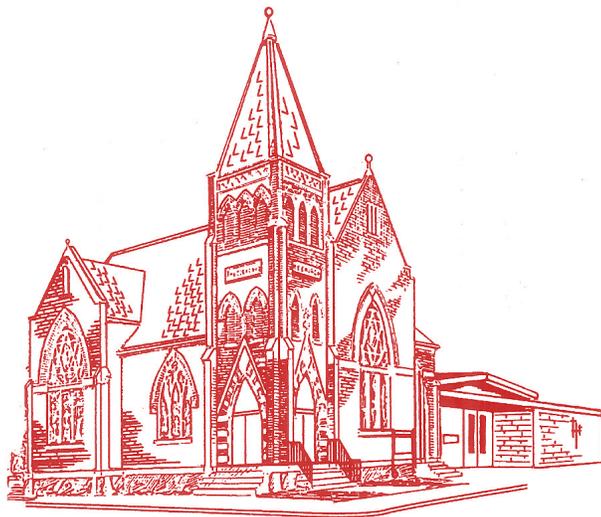


Glimpses

of

Grace



Love Boldly ~ Serve Joyously ~ Lead Courageously

March 2026



World Day of Prayer under the motto to **"I Will Give You Rest: Come"** comes from Nigeria and will be held on **March 6, 2026**.

The World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide movement led by Christian women of many traditions, who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. More than 120 countries participate in an annual day of celebration, which brings together people of various races, cultures and traditions, sharing God's word and worship.

The 2026 World Day of Prayer service was prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria, with a focus on the invitation of Jesus found in Matthew 11:28-30, as they call us to come closer and find rest in God.



The closing ceremonies of the Olympics are playing on the TV downstairs as I write these words. By the time you read this the Olympics will be over, and the Paralympics will be getting ready to begin.

I think of all the things we watched this year, those I will remember most are the tears. Figure skater Amber Glenn's after a disastrous mistake in her short program put the gold medal hopeful in 13th place and then her beautiful long program that lifted her from 13th to 4th place.

And Ilia Malinin, the 21--year-old "Quad God" figure skater who dominated the team event and the short program then imploded in the free skate to finish in 8th place and his almost angry, defiantly beautiful skate in the gala exhibition program. But my favorites were Madison Chock and Evan Bates, the married couple who had the ice dancing gold medal sewn up only to be edged out by less than a point when the French judge inflated the French couple's score as she always does. And then Bates and Chock's exhibition program that so beautifully demonstrated their love and devotion to each other and their sport.

I enjoy sports. I play golf and I lettered in three sports in high school. I played church league softball until Jean made me quit after I foolishly slid into third base trying to beat out a throw from second. (I was safe.) But I can only watch sports for so long before I get bored and decide to do something creative. Jean watches sports year around. Baseball and tennis in spring and summer, football in the fall (her favorite), basketball in winter, golf when nothing else is on. During the Olympics she even watches curling. Curling! And she gets all excited and yells at the television.

I didn't get her love of watching sports until I read an op-ed piece by Lauren Jackson in the New York Times "Believing" newsletter. It's called "Olympic Devotion" and I recommend it to your attention if you can get it. Mostly, she describes Amber Glenn's breathtakingly beautiful performance in the long free skate: "I grew emotional, surprised at myself. It is such an intense pleasure to watch someone perform at the height of her ability and craft. I felt like I was watching a rare form of devotion." Jean and I knew how Jackson felt. We watched that free skate too and cried at the beauty of it.

Beauty, whether it is found in the arts or sports, is always a gift from God and one to be prized and appreciated.

See ya in church --

Dean



ACTIVITIES

FOR ALL



The next Free Community Dinner here at Grace will be
Thursday, March 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.

Bryanne, Carole and Ruth

UMCOR (formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing) is the United Methodist Committee On Relief. Sunday, March 15 has been designated as UMCOR Sunday. This is one of the 6 special Sundays named by the West Ohio Conference as a special Sunday to give a donation to assist them with their humanitarian relief efforts. **There will be special envelopes available on the 15th** for you to use if you choose to donate. **Just ask an usher for one.** This is one way that we can show the love of Jesus to those who desperately need it. Thank you.



Fasting and Feasting During Lent

(From the March 2025 Newsletter)

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

Our Church Family



- 1 Fred Freeman
- 1 Jeff Curry
- 3 Blake Johnston
- 4 Lexie Aytes Thompson
- 5 Liz Reynolds
- 5 Matt Johnson
- 5 Myles Anthony Jones
- 6 Dirk (B.G.) Garner
- 6 Clifford Prewitt
- 7 Camden Freeman
- 8 John Ehling
- 9 Rich Peck
- 10 Ruth Johnson
- 12 Stephanie Hearn
- 12 Donna Sue Holmes
- 12 Hope Goins
- 16 Bill McLaughlin
- 23 Bill Snowball
- 23 Brendan Blake Johnston
- 24 Heather Lynne Andrew



- 9 Chuck & Karen Shonkwiler
- 24 Brandon & Blair Leedy

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



the family of Bill Bate, Alice Irvin, Jack Herzog (Jean's brother), Leroy Addis, Steve Stirn, Betty Adams, Martha Joyce, Mary Beth McCullough,

L. J. Rineair, 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, 1st Sgt. James Beckelhymer, 1st Sgt. Josh Fox, Christopher Bennett

(Please let us know when to remove someone from the above list.)

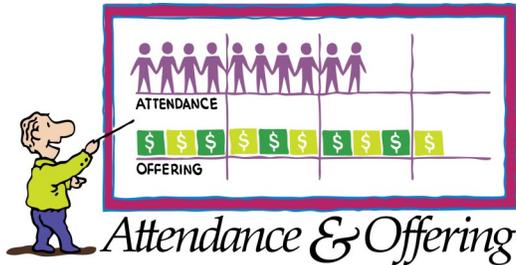


We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Harold McLaughlin who passed away in January.

We pray God's comfort and peace to his family, during this time of grief.

We also send our deepest condolences to Kelly Bate on the passing of her father, Bill Bate, on February 20, and her mother Sharyn in 2025. We pray God's peace and comfort to her in this time of sorrow.

Bits and Pieces



Average attendance in February: 39

Average online viewing in February: 109

Needed in February: \$ 10,556.00

Giving in February: \$16,923.00

FROM: *Harry & Judy Brumbaugh*
Patti Loftin

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



Specific needs are: **Ham-burger Helper, Jiffy mix** and as always monetary donations are most welcome. Pantry hours are Monday & 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.

UPCOMING *Events*

Holy Communion
Sunday, March 1

Food Pantry Sunday
March 1

World Day of Prayer
Friday, March 6

Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 8
2:00 a.m.

Coffee, Tea and Thee
Sunday, March 8
10:00 a.m.

Girl Scout Sunday
March 8

Good Samaritan Fund Offering
Sunday, March 8

Church Council Meeting
Monday, March 12 @ 7 p.m.

UMCOR Sunday
March 15

Deadline for Easter Flower Orders
Thursday, March 20
Noon

Newsletter Deadline
Monday, March 23
12:00 p.m.

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

More Bits & Pieces



The deadline for items to be in to the office for the April newsletter is

Monday, March 23 @ noon. Thank you.

Don't forget to "spring forward" 1 hour before going to bed on **Saturday, March 7. Daylight Savings Time** begins @ 2 a.m. on **Sunday, March 8.**



We wouldn't want YOU to be late for worship!

Sunday, March 8 has been designated as "Girl Scout Sunday."



Girl Scout Sunday

We have had Troop 45988 here at Grace since the girls were Daisies. They are now Senior Scouts and are working with new Daisies. They will be joining us in church.

Let's make them feel welcome to worship.

Stay in Touch with Us

Phone: 937-783-3655

Email: blanchesterumc@gmail.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 66

Pastor Dean: dfeldmeyer@yahoo.com

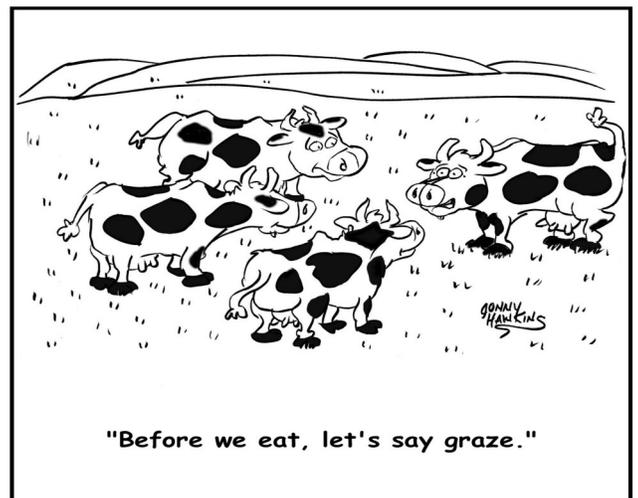
Assoc. Pastor Anita: grath47696@zoomtown.com

Facebook page: Blan Grace UMC

Website: blangrace.org

Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon
Closed on Friday

Laughter is Good for the Soul



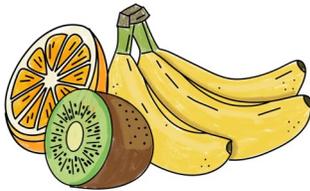
Kids' Korner



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:
 "Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord!"
 —Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A = ☺	D = ❄	H = ❄	M = ☆	P = ◆	T = ■	W = ☼
B = ●	E = +	I = *	N = ↑	R = ●	U = □	Y = ☼
C = ☼	G = *	L = ★	O = ↓	S = ○	V = ☼	Z = ☼

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☼

Jericho ❄ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ * ★ ❄

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ * ☼ ☺ ★ ❄ + ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee * □ ○ ■ ☼ ☼ * ↑ ❄ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● ● + + ☼ ☼



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy

Hats off to: Carole & Bob Haines & Beth Smith for the wonderful yummys they provided for *Coffee, Tea & Thee* in February. Well done

Hats off to: All who helped in any way with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. You are all appreciated.

Hats off to: All who helped in anyway with the Free Community Dinner in February. You are all so appreciated.

Hats off to: The Local Mission Team for their dedication in serving the Free Community Dinners for 15 years. You rock!

Hats off to: Linda Thompson for preparing communion for us each month. We appreciate you and all that you do for us.

Hats off to: Everyone who contributes to the Blanchester Food Pantry every month either with food or money. It does not go unnoticed.

Hats off to: Harry & Judy Brumbaugh and Patti Loftin for their work at the Food Pantry and the church. We thank you.



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 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. in person or online. 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

