



March, 2023

The Grand Blanc UMC

"Connection"



March 5
2nd Sunday in Lent
COMMUNION
Sermon Series:
"A Lenten Promise"
"The Good of a Well"
John 4: 1-6



March 12
3rd Sunday of Lent
Sermon Series:
"A Lenten Promise"
"Strange Company for a Drink of Water"
John 4: 7-15
Ryan Walker



March 19
4th Sunday of Lent
Sermon Series:
"A Lenten Promise"
"Do They Care About the Water?"
2 Kings 2: 19-22



March 26
5th Sunday of Lent
Sermon Series:
"A Lenten Promise"
Eric Carlson



Rubber Band S#%

Sin. There, I said it! It's a word that we seem to want to avoid as often as possible. I cannot tell you how many times I've heard people offer their pastor the critique of "I wish you wouldn't talk about sin so much," or my personal favorite, the veiled critique of, "It's nice to hear a sermon that didn't talk about sin, for once." The word "sin" has even taken on its own monikers, such as the "three letter word" or, as I've done in the title, omitted words as if it's a curse to even write the word, let alone speak it.

Okay, you've probably picked up on my facetiousness, but there is a significant amount of truth in it, as well. We don't like talking about sin, and I'm convinced it's because we don't really know what it is. We assume that it's breaking God's law – which is fair, but still a very vague description? Or, maybe we focus in on the 10 commandments. After all, we like neat, concise lists, and there is some truth to this, as well. But "sin" isn't really a noun, as in a set of rules, sin is really more a *relational verb*.

What do I mean by a relational verb? It's actually pretty simple. *Sin* or *sinning* is something that we do. That makes it a verb. It's relational, because it is something that we do in *relation* to another – God, a neighbor, or ourselves. So here is the definition I like to work with when I think about sin:

*"Sin is the action, word, or thought, intended or otherwise,
that creates distance between us and God, us and others,
and/or even within ourselves."*

-Pastor Brian

So, here's where the rubber band comes in. If you have one, take it out and follow my instructions. If you don't have one, just pretend...you'll still get the idea.

Holding the rubber band loosely on both of your index fingers, your left index finger representing you, and your right index finger representing God. Now, with no tension on the rubber band, consider that this is the relationship we deeply want to have with God. It represents an almost closeness, maybe even a sense of comfort. This feels good, and because there is no tension on the rubber band, it may even feel effortless. This is where we want to be in our life with God.

But then, sin comes in. Now, remember that sin is anything that puts distance between us and God. So, gently, pull your left index finger (you) away from your right (God). As we "commit sin" this is what we are doing. We (not God) are putting distance between us and God. The more we sin, the more distance we have. Go ahead, keep adding distance.

Now, as you add more and more distance, what are you beginning to feel is tension. The rubber band is constantly pulling you (your left index finger) back toward God (your right index finger). We call the rubber band "grace" or even just "love." God's loving grace is constantly pulling us back *toward* God. God NEVER pushes us away. God only pulls us back toward God's self. Why? It's because close to God is where we feel good. Close to God is where we feel at home.

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Now, let's go one step further. Imagine now that your right index finger is you and your left index finger is your neighbor (this can be absolutely anyone). When your neighbor (lefty) sins against you, they create distance from you? The more they sin against you, the more distance they create. The question then is, how is your rubber band holding up? Is the pull of your love the same as the pull of God's love, or are we more tempted to let the rubber band snap – or even just take it off? We are invited by God to share the same love that is in Christ Jesus. We are invited to remember the pull of God's grace which pulls us back despite our sin, and, in turn, seek right relationship with our neighbors through grace.

Friends, it is my commitment to you to never let go of the rubber band we share, together. I hope that you will share in that commitment with me.

Peace,
Pastor Brian



FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Marge Berryman
Marge Cramer
Shirley Crane
Eleanor Hall

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Shirley Andrews
Amanda Bendall
Donna Brookins
Jim Bunker
Roma Corey
Cheryl Cottrell
Sharel Etheridge
Marcia Ferguson
Judy Gratsch
Dick Hubler
Paul Manning
Lisa McGehee
Bob Tritten



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Eileen Scott. Eileen passed away on February 1, 2023.

FOR OTHERS:

Hudson Bennett
Nancy Bilas
Sue Blondin
Sallie Surek
John Campbell
Patricia Crawfis
Cynthia Crawford
Fred DeYound
Shelia Dirrim
May Doran
Robert Elliott
Harold Ferguson
Larry Fox
Alea Gardner
Wendell Griffus
Gene Grettel
Dave Jones
Sierra Lamson
Jay Latimer
Kathy Latimer
Ellie Lauth

Adrianna Martell
Heavenly Martin
Carter Michael
Hunter Molyneux
Joshua Nelson
David Oden
Jim Packer
Rick Palmer
Frank Polehanki
Linda Polehanki
Jennifer Prim
Martin Ryder
Bill Shier
Bettie Stach
Barb Stephenson
Easton Stephenson
Jeff & Amy Tebo
Bill Thewalt
Marvin Thompson
Sara Toth-Perkins
Ed Woodard

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



C.A.R.E. Team

care.team@grandblancumc.org



Please note that Bea Messmore has moved to Charter Senior Living.

Her new address is
10222 Lapeer Road, #211
Davison, MI 48423



Texts from Church

Stay up to date with worship news and information from Grand Blanc United Methodist Church! It's as simple as texting **GBUMC** to 43506. That's it!

Now, you'll receive reminders, information, and encouragements to worship with your church family at **GBUMC**!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Director of Christian Education
Angela Campbell
christian.education@grandblancumc.org

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!"

March 2023 picks:



Book:
"Being Mortal"
By Atul Gawande

Video:
"Beyond Suffering"
By Amy-Jill Levine
A 4-Part Video Series



It's not to late to join either or both of these Lenten Studies!!



2023 VIRTUAL LENTEN STUDY

Presented by:

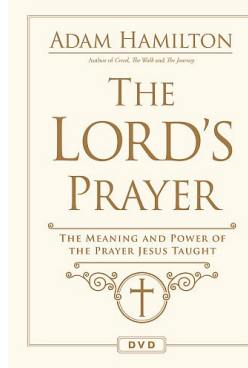
Pastor Haley Hansen & Pastor Brian West

Thursdays @ 7:30pm

February 23rd - March 30th

(To register and receive the virtual study link, please contact either church office)

Join friends from Grand Blanc UMC and Open Door UMC for a virtual Lenten study as, together, we study "Renegade Gospel" by Mike Slaughter. Reading the book is encouraged, but not required.



Lenten Study

**Adam Hamilton's
The Lord's Prayer: The
Meaning and Power of the
Prayer Jesus Taught.**

Due to the weather on February 22, this study will actually begin on Wednesday, March 1 and will run each Wednesday

through April 5th. During this study, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton guides us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. And he teaches us how to use it as a pattern for our own prayer life. We will watch a short video each week followed by discussion. Please contact Angela at christian.education@grandblancumc.org if you have any questions.



MORE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Check out the bulletin board at the end of the Education Hallway! There is Lenten Information for you including, praying in color sheets, alternatives to "giving up" something, blessing bag information and ways to give to our community during Lent.



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.



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



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!



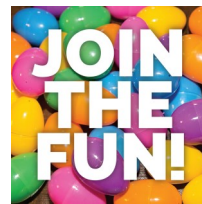
Are you like me? I have a small stack of gift cards left over from our birthdays and Christmas that have a balance of a few cents to a couple of dollars, you know the ones that you carry forever and forget about? Well guess what? If you have forgotten about gift cards, Christian Education would be happy to utilize them for you! We can always use gift cards to places like Walmart, Target, Meijer, Sam's Club, Dollar Tree, Menard's or Home Depot. Gift cards like these can be used for our Summer Fun programs, our Sunday School classes, and many other programs/events throughout the year. Thank you so much for all of your support for this vital ministry.

Lent Event

Wednesday, March 15th

5pm to 6pm

Have you been looking for a way to go deeper in your prayer life, or maybe you are looking to start a practice of prayer and are seeking more information? If you answered yes, please join us on March 15th for a Simple Lenten soup supper at 5pm - 6pm. During and after supper there will be prayer stations available for children and adults. We are looking for volunteers for help with setup/cleanup and for soup donations. All are welcome.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FAMILY EASTER FUN

on **Saturday, April 8**

Time TBD

We will be partnering with other members of our community. There will be candy, games and more!!!

Watch your News & Notes, emails and the April Connection for more details!

UMCOR Sunday is March 19, 2023



On Sunday, March 19th 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!



FAMILY GAME NIGHT!

Saturday, March 11

6p to 8p

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Games for all ages will be provided.

Invite another family!

Bring a snack to share!

SEASONED CITIZENS!

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Noon: Coffee & Conversation

12:25pm: Prayer & Devotion

12:30pm: Potluck Lunch

Program: Don Wilson serves on the board of Flushing Historical society. He shops at antique flea markets/tractor shows/flea markets for items and ideas to create interesting programs.

Join us for potluck on March 9 and enjoy Don's "Evolution of the Bicycle".



All
are
welcome!

FREE

Wednesday

March 1

5p—6p

COMMUNITY DINNER

Tacos and all the fixins, Dessert and Drinks

It might not be Tuesday, but it can be hard to say no to Tacos.

Takeout available

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 5

Pancakes, Egg Cheese Casserole, Sausage and Drinks

Breakfast for Dinner? Oh yes, It's a winner!



The Rummage Sale is coming!!!

Sale dates are Thursday, April 27—Saturday, April 29

We will be accepting donations Monday, April 24—Wednesday, April 26.
Start cleaning out your closets, drawers, basements and garages!!!

Besides donations, we are also looking for help! Could you help sort and organize for a few hours? Or maybe you would be available to help pick up items to bring to the church? Could you help during the sale? An hour or two, or as much time as you can give would help so much!!!

If you have any questions, please contact Gina Briscoe 810-636-7562

Lent and “In lieu of Lilies” Donations

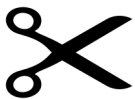
Easter Sunday is April 9, 2023. This year we will be supporting GBUMC's new Ministry Program **Blessing Bags** with our Lent offering and **Mujila Falls Agriculture Program** with our "In lieu of Lilies" offerings.

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 the new Ministry Program **Blessing Bags**. You can place this donation in the collection plate at any time. We will be collecting items for this ministry during Lent but your monetary donations would also be beneficial to enable us to stock up on personal care items and necessities to be given to our neighbors who are facing housing and food insecurities.

The “In lieu of Lilies” collection will go to **Mujila Falls Agricultural Project** which is the agricultural program previously headed up by retired missionary, Paul Webster. Our current missionary, Temba Nkomozepi, is now in charge of this program making a huge difference in the lives of the people of extreme Northwest Zambia who have the highest infant mortality rates and the lowest life expectancy of all tribes in Zambia.

Please fill out the “In lieu of Lilies” donation sheet below. Additional copies will be provided in your bulletin on Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 2 or you can pick one up in the office and attach your cash or check (made out to GBUMC). The “In lieu of Lilies” form must be turned in to the office no later than Sunday, April 2, accompanied by your payment, but your Lent envelope may be placed in the offering plate at any time.

Thank you for your generosity! We appreciate you!



In lieu of Lilies donation to **Mujila Falls Agricultural Project**

Memory of _____

(or)

Honor of _____

Given by _____

Amount _____

Envelope # _____

03/05 Mitchinson
 03/12
 03/19
 03/26



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

03/05 Lutton
 03/12 Prayer Group
 03/19 Sunday School Class
 03/26 Seasoned Citizens



Spring Forward

Remember to change your clocks on Saturday, March 11, before you go to bed!!! Set them ahead one hour so you are not late for church!!

11:00am Worship Ushers

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

COUNTERS

03/05 Jessica Smith, Carol Cerny
 03/12 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise
 03/19 Sandy Jones, Tom Cerny
 03/26 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1st Tony Jablonski
3rd Pat Cooper
4th Grace Hedding,
 Brennen Mueser
5th Matthew Anderson,
 Kaja Martin-Mraz
6th Zach Atchison, Nathan Bunker
7th Rich Charmoli (81)
8th Bob Briscoe, Shelly Rice
9th Don Martin, Dianne Scrimger
11th Susie Hagenstein
12th Carol Cerny
13th Jacob Waisanen
14th David Sandrock,
 Alyssa Warburton
18th Melanie Fiederlein,
 Stephanie West
19th Kristin Ivan & Zac Manning
21st Kelli Hedding, Alexis Trinidad
22nd Carrie Church, Libby Greenlees
24th Alexandria Harper,
 RaeAnn Waisanen

25th Scott Herrmann,
 Charlotte Roth, Henry Roth
27th Lisa England
28th Sandy Jones (81), Karen Lawcock
29th Renee Eggert, Carrie Kurosky
30th Seth Hagenstein
31st Laura Bjorkman,
 Betty Marks (84)



Anniversary Blessings

3rd Gail & Mike Lutton
5th Judi & Ken Cottrell (35)
6th Robie & Robert Carlson (32)
7th Barb & Bob Mills (64)
16th Monique & Brett Carte (39)
25th Susan & Steve Buck
31st Melissa & Jesse Gould

Greeters

9:00am/Education wing

11:00am/Education Wing

03/05

03/12 Marylee Hubel

03/19 Becky Doran

03/26

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

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
 Financial Summary

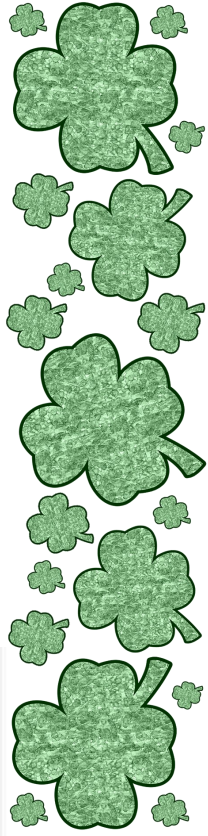


General Fund Balance (as of 12-31-22) = \$24,070
 Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 12-31-22) = \$11,679

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 12-31-22) = \$127,485



MARCH 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>5 COMMUNION 9a Worship Service 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir Rehearsal 11a Traditional Worship</p>	<p>6 Mission Team Mtg 6p</p>	<p>7 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Group 7p W & A Meeting</p>	<p>1 10a Prayer Shawl 1p Lent Study 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 10a Drop-In Bible Study 6p Common Grace 7:30p Virtual Study</p>	<p>3 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>4 10a O.A. 10a Yoga</p>
<p>12 SET CLOCKS AHEAD 9a Worship Service 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir Rehearsal 11a Traditional Worship</p>	<p>13 7p Ad Council via Zoom</p>	<p>14 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga</p>	<p>15 10a Women's Circle 10a Prayer Shawl 1p Lent Study 5p Soup & Prayer 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 10a Drop-In Bible Study 6p Common Grace 7:30p Virtual Study</p>	<p>17 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p> 	<p>18 10a O.A. 10a Yoga</p>
<p>19 UMCOR Sunday 9a Worship Service 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir Rehearsal 11a Traditional Worship</p>	<p>20 7:15p Finance</p>	<p>21 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Group</p>	<p>22 10a Prayer Shawl 1p Lent Study 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 10a Drop-In Bible Study 7:30p Virtual Study</p>	<p>24 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>25 9a-3p EXPO @ GBHS 10a O.A. 10a Yoga 3p Peggy Van Vlack Memorial Bell Ring @ Faith Lutheran</p>
<p>26 9a Worship Service 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir Rehearsal 11a Traditional Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 NO Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga</p>	<p>29 10a Prayer Shawl 1p Lent Study 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 NO Drop-In Bible Study 7:30p Virtual Study</p>	<p>31 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p>	

A New Ministry of
Grand Blanc UMC

BLESSING BAGS



LENTEN INGATHERING

Each Sunday during the season of Lent, we'll be collecting a variety of personal care items that will be included in the Blessing Bags for our neighbors who are facing housing and food insecurities. On Easter Sunday, we'll celebrate the start of this new ministry as we bless the ingathering and prepare the bags to be sent out!

WHAT CAN I BRING?

February 26th: Razors & Shaving
Cream (travel)

March 5th: Deodorants &
Lotions (travel)

March 12th: Shampoo (travel)
& Bar Soap

March 19th: Toothbrush &
Toothpaste (travel)

March 26th: Socks &
Washcloths

April 2nd: Band-Aids &
Facial Tissues (travel)

Easter: Hand Sanitizer (travel)

Thank You!

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 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



The 13th Peggy Van Vlack Memorial Bell Festival will be on March 25, 2023.

This is the first Peggy Ring since pre-pandemic.

Choirs and ringers from Goodrich, Oxford, Mt. Clemens, Flint, Grand Blanc, Hartland and Rockford will be participating this year with close to 75 bellringers in the mass ring numbers. Some of the choirs will also be ringing solo numbers.

The participating ringers start the day around 8:30 to learn the mass pieces under the direction of our guest conductor/clinician Darcie Zembower West.

If enough young people are there, a Rainbow Ringers choir will also play.

The public concert will be in the gym at the back of Faith Lutheran Church in Grand Blanc at **3:00 p.m.** the afternoon of the 25th.



Grand Blanc
Chamber of Commerce

We're going to the EXPO

Well, actually, we are going to BE at the EXPO as a participant.

YES! GBUMC will have their own booth at the
Grand Blanc Chamber 2nd Annual Grand Blanc Community EXPO.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT @ The Grand Blanc High School Gymnasium
There will be food, music, door prizes, and children's activities.

Date & Time

Saturday, March 25, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

We are excited to be a part of this interactive community gathering of local businesses and non-profit organizations and specifically to extend our special form of **radical hospitality** to those we meet.

If you are interested in signing up to help at this event, please email
Melinda Elmore-Hajek at Melmorehajek@gmail.com
or contact the church office.