

*Glimpses*

*of*

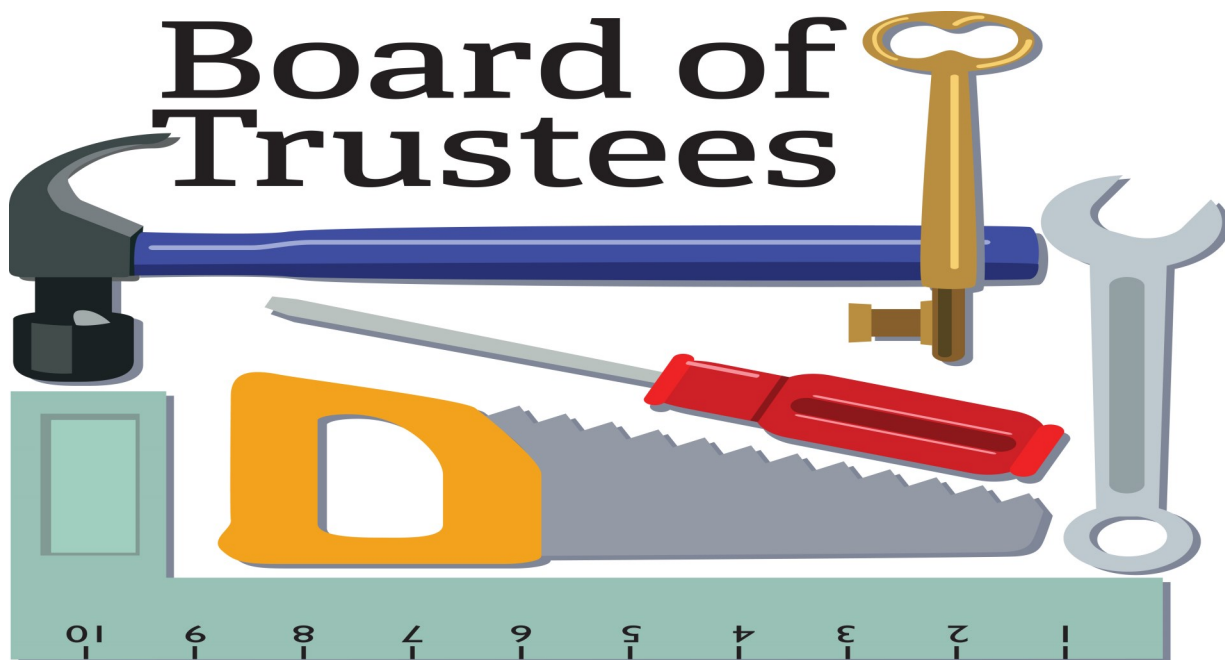
*Grace*



*Loving Boldly ~ Serving Joyously ~ Leading Courageously*  
*July 2025*

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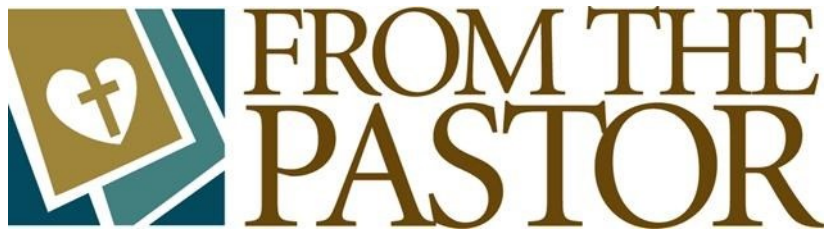
## Board of Trustees



July has been designated as Trustees Appreciation Month, here at Grace. Our Trustees have worked tirelessly to keep our church, inside and outside looking great. So we thought it was a good idea to honor them.

Thank them in anyway that you choose; they are:

Lynn Gionfriddo, Ed Huffman, Fred Freeman,  
Randy Radcliffe, Ellen Hill, Harry Brumbaugh and  
Bryanne Peck. We appreciate you all!



Blanchester Grace UMC to Host "Meet the DS Day"  
July 9, 2025 -- Wednesday

**On Wednesday, July 9** we will welcome the pastors and leaders of 26 United Methodist Churches from the Scioto River District to worship, feast, fellowship, and welcome our new District Superintendent, Rev. Wes Souder.

- 3:00 PM Pastors meet with Wes for casual conversation and snacks. (FH Lounge)
- 4:30 PM Lay leaders from churches arrive
- 5:00 PM Holy Communion served at tables in Fellowship Hall
- 5:15 PM **Picnic Style Dinner**
  - Pulled Pork & Chicken BBQ (Provided)
  - Cole Slaw (Provided)
  - Picnic side dishes & desserts provided **BY YOU!**
  - Beverages (Provided)
- 6:00 PM Lay Leaders conversation with Wes
- 7:00 PM Dismiss to Mission

**WE NEED:**

**Greeters** to welcome and give directions.

**Microphone Techy**

**Side dishes and desserts for Picnic Style Dinner**

Come and join us for a great time as we connect with our brothers and sisters from around the Scioto River District.

# WEST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Dean Feldmeyer & Rich Peck

1,100 delegates (called “members”) attended the West Ohio Annual Conference held May 28–31, 2025, on the campus of Capital University in Columbus. Roughly half were lay delegates representing the churches and organizations of the conference. Clergy members represent the conference. This year’s conference centered on the theme “Rise Up, Beloved,” inspired by Mark 5:35–43.

## **WORSHIP**

Meeting in the university field house, the worship experiences featured powerful preaching, stirring music, and sacred moments of remembrance, confession, repentance, forgiveness, healing, hope, and a shared vision for the future. A repeated theme in worship was “Loving All, Rejecting None.”

Through worship, we affirmed that Diversity, Equality, and Inclusivity (DEI) are considered Christian values that were championed by Jesus and will continue to be values upheld by the United Methodist Church in West Ohio.

## **STATE OF THE CHURCH**

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung gave his first State of the Church Address as leader of the newly formed Ohio Episcopal Area, which now includes both East and West Ohio conferences. He emphasized unity in diversity and called for mutual support and Spirit-led collaboration. A task force was created to explore the possible uniting of West and East Ohio into a single Ohio Conference in 2026 or 2027.

## **MOMENTS OF CELEBRATION**

Ordination of five Elders and four Deacons. Honored 28 retiring clergy.

Commissioning of five provisional Elders and two provisional Deacons. Recognized 19 certified Local Pastors.

Commissioned one deaconess.

## **LEGISLATION**

Amended the conference rules affecting our structure and procedures mostly to be more concise.

Adopted the 2026 budget reflecting a continued commitment not to increase total apportionments for continuing churches. Apportionments will decrease by 3% to \$11.7 million, based on 600 churches.

Adopted the new pension program for active clergy recommended by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Adopted 2026 guidelines for minimum salaries which reflect a 3% increase over 2025.

Adopted a rule whereby, effective January 1, 2026, any church building or new parsonage must submit to the District Board of Church Location and Building at least one strategy reflecting a plan of maximum energy efficiency. The district board must approve the plans before building begins.

Adopted a recommendation whereby Bishop Hee Soo Jung and the West Ohio District Superintendents shall create a LGBTQI+ ministries task force to: Support the LGBTQ+ laity, clergy, and candidates for licensed/ordained ministry; amplify their voices; monitor policy-making committees; and support ministries through educational support and collaboration.

Adopted a resolution forming an Ohio Site of the Immigration Law & Justice Network within the conference.

## **MISC.**

Connected with old friends. Tried some new restaurants. Made some new friends. Came back inspired and tired.



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The Lively Lydia Circle will meet **Monday, July 14 @ 7 p.m. in**  
**The "living room" (east side of Fellowship Hall).**

Darlene Kassner has devotions and refreshments. Patti Loftin has the program. Patty Williams is the leader.



**Free Dinner**  
**GRILLIN' OUT!**



The next community dinner here at Grace will be **Thursday,**  
**July 24 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** The 3rd grill out of the season.

Please volunteer to help, it gives one a warm feeling.

Thank you,  
*Bryanne, Carole, Ruth*

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**Sunday, July 27,** we will have an all Music Service,  
with scriptures between.

Patty & Bekah will have an organ & piano duet, The Grace Praise Band  
will be here, Pastor Dean will sing, and there may be some surprises.

Mark your calendars, **July 27!** Bring your family and friends  
for a great morning!



All Music  
Service

# Our Church Family



- 2 Debbie Ehling
- 4 Peggy Huffman
- 5 Betty Adams
- 6 Bob Haines
- 6 Katie Bailey Stanforth
- 7 Rob Haines
- 9 Riley Conley
- 12 Lynn Martin
- 12 Brandi Hoggatt
- 12 Emmett Freeman
- 13 Bob Morgan
- 14 Elizabeth Conley
- 19 Tom Penquite
- 19 Jim Bailey
- 20 Kaitlin Freeman
- 20 Tony Klejna
- 23 Hannah Piatt
- 26 Carole Haines
- 26 Rick Hutchinson
- 31 Heather Brumbaugh Keyser
- 31 Marsha Dunn



- 1 Troy & Clara Ballinger
- 4 Robert & Erin Curry
- 7 Scott & Sara McGrath
- 7 Rich & Bryanne Peck
- 18 Jody & Kris Gundler
- 22 Pastor Dean & Jean Feldmeyer
- 25 Kyle & Angel Hoggatt

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



## Remember in Prayer

Susan Crossland, Barbara Hameister & Jo Ann, the family of Rev. Mac Nicholson, Debbie Krauss, Anne Lane, Carole Haines, Edna Schmied, Quinn

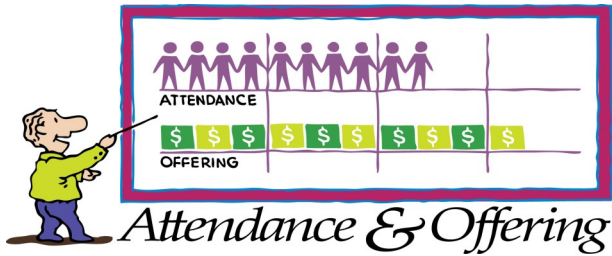
Freeman, Ethan Brookshear, Beverly Cravens, Sylvia Freeman, Martha Joyce, Mary Beth McCullough, Jim Bailey, Donna, Karen Willis, Ellen (a friend of Jean Feldmeyer), David St. Clair, Chris Keating, Morris Hale, Shannon Scott, Michael Kasten, Johnny McDonald, Isaac Halker, Brandon Peery, health care professionals, 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

We send our deepest condolences to the family of the Rev. Mac Nicholson, who passed away on June 12. Mac served at Grace from 1997 until 2004 when he retired. We pray God's comfort to Debbie and his family during this time of sorrow.



We received word that church member, Mary Reynolds, is now residing at Cape May in Wilmington. Her address will be passed on later when we receive it.

# Bits and Pieces



Average attendance so far in June: 47

Average online viewing so far in June: 141

Needed in Each Month: \$9,931.00

Giving so far in June: \$11,304.00



**Church Office Closed**  
Friday, July 4

**Communion**  
Sunday, July 6

**Food Pantry Sunday**  
July 6

**Scioto River District Meeting**  
July 9  
3-7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Coffee, Tea & Thee**  
Sunday, July 13  
10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.  
(Note the time change)  
Trustees Reception

**Good Samaritan Fund Offering**  
Sunday, July, 13

**Lively Lydia Circle Meeting**  
Monday, July 14 @ 7 p.m.

**Trustees Meeting**  
Wednesday, July 16 @ 1:30 p.m.

**Newsletter Deadline**  
Monday, July 21 @ 1 p.m.

**Church Council Meeting**  
Monday, July 21 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Free Community Dinner**  
**Grillin' Out**  
Thursday, July 24  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

**All Music Service**  
Sunday, July 27  
10:30 a. m.

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

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



Some needs are: **canned fruit, canned vegetable soup, spaghetti sauce, crackers** 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.**

# More Bits & Pieces



The deadline for items to be in to the office for the August newsletter is **Mon-**

**day, July 21 @ 1 p.m. Thank You.**

If you would like to have flowers on the altar in memory or honor of someone contact the office: 937-783-3655 or email: blanchesterumc@gmail.com



Arrangement Cost: \$35.00

1 Carnation: \$10.00

1 Rose: \$13.00

3 Carnations: \$16.00

3 Roses: \$19.00

## Hall Rental

Any Church member wishing to use the Fellowship Hall, for an event, may

contact the church office with the information about the event. There is a rental agreement to be filled out and signed, with a deposit of \$50 that will be returned to you if the Hall is left in good order after your event. Members: \$20 hall rental; \$25 if kitchen is used. 937-783-3655

### Stay in Touch with Us

**Phone:** 937-783-3655

**Email:** blanchesterumc@gmail.com

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

**Pastor Dean:** dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com

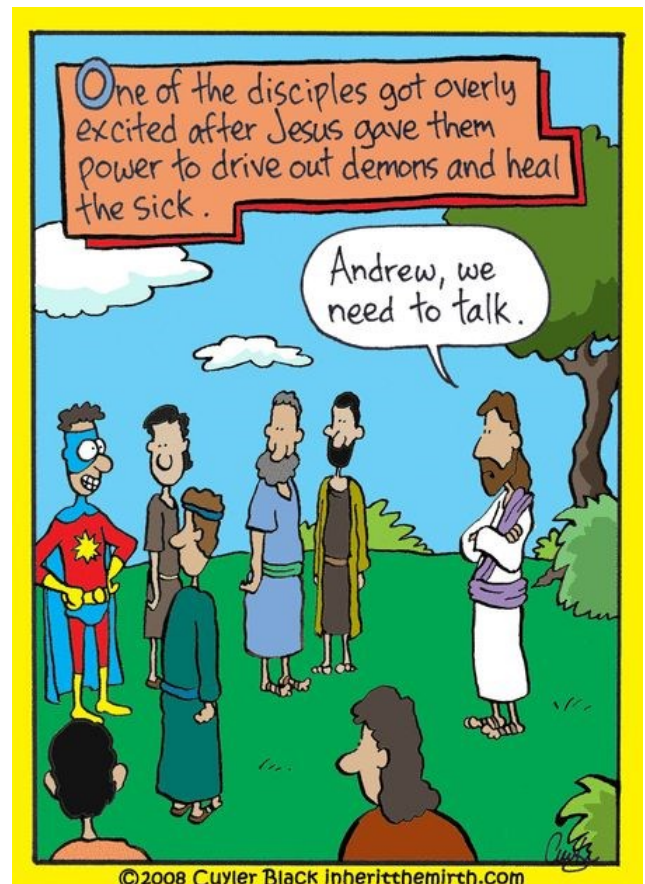
**Assoc. Pastor Anita:** grath47696@zoomtown.com

**Facebook page:** Blan Grace UMC

**Website:** blangrace.org

**Office hours:** Monday 10 a.m. –1 p.m.  
Tues. -Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon  
**Closed on Friday**

### Laughter is Good for the Soul



# Odds and Ends

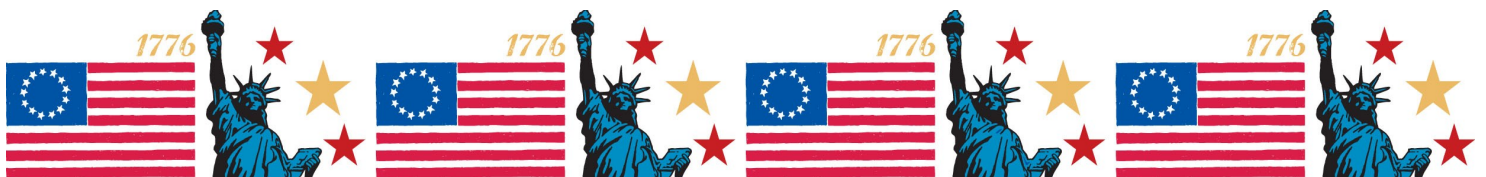
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## Perspectives on Patriotism

While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."

This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.



# More Odds and Ends



## The 4<sup>th</sup> of July reminds us of the sacrifices that were made for our freedom.

We think about the sacrifices countless soldiers who have lost their lives, and I don't want to minimize their sacrifices remotely. Without their bravery we wouldn't have many of the blessings we enjoy today.

But we should think about the greatest sacrifice that was made for our freedom. There is a common saying: "*Freedom isn't free.*" To enjoy the freedom we have in our country, people had to pay for it. Likewise, [someone had to pay for the freedoms we enjoy](#) from the Law and the punishment our sins deserve:

Philippians 2:6-8 [Jesus] being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

In John 10:18 [Jesus said], "No one takes [My life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself." Jesus was saying, "*I have the freedom to keep my life, but I'm willing to give it up for you.*"

As Christians we enjoy many wonderful freedoms. Let's be reminded of them each 4th of July, recognizing it's only because of Jesus' willingness to give up His freedom for us.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

# 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY


ADAMS  
AMERICA  
BARBECUE  
COLONIES  
CONGRESS  
DECLARATION  
EQUALITY  
FIREWORKS  
FOURTH  
FREEDOM  
HOTDOGS  
INDEPENDENCE  
JEFFERSON  
JULY  
LIBERTY  
NATION  
PARADE  
REVOLUTION  
RIGHTS

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

STATES  
THIRTEEN  
UNITED



# Kids' Korner




**SHOO fly!**

Make this candle to keep uninvited insects from your outdoor summer meals.

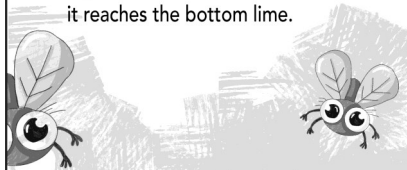

**What you need:**

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help



**What you do:**

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half. Cut off the rounded end of one half so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate. Insert the candle in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side of the bottom half. Then place the other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the candle that's between the two lime halves. The flame's heat will warm the lime and create a smell that insects don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when it reaches the bottom lime.

**TINY TEAMWORK**

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

*Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.*

This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. \_\_\_\_\_

A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. \_\_\_\_\_

Having deep understanding and sound judgment. \_\_\_\_\_

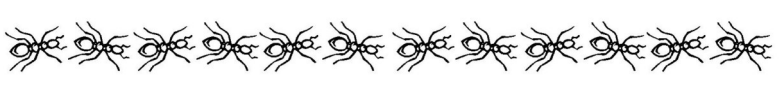
A person in charge of military troops. \_\_\_\_\_

A person in authority. \_\_\_\_\_

The season when daylight hours are longest. \_\_\_\_\_

A substance you eat for nutrition. \_\_\_\_\_


When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. \_\_\_\_\_



*Go to the \_\_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_\_;  
consider its ways and be \_\_\_\_\_!*

*It has no \_\_\_\_\_, no overseer or \_\_\_\_\_,  
yet it stores its provisions in \_\_\_\_\_  
and gathers its \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV**



Answers: ant, slugard, wise, commander, ruler, summer, food, harvest; Go to the ant, you slugard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.



Thanks to all who brought food to help us celebrate the Birthday of Christianity on June 8. It was a wonderful morning.

Thanks to Jim Johnson, our Ice cream server and Jessica Rice, our cake server on June 8. You are both much appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the free dinner in June. We do appreciate you.

Thanks to Bekah Davenport for the beautiful organ music she prepares and plays for us each Sunday. Great job!

Thanks to Anita for the great job she does filling in the pulpit when Pastor Dean is absent. We are grateful to have her as our Associate Pastor.

**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**

