



"Connection"

April 6

COMMUNION

5th Sunday of Lent

SERMON SERIES:

"Whodunnit?"

"The Disciple"

Luke 22: 3-6



April 13

PALM SUNDAY 11am

SERMON SERIES:

"Whodunnit?"

"The Governor"

John 19: 16b-22



April 17

Maundy Thursday 7pm @

Fenton UMC



April 18

Good Friday 7pm @

St. Christopher's Episcopal



April 20

EASTER SUNDAY!

"Making Sense of Nonsense"

Luke 24: 1-12

1 Corinthians 15: 19-26



April 27

2nd Sunday of Easter

"Grieving Thomas"

John 20: 19-31

"See How He Died?"

As we draw closer to Holy Week and the services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course Easter, I want to invite us to begin our month of April with a reflection on Jesus' death. I realize that an Easter article might be more cheery, but without the cross, there is no Easter.

For century upon century, theologians have been asking "why did Jesus die?" It's a question aimed at what we call "atonement theory." Atonement theories explore the nuance of why Jesus had to die. Again and again in the Gospels, we read about it being a fulfillment of prophecy, or as John the Baptist proclaims, Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Atonement theory acknowledges that the crucifixion seemed to be part of God's plan, but "why?"

But I've always wondered if we were asking the wrong question (why?). Would we be better off with a different question: "Look! See how he died?"

I heard a pastor say, about the crucifixion, that, whether or not Jesus crucifixion was part of God's plan, it was inevitable. In other words, there is absolutely no way in this world that Jesus could teach about a new kingdom, demand justice for the "other," and throw a wrench in the works of the status quo, and get away with it. What Jesus did, no matter how right it was in hindsight, meant that he'd be crucified. If it was God's plan, then it was perfectly put into motion!

This perspective invites us to move away from the question of "why?" An answer to that becomes quite evident: there was no way he was going to do what he did and say what he said and get away with it! So, let's try a different question: "Look! See how he died?"

Jesus, the incarnation of God, so deeply in love with this world and God's own creation, was determined for us to know the depths of God's love that he was willing to face the consequences of such love, however unjust they would be.

Look! See how he died?

Jesus, so set on conveying the possibility of God's kingdom on earth as in heaven, he spread his arms, accepted the thorns, endured the nails, and suffered on the cross that we might know the depths of grace.

Look! See how he died?

Jesus, God's very self, was willing to go from the cross to the grave so that we might understand that what seems so final on this earth has no sting, no hold, no grip on us. Death is swallowed up in victory.

Look! See how he died? And now...see how he rises?

Peace,
Pastor Brian



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

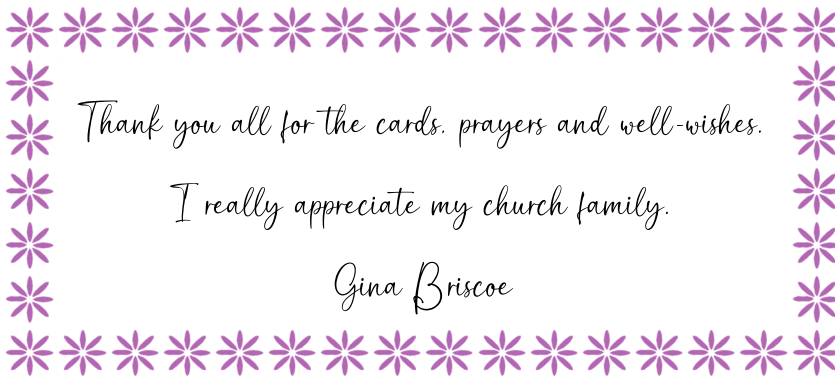
OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Shirley Andrews
Mini Armstrong
Gina Briscoe
Jim Bunker
Judy Burgess
Linda Compeau
Frank Davis
Ruth Davis
Judy Gratsch
Gail Lutton
Paul Manning
Lee Pelton
Dick Shick
Norma Stanbury
Vera Stuckey
Bob Tritten

FOR OTHERS:

Susan Allan
Baby Boy Asher
Dave Ax
Nancy Bilas
Donald Billings
Courtney Boshear
Paul Brieger
Joel Brinkman
Renee Brinkman
Sallie Burek
Peggy Chwojnicki
Patricia Cawfis
Warren Cawfis
Cynthia Crawford
Lucas Duby
Kathy Dutton
Merikay & Doug Franklin
Karen Grossmann

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



Thank you all for the cards, prayers and well-wishes.

I really appreciate my church family.

Gina Briscoe



~ we extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Clayton Dunn, who passed away on March 17. Clay is Cathy Mitchinson's nephew.

Address updates:

Bob Cwynar,

4411 Cedarstone Dr,
Hilliard, OH 43026

Marcia Ferguson,

3221 E. Baldwin Rd, #323,
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Eleanor Poole,

C147 Fountain View Village,
16455 E. Avenue of the Fountains,
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13
9:30am Potluck Breakfast
11am Worship (one service only)



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17
7pm Service
@ Fenton UMC, 119 S. Leroy St, Fenton



Good Friday

Friday, April 18
7pm Service
@ St. Christopher's Episcopal,
9020 S. Saginaw, Grand Blanc



Easter Sunday

9am Worship
10:15am Easter Egg Hunt
11am Worship

**We Need
Your**



If you ever find yourself in need of prayer, please do not hesitate to

contact the church office (Hospitals cannot notify us). The congregation would like to pray for you. Even if you do not want your prayer request shared with the entire congregation, Pastor Brian would like to keep you in his prayers. We will not share a prayer request unless we have permission.

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.**

April 2025 book pick: "24 Hours That Changed the World" By Adam Hamilton



Trunk or Treaster

Saturday April 19th
10-12pm

face painting,
bounce house,
Easter bunny,
& MORE!




GRAND BLANC UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
515 Bush Avenue
Grand Blanc



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 20
Easter Sunday
@ 10:15am
Between the 9am and 11am worship services!



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.



Save the date!!

Sunday, May 18.
11am

We will have one worship service so that we can all be together to celebrate our 2025 Confirmands. There will be a special coffee hour following the service!



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.



We need all hands on deck for the ASP
fundraiser Craft Weekend.

Be at the church by 4:30pm on Friday,
April 11 to set up tables and then help
crafters get their projects into the church.

Help serve lunch on Saturday, April 12.
Help the crafters take their items back out
to their cars @ 6pm on Saturday, April 12
and then stay to help put Fellowship Hall
back in order.

ASP Leader:
Jennifer Lengyel 810-241-2343



**Sunday, April 27
@ 12:30pm**

**We will help set up the tables
for the rummage sale and then
find other fun stuff to do!**

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!

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

COMMUNITY DINNER

All are welcome!!!

Wed., April 2, 2025

Pancakes, Egg Cheese Casserole,
Sausage, Fruit and Drinks,
Breakfast for Dinner 😊

Wed., May 7, 2023

Sloppy Joes, Salad, Baked Beans,
Chips Drinks and Dessert

INVITE A FRIEND or TWO



Saturday, April 26th @ 10 am

The Church and Society Team will meet and continue with discussion on GBUMC Social Principles, Executive Orders, Immigration and USAID. This will include...

1. What is happening?
2. What do scripture and our social principles say about it and...
3. What should/can we do?

We had a kick-off meeting on February 22nd with 18 people attending and more expressing interest for the next meeting. **Please join us! Be sure to check out the updated information on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. All are WELCOME!!**

On **Wednesday, March 12th** there were 3 Advocacy Day attendees from GBUMC in Lansing, joining over 200 attendees from United Methodist Churches across the state to advocate for legislation to correct the unintended consequences of the 2019 Auto Insurance Reform.



God declares all creation good and as Christians we are called to be its caretakers. United Methodists are committed to keeping our planet green, clean and sustainable for all.

At GBUMC we are recently committed to phasing out the use of Styrofoam. What else can we do?

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.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped make paper plate cars during coffee hour and during the Wednesday night Dinner! Let us know if you want more information about

Advocacy Day. The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church organizes an annual Advocacy Day. This is the 3rd Year.

Members of the Church and Society Team sent postcards to the White House on March 15th and have been attending webinars put on by the General Board of Church and Society as well as responding to calls for advocacy from the General Board of Church and Society.

Lent and “In lieu of Lilies” Donations

Easter Sunday is April 20, 2025 and this year we will be supporting **Compassion Counts Food Pantry** (at The Gathering UMC) with our Lent offering and **BabyFold at Old Mutare Fairfield Children’s Home in Zimbabwe** with our “In lieu of Lilies” offerings.

At **Compassion Counts Food Pantry (at The Gathering UMC)** “Providing Food for the Body and Soul” is their mission. Through the distribution of life sustaining food, the pantry shares God’s love to the economically challenged region of Clare County, Michigan, serving more than 400 families and 1500 individuals monthly. The distribution of food is a mission of The Gathering UMC (a congregation of 20) and allows the members to share God’s word with the many people who do not know Him. The Pantry welcomes partnerships with other churches.

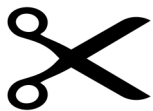


Please use the Yellow Lent/Easter offering envelope provided in your offering envelopes or mark your donation for Lent/Easter in order for it to go to Compassion Counts Food Pantry. You can place this donation in the collection plate at any time.

The “In lieu of Lilies” collection will go to **Babyfold at Old Mutare Fairfield Children’s Home in Zimbabwe**. At Babyfold in Zimbabwe, they care for abandoned children by providing love, clothing, food, and education. Their goal is to make sure that all children at the home are taken care of spiritually, physically, socially, and mentally.

Please fill out the “In lieu of Lilies” donation sheet below (copies will also be provided in your bulletins in April) and attach your cash or check (made out to GBUMC). The “In lieu of Lilies” form must be turned in to the office, no later than Sunday, April 13, accompanied by your payment. There will be a listing provided at Easter showing in “Memory or Honor of” donations made.

Thank you for your generosity! We appreciate you!



In lieu of Lilies donation to

Babyfold at Old Mutare Fairfield Children’s Home in Zimbabwe

Memory of _____
(or)

Honor of _____

Given by _____

Amount _____

Envelope # _____

Altar Flowers

- 04/06
04/13
04/20 In honor of our oldest
Son's birthday, by the
Lessel's
04/27

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

- 04/06 Trustees
04/13 Potluck Breakfast
04/20 Memorials & Gifts
04/27 The Shotwell Family



11:00am Worship Ushers

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

COUNTERS

- 04/06 Carol Capell, Jim Wise
04/13 Dave Lessel, Carol Capell
04/20 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore
04/27 Virginia Sullivan, Carol Cerny



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays Wishes

- 1st Margaret Frelander
8th Patricia Burns (93)
13th Andrew Bruce,
Zachary Vamossy
14th Edward Slogor, John Stafford
15th Bob Eggert
16th Sharon Ruggles (91),
Frank Skinner, Ashley Werth
18th Molly Fraile, Dave Russell
20th Mike Stafford
21st Madison Stack
22nd Angela Cook, Jordan Sanborn
23rd Gary Brandt,
Jessica Haggerty-Reed
24th Jayna Mueser
25th Karen Rossman, Mark Shotwell
26th Sue Bobalik, Becky Doran,
Jan Johnson, Emily Pinter,
Brendon Russian

- 27th Brian Angell, Mary Jo Clark
28th Victor Castro (80), Emma Rahn
29th Sandy Angell, Randy Middleton
30th Mike Heberling,
Gretchen Jablonski



Anniversary Blessings

- 4th Lisa & Jeff McGehee
13th Melinda Elmore-Hajek &
Gary Hajek (41)
20th Stephanie & Brian West
30th Lori & Glen DeVos



Greeters

9:00am

- 04/06 Becky Doran
04/13 John Billings
04/20 Nancy Lepri & Kris Surdu
04/27 Raeanne Waisanen

11:00am

- Cathy Melkus
Carol Cerny
Joy & Jan Billyard
Cathy Melkus

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Financial Summary



General Fund Balance (as of 02-28-25) = \$33,581
Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 02-28-25) = \$2,069

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 02-28-25) = \$88,304



APRIL 2025



	1 10a Yoga 7p Worship & Arts-Zoom	2 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Community Dinner 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	3 10a Drop-in Bible Study	4 7p Al Anon	5 10a Yoga
6 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30p Youth Gr	7 7p ACA	8 10a Yoga	9 10a Prayer Shawl 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	10 10a Drop-in Bible Study Noon Seasoned Citizens 6p Common Grace	11 6p Crafter's Workshop 7p Al Anon
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:30a Breakfast 11a Worship 12:30p Confirmation	14 10a Zentangle 7p Ad Council-Zoom 7p ACA	15 10a Yoga	16 10a Prayer Shawl 10a United Women of Faith 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	17 10a Drop-In Bible Study 7pm Maundy Thursday @ Fenton UMC	18 7pm Good Friday @ St. Christopher Episcopal 7p Al Anon
20 EASTER SUNDAY 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship	21 7p Finance Mtg-Zoom 7p ACA	22 10a Yoga	23 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Culver's fundraiser! 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	24 10a Drop-in Bible Study	25 7p Al Anon
27 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30 Youth Group	28 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 6p New Member Class 7p ACA	29 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 10a Card Ministry	30 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 10a Prayer Shawl 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers		

Card Ministry

The Last Tuesday of Every Month @ 10am

Help us keep in touch with shut-ins, others on our prayer list, people we haven't seen in a while, or even just mail out birthday or anniversary cards. We have the cards and stamps, we just need you!!!



snow pants

Do you have snow pants that no longer fit anyone in your household?

FISH of Grand Blanc would like to take them off your hands!!

Drive thru drop-off, here at GBUMC on

Saturday, April 12

From 10 to 11am

CRAFTER'S DAY OUT WORKSHOP

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH 6PM-11PM
AND SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH 9AM-6PM**

\$55 FOR BOTH DAYS!

**GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
515 BUSH AVE**

THIS AMAZING DAY INCLUDES:

- YOUR OWN 6' TABLE
- FRIDAY NIGHT SNACK
- SATURDAY LUNCH
- LOTS OF DOOR PRIZES
- CREATIVE MEMORIES AND STAMPIN' UP! VENDORS

THIS IS A FUNDRAISER FOR THE CHURCH'S APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) MISSION TRIP. 100% OF THE PROFIT WILL GO TOWARDS THEIR NEXT TRIP WHERE THE YOUTH GROUP WILL HELP REPAIR HOMES IN CENTRAL APPALACHIA.

REGISTER TODAY!

MAIL THIS INFORMATION AND YOUR CHECK TO JUDI COTTRELL,
2092 E REID RD, GRAND BLANC, MI 48439

OR

EMAIL TO JCOTTRELL4208@GMAIL.COM AND VENMO TO
@JUDI-COTTRELL

QUESTIONS? CALL JUDI AT 820-624-4066

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

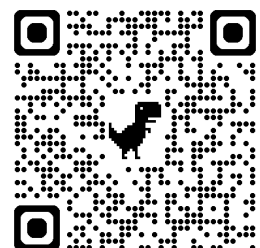
I WANT TO SIT WITH _____

See you there!

Full size registration forms are available on the kiosk!!



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.

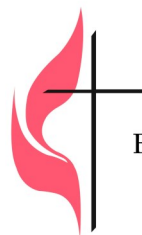


Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
515 Bush Avenue
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

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



Special Office hours for April:
Monday, April 7 10a-2p
Tuesday, April 8 10a-2p
Wednesday, April 9 10a-2p
Thursday, April 10 10a-2p
Friday, April 11 Office Closed

Church & Society Group

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Meets on the last Saturday of every month @ 10am!

Join us on Saturday, April 26 @ 10am

Living Faith, Seeking Justice and Pursuing Peace.

You are invited to join the discussion about opportunities for social justice according to the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.

Let's put our faith into action!



Fundraiser at Culver's!! Wednesday, April 23

5pm to 8pm

A percentage of EVERY purchase will enable us to help our neighbors!

This time the funds we raise will be for our Community Care Fund. This fund helps our neighbors who are struggling financially (assistance with rent, utilities, car repairs, etc.)

Invite your friends!



Seasoned Citizens

Thursday, April 10

Noon: Coffee & Conversation

12:25: Prayer & Devotion

12:30: Potluck Lunch

Program: Learn about the Whaley House in Flint



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!

April dates:

April 3, 10, & 17 @10am

No meeting on April 24