

THE TACKLEBOX

Dec 2025
Jan 2026

Magazine

Issue 6

*Merry
Christmas*



*Happy
New Year*



GRAND LAKE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME TO *Grand Lake*

At Grand Lake UMC, we believe that everyone belongs, regardless of where they are on their spiritual journey. We are here to welcome you with open arms and help you feel truly at home.

No matter your worship style, there's a place for you at Grand Lake:

Traditional Worship – 9:00 AM at St. Paul's

Contemporary Worship – 10:30 AM at St. Paul's

Blended Worship – 11:15 AM at Montezuma

Each service is designed to share the timeless truths of the Bible in a way that resonates with today's world. We are passionate about creating meaningful connections across all ages and life stages.

For families, we have you covered! Childcare and engaging children's programs are available during Worship at St. Paul's.

Come as you are - there is a place for you here at Grand Lake UMC.

For more information, call 419-586-6621, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.



Christmas Eve Schedule

Experience the wonder of Christmas Eve at Grand Lake

All services include candlelight.



5:00 PM Family Service (Praise Parties) St Paul's

5:30-6:30 PM - Community Christmas Meal in Fellowship Hall



7:00 PM Contemporary St Paul's



9:00 PM Traditional St Paul's

Nursery available for all services at St Paul's.



7:00 PM Blended Service Montezuma

On Sunday December 28 we will worship as one church family at 10:00am.

Nursery care will be provided for kids ages 0-3 years old. All other kids are invited to join us in worship in the sanctuary.

TACKELBOX

Updates

A few weeks ago, on Laity Sunday, Matt Salzmann reminded us that everything we have belongs to God and it is our responsibility to manage these resources to the best of our abilities. He used the phrase “Christian Efficiency” to help us better understand this Biblical truth. It is in this spirit of “Christian Efficiency” that we are working toward some changes in the way The Tacklebox is distributed. Our goal is to do less mailings and hard copy versions and encourage more use of the digital version via email, our website and the church app beginning with the February/March 2026 issue. We currently spend about \$3,000 per year on postage, paper, printing and labor for The Tacklebox and we’d love to be better stewards by using technology to cut that cost dramatically.

We realize that the digital version may not work for everyone, especially for those with limited Internet access. Don’t worry, hard copy versions will still be available for pick up at the church and be mailed to our homebound members. We ask for your patience and support as we make this transition to become better stewards of the resources we are given.

Note: If you’d like to have The Tacklebox emailed to you and are not already receiving it this way, please let the office know and you’ll be added to the email distribution list.

Thank You,
Church Staff

WEATHER

Policy

With snow and winter weather on the way, this is a good time to review our Wednesday Night Cancellation Policy. Our staff meets and makes a decision by 1:00 PM each Wednesday regarding cancellations. Please note:

- It’s all or nothing—either all Wednesday night activities continue, or all are canceled.
- Celina Schools closing does **not** automatically mean we are closed. We make our own decision based on conditions and safety.
- Any cancellations will be announced on Facebook, church website, and WCSM Radio.
- You may also call the church office for updates.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe this winter!

PASTORS

Page

Recently pastors Matt and Kyle helped chaperone a group of students from Celina High School (CHS) on a trip to New York City. I'm so glad those kids got to experience that and I'm glad Matt and Kyle were there to help lead and mentor them. I'm sure it was a life-changing experience for many of them. I know my mission trips to NYC in the past have certainly been life-changing for me.

Their trip has me reminiscing about some of my past trips. One experience that I'll never forget involved serving sandwiches and water on a hot summer day outside of the Salvation Army office in Harlem. We were asked to not only serve food, but also play music, read Scripture, and interact with everyone. One of our youth was a gifted musician, so he played keyboard and sang Christian songs out on the street for a couple of hours straight. I'll never forget the way one young Hispanic woman stood in front of him, mesmerized, almost in a trance, as he played and sang. You could tell the music was really affecting her. So much so that she didn't want to leave, even after the food and drinks were long gone. When we finally had to break the bad news to her that we were packing up and leaving, we were quite surprised to discover that she didn't speak English. She only spoke Spanish. But that didn't matter. The music seemed to transcend language, culture and any other barriers. It spoke to her even though she didn't know exactly what was being said.

I don't know why I was so surprised. I've experienced the transcendent power of music myself many times before. I've been blessed on multiple occasions at Annual Conference to hear kids' choirs from Africa singing in their native languages, and it was amazing. I may not have understood the words, but I loved watching them dance and listening to them sing. The music brought us together, bridging cultures and transcending language.

Again, I don't know why this surprised me. Growing up in the 80's, I enjoyed many chart-topping hits that had multiple verses and choruses in foreign languages. Songs like Der Komissar, 99 Luftballons, and Rock Me Amadeus all had significant portions sung in German; Lady Marmalade has a chorus in French; and La Isla Bonita has a lot of Spanish in it. I don't speak German, French or Spanish, but those songs are still on some of my Spotify playlists. Reminding me, once again, that music can transcend language.

I've probably been reflecting on this not so much because of a CHS trip to NYC, but more so because of all the controversy around the Spanish-speaking Puerto Rican musician Bad Bunny being selected as the halftime show headliner at this year's Super Bowl. People are losing their minds over this. And I'll admit, his music is not my cup of tea. (Yep, I'm old!) But he is one of the most popular musicians on the planet right now, at least among young people. So, I'm not surprised the NFL chose him as they seek to create new fans all around the world. It's the same reason they play NFL games in the UK, Germany, Brazil, Ireland, Spain, Mexico, and soon Australia. It's marketing. It's not about nationalism...it's about capitalism!

At the end of the day, I don't care if you watch the NFL Halftime Show, the newly created All American Halftime Show, or no halftime show at all. In all honesty, this is usually when I warm up my next batch of nachos, so I probably won't watch either. But whatever you choose, please choose, first and foremost, to be kind to those who choose differently than you. Because both sports and music have the power to transcend language, culture, and many other barriers, if we open our hearts and minds and let them. The choice is ours. We can choose to be friends, or we can choose to be enemies. I choose friendship. I hope you do too.

Your Friend in Christ,

Pastor Mick

SERMON *Series*

Our Advent sermon series this year is “Something’s Coming: Waiting, Wondering, Watching for God’s Surprise.” We’ll walk together through “the greatest story ever told” as we join Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, the Shepherds, and more in excitedly waiting and anticipating the coming of the Christ child.



The goal is to not just hear this familiar story again, but to actually enter into it in our own special way. Everyone will be invited to give \$1.00 (or more) each Sunday of Advent and on Christmas Eve for a special “Christmas Surprise.” Then, at the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service, we’ll unveil how these gifts will be used to show Christ to the world (if you think you know, don’t tell anyone and ruin their surprise). This will help us experience the true anticipation, expectation and excitement of Advent. Something’s Coming, and you won’t want to miss it. Until then, enjoy the season of Waiting, Wondering and Watching for God’s Surprise.

It’s wintertime in Ohio. The trees are bare. The skies are gray. The cold wind cuts through you like a



knife. And it gets dark before most people eat dinner. It’s no wonder so many people suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). But here’s the thing. God didn’t create us to live sad, miserable, dull, gray lives. Jesus said he came so we could have abundant life! Sometimes we just need to be reminded of that.

Join us beginning Sunday January 11, 2026 as we kick off a new six-week sermon series entitled “Life in Technicolor.” We’ll be studying the life of Joseph, with all his ups and downs. We’ll be reminded that God has a great plan for our lives, and even our most difficult seasons are jam-packed with opportunities, if only we have eyes to see them. So if you’re feeling a little SAD, and the gray skies have you feeling down, come and hear the story of Joseph and learn to live “Life in Technicolor.”

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

Notes

Angel Tree 2025

Since 2005, Angel Tree has brought Christmas joy to children in our community by providing gifts for families in need. Starting in early November, Angel Trees will be set up at the Connection Centers at both campuses. Simply take a tag, purchase the gift listed, and return it unwrapped to the church by Sunday, December 7. We will gather for a special time of prayer over the gifts before they are delivered. Why unwrapped? This allows parents the joy of “shopping” for their own children and wrapping the gifts with love! If you would like to help with sorting (December 10–11) or wrapping (December 12), please connect with Matt O. Remember, it’s not about the number of gifts, but the thoughtfulness and quality of what we give. Thank you for helping us share the love of Jesus with children and families this Christmas season!

Live Nativity – Volunteers Needed!

Step into the Christmas story this year at our Live Nativity during the Merry & Bright Christmas Lights at the Mercer County Fairgrounds on Thursday, December 18, and Friday, December 19, from 6:00–9:00pm.

We need volunteers of all ages to serve as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, and more. Costumes are provided—no acting experience required! Sign up on the church website/app or by scanning the QR code. Help us share the true meaning of Christmas with our community!



Light the Advent Wreath

This Advent season, you are invited to take part in the cherished tradition of lighting the Advent wreath during worship. Each candle—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—reminds us of the gifts Christ brings and leads us closer to celebrating His birth. Individuals, families, and groups of all ages are welcome to participate. No experience is needed—just a willingness to share in this simple but powerful act of worship. Sign up through the church website/app or by scanning the QR code, and choose the Sunday that works best for you.



NEW *Members*



Becky Snyder



**Dylan & Mackanzi
Cummins**



Jimmy McCoy



**Diane Wilczynski
and
Kathy Andrest**



**Tyler & Rachael
Salyer**

CALENDAR

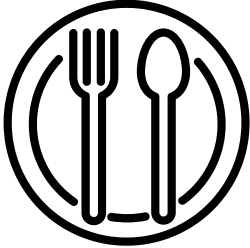
Highlights

January

20 - Trustees, 7:00pm, Room 605

27 - Finance Meeting, 6:30pm, Room 201-202

29 - Ad Council Meeting, 6:30pm, Room 216-217



COMMUNITY CARRY-IN

Dinner

Sunday, December 14 & January 11
at the Montezuma Campus at 12:30pm

Good Food, Family Fun, and Fellowship! Main Dish will be provided.

- December - Soup & Sandwich
- January - Breakfast Brunch

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



December is such an exciting time for the children at school! The anticipation of the upcoming holidays fills our days with fun. We spend the month focusing on all of the wonderful aspects of Christmas and baby Jesus. The children make Christmas projects and a special Christmas surprise for their parents, which some find hard to keep a secret! We are so thankful for this time of year that we can spend together with our friends and families. In January, we start the new year off by doing a variety of winter activities with the children. With the cold weather and snow outside, we spend time working on projects involving icicles, mittens, snowmen and ice fishing. Just a reminder that registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens on December 8th for members of Grand Lake UMC. Registration will be online this year. Please visit the office to get a flyer with the QR code. Thank you.

WEDNESDAY *Supper*

4:45-6:00pm
\$4/Person - \$10/Family

December 3 - Circle of Grace - Serving

BROASTED CHICKEN , MASHED POTATOES,
VEGETABLE, SALAD, COOKIES

December 10 - Youth - Serving

SLOPPY JOES, HOT DOGS, BAKED BEANS,
POTATO CHIPS, APPLE CRISP, SALAD

December 17 - Kids - Serving

CREAMED CHICKEN SANDWICH, FRENCH
FRIES, PEAS, COOKIES, SALAD

December 24 - NO SUPPER

December 31 - NO SUPPER

January 7 - Sanctus Choir - Serving

PULLED PORK SANDWICH, MACARONI &
CHEESE, SALAD, DESSERT

January 14 - Staff - Serving

CHILI SOUP & VEGETABLE SOUP, HOT DOGS,
POTATO CHIPS, SALAD, CAKE

January 21 - Youth - Serving

CHICKEN ALA KING, SALAD, DESSERT

January 28 - Mike, Mark & Women's Group - Serving

FRENCH TOAST, HOTCAKES, EGG
CASSEROLE, SAUSAGE, FRUIT COCKTAIL,
APPLESAUCE, SALAD

PEOPLE *Count*

October 2025

Date	Attendance	Giving
10/5/2025	241	\$10,070
10/12/2025	273	\$10,421
10/19/2025	351	\$12,033
10/26/2025	271	\$11,806
AVERAGE	284	\$11,082

November 2025

Date	Attendance	Giving
11/2/2025	394	\$29,679
11/9/2025	347	\$15,683
11/16/2025	279	\$11,689
11/23/2025	330	\$8,854
11/30/2025	----	----
AVERAGE	337	\$16,476

2025 Weekly Amount Needed: \$12,046

SOUPER BOWL

Order Form

Sunday, February 8, 2026 9:30am - 12:00pm
Carry-Out Orders Only

Paid orders are due by **February 2**

\$10/Quart (Includes Bread)

Turn in the form to the office or the offering plate.

Payment should be made to Grand Lake United Methodist Church.

Please memo your check "Souper Bowl"

You can also place an order on our website/app!

Soup

Quarts

Chicken Cheese by CJ's Highmarks

Chili by Mark Armstrong

Name: _____

Phone: _____



All profits support the Call Backpack Program

DECEMBER

Servants

Sanctuary Greeters @ 9:00am

7 Kathy & Tom Kimmel
14 Vicki & Larry Gossett
21 Gena & Phil Bittner
28 Connie Allen, Angie Jaegar,
Terri Shinn

Lobby Greeters @ 9:00am

7 Jackie & Don Patch
14 Diane & Glenn Twigg
21 Scott Miller family
28 Scott Miller family

Lobby Greeters @ 10:30am

7 Youth
14 Jocelyn & Nathan Meyer
21 Kelly Wenning & Kelly Westgerdes
28 Pat Jones

Acolyte's @ 9:00am

7 Maezee Bonifas
& Emmy Schweiterman
14 Gabby Howell
21 Ella & Aiden Snyder

Preschool @ 9:00am

7 Derek & Lexi Waterman
14 Andrew & Alyssa Goodwin
21 Jayda Overman

Brianna's Hope Meal

2 Devon & Don Willey
9 Robyn & Mark Armstrong
16 Women's Group
23 House of Hope

Communion Servants @ 9:00am

Altar Scott Miller
Balcony Frank Snyder
Pews Lynn & Rick Krogman
Alyssa & Andrew Goodwin

Ushers @ 9:00am

7 Dale Moorman
14 Scott Miller
21 Vickie McGee Family
28 Mike Salyer

Ushers @ 10:30am

The Pennington Family

10:00am Check In

7 Jocelyn Meyer
14 Beth Overman
21 Carolyn Pancake

Preschool @ 10:30am

7 Laura Wilson
14 Morgan Triplett
21 Laura Wilson

School Age @ 10:30am

7 Ashley Pennington
14 Traci Robbins
21 Katie Nixon

Jam Leader

7 Patrick Overman
14 Renee Randall
21 Norma Carolus

JANUARY

Servants

Sanctuary Greeters @ 9:00am

4 Stacy Sanders
11 Connie Allen, Angie Jaegar,
Terri Shinn
18 Vicki & Larry Gossett
25 Laura & Steve Billger

Lobby Greeters @ 9:00am

4 Laura & Steve Billger
11 Jackie & Don Patch
18 Sage & Rhen Carpenter
25 Lori & Mike Salyer

Lobby Greeters @ 10:30am

4 Youth
11 Kathy & Todd Smith
18 Kelly Wenning & Kelly Westgerdes
25 Pat Jones

Acolyte's @ 9:00am

4 JD & Russell Giesige
11 Joey & Elliot McGee
18 Addison Bretz & Maezee B
25 Emmy Schweiterman

Preschool @ 9:00am

4 Jayda Overman
11 Kayliann Howell
18 Scott & Megan Miller
25 John & Jess Opdycke

Brianna's Hope Meal

6 Devon & Don Willey
16 Robyn & Mark Armstrong
20 Women's Group
27 House of Hope

Communion Servants @ 9:00am

Altar Scott Miller
Balcony Frank Snyder
Pews Lori & Mike Salyer
Lexi & Derek Waterman

Ushers @ 9:00am

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25 Scott Miller

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The Pennington Family

10:00am Check In

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25 Charlie Overman

Preschool @ 10:30am

4 Laura Wilson
11 Morgan Triplett
18 Laura Wilson
25 Morgan Triplett

School Age @ 10:30am

4 Ashley Pennington
11 Traci Robbins
18 Katie Nixon
25 Ashley Giesige

Jam Leader

4 Charlie Overman
11 Casey Schweiterman
18 Renee Randall
25 Lisa Snyder

UPCOMING *Events*



🎄 **Women's Christmas Celebration** 🎄

Join us for an evening of joy, fellowship, and Christmas cheer! Come celebrate the season together as we enjoy uplifting music, meaningful devotion, delicious snacks, and lots of fun — including our Secret Sister Reveal and a Gift Exchange for all!

Date: Monday, December 8, 2025

Time: 6:00pm

Location: The Greenhouse

Evening Highlights:

- * Secret Sister Reveal - Participants will finally discover who's been blessing them all year!
- * If you're a Secret Sister and cannot attend, please bring your final reveal gift to the church beforehand. Include a note revealing your identity!
- * Gift Exchange (for non-participants) - Didn't join Secret Sisters this year? No problem! Bring a \$15 gift to exchange with another guest.
- * Food & Fellowship - Bring a finger food or snack to share.
Drinks will be provided.

RSVP by December 6, 2025

Please register through the church office, website, or church app.

Bring a friend and come ready to celebrate the season of hope and joy with other women of faith.

Let's make this Christmas unforgettable—together!

Upcoming Event!

February 2026 – A craft night is coming! Watch for details in future publications!

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Psalm 126: 3

UPCOMING *Events*



This Party Is Not Just For Kids!!!

2nd Annual All-Church Birthday Party!

12 Months, 1 Church, Endless Celebration!

It's time to celebrate YOU!



Our church family is gathering once again for our 2nd Annual All-Church Birthday Party. Everyone will sit with others who share the same birth month and enjoy a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, cake & ice cream, music, and games. Whether you're a January baby or a December one, this is your chance to celebrate your special day with your whole church family!

Date: Saturday, January 10

Time: from 12:00 to 2:00pm

Location: Fellowship Hall

Don't miss out on this joyful tradition—because birthdays are better when we celebrate them together.

Upcoming Winter Study: Every Thought Captive

Join us beginning Wednesday, January 7th at 6:00pm in room 201 for a five-week study on Kyle Idleman's *Every Thought Captive: How Renewing Your Mind Can Change Your Life*. This study invites us to take an honest look at the thoughts that shape our daily lives. A great way to start the New Year!

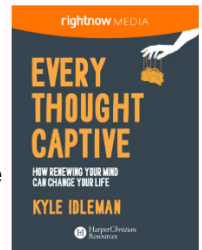
Are your thoughts leading you toward transformation or conformity?
Do they build you up—or tear you down?

Are they drawing you closer to God—or pulling you away?

This is not a study on positive thinking or how you have the power to change your life—but about learning how God made your brain.

A book and study guide are available, but are not required.

Contact Connie Davis for more information, 419.236.1049 or csdavis67@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY

Groups

MONTHLY GROUPS

Monthly Women's Group – This group meets monthly, from 7:00-9:00pm. The group is studying Romans. Each meeting date is decided at the prior month's meeting. If you are interested in joining the group, please get in touch with Robyn Sheets. Contact: Robyn Sheets (419-790-3092 or rrsheets58@yahoo.com)

SUNDAY GROUPS

Circle of Grace: 10:15am, Rooms 201-202. This adult class is open to anyone looking for a place to study Bible truths. They are will be doing an Advent Study called "The Wonder of Christmas" by Jarrett Stephens on RightNow Media and then go into "Why Do We Need the Bible" by Lisa Harper on RightNow Media. All are welcome to join this class!
Contact: Robyn Armstrong (419-856-7044 or robynarms89@gmail.com)

Serendipity: 10:15am, Room 217. This adult group is open to men and women. They are studying "Excavating the Evidence for Jesus - for Christmas" by Dr. Titus Kennedy on RightNow Media. All are welcome!
Contact: Sandy Snyder (419-586-6537 or sandy@snydercity.com)

Men's Ministry: 2nd & 4th Sundays - 5:00pm in the Greenhouse. They are studying, "Every Thought Captive: How Renewing Your Mind Can Change Your Life" by Kyle Idleman, which is also found on RightNow Media. All men are invited!
Contact: Nathan Meyer (419-733-8372 or nmeyer888@gmail.com)

TUESDAY GROUP

Otterbein Group: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 12:30pm in the Prayer Room off the Commons Entryway at the Otterbein Senior Living Center, St. Marys.
The group is studying the Epistle of James.
Contact: Pastor Dean Bachelor (740-746-9151 or bachelor.dean5@gmail.com)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2: 6-7

WEDNESDAY GROUPS

Bible Study for Men & Women at Montezuma: 10:00-11:30am. They will embark on a study on the Old Testament Book of Isaiah by Kyle Martin on RightNow Media. This is a minimum of 36 weeks, so there is not just commitment, but a desire to see how this Old Testament prophet's revelation of God's Word applies to us in our day and age.

Contact: Pastor Dean Bachelor (740-746-9151 or bachelor.dean5@gmail.com)

Ladies Bible Study: This group meets in the Mercer County Library basement. It will continue the study "Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today." They meet every Wednesday morning except the second Wednesday of the month. All women are invited. Contact: Barb Painter (419-852-0695 or barbpainter13@gmail.com)

Wednesday Night for Women's Bible Study: 6:00-7:30pm in Room 606. They will be working on a community service project in December and deliver those to area nursing homes on December 17th. Starting in January we will do a Worship Song Study followed by the study "Who Are You Following" by Sadie Robertson Huff. All women are welcome to join this group.

Contact: Lori Salyer (419-852-6427 or salyer.lori@gmail.com)

Wednesday Night Community Group: 6:00-7:30pm in Room 216. They will be studying The Chosen Season 5. Anyone who'd like to join, call/text 740-746-9151 so study guides can be ordered. We enjoy lots of Q & A discussion.

Contact: Pastor Dean Bachelor (740-746-9151 or bachelor.dean5@gmail.com)

THURSDAY GROUPS

Women's Community Group at Montezuma: 1:00-2:30pm. This is a "Band Meeting" where prayer and the asking of the "5 Band Meeting Questions" provide the guidelines. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance.

Contact: Jan Bachelor (740-652-4381 or jannieb1953@gmail.com)

Bible Study for Men & Women on James: 6:00-7:30pm at the Bachelor's home (566 E. Livingston St., Celina). They will be studying The Chosen. The next subject matter will be announced. Anyone who'd like to join, call/text 740-746-9151 so study guides can be ordered. We enjoy lots of Q & A discussion.

Contact: Pastor Dean Bachelor (740-746-9151 or bachelor.dean5@gmail.com)

Communications Update!

There is a lot happening at Grand Lake, and we want every event to be communicated clearly and effectively! To help us do that, we need your partnership.

In the coming weeks, please watch for information about a new Event Form. We will ask that this form be completed **8-10 weeks in advance** for any event at Grand Lake. This will help our office and staff make sure everything is prepared, supported, and communicated well.

Thank you for helping us stay organized and connected as we continue to **grow** in ministry!

matthew25

PROJECT



C.A.N. (Caring About Neighbors) Donations

December 7:

St. Paul's: canned meats or soups, in addition to canned goods

Montezuma: shampoo

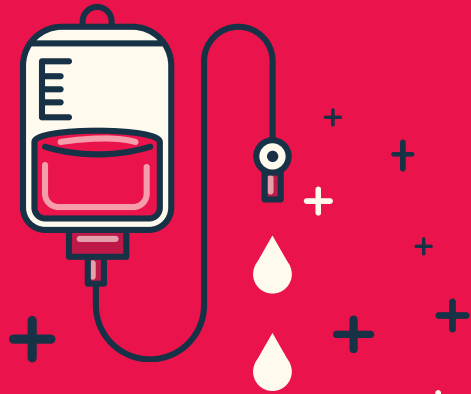
January 4:

St. Paul's: Kids drinks and snacks, in addition to canned goods

Montezuma: bath soap

C.A.L.L. (Community Action Life Line) items may be brought into

St. Paul's Lobby and Montezuma's Commons on the above dates.



The best "gift" is the
life-saving gift of
saving up to 3 lives.

+ DONATE +
+ BLOOD +
+ +

+ Tuesday +
Dec. 23
11:30 am - 5:30 pm

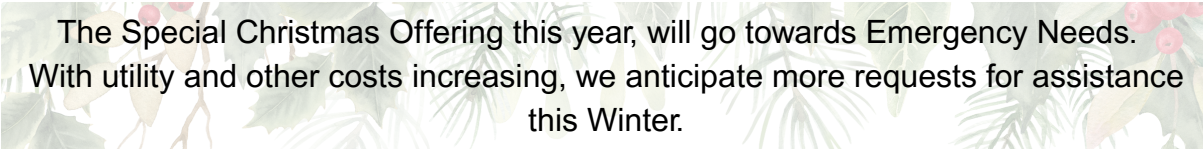
Blood Drive Coordinator @ Grand Lake Needed!



Matthew 25 Updates

The last C.A.L.L. Cafe for 2025 was November 11, when 47 guests were served a hot meal by GLUMC. Thanks to those who prepared meals through-out the year, who served, who had clean-up duty, and all who donated desserts and other items. The attendees are thankful for a hot meal and fellowship.

Matthew 25 was able to support numerous missionaries and causes over the last few months to included Randy Christian with Saving One Lost Sheep (SOLS), Choosing Life Pregnancy Center, India Mission Fund in memory of Sheila Sundersingh, Good Works, The Schwartz Family, Christ Faith Home for Children, GROW and the Overholt's with World Gospel Mission, as well as monies given to CALL Food Pantry to be used for SNAP recipient's during the Government shut-down.



The Special Christmas Offering this year, will go towards Emergency Needs. With utility and other costs increasing, we anticipate more requests for assistance this Winter.

Thank you from the Good Works Team

We had a wonderful mission trip to Good Works on September 19-20. Those who went were Ruby Garcia, Ryan Rupert, Gaven Buschur, Cody Bonifas, Bob Kelly, Pastor Mick Whistler, Leon Pancake, and Carolyn Pancake—each had a rewarding experience. We prepared and shared a nice meal with the community on Friday Night. Saturday, we participated in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative.

Thank you GLUMC for the \$375 donation, we were able to build a stone hunting trail and blind for a wheelchair-bound gentleman, whom Good Works has assisted for over 15 years. We worked in the garden—pulling weeds from the greenhouse, watering perennials, planting greens, and spreading manure.

Additionally, a new initiative to visit shut-ins has begun, and we have already visited two neighbors.

Thank you, Grand Lake family, for the much-needed pantry items. We were able to stock their shelves for the needs of the community and Timothy House. We look forward to going back next year. Watch for the 2026 dates in the upcoming months.



Vacation Bible School 2026: Rainforest Falls!

June 14–18, 2026 6:00–8:30pm (Preschool dismisses at 8:15pm)

Get ready to explore the wild, wonderful nature of God at this year's Vacation Bible School: Rainforest Falls! Kids will venture deep into a vibrant rainforest where Bible stories come to life, faith grows, and God's love is discovered around every corner. **Important note: This year's VBS moves to June, a shift from our usual July schedule—so mark your calendars now!**

Stay tuned for registration details, volunteer opportunities, and ways you can help bring Rainforest Falls to life. It's going to be an unforgettable adventure!



Wednesday Night Updates

We will **NOT** be having our usual dinner or activities on December 24 or 31. Everything resumes on January 7.

Kids Take Over the Kitchen!

Get ready for fun, food, and lots of smiles as our Kids Serve Dinner!

Join us on **December 17 and February 11** as our awesome kids roll up their sleeves, head into the kitchen, and help serve dinner to our church family. Meet in the kitchen anytime between 4:45–5:45pm and jump into the fun! Come cheer them on as they learn how serving others can be deliciously joyful!



Nerf Night 2026!



Get ready to dodge, dash, and have a blast! Our annual Nerf Night Party is back and it's going to be epic! Join us on **Friday, March 6, 2026 from 6:00–7:30pm** at the PBS Building at the Mercer County Fairgrounds for an evening packed with friendly battles, laughter, and high-energy fun. Bring your friends, bring your best aim, and get ready for a night you won't forget. This event is totally FREE! Let the Nerf wars begin!



Family Game Night!

Get ready for a night of fun, laughter, and friendly competition—Family Game Night is happening on **Friday, January 23 at 6:00pm!** We'll have tons of card games, board games, and plenty of pizza for everyone to enjoy. **Please bring your own drinks to help keep things simple.** Come as a family, come with friends, or come ready to make new ones. Bring your favorite game—or jump into one when you arrive! This event is FREE and open to all ages. Let's play!

Kids Night Out – Valentine’s Edition!

Parents, enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy a night of FUN! Join us for Kids Night Out on **Friday, February 13 from 6:00–9:00pm**

This special Valentine’s edition is open to children ages 0–4th grade and includes:

 Dinner

 A Valentine craft

 A movie

 Lots of fun with friends!

Cost: \$5 per child and spots are limited, so be sure to sign up on the app, website, or by scanning the QR code. Give yourself a break—and give your kids a night they’ll LOVE! ❤️

Praise Party Updates: Kids Leading in Worship!

Our kids are bringing joy, movement, and music to worship this season—and we couldn’t be more excited to celebrate all the ways they are sharing their gifts!

Gospel Groovers (Dance)

Gospel Groovers dance team will join the Praise Team on **Sunday, December 21 at 10:30am**. They’ll also be dancing again on **Christmas Eve at 5:00pm**, helping lead us into the celebration of Christ’s birth. And mark your calendars—they’ll be back in worship on **January 25** as well!

Impact Band (Bucket Drums)

The Impact Band will be playing with the Praise Team on **Sunday, December 14 at 10:30AM**, and again on **Christmas Eve at 5:00PM**. These young musicians continue to grow in talent and confidence as they lead us in worship.

Serve Kids

On **Christmas Eve at 5:00pm**, our Serve Kids are invited to join in greeting and ushering—another beautiful way they are learning to serve and share Christ’s love with our church family. **Thank you for encouraging and supporting our kids as they grow in faith, worship, and leadership. Their energy and joy truly make every service a praise party!**

Other Upcoming Events

2/18/26 - Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00pm

3/8/26 - Poptarts & PJ’s (Time Change)

3/29/26 Palm Sunday - Kids sing at both worship

4/5/26 - Easter

4/15/26 - Kids Serve Dinner

5/8/26 - Kids Night Out - Mothers Day

5/13/26 - Last Wednesday Night

5/17/26 - Spring Carnival

6/19/26 - Pool Party 5:30-7:30pm

7/12/26 - Pool Party 8:00-10:00pm

8/16/26 - Pool Party 5:30-7:30pm

*Mark
your
Calendar*



SUNDAYS

First Sunday of the Month: Prepare Communion at 10:00am in the kitchen

Door greeters at 10:15am in the lobby

Serve Communion at the 10:30am service

Rest of the month: Sunday School 10:00-10:30am in the Lounge, room 213

WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

6:00-7:30pm in the Greenhouse

December 3: Advent stations, decorate the Greenhouse for Christmas

December 10: Servant Skill: make peanut brittle

December 17: Christmas Party

December 24, 31: no Youth Group

January 7: regular Youth Group resumes with a new series: *How to be a bad friend*.

What does it mean to be a good friend? Perhaps the best way to figure out the answer to that question is to look at what makes a bad friend, and then do the exact opposite! In this four-week series, a combination of Scripture and reverse-psychology sarcasm is used to look at four real ways the typical teen fails their friend.

SPECIAL EVENTS

December 19-20: Live Nativity*. Youth are encouraged to staff the 7:15-9:15pm shift on the 20th but you can serve any time.

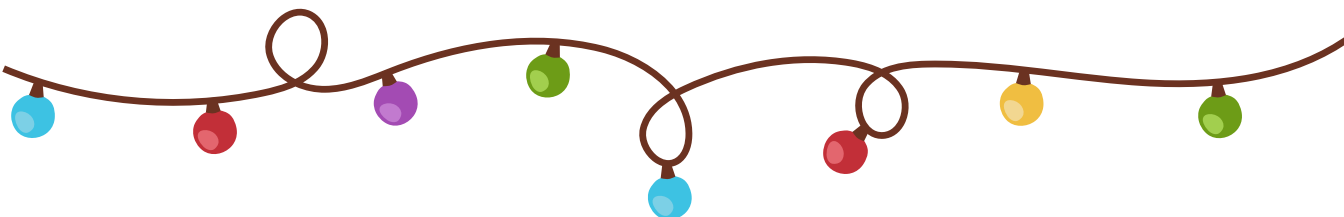
January 18: 3:00-7:00pm Temple Run game*. A combination of hide & seek and a scavenger hunt, players will get to run all over the church to solve a Biblical puzzle, just watch out for the guards!



* Event signup required.
See the Youth page of the
website or church app.



YOUNG ADULT *Happenings*



DECEMBER

CLIFTON MILL

Saturday, December 13th

We will leave the church parking lot at 2:30pm.

We will also be stopping for dinner together.

Cost is \$15 per person.



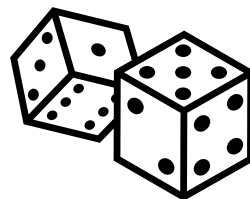
JANUARY

GAME NIGHT

January 16th @ 5:00pm

Bring your favorite board game to play!

Snacks will be provided!



We're a group of young people who believe life after high school is just getting started. It's all about finding real connections, growing in faith, and having a lot of fun along the way.

We've got some great events coming up and plenty of chances to get involved. Come hang out, meet new friends, and be part of something that's making a difference.

Your next chapter starts here—come join us!

LOVE *& Sympathy*

- Family and friends of Robert “Sam” or “Bob” Shinn, who passed away 9-19-25. Wife, Terri, Daughters, Andrea (David) Green and Jessica (John) Opdycke, grandchildren, Andi and Sutton Opdycke.
- Family and friends of Joanne Burkholder, who passed away 10-15-25. Daughter, Angie Smith.
- Family and friends of Robert Schoen, who passed away 11-1-25. Son, Lawrence (April) Schoen, grandchildren, Tori (Cordell) Hunt, Jenny and Josh Schoen.
- Family and friends of William “Bill” Youngs who passed away 11-7-25. Sister, Kathy (Steve) Kuhn.



PRAISES

- Baptism of Ophelia Jane McCoy on 10-19-25. Parents, Jimmy McCoy and Anji Oksa, siblings, Joseph and Scarlet.
- Newly commissioned Care Partners: Carolyn Pancake, Buzz Keck, Nancy Keck
- Praises lifted for all the dedicated, faithful, and selfless servants within our church family: We want to pause and offer our deepest gratitude and admiration for all that you do. Your generosity of time, talent, and spirit is a direct reflection of God's love, and it helps make our church a true home for everyone who walks through our doors.

Thank You

- Thank you to the church team (Helping Hands) that helped us with repairs and winterizing our home. - Betty Smith and Mike Smith
- From Matt 25:
Thank you so much for your donation to the Coldwater Drama Department. Your generosity is truly appreciated and put to good use! Thank you, Coldwater Drama Dept.
- On behalf of Parkway Local Schools, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your generous \$100 donation to support our Theater and Music Program. We are truly thankful for your partnership and generosity. With appreciation, Laura Young - Superintendent
- Thank you to each of you who contributed to make this year's Election Dinner a huge success—whether by volunteering your time, donating items, helping set up or clean up, promoting the event, or simply showing up with a spirit of service. Because of your generous efforts and faithful commitment, our election dinner raised \$2455 that will enable us to help cover school fees for many children in need. Your willingness to serve and your heart for our community made a REAL difference. This kind of teamwork—from our entire church family—brings light into our local community and reflects the heart of Christ's love in action. I believe that the children and families who benefit from the fees support will feel seen, valued, and uplifted because you cared enough to get involved.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Celina

Narcotics Anonymous

Mondays, 7:30-9:00pm

Grand Lake Fellowship Hall, 119 E Fulton St

Contact Bonnie Vorhees at 419-790-4774

A Better Life, Brianna's Hope

Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30pm

Grand Lake Fellowship Hall, 119 E Fulton St

Contact Kim Winans at 419-733-7079

Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm or Saturdays, 7:00-8:00pm

Jabez House, 127 E Fulton St

Contact the Central Office at 937-222-2211

Celina (cont'd)

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)

Mondays 8:30-9:30am or Mondays 12:30-1:30pm

Grand Lake Fellowship Hall, 119 E Fulton St

Contact the church office at 419-586-6621

Montezuma

Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm

GLUMC MZ - 40 South High St, Montezuma

contact Susan H. @ 419-953-7012

Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30pm

GLUMC MZ - 40 South High St, Montezuma

Contact the Central Office at 937-222-2211

BIRTHDAYS

December

1	Kelly Roukas	19	Adelynn Reilly
	Jodi Schoen	21	Mary Larmore
	Charlotte Gudorf		Deanna Wagner
2	Kaden Murlin		Brooke Swaney
	Jak Steinbrunner	22	Marilyn Giere
	Kylie Gudorf		Elizabeth Houts
	Myrna Wolfe		Luke Sheets
3	Jim Ross	23	Chad Altstaetter
	Bayleigh Huston		Coral Naylor
4	Logan Patterson		Harper Post
	Remy Salzmänn		Levi Faller
5	Dianna McCullough	24	Allison Hoyng
6	Ethan Pond		Todd Hoyng
	Carley Fennig		Jimmy McCoy
	Wyatt Carpenter	25	J. D. Giesige
	Beau Miller	26	Janet McGee
	Erin Houser		Matt Stetler
	Stan Rockey		Maezee Bonifas
	Mackenzie Randall	27	Landon Bonifas
7	Renee Whistler	28	Joanne Foulkes
8	Mark Fleck		Claire Sheets
	Zaxton Randolph		Jenny Tester
	Anji Oksa		Lily Westgerdes
9	Lori Murlin		Jaxson Wellman
	Craig Riesen		Knox Young
	Renee Randall		Rachael Salyer
11	Ruthann Eichenauer	29	Ron Green
	Sharon LaRue		Eva Will
12	Carol Smith		Ellie Rolfes
	Kailee Ross		Stefanie Davis
13	Callie Gudorf	30	Cherish Hartings
15	Doug Miesse		Josh Pierstorff
	Bill Sieber		Jadyn Zimmerly
	Chloe Kundtz		Gunner Font
	Owen Nixon		Scarlet Stanelle
16	Ally Gialdini	31	Jessie Luth
	Haylee Gzula		Cindy Ontrop
17	Susy DeLaet		Emily Swaney
	Jonathan Williams		Mykal Moell
	Ethan Bruce		Makynna Moell

BIRTHDAYS

January

1	Kelsey Johns McCoy Post	15	Todd Smith Jack Westgerdes Teresa Byers Jenny Schoen
2	Mike Salyer Aryanna Howell	16	Kalib Hurley Carol Irmischer Maybelle Jackson P. Suzanne Murlin
4	RJ Patterson Nancy Keck Bob Huffman	17	Melissa Pennington Kingsley McKirnan Micaela Fortkamp Aisha Schoen Betty Bowsher
5	Margie Bentley Ken Doner Bensen Cotterman	18	Merlee Heckathorn Derek Howell
6	Ann Colvin Myri Moell	19	Eddie Tobin
7	Tom Pottkotter Breckin Scott	21	Taryne Barger Dyanna Huston
8	Nicole Shaffer Landon Wolfe Ethan Laffin	22	Eli Schlater Roxy Lyon
9	Rachel Russell Leah Salzmann Andi Opdycke	23	Rachel Fortman Dale Golden Rik Murlin Kabe Eichenauer
10	Steve Fortman Cheryl Lipp Kyle Strohl Ethan Swaney Gracen Williams Corey Nixon	24	Robyn Armstrong Kim Fortkamp Lisa Gilleo
11	Morgan Gilstrap Paige Duncan Kaylenn Williams	25	Tod McKirnan
12	Jenny Johnides Marilyn Oman Ava Dobmeyer Diane Wilczynski	26	Ray Kramer Markus Overman Sutton Opdycke Vikki Howard Karen Wisenborn
13	Kendyll Steinbrunner Mindy Sudhoff Tori Hunt	27	Kathy Andrest
14	Stacey Gibbons Rick Krogman Joyce Smith Jared Zimmerly Nancy Florence	28	Talen Laffin Don Patch Kamden Heindel
15	Craig LeMasters Rita Linton	29	Rex Spencer Aaron Bowsher
		30	John Garbig Pam Riesen Betsy Woeste Braelyn McKirnan

Office Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday Phone: (419) 586-6621

Website: www.grandlakechurch.org

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Pastor of Discipleship & Outreach - moverman@grandlakechurch.org - Pastor Matt Overman
Preaching Pastor at Montezuma - khouts@grandlakechurch.org - Pastor Kyle Houts
Director of Youth Ministry - rsnyder@grandlakechurch.org - Ryan Snyder
Building Manager - bpennington@grandlakechurch.org - Brad Pennington
Office Manager - sdavis@grandlakechurch.org - Stefanie Davis
Financial Secretary - asnyszer@grandlakechurch.org - Amber Snyder
Church Treasurer - mmiller@grandlakechurch.org - Megan Miller
Organist - czimmerman@grandlakechurch.org - Carol Zimmerman
Praise Team Coordinator - praiseteam@grandlakechurch.org - Dustin Schwieterman
Lead Sound Technician - kwiehe@grandlakechurch.org - Ken Wiehe
Lead Media Technician - swinans@grandlakechurch.org - Steve Winans
Church Nursery Ministry Coordinator - rwiehe@grandlakechurch.org - Roni Wiehe
Church Nursery Caregivers - Lily Westgerdes, Roxy Lyon & Alicia Teeters
A.M. Custodian - Angie Smith
Director of Creative Discovery Preschool - csapp@grandlakechurch.org - Cassie Sapp



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