



# "Connection"



May 7

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

COMMUNION

Sermon Series: "Be-Attitudes"

"Hungry"

Matthew 5: 6, 8, 10



May 14

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Sermon Series: "Be-Attitudes"

"Merciful"

Matthew 5: 7



May 21

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Sermon Series: "Be-Attitudes"

"Peace-Full"

Matthew 5: 5, 11



May 28

Pentecost

"Songs of Freedom"

Acts 2: 1-13

Amos 5: 23-24



## "Not Complicated, Not Easy" A Call to Real Discipleship

"Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands." -Matthew 22:36-40 (CEB)

In a sermon not too long ago, I made the comment that "being a Christian isn't easy, and if anyone ever tells you that it is, they're either lying to you, or they're not really trying that hard." Afterward, during a lovely conversation, someone shared with me their reflection on that idea. They said something to the affect of, "Being a Christian really isn't that hard, though. Just love people!" I nodded in response, agreeing that "just love people" is a pretty fair summary of Jesus' teachings. But I also took time to add this:

*Being a Christian is not a complicated thing, but that doesn't make it easy.*

When we read Jesus' response to the question in Matthew's Gospel of "What is the greatest commandment in the Law," we find ourselves marveling at just how simple it really is. It's *not* overly complicated! There are no footnotes, small print, or hastily read lines at the end of his announcement like when we see commercials advertising the latest pharmaceutical. Jesus lays it out simply for us: *Love God wholly! Love neighbor! Love yourself!* Jesus even goes on to say (and I paraphrase), "*and this about wraps it up!*"

You see what I mean? Being a Christian and following the greatest commandment is not complicated. In fact, you probably have it memorized already (if you don't it's a good passage of scripture to memorize). But somehow, as Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (and I would argue this really started centuries ago), we've conflated the idea of Christianity's simplicity with an ease of discipleship. Herein lies the problem...It's not always easy - in fact, it's rarely easy - to be a Christian.

To be a Christian - to love God, neighbor, and self - means that we stand up for those who are forgotten. In a world and culture that often leaves people at the margins (and in some instances, pushes), to be a Christian means that we need to speak out against powers, policies, and practices that would leave the margins as they are.

To be a Christian - to love God, neighbor, and self - means that we advocate for peace and community wellbeing amid a culture that encourages fear of "the other."

To be a Christian - to love God, neighbor, and self - means that we draw the circle wider, not smaller. It means that we define ourselves by the ever-

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growing size of our table, and not by rules that would dictate who gets to sit at it. It means that no one is forgotten, ignored, or kept at arm's length.

We could go on and on, but I'll leave it at this: Being a Christian requires nothing less of us than using Jesus' greatest commandment as a litmus test for what is good and right. Does it love God? Does it love the neighbor? Is it loving ourselves? It's not complicated, but that doesn't mean it's always easy. And so, may we journey as Christian disciples together! May we encourage one another to love in a way that is oftentimes challenging! May we remind one another of what Christ's love looks like, so often that we can't help but reflect it, too! May we seek to be a church that embodies the love, grace, and joy of Christ in this world...this community.

May we love.  
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  
Don Sawyer  
Bob Tritten

**FOR OTHERS:**

Hudson Bennett  
Nancy Bilas  
Margaret Brainerd  
Sallie Burek  
Patricia Crawfis  
Warren Crawfis  
Fred DeYoung  
Shelia Dirrim  
Robert Elliott  
Harold Ferguson  
Larry Fox  
Alea Gardner  
Gene Griffel  
Judith Hellmich  
Jim Hood  
Dave Jones  
Sierra Lamson  
Jay Latimer  
Kathy Latimer  
Ellie Lauth

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

***Save the Date***  
**Retirement Thanksgiving Jamboree**  
For

***Rev. John H. & Laura Hice***

District Superintendent of East Winds UMC Churches

**Sunday, May 21, 2023**  
**@ 3:30pm**

**Davison UMC**  
**207 E. 3rd Street**  
**Davison, MI**

**THANKS  
FROM THE  
HEART**

The family of Wendell Griffus wishes to thank you for your prayers, cards, love and support during his time of illness. We really appreciate all you have done to help us heal from this loss. With love, from Dave & Luann Griffus.

**THANKS  
FROM THE  
HEART**

Dear Church Family, I would like to thank you for all of your prayers, love, cards and support for me and my family, during the past several months of health challenges. I still have some recovery ahead, and with God's help and your continued support, I will heal. I am blessed to be part of such loving congregation. Thanks again, Bob Tritten





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

## Pastor's Pick!

Each month Pastor Brian will be offering his "Pastor's Pick" 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. 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.



**May 2023 book pick: "Listen, Love, Repeat: Other Centered Living in a Self-Centered World" By Karen Ehman**

On April 9 we co-hosted our 1st ever trunk or treaster event with Impact Reality, and the event was a huge success, from the weather to the trunkers and the treasters, face painter, easter bunny and more. We had almost 20 trunks, over 130 children who received wonderful treats, and hundreds of parents. I want to thank you to everyone who participated and supported this event. We couldn't have done it without you.

Special shout out to Kennley Lyons who was the winner of the Golden Egg raffle.



## SAVE THE DATE!

We have a lot of events coming up this Summer. Keep checking your announcements, emails and future Connections for more information closer to the events.

- **May 21**—Last Day of Sunday School
- **June 11**—Graduate Recognition Sunday
- **July 12, 19, 26** (9:30am -12:30pm) Summer Fun Returns!
- **August 24**—Community Prayer Event
- **August 27**—Worship in the Park/Blessing of the Backpacks/3rd Grade Bible Presentations—Community Back-to School Event co-hosted with Impact Realty @ Physician's Park
- **September 10**—Sunday School Resumes, Church Potluck Picnic



We are so grateful for the support during our Culver's fundraiser for our 2024 trip to serve with the Appalachia Service Project! The dining room at Culver's was constantly full of our church friends!

Our tip jar raised \$272.30!!!! We raised \$525.00 from Culver's sales for a total benefit to our ASP account of \$797.30!!



Warmer  
Safer  
Drier



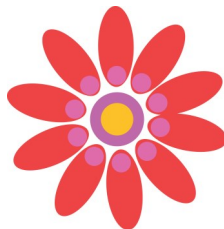
The poverty rate in Central Appalachia is one of the highest in the country. Appalachia Service Project envisions the eradication of substandard housing in Central Appalachia and the transformation of everyone who comes in contact with this ministry.

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church has made 27 trips to serve with the Appalachia Service Project over the last 41 years. We have served in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Our 361 GBUMC volunteers have made 55 family's homes Warmer, Safer and Drier. All of this was made possible by the generosity of this congregation.

## Seasoned Citizens Thursday, May 11, 2023

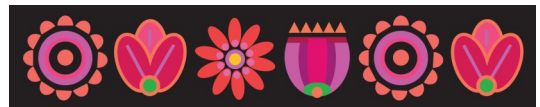
Noon: Coffee & Conversation  
12:25pm: Prayer & Devotion  
12:30pm: Potluck Lunch

Program: Max Harrison, (GBHS, Class of 2016), President of the Grand Blanc Historical Museum and currently a PhD student at Iowa State University, will explore education, agriculture and rural life in early twentieth century Grand Blanc. Please join us for a look at our local history



Men's Coffee

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



Pastor Brian's Drop-In Bible Study will be meeting on May 4, 11 & 18 and then will break for the summer.  
Summer Field Trips are being planned we hope you will join us!





## 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!

### **"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!)



### **Church Grounds Beautification**



The welcome mat is out for all those interested in making our church grounds more beautiful. Make your availability known in the church office or call Bob Mills at 810-240-0403.

We can use donations of the following (either in full bags or partial bags/packages): perennial plants, fertilizer, bags of top soil or potting soil, grass seed, flower seeds. (Just set any of these items by the shed).



If you need fireplace wood or fire pit wood we have plenty. Just look around from the parking lot to the creek and help yourself.

A special thank you to the Cook family for restoring the tire climber on the playground!!! It is a favorite of a lot of kids and we are so happy that it is sturdy and ready for many more years of climbing and conquering!!!



GBUMC individuals, families and friends have enjoyed spirit-filled fun times at Tigers Home Plate events in the past. Tom Cerny will coordinate the GBUMC ticket order. Bring Friends! A sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex or you can contact Tom directly if you have questions or would like to get tickets--details below.



## **HOME PLATE 2023**

Saturday, June 10

Location: Comerica Park

Program Time: 9:30 AM

Game Time 1:10 PM

Tigers' Opponent: Arizona Diamondbacks

Expected Attendance: 3,000 - 5,000 People

An ON-THE-FIELD BASEBALL CLINIC Returns This Year (Teaching Time by Tiger Players and Coaches on Outfield Grass Between Program & Game) <http://www.HomePlateDetroit.Org>

Message From Jeff Totten, Chaplain of the Tigers  
Pastors & Friends:

I am writing to extend an invitation for you and your church to consider participating in a Christian outreach event at Comerica Park prior to a Detroit Tiger game. Churches, families, and individuals are invited to attend. You can promote your group as desired (church-wide, families, men & boys, youth, etc.).

This annual event, called HOME PLATE, began in 1987. It features current and former Detroit Tigers (and other athletes) sharing about their careers in professional sports and faith in Jesus Christ. Specific players from the Tigers and Diamondbacks will be announced after during Spring Training as team rosters are filled out. Potential current and former Tigers include: Matt Boyd, Kerry Carpenter, Will Vest, Spencer Turnbull, Michael Lorenzen, and Frank Tanana. Other players from the Tigers and Diamondbacks will be added in the months ahead. Former Detroit Lion Jason Hanson will also be part of our program.

Please visit our web site for history of this event (details, photos, videos, etc.) and updates for 2023. You can actually view the 2016 and 2020 HOME PLATE events. Links are on the 2nd page of the web site.

Jeff Totten (Chaplain to the Detroit Tigers)  
HOME PLATE 2023

The day will begin at 9:20 AM at Comerica Park. Parking lots around the stadium will open early for vans and cars. The program will include an autographed baseball give-away (limited drawing), souvenirs, and most importantly, the sharing of salvation in Jesus Christ through the personal testimonies of several professional athletes. Seating for the program will be in the lower deck along the right field line on a first-come basis.

**SIGN UP ON THE KIOSK IN THE NARTHEX OR CONTACT TOM [tomcerny1@aol.com](mailto:tomcerny1@aol.com) 810-252-6943**

**GAME TICKETS – Includes Admission to the Program & Baseball Clinic**

(We can divide our order among more than one seating area). If no other preference is indicated when you order, game seats will be Upper Reserve Infield.

Mezzanine Seats (Upper Deck): \$25.00

Upper Res. Infield (Upper Deck): \$29.00

Bleacher Seats (Lower Deck): \$34.00

Pavilion Seats (Lower Deck): \$35.00

Infield Box (Lower Deck): \$65.00

For a "Schedule for the Day", and updates, visit: [www.HomePlateDetroit.Org](http://www.HomePlateDetroit.Org).

Peace and Blessings, Tom

# FEED THE BUS

**WHERE:**  Grand Blanc High School Parking lot

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 20TH, 2023

**WHAT WE NEED:** • Canned & boxed meals  
• Cereal • Hygiene products • Kleenex  
• Laundry & cleaning supplies • Toilet paper



**Help Us To Reach The Goal and FEED THE BUS**



**810-515-1978**



**FishofGrandBlancMI@Gmail.com**



In partnership with Sam's Club, Walmart, Grand Blanc Community Schools, GB City & Twp. Fire and Police Depts.



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

These purple forms are available in the church office or you can send the following information to Angela Campbell at [christian.education@grandblancumc.org](mailto: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.

If you have a church-wide event or notification that you would like sent out using our text messaging system, please fill out a form (the text message form is bright orange), found on the desk in the church office. You can also submit all of the details to [office@grandblancumc.org](mailto:office@grandblancumc.org).

Please include your name and contact information as well as the name of the event, date and time of the event and specific details of the event.

Please note that text messages from the church are limited to 160 characters, including spaces, and so your event description may be edited to fit that limit. But the more details you provide the easier it will be to make sure the important information is relayed.

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





05/07  
05/14  
05/21 Campbell  
05/28



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

05/07 Trustees  
05/14 UMM  
05/21 Finance  
05/28 Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Summer Worship**  
**at 10:00 a.m.**  
**will begin on**  
**Sunday, June 4**  
**and continue**  
**through Labor Day.**

### 11:00am Worship Ushers

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

### COUNTERS

05/07 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise  
05/14 Sandy Jones, Tom Cerny  
05/21 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore  
05/28 Jessica Smith, Carol Cerny



### Birthday Wishes

1<sup>st</sup> Christopher Dutton,  
Samantha Pinter  
Brett Russian  
3<sup>rd</sup> Adriana Lock  
4<sup>th</sup> Gregg Mueser  
5<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Federici,  
Craig Fiederlein,  
Carole Hitchens  
6<sup>th</sup> Jenifer Lengyel, Dawn Magiera,  
Jeff Mitchinson  
7<sup>th</sup> Erwin Rimmell, Vera Stuckey (98)  
8<sup>th</sup> Bayleigh Ivan  
9<sup>th</sup> Karen Keim  
10<sup>th</sup> Conlan Mueser  
11<sup>th</sup> Karl Martin  
12<sup>th</sup> Ronald Fitch  
13<sup>th</sup> Margaret Cramer (81)  
15<sup>th</sup> Laurie Del Pino, Maribeth Pinter  
16<sup>th</sup> Roger Colby, Luann Griffus,  
Cameron Roth  
17<sup>th</sup> Brent Roberts

19<sup>th</sup> Graham Holtz, Shar Ringlein (84)  
24<sup>th</sup> Bill Prim  
25<sup>th</sup> Brad Griffus, Leah Hagenstein  
26<sup>th</sup> Ryan Anderson  
27<sup>th</sup> Charlie Pinter  
29<sup>th</sup> Kennley Lyons  
30<sup>th</sup> Angela Campbell  
31<sup>st</sup> Anna Roth



### Anniversary Blessings

12<sup>th</sup> Deb & Frank Skinner  
13<sup>th</sup> Jennifer & Jason Lengyel  
18<sup>th</sup> RaeDeane & Randy Middleton (49)  
21<sup>st</sup> Becky & Matt Anderson  
22<sup>nd</sup> Angela & Eric Campbell,  
Vicki & Brian Greenlees (41)  
25<sup>th</sup> Lynelle & Gregg Mueser (32)  
28<sup>th</sup> Jordan & Matt Briscoe  
31<sup>st</sup> Rebecca & Brendan Brinn

### Greeters

9:00am/Education wing	11:00am/Education Wing
05/07 Carol Cerny	Nan Rahn
05/14 Marylee Hubel	John Billings
05/21 Becky Doran	Nancy Bigler
05/28 RaeAnn Waisanen	Shirley Wheeler

*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**





# May 2023



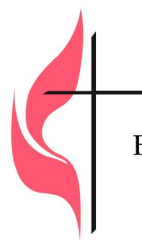
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  6p Mission Team Mtg	2 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Group  7p W & A Meeting	3 10a Prayer Shawl  6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	4 10a Drop-In Bible Study	5 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	6 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
7 COMMUNION 9a Worship 10a J.A.M./ Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir 11a Worship	8  7p Ad Council (Zoom)	9 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga	10 10a Prayer Shawl  6:30p Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	11 10a Drop-In Bible Study Noon: Seasoned Citizens 6p Common Grace	12 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	13 10a O.A.  Memorial Service Greenlees
14 MOTHER'S DAY 9a Worship 10a J.A.M./ Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir 11a Worship	15	16 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Group	17 10a Women's Circle 10a Prayer Shawl	18 10a Drop-In Bible Study	19 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	20 10a O.A.  WEDDING
21 9a Worship 10a J.A.M./ Sunday Sch 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir 11a Worship	22	23 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga	24 10a Prayer Shawl	25 10a Drop-In Bible Study	26 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	27 10a O.A.
28 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Choir 11a Worship	29  Memorial Day  OFFICE CLOSED	30 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Group	31 10a Prayer Shawl			

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

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

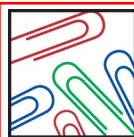
Rev. Brian West, Pastor  
Cathy Mitchinson, Office Administrator  
Angela Campbell, Director of Christian Education  
and Webmaster

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



## Office Hours

Office hours may vary whenever Cathy is on vacation. Office hours will be posted in the Connection, Bulletin Announcements and emails, but it may be most helpful if you call the church before stopping by. The church office will be closing at noon on Friday, May 12.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry donates Knitted Knockers

GBUMC's Prayer Shawl Ministry recently donated 58 pairs of Knitted Knockers as shown below. We delivered them to surgeon Dr. Suzanne Law's office to be distributed to breast cancer patients in the Flint Area. We are also going to be contributing to another local breast cancer surgeon Dr. Ashley Richardson when we can get more made!



The Knockers are worn as prostheses for mastectomy breast cancer patients. Previously we have donated over 150 pairs of knitted knockers to the Flint area hospitals. This brings our total over 200 pairs! Thank you to all the dedicated knitters (and crocheters)!

**All**  
are  
welcome!

**FREE**

**Wednesday**  
**May 3**  
**5p—6p**

**COMMUNITY DINNER**

Pizza Buffet, Salad, Drinks and Dessert!

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 7

**Takeout available**