

Glimpses

of

Grace

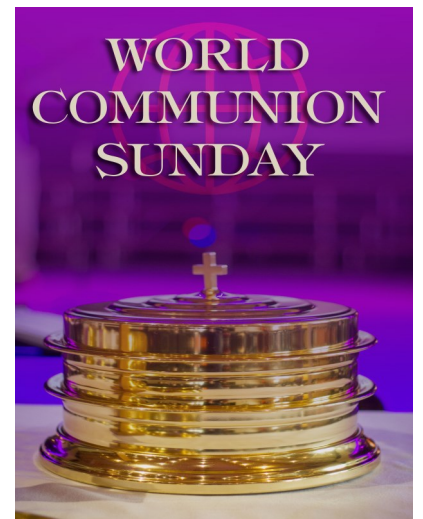


Loving Boldly ~ Serving Joyously ~ Leading Courageously
October 2026

Gathered as One Body
Sunday, October 4, 2026
(reprint from October 2025 Newsletter)

September 2025

On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 4, 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!



FROM PASTOR DEAN

THE RHETORIC OF COMBAT

Politicians love the rhetoric of combat—have you noticed? In their TV ads they are constantly promising to “fight” for or against something. They’re going to “fight” to protect our families, our dollars, our jobs, our way of life. And if they’re fighting, someone must be “the enemy,” right?

All that rhetoric of combat and fighting got me thinking last week.

The last time I got into a fight—a real, physical kind of fight, fisticuffs—was when I was 14 years old.

Chad Mitchell was about my age, and he and his younger brother, Kevin, were bullies. They loved imposing their will on the other kids who lived along Thompson Road, where we lived. And they enjoyed enforcing their will with violence—hitting, kicking, pushing, shoving.

They would leap at any opportunity to hurt and humiliate kids who were younger or smaller than they were.

They usually left me alone because I was bigger, so I watched as they did it to others. Finally, one day, I got fed up. They picked on my younger brother, and I couldn’t just stand there and watch.

I stepped in front of Chad and said, “Stop it.” He replied with two really stupid words: “Make me.”

So, I did. I was four inches taller and twenty pounds heavier than Chad. I was a football player and he wasn’t. And I made him stop—stop bullying my brother and stop bullying the other kids on Thompson Road.

The fight only lasted a few minutes, and at the end of it I was on top of him. We were both a little bloody, and he was crying. Adrenaline was surging through my entire body and, I won’t lie, I liked the feeling. I thought of myself as a hero. I was Matt Dillon, Sergeant Saunders, James T. Kirk, and Napoleon Solo all rolled up in one 14-year-old body.

Then one day, about a week or so later, a couple of boys at my school got into a shoving match in the parking lot where the buses were waiting for us to board. One of the boys stumbled backward, fell, and hit his head on the curb. He died on the way to the hospital.

After that, fighting lost its luster for me. There had to be a better way to settle our differences. I have spent the rest of my life looking and working for that better way, and I think Jesus found it.

Jesus showed us that way: **“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”**

In a world that loves the rhetoric of combat, Christ calls us to a different kind of courage—the courage to love, to forgive, and to seek peace.

See ya’ in Church,

Dean

Exciting Church Happenings



Coffee, Tea and Thee

From **10-10:30 a.m.** **Sunday, October 11.** 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.

The next community dinner here at Grace will be **Thursday, October 22** 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,

Ruth, Bryanne, Carole



Trick of Treat night in Clinton County will **Thursday, October 29** 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

Wednesday, October 21. Thank your in advance for your help.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Sunday, October 18 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. Invite them for a meal, give a gift card, an encouraging note, or be creative, use your own ideas. Their addresses are in the church directory.



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



Edna Schmied, Betty Adams, Martha Joyce, Mary Beth McCullough, Ethan Brookshear, Cassidy Agee, Josie Pfeiffer, Bunny Bradshaw, Phyllis Raasch, Karen

& Doug Willis, Georgia Peck, Juanita Curtis, Sally Charles, L. J. Rineair, Jerry Campbell, Allen Collett, Allen Willoughby, Brandon Peery, family of Bob Morris, 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, Christopher Bennett

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

Dear Church Family,
 Thank you so much for the love, prayers, cards, flowers, and food given to me during and after my unexpected pacemaker surgery. It has meant more to me than I can put into words.

I am truly blessed to have such a caring and loving church family.



Your Sister in Christ,
Carole Haines

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



Attendance and Offering Report

Average attendance in September: 41

Average online viewing in September: 137

Needed in September: \$10,556.00

Giving last Sunday of August and 1st three Sundays in September: \$8,113.00

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: **Jiffy Cornbread mix, pancake mix, canned soups of all varieties** and as always monetary donations are most welcome and needed. 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 3
9:30-1 p.m.

World Communion Sunday
October 4

Food Pantry Sunday
October 4

Outdoor Church Work Day
Saturday, October 10
9:30-1 p.m.
Rain Date

Coffee, Tea and Thee
Sunday, October 11
10:00-10:30 a.m.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday
October 18

Free Community Dinner
Thursday, October 22
4:30-6:00 p.m.

Laity Sunday
October 25

Charge Conference ~ Here
Sunday, Oct. 25
2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline
Monday, October 26 @ noon

Trick or Treat Night
Thursday, October 29, 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 26 @ Noon.**

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

A Peas-ful Departure

A funeral director once shared a lighthearted epitaph he found on an old tombstone. It read:

Here lies the body of Solomon Peas,
Under the sod and under the trees.
Peas is not here, 'tis only the pod;
Peas has shelled out and gone to God.

Make Your Blessings Count

Years ago, a newspaper shared the story of Mr. and Mrs. Davis Illingworth, an elderly Christian couple known for quiet, faithful service. Early in their marriage, they decided to use the gifts God had given them to bless others.

Through the years, they served through their church and in life-care retirement homes, offering time, kindness and generosity wherever they were needed. When a foundation later honored them for their caring philanthropy, they shared the motto that had guided their lives: "Count your blessings, and make your blessings count."

What a wonderful reminder that God's gifts are meant to be shared for his glory.

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.— Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon
Friday-Closed

Laughter is Good for the Soul



A mother went to wake her son for church one Sunday morning. When she knocked on his door, he said, "I'm not going!" "Why not?" asked his mother. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me. Two, I don't like them." His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why YOU WILL go to church. One, you're 47 years old. Two, you're the pastor!"

Kids' Korner

Give Thanks with Music

Music is one way to give thanks to God. Make these simple instruments to accompany your singing!



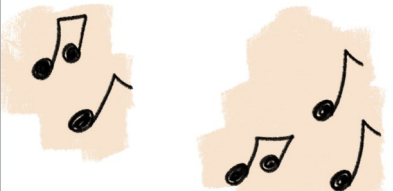
What you need:

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating



What you do:

1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!



Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A _____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High
God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One



Hats off to Anita Rathbun and Barbara Hameister for folding the Sept. issue of the Blanchester Bugle, the September Newsletter and the bulletins. You are both appreciated.

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

Hats off to anyone who helped in any way with the BBQ for Veterans Village on Sept. 13. Donations given were: \$1030.00

Hats off to all who helped in any way with the Free Community Dinner on Sept. 24. Especially to Randy Radcliffe, the Grill Master for his hard work at the grill for ALL of the Grill Outs.

Hats off to Ellen Binkley Hill, for the Coffee Station she set up in the "Living Room" of Fellowship Hall. Thank you for all you do for our church.

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 9:45 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

