

Glimpses

of

Grace



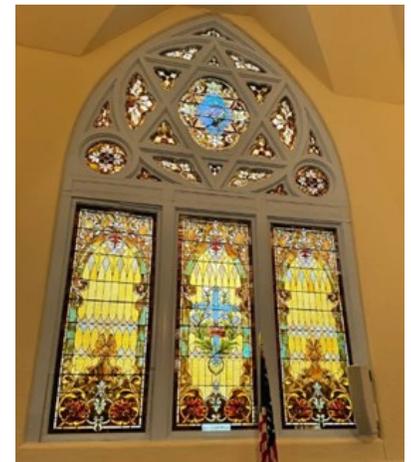
Grace for Today, Grace for Tomorrow

May 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.



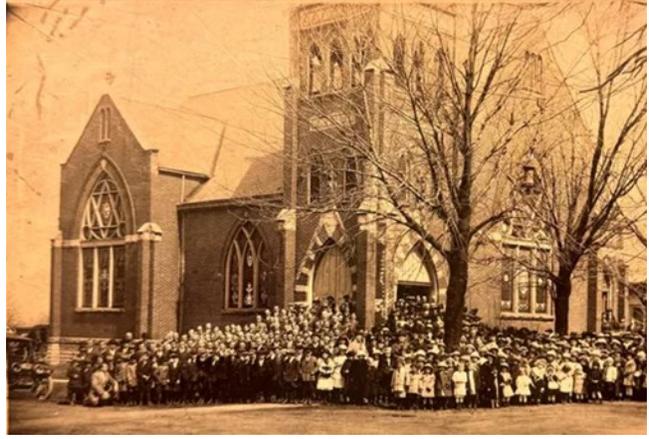
Gifts to the Stained-Glass Windows Fund can be given by making your check payable to the church with “Windows” on the notation line.

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

Grace for Today, Grace for Tomorrow 2.0



For 146 years, from 1878 to the present, our Methodist church has stood at the corner of Wright and Center Streets, a beacon of hope and love for the entire community.

After a devastating fire destroyed most of Blanchester and our original building in 1895, our current church was built in 1897.

Now, after 127 years of loving care, our beautiful stained-glass windows need some long-overdue maintenance and repair in the next 5 years.

Our trustees have received estimates from two companies who do stained glass restoration and the cost for all of our windows will be about \$75,000 - \$100,000.

Needless to say, we're going to need more than a few bake sales to raise the necessary money over the next five years. So, we are asking the families of our congregation to make a five-year pledge toward the repair and preservation of our windows and our church.

So that we can be faithful to Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors, we are pledging to tithe 10% of all money raised toward missional outreach in our community and the world.

Please see the next page and consider prayerfully how you can participate in this important project.

With sincere thanks –

The Blanchester Grace UMC Church Council

Bob Haines, Chair

Dean Feldmeyer, Pastor



Grace for Today
 Grace for Tomorrow 2.0
**5-YEAR FINANCIAL
 PLEDGE NEEDS
 2024 -2029**

5	pledges of \$1,000 per year for 5 years	(\$5,000)	\$25,000
10	pledges of \$500 per year for 5 years	(\$2,500)	\$25,000
20	pledges of \$250 per year for 5 years	(\$1,250)	\$25,000
10	pledges of \$200 per year for 5 years	(\$1,000)	\$10,000

TOTAL 5 YEAR GOAL \$85,000

\$75,000 for windows
\$7,500 for mission
\$2,500 for contingencies

Please detach and return to the church office at:
 Grace UMC; PO Box 66; Blanchester, OH 45107

My 5-Year Pledge

Grace United Methodist Church Windows Fund

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

\$ _____ per year for 5 years, or one gift of \$ _____ (attached).



“BELONGING”

The “kids” in the Feldmeyer family are now all in their 20’s, 30’s, and 40’s, and whenever one of the single kids brings a “serious” date to a Feldmeyer gathering the women – my wife, sister, and sisters-in-law – feel the need to explain, or warn, them about the Feldmeyers.

It starts out something like this: “This is a great family but there are some things you need to know in order to survive among them.”

First of all, Feldmeyers are big. In every way. They’re physically big (Dean is the smallest of the guys.) They have big appetites, big likes and dislikes, big laughs, big voices. “Go big or go home” isn’t just a saying with them, it’s a way of life.

They’re talkers and they’re kinda loud; If you want to be part of the conversation don’t wait for an invitation, you’ll be waiting forever. Just jump in. Feldmeyers like it when guests do that.

They’re huggers. Men, women, children. All huggers. Don’t even try to resist. Resistance is futile.

Bengals. Reds. UC. Ohio State. Rabid fans. A Michigan sweatshirt will mark you as a pariah for the rest of your life. Feldmeyers don’t do soccer except for when the grandchildren are playing.

Family always comes first. Favorite story: Ben’s dating a girl and has to cut a date short because of a family thing. Girl, puzzled, says, “So, let me get this straight. Whenever anyone in the family has a ‘crisis’ (air quotes) you’re all supposed to just drop everything and run to help. Is that it?” Ben’s answer: “Yes.”

Attendance at family events is not mandatory, exactly, but repeated absences are frowned upon. If they give you a nickname, you’re in. The more offensive the nickname, the more they like you.

The discussion about what it means to be a Feldmeyer can go on and on, sometimes over the course of an entire weekend. And, oddly enough, it never seems to drive anyone away. In fact, these matrimonial prospects always seem like the idea of belonging to such a family.

Belonging is important, isn’t it? We’re going to be talking about that in some of the sermons this month. Join us. It’ll be fun!

See ya in church –

Dean



ANITA RATHBUN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR!

Please welcome our new Associate Pastor, Anita Rathbun, C.L.M. (Certified Lay Minister) who will be sharing the preaching duties with Pastor Dean. Anita has been a CLM in the United Methodist Church since March of 2014, serving in the Goshen UMC until December 2019 and Butlerville UMC since 2019.

She and her late husband, Gene, starting attending Goshen UMC in December of 1997 and continued there until she became the pastor at Butlerville. She lives in Goshen where she teaches 1st grade at Marr Cook Elementary school and cares for her 4 fur babies at home. She will be bringing her membership to Grace UMC this month.

Anita stepped down from the pastorate at Butlerville at the end of 2022 and has been praying about where to go next and she believes she now has the answer to those prayers. She excited for the opportunity to work alongside Pastor Dean and looks forward to getting to know the Grace UMC family, better. Anita began filling our pulpit on April 21, and will continue one Sunday a month.

Please do all you are able to do to make her feel welcome here at Grace.



To our Trustees for the wonderful work they have been doing to renovate our Fellowship Hall into a gathering and performance venue for our community. The sound baffles are up and the east side of the Hall has been painted. Look for the new furniture and curtains to go up in that area if they haven't already.

One word of caution: The sound baffles look a little bit like bulletin boards, but they are **NOT!** Please do not allow anything to be hung on them, as they are delicate and can be easily damaged. Thanks again, to our hard working and conscientious Trustees.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, May 2, 2024



The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. In 1988, the law was unanimously amended by both the House and the Senate and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on Thursday, May 5, 1988, designating the first Thursday of May as a day of national prayer. Every president since 1952

has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation.

Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. The theme for May 2 is: "Lift up the Word—Light up the World." This is from 2 Samuel 22: 29-31 which reads, "***For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect: the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge In Him.***"

High School and College Graduate Recognition Sunday is **tentatively** planned for **Sunday, May 26**, during our morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

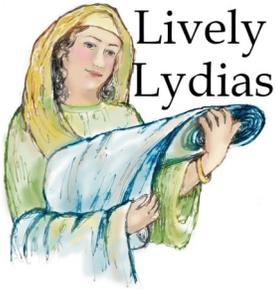
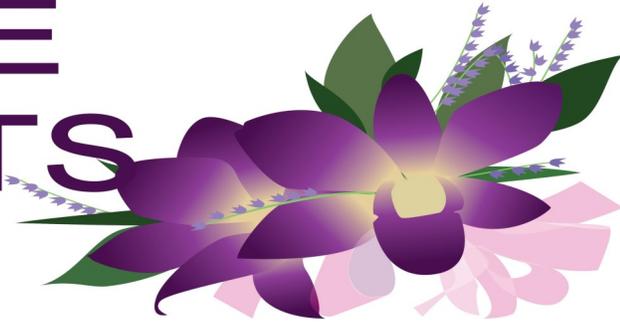
If you are aware of any graduates, college or high school, please contact the church office ASAP so that no one will be overlooked. There will be a reception of cookies and punch for the grads and their families immediately following the morning service.



Bekah Davenport will be playing our organ for church beginning on May 12. She will continue to the end of July when she will return to Ohio University to begin her sophomore year. She will return and be playing the month of December too!

Please make her feel welcome. Thank you.

MORE EVENTS



Lively Lydias

The Lively Lydias A.K.A. the Lydia Circle will meet for lunch at
Red Zone Grill in Blanchester on **Tuesday, May 14 @ 12:30 p.m.**

Here's hoping I have a good turn out of my Christian sisters for fun, food,
and fellowship.

Patty Williams, Leader

The next Free Community Dinner here at Grace will be

Thursday, May 23 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

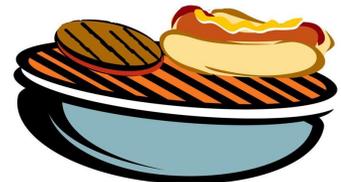
It is the first **Grillin' Out** of the season.

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

Grillin' OUT!



Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.



Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."

Our Church Family



- 1 Olivia Reyes
- 6 Beth Smith
- 11 Jessica Rice
- 12 Felix Reyes
- 12 Ruth Garnet Leedy
- 13 Blair Thompson Leedy
- 13 Angel Hoggatt
- 15 Caleb McCullough
- 19 Edna Schmied
- 20 Oliver Quinn Bailey
- 20 Andy Smith
- 24 Alicia Fravel
- 27 Ellen Binkley Hill
- 27 Gus Thompson



- 12 Tom & Amy Allen
- 29 Dave & Barb Blocker

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

Jim & Cindy Bailey, Mary Beth McCullough, Martha Joyce, Sherri Sams Collett, Lisa Simpson, Isaac Halker, Sierra Mitchell, Gary Moore, Steve Hankins, the family of Bob Hutchinson, Beverly Cravens, L.J.



Rineair, Ed Adams, Courtney Hall, Glenn Funk, Tom DeSanto, Angela Mueller, Bow Hill, Faye Smith, Brandon Peery, Chrissy Charles, Charlie Johnson, Teagen Rechel, Sharon Wiederhold, 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 Robinette, Major Morgan Bennett, Major Adam Putman (home from Germany), 1st Sgt. James Beckelhymer, 1st Sgt. Josh Fox



Dear Church Family,

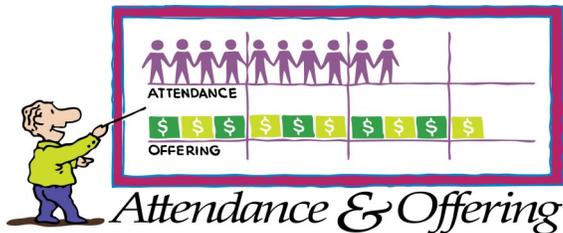
There are no words that can express the gratitude we have for the thoughtfulness and support shown

to us during this very difficult and sad time for our family. Whether it was bringing a meal, donating clothing, monetary donations, gift cards, blankets, pillows or sending a card, you will never know how much it was appreciated. We are truly humbled and grateful for the love that has been shown to us.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and God bless. We are so blessed to have you called our church family. Your generosity was overwhelming.

Love,
Cindy & Jim Bailey

Bits and Pieces



Average attendance in April: 43

Average online viewing in April: 43

Needed in Each Month: \$9,612.00

Giving the first 3 Sundays in in April: \$7,423.00

FROM: *Harry & Judy Brumbaugh*
Patti Loftin

Through your generous donations to the food pantry you helped to serve over 325 people in April.

The only needs this month are: **crackers, canned fruit, spaghetti** and as always

monetary donations are most welcome. Pantry hours are Monday & Thursday nights 6-7 p.m. Volunteer help is also appreciated.

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



Food Pantry Sunday is the first Sunday of every month.



National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 2

May Friendship Day
Friday, May 3

Trustees Work Day
Saturday, May 4 @ 9:30 a.m.
Rain will move the work day inside

Communion
Sunday, May 5

Food Pantry Sunday
May 5

Good Samaritan Fund Offering
Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12

Coffee, Tea and Thee
Sunday, May 12
9:45 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday
May 19
Remember to wear red

June Newsletter Deadline
Monday, May 20 @ Noon

Free Community Dinner
Grillin' Out
Thursday, May 23
4:30-6:00 p.m.

Graduate Recognition Day-Tentative
Sunday, May 26 @ 10:30 a.m.
Reception following the service

Memorial Day Observance
Monday, May 27
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

More Bits & Pieces

The deadline for items to be in to the office for the June newsletter is **Monday, May 20. Thank You.**



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.



To all Committee chairs and congregation mem-

bers: Please let the office know when you plan an event with the date and time, so it can be put on the calendar in a timely fashion; 14 days in advance of the event is preferable. Thank you.

14 days in advance of the event is preferable. Thank you.



We send our deepest sympathy to our custodian, Rich Hutchinson, his mother Harriet and brothers Doug and Donnie on the passing of their dad and husband.

We know that God will guide them through this time of grief.

We pray God continues to give them peace and comfort. during this sad time.

Laughter is Good for the Soul

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



DANDELIONS.. The bouquet that screams "I wuv wu mommy!"

Happy Mothers' Day!

Hats off to Ellen Hill, Lynn & Joe Gionfriddo for hosting *Coffee, Tea & Thee* on April 14. Great job.

Hats off to all who helped in anyway with the Free Community Dinner on April 25.

Hats off to Ellen Hill for the drapes that she has hemmed and hung in the Fellowship Hall.

Hats off to Ellen Hill, Fred Freeman and Ed Huffman for painting the east side of the Fellowship Hall.

Hats off to Ed Huffman for cleaning the stained glass windows that were stored in the basement.

Hats off to Pastor Dean and Jean for the Easter Breakfast and decorating the tables so beautifully.

Hats off to all who donated seeds for the Jackson Area Ministry Gardening Project.



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, 201 E. Center St., Blanchester, OH 45107; (937) 783-3655. You are welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Dean Feldmeyer is Pastor, Anita Rathbun is Associate Pastor, Patty Williams is Secretary & Newsletter Editor.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

