lee's book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the author tells the story of how Jem, just a young lad, lopped off the tops of the of Mrs. Dubose's camellias. As punishment, Jem was required to read to her until her alarm went off, and she kept extending the time. Later, we learn that the time was extended so that Mrs. Dubose could gradually increase her time off of morphine. She was sick and she wanted to die morphine free. Jem's father, Atticus, described her actions as true "courage."

Reading to seniors may have been more commonplace then (the story is set in the South during the 1930s). But it's a good idea. It involves seniors in good stories that can be developed over a period of weeks, and it also gives them human contact and opportunities to chat about other things as a part of the visit.

Many seniors are no longer able to read. But, while their eyesight may be failing, their hearing may be fine and their imaginations are still intact! That's why the power of words, metaphor and simile still speak even to the homebound. By Timothy Merrill for HomeTouch Quarterly

### **For the elderly, falling is a cause for concern.**

About 1/3 of the senior population over the age of 65 falls each year. The percentage grows proportionately with age. More than half of the elderly who are 80 years old will fall at least once every year.

Those who fall are two to three times more likely to fall again.

About half (53%) of the older adults who are discharged for fall-related hip fractures will experience another fall within six months.

A large percentage of non-injured fallers (47%) cannot get up without assistance.

### *Falling can happen to anyone.*

The late evangelist Billy Graham once fell, breaking his left hip. He needed extensive physical therapy. Dr. Robert Atkins, of the famous Atkins Diet, was not as fortunate. He fell, slipping on a patch of ice, and died shortly thereafter in a New York-area hospital. Katharine Graham, former publisher of *The Washington Post*, also died of complications suffered from a head injury following a fall.

These falls often involve a broken hip. Falling and breaking hips, arms and legs is a serious problem for the elderly. Not only do they suffer from decreased mobility, but the fear of falling keeps them from living an otherwise normal life.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four Americans 65 and older falls each year. "In 2018 alone, seniors reported nearly 36 million falls, 8.4 million of which resulted in fall-related injuries. Sadly, more than 32,000 elders died from falling that year." More than 300,000 fractured hips were caused by falls, and many of these victims were disabled as a result.

### *Why is this important to a congregation?*

This is important because people who are in contact with the elderly, as most churches are, can be aware of the dangers of falls, and keep their eyes open for potential problems, both in their church facility and in the homes of their elderly members.

Are their large throw rugs lying around? These can be slippery and dangerous.

Are rooms and hallways properly lit with night lights?

Are handrails available?

Do slippers and shoes have rubber soles?

Have they had their vision checked lately? Vision is important to senior, and sometimes they neglect to get their eyeglass prescriptions updated. If you can't see well, you will trip over unseen objects.

This information was provided by HomeTouch, which provides the print materials that we send out to our homebound members each week. Do you know of someone that would benefit from receiving a devotional reading and entertaining puzzles each week? Please let the office know!

A special "thank you" to all of our Salvation Army bell ringers!!! Lots of cheer and God's love was spread to many!



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)**



Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
515 Bush Avenue  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Church Office 810-694-9040 fax 810-694-1916  
[www.grandblancumc.org](http://www.grandblancumc.org)

Rev. Brian West, Pastor  
Cathy Mitchinson, Office Administrator  
Angela Campbell, Director of Christian Education  
and Webmaster

Gary Brandt, 9:00 Music Director/Director of Common Grace  
Andrew Cramer, Music Director for Traditional Worship  
Nancy Petrie, Bell Choir Director  
Adrianna White, Nursery Attendant



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Your staff would like to thank you all for your generous gifts of appreciation. We are so humbled and blessed.

### Zentangle® Class to be held at GBUMC on January 23rd, 2023. From 10:00 am until 12:00 noon!

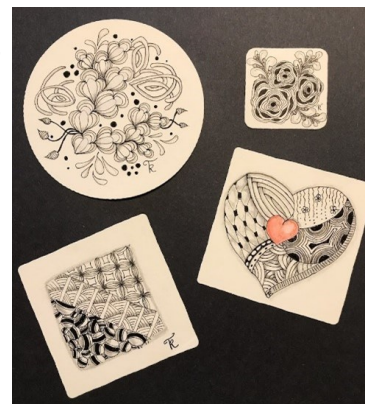
Ever wished you were artistic but have never felt creative or have struggled drawing even stick people? Zentangle may be just what those creative longings have been searching for.

The Zentangle Method, is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. The Zentangle Method is enjoyed around the world, across a wide range of skills, interests and ages. It increases focus and creativity, provides artistic satisfaction along with an increased sense of personal well-being.

The class, taught by Rosemary Thiebaut, CZT (Certified Zentangle Instructor), will introduce the beginner to the basic steps of the Zentangle Method, and allow each one to create a few Zentangle designs. Each person will leave feeling "Anything is possible, one line at a time."

The class is FREE for participants and will last about 2 hours and each student will be provided with a small kit containing the basic supplies needed to complete the projects worked on during the class.

If you are interested, please call, text or email Laurie Tritten, at 810-287-5907, or [ljtritten@comcast.net](mailto:ljtritten@comcast.net). Hope you will consider joining us for this most enjoyable and creative time together.



## Seasoned Citizens

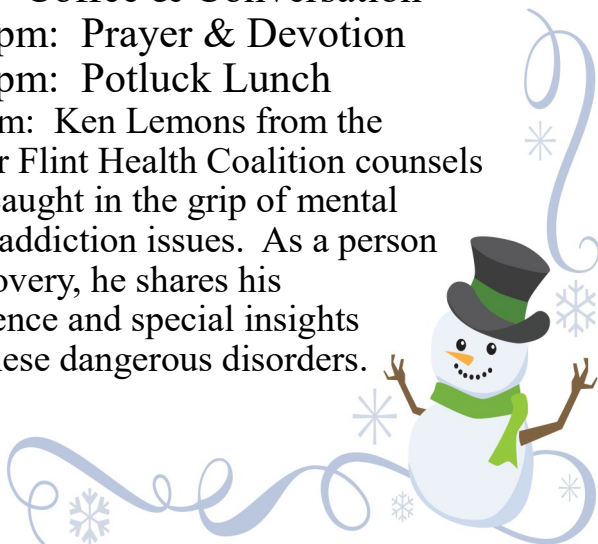
Thursday, January 11, 2023

Noon: Coffee & Conversation

12:25pm: Prayer & Devotion

12:30pm: Potluck Lunch

Program: Ken Lemons from the Greater Flint Health Coalition counsels those caught in the grip of mental health/addiction issues. As a person in recovery, he shares his experience and special insights into these dangerous disorders.



### Removal of the Greens



Join us on

**Sunday, January 8 at Noon**

when we take down all of our Christmas decorations and pack them away for next year. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated!

Grand Blanc UMC will follow the Grand Blanc School District in closing our campus for inclement weather. So if Grand Blanc Schools are closed due to weather conditions, the church will also be closed. All in-person events for that day will be cancelled. If the weather clears and a group chooses to meet later in the day, it will be the responsibility of the group leader to convey that information to the group.

Most staff will remain available via email and phone when working from home.

