



# "Connection"

## "Consecrated, Lord To Thee"

January 4

Epiphany

"Fear Doesn't Stop Us"

Sermon Series: "What Do You Fear?"

Matthew 2: 1-12, 16-18,

January 11

Baptism of the Lord

*Creation: "I Know Therefore I Suffer"*

Genesis 3: 1-20

Revelation 13: 1-8

January 18

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the

Epiphany

*God Builds A Nation:*

*"Family Matters"*

Genesis 15: 1-5; 21: 1-5;

27: 1-10

January 25

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the

Epiphany

*"I Dream of Egypt"*

Genesis 37: 19-28;

Genesis 45: 1-8

*"Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord to Thee.  
Take my hands and let them move,  
At the impulse of Thy love."*

-United Methodist Hymnal, 399

Shortly after completely giving her life to Christ on December 2, 1873, Frances Havergal, at the age of 36, "found herself spending several days with ten people in a house, some of them unconverted. Others were Christians, but not fully surrendered to Christ. "Lord, give me all in this house," she prayed. She went to work witnessing, and before she left, all ten were yielded Christians. On the last night of her visit, Frances – so excited to sleep – wrote this great consecration hymn, "Take my Life and Let It Be."

*In the years that followed, Frances frequently used this hymn in her own devotions, especially every December 2<sup>nd</sup>, on the anniversary of her consecration.*

*On one occasion, as she pondered the words, "Take my voice and let me sing/ always only for my King," she felt she should give up her secular concerts. Her beautiful voice was in demand, and she frequently sang with the Philharmonic. But from that moment, her lips were exclusively devoted to the songs of the Lord.* (Morgan, Robert J. *Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003, pg. 191.)

As I read this story, I find myself reflecting on my own commitment to Christ. To be fair, I don't have a particular date in mind when I committed my life to be a faithful disciple of Christ, but I can certainly tell story after story of moments in my life when my commitment felt renewed and strengthened. Perhaps you can do the same, or maybe you're not sure you have made that commitment yet. Either way, I want to encourage you to consider this: *What does it mean to fully commit ourselves to Christ?*

For Havergal, this meant repurposing her gifts and talents, using her singing voice to sing songs of praise and help others do so, as well. Do you have gifts and talents that God might be inviting you to use for the sake of ministry?

For others, being fully committed to Christ means being willing to step outside of our comfort zones in order to serve how God is inviting us to serve. What comfort zones do we currently occupy, and how might they limit us from serving God as we're called?

Or, perhaps there's something else standing in your way. Sometimes, committing ourselves to Christ means overcoming an obstacle in our own lives. Rev. Jorge

Acevedo, a United Methodist Pastor in Florida, openly shares about Christ's transformation in his life, freeing him from a life of addiction that kept him from living fully as a disciple of Christ. Interestingly, his ministry has largely involved helping others who suffer from addiction discover a similar freedom. Is there something in your life that needs to change in order for you to fully commit your life to Christ? If so, remember that God doesn't wait for us to set ourselves free. Instead, God desires to be a part of setting us free.

Finally, others experience this commitment to Christ as a commitment to learning something new! While we may not know what we don't know, we do trust that God is always at work in teaching us. But are we willing to learn? What is God inviting you to learn?

Whether or not you feel you've fully committed yourself to Christ at one point, at multiple points, or over a span of time, perhaps this new year is an opportunity for you to fully consecrate your life to Christ? What is God inviting you to learn or to overcome? What is God inviting you to do, and what talents is God inviting you to repurpose?

This new year, I want to invite you to commit this verse to memory: **“Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it?” – Isaiah 43:19**

Peace,  
Pastor Brian



#### FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

**Shirley Andrews**  
2386 Egleston Ave  
Burton, MI 48509  
**Marge Cramer**  
42400 12 Mile Rd,  
Apt 132  
Novi, MI 48377  
**Marcia Ferguson**  
3221 E. Baldwin Rd,  
#323  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
**Ann Fraile**  
327 Woodbridge Dr  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
**Eleanor Hall**  
5370 E. Baldwin Rd,  
Room 403  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439



#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Andrea Bernat  
Bazyl Briscoe  
Gina Briscoe  
Jim Bunker  
Judy Burgess  
Linda Compeau  
Roma Corey  
Frank Davis  
Ruth Davis  
Fran Duby  
Judy Gratsch  
Donna Hubler  
Karen Lawcock  
Gail Lutton  
Paul Manning  
Lee Pelton  
Norma Stanbury  
Vera Stuckey  
Bob Tritten  
Jim Wise

#### FOR OTHERS:

Hailey Bagnell  
Danny Banfield  
Stephanie Bluir  
Courtney Boshear  
Paul Brieger  
Joel Brinkman  
Renee Brinkman  
Sallie Burek  
Patricia Crawfis  
Warren Crawfis  
Cynthia Crawford  
Lucas Duby  
Kathy Dutton  
Tom Ferguson  
Merikay & Doug Franklin  
Brian Greenlees  
Robert Hall  
Eric Hansor  
Emma Heidrich

Pat Johnston  
Dave Jones  
Doug Keene  
Mark Kilmer  
Asher Kring  
Grant LeDuke  
Vinny Martinez  
Clay McLean  
Vicky Muckenthaler  
Lynne O'Brien  
Tim O'Kelly  
James Ruthenberg  
Larry Ruthenberg  
Bill Shier  
Eddie Snow  
Rosemary Thiebaut  
Debra Uhelski  
David Ware  
Kelly Wilson  
Andrew Y



A BIG THANKS to Meijer for their \$400 donation to GBUMC FREE Community Dinner.

It takes a village and Meijer has continued to be generous in helping with feeding our neighbors.

Updated email address for Carol Cerny:  
[carolcerny574@gmail.com](mailto:carolcerny574@gmail.com)

Card Ministry has changed their meeting day to the last Wednesday of the month at 10am. All are welcome!



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries  
Angela Campbell  
[christian.education@grandblancumc.org](mailto:christian.education@grandblancumc.org)

Office Hours:  
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:  
11am to 2:30pm  
Sunday: 11am to Noon



## 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.**

**January 2026 book pick: "Faith Unraveled: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask Questions"**

By Rachel Held Evans



I want to thank everyone who was involved in helping with the Christmas Program. Many hands really do make light work. I want to list names, but I would feel terrible if I missed someone, so please know that if you helped... you are more than appreciated. Thank you to all of the children who participated. You all did a wonderful job! I am so proud of you, and I received so many, many compliments on how well each and every one of you did. You were all very brave too. Speaking/singing/performing in public can be really scary for some people, and as Pastor Brian taught us all Advent long, with Jesus on our side we have **NOTHING** to fear. God Bless all of you, and thank you again from the bottom of my heart!

Sincerely,  
Angela

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# HELLO January

## Youth Group

### Youth Group Leaders:

Angela Campbell 810-241-7275  
Nathan Rahn 734-276-3949

### ASP Leaders:

Jennifer Lengyel 810-241-2343  
Matt Anderson 586-634-8153

### Dehanging of the Greens Sunday, January 4

Following Sunday School  
Help us take down the tree in  
the Sanctuary!  
Lunch provided!



### Ice Skating!

Sunday, January 11  
12:30-2:30@ Physician's Park  
Drop off & Pick up at the Park



### Sunday, January 25

12:30—2:30pm

Join Jennifer & Matt for an  
ASP gathering!  
Learn more about ASP!



### Nerf "War" Prep!!

Sunday, January 18  
12:30 to 2:30pm  
Bring cardboard and duct tape!!



We hope you are all seriously thinking about our trip to serve with the **Appalachia Service Project** this Summer!! ...And thinking about inviting your friends!!  
This is an amazing opportunity to be the **Hands and Feet of Christ**, making homes **Warmer, Safer & Drier!!**

We travel to the Central Appalachia Region of the United States. Areas of Central Appalachia have poverty rates that are nearly double the national average. The Appalachia Service Project receives many more applications for help than they are able to assist. Every volunteer that we are able to send on this life-changing Mission Trip extends the assistance that ASP is able to provide!



# GBUMC COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

## "LOVING Boldly, SERVING Joyfully, LEADING Courageously"

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

### COMMUNITY DINNER

All are welcome!!!



**Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 5 pm**

\***Butty**, Cole Slaw, Chips, Pickles

Drinks and Dessert

\***Butty**—British slang for sandwich ☺

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 5 pm**

Hot Turkey Sandwich,  
Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable



### Free Little Pantry

The Free Little Pantry is outside the doors and is a 24/7 resource providing care and support for our neighbors.

**PLAN**

**Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

United Methodist Advocacy Day  
Michigan State Capitol, Lansing

**Saturday March 22, 9-3 pm**

Grand Blanc Expo, GB High School



### CHURCH AND SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING 1/31 @ 10 AM  
Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Happy New Year!**

The new year brings renewed hope and new goals. As you set your goals for 2026, look for ways you can increase your commitment to *living faith, seeking justice and pursuing peace*. You don't have to look far to find opportunities. If you are not sure where to start or how to set a goal, reach out to the Church and Society Team, or grab a copy of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church book in the library. As you read, think about how the principles align with things going on in the world. If there are areas of incongruency in our world (hint... there are many), think about how you can change it? The Church and Society Team has made a commitment to being more visible in the community in 2026 and advocating for change aligning with the 2025-26 legislative priorities of the UMC Church and Society. Won't you join us? United Methodist Advocacy Day in Lansing is on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

On 11/25/25, The General Board of Church and Society sent out an email with information about joining the call to boycott Chevron, reaffirming a commitment to human rights, peace, and international law following the UMC Social Principles. This is part of a global campaign to boycott Chevron products, including Chevron gas stations, Chevron auto supplies, and Chevron-sponsored events. This boycott is due to their significant partnership in the military blockade of Gaza that included the exploitation of Palestinian land and resources. If you want more information on how you can take part in the boycott, please reach out to a Church and Society Team Member. We will also have more resources available at the church regarding the boycott.

***Peace be with you in 2026!***

# Faith & Facts

## Provided by The General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church

### PEACE WITH JUSTICE

#### What does the Bible say?

- ~Doom to those who acquire house after house, who annex field to field until there is no more space left and only you live alone in the land. (**Isaiah 5:8**)
- ~They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying “peace, peace,” when there is no peace. (**Jeremiah 6:14**)
- ~Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. (**Proverbs 31:8-9**)



#### What does the United Methodist Church say?

- ~We urge the church to care and work for systemic justice for all people affected by war, and to advocate for peacemaking and nonviolent conflict transformation in global and local conflicts. (**Social Principles, ¶ 163.F**)
- ~We affirm the important work of the United Nations in promoting peace and security, championing human dignity and human rights. (**Social Principles ¶ 163**)
- ~The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and also the Syrian Golan Heights, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued blockade of Gaza where over half the residents are children, the military detention of Palestinian children—often without trial, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a “Greater Israel” that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings. (**2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4108**)
- ~In our call for an end to the Israeli occupation we affirm the church’s commitment to nonviolent responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and acknowledge the need to hear the voices of all those—Muslim, Christian and Jewish—harmed by the conflict, including the Palestinian Christians as voiced in the Kairos Palestine document. (**2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4108**)
- ~We ask all companies that profit from and/or support settlements through their business activities to examine these and stop any business that contributes to serious violations of international law, promotes systemic discrimination, or otherwise supports ongoing military occupation or attempted annexation. The United Methodist Church does not support a boycott of products made in Israel. Our opposition is to products made by companies operating in occupied Palestinian territories. (**2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4108, “Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land”**)



#### What do the facts say?

- Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed since the bombardment of Gaza that began after October 7, 2023.<sup>1</sup>
- As of early 2023, there are 565 movement obstacles in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, often between Palestinian cities and not Palestine and Israel.<sup>2</sup>
- 28,000 Palestinian structures have been demolished in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since 1967.<sup>3</sup>
- Most Gazans do not have access to safe drinking water, worsening with the recent hostilities. Moreover, 100 Palestinian villages pre-existing the founding of the state exist in Israel, but are not recognized by the Israeli government and receive no services (water, electricity, sanitation, roads, etc.) from the Israeli government.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Reuters, <sup>2</sup>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <sup>3</sup>UN Human Rights Council,

<sup>4</sup>Jewish Voice for Peace

#### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Educate** yourself and your local community on the situation in Israel and Palestine. Stand with Palestinian Christians by taking action with organizations like United Methodist for Kairos Response at [www.kairosresponse.org](http://www.kairosresponse.org).
- **Read** the Kairos Document, a call by Palestinian Christians to Christians around the world to help fight the Israeli occupation: [www.kairospalestine.ps/index.php/about-kairos/kairos-palestine-document](http://www.kairospalestine.ps/index.php/about-kairos/kairos-palestine-document)
- **Participate** in non-violent economic measures that will aid in ending the occupation, support investments in the Palestinian economy, and join in activities that will help bring peace to both Palestinians and Israelis.
- **Meet** with your elected officials to advocate for policies that support a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel.
- **Sign up** for email alerts focused on Israel and Palestine at [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org)



## Kroger Community Rewards

Kroger has now linked Grand Blanc United Methodist Church to their rewards program!! Your purchases can now benefit the church!

Instructions how to link your Kroger Plus Card:

Simply register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)

Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.  
If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please let them know that they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.



Click on Sign In/Register

Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.

Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions

You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.

Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.

Update or confirm your information.

Enter UN976 number or Grand Blanc United Methodist Church, select organization from list and click on confirm.

To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information Page.

**REMEMBER**, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card.

Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.

Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus Card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions or need help with this process!!

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Download the new Grand Blanc United Methodist Church App on your phone, today!



Be sure to say "yes" to receiving notifications! Stay in the loop!

Need help getting set-up?  
Contact the church office!



## GBUMC Giving Tree 2025 A Huge Success!!

THANK YOU for your support of the Giving Tree this Christmas. Cathy Hutchinson set up the Sign Up Genius account and it was another successful experience, thank you Cathy! This year the FISH clothes closet received 121 pairs of girls socks, 97 pairs of boys socks, 272 pairs of girls underwear, 84 pairs of boys underwear, 15 pairs of boys jeans, 8 boys sweatshirts, and 22 pairs of boys sweatpants. The Methodist Children's Village received 23 gift cards totaling \$475.00. We also collected items for the Ennis Center for Children in Flint including 6 boxes of diapers, 15 deodorants, 11 shampoos, 3 conditioners, 5 body washes, 28 bars of soap, 3 Bible Bedtime stories, 2 lunchbox cards and 2 punch needle kits; Ennis is also receiving a \$200 check from Third Sunday Mission Funds for back-to-school items. 12 Residents of Medilodge (without family in the area) were given blankets, wooden Christmas trees and toiletry items. The GBUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry donated 24 hats for these FISH family children (14 girls and 10 boys). Additionally, each family received at least four gifts per child (over 100 gifts total) and a \$25 gas card from the sponsors listed below.

The GBUMC sponsors were: United Women of Faith (Gina Briscoe), Jr/Sr High Youth (Angela Campbell), Seasoned Citizens (Carol Capell), Kevin/Angela Cook, Chad & Sandy Labby, Don Sawyer, Jan/Joy Billaryard, Mark/Kim Werth, Dave/Rhonda Lessel, and new sponsors Church & Society Group (Shelly Rice), Karla/Mark Shotwell, Rachel Bond, Stephanie Schick, Donna Vandermark and Jennifer Lengyel. Thank you so much for your sponsorship! We would not succeed without your help.

The FISH organization sponsored hundreds of families in the Grand Blanc area this year. GBUMC groups or individuals sponsored 11 FISH families this year with a total of 24 children. First Congregational Church (FCC) also donated paper products, cleaning products and toiletries for these families. FISH will also provide ample food baskets for Christmas. GBUMC and FCC have worked together for many years to provide for the FISH families. GBUMC was again the staging area for the Christmas presents for FISH. Thank you, Pastor Brian for allowing the use of our church.

A special thank you to: Joann Lepri, Bernie Waisanen, Dave Griffus, Doc Sloan, Gina Briscoe, Ian Doran, and the Mission Team: Mariann Quaderer, Becky Doran, RaeAnn Waisanen, Dori Huntoon, Shelly Rice, Sue Bobalik, and Luann Griffus for sorting and bagging all of the gifts. Thanks to Ian/Becky Doran for delivering the Ennis Children's items, and to Dave/Luann Griffus for delivering the UM Children's gift cards. Very special thanks to all who purchased the gifts (and/or shopped) and gave so generously so these families will have a great Christmas!

Our congregation continues to amaze us with their Generosity! THANK YOU!



**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 or the church app where you can click on the current live stream and also get a copy of the current Sunday bulletin as well as news & notes!

Do you watch our worship services online?  
We would be grateful if you would fill out our online Connect Cards!!

We have no idea who is watching from home unless a Connect Card is submitted.  
We'd love to hear from you!!  
Let us know you're watching!

## Altar Flowers

1/04 In memory of Paul F. Schick, by Stephanie Schick  
1/11  
1/18  
1/25 In memory of my husband, Rick Hartsoe, by Donna VanDerMark

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

## Ushers

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Nancy Bigler & John Billings  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Kristin Ivan & Brian Rice  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Fran Duby & Kristin Ivan  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Raeann & Bernie Waisanen

## Greeters

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Becky Doran, Virginia Sullivan, Raeann Waisanen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Nancy Bigler, Cathy Melkus, John Billings  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Joy Billyard Jan Billyard Kris Surdu Nancy Lepri  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Cathy Melkus Stephanie Schick Cindy Duhon

## COUNTERS

1/04 Kim Werth & Jan Billyard  
1/11 Carol Capell, Jim Wise  
1/18 Dave Lessel, Mariann Quaderer  
1/25 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore



## Birthday Wishes

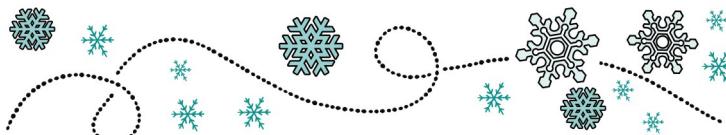
1<sup>st</sup> Sarah Carlson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy Labby, Jacob Sanborn  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dorothy Colby, Jan Pettit, Sandy Sandrock  
6<sup>th</sup> Jacob Russell  
7<sup>th</sup> Carol Bingham, Kimmy Sayers  
8<sup>th</sup> Sharon Bohms, Cate Campbell  
9<sup>th</sup> Kevin Cook  
10<sup>th</sup> Ernest Lyons  
11<sup>th</sup> Shirley Andrews  
12<sup>th</sup> Curtis Cantley, Angela Cherniawski, Julie Koerkel, Felicia Lawcock  
14<sup>th</sup> Dave Griffus, Ashley Trinidad  
18<sup>th</sup> Julia Greenlees, Sophie Rahn  
19<sup>th</sup> Dennis Brudnak, Connie Skinner  
20<sup>th</sup> Paul Roth

21<sup>st</sup> Jody Church  
23<sup>rd</sup> Lianna Williams  
24<sup>th</sup> Bob Mills  
25<sup>th</sup> Gary Bendall  
27<sup>th</sup> James Cook, Thomas Gratsch  
28<sup>th</sup> Ashton Bjorkman, Brian Martin  
29<sup>th</sup> Donna Hubler, Tracy Sanborn  
31<sup>st</sup> Lee Pelton



## Anniversary Blessings

16<sup>th</sup> Wanda & David Roberts (54)



## Coffee Hour

1/04 Worship & Arts  
1/11 Mission Team  
1/18 Hutchinson  
1/25 The Shotwell Family

## Acolytes

1/04 Lily Mertz & Zayden Briscoe  
1/11 Jane West & Matthew West  
1/18 Grace Williams & Micah West  
1/25 Lianna Williams & Matthew West

## Nursery volunteer Schedule:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Kristin Ivan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Shelly Gould-Rice  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Jan Johnson  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fran Duby

## Narthex Attendants (10a-noon)

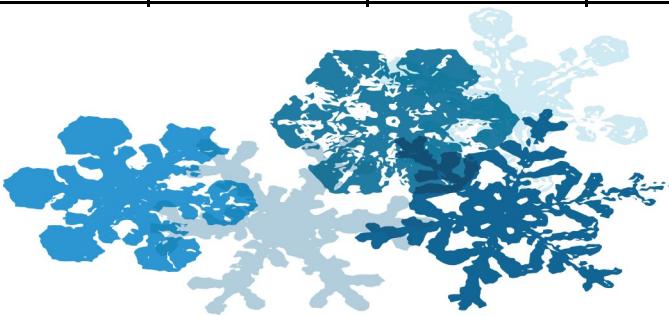
1/04 Sandy Jones  
1/11 Jim & Val Wise  
1/18 Eric Campbell  
1/25 Barb Zerilli

## Grand Blanc United Methodist Church Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 11-30-25) = \$36,586  
Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 11-30-25) = \$1,588

**MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 11-30-25) = \$77,735**

# JANUARY 2026



					1	2	3
					HAPPY NEW YEAR!! OFFICE CLOSED NOON: FREE Community Lunch	5p Compass Grp @ Martin's 7p Al Anon	Fellowship Hall in Use
4 10a Worship Sunday School & Coffee Hour following worship <b>Dehanging of the Greens!</b> 7p ACA	5 10a Yoga 7p Worship & Arts -Zoom	6 10a Prayer Shawl 5p Community Dinner 5:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Celebration Ringers Reh.	7 10a Drop-in Bible Study Noon Seasoned Citizens 7p Al Anon	8	9	10 10:45a Yoga	
11 10a Worship Sunday School & Coffee Hour following worship 12:30 Youth Group Ice Skating	12 6:30p Compass Group @ Cook's 7p Ad Council Zoom 7p ACA	13 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Shawl 5:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Celebration Ringers Reh.	14 10a Drop-in Bible Study 5:30p Compass @ Rahn's 7p Al Anon	15	16	17 10:45a Yoga 6p Euchre Night!	
18 10a Worship Sunday School & Coffee Hour following Worship 12:30 Youth Group	19 7p Finance Mtg- Zoom 7p ACA	20 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Shawl 10a United Women in Faith 5:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Celebration Ringers Reh.	21 10a Drop-in Bible Study 7p Al Anon	22	23	24 10:45a Yoga	
25 10a Worship Sunday School & Coffee Hour following Worship 12:30p Youth Group	26 7p Education Mtg—Zoom 7p ACA	27 10a Yoga 10a Prayer Shawl 10a Card Minist. 5:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Celebration Ringers Reh.	28 10a Drop-in Bible Study 7p Al Anon	29	30	31 10:45a Yoga	

# Human Relations Day, Sunday, January 18th

Human Relations Day Sunday is celebrated on January 18, 2026. Donations to this UMCOR project provide interactive training experiences for better response to social challenges such as drug trafficking, abuse, alcoholism, and domestic violence in the United States. Together we extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles.

The focus is on nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening communities' self-improvement efforts, and advocating for the oppressed. Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them; and that's what we want to model as the people of the United Methodist Church; to continue the ministry of Jesus and help all God's children to realize their potential.

The Human Relations Day offering encourages acceptance of all God's children. Your generous gift strengthens community outreach and empowers at-risk youth.

Envelopes will be provided on Sunday, January 18th with your bulletin or you can donate online by designating your gift for Human Relations Day. Please give generously! Thank you from the Missions Committee!

## Seasoned Citizens

Kicks off the New Year on **January 9**

**Noon:** Coffee & Conversation

**12:25pm:** Prayer & Devotion

**12:30pm:** Potluck Lunch

**Guest speaker** will be Jaime Welch, Associate Director of Programs for the Flint River Watershed, which monitors, protects and improves accessibility to over 1,000 square miles of nature in Michigan's thumb.

Please join us – and bring a friend!!



### Helping people, changing lives: 3 health benefits of volunteering

Volunteers make an immeasurable difference in people's lives and often serve to help others. Did you know that volunteering can benefit your health as well?

Research has shown that volunteering offers significant health benefits, especially for older adults, including:

**1. Improves physical and mental health.** Volunteer activities keep people moving and thinking at the same time. Research has found that volunteering among adults, age 60 and over, provided benefits to physical and mental health. Volunteers report better physical health than non-volunteers. Research also has shown that volunteering leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, especially for people 65 and older.

Volunteering reduces stress and increases positive, relaxed feelings by releasing dopamine. By spending time in service to others, volunteers report feeling a sense of meaning and appreciation, both given and received, which can have a stress-reducing effect.

Reduced stress further decreases the risk of some physical and mental health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, depression, anxiety and general illness. In addition, people who volunteer have lower mortality rates than those who do not, even when controlling for age, gender and physical health.

**2. Provides a sense of purpose and teaches valuable skills.** The work that volunteers provide is essential to everyday activities, giving volunteers a sense of purpose, especially when giving their time and talent in the areas they find meaningful. Older volunteers experience greater increases in life satisfaction and self-esteem.

**3. Nurture new and existing relationships.** Volunteering increases social interaction and helps build a support system based on common interests. One of the best ways to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships is to participate in a shared activity.

This is an excerpt of an August 1, 2023 article provided by the Mayo Clinic Health System.

The author, Angela Thoreson is a licensed independent clinical social worker in Psychiatry & Psychology in Austin, Minnesota.

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
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Grand Blanc, MI 48439

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Rev. Brian West, Pastor  
Cathy Mitchinson, Office Administrator  
Angela Campbell, Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries  
and Webmaster  
Gary Brandt, Director of Common Grace  
Andrew Cramer, Worship Music Director  
Andrea Bernat, Nursery Attendant  
Kimmy Sayers, Custodian



## Opportunities to learn and grow offered by the Conference and District

### East Winds District Lay Servant Ministry Classes

Saturday, February 28, 2026 and Saturday, March 7, 2026

Held at Lake Orion UMC, 140 E. Flint St, Lake Orion, MI

#### Course Options:

- ⇒ Basic Course for Lay Servants
- ⇒ Discover Your Spiritual Gifts
- ⇒ Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, January 17, 6 pm



GBUMC Fellowship Hall ☺

Bring a treat to share.

Come at 5:30 if you want to refresh your skills.

*We call it a tournament, but it's really just for fun.*

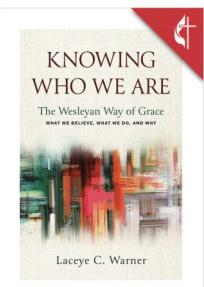
## Knowing Who We Are: A Lenten Book Study on UMC Identity

Move beyond just being in the UMC! Fully discover what sets us apart and empowers us to work for justice and spread God's love!

Across the Michigan Conference, many are seeking a deeper understanding of our identity, our history, and our mission.

We will be studying "Knowing Who We Are" by Lacey C. Warner. This book offers a clearer picture of our Wesleyan way of following Jesus, focusing on core values like:

- God's full grace for everyone
- Real-life transformation—how your faith leads to positive, visible change in your life, your community, and the world.



Book: Knowing Who We Are by Lacey C. Warner

Dates: Six sessions starting February 24 and through March 31 (6 sessions)

Time Options (Choose one):

Daytime: Tuesdays, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

Evening: Tuesdays, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM ET

Cost: There is no cost to participate other than purchasing a copy of the book.

⇒ Purchase the book and read Chapter 1 before February 24.

Sign up today to join the connectional conversation!

