



# "Connection"

August 3

COMMUNION

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

Sermon Series:

*"Campfire Stories"*

*"The Potter's House"*

Jeremiah 18: 1-11

August 10

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

Sermon Series:

*"Campfire Stories"*

*"Water to Wine"*

John 2: 1-11

August 17

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

Sermon Series:

*"Campfire Stories"*

*"Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet"*

John 12: 1-8

August 24

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

Sermon Series:

*"Campfire Stories"*

*"To an Unknown God"*

Acts 17: 16-23

August 31

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

Sermon Series:

*"Campfire Stories"*

*"Jairus' Daughter"*

Mark 5: 21-43

## "Confessions of a Cross Dropper"

Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them. *Matthew 10:38-39 CEB*

On July 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am my wife, Stephanie, began to notice in me what I have come to term "red flags." These are moments when I'm beginning to show signs of burnout, and she sees it before I can name it. I've come to appreciate that she sees these things in me and doesn't hesitate to bring the "red flags" to my attention. On more than one occasion, her awareness and honesty has saved me, and for that I am particularly thankful! On that Friday morning, she saw and heard burnout within me, and gently told me (told...didn't ask) that I would be taking an extra day off for what I've come to call a "mental health day." That mental health day came on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

On that Tuesday, I found myself drawn to a walk through the trails in the Grand Blanc Commons. If you haven't done this, I strongly encourage you to do so! I put on sunscreen, added some bug spray, and turned on my noise canceling air pods so that I could listen to the previous day's audio devotional "Pray As You Go." It began with a chant by The Monks of Pluscarden Abbey titled, "Venite Filii Audite Me." Translated to English, the title means, "Come, children, listen to me."

Okay God, you have my attention.

As I walked deeper into the trails, the sun warm on my neck, the beauty of the woods all around me, I heard the words from Matthew 10:38-39.

*"Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them."*

The devotional then invited me to consider the following: "As a follower of Jesus, what does it mean to you to take up your cross?" It then added the instruction: "Talk with the Lord about this now." With the music still playing in my ears and my eyes focused on the ground in front of me, I simply said out loud, "God, why am I tired?" Sure, it wasn't exactly my finest moment of following instructions, but they were honest words, and clearly a question that I'd been dealing with, without even realizing it.

As soon as I said the words I realized something that hadn't occurred to me before: I was tired. I was emotionally and spiritually tired. I have been since my mom's passing at the start of this year. I have been tired since she was diagnosed with terminal cancer back in March 2024. I was tired, and every day, I was simply trying to be emotionally and spiritually awake enough to get through – or rather...to get by.

*Continued on next page*

"God, why am I tired?"

The answer was clear: Grief. And, as strange as it may sound, it was a grief that I had simply forgotten about. Time can have that effect on grief. I simply forgot that I was grieving.

Suddenly, the devotional's reader began to share the scripture reading again: "take up your cross..." As I was walking through an area of muddied trail, it occurred to me that I had dropped the cross. In my spiritual and emotional exhaustion, I had dropped the cross. I was no longer carrying it – at best, I was carrying it enough to keep up appearances. I was, without mincing words, a "cross dropper."

It was then that, just as quickly as guilt crept in, simple words of Christ began turning in my mind: "I carried it for you."

"I carried it for you."

"I'm carrying it for you."

I walked with that thought for a while. In the moments that my heart is tired - in the moments when my soul is exhausted – in those moments, Jesus simply carries the cross. And when would I be ready to carry it again? Today? Tomorrow? I hope so, but honestly, my confession is that I don't know. But, what I do know is that, until I am ready, Jesus remains with me. I know that, in my waiting, I have the strength of my church family, the council of good friends, and, above all, the promise of Christ.

And so, I leave this here. It's not tied up in a nice bow. There is no grand conclusion of triumph! I am okay, and my faith is as strong as ever, but I am still tired. I am still grieving. I am still learning to walk, and I'm still gaining strength to carry the cross. And what I suspect to be true is that the words I'm putting to paper are truths others are feeling as well.

I am a cross dropper. I am a child of God. I am loved. You are loved. You are a child of God. Life is hard. God is good. All the time.

Peace,  
Pastor Brian

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*In our  
prayers*

**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  
Bazyl Briscoe  
Gina Briscoe  
Jim Bunker  
Judy Burgess  
Deb Carvill  
Carol Cerny  
Roma Corey  
Frank Davis  
Ruth Davis  
Judy Gratsch  
Donna Hubler  
Gail Lutton  
Paul Manning  
Lee Pelton  
Dick Shick  
Norma Stanbury  
Vera Stuckey  
Virginia Sullivan  
Bob Tritten

**FOR OTHERS:**

Susan Allan  
Baby Boy Asher  
Courtney Boshear  
Paul Brieger  
Joel Brinkman  
Renee Brinkman  
Sallie Burek  
Peter Cherniawski  
Patricia Crawfis  
Warren Crawfis  
Cynthia Crawford  
Lucas Duby  
Kathy Dutton  
Merikay & Doug Franklin  
Karen Grossmann  
Robert Hall  
Eric Hansor  
Emma Heidrich  
Marian Hooper  
Pat Johnston  
Dave Jones

Doug Keene  
Cindy Lorange  
Grant LeDuke  
Vinny Martinez  
Clay McLean  
Lynne O'Brien  
Tim O'Kelly  
Leo Reubke  
James Ruthenberg  
Larry Ruthenberg  
Bill Shier  
Larry Smith  
Eddie Snow  
Debra Uhelski  
David Ware



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries  
Angela Campbell  
christian.education@grandblancumc.org

Office Hours:  
Monday & Wednesday: 11am to 2:30pm  
Thursday: 10am to 2:30pm  
Sunday: 9am to 11am

## Pastor's Pick!

Each month Pastor Brian offers his "Pastor's Pick" book recommendation. This book could be one that he is highlighting in his sermon series, one that goes with the current church season, or one that is just a good book to read. Hope you enjoy. **The church will be purchasing a copy of each of Pastor's book picks for the church library. If you are interested in reading any of them, you are welcome to "check them out!" Previous Pastor's Picks can be found in the Church Library.**

**August 2025 book pick:** Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally By Marcus J Borg

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## Summer Social! 9:30-12:30.

Potty-trained through 5th grade are welcome to attend. Join us for a summer playdate! While you are at it, bring a friend or two! Best part! - This fun isn't just for the kiddos, parents are encouraged to stay and join in the fun as well!

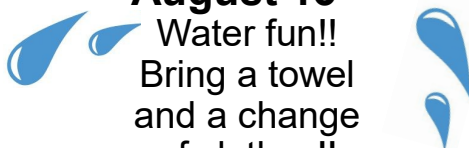
### August 6<sup>th</sup>

Bring your bicycle or tricycle!!  
Make a license plate!  
Bike Wash!!  
Sorry, no scooters  
Also, bring something to drink  
and your lunch!



### August 13<sup>th</sup>

Water fun!!  
Bring a towel  
and a change  
of clothes!!  
Also, bring something to drink  
and your lunch!



## Sunday, August 3

All VBS kids and adults are asked  
to wear their VBS shirt to church!

During children's time, we will share what  
we learned!!

Let's let everyone know how much fun  
Vacation Bible School was!!



Sunday School for all ages resumes on  
Sunday, September 7!!

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: **pzybg**

(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](mailto:Christian.education@grandblancumc.org)

 **AMPLIFY MEDIA**



# GBUMC COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

**“LOVING** Boldly, **SERVING** Joyfully, **LEADING** Courageously”

The gift of SERVICE  
**volunteer**  
do good, feel good

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

**COMMUNITY DINNER**

**All are welcome!!!**

**Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

All the fixins for **Pulled Pork Bowl**

Pork, Rice, Coleslaw, Corn, Pineapple, Pickles,  
Onion and maybe even more.

**Wednesday, September 3, 2025**

Pasta!!! From a local restaurant ☺

Salad and Garlic Bread and more!

**All meals come with Dessert & Drinks**



## CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Church and Society meets the  
last Saturday of each month  
In the church library at 10 am.

We cover current events, discuss them in a biblical context and apply the social principles. Ask yourself, how would Jesus treat the immigrant, the person suffering or in need of medical care/insurance or hungry children? How about flood victims? What is your response? What is our church response? What is our country's response?

Thank you GBUMC for your continued support to Missions! Last month, donations were made to UMCOR for the Floods in Texas, to Ennis Center for Children and the Flint Freedom Schools Collaborative.

GBUMC also had a booth at Flint Pride for outreach and to welcome and show our love and support to the LGBTQ+ Community. We passed out free bottles of water.

The church ordered the new Social Principles of the United Methodist Church Books for 2025-2028 and they are in! Contact the office if you are interested in checking one out. If you would like to purchase a Social Principles Book of your own, you can get them at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com)

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> @ 10 AM**

**W**e are pretty **EXCITED** about what's happening at GBUMC and outside the doors in our community. The month of August is no exception. We start with the opportunity to participate in **National Night Out** at the Township Police Department (outside the doors, we will be under the **PURPLE TENT**), the **FREE DINNER** (in house) and **CHURCH IN THE PARK** (outside the doors). AND that's not all! **WOW**

**Be sure to save the dates, invite a friend and join in on the fun.**



# CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

## Faith & Facts

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

Civil & Human Rights

### What does the Bible say?

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world." (John 18:36)

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... and your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)



### What does the United Methodist Church say?

We believe the state should not attempt to control the church, nor should the church seek to dominate the state... Separation of church and state means no organic union of the two, but it does permit interaction. (Book of Resolutions, #4100, Church Government Relations)



### What do the facts say?

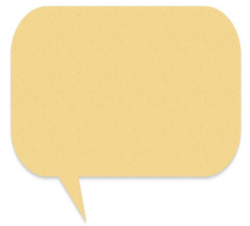
- Christian nationalism is a political ideology that seeks to merge American civic life with a particular expression of Christianity, often to the exclusion of religious minorities and non-Christians. (Baptist Joint Committee & Freedom From Religion Foundation, 2022)
- Studies show that Christian nationalism is associated with support for authoritarianism, racial hierarchy, anti-immigrant policies, and the erosion of church-state separation. (Sociologists Andrew Whitehead & Samuel Perry, 2020)
- 60% of Americans believe the U.S. should not be declared a "Christian nation," while 67% of white evangelicals support the idea. (PRRI, 2022 American Values Survey)
- Christian nationalism was a motivating factor in the January 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection, where Christian symbols and rhetoric were used to justify violence. (U.S. House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack)



### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- Speak out when Christian symbols are used to justify hate, exclusion, or violence.
- Support civic and religious education efforts that uphold pluralism, democracy, and the true message of the gospel.
- Learn more through resources like Christians Against Christian Nationalism ([www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org](http://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org)).
- Encourage your church to affirm its commitment to the separation of church and state and the equal dignity of all people.



For more information: [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org)

Or join us at our next Church and Society meeting on **Saturday, August 30 @ 10am**

# Requests from the Church Nursery



We are looking for the following items for our nursery.

Items can be new or used.

Must be clean and in good/safe working condition.

Cash and/or gift cards to Amazon, Target or Walmart are also appreciated.



- Kitchen Playset (Just the playset, we have all the pots, pans and food)
- Kids Cash Register (the one we have has been so loved and played with that it no longer works)
- Pool Noodles
- New plastic balls for the ball pit (picture for example-will probably need about 4)
- New Piggy Bank-similar to the one pictured (the one we have has been so loved and played with that it no longer works)

Please speak with Angela Campbell or Andrea Bernat, with any questions.



Men's Coffee still meets, just not  
here at the church. Join them  
Wednesdays @ Panera @ 10am  
Or

Fridays @ Hill Road Grill @ 10am



## Prayer Shawl

Wednesdays @ 10am

All are welcome!



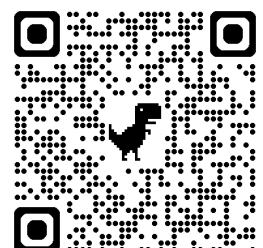
## Card Ministry

Last Tuesday of the month  
at 10am

All are welcome!



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.





### Altar Flowers

- 08/03  
08/10 In memory of Tom Cerny,  
by the Cerny Family  
08/17 In honor of Jane's 5<sup>th</sup>  
birthday! By the West  
Family  
08/24 In honor of Edith Dunn (91  
today!) by the Mitchinson  
Family  
08/31 In memory of my parents,  
by Dale Wolfram

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.

### Summer Greeters

- 08/03 Becky Doran  
08/10 John Billings  
08/17 Kris Surdu & Nancy Lepri  
08/24 Worship in the Park (all  
help is appreciated!)  
08/31 Cathy Melkus

### Summer Ushers

- 08/03 Melinda Elmore-Hajek &  
Fran Duby  
08/10 Kristin Ivan &  
Cathy Mitchinson  
08/17 Kristin Ivan  
08/24 Worship in the Park (all help is  
appreciated!)  
08/31 RaeAnn & Bernie Waisanen

### COUNTERS

- 08/03 Dave Lessel,  
Mariann Quaderer  
08/10 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore  
08/17 Kim Werth, Jan Billyard  
08/24 Sandy Labby, Carol Cerny  
08/31 Carol Capell, Jim Wise



## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### **Birthday Wishes**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dani Rossman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colleen Fitch (81), Laura Gibbs  
6<sup>th</sup> Bruce VanVlack  
7<sup>th</sup> Wyatt Booms  
8<sup>th</sup> Nick Federici, Dorian Wagner  
9<sup>th</sup> David Roberts, Don Sawyer (84)  
10<sup>th</sup> Paul Manning, Levi Skinner  
11<sup>th</sup> Ron Blakemore (88),  
Betty Gay Charmoli (81)  
12<sup>th</sup> Shelby Mitchinson  
13<sup>th</sup> Rhonda Lessel  
14<sup>th</sup> Denise Holaly, Richard Smith  
15<sup>th</sup> Jean Sayre (95)  
16<sup>th</sup> Lauren Chwojncki, Lauren Rice  
17<sup>th</sup> Donley Norris  
18<sup>th</sup> Gary Dibeau (84), Chuck Lawcock  
20<sup>th</sup> Anne Coronado, Sam Smith,  
Jane West  
21<sup>st</sup> Braedan Werth  
22<sup>nd</sup> Jennifer Banfield  
23<sup>rd</sup> Laura Heberling

25<sup>th</sup> Sarah Anderson

26<sup>th</sup> Ann Fraile (80), Alex Trinidad

28<sup>th</sup> Gordon Lawcock

30<sup>th</sup> Marcia Ferguson (93)

31<sup>st</sup> William Bigler



### **Anniversary Blessings**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rose Marie & Richard Shick (67)  
9<sup>th</sup> Gina & Bob Briscoe (45)  
10<sup>th</sup> Nancy & Craig Fiederlein  
13<sup>th</sup> Andrea & Jeff Mertz  
15<sup>th</sup> Betty Gay & Rich Charmoli (55)  
26<sup>th</sup> Traci & Dave Russell (30)  
28<sup>th</sup> Ali & Chad VanOverbeke  
29<sup>th</sup> Deb Koval & Kim Pierson (32)



Please feel free to take a copy of The Upper Room or a copy of Our Daily Bread to someone that is not able to attend church in person. We always have a few copies left over. There are several people that would enjoy receiving a copy, plus they would really enjoy seeing you!!



Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
Financial Summary


General Fund Balance (as of 06-30-25) = \$23,712  
Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 06-30-25) = \$2,333

**MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 06-30-25) = \$83,667**



# August



					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
7p Al Anon						10:45a Yoga
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
10a Worship 11:15a Usher Training		10a Yoga  5p National Night Out @ GB Twp Police Dept	9:30a Summer Social 10a Prayer Shawl  5p Community Dinner		7p Al Anon	10:45a Yoga  F.H. in Use
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
10a Worship 11:15a Greeter Training	10a-2p OFFICE HOURS  6:30p Compass Grp @ Cook's 7p Ad Council- Zoom 7p ACA	10a-2p OFFICE HOURS  10a Yoga	9:30a Summer Social 10a-2p OFFICE HOURS 10a Prayer Shawl	10a-2p OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE CLOSED  7p Al Anon	10:45a Yoga 11a Mission Zone picnic at Hope UMC
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
10a Worship 11a New Member Class	7p Finance Mtg- Zoom 7p ACA	10a Yoga	10a Prayer Shawl	5:30p Compass Grp @ Rahn's 7p Education Team	7p Al Anon	10a Yoga
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
10a Worship in the Park!  <b>31</b> 10a Worship	7p ACA	10a Yoga 10a Card Ministry	10a Prayer Shawl		OFFICE CLOSED	10a Church & Society



# Help! We need... Ushers



**Grand Blanc United  
Methodist Church**

## What You'll Be Doing

- Help make sure our atmosphere of hospitality is felt from the moment people arrive for worship.
- Arrive 30 minutes early to ensure sanctuary is set up and prepared for the service.
- Hand out bulletins, assist the acolytes with the candles, collect the offering, provide a general assistance to people before and during the worship service.
- Be ready to make a big difference in the worshipping life of the church.
- Be prepared to make someone's day with your hospitality and kindness.

## What You Should Know

- No previous experience is necessary. Training will be provided.
- Teens and adults of all ages are welcome to sign up.
- You can sign up to usher regularly (weekly or monthly) or "as needed" to fill in the gaps.

Interested, please contact the church office: [office@grandblancumc.org](mailto:office@grandblancumc.org) or (810)694-9040

**Next Info and Training Session: Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11:15am**

## FLINT AREA UMC COOKOUT PARTY

**SATURDAY  
16 AUG  
11AM-1PM**

BURGERS, DOGS, & DRINKS PROVIDED  
BRING A SIDE OR DESSERT TO SHARE  
BRING CRAYONS, SHARPIES, &  
SHARPENED PENCILS FOR FLINT  
FREEDOM SCHOOLS



RSVP BY  
AUGUST 13!

**@HOPE UMC**  
4467 BEECHER RD., FLINT

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



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

**Grand Blanc UMC**

**We hope you will also  
"like & share!"**

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church  
515 Bush Avenue  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Church Office 810-694-9040 fax 810-694-1916  
[www.grandblancumc.org](http://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



Mon–Thurs, August 11–15: 10a–2p  
Friday, August 16: CLOSED  
Friday, August 29: CLOSED

# Help! We need... Greeters



**Grand Blanc United  
Methodist Church**

## What You'll Be Doing

- Help make sure our atmosphere of hospitality is felt from the moment people arrive for worship.
- Arrive 30 minutes early to ensure the Welcome Center is set up and doors are unlocked.
- Welcome guests and regular attenders as they enter the building at the main and side entrances
- Utilize the resources at the Welcome Center to provide information and extend hospitality.
- Be prepared to make someone's day with your hospitality and kindness.
- Be the reason someone feels like they belong long from moment one!

## What You Should Know

- No previous experience or special knowledge is necessary. Training will be provided.
- Teens and adults of all ages are welcome to sign up.
- You can sign up to usher regularly (weekly or monthly) or "as needed" to fill in the gaps.

Interested, please contact the church office: [office@grandblancumc.org](mailto:office@grandblancumc.org) or (810)694-9040

**Next Info and Training Session: Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> @ 11:15am**



We welcomed 6 new members on Sunday, July 20!!

Deb Koval, Kim Pierson, Barb Zerilli, Peggy Carlson, Lee Ann Gaspar & Carol Bingham,  
with Pastor Brian

Be sure to introduce yourself to them, if you have not already met them!