

December 1

COMMUNION

1 st Sunday of Advent

SERMON SERIES:

"Come, Let (Js Adore Him"

"Tilt Preparation"

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36

December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent SERMON SERIES: "Come, Let Us Adore Him" "Passion for Emmanuel"

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6 December 15

3rd Sunday of Advent SERMON SERIES: "Come, Let Us Adore Him"

"A Present Joy"

|saiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:7-18

December 22

4th Sunday of Advent SERMON SERIES: "Come, Let Us Adore Him"

"A Promise Told"

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:26-45 CHILDREN'S PROGRAM@4pm Followed by dinner@5pm

December 24

Christmas Fye

7pm& 11pm

"A New Joy"

|saiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

December 29

1st Sunday after Christmas Day 11am

Mary's Song: Reflections on Hymns by Mary





"Mark's Christmas"

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."... After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!" -Mark 1:9-11, 14-15

As it is December, and we're in the midst of Christmas, I wanted to share with you this wonderful Christmas passage! No, I didn't insert the wrong passage from the wrong Gospel. This is the Christmas story! It's just not the one we're most familiar with. It's not the one we decorate our mantle or altar with, and it's not going to be illustrated on too many Christmas cards. So...how is it a Christmas story?

Strictly speaking, it's not a Christmas story...at least not in the traditional sense. To be clear, only the Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us anything about Jesus' birth, and even with those two Gospels, Matthew's focus is primarily on the coming of the Magi. It's in Luke that we – along with Charles Shultz ("Peanuts") – find the shepherds, a room-less inn, a manger, and the heavenly hosts. So, what are Mark and John up to?

John, while a wonderful Gospel, opted for a beginning that is a bit more poetic: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..." Again, it's amazing and full of good news, but not necessarily a description of Grandma's favorite nativity set.

And then, there's Mark. Mark begins his Gospel with the Baptism of Jesus. Mark takes a running start and jumps over about 30 years of Jesus' life. Is it because Mark doesn't like shepherds or has something against Bethlehem? Not at all! Mark just sees the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist as the start of Jesus' real life. Mark starts with the baptism as his way of saying, "it is HERE that we discover the Lordship of Jesus. Sure, the manger, shepherd, angels, and all were important, but it's in the baptism that we discover that Jesus really is Lord – the Messiah." For Mark, the proverbial "birth story" is found in the proclamation that Jesus is God's son. Not as cute, but just as meaningful!

Okay, if that sounds way too nerdy, it's okay. I am nerdy, so your thinking is on point! But this nerdy stuff gets really cool!

I promise...

In Mark 1:15, right after his baptism, Jesus enters the region of the Galilee and begins to shout (kind of like the town crier), "Now is the time! Here comes God's

Continued on next page

kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!" Once again, to put it in other words, "God is present! The incarnation of God is here! It's time to straighten up and fly right! Sounds kind of Christmasy, doesn't it? Jesus, the incarnation of God, is born into the world, not in the way the world expects, but in precisely the way the world needs!

Now, don't get me wrong, I still love a good nativity scene, and the image of baby Jesus lying in a feeding trough – it's important! But this Christmas, I'd love to start a new tradition. Just as we're getting ready to sing "Joy to the world" on Christmas Eve, I want to close my eyes and imagine that Jesus is walking into the sanctuary, all while shouting, "Now is the time! Here comes God's Kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust in this good news."

Mark's Christmas might be just what we need this year.

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 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 Kim Allward Baby Boy Asher Dave Ax Rich Bennetts Nancy Bilas Donald Billings Carol Bingham Eric Bohms Courtney Boshear Joel Brinkman Renee Brinkman Sallie Burek Peggy Chwojnicki Patricia Crawfis Warren Crawfis Cynthia Crawford Kathy Dutton

Mike Gomez

Sharon Graham Gene Griffel

Karen Grossmann Eric Hansor Clara Holmes Anne Howarth Pat Johnston Dave Jones **Greg Jones** Doug Keene Cindy Larange Adrianna Martell Vinny Martinez Keith Morris Lynne O'Brien Leo Reubke Jovce Rice James Ruthenberg Paul Schultes Ashley Schaffer Bill Shier Merikay & Doug Franklin Larry Smith **Eddie Snow** David Ware



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

- ~ **Bob Medlyn**, who passed away on October 26. Bob is Jim Smith's father.
- ~ **John Batson**, who passed away on October 29.
- ~ Martin Mock, who passed away on October 30. Martin is Gail Lutton's brother.
- ~ Ellen Farr, who passed away on November 3. Ellen is Margaret Frelander's sister.
- ~ Art Swisher, who passed away on November 3. Art is Donna Hubler's brother.
- ~ John Briggs, who passed away on November 16. John is Ann Brigg's husband.

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.

Laura Wilson

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.

December 2024 book pick: "An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the

Christmas Story" By: Rachel Billups

Join us for our Children's Christmas program,

"STAR TRIP: OUR FAITH AWAKENS,"

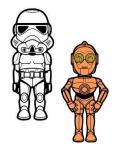
at **4pm on Sunday, December 22.**Before Jesus's coming, there was a period of unrest for God's people. The Empire of King Herod, backed by the Romans, was a dark force in the land of Judah. Who can bring light into this darkness? The Magi follow a new light in the night sky believing this will lead them to another light? Where will their journey take us? Join the Magi as they find the light, the light that gives light to all people..... Jesus.



There will be a dinner following the evening program. All are welcome to attend.



Now... we need to call all of our young thespians to help with this program. We are also looking for our littlest members to participate in a chorus, both singing and with bells, as well as honored members of the Nativity. The following are our rehearsal times.



December 7th 10am for reading parts;

December 14th 10am Full Rehearsal for all;



December 21st 10am Full Rehearsal with all parts.

We will have a pizza luncheon and Christmas crafts for all to enjoy following this rehearsal.

Nursery volunteer Schedule:

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

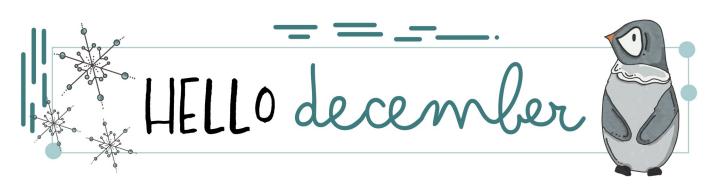
11am service: Francis Duby

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**



YOUTH GROUP!

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

December 1

We will go to McDonalds for lunch then we will shop for our FISH family. Please bring money for lunch if you are able.

December 8 3-5pm

Cookie decorating at Abbey Park.

**Parent drop off and pickup at
Abbey park please

December 15 4-7pm

Progressive Dinner!!

Drop off at the Church, Pickup will be a Jessica Smith's house at 7pm.

December 22

No Youth Group Christmas Program!

December 29

No Youth Group Happy New Year!

ASP Leader:
Jennifer Lengyel 810-241-2343 Appalachia



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 STUFFI.

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

COMMUNITY DINNER

All are welcome!!!

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Hot Beef Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Hot Veggie, Drinks, Dessert

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



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

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



A shout out to the crew that served the FREE November meal, the folks that came and enjoyed dinner and DOMINOS PIZZA for their generous contribution of a great per pizza rate and 10 FREE pizzas off the top. We served 106 happy people on the first Wednesday in November.

Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce & The City of Grand Blanc Present





Holiday Winterfest

ome and enjoy, Santa and Mrs. Claus, annual tree lighting, face painting, a make

and take craft area, an ice carving demonstration along with ice sculptures, food, drinks and lots of holiday cheer! This is event is FREE to all. GBUMC will be giving away, FREE CUPS of HOT CHOCOLATE! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



arring Grace is excited to J be sharing Holiday Bags of Cheer to local schools, governmental units and more. More than 20 BAGS will be delivered along with a voice of good cheer and thanks for what they mean to our community.

If you are interested in helping deliver these Holiday Bags of Cheer, be sure to keep your eye out for details.

Ommunity Care Tund Tundraiser

A BIG THANKS to those who shared time at The GBUMC Community Care Fundraiser on November 8. It really was a lovely night with good food and wonderful music. As soon as we know what was raised at this event, we will be sure to pass along the information.

Christmas at Crossroads Village

Common Grace will be singing in the chapel located in the village. We hope you can grab the family and enjoy the evening at Crossroads and stop in and join us for some Holiday Fun.



Common Grace will also be sharing time with the folks at Abbey Park on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6:15 pm.

SEASONED CITIZENS

Thursday, December 12

It's a White Elephant party!

Everyone is to find an inexpensive/unwanted/ unloved item in the attic, wrap it up with a pretty bow and bring it for our gift exchange! Be sure to dress in your holiday finery (!?!). We'll have our usual coffee and

conversation at noon, a brief message and grace at 12:30 followed by potluck lunch. Let the party begin around 1pm! See you there!





Next New Member Class

Monday, December 30 6 to 8pm

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.



Darkest Nights

Sunday, December 1st 6:00pm at Grand Blanc United Methodist Church

(515 Bush Ave, Grand Blanc)

Hosted by:

Fenton UMC, Grand Blanc UMC, Halsey UMC, Lake Fenton, Lindon UMC, Gaines UMC

This is a special service designed to help create space this Christmastime for those who are missing loved ones, facing difficult times, or experiencing grief of one form or another. It's a safe and welcoming time and space.

All are welcome.



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

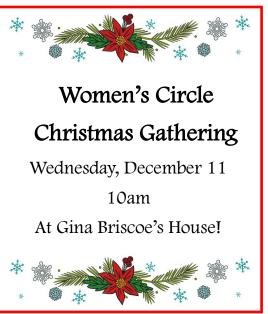
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

INAM TO RPM



IN FRONT OF THE MIDDLE DOORS OF THE GRAND BLANC WALMART SIGN-UP ON THE KIOSK

IF YOU HAVE ANY OUESTIONS. SPEAK WITH TOM CERNY 810-252-6943 TOMCERNY1@AOL.COM



Card Ministry

If you would like to help us keep in touch with shut-ins, others on our prayer ard Ministry list, people we haven't seen in a while, or even just mail out birthday or anniversary cards, we are getting our Card Ministry up and running again. Let us know you'd like to help by contacting the church office. We have lots of cards that you can use, if needed.

Amplify has videos that can be used in your small groups, Bible studies and, of course, in your own personal faith journey. There is also an entire audio library of the Common English Bible. You can access all this extensive information anytime and on almost any device, including on your TV using Roku.

To access your FREE Amplify account, just

follow these simple steps:

Go to: https://my.amplifymedia.com

Enter our Access Code: pzjybg

(You will be asked to create your own login name and password)

If you have any questions, our church Amplify team is here to help. Feel free to contact the church office or Angela Campbell @ Christian.education@grandblancumc.org

AMPLIFY, MEDIA

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/









Altar Flowers

12/01 In memory of Donna Hedding by her family ~ In memory of Peggy Van Vlack, by Bruce Van Vlack

 $\frac{12}{08}$ $\frac{12}{15}$

12/22 In honor of GBUMC kids

12/29 In remembrance of Kristopher M. Pittsley & Jack and Barb Martin, by Brian & Bey Martin

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

12/01 Trustees

12/08 Memorials & Gifts

12/15 Education

12/22 Finance

12/29 No Coffee Hour

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, Tom Cerny

5th Sunday Joy & Jan Billyard

COUNTERS

12/01 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore

12/08 Virginia Sullivan, Carol Cerny

12/15 Tom Cerny, Jim Wise

12/22 Dave Lessel, Tom Cerny

12/29 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore



Birthday Wishes

2nd Amanda Norris, Eric Sandrock

3rd Amanda Bendall, Richard Shick

5th Judi Cottrell, Chad Labby, Cayla Rimmel,

Marvin Whitcomb (84)

6th Jocelyn Phillips

7th Rachel Bond, Aaron Bunker

14th Sharel Etheridge

15th Drake Carlson, Owen Pash

16th Joanne Lepri

18th Marianne Black, Andrew Dick, Chloe Haggerty, Kim Lutton

19th Carol Koponen, David Lessel

20th Val Wise

23rd Sallie Farrell (83), Joyce Halter

24th Brian West

25th Sean Gordinier

26th Beth Bennetts, Karen Seaman, Lisa Stafford **29**th Alex (Martin) Turner, Denise Tretheway, Mixsy Trinidad, Charles Winter

30th Grace Coronado

31st Elizabeth Gilmour (86)



Anniversary Blessings

11th Valorie & Robert Foote (30)

17th Mary & Paul Manning (41)

23rd Mary & Shawn Rimmell

26th Carol & Tom Cerny (58)

29th Mary & David Strobe (45)



Greeters

						
	9:00am	11:00am				
12/01	Shirley Wheeler	Virginia Sullivan				
12/08	John Billings	Carol Cerny				
12/15	Becky Doran	Joy L Jan Billyard				
12/22	Raeanne Waisaner	i				
12/29	John Billings	Tom Cerny				
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



December 2024



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30p Youth		10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Yoga	<u>-</u>	10a Drop-in Bible Study	10a Men's Coffee	9:30a O.A Mtg 10a Yoga
Group	6p Mission Team	7p Worship & Arts Team	Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	5p Winterfest @ Physician's Park	7p Al Anon	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship	10a Zentangle 1p Garland St	10a Pastor @ Panera 10a Prayer Group	10a UWF Circle @ Gina's	10a Drop-in Bible Study Noon Seasoned	10a Men's Coffee	9:30a O.A. Mtg 10a Yoga
12:30p Confir- mation 2:30p Youth Group	Literary Club	10a Yoga	5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	Citizens 4p Fellowship Hall in use 6p Common Grace	7p Al Anon	7p Common Grace @ Crossroads Village
45	10	17	40	19	20	04
9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr	16	17 10a Pastor @ Panera	18 10a Prayer Shawl	10a Drop-in Bible Study	10a Men's Coffee	9:30a O.A. Mtg 10a Yoga
11a Worship 4p Youth Progressive Dinner	7p Finance Mtg			6:15p Common Grace @ Abbey Park	7p Al Anon	10a-8p SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING
	FISH CH	RISTMAS BASKI	T DISTRIBUTIO	IN FELLOWSH	P HALL	
9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 4p Children's Christmas Program	23	24 Office closes @ Noon No Pastor @ Panera 7p Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED 10a Men's Coffee 7p Al Anon	28 9:30a O.A. Mtg 10a Yoga
29 11a Worship (one service only)		31 Office closes @ Noon No Pastor @ Panera				

Giving Tree information via SignupGenius.com

Please help us provide gifts for children for Christmas this year.

You can visit <u>SignupGenius.com</u> (search for sign-ups created by office@grandblancumc.org) to select Christmas gifts for the following charities:

FISH Clothes Closet - Underwear and Socks for boys and girls,
Sweatpants and Jeans for boys, Unwrapped items can be left under the tree in the Sanctuary.

Ennis Center for Children (in Flint) - Hygiene products and Diapers. Unwrapped items can be left under the tree in the Sanctuary

UM Children's Village - \$20 (minimum) Gift Cards for AMC, Meijer, Target, McDonald's, Walmart, Amazon, and most Restaurants. Card should be placed in the folder on the desk in the church office.

Please have all items to the church no later than December 15. Thank you for supporting GBUMC's Giving Tree this year. We appreciate all you do to help us help out the children at Christmas!



2024 Advent and "In lieu of Poinsettias" Donations



This year we are supporting God's Country Cooperative Parish located in the Upper Peninsula (Newberry area) with the "Advent" offering (the pink envelope in your envelope box). God's Country serves families living at or below the federal poverty level. There is great need in this area due to limited employment opportunities, transient population, and usually long and harsh winters. Please support this worthwhile program. You can place the pink envelope in the offering plate at any time.

For "In lieu of Poinsettias" this year we will be supporting Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic in Haiti which provides in-patient and out-patient care for children and families with TB, HIV/ AIDS, respiratory infections, and follow-up care provided to those who cannot afford health care giving hope to children beyond their low life expectancy. The donation for "In lieu of Poinsettias" needs to be dropped off at the office with the form below by Sunday, December 15. We will not be ordering poinsettias this year but if you make a donation please designate in "memory of" or "honor of" using the form below and leave it with your check or cash in the GBUMC office.

Please give generously in this joyful Christmas season. THANK YOU!!

X		
Here's the information we ne		
Memory of		
(or)		
Honor of		
Given by:		
Amount given \$	Envelope #	

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

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

Special Office hours in December: December 24 Office closing @ Noon December 25-27 Office closed December 31 Office closing @ Noon

SPRC Announcement



It is our pleasure to introduce to you our newest staff member at Grand Blanc UMC, our new church custodian, Kimmy Sayers. While you may not see Kimmy at the church on a regular basis, as it's easier to clean when we're not all here, we hope that you will have an opportunity to welcome her to GBUMC at some point And when you do, you will find her to be delightful, kind, and reflective of the hospitality we take so

seriously here at GBUMC. Kimmy is excited to be here at GBUMC; we look forward to benefiting from her quality and most helpful work! Welcome, Kimmy!



Sunday, December 1

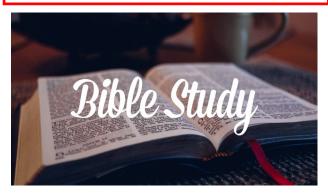
Darkest Nights Service here at GBUMC @ 6pm See the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

Sunday, December 22

Children's Christmas Program Presentation @ 4
Followed by dinner
ALL ARE WELCOME!
See the Christian Education page for more information.

Christmas Eve

Services @ 7pm & 11pm



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.

> December dates: December 5, 12, 19 @10am

Note: no class on December 26