



February 2026

CONNECTION

Community Care Fund

February 1
4th Sunday after the
Epiphany
“Moses and
Deliverance”

“Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’”

-Matthew 25:37-40 (CEB)

February 8
5th Sunday after the
Epiphany
“New Commands and
Covenants”

I suspect that over the last couple of years you’ve heard of the “Community Care Fund” (formerly known as the “Pastor’s Discretionary Fund”). Likely you heard about it either from one of our fundraiser dinners, perhaps even referring someone to it, or maybe even benefiting from it.

The long and the short of the Community Care Fund is that there are times when one of our church family members or a neighbor in our community faces challenging times and a water bill, energy bill, rent, medication, or even filling a car’s gas tank becomes an obstacle when making ends meet. Our hope is to be able to be present and able to express generosity by helping our neighbors in these times of need. Recipients may be, but do not need to be, a part of Grand Blanc UMC. As the balance in the Community Care Fund allows, our practice is to help individuals with up to \$100 each year. While this doesn’t always meet the needs entirely, the willingness to show care, compassion, and generosity to help offset these burdens is always appreciated. In 2025 alone, we were able to assist 60 people with nearly \$4,800 from the Community Care Fund, helping neighbors in our community with rent, utilities, and gas.

As I reflect on these statistics from the last year of the Community Care Fund, I give thanks for the generosity of this congregation and donors from the Grand Blanc community who have made this possible. As you may know, the Community Care Fund is not funded through the church’s general budget, but is funded entirely by direct donations to the Fund, either by individual donors or applicable grants. Often, this is achieved through fundraisers, while other times, it is through unsolicited and generous donations.

So often, I hear folks express a desire to help others, especially knowing the abundance of need. Please know that the Community Care Fund is a

February 15
Transfiguration Sunday
Camp Sunday
Guest: Jodi Lloyd

February 18
Ash Wednesday
Service at 6pm
“They Can and They
Will”

February 22
1st Sunday of Lent
“Born Again (for at least
the 2nd time)”

meaningful way to make a difference in the lives of others who are in need. If you or someone you know is interested in making an above and beyond contribution to the Community Care Fund, either one-time or recurring, please know that donations can be made by cash or check or online by choosing "Community Care Fund" when giving through the church website: www.grandblancumc.org/give.

Additionally, if you or someone you know could use assistance from the Community Care Fund, please contact the church office. The process is compassionate, respectful and all personal information is kept confidential.

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

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!
You can find our online connect
cards on our website or on the app!!

Our Church Family:

Andrea Bernat

Bazyl Briscoe

Jim Bunker

Judy Burgess

Carol Capell

Linda Compeau

Roma Corey

Judy Gratsch

Gail Lutton

Paul Manning

Lee Pelton

Norma Stanbury

Vera Stuckey

Bob Tritten

For Others:

Hailey Bagnell

Danny Banfield

Stephanie Blouir

Courtney Boshear

Paul Brieger

Joel Brinkman

Renee Brinkman

Sallie Burek

Patricia Crawfis

Warren Crawfis

Lucas DUBY

Tom Ferguson

Merikay & Doug Franklin

Eric Heiden

Emma Heidrich

Dave Jones

Doug Keene

Mark Kilmer

Asher Kring

RJ Laws

Grant LeDuke

Vinny Martinez

Clay McLean

Vicky Muckenthaler

Tim O'Kelly

Bill Shier

Eddie Snow

Debra Uhelski

David Ware

Kelly Wilson

Andrew Y

**Next New
Member Class**

**Sunday, February 8
following worship**

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

No Reservations Needed

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



Ash Wednesday
February 18

5pm FREE Community Dinner
6pm Worship Service



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries
Angela Campbell
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.**

February 2026 book pick: "The Science of the Good Samaritan: Thinking Bigger About Loving our Neighbors" By Dr. Emily Smith



Join us on Sunday, February 15 for Camping Sunday!!

JAM/Children's Sunday
School will meet in
Fellowship Hall

Camps for all ages!!

CAMP

Summer Camps

Adult & Family Events

Grace Outside

Lake Huron Retreat Center
Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat
Lake Michigan Family Campground





HELLO february

YOUTH GROUP!

Sunday, February 1
2-5pm

Rollerskating at Rollhaven
Adults: Drop off & Pick up
your youth at
Rollhaven 5315 S. Saginaw St

Sunday, February 8
12:30-2:30pm
NERF FUN!!

Bring your nerf guns (no
rifles), if you want, or we have
some for you. We have plenty
of ammo too! Let the games
begin!!

Friday, February 13 @ 6pm-
Saturday, February 14 @ Noon
CAMPOUT!!

Bring your air mattress/cot, pillow,
blanket, WARM clothes to cook
dinner at the campfire!! Let's hear
your best campfire stories!
FUN! FUN! FUN!



Sunday, February 22
12:30-2:30pm
ASP meeting!!

Youth Leaders

Angela Campbell 810-241-7275

Nathan Rahn 734-276-3949

ASP Leaders

Jennifer Lengyel 810-241-2343

Matt Anderson 586-634-8153

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!!!

Wed., February 4, 2026, 5 pm

Hot Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, Dessert & Drink

SPECIAL Meal followed by

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wed., February 18, 2026, 5 pm

Pasta, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert & Drink

Wed., March 4, 2026

Sloppy Joes, Cole Slaw, Chips, Dessert & Drink



CHURCH AND SOCIETY
NEXT MEETING 2/28 @ 10am
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Peace be with you. You may have noticed the new practice of lighting the candle for peace and justice at the beginning of the church service. This candle lighting is a reminder of our confirmation when we are received into the United Methodist Church. Have you thought about what this covenant requires of us? Are these just words we recite from memory (or on the screen from the red hymnal) when we reaffirm our faith? What does it mean to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent? How do we serve as Christ's representatives in the world? Together we continue exploring this through scripture and the United Methodist book of Social Principles as we affirm our commitment to living faith, seeking justice and pursuing peace

Wednesday, March 18th

United Methodist Advocacy Day

TOPIC - Food Insecurity

Michigan State Capitol, Lansing

Activities included meetings with legislators, letter-writing, poster-making for the rally on the Capitol steps, prayer in the Capitol rotunda, and prayer and worship in the sanctuary at Central UMC across the street from the Capitol. Registration for Advocacy Day 2026 is coming soon!

Saturday, March 21, 9-3pm

**Grand Blanc Community Expo
Grand Blanc HS**

A one-day showcase of 70+ local vendors, food trucks, Kids' Corner, music, and a Grand Prize drawing. GBUMC will be one of the Vendors at the EXPO, be sure to stop by and visit when you come.



Free Little Pantry

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



If you notice that the Pantry might need some items, please feel free to help stock it or drop a note to the office so we can make sure it is kept up. Thank you! ❤️

February 21, 2026 9a to 4p

KEEP DOING JUSTICE

Keep Doing Justice is a one-day event hosted by the Michigan Conference Board of Justice. The goal is to empower Michigan UMs to be better participants in seeking justice in our world. This will be achieved through worship, speakers, and workshops showcasing justice-focused ministries in the Michigan Area UMC.

This event will be held at University UMC in East Lansing.

GBUMC has a number of folks registered.

If interested, please let the office know.

U.S. REPARATIONS FOR ENSLAVED DESCENDANTS

Faith & Facts Provided by the General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS



What does the Bible say?

~"If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep." **(Exodus 22:1)**

~The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "If anyone commits a breach of faith and sins unintentionally in any of the holy things of the Lord, he shall bring to the Lord as his compensation, a ram without blemish out of the flock, valued in silver shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, for a guilt offering. He shall also make restitution for what he has done amiss in the holy thing and shall add a fifth to it and give it to the priest. An the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and he shall be forgiven. **(Leviticus 5:14-16)**

~"...And Zaccheus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." **(Luke 19:1-10)**

What does the United Methodist Church Say?

~Whereas reparation by definition means making amends for a wrong one has done by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged...

(3335. Reparations, Book of Resolutions 2020/2024)

~Whereas, from 1930s through the 1960s Black people across the country were cut out of legitimate home mortgage markets by restrictive covenants that served to keep neighborhoods segregated

3335. Reparations, Book of Resolutions 2020/2024

~Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference of the United Methodist Church be called to repentance for its implicit and explicit participation and profit gained by slavery on African Americans in the United States, that local congregations participate in studies on reparations in their local area.

(3335. Reparations, the Book of Resolutions 2020/2024)



What do the facts say?

- As of 2022, the median white household wealth was about \$285,000, compared to \$44,900 for Black households. **(Federal Reserve, 2023)**
- Black Americans have a life expectancy about 5 years shorter than white Americans. **(CDC, 2023)**
- In 2022, Black high school graduation rates were around 81%, compared to 89% for white students. **(NCES, 2023)**
- Black Americans make up 13% of the U.S. Population but account for about 33% of the prison population. **(Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2022)**



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Support** the creation of a Committee to Study Reparations for the Descendants of Enslaved African Americans through H.R.40/S.40
- **Commit** to participating in local efforts to address racial and social disparities
- **Engage** with resources, such as books like "Reparations" by Duke Kwon and Gregory Thompson and "From Here to Equality" by William Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen



For more information contact: advocacy@umcjustice.org
www.umcjustice.org

Or join us at our next Church and Society meeting on Saturday, February 28 @ 10am

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
- 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!!

SEASONED CITIZENS

AND FLINT COMMUNITY PLAYERS INVITE
YOU TO A FUN, VALENTINE-THEMED
PROGRAM ON **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**. FCP
HAS BEEN ENTERTAINING FOLKS IN THE
FLINT-AREA WITH THEATER AND MUSIC
PROGRAMS SINCE 1929 AND WE ARE EXCITED
TO WELCOME THEM TO GBUMC.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION BEGINS AT 12
NOON FOLLOWED BY MEDITATION AND GRACE
AT 12:25, THEN POTLUCK LUNCH.

PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND OR TWO!

2026 Opportunities for Giving Back

Your contributions to GBUMC have regional, national and international impact through our connectional giving system. In 2026 we are asking you to consider giving to the six special Sunday offerings listed below.

January 18 – Human Relations Day

Together, we extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles, nurture at-risk youth, strengthen communities' self-improvement efforts and advocate for the oppressed in the United States. Your gift encourages acceptance of all of God's children.

March 15 – UMCOR Sunday

When you give to the UMCOR Sunday special offering, you support the operating activities of our worldwide relief agency, enabling it to assist churches and communities in times of disaster. The offering ensures that 100 percent of every designated gift made through UMCOR for disaster response and other critical needs goes directly to address those needs.

April 19 – Peace With Justice Sunday

Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. As a congregation we may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit! —of peace.

May 31 – United Methodist Student Sunday

Together, we educate students so they can make a difference in the world. When you support United Methodist Student Day your gift transforms lives through education. Your contribution enriches ministry and connects students to their faith.

October 4 – World Communion Sunday

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. Your gift funds World Communion and Ethnic Scholarships and Ethnic In-Service training. Your gift provides acceptance and love.

November 8 – Native American Ministry Sunday

Your contribution supports aspiring Native American pastors and enriches outreach in their communities. Together, we empower local, spiritual development and educate Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully, who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries and to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Thank you for your continued support for missions in our community, country and world!

GBUMC Youth Making Prayer Blankets!

Our GBUMC youth made five prayer blankets for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The United Women of Faith led by Gina Briscoe has donated funds to buy the fleece and our youth completed the Ministry by making the blankets. The youth will be making more blankets in the future.

The blankets will be on display soon on the Prayer Shawl rack. Thank you GBUMC youth and all who helped "tie" the blankets.

Altar Flowers

2/1 In Memory of Clayton Dunn,
by the Mitchinson Family

2/8

2/15 In honor of our 10th
Anniversary, by Val & Jim Wise

2/22

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 and come 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

1st Sunday Nancy Bigler & John Billings

2nd Sunday Kristin Ivan & Brian Rice

3rd Sunday Fran Duby & Kristin Ivan

4th Sunday Raeann & Bernie Waisanen

Greeters

1st Sunday: Becky Doran
Virginia Sullivan
Raeann Waisanen

2nd Sunday: Stephanie Schick,
Cathy Melkus
John Billings

3rd Sunday: Joy & Jan Billyard
Kris Surdu
Nancy Lepri

4th Sunday: Cathy Melkus
Stephanie Schick
Cindy Duhon

COUNTERS

2/1 Kim Werth, Jan Billyard

2/8 Carol Capell, Jim Wise

2/15 David Lessel,
Mariann Quaderer

2/22 Carol Capell,
Ron Blakemore



Birthdays

1st Dan Carvill
2nd Luke Lock
5th Ryan DeVos, Cooper DeVos
7th Deb Koval, Katie Lengyel
8th Grace Bernat
13th Ron Moleski
14th Bennett Carlson
16th Becky Anderson
17th Hannah (Dutton) Skinner,
Cathy Mitchinson
19th Eleanor Hall
20th Lori DeVos
21st Zayden Briscoe, Barb Mills,
David Skinner
23rd Dale Wolfgram
25th Roma Corey,
Robert Pustelnik
27th Brett Carte

Anniversaries

14th Val & Jim Wise (10)
18th Laurie & Bob Tritten (42)

COFFEE HOUR

2/1 UNITED METHODIST MEN

2/8 STAFF PARISH

2/15 EDUCATION

2/22 THE WEST FAMILY

Acolytes

2/1 Lily Mertz & Micah West
2/8 Jane West & Matthew West
2/15 Jack Bond & Zayden Briscoe
2/22 Grace Williams & Lianna Williams

Nursery Volunteer Schedule

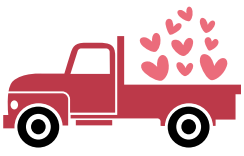
1st Sunday Kristin Ivan
2nd Sunday Shelly Gould-Rice
3rd Sunday Jan Johnson
4th Sunday Fran Duby

Narthex Attendant

2/1 Dave Lessel
2/8 Cindy Duhon
2/15 Jan Billyard
2/22 Sandy Jones

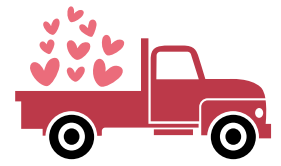
Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 12-31-25) = \$51,148
Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 12-31-25) = \$2,694
MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 12-31-25) = \$76,530



FEBRUARY

2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10a Worship 11a Sunday School & Fellowship 12:30p Youth Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6p Mission Team 7p ACA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10a Yoga</p> <p>7p Worship mtg/zoom</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10a Prayer Shawl</p> <p>5p Dinner 5:30p Choir 6:30p Bells</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10a Bible Study</p> <p>6:30p Common Grace @ Lockwood of Fenton</p>	<p>6</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</p> <p>7p AI Anon</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11a Yoga</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10a Worship 11a Sunday School & Fellowship & New Member Cl 12:30p Youth Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7p AD Council 7p ACA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10a Yoga</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10a Prayer Shawl</p> <p>5:30p Choir 6:30p Bells</p>	<p>12</p> <p>NO Bible Study</p> <p>Noon Seasoned Citizens</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7p AI Anon</p> <p>YOUTH OVERNIGHT!</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11a Yoga</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>10a Worship 11a Sunday School & Fellowship 12:30p Youth Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7p Finance Mtg/zoom 7p ACA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10a Yoga</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10a Prayer Shawl 10a Women's Group 5p Dinner 6p Ash Wed. Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>OFFICE HRS 10-2 10a Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7p AI Anon</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11a Yoga</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10a Worship 11a Sunday School & Fellowship 12:30 Youth ASP Meeting 3p Common Grace @ Wellbridge</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:30p Education-Zoom 7p ACA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10a Yoga</p> <p>7p Trustees -Zoom</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10a Prayer Shawl</p> <p>5:30p Choir 6:30p Bells</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10a Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7p AI Anon</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11a Yoga</p>

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 via Zoom

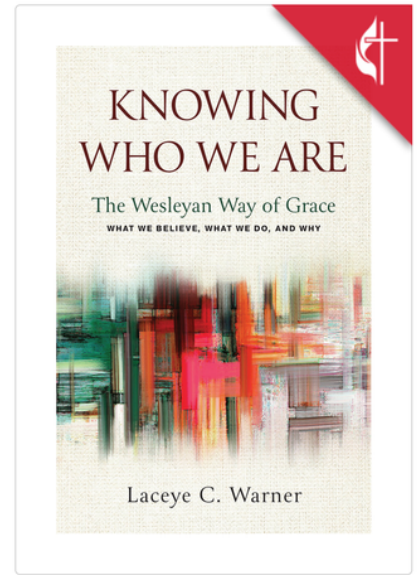
Evening: Tuesdays, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM ET via Zoom

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

~Purchase the book and read Chapter I before February 24.

Sign up today to join the connectional conversation!

This is presented via Zoom and hosted by the Conference.



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

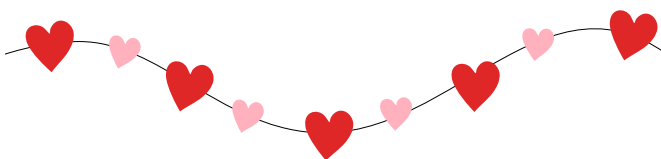
~Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

~ Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group
Bible Studies

If you are interested in diving deeper into Pastor Brian's sermons, you may be interested in purchasing the book "The Story" by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. This link is a good resource for this book: <https://churchsource.com/pages/the-story>

The church has copies of the preschool version, the children's version and the youth version, in addition to the original version. The church library copies are on display at the back of the Sanctuary. You are welcome to look them over or come to the church anytime the office is open and read our copy.

This is, of course, not required!!! This is just an option for those who would like to explore the topics further.



Grand Blanc United Methodist Church

515 Bush Ave

Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Church office M-F 9am to 4pm

810-694-9040

office@grandblancumc.org

Rev. Brian West, Pastor

Cathy Mitchinson, Office Administrator

Angela Campbell, Coordinator of Children and Youth
Ministries and Webmaster

Gary Brandt, Director of Common Grace

Andrew Cramer, Worship Music Director

Andrea Bernat, Nursery Supervisor

Kimmy Sayers, Custodian



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 4pm,
with the following exceptions:

Friday, February 6: Office closing at noon

Thursday, February 19: Office hours 10am to 2pm

Tuesday, February 24: Office hours 10am to 2pm

Friends,

I wanted to share with you an invitation from Bishop David Bard that has been shared among United Methodists all around the world. In preparation for the upcoming 2026 Council of Bishops Leadership Gathering, Bishops are extending an invitation to United Methodists to take part in a brief survey, as well as scheduled webinars as you so choose.

Bishop Bard shares with us:

“Over the past several years, we have navigated profound challenges as a connection. Now, we have an opportunity to turn toward the future with courage, clarity, and collective wisdom. The Leadership Gathering Design Team has created multiple pathways for every United Methodist to contribute to this discernment process.

...The insights gathered [from this denomination-wide survey] will directly inform the 2026 Leadership Gathering as we seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in this Kairos season. The survey will be open from January 15 to February 15, 2026, and accessible via the link below. This is an important opportunity for clergy and laity alike to speak faithfully and prayerfully into the life of our denomination.”

Bishop Bard goes on to invite United Methodists to participate in the following discernment webinars:

“At the request of the Council of Bishops, United Methodist Communications will host three church-wide webinars in order to help us discern our Wesleyan identity and new vision (please note that these are all virtual):

- January 24, 2026, 10 am-11:30 am eastern: Wesleyan Theology, “Love Boldly”
- February 21, 2026, 10 am-11:30 am eastern: Wesleyan Mission, “Serve Joyfully”
- March 21, 2026, 10 am-11:30 am eastern: Wesleyan Leadership, “Lead Courageously”

More information, including registration links, can be found at the link below. Those registered will have an opportunity to submit questions beforehand. All webinars will be recorded and available for later viewing.

These are important opportunities for clergy and laity alike to speak faithfully and prayerfully into the life and future of our beloved Church. I am deeply grateful for the many demands you carry, and I believe this moment warrants our collective attention and care. Our connection and mission are strengthened when we listen widely, discern together, and remain rooted in our Wesleyan identity...

...Please hold this process in prayer, as I continue to hold you and your ministries in mine.”

Thank you for your attention to this and for your participation. As they are hoping for widespread participation in this mutual time of discernment, we’ll likely be sharing this invitation throughout the process. Please know the survey only needs to be completed once. All of the webinars are virtual.

Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the church office, and we’ll help you as best we can.

Peace, Pastor Brian

Link to survey



Link to more information

