

"Connection"



May 5

6th Sunday of Easter

"Levi's House"

Mark 2:13-22



May 12

7th Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday

Mother's Day

"Tale of 2 Women"

Psalms 66:12-13

Exodus 2:1-10



May 19

Pentecost

"Multilingual Groaning"

Acts 2:1-21

Romans 8:22-25



May 26

Trinity Sunday

Peace With Justice Sunday

"Winds of Change"

John 3:1-17



"Confessions of a Bad Gardener"

In my life, I have been described as many things, many of which I am comfortable with. Some have been troubling, though likely at least a bit true. Some are, well...you know...not true. But one thing no one has ever described me as is a green thumb. Not even in the ballpark. The closest I come to being a green thumb is the ability to shovel and spread mulch in a garden, and wheel the squeaky cart through the aisles of Bordine's when Stephanie wants to pick out some hanging pots in the Spring. Beyond that, I am not a green thumb.

This is why I was shocked this morning to hear Jane proclaim as she was walking out the front door, "Mommy! Daddy! Look at the pretty flowers!" Her innocent joy was matched by my surprise that there were, in fact, wild flowers growing in my very nicely mulched bed. I hadn't planted them (I know better than to try), and Stephanie hadn't planted them, but there they were. Flourishing without our having caused them in the first place.

As I'm reflecting on these wildflowers and their persistence to grow despite my severe lack of a green thumb, I am reminded of the power and mystery of God's grace. Grace is our way of understanding God's love and compassion for us. God's grace does not depend on us. God's grace is formed by God alone, felt by God alone, and is freely shared by God, alone! God's grace rises up to meet us even when we feel as though there is nothing we've done to tend the soil in our lives. God's grace just comes. It just grows. It just...is.

One of my greatest privileges as your pastor is to be able to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with you. In breaking the bread and lifting the cup, we are reminded that God's presence is present, and yet it remains a mystery. It's a mystery, not because we can't theologically define grace, but because, no matter how hard we might try, we can't fully comprehend the "why" of it all. *Why* is God so deeply in love with us? *Why* is God so deeply committed to a relationship with us? *Why*, when we consider all we do that must simply disappoint God, does God still invite us to the table? The answers are ultimately a mystery – one that we have to be okay with. And so, I find myself giving the same deeply theological answer to the question of "why does God love us?"

My answer: *I don't know, but He does.*

I don't know how long those wild flowers were blooming, but I do know that they didn't need my permission or my effort. They simply grew. Maybe they were there for some time, and I just never noticed them. For me to notice

Continued...

Continued from page one...

them, it took my 3 ¼ year old daughter to see them, accept them as a beautiful mystery, and simply experience joy through them.

Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, and said, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. -Matthew 18:2-4 (CEB)

Peace,
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
Ruth Davis
Rev. Julius Del Pino
Lisa England
Bob Fraile
Judy Gratsch
Dick Hubler
Donna Hubler
Gail Lutton
Paul Manning
Lee Pelton
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

Scott Jawors
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
Barb Smith
Eddie Snow
Emery Wacser
Jo Williams
Laura Wilson
Ed Woodard

In lieu of lilies

Mission Donations
God's Country Cooperative Parish



Sharon Bohms
Dick & Donna Hubler
Dick & Donna Hubler
The Heddings
The Mitchinson Family
The Mitchinson Family
Mariann Quaderer & Joanne Lepri
Nan Rahn
Dave & Luann Griffus
Jim & Val Wise
Eric, Angela & Cassidy Campbell

In memory of Leon Bohms
In memory of Cathy Hubler
In memory of Dewey & Loise Hubler
In memory of Donna Hedding
In memory of Tom Dunn
In memory of Rev. Al and
Shirley Mitchinson
In memory of Tracey Dungerow
In memory of Rev. David Rahn
In memory of Donna Hedding
In memory of Kathleen Wise
In memory of Diane Robertson

Peggy Carlson
Deb Caplan, Kelli & Grace Hedding
Kevin & Angela Cook
Gary & Judy Gratsch
Gary & Judy Gratsch
Carol Capell
John Billings
Bev & Brian Martin
The Van Vlack Family
Bob & Laurie Tritten
Jim & Val Wise

In memory of Joshua Daly
In memory of Dale & Donna Hedding
In memory of Larry Spataro
In memory of Ron Van Holder
In memory of Ted & Hazel Gratsch
In memory of Donna Hedding
In memory of wife, Cheryl
& son, Aaron
In memory of Kristopher Pittsley and
Jack & Barb Martin
In memory of Peggy Van Vlack
In honor of Mike Cross, nephew
To the Glory of God

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.**

May 2024 book pick: "Help, Thanks, Wow" The Three Essential Prayers"

By: Anne Lamott



SAVE THE DATES!!

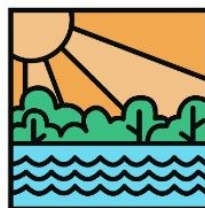
Join us on Wednesdays in July,
beginning July 10 - July 31
9:30a - 12:30

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
515 Bush Ave, Grand Blanc
810.694.9040
www.grandblancumc.org



May's word of the month, in our J.A.M. (Jesus & Me) class is "Love." Our month's verse is from Romans 12:10a "Love each other like the members of your family. Be your best at showing honor to each other."

Sunday School for all ages @ 10am
Our last day of Sunday School until Fall is May 19. This will give all of our wonderful volunteers a break for the Summer!
We are so grateful for our Sunday School Volunteers!



GRACE OUTSIDE

Do you love the feel of the warm sunshine, like the smell of the woods, and love to hear nature and all its cacophony?

Like to play games, swim, or canoe? What about the warmth of a campfire, the ooey-goey goodness of a smore? Wanna make new friends and play for a week straight?

If you said yes to any of these then guess what.... we have a camp for you!!

There are camps for grandparents and grandkids, families, adults, high school, middle school and elementary school. There is a place for you!! There are many ways to help make camp affordable too, from rebates to scholarships here from GBUMC. If you want to go, we can work to make it happen! See Angela Campbell for more information.

Or go to the camp website:
www.graceoutside.org/summer-camps



HELLO *may*

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



MAY 5
5pm to 7pm
Fun & Fellowship!!
We will also be discussing
our Summer Cedar Point

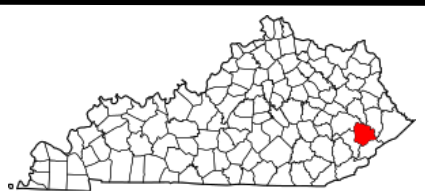


MAY 11 (SATURDAY)
Meet at Rollhaven!!
3:30pm to 6:30pm

**Open skate! Bring your own skates/
rollerblades or we can rent them there.**
Tickets will be purchased in advance.
**Bring extra money for LaserTag,
games & food.**



SUNDAY, MAY 19
3:30 to 5pm
ASP TRAINING III



We will be travelling to and serving the people of Knott County, KY!
We will be departing on Sunday, June 30 and we will return on Saturday, July 6.
Knott County, KY has a population of 14,301 (Genesee County's is 401,983)
Knott County's per capita income is \$18,475 (Genesee County's is \$58, 594)
31% of the population of Knott County lives below the poverty line.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

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

♥ LOVING and CARING for our neighbors.



THIS



Quietly we celebrate the two years of our Jarring Grace Community Outreach and we thank the volunteers who have committed to regularly going to local business or governmental units and connecting with those workers who do so much for our community. It is a rewarding relational gift.

This May, we **HOPE** to engage with more of our businesses and we **HOPE** you will help. It really is simple .

- A wonderful team of volunteers will make up jars with candy.
- The Jars will be in the Narthex for folks to pick up and then share with their favorite local business.
- All we ask is you write down where you plan to take the jar and that you do not take one to a business already receiving candy.
- Take the jar to the business, identify yourself as a member of GBUMC, thank the business for what they do for our community, chat if you like, smile, tell a joke and thank them again as you leave.

Giving away candy is the easiest thing to do and the recipients will be grateful and you will be glad you did. ♥

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

COMMUNITY DINNER

All are welcome!!!

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

**PIZZA BUFFET,
Salad, Dessert
& Drinks**



JUNE DINNER—Deli Sandwiches, Cole Slaw, Fresh Veggies, Chips, Dessert and Drinks **ALL FREE**



**Tuesday
July**

30

12 - 4:30 PM

**Grand Blanc UMC
Community Blood Drive**

FELLOWSHIP HALL
515 BUSH AVE.
GRAND BLANC, MI 48439
12 - 4:30 PM



What's coming up for CO&E (Community Outreach and Engagement)?

We are excited and looking for opportunities to engage with our neighbors. Check out what is on the upcoming agenda and if you are interested in sharing ideas or helping, contact the church office. 😊

LOOKING AHEAD

- Community Dinner (May and June)
- Jarring Grace Candy Giveaway
- Common Grace Sings at Abby Park
- Indian Hill Rummage Sale Hot Dog Giveaway
- GB Fun Fest- provide a meal for the Carnival Workers.
- Worship in the Park—August 25, 10 AM

AND MORE

Summer Learn & Play

June 4 - August 13
Tuesdays 9am to noon

Kindergarten readiness activities*, nature trail hikes, and healthy eating lessons!

This is a free program. Parents are asked to stay and learn with their children.

Contact Andrea Mertz,
Certified K-5 Teacher
for more information: 810-280-4123

9am to 9:40am Greeting & Lesson
(Early Literacy or Early Numeracy)
9:40am to 10:40am Nature Trail
Walk in the Grand Blanc Commons
10:40am to 11am Story Time
11am to 11:30am Healthy Eating
Lesson & Snack
11:30am to Noon Goodbye Song
and Playground Fun

*Lessons will focus on preschool and Kindergarten developmental ages; however, ALL children are welcome!



Peace with Justice Sunday is May 26th



On May 26th we will celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday which is one of six special Sunday offerings in the United Methodist Church. Your gifts support ministries in the annual conference and internationally.

When you support Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift becomes a voice for advocacy around the world. Together we are an agent of change that shifts systems of inequality to empower people and communities; making it possible to plant new seeds of peace with justice in God's garden of creation. There are many programs supported by this offering including providing sustainable organic healthy foods; helping youth recover from substance abuse through education and rehabilitation; and offering laundry services to homeless families just to name a few.

Half of the offering goes to Peace with Justice ministries in the annual conference. The remainder assists the General Board of Church and Society for its Peace with Justice efforts.

Please give generously to this International Mission.
Thank you from the Missions Committee!

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 Saturday, May 25th at 9am. 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

No need to pre-register!

Saturday, May 25th
9am to 11am

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.



Spring Clean-up @ GBUMC Saturday, May 11 @ 9am

Bring your rakes, shovels, leaf blowers, tarps, etc.

If the weather does not cooperate, we will plan to meet on Saturday, May 18 instead. Thank you all for helping!

The youth group would like to thank everyone who participated in our Lenten Mission project. We received many donation boxes, and through your generosity (and large amounts of lightbulbs, sweatshirts, TVs, etc ;-) we were able to send a check to Crossover Ministries for over \$200! We are blessed to have a wonderful congregation that is so supportive of our ministries.





**FROM THE CURRENT
SOCIAL PRINCIPALS OF THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

"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."

As United Methodists, "We support and encourage social policies that serve to reduce and control the creation of industrial byproducts and waste; facilitate the safe processing and disposal of toxic and nuclear waste and move toward the elimination of both; encourage reduction of municipal waste; provide for appropriate recycling and disposal of municipal waste; and assist the cleanup of polluted air, water, and soil."

PLEASE NOTE

**IN THE APRIL GBUMC AD COUNSEL MEETING
THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

GBUMC Ad Council would encourage ALL those (i.e. committees, members, outside individuals or groups) who host an event or gathering at the church to begin an intentional process of discontinued use of products known to cause harm to our land, air and water. This includes but is not limited to, Styrofoam plates, cups and plastic utensils. Committees, members and outside individuals or groups are also encouraged to recycle products brought to events. This includes, but is not limited to, plastic and glass containers, jars and cans.



Thank you
Nancy Petrie



It is with great respect and appreciation that your Staff Parish Relations Committee shares, after eight years of love and exceptional service, Nancy Petrie, will be stepping down as GBUMC Bell Choir Director.

When Nancy arrived at GBUMC, she was no stranger to this space. She shared that being in this church every week brings a full circle of memories, including MYF, church choir, working VBS, making Chrismons for the tree, spaghetti suppers and greens sales, cleaning the Sanctuary and the grounds and the innumerable friends made here over the years. A large part of her teenage years were spent here. She shared that she is glad that she could be here to rest those memories in her heart with the new memories she has made. The new friends have become as dear and cherished as the old ones.

Nancy, as cited in the book **MORE or LESS**, Tom Paterson said, *"When you discover and use your gifts for the good of those you love and have chosen to serve, your life takes on beauty. It inspires others. It points toward the Creator."* It seems fitting! **Thank you!**

The Bell Choir, under the direction of Nancy, will share for the last time on Sunday, May 12. **Please take the time to thank Nancy for sharing her gifts and talents with us here at GBUMC.**



05/05
 05/12
 05/19 Campbell
 05/26



There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the prayer room, or feel free to call or email the office to order flowers for the Sunday of your choice. Flower arrangements are \$15.00 each from Grand Blanc Florist and you may take them home following the 11:00am worship service. Your name and who the arrangement is in honor/memory of will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Coffee Hour

05/05 UMM
 05/12 Finance
 04/21 Memorials & Gifts
 05/26 Prayer Shawl



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

COUNTERS

05/05 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise
 05/12 Sandy Jones, Tom Cerny
 05/19 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore
 05/26 Virginia Sullivan, 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!

May

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1 st Christopher Dutton, Samantha Pinter, Brett Russian	17 th Brent Roberts
2 nd David Strobe	19 th Graham Holtz, Shar Ringlein (85)
3 rd Adriana Lock	23 rd Isaac DuRussel
4 th Gregg Mueser	24 th Bill Prim (80)
5 th Marilyn Federici, Craig Fiederlein, Bradley Gordinier, Carole Hitchens	25 th Brad Griffus, Leah Hagenstein
6 th Jennifer Lengyel, Dawn Magiera, Jeff Mitchinson	26 th Ryan Anderson
7 th Erwin Rimmell, Vera Stuckey (99)	27 th Charlie Pinter
8 th Bayleigh Ivan	28 th Karla Shotwell
9 th Karen Keim (81), Bill Koponen	29 th Kennley Lyons
10 th Conlan Mueser	30 th Angela Campbell, Frances Duby
11 th Karl Martin	31 st Anna Roth
12 th Ron Fitch (85)	
13 th Margaret Cramer (82)	
15 th Laurie Del Pino, Maribeth Pinter	
16 th Roger Colby, Luann Griffus, Cameron Roth	



Anniversary Blessings

13th Jennifer & Jason Lengyel
 18th RaeDeane & Randy Middleton (50)
 21st Becky & Matt Anderson (30)
 22nd Angela & Eric Campbell,
Vicki & Brian Greenlees (42)
 25th Lynelle & Gregg Mueser (33)
 28th Jordan & Matt Briscoe

Greeters

9:00am	11:00am
05/05 Shirley Wheeler	Virginia Sullivan
05/12 John Billings	Tom Cerny
05/19 Becky Doran	Nan Rahn
05/26 Raeann Waisanen	Nancy Bigler

Contact the church office with questions or to volunteer!

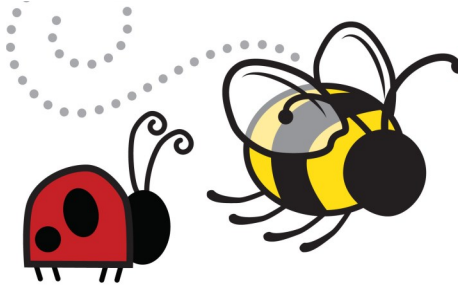


Grand Blanc United Methodist Church Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 03-31-24) = \$28,955
 Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 03-31-24) = \$6,607

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 03-31-24) = \$105,180



MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Celebration Ringers	2 10a Drop-in Bible Study 6:30p Common Grace @ Abbey Park	3 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	4 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
5 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hr 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship 5p Youth Group	6 10a-2p OFFICE HOURS	7 10a-2p OFFICE HOURS 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga NO Pastor @ Panera	8 10a-2p OFFICE HOURS 10a Prayer Shawl 6:30p Celebration Ringers	9 10a-2p OFFICE HOURS NO Drop-in Bible Study Noon Seasoned Citizens	10 OFFICE CLOSED 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	11 9a Spring clean-up 10a O.A. 10a Yoga 3:30p Youth to Rollhaven
Pastor Brian on Vacation						
12 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Bells 11a Worship	13 10a-2p OFFICE HOURS 7p Ad Council via Zoom	14 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga 7p Worship & Arts Zoom	15 10a Women's Circles 10a Prayer Shawl	16 10a Drop-in Bible Study 6p Common Grace 7p Education Mtg via Zoom	17 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	18 10a O.A. 10a Yoga FISH FEED THE BUS!
19 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hr 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship 3:30p ASP Training III 5p Celebration of Generosity	20 10a Zentangle 7p Finance Meeting	21 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group	22 10a Prayer Shawl	23 10a Drop-in Bible Study	24 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	25 9a New Member Class 10a O.A.
26 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10a Sunday Sch 10:15a Choir 11a Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED 	28 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group	29 10a Prayer Shawl	30 OFFICE CLOSED NO Drop-in Bible Study	31 OFFICE CLOSED 10a Men's Coffee	
Pastor Brian at Annual Conference						

Celebration of Generosity



SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024
5:30-7:30PM
@GBUMC

This is just one way we want to thank you, the church, for your continued giving and commitment to our ministries.

- A **Free Dinner** for you catered by Italia Gardens of Grand Blanc.
- A presentation by the **United Methodist Foundation of Michigan** about Legacy and creative giving opportunities.
- A Chance to **dream and learn**, together!

Please RSVP to the church office by May 17th

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



Special Office hours in May:
Monday, May 6 through Thursday, May 9
and Monday, May 13, the church office
will be open from 10am to 2pm only.

The church office will be closed on
Friday, May 10, Monday, May 27,
Thursday, May 30 and Friday, May 31.
We apologize for any inconvenience.

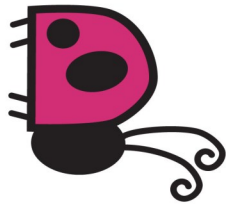
Pastor @ Panera

Every Tuesday from 10am to noon. Prayer, Chat,
Advice or a listening ear.

All are welcome.



Invite your friends to stop by to meet Pastor Brian.



Seasoned Citizens Thursday, May 9

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

Program: Taylor Franklin, Environmental
Educator for Genesee County, who will discuss
the importance of maintaining the natural world
in this age of manicured lawns and widespread
insecticide use.

See you at noon!

Bring a dish and bring a friend!!

