

Glimpses

of

Grace



Love Boldly~ Serve Joyously~ Lead Courageously

April 2026



The Joy of the Resurrection

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?



SING TO THE LORD

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
(Psalm 96:1-2)

Some form of the word, “sing” appears in scripture more than 400 times. Music was an important part of the early People of God. They sang to express joy and they sang to express grief. If it was important to them it stands to reason that it should be important to us.

Music has always been an important part of my life. I sang in the cherub choir when I was a little boy. I pestered my dad into teaching me how to play the baritone when I was eight years old. I sang with him in the adult choir when I became a teenager and when I was 15 I bought my first guitar with S&H Green Stamps that my mother said I could have if I would put them into the books the store provided. My best friend taught me how to play it.

Music isn't just a pleasant pastime, however. Turns out it's good for us physically, mentally, and spiritually.

According to research done at Stanford University and others, people who sing together tend to forge unusually close bonds. Singing primes our bodies to fight off disease and even suppress pain. Singing is being used to treat lung disease and improves heart rate and blood pressure.

Singing in groups or choirs has even been founded to boost immune function. One study even showed that singing can provide a comparable workout for the heart and lungs to walking at a moderate pace.

For religious people, singing or playing an instrument together with others makes us feel not just closer to them but closer to God as well even if the music is not religious.

Our founder, John Wesley knew these things instinctively. In his “Seven Rules for Singing Hymns,” two of the rules are: “Sing all. Join with the congregation as frequently as you can... If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.” And, “Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep.”

I like that. Let's sing together in church this Sunday.

Grace & Peace --

Dean



PLAN AHEAD!

The Trustees will have an outdoor work day, **Saturday, May 2nd** from **9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** (Rain Date is **Saturday, May 9th**) All help is appreciated.



You will find an Easter Offering envelope enclosed in This newsletter. One half of the offering will go toward the Stain-glass windows repair and one half will go to the Blanchester Community Food Pantry. Envelopes will also available in the back of the Sanctuary.



The next Free Community Dinner here at Grace will be **Thursday, April 23 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

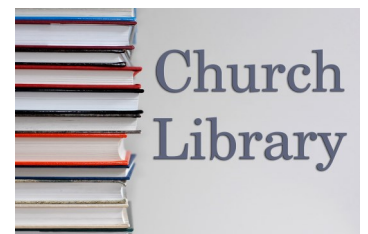
Plan to come and help or join our neighbors in enjoying a delicious meal with a chance to visit with them.

You'll be glad you did.

Bryanne, Carole & Ruth

If you are not aware, our church library has been totally updated and renovated. We have Ellen Binkley Hill and the Trustees to thank for the change. The Library is now a relaxing and peaceful place to come to read, relax, pray or just to sit and reflect.

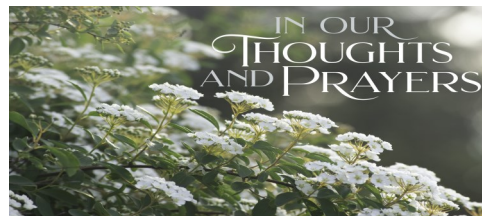
Please take the time to stop in and enjoy it on Sundays before or after church; or during the church office hours. You will be glad you did.



Our Church Family



- 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, Morris Hale, Kathy Snowball, Juanita Curtis, Cindy, Dave & Chris St. Claire, the family of Capt. Curtis Angst, Ron McHenry, Trent Ashbury, Jimmy Wiederhold, Laura Haines, Martha Joyce, Mary Beth McCullough, Ethan Brookshear, Leroy Addis, L. J. Rineair, Jerry Campbell, Allen Collett, Allen Willoughby, Brandon Peery, Jeannie Campbell, 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 from the prayer list.)



- 16 Jeff and Teresa Curry

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

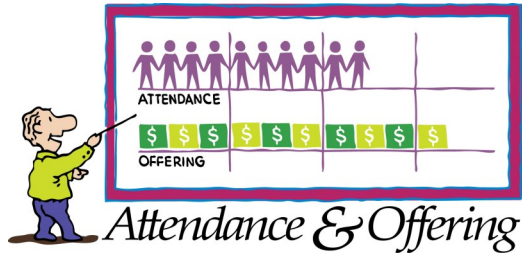
Dear GUMC,

We thank you for your donation of \$866.00 to the Blanchester Community Food Pantry. (a 501c non-profit organization with a Federal tax-exempt tax.)



The Blanchester Community
Food Pantry

Bits and Pieces



Average attendance first 4 Sundays in March: 44

Average online viewing 1st 4 Sundays in March: 132

Needed in Each Month: \$10,556.00

Giving first 4 Sundays in March: \$6,477.31

Easter Sunday

April 5

Holy Communion

Sunday, April 5

Food Pantry Sunday

April 5

Coffee, Tea and Thee

Sunday, April 12 @ 10:00 a.m.

Lively Lydia Circle Meeting

Monday, April 13

7 p.m.

May Newsletter Deadline

Monday, April 20 @ Noon

Secretaries Day

Wednesday, April 22

Free Community Dinner

Thursday, April 23

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: **Jiffy mix, canned vegetable soup, chicken noodle soup** 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 20 @ 1:00 p.m. Thank You.**

Dear Grace United Methodist Church,



Thank you for your thoughtful donation to our troop. Thank you for taking the time to allow us to use your room. We are also so very grateful for your donation to our summer trip to the Grand Canyon. Thanks again for all of your time and effort.

G.S. Troop 45988

Thank you for letting us have scouts here. You are the best church.

Dakota, Daisies
Troop 45988

Thank you for letting us have scouts here.

Ryley, Daisies
Troop 45988

Stay in Touch with Us

Phone: 937-783-3655

Email: blanchesterumc@gmail.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 66

Pastor Dean: dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com

Assoc. Pastor Anita: grath47696@zoomtown.com

Facebook page: Blan Grace UMC

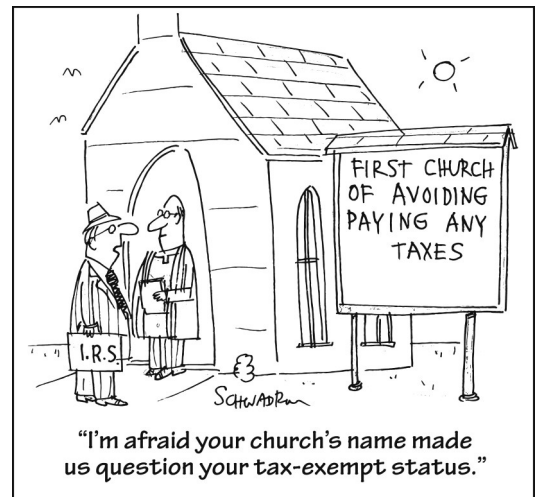
Website: blangrace.org

Office hours: Mon – 10 a.m.– 1 p.m.

Tues. - Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon

Closed on Friday

Laughter is Good for the Soul



Kids' Korner



The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:



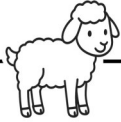
"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"


























FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

		
1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition 5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners 5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart 5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6  2 and  2  4"

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answer: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."



Hats off to: all who helped in any way with the Free Community Dinner on March 26.

Hats off to: Ellen Hill for selling the retro lights from the Old pre-school room and Choir room on Facebook Marketplace. The \$400 collected went toward the windows.

Hats off to: Fred Freeman for patching and painting spots in the sanctuary, and baseboard under the restored window. He also fixed the light in Pastor Dean's office.

Hats off to: Ed Huffman and Lynn Gionfriddo for being here while the last part of the back window installation was completed.

Hats off to: Associate Pastor Anita for her subbing when Pastor Dean is absent. Great job!!

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. CLM, 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

