

*Glimpses*

*of*

*Grace*



*Love Boldly ~ Serve Joyously ~ Lead Courageously*

*February 2026*

Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do “spring cleaning” within us. It’s our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the “stuff” that hinders us and then freshen up the “new creature” we are meant to be as followers of Christ.





## I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME

This month, when the spirit of St. Valentine calls us to a spirit of love and affection, I yield my page in this newsletter to our bishop, Rev. Hee-Soo Jung and offer an excerpt from his January pastoral letter.

Dear Beloved People of the East & West Ohio Conferences:

I am writing to you today with a heavy heart and a praying spirit...

As an immigrant myself, I know...what it means to live under the weight of uncertainty, vulnerability, and being labeled. I also know that many who are called “undocumented” are not criminals. They are workers, parents, and neighbors who crossed borders because economic systems, political violence, and family survival left them no other choice. Today, families, industries, and entire communities in the United States depend on their labor and their lives. This is why we must continue to call for comprehensive immigration reform that reflects reality, justice, and mercy.

Scripture is unambiguous about God’s heart toward the stranger: **“When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself”** (Leviticus 19:33–34).

The crisis before us is not only legal or political — it is moral and spiritual. The United States is being tested at the level of its soul. Will we be a nation shaped by fear and exclusion, or a society rooted in hospitality and justice? Our faith reminds us that God is always found among the displaced, the vulnerable, and the unwelcome.

Jesus himself was a refugee. Scripture tells us that his family fled violence and crossed borders to survive (Matthew 2:13–15). And our Lord teaches us plainly: **“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”** (Matthew 25:35).

The church cannot be silent in such a moment. The Ohio churches are called again to be a people who build true human community—where dignity is protected, where the stranger is seen as neighbor, and where love is stronger than fear. Laws matter. Policies matter. But before all of that, the spirit of hospitality must shape our homes, our congregations, and our public witness.

Let us become communities of sanctuary—places where justice has a face, and mercy has hands.

In Peace –

*Hee-Soo Jung*, Bishop

Ohio Episcopal Area



# Church EVENTS

---

The Monday Morning Prayer Group **will meet Monday,  
February 16 @ 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

New members are invited and most welcome.



---

## LET'S CELEBRATE SHROVE TUESDAY



Please join us here on Tuesday, February 17  
(Shrove or Fat Tuesday) for a Pancake Supper from  
5-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Dean and Jean will need some volunteer  
pancake cookers and servers. Sure to be a great time.

---

The next Free Community Dinner here at Grace will be  
**Thursday, February 26 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.



**FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**

*Bryanne, Carole & Ruth*

# Our Church Family



- 1 Kallie Netherton
- 7 Joshua Bailey
- 10 Mason Paul Jones
- 16 Debby Dunn
- 16 Bud Drummond
- 19 Mary Goins
- 25 Steve Dunn
- 26 Rick DuBois



- 6 Mike & Darlene Kassner
- 16 Nathan & Jessica Rice



Leroy Addis, Steve Stirn, Betty Adams, L. J. Rineair, Martha Joyce, Mary Beth McCullough, Jerry Campbell, Allen Collett, Allen Willoughby, Ethan Brookshear, Isaac Halker, Brandon Peery,

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. James Beckelhymer, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Josh Fox, Christopher Bennett

***(Please read over this list and let us know of anyone who may be removed.)***

---

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and your calls, cards, gifts, flowers, food and all the things you sent or brought to us while I was in the hospital and recovering from my recent illness. I



have no doubts that your love and the love of my family and friends was what pulled me through and shortened my recovery time.

Special thanks to Patty for being so quick to call Jean and the Life Squad. I'm so glad you were there, Patty. No telling how long would have laid there if you hadn't found me. Also thanks to everyone for the very generous Christmas gift. It made our Christmas so special at a very trying time. May God continue to shower you all and this wonderful church with His grace & peace.

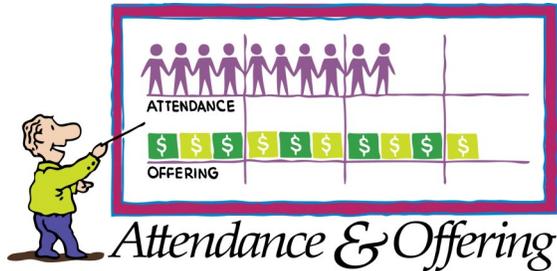
Love,

*Dean & Jean*

---

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

# Bits and Pieces



Average attendance in January: 35

Average online viewing in January: 170

Needed in January: \$10, 556.00

Giving in January and first Sunday of  
of February: \$15,496.50



**Communion**  
Sunday, February 8

**Food Pantry Sunday**  
February 8

**Coffee, Tea and Thee**  
Sunday, February 8  
10 a.m.-10:25 a.m.

**President's Day**  
Monday, February 16  
**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
Tuesday, February 17  
5-7 p.m.

**March Newsletter Deadline**  
Monday, February 23  
Noon

**Free Community Dinner**  
Thursday, February 26  
4:30-6:00 p.m.

FROM: *Harry & Judy Brumbaugh*  
*Patti Loftin*

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



The only needs this month  
are: **Jiffy Mix, pancake syrup and canned  
green beans**, and as always monetary dona-  
tions are most welcome. Pantry hours are Mon-  
day & 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.**

(If a winter storm doesn't prevent it.)

# More Bits & Pieces



Newsletter  
Deadline

The deadline for items to be in to the office for the March newsletter is **Monday,**

**February 23 at noon.** Thank you.

In the event that church is cancelled because of bad winter weather, check the church Facebook page:

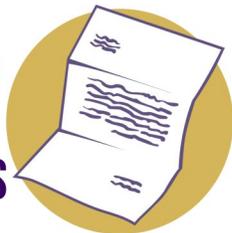


Blan Grace UMC, or Web-

site: [blangrace.org](http://blangrace.org), for closing information.

Emails will also be sent out to those whose email addresses we have on file, please check those before leaving home. If we do not have your email address, please send it to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.

## YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS



The Year-end giving statement were mailed on Jan. 30. Contact me if you did not receive yours or you have questions or concerns.

Patty Williams, Financial Secretary

## Stay in Touch with Us

Phone: 937-783-3655

Email: [blanchesterumc@gmail.com](mailto:blanchesterumc@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 66

Pastor Dean: [dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com)

Assoc. Pastor Anita: [grath47696@zoomtown.com](mailto:grath47696@zoomtown.com)

Facebook page: Blan Grace UMC

Website: [blangrace.org](http://blangrace.org)

Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.—9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Closed on Friday

## Laughter is Good for the Soul

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Exodus 16)

01-07-2011

BRINGING WILDERNESS ISRAELITES TO WINTER WONDERLANDS IS NOT ALWAYS A GREAT IDEA

## A Taste of Loving-Kindness

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, "What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving-kindness?"

A young boy thought for a moment and replied, "Well, if I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread with butter on it, that would be kindness. But if they added a spoonful of jam, that would be loving-kindness."

# Kids' Korner

**LOVE IS Action!**

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

**What you need:**

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons

**What you do:**

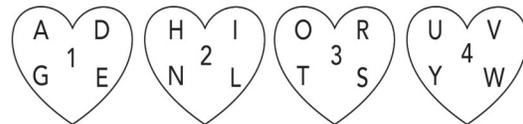
1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!

# Puzzle!

We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

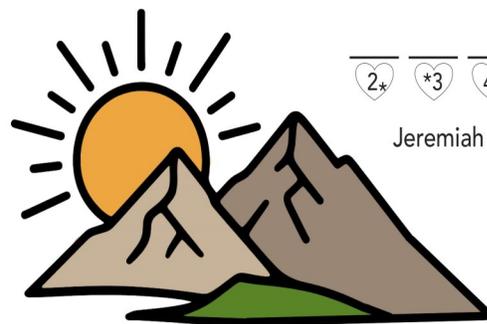
**CODE:**



"



Jeremiah 31:3



Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

Hats off to those who helped clear the sidewalks at the church after Winter Storm Fern dumped on us.

Hats off to Ellen Hill for clearing the sidewalks on Feb. 4.

Hats off to Associate Pastor Anita for filling in as Worship Leader when needed.

Hats off to Jim & Kim West for taking the clothes to The Exchange from Boxing Sunday.

Hats off to those who have supplied candles for the altar during Epiphany.

Hats off to Cheryl Jordan for running the power point for us each Sunday.

Hats off to Beth Smith, Marla Parks, Valerie Radcliffe & Ellen Hill for doing the Live Stream on Sunday mornings.



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

*Glimpses of Grace is a monthly newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 66, 201 E. Center Street-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. CLM Anita Rathbun is Associate Pastor and Patty Williams is Secretary & Newsletter Editor.*

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

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

