

Glimpses

of

Grace



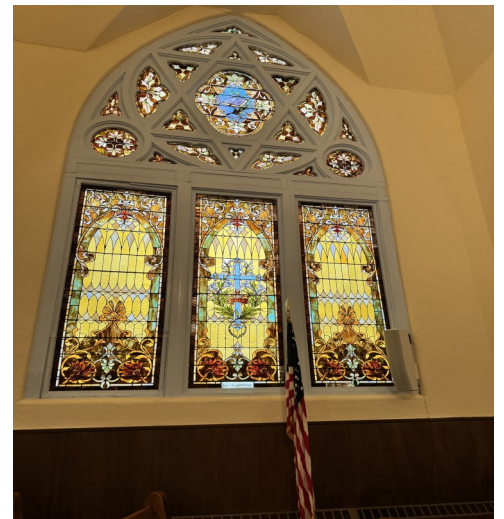
Grace for Today, Grace for Tomorrow

April 2024

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Our beautiful & historic building is one of the oldest and most valuable structures in Blanchester and we are hard at work to keep it so.

1.) Two companies have evaluated our stained-glass windows and determined that they will have to undergo extensive maintenance work in the next 5 years at a cost of \$75,000 - \$100,000.



Gifts to the Stained-Glass Windows Fund can be given by making your check payable to the church with "Windows" on the notation line.

2.) We have received a \$10,000 grant to help pay for revitalizing our Fellowship Hall into an entertainment venue for our ministry to the community. Total expenses to meet all of our needs, however, will be about \$17,000.

Gifts to the Fellowship Hall Revitalization Fund can be given by making your check payable to the church with "Fellowship Hall" on the notation line.

Thanks for your love and generosity –
The Trustees

ANOTHER UNSUNG HERO



“My Unsung Hero” is a podcast that invites people to call in or write about someone who did a good thing, someone who helped them and never received credit for their good deed. The brief stories are so inspirational that National Public Radio (NPR) has partnered with the podcast to share their stories with a larger audience. The program “The Hidden Brain” ends each weekly episode with a story from “My Unsung Hero.” Here’s a recent one:

In 1991, at the age of 19, River Adams and his family came to the United States as Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union.

The family received a small amount of support from welfare and food stamps, but it wasn't nearly enough to survive on. Adams remembers most of their meals consisted of macaroni with ketchup, old black bananas and cheap cereal. It wasn't enough to ever feel full.

Adams and his sister tried to apply for jobs. But because neither of them spoke much English, it was nearly impossible to find anyone willing to hire them.

"We couldn't pass an interview," Adams remembered. "We didn't even understand the simple questions the employers were asking."

After months of searching, Adams and his sister were finally hired at Roy Rogers, a fast food chain. The two siblings worked part time, breading chicken and mopping the floors.

"The work was hard. But being hungry and surrounded by all this food was harder," Adams said.

While their coworkers bought freshly-fried chicken for meal breaks, River and his sister went without.

"We couldn't afford any of it," Adams explained.

Then, one day, the manager who hired them, a man named Ed, began to notice the siblings' financial situation. And he found a way to help.

"We worked the evening shift. So, after we would close and clean the restaurant, Ed would put the leftover fried chicken into a bucket and give it to us to take home to our family. And for the first time in months, the four of us didn't go to sleep hungry. And suddenly we had hope that we would survive," Adams said.

Looking back, Adams now understands that Ed was taking a risk by giving them that food. Employees got a discount on food they purchased but it was against the rules for employees to take home free leftovers. But he did it anyway — he risked breaking the rules and it changed River's life forever.

"I doubt he knows that these two new immigrant kids that he once hired and fed remember him as the first American who was kind to us. He's the man who saved us."

I don't know what religion Ed believed in, if any, but his actions were as Christian as any I've ever heard of. And he makes me want to be someone's unsung hero. It's what Jesus often did.

See ya in church –

Dean



April HAPPENINGS



There will be a meeting of the **Church Trustees** on **Wednesday, April 3 @ 1:30 p.m.** in the church library.

We all need to give our Trustees a big hand for all of the fantastic work they are doing to keep our church the beautiful place that it is.

Thank you!!!!

The next Free Community Dinner here at Grace will be
Thursday, April 25 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Plan to come and help or join our neighbors in enjoying a delicious meal with a chance to visit with them.

You'll be glad you did.



Bryanne, Carole & Ruth



The **deadline** for vegetable seeds to JAM is **Thursday, April 11 @ 12:00 p.m.** There are baskets in the back for your seeds.

Thank you.

There will be a meeting of the **Church Council** on **Wednesday, April 17 @ 7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.



Our Church Family



April BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jane Richardson
- 3 Mike Hoggatt
- 4 Sarah McGrath
- 5 Teresa Curry
- 7 Lily Rice
- 8 Johnny Harris
- 9 Landon Thompson
- 10 Barb Blocker
- 15 Pat Garrett
- 15 Chase Thompson
- 16 Kyle Hoggatt
- 17 Cindy Bailey
- 19 Carrie Smith
- 21 Terry Hoggatt
- 21 Eric Thompson
- 25 Tom Allen
- 27 Jack Haines
- 28 Dr. Chuck Shonkwiler



Betty Adams, Jim & Cindy Bailey, Mary Beth McCullough, Martha Joyce, Sherri Sams Collett, Lisa Simpson, Sherri Williams Hammons, Isaac Halker, Sierra Mitchell, Gary Moore, Steve Hankins, Beverly Cravens, L.J. Rineair, Ed Adams, Courtney Hall, Glenn Funk, Tom DeSanto, Bow Hill, Faye Smith, Brandon Peery, Chrissy Charles, Faye Burton, the family of Jerry St. Clair, the family of Curtis Parks, Teagen Rechel, health care professionals, those in hospitals, the jobless and homeless, our church, our village, our state, our nation and our world. Senior Chief Electrician Kyle Hoggatt, Sgt. Savannah Robi-
nette, Major Morgan Bennett, Major Adam Putman (home from Germany),



April ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Jeff and Teresa Curry
- 30 Gus and Linda Thompson

Thank you to all those who donated food and who helped serve and clean up for the Dorsey Family Funeral Dinner .

Ruth Johnson



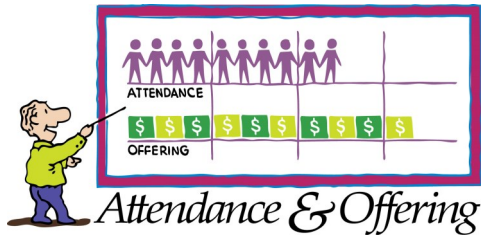
If you or someone you know should be included on our birthday and anniversary list, please contact the church office.

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Church World Service drive. Your gift of **\$390.00** will go far to help those in need.

Roland Fernandes
General Secretary

Bits and Pieces



Average attendance in March: 45

Average online viewing in March: 36

Needed in Each Month: \$9,612.00

Giving first 4 Sundays in March: \$12,531.40



Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, April 3
1:30 p.m.

**Girl Scout Troop 45988
Awards Ceremony**
Friday, April 5
5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Food Pantry Sunday
April 7

Deadline for Seeds to JAM
Thursday, April 11 @ 12:00 p.m.

Troop 45988 Girl Scout Tea
Saturday, April 13
11 a.m.—1 p.m.
Pizza Party ~ 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

Coffee, Tea and Thee
Sunday, April 14 @ 9:45 a.m.

Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 17 @ 7 p.m.
In Fellowship Hall

May Newsletter Deadline
Monday, April 22 @ 12:00 p.m.

**Administrative Professionals Day
(also known as Secretaries Day)**
Wednesday, April 24

Free Community Dinner
Thursday, April 25
4:30-6:00 p.m.

FROM: *Harry & Judy Brumbaugh*
Patti Loftin

Through your generous donations to the food pantry you helped to serve 300 people in March.

The only needs are: **crackers, canned fruit, spaghetti**; and monetary donations are most welcome. Volunteers are also welcomed. Pantry hours are Mondays 6-7 p.m. and Thursdays 6- 7 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach to the community.



Food Pantry Sunday is the first Sunday of every month.

More Bits & Pieces



Newsletter
Deadline

The deadline for items to be in to the office for the May newsletter is **Monday, April 22 @ 12:00 p.m. Thank You.**

On March 11, two members of the Staff Parish Committee and your editor, interviewed a young lady for the position of



church organist for the summer months. We listened to her play and found her to be exceptional. On Wednesday, March 20, the SPR Committee unanimously voted to hire her.

May 12, Bekah Davenport will begin her time as our organist and will remain until the 1st of August. She will also be here the entire month of December!

Bekah is currently a Freshman at OU. Her major is Music Therapy; with Minors in Choral Conducting and Psychology. She has learned the basics of the organ and is working on more advanced repertoire, playing hymns and programming music. She is also observing choir rehearsals, playing portions of the service at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shephard in Athens, OH.

Please make her welcome when she begins her time with us.

Stay in Touch with Us

Phone: 937-783-3655

Email: blanchesterumc@gmail.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 66

Pastor Dean: dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com

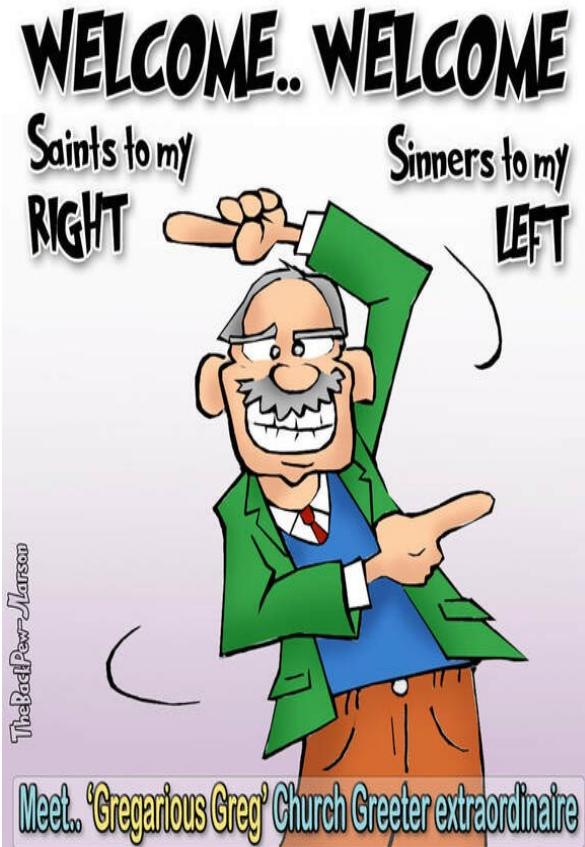
Facebook page: Blan Grace UMC

Website: blangrace.org

Office hours: Mon-Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon
Closed on Friday

Patty's Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Laughter is Good for the Soul



Kids' Korner



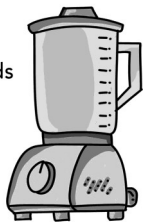
SOMETHING OLD,

Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



PUZZLE

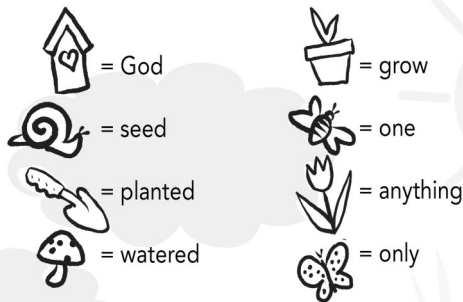


PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY



I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,

but _____ has been making it _____.

So neither the _____ who plants nor the _____

_____ who waters is _____,

but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow

Thanks to those who helped in any way with the funeral dinner for the Dorsey Family on March 14.

Thank you to all who helped in any way with the Free Community Dinner in March.

Thank you to Fred Freeman and Ed Huffman for all of the extra work they've done around the church. We appreciate it.

Thank you to Anita Rathbun for filling in for Pastor Dean while he was away on March. 10.

Thank you to Robin Prewitt, Jean Feldmeyer, Patti Loftin and Linda Thompson for their hard work in the kitchen for the Lenten Gatherings. Well done, ladies.

Thanks to all of the musicians who shared their talents during the Lenten Gatherings, Palm Sunday and Easter.



If you would like to give a “Hats Off” to someone, please contact the office.

Glimpses of Grace is a monthly newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 66, Blanchester, OH 45107; (937) 783-3655. You are welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in person or online. Adult Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Dean Feldmeyer is Pastor. Patty Williams is Secretary & Newsletter Editor.

Grace United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 66
Blanchester, OH 45107

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

