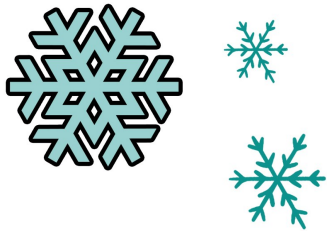


"Connection"



January 5

COMMUNION
Epiphany Sunday
SERMON SERIES:
"Coffee With Jesus"
"Work 'Em Out"
Matthew 2: 1-12



January 12

Baptism of the Lord
SERMON SERIES:
"Coffee With Jesus"
"Rut to Ravine"
Psalm 23



January 19

2nd Sunday after the
Epiphany
SERMON SERIES:
"Coffee With Jesus"
"Get Real"
John 11: 17-36



January 26

3rd Sunday after the
Epiphany
SERMON SERIES:
"Coffee With Jesus"
Guest Speaker:
Angela Campbell



Generosity in the Off Season

In his December newsletter article from The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, Rev. David Bell shared the following article entitled: *Embracing Christian Stewardship: Nurturing Generosity and Responsibility*. I'm sharing this article for two reasons. The first is that I believe it is a wonderful reminder of what Christian Stewardship is! The second is that I firmly believe that we ought to talk about stewardship, generosity and our responsibility for both more than just once a year as we hand out pledge cards. And so, to a congregation that is known for, among other things, generosity, I encourage you to take a moment and read Rev. Bell's message.

Peace,
Pastor Brian

"At its core, Christian stewardship is about recognizing that we are not owners but rather caretakers of God's creation. This perspective fundamentally shapes how we view our possessions, talents, time, and resources. It challenges us to shift our focus from selfish accumulation to selfless service, from consumption to contribution.

One of the central themes of Christian stewardship is the concept of tithing – the practice of giving a portion of one's income to support the ministry of the church and to help those in need. While the act of tithing is often associated with financial giving, it extends far beyond mere monetary contributions. It encompasses the holistic stewardship of all aspects of our lives. Stewardship invites us to reflect on the question: How can we use our gifts and graces to bless others? This mindset fosters a spirit of generosity that goes beyond meeting our own needs to actively seeking ways to uplift and empower those around us. Whether it's volunteering at a local shelter, mentoring a struggling youth, or simply offering a listening ear to someone in distress, every act of kindness is an expression of stewardship.

Moreover, Christian stewardship compels us to be mindful of the impact of our choices on future generations. It calls us to be responsible stewards of God's creation by advocating for policies and investing with value-aligned principles that promote sustainability and justice. It challenges us to confront issues of inequality and injustice and to recognize that these systemic problems are not just social obstacles but moral imperatives that demand our attention and action.

In practicing Christian stewardship, we find fulfillment and purpose beyond material wealth or personal gain. We discover the joy of giving, the satisfaction of making a difference, and the peace that comes from living in alignment with our values. Christian stewardship is a sacred calling to participate in God's ongoing work of renewal and reconciliation in the world.

Continued on next page

Ultimately, Christian stewardship is a journey – a continual process of growth and transformation as we learn to live more fully into the abundant life that God desires for us. It invites us to cultivate a mindset of abundance and to trust in God's provision and grace as we seek to share our blessings with others.

In a world marked by division, greed, and uncertainty, the message of Christian stewardship offers a beacon of hope and healing. It reminds us that we are all interconnected as children of God and called to love and care for one another as faithful stewards of God's gifts. May we embrace this sacred calling with a spirit of humility, gratitude, and generosity, knowing that in serving others, we are truly serving the One who has entrusted us with all.”



OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Shirley Andrews
 Ron Blakemore
 Jim Bunker
 Frank Davis
 Ruth Davis
 Judy Gratsch
 Dick Hubler
 Gail Lutton
 Paul Manning
 Lee Pelton
 Dick Shick
 Norma Stanbury
 David Strobe
 Vera Stuckey
 Bob Tritten
 Darcie West

FOR OTHERS:

Susan Allan
 Baby Boy Asher
 Dave Ax
 Rich Bennetts
 Nancy Bilas
 Donald Billings
 Carol Bingham
 Eric Bohms
 Courtney Boshear
 Paul Brieger
 Joel Brinkman
 Renee Brinkman
 Sallie Burek
 Peggy Chwojnicky
 Patricia Crawfis
 Warren Crawfis
 Cynthia Crawford
 Kathy Dutton
 Merikay & Doug Franklin
 Gene Griffel
 Karen Grossmann

Eric Hansor
 Clara Holmes
 Anne Howarth
 Pat Johnston
 Dave Jones
 Greg Jones
 Doug Keene
 Cindy Larange
 Grant LeDuke
 Adrianna Martell
 Vinny Martinez
 Lynne O'Brien
 Leo Reubke
 Joyce Rice
 James Ruthenberg
 Paul Schultes
 Ashley Schaffer
 Bill Shier
 Larry Smith
 Eddie Snow
 David Ware

FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

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

Marcia Ferguson
 Abbey Park
 3221 E. Baldwin Rd #323
 Grand Blanc, MI 48439

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



~ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Lawrence Daly, who passed away on December 2. Lawrence is Peggy Carlson's son.



Congratulations to Elizabeth (Libby) Greenlees, who graduated from Grand Valley State University on December 7, with a degree

in Early Childhood Education! Libby has been Student Teaching at Cook Elementary here in Grand Blanc. She is starting at Disney through their college program in January and is planning on teaching beginning Fall 2025.

Grand Blanc UMC will follow the Grand Blanc School District in closing our campus for inclement weather. So if Grand Blanc Schools are closed due to weather that impacts travel conditions, the church will also be closed. All in-person events for that day will be cancelled. If the weather clears and a group chooses to meet later in the day, it will be the responsibility of the group leader to convey that information to the group.

Most staff will remain available via email and phone when working from home.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries
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.**

January 2025 book pick: "God Never Gives Up on You: What Jacob's Story Teaches us About Grace Mercy, and God's Relentless Love" By: Max Lucado



I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Christmas Program,

"Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens."

It takes many hands to make this light work!

Special shout-outs to:

Emma Rahn for her directorial debut,

Andrew Cramer for his amazing musical gifts,

Gina Briscoe for her quick hands and patience in leading our "Rainbow Ringers," and for preparing and serving the meal,

Chad Ivan for making all the technical "stuff" work so easily, and to the **parents** of all the children involved

thank you for sharing your children with us, for instilling Jesus' love in their little hearts, for the Saturday mornings in December that you gave up, and for your wonderful support.

I could never be in ministry without **all** of you.

Angela



Confirmation

We have dedicated the 2nd Sunday of each month to our Confirmands. They have been meeting every month from 12:30-2:30p to explore their faith journeys. Please know that Confirmation Sunday is an open door Sunday for not only the current year's confirmands, but to any youth who would like to know God more and explore their spiritual journey. Hope to see you there.

Nursery volunteer Schedule:

9am service & Sunday School:
1st Sunday Val Wise
2nd & 3rd Shelly Gould-Rice
4th/5th - TBD

11am service: Francis Duby

JAM teachers:

Tammy Martin & Julie Koerkel

Assistants:

1st Sunday Rachel Bond
2nd/5th Cathy Melkus
3rd Nancy Bigler
4th Kristin Rahn

Youth teachers

Melinda Elmore-Hajek & Bob Tritten



HELLO *January*

YOUTH GROUP!

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

Unless noted otherwise, all youth group gatherings will be on
Sundays from 12:30 to 2:30pm.

We will not meet on the 2nd Sunday because
Confirmation Class meets on those Sundays.

Please know that Confirmation Sunday is an open door Sunday for not only the current year's confirmands, but to any youth who would like to know God more and explore their spiritual journey. Hope to see you there.



Sunday, January 5th

Happy New Year!

Game Day at Church! We will have finger foods, snacks and prizes for our games



Sunday, January 19th

Ice Skating at Physician's park.
Parent pick-up and drop-off at Park.
We will have hot cocoa.



COME ALONG!



Sunday, January 26
ASP Craft Project with Guest Leaders!
Come and check it out.

ASP Leader:
Jennifer Lengyel 810-241-2343



Youth Group Leaders:
Angela Campbell: 810-241-7275
Nathan Rahn: 734-276-3949

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

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

♥ LOVING and CARING for our neighbors while getting out and doing STUFF!

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 1-3 pm
Same Day, different time (just this once).

Happy New Year!

**Help us CELEBRATE the beginning of our
3rd year of FREE Community Dinners**
Chili, Sliders, Fresh Veggies, Dessert, Drinks

**On New Years Day, the GBUMC Sanctuary will be open
for those who wish to find a quiet place to reflect.**

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

COMMUNITY DINNER

All are welcome!!!

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Pulled Pork Sliders, Mac & Cheese,
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw Drinks, Dessert

The Community Outreach and Engagement Team works to provide and equip GBUMC with opportunities to build relationships with the broader Grand Blanc community, to provide GBUMC with opportunities to engage in sharing the good news of our faith in the broader Grand Blanc community, and to communicate to the community an accurate and inviting portrayal of what GBUMC is and can be. In 2024m this team was responsible for monthly, free Community Dinners offered on the 1st Wednesday of the month, Jarring Grace, Blessing Bags program, Grand Blanc Community EXPO, National Night Out, Winterfest, Blood Drives, Worship in the Park and more.

If you have an idea that could help us ENGAGE with our neighbors, please feel free to pass that info along to the church office.

Looking Ahead...

Grand Blanc Community EXPO

Saturday, March 22, 2025
9-3 pm

Advocacy

Day 2025

Another important way to ENGAGE, mark the date on your calendar and watch for specifics **SOMING SOON.**



The 2025 Advocacy Day at the Michigan State Capitol will be held on **Wednesday, March 12**. Last year, 200 United Methodists and friends from across Michigan spent the day advocating with their state legislators, and this year, we hope to grow that participation.

Advocacy Day Activities Include:

- Advocacy Activities Include:
- Meetings with legislators
- Poster making for press conference
- Letter writing
- Prayer in the rotunda
- Prayer in the sanctuary



Human Relations Day Sunday, January 19th

Human Relations Day Sunday will be celebrated on January 19, 2025. Donations to this UMCOR project provide interactive training experiences for better response to social challenges such as drug trafficking, abuse, alcoholism, and domestic violence in the United States. Together we extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles.

The focus is on nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening communities' self-improvement efforts, and advocating for the oppressed. Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them; and that's what we want to model as the people of the United Methodist Church; to continue the ministry of Jesus and help all God's children to realize their potential.

The Human Relations Day offering encourages acceptance of all God's children. Your generous gift strengthens community outreach and empowers at-risk youth.

Envelopes will be provided on Sunday, January 19th with your bulletin or you can donate online by designating your gift for Human Relations Day. Please give generously!

Thank you from the Missions Committee!



January 11 @ 6pm

Good friends, Great Snacks!!

Who could ask for more?!

Join us for this fun event!

Bring a snack to share.

Beverages will be provided.

You say you don't know how to play?

You're a little rusty?

Come at 5:30pm for a lesson or refresher!

This is a great space for learning!

Questions? See Cathy Mitchinson

Check out our new GBUMC merch!!! All proceeds from the sales of this product go to support the ministries of Grand Blanc United Methodist Church. To purchase use the QR code or visit <https://www.bonfire.com/store/grand-blanc-umc-merch/>

Contact the church office with any questions.



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!

Altar Flowers

01/05
01/12
01/19 In honor of Darcie West
by Dale Wolfgram
01/26

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary, 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 11am worship service. Your name and who the arrangement is in honor/memory of will also be listed in the Sunday bulletin.



Coffee Hour

01/05 Outreach & Engagement
01/12 UMM
01/19 Cathy Mitchinson
01/26 The Shotwell Family



11:00am Worship Ushers

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

COUNTERS

01/05 Virginia Sullivan, Carol Cerny
01/12 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise
01/19 Dave Lessel, Tom Cerny
01/26 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore



January

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

1st Sarah Carlson, Mary Rimmell
2nd Sandy Labby, Jacob Sanborn
3rd Dorothy Colby, Jan Pettit,
Sandy Sandrock
6th Jacob Russell
7th Frank Maxwell (101)
8th Sharon Bohms
9th Kevin Cook
10th Ernest Lyons
11th Shirley Andrews (89)
12th Curtis Cantley,
Angela Cherniawski
14th Dave Griffus, Ashley Trinidad
18th Julia Greenlees, Sophie Rahn
19th Dennis Brudnak (83),
Connie Skinner
20th Paul Roth
21st Jody Church
22nd Brian Tretheway

23rd Lianna Williams
24th Bob Mills (88)
25th Gary Bendall, Charlotte Reed
27th James Cook, Thomas Gratsch,
Leland Mitchinson
28th Ashton Bjorkman, Brian Martin
29th Donna Hubler (83), Tracy Sanborn
31st Lee Pelton (89), Ellie Reed



Anniversary Blessings

16th Wanda & David Roberts (54)



Greeters

	9:00am	11:00am
01/05	Shirley Wheeler	Virginia Sullivan
01/12	John Billings	Carol Cerny
01/19	Becky Doran	Joy & Jan Billyard
01/26	Raeanne Waisanen	

We are looking for a volunteer for the open spot. Please contact the church office with questions or to volunteer!

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 10-31-24) = \$17,054
Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 10-31-24) = \$1,897

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 10-31-24) = \$92,845



January 2025



			<p>1 1p Community Dinner OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>2 10a Drop-in Bible Study</p>	<p>3 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>4 9:30a O.A Mtg 10a Yoga</p>
<p>5 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship Noon De-hanging of the greens 12:30p Youth Group</p>	<p>6 6p Mission Team</p>	<p>7 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga 7p Worship & Arts-Zoom</p>	<p>8 10a Prayer Shawl 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers</p>	<p>9 10a Drop-in Bible Study Noon Seasoned Citizens 6p Common Grace</p>	<p>10 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>11 9:30a O.A. Mtg 10a Yoga 6p Euchre!</p>
<p>12 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30p Confirmation 2:30p Youth Group</p>	<p>13 10a Zentangle 1p Garland St Literary Club 7p Ad Council - Zoom</p>	<p>14 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga</p>	<p>15 10a Prayer Shawl 10a United Women of Faith 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers</p>	<p>16 10a Drop-in Bible Study 6p Common Grace 7p Education Team-Zoom</p>	<p>17 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>18 9:30a O.A. Mtg 10a Yoga F.H. in Use</p>
<p>19 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30p Youth Group</p>	<p>20 Noon New Member Class 7p Finance Mtg - Zoom</p>	<p>21 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga</p>	<p>22 10a Prayer Shawl 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers</p>	<p>23 NO Bible Study 6p Common Grace</p>	<p>24 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p>	<p>25 9:30a O.A. Mtg 10a Yoga</p>
<p>26 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30p Youth Group</p>	<p>27 6p New Member Class</p>	<p>28 10a Pastor @ Panera</p>	<p>29 10a Prayer Shawl 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers</p>	<p>30 10a Drop-in Bible Study 6p Common Grace</p>	<p>31 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon</p>	

2025 Opportunities for Giving Back

Your contributions to GBUMC have regional, national and international impact through our connectional giving system. In 2025 we are asking you to consider giving to the special six Sunday offerings listed below.

January 19 – Human Relations Day

Together, we extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles, nurture at-risk youth, strengthen communities' self-improvement efforts and advocate for the oppressed in the United States. Your gift encourages acceptance of all of God's children.

March 30 – UMCOR Sunday

When you give to the UMCOR Sunday special offering, you support the operating activities of our worldwide relief agency, enabling it to assist churches and communities in times of disaster. The offering ensures that 100 percent of every designated gift made through UMCOR for disaster response and other critical needs goes directly to address those needs.

May 4 – United Methodist Student Day

Together, we educate students so they can make a difference in the world. When you support United Methodist Student Day your gift transforms lives through education. Your contribution enriches ministry and connects students to their faith.

June 15 – Peace With Justice Sunday

Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. As a congregation we may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.

October 5 – World Communion Sunday

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. Your gift funds World Communion and Ethnic Scholarships and Ethnic In-Service training. Your gift provides acceptance and love.

November 23 – Native American Ministries

Your contribution supports aspiring Native American pastors and enriches outreach in their communities. Together, we empower local, spiritual development and educate Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully, who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries and to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Thank you for your continued support for missions in our community, country and world!

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, Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries
and Webmaster

Gary Brandt, 9:00 Music Director/Director of Common Grace
Andrew Cramer, Music Director for Traditional Worship
Andrea Bernat, Nursery Attendant
Kimmy Sayers, Custodian



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The church office will be closed on

Wednesday, January 1.

Happy New Year!

SEASONED CITIZENS

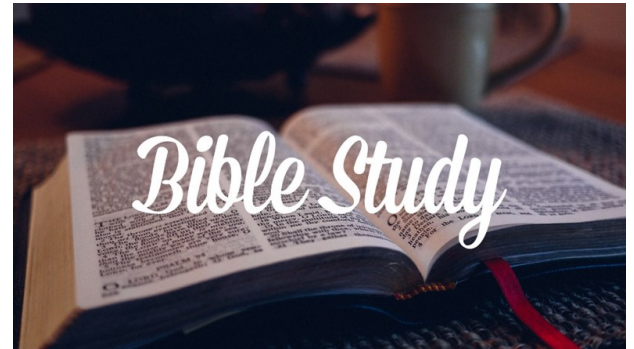
Thursday, January 9

Noon: Coffee & Conversation

12:25pm: Prayer & Devotion

12:30pm: Potluck Lunch

1:00pm: Program: hear about the
Dolly Parton Imagination Library!!



Join Pastor Brian and other Bible explorers as we journey through scripture with an eye toward discovering more about God's love, our relationship with God, and what that means for our ministry today and tomorrow! And don't avoid us if you're worried you might miss class occasionally. You're welcome to **drop-in** anytime, and we'll catch you right up! And so, join us every Thursday at 10am for a great time of fellowship, learning, and Bible study. We look forward to seeing you!

In the event of winter weather that closes Grand Blanc Schools, the Bible Study will take place on Zoom at the same time. A Zoom link will be emailed out to the whole church.

January dates:
January 2, 9, 16 & 30
@10am

Note: no class on January 23



We cherish you all and thank you all for your contributions to the Staff Appreciation gifts.

It is an honor and a privilege to work with you.

It's time to take down all of the beautiful Christmas decorations. Please join us on **Sunday, January 5**, following the 11am service. Lunch will be provided.



Removing of the Greens