

"Connection"

February 2

COMMUNION

4th Sunday after the

Epiphany

SERMON SERIES:

"My Real I.D."

"Who I Truly Am"

Ephesians 2: 8-10

Galatians 2: 20



February 9

5th Sunday after the

Epiphany

SERMON SERIES:

"My Real I.D."

"Friends in Christ"

John 15: 9-17

Galatians 2: 20



February 16

6th Sunday after the

Epiphany

SERMON SERIES:

"My Real I.D."

"Love, Hope & Grace"

Galatians 5: 13-25

Galatians 2: 20



February 23

7th Sunday after the

Epiphany

SERMON SERIES:

"My Real I.D."

"Enriching ALL Lives"

Galatians 3: 23-28

Galatians 2: 20

"Lions, Hyenas, and Peace...Oh My!"

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
-Isaiah 11:6-9

I recently learned what I assumed was useless trivia, until I realized how strangely familiar it is. Hyenas will hunt in packs, and when doing so, often have the same diet as the much hungrier and much stronger lion or lioness. In order to feast, one hyena will go after the lion's entrée, only to become the focus of the lion's rage. Needless to say, lions are not great at sharing. While the lion is distracted by the scapegoat hyena, the other pack members will enjoy what was once the lion's dinner.

Yes, you read that right. In order for the pack to eat, one hyena needs to sacrifice themselves to the lion. While, on one hand, that might sound noble, on the other hand, it's quite troubling. In this scenario, there is no real winner in the smorgasbord mess. The lion doesn't eat, at least one hyena loses its life, and the other hyenas, while sharing their new-found feast, question the decaying trust in their pack.

It's all a far cry from the vision Isaiah shares of God's kingdom.

Now, before we got into all of the wildlife drama, I mentioned that the whole thing stood out to me as being strangely familiar. It's not because I've witnessed it. Trust me, the only lions I've seen were behind thick glass at the Detroit Zoo, and they were most definitely sleeping. Rather, it seemed familiar because, so often in our world, we find ourselves thriving at the expense of another – some we know and some we don't. Sometimes we're the lion who is made to feel defensive of what we have and are afraid to lose. Sometimes we're the hyenas who benefit only when our neighbor fails. And sometimes, we're the hyena who is sacrificed by the pack. And, yes – sometimes we're the gazelle who wandered too far from the herd.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we find ourselves praying a prayer that invites God's kingdom to come "on earth as it is in heaven." We become like Isaiah, envisioning all of God's creation lying, living, and playing together. To be clear, this is not my advocacy for vegetarianism. I'm all for the circle of life, the food chain and such. What I'm getting at is that we need to strive for a world in which our neighbor can eat while we're still thriving. We need to desire to be, ourselves, a nation that can welcome the sojourner desiring a life of safety and prosperity, while we can enjoy the same. We need to advocate for a society in which mutual dignity and worth is not a zero-sum game in which some must lose for others to win. In other words, we need to join Isaiah in a dream wherein we can exist for one another, and not in spite of one another.

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
Gina Briscoe
Jim Bunker
Judy Burgess
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 Crawfis
Warren Crawfis
Cynthia Crawford
Mike Dunn
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
Vinnie Martinez
Lynne O'Brien
Leo Reubke
Charlene Rice
Phil Rice
James Ruthenberg
Paul Schultes
Ashley Schaffer
Bill Shier
Larry Smith
Eddie Snow
David Ware



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

~ Jason Billyard, who passed away on January 3. Jason is Jan Billyard's brother.

~ Darcie West, who passed away on January 4. Darcie is Brian West's mother.

~ Debra Clemetson, who passed away on January 7. Debra is Joy Billyard's sister-in-law.

~ Dick Hubler, who passed away on January 16.

~ Tom Cerny, who passed away on January 23. Tom's service will be held here at the church on Saturday, February 1 at 11am, with visitation beginning at 10am.

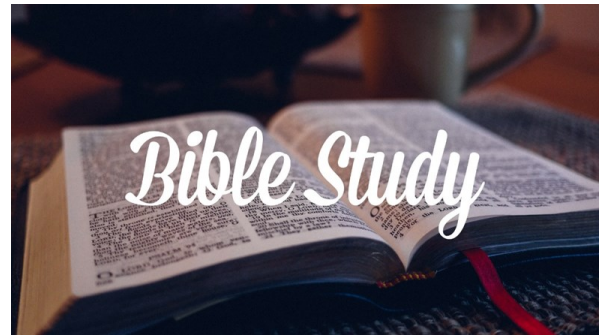
Ahoy!

Seasoned Citizens:

Please join us on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at noon for our monthly potluck and program with guest speaker, Mike Heberling. Mike will tell us all about the location, history and stories of

Shipwrecks in the Great Lakes.

Come and we'll explore our own Great Lakes together. Bring a friend!



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.

February dates:
February 6, 13, 20 & 27 @10am

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.**

February 2025 book pick: "Heroes in Black History: True Stories from the Lives of Christian Heroes" By: Dave & Neta Jackson

God is our #1 Valentine!!

His Love Is:



Vast

Amazing

Life-giving

Energizing

Nurturing

Tender

Infinite

Never-ending

Eternal



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.

Nursery volunteer Schedule:

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

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 february

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.

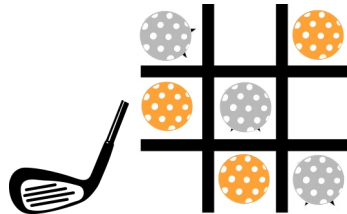
Sunday, February 2

Game Day!!



Beach Volleyball

Golf Tic Tac Toe



Cedar Point Trip
Planning!

Cedar Point

Sunday, February 16

Mystery Trip!

Parents please drop off and pick
up your youth at the church.

Sunday, February 23

Sunday Funday
with Jennifer!!

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!**

We serve a **FREE DINNER** every first Wednesday of the month from 5-

COMMUNITY DINNER

All are welcome!!!

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Pulled Pork Sliders, Mac & Cheese,



March 5, 2025

Pasta, Salad, Garlic Bread,
Dessert, Drinks

Consider joining us for the
Ash Wednesday Service
following dinner at 6:30 pm

Wed., April 2, 2025

Pancakes, Egg Cheese Casserole,

Looking Ahead...

Grand Blanc Community EXPO

Saturday, March 22, 2025

9-3 pm

This is wonderful day when Grand Blanc Businesses, Governmental Units, Non-Profits and more come together to share their wares with the community. It's festive and informative, there's food and prizes and giveaways galore. It's FREE and it's worth it!

Check out last years set-up and a couple of awesome volunteers. →

Advocacy Day is March 12 in Lansing at our State Capitol and this year's topic is the crisis in care resulting from the 2019 auto no-fault insurance changes in Michigan.

Advocacy Day Activities Include:

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

Learn more or **SIGN UP AT**

michiganumc.org/register-now-for-advocacy-day/

This year there is a challenge to make cars out of paper plates for an art display on the lawn of the State Capitol.

Watch for opportunities to make



Altar Flowers

- 02/02
 02/09 In honor of Jim & Val
 Wise's 9th Anniversary
 02/16
 02/23

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.

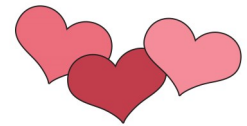


Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday Wishes

- 1st Dan Carvill
 2nd Luke Lock
 5th Cooper DeVos, Ryan DeVos,
 Sharne Scott (83)
 7th Ken Cottrell, Katie Lengyel
 9th Blakeley Cheney
 13th Ron Moleski
 14th Bennett Carlson
 16th Becky Anderson
 17th Hannah Dutton, Tony Hubler,
 Cathy Mitchinson
 18th Will Bigler, Sandi Russell
 19th Eleanor Hall (95)
 20th Lori DeVos

- 21st Zayden Briscoe, Barb Mills (87),
 Linda Reigle,
 David Skinner (87)
 23rd Dale Wolfram (82)
 25th Roma Corey (87)
 27th Brett Carte
 28th Aaron Cheney



Coffee Hour

- 02/02 Worship & Arts
 02/09 Education
 02/16 Staff Parish
 02/23 The West Family

Anniversary Blessings

- 14th Val & Jim Wise
 18th Laurie & Bob Tritten (41)

Greeters

- | | 9:00am | 11:00am |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 02/02 | <i>Shirley Wheeler</i> | <i>Virginia Sullivan</i> |
| 02/09 | <i>John Billings</i> | <i>Carol Cerny</i> |
| 02/16 | <i>Becky Doran</i> | <i>Joy & Jan Billyard</i> |
| 02/23 | <i>Raeanne Waisanen</i> | <i>Cathy Melkus</i> |



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

- 02/02 Virginia Sullivan, Carol Cerny
 02/09 Carol Capell, Jim Wise
 02/16 Dave Lessel, Carol Capell
 02/23 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore

As we close our financial books for 2024, it is always good to look back and see how everything shook out. Once again, your generosity throughout the year made all the difference. Through your generosity, we brought in a total of just more than \$326,000. When all was said and done, not only did our spending come in under budget due to mindful spending and creative ministry, we actually ended "in the black," so to speak, with a total General Fund balance of \$25,833. Together with our Mortgage Fund and Endowment Fund dividends, we are poised to continue our new year with the resources we need as your faithful generosity continues!

Another exciting detail is that our mortgage balance continues to decrease, as well, with a total remaining balance of \$90,586. We sure do look forward to being able to pay this remaining balance in the near future. If this goal is something you would like to help us achieve with an above-and-beyond gift to the Mortgage Fund, know that your additional donation would be welcome! And finally, we have been, once again, blessed by your pledges that allow us to have a healthy budget for the 2025 year of ministry. As we continue to take seriously our stewardship of the church's resources and your giving, we give thanks that you continue to trust us. God is good, all the time!

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
 Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 12-31-24) = \$25,833
 Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 12-31-24) = \$2,694

MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 12-31-24) = \$90,586



February 2025



						1 11a Memorial Service for Tom Cerny
2 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30p Youth Group	3 6p Mission Team 7p ACA	4 10a Yoga 7p Worship & Arts-Zoom	5 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Community Dinner 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	6 10a Drop-in Bible Study 6p Common Grace	7 7p Al Anon	8 10a Yoga
9 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30p Confirmation	10 10a Zentangle 7p Ad Council - Zoom 7p ACA	11 10a Yoga	12 10a Prayer Shawl 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	13 10a Drop-in Bible Study Noon Seasoned Citizens	14 7p Al Anon	15 10a Yoga
16 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship 12:30p Youth Group	17 7p Finance Mtg - Zoom 7p ACA	18 10a Yoga	19 10a Prayer Shawl 10a United Women of Faith 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	20 10a Drop-In Bible Study 6p Common Grace 7p Education Team-Zoom	21 7p Al Anon	22 10a Yoga
23 9a Worship 10a Sunday Sch & Coffee Hr 11a Worship Noon Chili Cook-off 12:30p Youth Group 12:30p New Member Class	24 7p ACA	25 10a Yoga	26 10a Prayer Shawl 5:30p Chancel Choir 6:30p Celebration Ringers	27 10a Drop-in Bible Study	28 7p Al Anon	

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



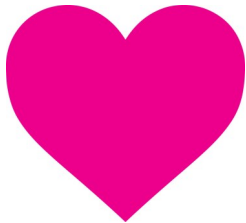
GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Be sure to check out
Pastor Brian's daily
devotionals on our
YouTube Channel:
Grand Blanc UMC

We hope you will also
"like & share!"



Next New Member Class

Sunday, February 23
12:30pm

Membership is about taking a meaningful
next step in your journey of faith

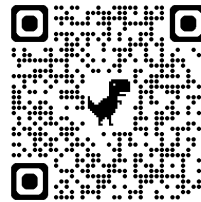
- Learn more about The United Methodist Church.
- Learn more about what it means to be a member of Grand Blanc United Methodist Church.

No Reservations Needed



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
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.



Chili Cook-off Sunday, February 23 following the 11am service

Monetary donations
accepted to benefit the
Community Care Fund

The GBUMC Community Care Fund is available to assist our neighbors who may
have fallen on hard times, financially. (Blessing Bags are part of this ministry.)