



# "Connection"



August 4

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Series:

*"Summer Stories"*

*"Zacchaeus"*

Luke 19:1-10



August 11

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Series:

*"Summer Stories"*

*"Saul Becomes Paul"*

Acts 9:1-22



August 18

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**WORSHIP IN THE  
PARK**

*"Preaching on Tombstones"*

Matthew 5:1-16



August 25

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Series:

*"Summer Stories"*

*"Revelation in Patmos"*

Revelation 1:4-11a, 12-18



## "What Tomorrow Will Bring"

*"Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?" -Matthew 6:25-27 (CEB)*

Charles Dickens is famous, in part, for his oft quoted line, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." I'll add to it my own tidbit: "But, not matter what it was, at least we knew *what* it was." You see, looking back, we have the benefit of having lived through our past, and so, good or bad, we know it, which makes it either a wonderful, cherished memory, or, at the very least, something we made it though. The future, however, is a whole different ballgame. The future is unknown! The future, while we know it will contain moments of good, we also know that it will have difficult – even bad – moments. The problem is, we don't know what they will be, when they'll be, how we'll navigate any of it, who will be involved, and where it will leave us.

Take a deep breath.

The phenomenon of it all is that this is and always has been true. Somehow, the passage of time just puts things of the past in perspective, making yesterday look like the good old days, and leaving tomorrow look like we're on the precipice of living out Dante's "Inferno."

Jesus understood this about us. In fact, if we go back to the stories of the Bible, we'll find instance after instance in which people longed for the "good old days," not because they were necessarily better, but because they were known! And so, Jesus offers us this reminder: *"Don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear...Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life."* Here, Jesus is reminding us that our worry about the future, while not entirely without good reason, doesn't ultimately help us. Instead, it simply gets in our way of living in the here and now. Worrying about the future simply because we can't predict it doesn't make today any better, nor does it make tomorrow any easier. In fact, what we know of anxiety, worrying unrealistically about tomorrow will likely make things worse.

Let's consider an example from a long, long time ago. Imagine a cave-dwelling people, who became convinced that right outside their cave entrance was a sabretooth tiger ready to pounce the moment they emerged from the cave. Is this an entirely unfounded fear? No, probably not. If you hear the tiger's snarl, stay inside. That's a no-brainer. But what if every day our cave dwelling friend refused to leave the cave because of this possibility. Day and night, without ever hearing,

*Continued...*

seeing, or even smelling the sabretooth tiger, they determined that it's just too risky. The anxiety they experience has now limited their tomorrows.

When are we like our cave-dwelling friend? When do we let our anxiety get the better of us, assuming that tomorrow is out to get us, that we stand on the precipice of doom? What steps to do we need to take – as individuals, as the church, as society, as creation – to emerge from the cave and experience *all* of tomorrow? Will there be challenging and difficult moments? Of course there will be. But will there be good times and moments worthy of our celebration? You bet!

And so, I close this thought process and article with these words from the Prophet Isaiah:

*“Don’t fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won’t sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won’t be scorched and flame won’t burn you. I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, your savior.” -Isaiah 43:1b-3a (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  
Lisa England  
Ann Fraile  
Judy Gratsch  
Dick Hubler  
Gail Lutton  
Paul Manning  
Lee Pelton  
Norma Stanbury  
Vera Stuckey  
Bob Tritten  
Darcie West

### FOR OTHERS:

Susan Allan  
Kim Allward  
Dave Ax  
Rich Bennetts  
Nancy Bilas  
Angi Buci  
Sallie Burek  
Peggy Chwojnicky  
Patricia Crawfis  
Warren Crawfis  
Cynthia Crawford  
Paul Daly  
Ellen Farr  
Harold Ferguson  
Merikay & Doug Franklin  
Mike Gomez  
Sharon Graham  
Gene Griffel  
Eric Hansor  
Clara Holmes

Scott Jawors  
Pat Johnston  
Dave Jones  
Greg Jones  
Doug Keene  
Cindy Larange  
Ellie Lauth  
Adrianna Martell  
Viny Martinez  
Rev. Gordon Mitchinson  
Keith Morris  
Lynne O'Brien  
Carl Pate  
Ruth Ann Sandrock  
Paul Schultes  
Ashley Schaffer  
Bill Shier  
Eddie Snow  
Emery Wacser  
Jo Williams  
Laura Wilson



## With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to:  
~ the family and friends of Ed Woodard,  
who passed away on July 5. Ed is Sharon  
Bohms' brother.

~ the family and friends of Betty Crawford, who passed  
away on July 13. Betty is Angela Campbell's aunt.

~ the family and friends of Connie Ozinga, who passed  
away on July 14. Connie is Melinda Elmore-Hajek's  
sister-in-law.



## Thank You!

Jan Johnson would like to express  
her appreciation for all of the  
thoughts and prayers during her  
recovery. She is doing great and  
looking forward to coming back to  
church soon!

# Sunday, August 25



## following the 10 am service

We hope you will plan on hanging out after  
worship and enjoy a classic potluck dinner.

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE.**

**Drinks & place settings will be provided.**

*Sign up helpful, but certainly not necessary.*

# 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.**

**August 2024 book pick:** "Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People" By: Nadia Bolz-Weber

## Protection of Children, Youth & Vulnerable Adults Class

On Monday, August 19, at 7pm, via Zoom, we will be offering this important class. Our goal is to maintain a safe, secure, loving environment where children, youth and vulnerable adults may grow and where those who care for them may minister to their needs in responsible ways. All staff and volunteers, who are in leadership roles, are requested to take this one hour class every three years. Please contact Angela Campbell with questions or to sign-up.



Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, High School and College Students, and Teachers/Educators: You are invited to bring your backpack, book bag, briefcase, etc. to worship on

**Sunday, August 25**  
for our  
**Blessing of the Backpacks!**



Did you wonder why there was a telephone booth in church a few weeks ago? It was where our VBS kids changed into our VBS HEROES! July was our VBS program – Hero Hotline. Our hotline verse was from Romans 14:19, "Let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." During the four days of VBS, we learned that Heroes are called to follow Jesus, to help others, to work together and to show Grace. We learned four different bible stories. In John 1:35-51 our heroes learned how Jesus called His disciples. In Exodus 1:8-2:10 our heroes learned about three "wonder women," Shiphrah, Puah, and Miriam and how they rescued baby Moses. We returned to the Book of Exodus 18 where we visited Moses as an adult. Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, taught Moses how to work with others and share the load. Our heroes learned that not only is it ok to ask for help, but that we can be helpers too. Finally, in Acts 9:1-25 we learned about Paul. Heroes are called to show grace, just like Jesus followers did when they helped sneak Paul out of Damascus. And I learned that we have some pretty great Superheroes in our church family, and they come in all ages, shapes and sizes. Amen!



# 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!!!**

**Wednesday, August 7, 2024**

**SPAGHETTI**

Tossed Salad, Garlic Rolls

Dessert & Drinks

**Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

**PULLED PORK BOWLS**

**DELICIOUS**—come and see what it's all about!

All are Welcome



**Church in the**

**PARK**

*a worship experience*

*Followed by lunch*

**Sunday, August 18, 10am**

Physicians Park, 218 Reid Rd,

Grand Blanc

*for more information,*

*Grand Blanc UMC (810) 694-9040*

Join us at the Grand Blanc

**FARMERS MARKET**

**Wednesday, August 14**

**3-8 pm**

**131 East Grand Blanc Rd**

*in the Grand Chalet Shops*

GBUMC will be set up at the Market the Wednesday prior to Church in the Park.

We will be a presence and share info, smiles, fun giveaways and more.

*If you would like to help with this community outreach event, please contact the church office.*

**DID YOU KNOW:** There are two Sundays in a row that you don't have to cook Sunday dinner (worship in the park and the potluck). 😊 And if you count the Community Dinner, August is shaping up to be a pretty good month for food and fellowship.

Grand Blanc Township Police Department

**NNO**  
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
2024  
POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 2024  
5 - 8 PM

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT  
5405 S SAGINAW RD GRAND BLANC

FOOD \* GIVEAWAYS \* VENDORS \* PRESENTATIONS

★ *Free Event* ★


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRAND BLANC  
EST. 1911  
COURAGE \* HONOR \* INTEGRITY

GRAND BLANC CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
SERVING SINCE 1833  
POLICE

*At this special event, we will set up a tent and immerse ourselves into and enjoy the fun, while also sharing cool GBUMC stuff.*

*(we will need help, contact the church office if you would like to be part of the fun.)*



Keep an  out for the CO&E passion survey... coming late in August.

08/04 Lessel  
 08/11  
 08/18 Dutton  
 08/25 Wolfgram



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 worship service. Your name and who the arrangement is in honor/memory of will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.



### Summer Snacks

08/04 Melinda Elmore-Hajek  
 08/11 Andrew Dick  
 08/18 Worship in the Park!  
 08/25 Potluck Lunch!!

### Greeters 10:00am

08/04 Virginia Sullivan  
 08/11 John Billings  
 08/18 Becky Doran-@ the Park  
 08/25 Carol Cerny

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### Birthday Wishes

1<sup>st</sup> Dani Rossman  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Colleen Fitch (80), Laura Gibbs  
 6<sup>th</sup> Bruce VanVlack  
 7<sup>th</sup> Wyatt Booms  
 8<sup>th</sup> Nick Federici  
 9<sup>th</sup> David Roberts, Don Sawyer (83)  
 10<sup>th</sup> Paul Manning, Levi Skinner  
 11<sup>th</sup> Ron Blakemore (87),  
 Betty Gay Charmoli (80),  
 Jacob Koponen  
 12<sup>th</sup> Shelby Mitchinson  
 13<sup>th</sup> Jackie Davidson, Rhonda Lessel  
 14<sup>th</sup> Tom Cerny (81), Denise Holaly,  
 Richard Smith  
 15<sup>th</sup> Deb Caplan, Jean Sayre (94)  
 16<sup>th</sup> Lauren Chwojnicky, Lauren Rice  
 17<sup>th</sup> Donley Norris  
 18<sup>th</sup> Gary Dibeau, Chuck Lawcock  
 20<sup>th</sup> Anne Coronado, Sam Smith,  
 Jane West  
 21<sup>st</sup> Braedan Werth  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Jennifer Banfield-Haggerty

23<sup>rd</sup> Laura Heberling  
 25<sup>th</sup> Sarah Anderson  
 26<sup>th</sup> Ann Fraile, Alex Trinidad  
 28<sup>th</sup> Gordon Lawcock  
 30<sup>th</sup> Marcia Ferguson (92)  
 31<sup>st</sup> William Bigler



### Anniversary Blessings

1<sup>st</sup> Patricia & Marvin Whitcomb (43)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Rose Marie & Richard Shick (66)  
 9<sup>th</sup> Gina & Bob Briscoe (44)  
 10<sup>th</sup> Nancy & Craig Fiederlein  
 13<sup>th</sup> Andrea & Jeff Mertz  
 15<sup>th</sup> Betty Gay & Rich Charmoli (54)  
 26<sup>th</sup> Traci & Dave Russell  
 27<sup>th</sup> Carrie & Gene Kurosky

### 10:00am Worship Ushers

08/04 Jim Wise & Bernie Waisanen  
 08/11 Brian Rice & Cathy Mitchinson  
 08/18 Bob & Barb Mills-in the Park  
 08/25 Kristin Ivan &  
 Melinda Elmore-Hajek

### COUNTERS

08/04 Sandy Jones, Tom Cerny  
 08/11 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore  
 08/18 Virginia Sullivan, Carol Cerny  
 08/25 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise

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!

### Worship With Us



All worship services continue to be available on-line!! Be sure to watch when you can't attend in person and we invite you to go to our website where you will find a link to our YouTube channel along with the current Sunday bulletin, news & notes and compass! There is also a link to an on-line connect card. Let us know you were watching!

### Grand Blanc United Methodist Church Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 06-30-24) = \$20,950  
 Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 06-30-24) = \$3,477

**MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 06-30-24) = \$97,292**



# August 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	3 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
4 10a Worship	5	6 9a Summer Learn & Play 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga  7p Worship & Arts Meeting via Zoom	7 9:30a Summer Social 10a Prayer Shawl	8	9 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	10 10a O.A. 10a Yoga
11 10a Worship	12	13 9a Summer Learn & Play 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga	14 9:30a Summer Social 10a Prayer Shawl	15	16 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	17 10a O.A. 10a Yoga  WEDDING
18 10a Worship in the Park!	19 10a Zentangle  7p Protection Policy Class via Zoom	20 OFFICE CLOSED 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group 10a Yoga	21 10a Prayer Shawl  5:30p Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	22	23 OFFICE CLOSED 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	24 10a O.A. F.H. in Use
25 10a Worship with Blessing of the Backpacks ~Potluck Lunch following worship	26	27 OFFICE CLOSED 10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga	28 10a Prayer Shawl  5:30p Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	29	30 OFFICE CLOSED 10a Men's Coffee  7p Al Anon	31 10a O.A. 10a Yoga



# Church in the **PARK** *a worship experience*

Followed by lunch

**Sunday, August 18, 10am**

Physicians Park, 218 Reid Rd,  
Grand Blanc  
for more information,  
Grand Blanc UMC (810) 694-9040

## Summer Learn & Play Through - 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

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

GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# SUMMER SOCIAL



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup>

9:30AM – 12:00PM AT THE CHURCH

MOVIE AND POPCORN FOR ALL KIDS IN KINDERGARTEN – 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- KIDS OVER 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AS HELPERS
- PARENTS MUST STAY FOR THE DURATION OF THE EVENT



**BRING A STUFFIE**  
**BRING A FLOOR BLANKET**  
**BRING A FRIEND**  
**HAVE FUN!**



BRING A SACK LUNCH, AND A WATER BOTTLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (810) 694-9040

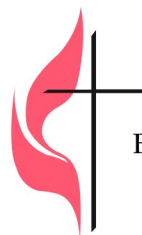
PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

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



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Special Office hours in August:  
Tuesday, August 20, Office Closed  
Friday, August 23, Office Closed  
Tuesday, August 27, Office Closed  
Friday, August 30, Office Closed

## **Two Special announcements from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):**



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to introduce to you the newest member of our church staff and our new Nursery

Attendant, **Andrea Bernat**. Andrea comes to us with a great deal of experience in church nursery settings, a love for little ones, and a great heart for ministry. We are certain that you will want to stop in and meet Andrea in the weeks to come. Andrea's first Sunday with us was Sunday, July 21st. Now, to let Andrea introduce herself to us a bit more:

"Hi! My name is Andrea Bernat, and I am very excited to be the new nursery attendant at Grand Blanc United Methodist Church. I am a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, growing up as a pastor's kid in Burton. I am a single mom of two children. My son Jackson is 17 years old, and my daughter Grace is 16. I spent many years as a stay-at-home mom. When my children were both in school, I went to work as a medical assistant for a few years at a doctor's

office in Davison. I loved working directly with patients and decided a year and a half ago to go back to college to become a Registered Nurse. I am a year and a half into the program at Mott. After graduating I plan to begin my career as a nurse in labor and delivery. I look forward to meeting everyone here, especially your little ones!"

### **Andrew Cramer, Director of Traditional Worship Music**

We join Andrew in celebrating that he completed his masters degree work and celebrated his graduation from Bowling Green University this Spring. Furthermore, we celebrate with Andrew that he is back, living in the Grand Blanc area and is continuing to share his gift, talent, and love of music with GBUMC. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to share that Andrew's roll here as the Director of Traditional Worship Music is growing to now include Celebration Ringers, our adult handbell choir. Andrew is excited to be directing both the Celebration Ringers, as well as the Chancel Choir. These two ensembles will resume their mid-week rehearsal schedules as we get back into the swing of things with our 2024-25 program year. Be sure to keep an ear out for upcoming rehearsals and other opportunities to make music, together!



### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Seasoned Citizens meets again on September 12!**

Seasoned Citizens will begin the 2024-2025 year with a program from Genesee County Free Medical Clinic. (Donna Hedding delivered empty prescription bottles there for a long time. Virginia Sullivan collects bottles for the clinic now.) Meet together at noon on **Thursday, September 12** for potluck lunch and stay for the program. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend - or two !!

### **Traditional Worship Music Rehearsals**

Begin August 21! Join us on Wednesdays:  
Choir 5:30pm to 6:30pm  
Celebration Ringers 6:30pm to 7:30pm  
Please see Andrew Cramer  
andrewtcramer@gmail.com for more  
information or to answer any questions.