



The Grand Blanc UMC "Connection"

March, 2024

March 3

3rd Sunday of Lent

Sermon Series: "Strange
Neighbors"

"Wasting Perfume"

John 12: 1-8

March 10

4th Sunday of Lent

Sermon Series: "Strange
Neighbors"

"Embracing the Broken"

Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

March 17

5th Sunday of Lent

Sermon Series: "Strange
Neighbors"

"Living Vulnerably"

Luke 13: 1-9

March 24

PALM SUNDAY

Sermon Series: "Strange
Neighbors"

"Sticking Around"

Luke 13: 31-35

March 28

Holy/Maundy Thursday

Worship Service @ 7pm

At Fenton UMC

Sermon by Pastor Brian

March 29

Good Friday

Worship Service @ 7pm

Here at GBUMC

GB Community Service

March 31

EASTER



"Condition and Desire"

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself. And the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. -Thomas Merton

As we've been journeying through this season of Lent, we have been reflecting. Our reflection began with the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our mortality and our shared human condition – sin. As I shared in a sermon only a few weeks ago, I like to define "sin" as anything that puts distance between us and God, us and others, and even us and...us. And so, you see, the human condition of sin that we share means that at any given time, we find ourselves moving closer to God, and moving away from God. Closer, away, closer, away, closer away. You get the idea.

As we wear the ashes (or maybe simply remember them now that it's March), we might be tempted to think that the ashes are a bleak symbol for our hopelessness – that we could never measure up to what God wants of us, and so we ought to just throw in the proverbial towel. But I deeply disagree with that! God's command to us, articulated by Christ, is to love God with our whole being, to love others, and to love ourselves. When we live into that, we defy sin that so often seems to have a hold on us. When we fail to live into that command, we are met with a grace that reconciles us to the love of God. In other words, God has absolutely no intention of letting sin have the last word.

So, if there is grace, why did we bother with the ashes. If God has no intention of letting sin have the last word, why did we devote a whole day – heck, a whole season – to it? I believe it's because we must name the condition in order to recognize the beauty of the grace which delivers us from it.

In the prayer by Thomas Merton, he offers these words: *"But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you."* I'm drawn to these words because I believe they reflect the desired outcome of this season of Lent: recognizing that we suffer from the human condition of sin, and yet our desire not to let sin rule our lives means that we are reaching out and grabbing the gift of grace that Christ so graciously gives to us. It is that reach that so pleases God!

As we draw closer to Holy Week, remember that Jesus ate with disciples who wrestled with sin, forgave the soldiers who were nailing his hands and feet, and offered grace to another man upon a cross. Remember that it was at the empty tomb where the resurrected Christ drew closer to Mary and called her by name.

Lent is about recognizing the reality of sin and desiring to close the gap. And it is in that desire that we discover the grace that has always been there. The miracle is that we can now see it.

Your sibling in Christ,
Pastor Brian

In Our Prayers

FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Marge Cramer
42400 12 Mile Rd, #214
Novi, MI 48377

Eleanor Hall
The Oaks at Woodfield
5370 E. Baldwin Rd #403
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Shirley Andrews
Ron Blakemore
Donna Brookins
Jim Bunker
Rev. Julius Del Pino
Lisa England
Ann Fraile
Bob Fraile
Judy Gratsch
Dick Hubler
Gail Lutton
Paul Manning
Don Sawyer
Vera Stuckey
Bob Tritten
Linda Zarnke

FOR OTHERS:

Susan Allan
Kim Allward
Dave Ax
Rich Bennetts
Nancy Bilas
Sallie Burek
Patricia Crawfis
Warren Crawfis
Paul Daly
Ellen Farr
Harold Ferguson
Merikay & Doug Franklin
Alea Gardner
Sharon Graham
Gene Griffel
Rev. John Hice
Jim Hood
Allan Jawors
Dave Jones

Doug Keene
Ellie Lauth
Adrianna Martell
Julie McKenna
Rev. Gordon Mitchinson
Joshua Nelson
David Oden
Rick Palmer
Carl Pate
Martin Ryder
Paul Schultes
Ashley Schaffer
Bill Shier
John Smith
Eddie Snow
Jeff & Amy Tebo
Marvin Thompson
Emery Wacser
Laura Wilson
Ed Woodard

With Deepest Sympathy

~ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Reva Swisher, who passed away on February 22, 2024. Reva is Donna Hubler's sister-in-law.

Vera Stuckey has moved into American House.

Vera Stuckey
12640 Holly Road, Apt B109
Grand Blanc, MI 48439



NEW MEMBER CLASS:

Interested in learning more about GBUMC and possibly becoming a member?



Pastor Brian is offering a membership class on **Saturday, March 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Lunch will be provided.

Questions? Contact the church office.



Time change at 2:00a.m.

on **Sunday, March 10!!!**

Spring Ahead or you'll be late for church!

Beginning Sunday, March 3, we hope you'll wear your new name tag at church! When you arrive, you'll find a brand new GBUMC name tag with your name on it! There will also be a station where name tags can be printed on the spot in case a reprint is necessary.

These new name tags will be used at church on Sunday morning, but can also be used for any outreach opportunities we may have. You're welcome to keep it with you in your purse or pocket if you'd prefer, but otherwise they can be kept on the name tag board just outside of the sanctuary.

Why wearing a name tag at church is important:

- **It is a wonderful act of hospitality and welcome!** Guests who are with us for the first or second time will feel much more at home if they know who they are meeting, possibly for the first time.
- **It's helpful for others!** Not everyone is able to remember names easily, for a variety of reasons. Wearing your name tag makes it easier for others to remember your name, avoid embarrassment, and feel more friendly and connected. Trust us, you'll find it helpful, too!
- **Name tags make it clear that we're a team!** Wearing your nice and modern looking name tag with "Grand Blanc United Methodist Church" printed on it tells others that you're part of the team. It's sort of like putting on your gameday uniform! It's about pride in your church!
- **You never know who might notice you wearing your name tag!** To make wearing a name tag more fun, from time to time, there will be fun incentives for wearing your GBUMC name tag with pride. But you'll never know when and where, so just be ready!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 11am to 2:30pm

Thursday: 10am to 2:30pm

Sunday: 9am to 11am

Pastor's Pick!

Each month Pastor Brian offers 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.**

March 2024 book pick: "Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple"

By Adam Hamilton



Trunk or Treaster

Saturday March 16th
10-12pm

515 Bush Avenue
Grand Blanc

face painting,
Easter bunny,
& MORE!



GRAND BLANC UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

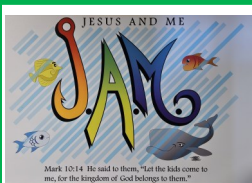


Easter Egg Hunt!


Easter Sunday, March 31

Bring your own basket and join us as we hunt
for Easter Eggs @ 10:30am


Sunday School will meet from 10am to 10:30am
for our nursery and JAM kiddos!




JAM- We are continuing with our "Celebrate Wonder" curriculum that honors the spiritual life of children by engaging them in open-ended exploration and inquiry of the Bible. During the month of March, the children will learn about Jesus washing the disciples' feet, the Last Supper, Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' procession into Jerusalem and finally His Resurrection. Their faith word this month is "remember." Through these lessons, the children will learn that in God's world we are all created equal. Tammy Martin is our Lead teacher on the 1st & 3rd -5 th Sundays, and Julie Korkel is our lead teacher on the 2nd Sundays. Nancy Bigler, Cathy Melkus, and Kristin Rahn are our JAM teaching assistants



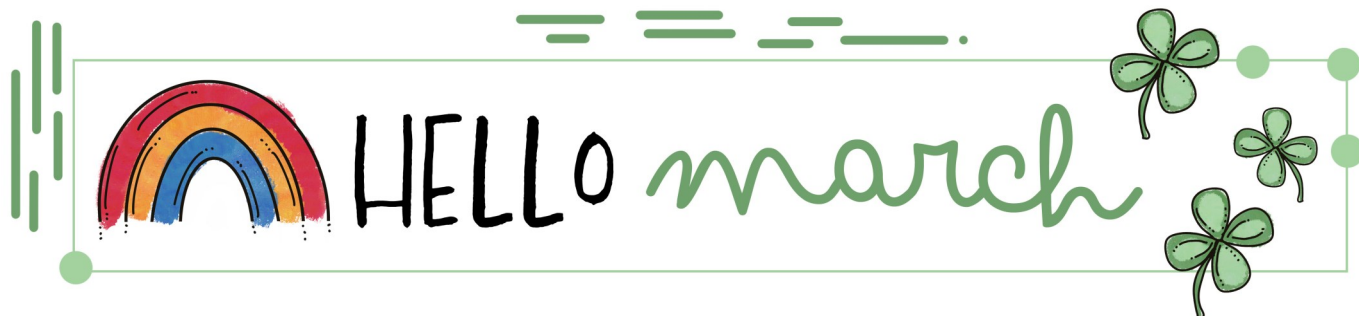
Youth SS -
This month we will be discussing one of the Nooma videos, looking at Luke and exploring more on our confirmation journey.



Perspectives -
They will continue their Lenten journey using the videos from Tom Berlin's book The Third Day: Living the Resurrection. Stephanie West will be facilitating this Lenten Study.



We are always looking for helpful hands and hearts to volunteer to be a teacher helper or nursery volunteer. Working with our youngest church members is a great gift for our future generation. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with this rewarding ministry.



YOUTH GROUP!

All youth grades 6 through 12 are invited to participate!
We hope you will join us and bring a friend!

Leaders:

Angela Campbell
Nathan Rahn

810-241-7275
734-276-3949



March 3: We are attending the Flint Community Players production of Hamlet, with our own Katie Lengyel starring in the play. Parent pick-up/drop-off. The address is 2462 S Ballenger Hwy, Flint, MI 48507. The

play starts at 2:30, please be there at 2pm. The play is 2.5 hours - so please pick-up at 5pm. Tickets are \$14, the youth group will cover half. If you are able, please bring \$7 the day of. I am not sure about concessions - so please bring extra money if you are interested if they are available.

March 10

5p-7p

Volleyball, Youth Sunday debriefing and games.



March 17

3:30p to 5p ASP Training I
All youth and adults planning on participating in ASP should attend.



5p-7p - Volleyball and meeting planning for April, May and summer meet ups



March 19 Tuesday

5p to 8p

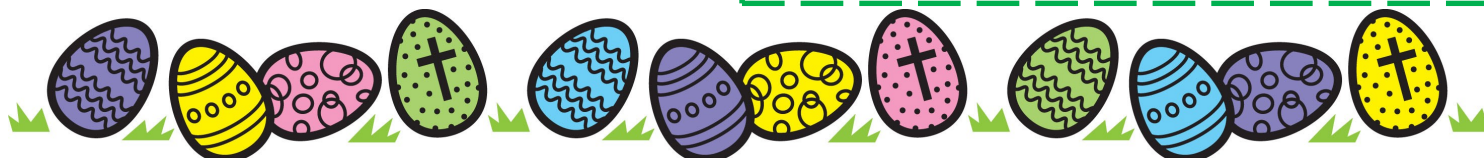
ASP fundraiser @ Culver's
All youth and adults that are participating in ASP should volunteer for as much as possible during this time. We will be running food orders to cars and tables.



Youth Group will not meet on Sunday, March 24 nor Sunday, March 31.

Enjoy your Spring Break!!

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, April 7!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Community Outreach & Engagement, a long title for such a simple concept

♥ LOVING and CARING for our neighbors.

Saturday, March 16, 9am-3pm



FREE to the PUBLIC!!!!

GBUMC will be one of the exhibitors at the EXPO

Be sure to stop by and say HI

Come and enjoy food, music, raffle prizes, children's activities that include a bounce house and local GB Business displays!

The gift of SERVICE
volunteer
do good, feel good



**THANK YOU CATHY MELKUS
FOR JOINING THE TEAM.**

WE CONTINUE TO CONNECT WITH OUR
COMMUNITY BUSINESSES BY SHARING OUR
THANKS AND AFFIRMING WHAT THEY DO IN
OUR COMMUNITY. ♥

JARRING GRACE has been a great tool to connect and build relationships with our community leaders and businesses. It is easy, fun and is ongoing, but it can also be a one time thing. If you appreciate one of our businesses, schools or community services, please consider helping.

With more volunteers we will have the opportunity to connect with more of our business community. If you would like to volunteer with JARRING GRACE, please contact Melinda, melmorehajek@gmail.com or call 810 845-2089.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT COMES IN MANY FORMS

Did you know that...

The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other 'mind-makers-up' that exist in our society."

There are many ways to engage and respond. Each time we reach out to a neighbor, welcome a stranger and do what might be unpopular, we are reminded of our call to respond.

We serve a **FREE DINNER** every first Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30 pm.

COMMUNITY DINNER
All are welcome!!!

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Salad
Baked Beans, Dessert & Drinks

Share the LOVE, INVITE your friends.

Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 12 - 4 PM

Giving



WARMS THE HEART

DONATE BLOOD

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church

A Ministry of
Grand Blanc UMC

BLESSING BAGS



LENTEN INGATHERING

Throughout 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 may need them. Items can be placed in a labeled bin in the Narthex. Blessing Bags are always available for you to take and share with neighbors in need. Thank you!

What Items Can I Donate?

Most Needed Items:

- Shaving Cream (travel size)
- Deodorants (any kind/size)
- Socks (all sizes)
- Washcloths
- Band-Aids
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tampons & Pads
- Winter Hats, Scarves & Gloves

Additional Items:

- Shaving Razors
- Hand Lotion
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Bar Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Facial Tissue (travel size)

03/03 Caplan & Lepri
 03/10 Mitchinson
 03/17 Greenlees
 03/24
 03/31 Caplan



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.

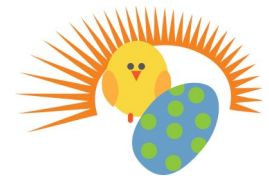


Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1st Toni Jablonski
 3rd Pat Cooper
 4th Nikki Bigler, Grace Hedding, Brennen Mueser
 5th Matt Anderson, Kaja Mraz
 6th Zach Atchison, Nathan Bunker
 8th Bob Briscoe, Shelly Gould-Rice
 10th Sonja Gratsch
 11th Susie Hagenstein
 12th Carol Cerny (81)
 13th Jacob Waisanen
 14th David Sandrock
 18th Melanie Fiederlein, Stephanie West
 19th Kristin Ivan, Zac Manning
 21st Kelli Hedding, Alexis Trinidad
 22nd Carrie Church, Libby Greenlees
 24th RaeAnn Waisanen

25th Krystal Mitchinson, Charlotte Roth, Henry Roth
 26th Nicole Cottrell-Beyer
 27th Lisa England
 28th Sandy Jones, Karen Lawcock
 29th Renee Eggert, Carrie Kurosky
 30th Seth Hagenstein
 31st Laura Bjorkman, Betty Marks



Coffee Hour

03/03
 03/10 Prayer Group
 03/17 Seasoned Citizens
 03/24 Potluck Breakfast @ 9:30a
 3/31 Easter—no coffee hour

11:00am Worship Ushers

1st Sunday Jim Wise, Carol Cerny
 2nd Sunday Virginia Sullivan, John Billings
 3rd Sunday Bob & Barb Mills
 4th Sunday Gary Bendall, Tom Cerny
 5th Sunday **Looking for Volunteers**

Anniversary Blessings

3rd Gail & Mike Lutton
 7th Barb & Bob Mills (66)
 16th Monique & Brett Carte (41)
 24th Sandy & Chad Labby
 25th Susan & Steven Buck

COUNTERS

03/03 Jessica Smith, Carol Cerny
 03/10 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise
 03/17 Sandy Jones, Tom Cerny
 03/24 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore
 03/31 Jessica Smith, Carol Cerny

Would you like to help? Let the office know! We just need a couple more volunteers to keep everyone at no more than once a month!

Greeters

	9:00am	11:00am
03/03	Shirley Wheeler	Viginia Sullivan
03/10	John Billings	Tom Cerny
03/17	Becky Doran	Nan Rahn
03/24		Nancy Bigler
03/31	John Billings	Tom Cerny

Contact Tom Cerny with questions or to volunteer! tomcerny1@aol.com

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 01-31-24) = \$25,958



Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 01-31-24) = \$6,367

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 01-31-24) = \$107,555



March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	2 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
3 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship 2p Youth Group @ Hamlet	4 6p Mission Team 7p Lenten Study	5 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga 7p Worship & Arts Zoom	6 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Celebration Ringers	7 10a Drop-in Bible Study	8 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	9 9a-2p New Member Class 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
10 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship 5p Youth Group	11 7p Ad Council via Zoom	12 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga 10a Pastor @ Panera	13 10a Prayer Shawl 6:30p Celebration Ringers	14 10a Drop-in Bible Study Noon Seasoned Citizens 6p Common Grace	15 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	16 9a GB Expo @ GBHS 10a O.A. 10a Trunk or TrEaster
17 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship 3:30 ASP Training I 5p Youth Group	18 10a Zentangle 7p Finance Meeting	19 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga 10a Pastor @ Panera 7p Lent Study	20 10a Women's Circles 10a Prayer Shawl 6:30p Celebration Ringers	21 10a Drop-in Bible Study 6p Common Grace 7p Education Mtg via Zoom	22 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	23 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 Potluck Breakfast 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship No Youth Group	25 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga 7p Lent Study	26 10a Prayer Shawl 6:30p Celebration Ringers	27 10a Drop-in Bible Study 7p Holy/Maundy Thursday service @ Fenton UMC	28 10a Men's Coffee 7p Good Friday Service here @ GBUMC 7p Al Anon	29 10a O.A. 10a Yoga	30 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
31 EASTER! 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt! 10:15a Choir 11a Worship No Youth Group						

UMCOR Sunday is March 10, 2024

On Sunday, March 10th 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!



Lent and "In lieu of Lilies" Donations



Easter Sunday is March 31, 2024. This year we will be supporting **Water For Life (Liberia)** with our Lent offering and **God's Country Cooperative Parish (UP Michigan)** 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 **Water For Life (Liberia)**. Clean and safe drinking water and sanitation are human rights issues that need urgent attention in rural post-war Liberia. Most residents are drinking from unsafe sources of water and do not have access to standard toilet facilities. As a result, water-borne diseases are common. This project helps communities by constructing wells and proper toilet facilities within communities and schools and sets up community structures and leadership that will supervise and coordinate the wells and toilets. *You can place this donation in the collection plate at any time.*

The "In lieu of Lilies" collection will go to **God's Country Cooperative Parish (UP Michigan)**. Encompassing the greater part of four counties and Newberry in the UP, GCCP serves families living at or below the federally-established level of poverty. Circumstances of limited employment, transient population, long and harsh winters, proper clothing and significant distances to acquire adequate food and medical assistance are severe challenges. GCCP provides ministry to those who struggle to live by working together to provide connection, support and basic human services.

Please fill out the "In lieu of Lilies" donation sheet below or you can use a copy which you will get in your bulletin or pick up a copy in the office and attach your cash or check (made out to GBUMC). Those recognized with a donation in their memory/honor will be listed in the Easter worship bulletins. The "In lieu of Lilies" form must be turned in to the office accompanied by your payment by March 24, 2024, 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 _____

Memory of _____
Honor of _____
Given by _____

Amount _____

Envelope # _____

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

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

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



Tuesday, March 19
5p to 8p



Fundraiser to support our youth mission trips!
Appalachia Service Project (ASP) provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to Central Appalachia to repair and replace homes for low-income families.

Since 1969, we've made homes warmer, safer, and drier for families and provided transformational service experiences for volunteers.

A PERCENTAGE OF EVERY PURCHASE SUPPORTS OUR YOUTH!!!

Seasoned Citizens

Thursday March 14

Noon: Coffee & Conversation

12:25pm: Prayer & Devotion

12:30pm: Potluck Lunch

Program: Kurt Baschke, manager of Evergreen Greenhouse at Ascension Genesys Hospital. He will tell us about agricultural practices in Mid-Michigan including the history and importance of the sugar beet industry in the Saginaw Valley. Be sure to bring a friend. See you there!



Thank You

Thank you for all of the cards, well-wishes and especially the prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. I also want to thank everyone who helped out in the office during my absence: Rhonda Lessel, Sandy Jones, Carol Capell, Virginia

Sullivan, Sharon Bohms, Laurie Tritten, Angela Campbell and Melinda Elmore-Hajek. I would also like to take this opportunity to especially thank Pastor Brian for his continued encouragement and guidance. Also, thank you to the Staff-Parish committee for their compassion and support. Cathy Mitchinson



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



PALM SUNDAY

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE @ 11:00 A.M.

Join us for an all-church potluck breakfast at 9:30 a.m. A sign-up page was emailed out, if you did not receive it, or if you have any problems accessing it, please contact the church office.



Palm Sunday
Breakfast

Lenten Grand Blanc Multi-Church

Competition

Grand Blanc
United Methodist

St. Christopher's
Episcopal

VS

Kirkridge
Presbyterian

Holy Spirit
Lutheran

First
Congregational

Who will win the Golden Jar?

DETAILS:

Bring in 15-17 oz. jars of peanut butter to **YOUR** congregation throughout the season of Lent.

Congregations will then bring collected PB jars to our shared Good Friday Service on March 29 at 7pm at GBUMC.

At the service, the jars will be counted, the winner will be announced, the collection will be blessed, and all will be donated locally to Crossover Ministries for their assistance bags.

