

*Glimpses*

*of*

*Grace*



*Loving Boldly ~ Serving Joyously ~ Leading Courageously*  
*January 2026*

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**2026**



A great year to serve, share,  
and celebrate God with us!  
Join the Grace Church Family  
as we walk faithfully through  
this coming year!

## SHOW THEM THE WAY



From the time I was a young teenager to after Jean and I were married, my family used to vacation every summer for a week in one of the wonderful Indiana State Parks.

We'd rent a semi-primitive cabin and cook our meals over an old gas stove or a campfire. We'd go fishing in the lakes, swim in the ice-cold, spring-fed swimming pools, ride horseback on the riding trails, and play touch football with other families in the meadow near the cabin area. In the evenings, we'd attend the programs and square dances offered by the naturalist service in the big shelter house by the lodge and in the afternoons, we'd hike the miles of trails that crisscrossed through the thousands of acres of forests.

One of the things I liked best was the naturalist hikes. I would get up early in the morning, just after dawn, long before anyone in my family rolled out of bed, and make my way to a designated spot where other hikers would gather to be led through the woods by a naturalist, often on trails that I had hiked just a day or two earlier but this time I would see things I never imagined were there.

Here a sassafras tree with mitten shaped leaves which, when rubbed between your palms, smelled like root beer and the roots of which could be boiled to make tea that would reduce inflammation and aid healing. There, a Christmas fern that looked like a small Christmas tree and whose leathery green leaves stayed green all winter. A salamander scampering from leaf to leaf. A crawdad shooting backwards through a pool in the creek. A shaggy bark hickory tree. A tulip tree, the state tree of Indiana. An oak, a maple, a beech, an elm. Poison Ivy – leaves of three, leave it be.

Our guide would sometimes quiet us so we could hear the song of a Robin or a Cardinal. And, once we heard a mockingbird and, when the naturalist whistled a few notes, the bird copied them back to him.

All of these I had walked past the day before and not seen. It took the naturalist to point them out to me, and after that, I could never not see them when I hiked the trails.

As we enter the season of Epiphany, the season of light and revelation, the season of welcome and warmth, the gospel calls upon us to be like the naturalist, to point out Jesus Christ in the world for those who do not know him and would otherwise miss him.

We do that through how we live, how we talk, how we relate to others, and how we give of ourselves. If we do those things we will warm the hearts of others and ourselves better than a mug of sassafras tea.

Stay warm –

*Dean*



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Associate Pastor Anita welcomed transferring members back to Grace on Sunday, Dec. 21. Barbara Hameister and Patti Loftin returned to us from Second Creek United Methodist Church. We welcome them and are glad they are here.



FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

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The next Free Community Dinner here at Grace will be  
**Thursday, February 26, 2026.**

Thank you!

*Bryanne, Carole & Ruth*

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During Advent each year, Grace UMC participates in Otterbein's Red Stocking Campaign. The Red Stockings folders are no longer being used, BUT some unique replacements have been found, so you may write a check, made payable to "**Grace United Methodist Church**", designated for the "Red Stocking" Campaign, put it in the new replacement stocking, drop it in the offering plate, or bring to the church office, and it will be included in our total gift to the Otterbein mission. These will be tallied and then sent in by the church as one total offering to Otterbein's Benevolent Fund for the residents in need. Thanks for your support!

**Money needs to be in by January 26.**



*Bryanne Peck,*  
Key Woman to Otterbein Home

# Our Church Family

## JANUARY Birthdays

- 3 Clayton Reynolds
- 4 Robin Prewitt
- 5 Alex MacGregor
- 6 Nathan Rice
- 6 Patty Williams
- 13 Darlene Kassner
- 14 Judy Brumbaugh
- 16 Christine Hearn
- 16 Stephen Hearn
- 17 Amy Allen
- 24 Angela McLaughlin
- 24 Richard Boyd Johnston
- 26 Kent Chittenden
- 29 Ella Thompson
- 30 Cooper David Reynolds

## JANUARY Anniversaries

- 18 Lee & Edna Schmied

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



Pastor Dean & Jean, Bryanne Peck, Dave Denton, family of Robert Fischer, Rick Ellis, Bill Bate, Jerry Campbell, Caroline Wesbrook, Cindy Bailey, L. J. Rineair, Martha

Joyce, Mary Beth McCullough, Betty Adams, Allen Willoughby, Ethan Brookshear, the family of Shannon Scott, 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

***(Please notify us when to remove someone from the list)***

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift.

I feel blessed to be a part of a congregation with so many kind people.



Blessings,  
*Anita Rathbun*

Dear Church Family,

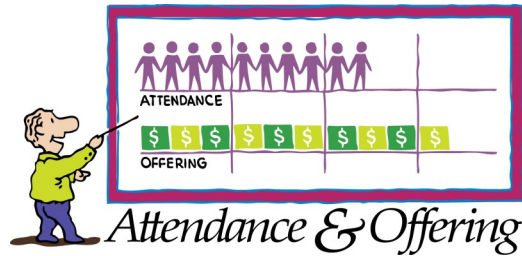
Once again, I am awed at the gifts of appreciation given to me at Christmas. You are the best church family in the world, and I do so appreciate you all.

Remember my role here at Grace is a labor of love.

Love to all,  
*Patty Williams*

# Bits and Pieces

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Average attendance in December: 40

Average online viewing in December: 169

Needed in December: \$ 9,931.00

Giving in December: \$14,555.49

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FROM: *Harry & Judy Brumbaugh*

*Patti Loftin*



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

The only need this month is: **canned vegetable soup**. The need is low because of the **Fill the Truck weekend** and **Glen Thompson Fund donations**.

Monetary donations are also welcomed as well as volunteer help **Food Pantry Hours: Monday & Thursday evenings, 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.**



**Communion**  
Sunday, January 4

**Food Pantry Sunday**  
January 4

**Coffee, Tea and Thee**  
Sunday, January 11  
10:00 a.m.-10:25 a.m.

**Good Samaritan Fund Offering**  
January 11

**Church Council Meeting**  
Monday, January 12  
7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
January 18-25, 2026

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
Monday, January 19~ Church office Closed

**Newsletter Deadline**  
Tuesday, January 26 @ Noon

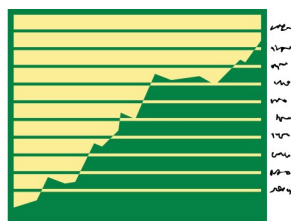
**Trustees Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 29 @ 1:30 p.m.  
In church library

# More Bits & Pieces



The deadline for articles to be in to the office for the February newsletter is **Monday, January 26 @ noon**. Thank you.

Annual giving statements will be available on **Sunday, January 25** for you to pick up at church. If you cannot pick them up at church, they will be mailed to you. Contact Patty Williams if you have questions or concerns.



*Annual Giving Statements*



In the event that church must be cancelled because of the weather, for information about closing see our church Facebook page, *Blan Grace UMC*, where that information will also be available. Emails will also be sent out.

**If we do not have your email, please get it to the church office ASAP.**

**We are also trying to get our information to Channel 9 WCPO station.**

## **Keep in Touch with Us**

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 66

**Phone:** 937-783-3655

**Email:** blanchesterumc@gmail.com

**Facebook page:** Blan Grace UMC

**Pastor:** Dean Feldmeyer

**Assoc. Pastor:** Anita Rathbun

**Pastor's Hours:** Tues.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-Noon

**Dean's Email:** dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com

**Anita's Email:** grath47696@zoomtown.com

**Office hours:** Mon-Thurs. 9 a.m.-Noon

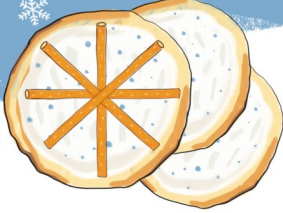
Friday-Closed

## **Laughter is Good for the Soul**



# Kids' Korner


## Snowflake SNACK CAKES



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

**What you need:**

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



**What you do:**

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

**Lesson tie-in:**  
Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike! (Psalm 139:14, KJV)

## Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D \_\_\_\_\_ s  
(Acts 6:7)



C \_\_\_\_\_ n P \_\_\_\_\_ e  
(1 Peter 2:9)



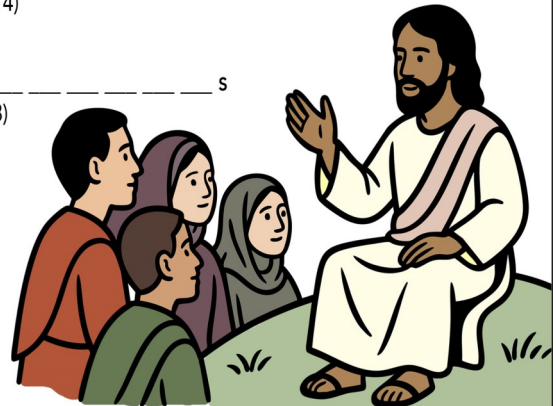
S \_\_\_\_\_ s of C \_\_\_\_\_ t  
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C \_\_\_\_\_ s  
(Acts 11:26)

B \_\_\_\_\_ s and S \_\_\_\_\_ s  
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B \_\_\_\_\_ s  
(Acts 5:14)

W \_\_\_\_\_ s  
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses

Hats off to: Linda Thompson, Robin & Clifford Prewitt for the additional decorating of the sanctuary for Christmas.

Hats off to: Ellen Hill for the decorating of the east side of Fellowship Hall and Office entrance for Christmas.

Hats off to: Lynn Martin & Jill Girard for folding and stuffing the December Newsletters.

Hats off to: Mike & Darlene Kassner, Patti Loftin and Bekah Davenport for the wonderful *Coffee, Tea & Thee* in December. Well done.

Hats off to: Valerie Radcliffe & Anita Rathbun for folding and stuffing the Christmas Eve bulletins and the Dec. 28 bulletins.

Hats off to: Anita and Patty for stepping in and keeping the services going while Pastor Dean is recuperating.

Hats off to: All who made the Christmas Eve Service a wonderful night.

**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. Anita Rathbun is Associate Pastor. Patty Williams is Church Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

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

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

