



The Grand Blanc UMC "Connection" April, 2023

April 2

Palm Sunday

COMMUNION

Sermon Series:

"A Lenten Promise"

"In God's Hands"

Mark 11: 1-11

April 6

Maundy Thursday

Service at Calvary UMC

April 7

Good Friday

Service at St. Christopher's

Episcopal

April 9

EASTER

"Resurrection of the

Head to the Heart"

April 16

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sermon Series: *"Be-Attitudes"*

"Hopeless and Grieving"

Matthew 5: 3-4

April 23

3rd Sunday of Easter

Camping Sunday

Guest: David Berkey

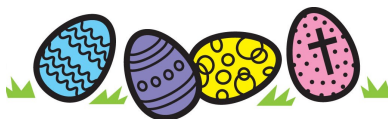
April 30

4th Sunday of Easter

Sermon Series: *"Be-Attitudes"*

"Humble"

Matthew 5: 5



Doubt-ish

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:24-28 (CEB)

As you're reading this, we're likely toward the end of Lent, approaching Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Maybe you've picked up the newsletter a bit later in the month and have Easter Sunday in the rearview mirror, along with Michigan snowstorms (hopefully). Either way, this passage of scripture from John's Gospel comes soon after Jesus' resurrection, and so it's fitting that you're reading it.

So often, we title this passage "Doubting Thomas." Chances are you've heard it called that before, but I'll be honest, I've never liked that title for it. Truth be told, I've never liked using titles for scripture passages. They seem to set us up to see only one thing. For example, in the "Feeding of the 5,000," our brains are trained to only see the feeding miracle. The title keeps us from seeing the miracle of 5000 men (plus women and children) gathering because they believe that Jesus can heal. It keeps us from seeing that all of this takes place in a fishing village, pointing out the disciples' singular focus on what *they* have, while not noticing the potential in the community in which they find themselves. Considering that, the title could also be *"The Disciples Can't See the Forest for the Trees."*

Here, in John 20, the title forces us to see Thomas, one of the disciples, as "doubting." And because of that, it's hard to see anything else. So, let's look at some other aspects of this story, ignoring Thomas' doubt for a minute. Did you notice that Thomas *wasn't* with the disciples when Jesus came? Where was he? The answer is that we don't know, but perhaps Thomas didn't have the benefit of having seen the empty tomb as Peter, Mary and the "beloved disciple" had. Perhaps Thomas had continued on in ministry, returning only when he heard of Jesus' resurrection – returning to see if it was real.

Or, do we notice that Jesus, now resurrected, still has the wounds in his hands, feet and side? So often, we think of Jesus resurrection as a healing from his earthly death, but here that's challenged. Jesus was alive, to be sure, but he still had evidence of the death he experienced. Could it be that resurrection in and through Christ doesn't take away wounds, but rather that it restores life in spite of this world's wounds? Maybe, then, Thomas' reaction was not so much "doubt" as it was surprise. Perhaps the disciples assumed all along that

Continued on next page

resurrection would mean that the cross would be erased, only to discover that it simply rendered the cross ineffective. Was Thomas simply responding to this new realization? (Keep in mind, It's in John 16:33 that we hear these words: *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*). If that's the case, couldn't we title this passage, *"Thomas Discovers Resurrection's Power"*?

Now, okay... Jesus does say *"Stop doubting and believe."* I will admit, it seems like this would completely dismantle my defense of Thomas. Maybe Thomas was doubting a bit. Maybe it's not the worst title in the world. But until we got past the title, we wouldn't have looked more closely at Jesus' wounds – only Thomas' doubt. Now that we see the wounds, and now that we've explored what that might teach us about resurrected, perhaps the "doubt" Jesus is referring to is not Thomas' doubt that Jesus really was resurrection, but rather the disciples' (Thomas included) doubt that resurrection could only be real if it erased the trouble and wounds we experience in this world.

There Jesus stood – wounds, trouble and all – not in the tomb, but resurrected. Jesus reminds Thomas...Jesus reminds the disciples...Jesus reminds us, the reader, that though we'll carry our own cross in our discipleship (Matthew 16:24), ultimately the wounds of this world don't have the final word. Resurrection does.

May we no longer doubt, but believe.
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
Janet Davis
Sharel Etheridge
Marcia Ferguson
Judy Gratsch
Dick Hubler
Paul Manning
Lisa McGehee
Bob Tritten

FOR OTHERS:

Hudson Bennett
Nancy Bilas
Sue Blondin
Sallie Burek
John Campbell
Patricia Crawfis
Warren Crawfis
Fred DeYoung
Shelia Dirrim
Robert Elliott
Harold Ferguson
Larry Fox
Alea Gardner
Gene Grettel
Judith Hellmich
Dave Jones
Sierra Lamson
Jay Latimer
Kathy Latimer
Ellie Lauth

Adrianna Martell
Heavenly Martin
Julie McKenna
Carter Michael
Hunter Molyneux
Joshua Nelson
David Oden
Rick Palmer
Jennifer Prim
Martin Ryder
Bill Shier
Barb Stephenson
Easton Stephenson
Gregory Sumerix
Jeff & Amy Tebo
Bill Thewalt
Marvin Thompson
Pastor Greg Timmons
Sara Toth-Perkins
Laura Van Vlack
Ed Woodard



~ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Wendall Griffus, who passed away on March 13, 2023. Wendall is Dave Griffus' father.

~ We also extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jack

Greenlees, who passed away on March 17, 2023.

Jack is Brian Greenlees' father



Dear Friends, Many thanks for prayers, food, phone calls, etc. for to me as I recover from pneumonia/COVID.
Forever Thankful, Dick Smith



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 2 ONE SERVICE @ 11am, with a palm processional to Saginaw Street (or driving if preferred). Sunday School @ 10am.

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 6, service held at Calvary UMC (2111 Flushing Rd, Flint) at 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 7, service held at St. Christopher's Episcopal (9020 S. Saginaw, Grand Blanc) at 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 9, services at 9am and 11am with Sunday School and Coffee Hour at 10am

The church office has made a change to the office equipment.

Please note that the church no longer has a fax machine.



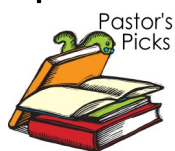
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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!" Previous "Pastor's Picks can be found in the Church Library.**

April 2023 picks:



Book:

"Easter Earthquake: How
Resurrection Shakes Our World"
By James A. Harnish

Video:

"Witness At the Cross: A
Beginners Guide to Holy Friday"
By Amy-Jill Levine
A 6-Part Video Series



**Join us on Saturday, April 8th
from 11am-1pm
for the 1st Trunk or Treaster celebration**
sponsored by Grand Blanc United Methodist
Church and Impact Agents/ Exp Realty. This
will be a fun way to celebrate the spirit of

Easter with a trunk-or-treat event that has an Easter theme,
complete with face painting, coloring drawing, and the Easter
Bunny. All are welcome! We are in need of trunks to pass out
candy, preferably in a filled easter egg, but that isn't necessary.
We can provide candy for you if you don't have any and want
to participate with your trunk. We are also in need of candy
and plastic egg donations. Come and participate, celebrate
and enjoy this Easter Season!



Our special guest speaker on
Sunday, April 23 will be David
Berkey, Executive Director of
Michigan UMC Camping.

There are camps for ALL ages, so
there is something for you and/or
someone in your family.

GBUMC offers camp scholarships!



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



ASP Fundraiser at Culver's of
Grand Blanc

Join us on **Tuesday, April 18**
at Culver's

A % of EVERY purchase
between the hours of **5pm**
and **8pm** will be donated to
our 2024 ASP Team!
Dine-In or Carry-Out!

Native American Ministries Sunday - April 23, 2023

Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we are able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to authentically worship and serve Jesus. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, equips Native congregations to worship and serve as only they can. This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give. Native American Ministries Sunday is an UMCOR project in the United States.

Our giving allows Native Americans to encounter, worship and serve Jesus. When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Please give generously to the Native American Ministries on Sunday April 23rd. If you donate online please mark your donation as Native American Ministries Sunday. THANK YOU!

"Unofficial Trustees"

I have known many churches with Trustee Committees that are full of contractor/builder/handyperson types who take care of the big and little needs around the church property. And while that sounds nice, I will add that getting anyone from the congregation – outside of the Trustees Committee – to help with these tasks was like pulling teeth in an alligator pit!

Grand Blanc UMC is blessed with a real gift, and I want to make sure you know it! We have a wonderful Trustees Committee with dedicated people who are committed to the care, upkeep, and development of our church property...AND we also have wonderful people in the congregation who have a history of helping with a variety of tasks around the church, whether it be repairs, construction, care for the property, etc. The gift (one of many) of this church is that the congregation, not just the Trustees Committee, sees the care for the church as its responsibility. Thank you for that!

What we need are "Unofficial Trustees" – those who are willing to pull tape measures, swing hammers, lend a skill, get hands dirty, or even break out the chainsaw once in a while. There are always things that need to be done, but the Trustees Committee can't do it alone. If you are willing to be an "Unofficial Trustee," helping out from time to time, please let us know. You can talk with Paul Roth (Trustee Chairperson), me, or the church office. We'd love your help and we can certainly find the right task for you!

Thank you!

Your toolbelt-owning pastor (it's from ASP, but hey!)



SEASONED CITIZENS Thursday, April 13

Noon: Coffee & Conversation

12:25: Devotion & Prayer

12:30: Potluck Lunch

Program: Leigh LaForest, President of the Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce will discuss new commercial and residential development in the city and township.

Join us for food and fellowship!



We now have forms that must be completed to get a church event listed on the church website.

These forms are available in the church office or you can send the following information to Angela Campbell at christian.education@grandblancumc.org
Your name, the name of the event, date & times of the event and any specific details or images that would be helpful to getting your message out!

Please submit all information at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

The Michigan Conference's Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry speaks out in solidarity for all Michigan campus ministries and calls on United Methodists across the state to pray for all young people and to reach out to the closest campus ministry to see how best to support them.

DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY
Michigan Conference

On February 13th, 2023, gun violence found its way to the campus of Michigan State University, leaving three young people dead, five wounded and resulting in the death of the gunman by suicide.

The Michigan Annual Conference Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry recognizes the trauma and harm inflicted on our campuses due to gun violence as a crisis for our young people, as well as society as a whole. The violence on the MSU campus has not only affected that campus, but also college campuses across Michigan as they deal with the ongoing trauma of gun violence. Students, staff, and faculty have wondered if they will be next, living with stress and fear as violence continues to strike new communities.

We are grateful for the Wesley Foundation at Michigan State University and area United Methodist Churches for their quick response in offering space for listening, prayer, and pastoral care. We give thanks for the ways that our campus pastors and campus ministries across the state have shown up for students as they process this traumatic event. Finally, we give thanks to those who advocate for ways of change, in hopes that our young people (and indeed, all those in society) will not have to continue to live in fear for their lives because of gun violence.

The Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry continues to advocate for and support all of the Michigan Conference campus ministries as a front line resource on our campuses across the state. Campus ministries provide safe spaces of gathering, theological reflection, community and leadership development, and faith formation even in the midst of the difficult state of the world. As differing bodies call for prayer and for action to make change as it relates to gun violence, we recognize that our campus ministries have been important places for students to grow in both their personal piety and their social action, and are a vital part of the equation when it comes to the church's role in transforming the culture of gun violence in the United States.

For those in the Michigan Conference looking for ways to support our campus ministries, we would encourage you to hold in prayer all of the Michigan Conference campus ministries:

Central Michigan University (Wesley@CMU)
Ferris State University (Big Rapids Wesley House)
Grand Valley State University (United Campus Christian Fellowship)
Michigan State University (MSU Wesley Foundation)
Wayne State University (Motor City Wesley)
Northern Michigan University (NMU Wesley)
University of Michigan (Wesley Foundation at UMich)
Western Michigan University (Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo)
And our two United Methodist-related colleges: Adrian College and Albion College

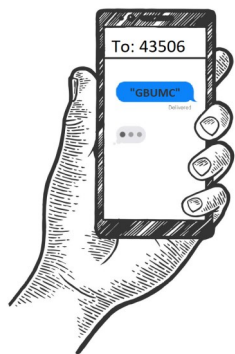
Further information on our campus ministries can be found here:

www.michiganumc.org/wesley-foundation/
www.withwesleymiumc.org/

Additionally, please hold in prayer other college campuses and young people across the state of Michigan. We encourage all to be in touch with their local campus ministry to see how you can best support their front line ministry. We also continue to encourage all to advocate and create change in their local communities that leads to less gun violence.

As the Scriptures say, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

In "[A Call for Peacemaking](#)" in the 2016 Book of Resolutions, The United Methodist Church calls upon: "United Methodist children, youth, and adults—as devoted disciples of Jesus Christ—to become peacemakers wherever they are—at home, school, work, in the local community and the wider world—and to show the love, compassion, and concern for justice that Jesus taught and lived."



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!

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 # _____

04/02
04/09
04/16
04/23 West
04/30 Rahn



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

04/02 CARE
04/09 Church Office
04/16 Missions
04/23 Staff Parish
04/30 The West Family



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

04/02 Jessica Smith, Carol Cerny
04/09 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise
04/16 Sandy Jones, Tom Cerny
04/23 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore
04/30 Jessica Smith, Carol Cerny



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1st Margaret Frelander
8th Patricia Burns (91)
13th Andrew Bruce,
Zachary Vamossy
14th Ed Slogor, John Stafford
15th Bob Eggert
16th Dick Hubler (82),
Sharon Ruggles (89),
Frank Skinner
18th Molly Fraile, Dave Russell
20th Emma Bearer, Mike Stafford
21st Madison Stack
22nd Angela Cook, Jordan Sanborn
23rd Gary Brandt,
Jessica Haggerty-Reed
24th Jayna Mueser
25th Karen Rossman
26th Becky Doran, Jan Johnson (82),
Brendon Russian

27th Brian Angell, Mary Jo Clark (80)
28th Emma Rahn
29th Sandy Angell, Randy Middleton
30th Tori Brinn, Mike Heberling,
Gretchen Jablonski



Anniversary Blessings

3rd Tammy & Don Martin (30)
4th Lisa & Jeff McGehee
13th Gary & Melinda
Elmore-Hajek (39)
20th Stephanie & Brian West (10)

Greeters

9:00am/Education wing	11:00am/Education Wing
04/02 Carol Cerny	
04/09 Marylee Hubel	
04/16 Becky Doran	
04/23	
04/30	

*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

Due to the congregation's generosity, the Finance Committee was able to pay an additional \$5,000 against the mortgage principle in March.

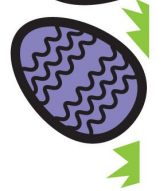
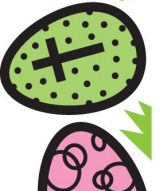
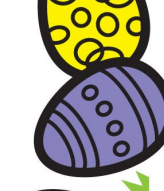

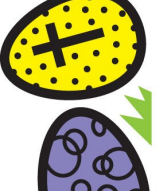
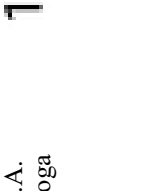
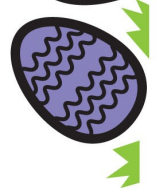
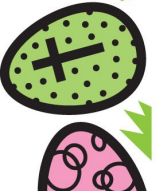
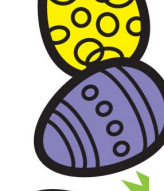

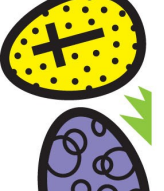
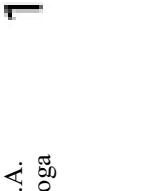
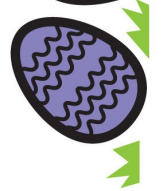
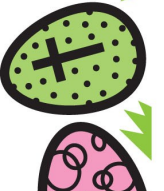
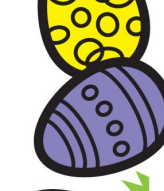

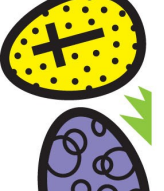
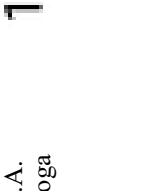
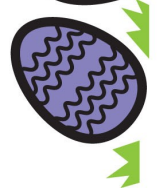
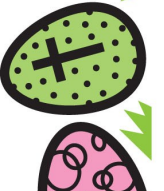
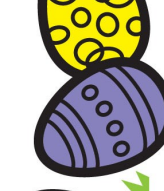

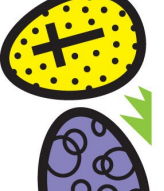
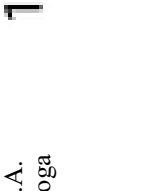
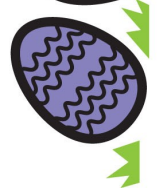
General Fund Balance (as of 02-28-23) = \$63,380
Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 02-28-23) = \$11,369

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 02-28-23) = \$125,268



APRIL 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 COMMUNION PALM SUNDAY 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir Rehearsal 11a ONE SERVICE	 6p Mission Team Mtg	 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Group 7p W & A Meeting	 10a Prayer Shawl 1p Lenten Study 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	 10a Drop-In Bible Study 7p Maundy Thursday Service @ Calvary UMC	 10a O.A. 10a Yoga	1 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
 EASTER! 9a Worship Service 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10:15a Bell Rehearsal 11a Traditional Worship	 10 Ad Council via Zoom 7p	 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga	 10a Prayer Shawl 1p Lenten Study 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	 NO Drop-In Bible Study Noon: Seasoned Citizens 6p Common Grace	 10a O.A. 10a Yoga	15 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
 9a Worship Service 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir Rehearsal 11a Traditional Worship	 10a Zentangle® 7:15p Finance	 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Group	 10a Women's Circle 10a Prayer Shawl 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	 10a Drop-In Bible Study	 10a O.A. FELLOWSHIP HALL IN USE	22 10a O.A. FELLOWSHIP HALL IN USE
 CAMPING SUNDAY NATIVE AMER. MIN 9a Worship Service 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir Rehearsal 11a Traditional Worship	 9a-6p RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP	 9a-6p RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga	 9a-6p RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP 10a Prayer Shawl 6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	 9a-6p RUMMAGE SALE 10a Drop-In Bible Study 6p Common Grace	 9a-4p RUMMAGE SALE 10a Men's Coffee 7p AI Anon	29 9a-Noon RUMMAGE SALE 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
 9a Worship Service 10a J.A.M./Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir Rehearsal 11a Traditional Worship						

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)

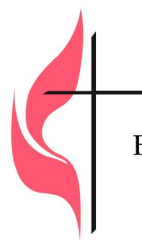
Thank You!

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

Church Office 810-694-9040 fax 810-694-1916
www.grandblancumc.org

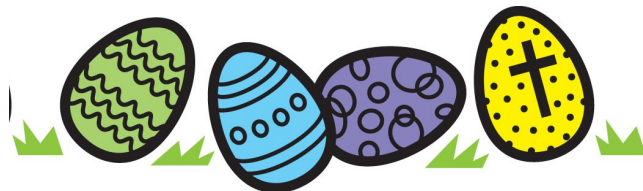
Rev. Brian West, Pastor
Cathy Mitchinson, Office Administrator
Angela Campbell, Director of Christian Education
and Webmaster

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



Rummage Sale 2023

Also a Bake Sale!!!

Thursday, April 27 & Friday April 28 9:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday, April 29 9:00am to Noon (Bag day)

Donations accepted

Monday, April 24 thru Wednesday, April 26

Volunteers are needed all six days for set-up and the sale.

We are also looking for volunteers to help pick-up items and bring them to the church.

If you are able to help or if you have any questions,

please contact Gina Briscoe 810-636-7562



All
are
welcome!

FREE

Wednesday
April 5
5p—6p

COMMUNITY DINNER

Takeout available

Pancakes, Egg Cheese Casserole, Sausage,
Fruit and Drinks

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

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 3