

Glimpses

of

Grace



Loving Boldly ~ Serving Joyously ~ Leading Courageously

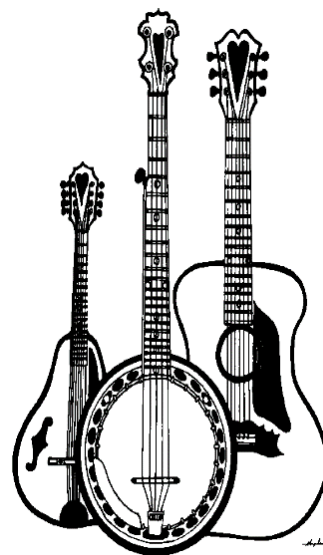
October 2025

The Clinton County

Gospel Jam 2025

& Bar-B-Q

Open Mic



Special Musical Guests

SoulScape

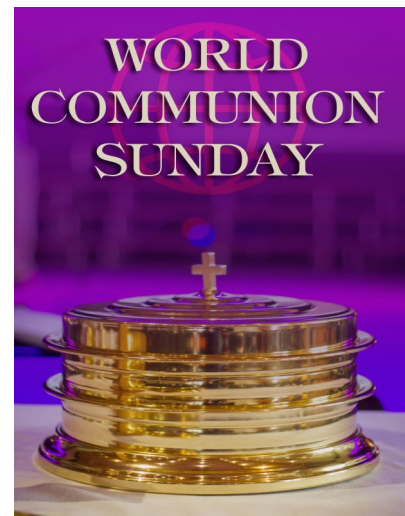
Sunday, October 26 ~ 5:00 – 7:30 PM

Admission: FREE! FOOD: FREE!

Worship News



Gathered as One Body
Sunday, October 5, 2025



On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 5, Christians across the globe gather at the Lord's Table for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord's Table stretches around the entire earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Evangelical Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names that are unfamiliar to us — all join in worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: remember him!

"This do in remembrance of me," Jesus said during the Last Supper with his disciples. Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted the cup of wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice, love and forgiveness for each of us.

As we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace, remember that we are united in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. "In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north. All Christly souls are joined as one throughout the whole wide earth" (John Oxenham).

Thank you, Lord!

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT POLITICAL VIOLENCE

By Rev. Dean Feldmeyer



I never heard of Charlie Kirk until after he was dead, murdered for expressing his political opinions as a guest on a college campus. Since then, I have heard a great deal about him. More than I wanted to, to be honest.

I've heard that he was a devout Christian. I've heard that he was a devoted and loving family man. I've heard that he was a brilliant political apologist and a skilled debater. And I've heard that he was a bold and noble American patriot.

Maybe. The problem is that you could say those things about lots of people.

You could even say those things about people who disagreed with Charlie Kirk

on everything he said. You could even say those things about me. Well, some of them, anyway. But are those the things that makes his death tragic?

I have no doubt that he loved his family but, as rock musician, Sting, reminds us, "the Russians love their children, too." I don't doubt that he thought of himself as a Christian though I haven't heard anyone say he loved his neighbors as himself or his enemies as Jesus told his followers to do. I'm sure he was a very clever, even glib debater but Jesus called us to be loving and kind, not clever or glib. And I'm sure he was a patriot, but I remember WWII veteran Andy Rooney observing that patriotism is a double-edged sword; he'd never seen a more patriotic people than the Nazis.

See, even if Kirk really was all those things that his fans say he was, that's not what makes his death tragic. What makes it tragic is that he was a young man, a father, a husband, a son – and he was murdered. On the tragedy scale, the rest doesn't matter.

We keep hearing people talking about "political violence" and how horrible it is, how we must eschew it, be done with it, reject it, avoid it at all costs. And I wish it was that easy. The problem is that political violence is just one kind of violence among the dozens which we tolerate, even champion in this country.

Let's be honest. This country was born out of political violence. What else would you call a revolutionary war? So, we don't reject all political violence, just the kind that offends us, that makes us feel uncomfortable, that threatens our placid way of life. And what about all those other kinds of violence to which we don't give a second thought, that we've just come to accept as the way life is in the Good Ol' USA?

Most wars are forms of political violence – the ones we agree with and the ones we don't. Then there's domestic violence, and verbal violence (and don't tell me words can't be violent). There's parental violence, and playground violence, and police violence, and TV and movie violence, and sports violence. There's road rage violence, and racial violence. And, if we put our heads together, I bet we could come up with a dozen more.

My point in all of this is that violence makes up, to a great degree, much of what it means to be an American. And unless and until we are ready to abandon ALL violence, it's just going to keep on happening.

Because, as columnist Ezra Klein reminds us, it's not just Charlie Kirk: A man tried to burn Josh Shapiro and his family alive in their home. A man broke into Nancy Pelosi's home to kidnap her and, when he didn't find her, he fractured her husband's skull with a hammer. The former speaker of the Minnesota House and her husband were assassinated. The chief executive officer of UnitedHealthcare was gunned down in Midtown Manhattan, and many lionized his killer.

Violence is viral. It infects; it spreads. Violence is combustible. It blazes into civil wars, world wars, and totalitarian turns. Who knows which spark will light the wildfire?

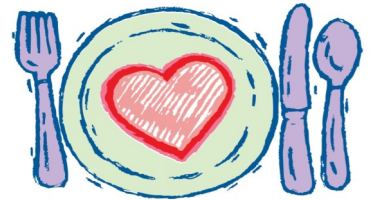
Exciting Church Happenings



Coffee, Tea and Thee

From **10-10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 12.** There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to host. We have found it works better with 4 hosting than just 2. It will also serve as a reception for our Pastor Dean, Jean and Assoc. Pastor Anita.

The next community dinner here at Grace will be **Thursday, October 23** from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Please volunteer to help, or come and enjoy a terrific meal with our guests and enjoy the musical stylings of Pastor Dean. You'll be glad you did.



FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Thank you,

Bryanne, Carole & Ruth



Beggars' Night in Clinton County will **Thursday, October 30** from 6-8 p.m.

We will again be giving out candy that night.

We will need of lots of bags of wrapped candy, and volunteers to hand out the candy that night. You may begin bringing your candy to the church office **Tuesday, October 21.** Thank your in advance for your help.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Sunday, October 12 is as Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

It's a day that we will give thanks for our fantastic Pastor and his wife. We have been so blessed with them, and also blessed with Associate Pastor Anita, and it's the perfect time to show our appreciation for them. See page 5 for more ideas.



Exciting Church Happenings Con't

Pastor Appreciation Month is a special time that we set aside each year to honor our pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is scheduled in October. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.



God has blessed us with a phenomenal Pastor and his wife and a fantastic Associate Pastor. Here are some ideas you might choose to use to show your appreciation for them:

1. A personalized , sincere, encouraging note.
2. Take them out to dinner or lunch.
3. A gift card to buy books or study materials
4. An Amazon Gift Card
5. A grocery store Gift Card

Or, be creative and come up with some ideas of your own!
Just remember to let them know how important they are to us.

Pastor Dean & Jean's Address:

Rev. & Mrs. Dean Feldmeyer
2003 Collingwood Court
Loveland, OH 45140

Associate Pastor Anita's Address:

Ms. Anita Rathbun
6033 Manila Rd.
Goshen, OH 45122-9456





Sunday, October 19 is Laity Sunday here at Grace, 10:30 a.m.

The theme for Laity Sunday is “Together by Grace! Be Strong in the Spirit.”

Ephesians 3: 16

“We pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.”

Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of all Christians to love God and neighbor. As we (the people) grow in grace to become “all love” disciples in community, we gather with others and connect all to God’s love in Jesus Christ. So, on Laity Sunday we continue to lift up the vocation of all (**all means all**) to follow the way of Jesus and lead others to him – particularly as we rediscover practices of togetherness that reveal God’s presence for the life of the world.

We will have some members of our congregation share their stories and how those stories have helped to shape them into the Christians they are today.

This is a day you will not want to miss.

Remember: “If you miss a Sunday, you miss a lot.”

Our Church Family



- 1 Janet Freeman
- 1 Joey Freeman
- 1 Tate Freeman
- 6 Isaac Piatt
- 8 Quinn Freeman
- 8 Jim West
- 10 Hanna Fuggett
- 10 Breeze Noelle Hoggatt
- 11 Chloe Thompson
- 11 Geoff Prewitt
- 15 Sawyer Thompson
- 17 Randy Radcliffe
- 18 Jean Feldmeyer
- 18 Jessica Coleman
- 19 Mary Reynolds
- 25 Scott Schmied
- 27 Susan Schmied
- 27 Linda Thompson
- 30 Lee Schmied
- 31 Michelle Thompson



- 1 Ralph & Elinor Pelfrey
- 11 John & Debbie Ehling
- 14 Clayton & Liz Reynolds
- 24 Cliff & Robin Prewitt



Kevin Radcliffe, L. J. Rineair, the family of Tiffany Keidle, Darlene Kassner, Martha Joyce, Mary Beth McCullough, Beth Smith, Betty Adams, Ethan Brookshear, Jim Bailey, Dori Hanke, Ed Wong, Bruce Meyer, Jean Meyer, Sandy Redden, Marti McNutt, Morris Hale, Shannon Scott, Johnny McDonald, Isaac Halker, Brandon Peery, Jim Hammons, family of Charlie Kirk, MN State Rep. Melissa Hortman and husband, John Hoffman and Wife, health care professionals, those in hospitals, the jobless and homeless, our church, our village, our state, our nation and our world. Lt. Col. Adam Putman, Senior Chief Electrician Kyle Hoggatt, Major Morgan Bennett, 1st Sgt. James Beckelhymer, 1st Sgt. Josh Fox

(Please let us know when to remove someone you asked us to remember in prayer.)

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards and love you have sent out to me.
It was the best medicine to help me.

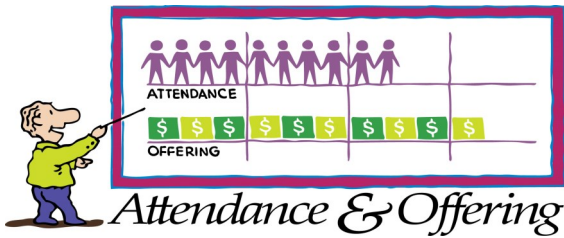
Thanks again.
Love, your sister in Christ,
Betty Adams



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



Bits and Pieces



Average attendance in September: 42

Average online viewing in September: 288

Needed in September: \$9,931.00

Giving last Sunday of August and 1st three Sundays in September: \$21,204.50

FROM: *Judy & Harry Brumbaugh*
Patti Loftin

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



The only needs this month are: **boxed mac & cheese, canned green beans, canned fruit, Hamburger Helper**, and as always monetary donations are most welcome. Pantry hours are: Monday & Thursdays 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.



Outdoor Church Work Day

Saturday, October 4
9:30-1 p.m.

Trustees to meet after work day

World Communion Sunday

October 5

Food Pantry Sunday

October 5

Coffee, Tea and Thee

Sunday, October 12
10:00-10:30 a.m.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

October 12

Lively Lydia Circle Meeting

Monday, October 13
7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Laity Sunday

October 19

Staff Parish Short Meeting

Sunday, October 19
12:00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, October 20 @ 1 p.m.

Free Community Dinner

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

Clinton County Gospel Jam & BBQ

Sunday, October 26
5:00—7:30 p.m.

Beggars' Night

Thursday, October 30; 6-8 p.m.
We will be handing out candy.

More Bits & Pieces



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items for the November newsletter is **Monday, October 20 @ 1 p.m.**

Thank You. Please have all items to the office at that time. Thank you.

More Dates to Mark on Your Calendars

**Monday, October 20
6:00 p.m.**

There will be a meeting of the Church Council

**Monday, October 20
6:45 p.m.**

A Church Conference Meeting to attend to District reports

Providence and Pastries

After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, "Lord, it is up to you. If you want me to have any of those delicious baked goods, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

And sure enough, God answered my prayer! On the eighth time round the block, there it was!



Keep in Touch with Us

Phone: 937-783-3655

Email: blanchesterumc@gmail.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 66

Facebook page: Blan Grace UMC

Website: blangrace.org

Pastor Dean: dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com

Assoc. Pastor Anita: grath47696@zoomtown.com

Office hours: Mon-10:00 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tues.—Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon

Friday-Closed

Laughter is Good for the Soul



What do a Jack-O-Lantern and a Christian have in common?

They both have a Light inside.

CAN CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN?

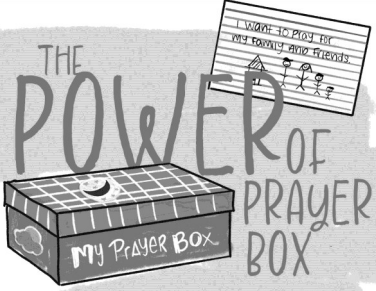
Yes, Christians can celebrate Halloween, though their approach varies significantly; some Christians avoid it due to its perceived pagan roots and association with evil, while others see it as a secular holiday or an opportunity for community outreach and witness, often through alternative events like Trunk or Treat. There is no single answer, and individual Christians and denominations decide how to align their faith with the holiday based on personal values and their understanding of biblical teachings on behavior and fellowship with the world.

Approaches to Halloween as a Christian

- **Rejection or Avoidance:** Some Christians avoid Halloween entirely, believing its pagan origins and dark themes contradict Christian beliefs and can invite spiritual darkness.
- **Secular/Community-Focused:** Others view the holiday as a harmless time for fun, costumes, and candy, focusing on the secular aspects and community spirit.
- **Christ-Centered Celebration:** Many Christians create alternatives to traditional Halloween, such as Harvest Festivals or Trunk or Treat events, to provide safe, community-focused, and joyful activities for children and families that align with their faith.
- **Community Outreach:** Some view Halloween as an opportunity to engage with their neighbors, practice hospitality, and share their faith in a way that demonstrates God's love and light in a sometimes-dark world.



Kids' Korner

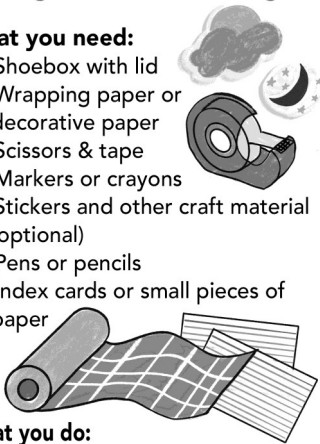


THE POWER OF PRAYER BOX

Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:


- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2, NIV




PUZZLE

JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY	EPHRAIM	MOUNT OF OLIVES
BETHLEHEM	GALILEE	NAZARETH
BETHSAIDA	JERICHO	PEREA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI	JERUSALEM	SAMARIA
CANA	JORDAN RIVER	SIDON
CAPERNAUM	JUDEA	TYRE
DECAPOLIS	MAGDALA	WILDERNESS
EGYPT		



B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K



Hats off to all who brought food for our Sundae Sunday celebration on Sept. 7; to Jim Johnson for scooping the ice cream, and the ladies who worked in the kitchen. Great job by all!!

Hats off to Harry & Judy Brumbaugh for the delicious goodies they provided for *Coffee, Tea and Thee* on Sept. 14. We appreciate you!

Hats off to all who helped in any way with the Free Community Dinner on Sept. 25. Especially to Randy Radcliffe, the Grill Master for his hard work at the grill for all of the Grill Outs.

Hats off to our ladies who do our Live Stream each Sunday: Beth Smith, Marla Parks, Valerie Radcliffe and Ellen Hill, you are all the best!!!

Hats off to the ladies who provide flowers for our altar each Sunday. June Bowling, Judy Brumbaugh, Cheryl Jordan, Robin Prewitt and Linda Thompson, you are appreciated.

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

