



# The Grand Blanc UMC

# "Connection"

April, 2024



April 7  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
*"Change Making"*  
Acts 4:32-35



April 14  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Native American Ministries  
Sunday  
*"Repenting for the Sake of My Neighbor"*  
Matthew 15:21-28



April 21  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
*"Adjusting Focus"*  
Ephesians 4:11-16



April 28  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
*"Evangelism of Good Works"*  
Matthew 5:14-16



## "Remembered His Words"

"Then they remembered his words." – Luke 24:8 (NRSV)

On Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, there were 250 United Methodists from all walks of life, representing a variety of world views and political perspectives gathered at the steps of the capital in Lansing as we witnessed to, and encouraged one another and lawmakers to consider the necessity of affordable mental health care, equal and sufficient access to it, and other related matters. We stood there in Christian witness and compassionate encouragement as people of faith who believe that part of what it means to love our neighbors is to be a voice for our neighbors, especially when the voices of the afflicted aren't being heard.

During this time, I, along with several others, had the opportunity to meet with Rep. Martin, who represents Grand Blanc and a few surrounding communities in the Genesee County area. During that time, we expressed our hope for his support of mental health care legislation, and encouraged him to remember the stories we were able to share with him of how effective and equitable mental health care has positively impacted the lives of many in our communities, and how increased access to such care not only impacts more people, but truly saves lives.

As our meeting ended, our small group presented Rep. Martin with a handcrafted butterfly, adorned with a semicolon (;). We explained that the symbolism of the gift is two-fold. The first symbol being the semicolon, a symbol of the unfinished story. As people of faith, we deeply believe that our story is never completed. Accompanying every life is a story that is unfinished – a story that we cannot allow to be cut short by suicide and the challenges so many face with their mental health.

The second symbol presented in the gift is that of the butterfly. The butterfly represents transformation. It represents life that emerges in a renewed way. In its own way, the metamorphosis of a butterfly *is* a resurrection.

On Easter Sunday, I shared in my sermon the words we find in Luke 24:8 - "*Then they remembered his words.*" The verse is in reference to the women who approached the tomb on Easter morning, ready to anoint the body of Jesus with burial spices when they discovered that the tomb was empty. Facing two angelic figures, they began to remember what Jesus told them during his ministry about resurrection. But, I don't believe it was because they simply forgot. Rather, I suspect that they were simply struggling to see beyond their present reality: grief, pain, hurt, dismay, uncertainty, etc...

Continued on next page

Perhaps the butterfly and the semicolon are ways for us to remember what Jesus taught. Perhaps those symbols are ways for us to share with others those same words of hope. In these days beyond Easter, may we remember that there are those among us – neighbors in our community, friends in our church, members of our own families, even - who are spending their lives silently looking into the empty tomb, unable to see the possibility of resurrection. Perhaps in the midst of all that they're facing, they're unable to consider the notion of putting semicolons where they only see periods. In these days following Easter, may we be for someone else – and, if needed, may someone be for you – the angel who proclaims a reminding word of Jesus promise of new life; of transformation; of resurrection.

;  
Pastor Brian



**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  
Ruth Davis  
Rev. Julius Del Pino  
Lisa England  
Ann Fraile  
Bob Fraile  
Judy Gratsch  
Dick Hubler  
Donna Hubler  
Gail Lutton  
Paul Manning  
Don Sawyer  
Vera Stuckey  
Bob Tritten  
Darcie West

**FOR OTHERS:**

Susan Allan  
Kim Allward  
Dave Ax  
Rich Bennetts  
Nancy Bilas  
Sallie Burek  
Patricia Crawfis  
Warren Crawfis  
Betty Crawford  
Cynthia Crawford  
Paul Daly  
Ellen Farr  
Harold Ferguson  
Merikay & Doug Franklin  
Mike Gomez  
Sharon Graham  
Gene Griffel  
Sandy Hale

Dave Jones  
Doug Keene  
Ellie Lauth  
Adrianna Martell  
Rev. Gordon Mitchinson  
Lynne O'Brien  
Carl Pate  
Ruth Ann Sandrock  
Paul Schultes  
Ashley Schaffer  
Bill Shier  
Eddie Snow  
Emery Wacser  
Jo Williams  
Laura Wilson  
Ed Woodard



We extend our deepest sympathy to:  
~ the friends and family of Reva Swisher, who passed away in February. Reva is Donna Hubler's sister-in-law.  
~the family and friends of David Oden who passed away on March 8. David is Donna Hubler's nephew.  
~the family and friends of Ron West, who passed away on March 9.  
~ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Sandra Scalise, who passed away on March 19. Sandra is Julie Koerkel's aunt.

**Paint our Town Blue**

is a collaboration of Voices for Children and Whaley Children's center in partnership with Ennis and Boys and Girls Club.

There are over 1,400 confirmed cases of child abuse in our county every year. National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Through this collaboration, prevention services and supports help protect children and produce thriving families.



Please keep these important programs and the children they serve, in your prayers.



# CHRISTIAN

# EDUCATION

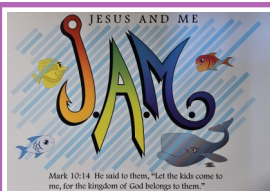
Director of Christian Education  
Angela Campbell  
christian.education@grandblancumc.org

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.**

**April 2024 book pick:** "Lies We Believe About God" By: Wm. Paul Young



**JAM (Jesus and Me)**—  
April's word of the month is "Share." Our month's verse is from Acts 4:32a - "The community of

believers was one in heart and Mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common." (CEB version). This month our children will be learning about The Great Commission where we, as followers of Jesus, are called to make disciples of and baptize all nations (Matthew 28:16-20)

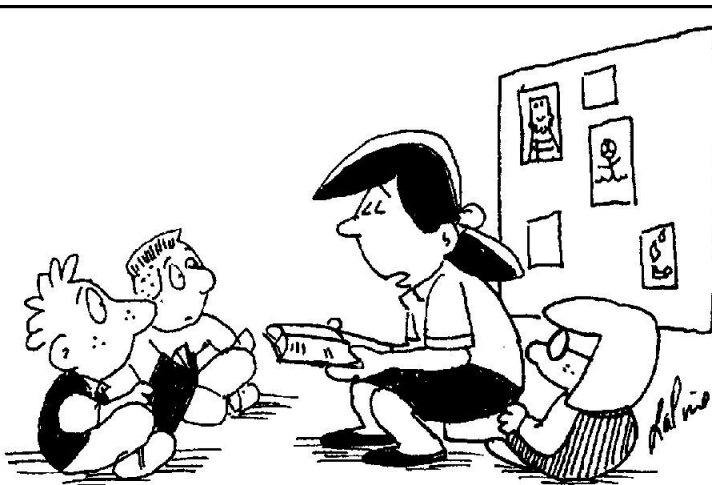


**Youth SS** - This month we will be discussing one of the Nooma videos, looking at Luke and exploring more on our confirmation journey.

**Perspectives** - will conclude their Lenten study of Tom Berlin's book, "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" The next video session is TBD. This class is currently led by Stephanie West.



Sunday School for all ages @ 10am



"No, Henry. 'The Feeding of the Five Thousand' is not another one of the pastor's fish stories."



Our nursery is available for preschool age and younger during all worship services. All children are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship services. Adrianna and a volunteer adult are in the Nursery, if you would prefer to let your children play there while you worship and/or attend Sunday School.



# 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 810-241-7275  
Nathan Rahn 734-276-3949



**WHO IS YOUR HERO?**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**  
**5 TO 7pm**  
**Who is your hero?**  
Meet at the church.  
We will play games and have a group discussion.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 13 TBD**  
Meet us at NCG for the movie and time that we will have chosen at our April 7 gathering!

We are also going to finalize our movie pick for April 13!

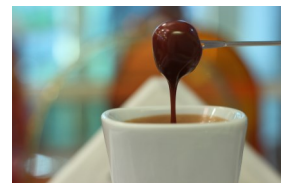


**Appalachia**  
SERVICE PROJECT®

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**  
**3:30 to 5pm**  
ASP TRAINING II



**SUNDAY, APRIL 21**  
**5 TO 7pm**  
**CANDY MAKING!!**  
Learning how to dip chocolates with Fran!!



birthday wishes to...  
**ALL OF US!!**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**  
**5 TO 7pm**

We know it's Emma's birthday, so we're going to celebrate her birthday and your birthday and my birthday!!!  
Let's have fun celebrating us!!

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

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

♥ LOVING and CARING for our neighbors.



Tuesday  
April

30

12:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

GRAND BLANC U.M.C.  
COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

LOCATED IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Make your appointment today:  
-Call 866-642-5663  
-Visit Versiti.org  
-Follow QR Code Link



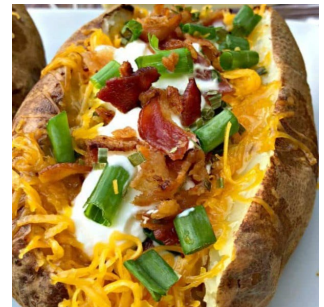
Eligibility question call 1 (866) 642-5663

Walk-ins welcomed and appointments honored

Save lives, while saving the planet! All donors with a valid email who complete a redemption form will receive a link and tree ID planted in honor of their donation. Visit [versiti.org/onetree](http://versiti.org/onetree).



BAKED POTATO BAR  
WITH THE FIXINGS'  
Beverage & Dessert too!



**MAY DINNER**  
Pizza Buffet and Salad



What an honor for our township FD to celebrate such longevity and for our community to be given the chance to embrace and support our first responders. It's another chance for GBUMC to step outside and support our neighbors. If you are a runner or a walker, consider signing up for the 5K. If you like food and music consider marking your calendar and joining in on the fun.



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, [melmehajek@gmail.com](mailto:melmehajek@gmail.com) or call 810 845-2089.

It's the easiest thing to do...giving away candy,

**GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTER FOR A DAY**

**5K RUN/WALK**  
**MAY 4TH 11AM**

LET'S ALL BE FIREFIGHTERS ON INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTER DAY!

RACE PROFITS WILL BE DONATED TO THE C.S. MOTT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM.

FOOD TRUCKS, DJ AND MORE TO CELEBRATE OUR RACERS AND 100 YEARS!

**DID YOU KNOW...**John Wesley was just five years old when his family home caught on fire? His parents, eight children, and a handful of servants needed to leave the house immediately. There was not time enough to dress or take any possessions with them. The story is a good one. Check it out at the link below.

Share the LOVE, INVITE your friends.

[www.unc.org/en/content/shaped-by-tragedy-and-grace-wesleys-rescue-from-fire](http://www.unc.org/en/content/shaped-by-tragedy-and-grace-wesleys-rescue-from-fire)

# From Prayer To Preaching



## A Non-Scary Sermon Writing Workshop for Non-Pastors

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- Are you curious how a sermon is written?
- Does the idea of writing a sermon seem daunting?
- Feel like you don't know enough about the Bible to give a sermon?

Even if you're not planning to preach, but want to learn about it, "From Prayer to Preaching" is the workshop for you!

**Monday, April 22nd**  
**10am - Noon**



Grand Blanc United Methodist Church

04/07

04/14 Sullivan

04/21 Lessel

04/28 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

04/07 Mission Team

04/14 Staff-Parish

04/21 West & Church Families

04/28 Trustees



### 11:00am Worship Ushers

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Jim Wise, Carol Cerny

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Virginia Sullivan, John Billings

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Bob & Barb Mills

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gary Bendall, Tom Cerny

### COUNTERS

04/07 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise

04/14 Sandy Jones, Tom Cerny

04/21 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore

04/28 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!



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthday Wishes

1<sup>st</sup> Margaret Frelander

8<sup>th</sup> Pat Burns (93)

13<sup>th</sup> Andrew Bruce

14<sup>th</sup> Ed Slogor, John Stafford

15<sup>th</sup> Bob Eggert, Lauren Holaly

16<sup>th</sup> Richard Hubler (84),  
Sharon Ruggles (91),  
Frank Skinner

18<sup>th</sup> Molly Fraile, Dave Russell

20<sup>th</sup> Mike Stafford

22<sup>nd</sup> Angela Cook, Jordan Sanborn

23<sup>rd</sup> Jordan Sanborn, Gary Brandt  
Jessica Haggerty-Reed

24<sup>th</sup> Jayna Mueser

25<sup>th</sup> Karen Rossman

26<sup>th</sup> Becky Doran, Jan Johnson (84),  
Emily Pinter, Brendon Russian

27<sup>th</sup> Brian Angell, Mary Jo Clark (82)

28<sup>th</sup> Emma Rahn

29<sup>th</sup> Sandy Angell, Randy Middleton

30<sup>th</sup> Mike Heberling,  
Gretchen Jablonski



### Anniversary Blessings

4<sup>th</sup> Lisa & Jeff McGehee

13<sup>th</sup> Gary Hajek &  
Melinda Elmore-Hajek (40)

20<sup>th</sup> Stephanie & Brian West

30<sup>th</sup> Lori & Glen DeVos (20)



### Greeters

9:00am

11:00am

04/07 Shirley Wheeler

Viginia Sullivan

04/14 John Billings

Tom Cerny

04/21 Becky Doran

Nan Rahn

04/28 Raeann Waisanen

Nancy Bigler

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

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 02-29-24) = \$30,178

Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 02-29-24) = \$6,977

**MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 02-29-24) = \$106,369**



# 2024 APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 OFFICE CLOSED  6p Mission Team	2 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga  7p Worship & Arts Zoom	3 10a Prayer Shawl  5p Community Dinner  6:30p Celebration Ringers	4 10a Drop-in Bible Study	5 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	6 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
7 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship  5p Youth Group	8   7p Ad Council via Zoom	9 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga 10a Pastor @ Panera	10 10a Prayer Shawl  6:30p Celebration Ringers	11 10a Drop-in Bible Study  Noon Seasoned Citizens	12 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	13 YOUTH GROUP TBD MOVIE @ NCG 10a O.A. 10a Yoga  3p Peggy Ring @ Faith Luth
14 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Bells 11a Worship  3:30p ASP Training II	15 10a Zentangle  7p Finance Meeting	16 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga 10a Pastor @ Panera  5p Multi-Faith Potluck	17 10a Women's Circles 10a Prayer Shawl  6:30p Celebration Ringers	18 10a Drop-in Bible Study  6p Common Grace 7p Education Mtg via Zoom	19 10a Men's Coffee  4p District Lay Servant Training  7p Al Anon	20 9a District Lay Servant Training 10a O.A.
21 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship  5p Youth Group	22 Rummage Sale Set-up 10a From Prayer to Preaching	23 Rummage Sale Set-up 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group	24 Rummage Sale Set-up 10a Prayer Shawl  6:30p Celebration Ringers	25 9a-6p Rummage Sale 10a Drop-in Bible Study	26 9a-6p Rummage Sale 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	27 9a-noon Rummage Sale 10a O.A. Noon Rummage Sale Clean-up  6p Family Game Night
28 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship 12:30p New Member Class 5p Youth Group	29	30 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group Noon-4:30p Blood Drive				



## Native American Ministries Sunday - April 14, 2024



Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're 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 14th. If you donate online please mark your donation as Native American Ministries Sunday. THANK YOU!

Are you interested in learning more about the United Methodist Church and Grand Blanc United Methodist Church? Thinking about becoming a member? Join us on Sunday, April 28th at 12:30pm. No need to pre-register. Come as you are! If this date does not work with your schedule, please contact Pastor Brian or the church office, and we'll find a time or another upcoming class that will meet your needs.

## Next New Member Class

Sunday, April 28th  
12:30-2:30pm

Membership is about taking a meaningful next step in your journey of faith

- Learn more about The United Methodist Church.
- Learn more about what it means to be a member of Grand Blanc United Methodist Church.



## Rummage Sale

Thursday & Friday April 25-26

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday April 27 (Bag Day)

9:00 am - Noon

Donations accepted  
Monday, April 22-  
Wednesday, April 24

Come Early  
for the best  
choices!  
ALSO A  
BAKE SALE!



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 church office will be closed on Monday, April 1. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## Grief SUPPORT Group

We are in the process of establishing a Grief Support Group, here at the church. We need to figure out how much interest there is in this group. If you would like to participate, please let the church office know. This group is not limited to members of this church, so please share with your friends. Once we establish an interest we will begin planning dates and times to gather.

## Seasoned Citizens

Thursday, April 11

Noon: Coffee & Conversation

12:25pm: Devotion & Prayer

12:30pm: Potluck Lunch

Program: Mike Heberling

and the story of The Michigan Polar Bears - the 339th Infantry Regiment at war with the Soviet Red Army after WWI



THE 14TH  
*Peggy Van Vlack*  
MEMORIAL BELL FESTIVAL

April 13, 2024  
3:00 P.M. Concert

Faith Lutheran Church  
12534 Holly Road  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Guest Conductor: **John Jaquith**



**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**

**6 TO 8PM**

BRING A DRINK  
BRING A SNACK  
BRING A FRIEND

April is **National Volunteer Month** and April 21-27 is **National Volunteer Week**. We couldn't let this special time pass without thanking all of you for the many hours of volunteering that you do here at the church! We are a wonderful family that look out for and take care of each other and it truly would not be the same without each and every one of you!!  
**THANK YOU!!**

