



August

Sermon Series:

“Social Creed”

August 2

10th Sunday after

Pentecost

“God’s Gifts &
Repentance”

James 4: 1-8

August 9

11th Sunday after

Pentecost

“Caring for Creation”

Psalms 104: 1-34

August 16

12th Sunday after

Pentecost

“Blessing of Our
Relationships”

Song of Songs 6:1-3

August 23

13th Sunday after

Pentecost

WORSHIP IN THE PARK!

“Intrinsic Worth”

Luke 12: 6-10

August 30

14th Sunday after

Pentecost

“Do No Harm, Do
Good...For All”

Deuteronomy 24: 14-22

August 2026

CONNECTION

The Three B’s: Belief, Behave and Belong

A few years ago, I was introduced to the “Three B’s” of church: Believe, Behave and Belong. What first struck me about the Three B’s is that I knew what they each were, but I had never consciously thought about them in relationship to one another. The presenter was Rev. Dr. Michael Beck from “Fresh Expressions,” a ministry partner that seeks to inspire community-based ministries.

In his presentation, he shared the Three B’s as the operational order in which the church has historically sought to “make disciples of Jesus Christ. To summarize it simply, the traditional model of the Three B’s is Believe, Behave, and Belong.

Before someone would seek a church home, they would have the beliefs that would make a Christian community meaningful to them. This person was likely raised in the church, and so joining a new church was a continuation of their childhood beliefs.

Second would be “Behaving.” Here, we’re not necessarily talking about sitting still in worship (but we all remember getting the “eye” when we didn’t). Instead, behaving was about adhering, at least publicly, to the behavior expectations of the Christian community: not swearing, abstaining from alcohol, saying no to drugs, keeping “good” company, etc. Additionally, there were/are expectations of adherence to more specific cultural norms that are particular to a given church/community. Examples of this might have included political affiliations, community involvement, etc. Interestingly, you might note that not all expected behaviors were Biblically founded, but rather community-founded. Believers who wanted to be part of a church needed to meet the behavioral standards placed before them. Believers that didn’t often felt out of place.

Finally, we have “Belong.” This is the feeling of being part of something. It’s here that we would start to hear talk of being part of a “church family,” and church as a “second home.” Belonging has typically been associated with having met the first two criteria of belief and behaving. If you checked those two boxes then typically, belonging would fall into place all on its own.

Having given a very brief primer on all three, I will say that the Three B’s where/are rarely explicitly talked about, planned or implemented. Instead, they are a way of interpreting learned and adoptive methods of discipling in the Christian church. It should also be said that you will see similar concepts applied in almost any social/religious setting. Your college fraternity or civic organization are not exempt from this!

Anyway, so much more can be said about each of the Three B’s, and so I’ll be doing that over the next few months of Connection Newsletter Articles, tackling one at a time with each article. For now, what I want to introduce to you is that the order of the Three B’s does not have to remain in the familiar order of “Believe,

Behave and Belong.” In fact, over the years, healthy churches have begun to re-write the order. More and more, the order is becoming “Belong, Believe, and then finally Behave.

With this new ordering, the focus is on helping people find their place in a Christian community, even if Christian beliefs haven’t taken hold yet. At the belonging stage, beliefs and Christian behavior might be all over the place, but it is in that Christian community that beliefs begin to take form and behaviors begin to be shaped.

As we get ready to go through each of the Three B’s, I want to encourage you to reflect on the following questions:

1. Is the traditional order of “Believe, Behave and Belong” familiar to you? Did you grow up in a Christian community that embraced this?
2. Have you ever felt like you had to “fake” belief or hide behavior in order to belong?
3. What would it look like to focus on belonging as the first “B” in the life of the church?



In Our Prayers

For the Homebound

Ann Fraile

327 Woodbridge
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Richard Smith

5080 Baldwin Rd, Apt D2
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Norma Stanbury

3221 E. Baldwin Rd, #128
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Vera Stuckey

12640 Holly Rd, Apt B109
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

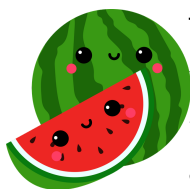
Our Church Family:

Bazyl Briscoe
Gina Briscoe
Jim Bunker
Linda Compeau
Roma Corey
Cheryl Cottrell
Nancy Fiederlein
Judy Gratsch
Sandy Labby
Karen Lawcock
Gail Lutton
Paul Manning
Ron Moleski
Lee Pelton
Bob Tritten
Bruce Van Vlack
Barb Zerilli

For Others:

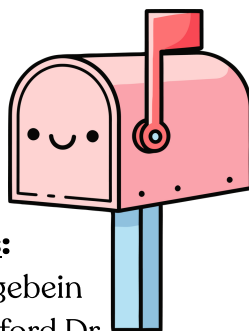
Tom Alward
Hailey Bagnell
Danny Banfield
Stephanie Blouir
Sherry Bohms
Paul Brieger
Joel Brinkman
Renee Brinkman
Sallie Burek
Bob Burk
Karen Campbell
Patricia Crawfis
Warren Crawfis
Sergeant Crowley
Duane DuFresne
Lisa England
Tom Ferguson
Doug Franklin
Merikay Franklin
Eric Heiden
Marilyn Horton
Dave Jones
Doug Keene
Mark Kilmer

RJ Laws
Grant LeDuke
Sue Leonard
Debra Martin
Vinny Martinez
Tim O’Kelly
Bev Schlee
Bill Shier
Eddie Snow
David Ware
Kelly Wilson
Andrew Y



With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Duane DuFresne, who passed away on July 12, 2026. Duane is Dave Griffus’ Step-father.



New Address:

Ruth Ann Kegebein
31140 Wellingford Dr
Apt 9010
Novi, MI 48377

Next New Member Class

Sunday, September 13 following worship

Membership is about taking a meaningful next step in your journey of faith

- Learn more about The United Methodist Church.
- Learn more about what it means to be a member of Grand Blanc United Methodist Church.

No Reservations Needed



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries
Angela Campbell
christian.education@grandblancumc.org

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 11am to 2:30pm
Sunday: 11am to Noon

Pastor's Pick!

Each month Pastor Brian offers his "Pastor's Pick" book recommendation. This book could be one that he is highlighting in his sermon series, one that goes with the current church season, or one that is just a good book to read. Hope you enjoy. **The church will be purchasing a copy of each of Pastor's book picks for the church library. If you are interested in reading any of them, you are welcome to "check them out!" Previous Pastor's Picks can be found in the Church Library.**

August 2026 book pick: "Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived" By: Rob Bell



THANK YOU to everyone who helped this year during VBS!! This was the 1st time in years we have been able to do all 5 days, and we had volunteers galore to help too!! I am so grateful to each and every volunteer for your support of our VBS program, as well as for all the children who were blessed by them and their wonderful teaching in action and word of the love of Jesus. God is so, so good!! Thank you everyone!!



We will celebrate **Blessing of the backpacks** during our Worship in the Park service, **Sunday, August 23**, at **Physician's Park**. We encourage students of all ages, teachers, and anyone else returning to the school year to bring their backpacks or other work bags this Sunday for a special blessing, gift and prayer.



Save the date.....Sunday, Sept 13
we will return to Sunday School for
all ages. Join us as we "rev up" for
that return! More details to follow.





It's Confirmation Time, Again!

It's an exciting time at GBUMC as some of our youth begin a process of exploring and journeying toward their confirmation. In The United Methodist Church, Confirmation is a time of intentional preparation, giving participants the chance to reflect on the foundation of our faith in a safe environment to ask questions and wrestle with the mysteries. Confirmation also helps our youth investigate the depth of their faith and helps them begin to understand what it means to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, and make their first public profession of faith. Participants are invited to claim for themselves the name Christian and the family of The United Methodist Church.

This year, the Confirmation class will meet once a month during the regularly scheduled Youth Group time period 12:30-2:30pm beginning September 2026 through May 2027 and is open to students who are in the 6th-9th grades. If your student is in high school and you feel they may benefit from Confirmation, please contact me and let me know. We'll figure out what is best for them at their age and grade level.

Please take a moment as a family and have a chat about this exciting opportunity to take part in Confirmation. So that I can look forward to having amazing youth as part of this process, please let us know ASAP if you are interested in participating. You can do this by contacting the church office: (810)694-9040 or emailing me at pastor@grandblancumc.org

Peace,
Pastor Brian

“WHO WE ARE AS UNITED METHODISTS” 2-PART VIDEO AND DISCUSSION

You are invited following worship for approximately 1 hour in the
GBUMC Fellowship Hall

August 9th: Light lunch will be served

August 16th: Popcorn and licorice will be served

The video series will be Dr. Ashely Boggan, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, the keynote speaker at the Michigan United Methodist 2026 Annual Conference

This will be a journey into the past of our Wesleyan Tradition to help us understand and move into the future with energy and vitality as we embrace our mission to “Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously”



GBUMC COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

"LOVING Boldly, SERVING Joyfully, LEADING Courageously"



CHURCH & SOCIETY
OUR NEXT MEETING IS

August 29 @ 10 am

UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL CREED

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind. We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

COMMUNITY DINNER

We serve a **FREE DINNER** every first Wednesday of the month from 5-6 pm.

All are welcome!!!

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Salad, Chips,
Dessert and Drinks



Join GBUMC @

National Night Out with and at the
Grand Blanc Township Police Dept. **on**
Tuesday, August 4, 5-8 p.m.

This annual community event brings neighbors and law enforcement together for an evening of connection, family fun, and community pride.

All are Welcome

**Church in the
PARK**
a worship experience
Followed by a
FREE hotdog lunch.
Sunday, Aug. 23
10:00am

Physicians Park, 218 Reid Rd,
Grand Blanc

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Grand Blanc UMC (810) 694-9040

Faith & Facts Provided by the General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. **(Genesis 1: 27)**

Come to me all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light. **(Matthew 11: 28)**

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **(Galatians 6: 2)**

But the Lord says, "Because the poor are oppressed, because of the groans of the needy. I'm now standing up. I will provide the help they are gasping for. **(Psalm 12: 5)**

I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rules, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created. **(Romans 8: 38-39)**

I came that you might have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10: 10)**



What does the United Methodist Church Say?

"We affirm health care as a basic human right and vow to work toward expanded access to all forms of medical treatment, including preventative, therapeutic, and palliative care." **(Social Principles 163.A)**



We believe that faithful Christians are called to be in ministry to individuals and their families challenged by disorders causing disturbances of thinking, feeling, and acting categorized as "mental illness." We acknowledge that throughout history and today, our ministries in this area have been hampered by lack of knowledge, fear, and misunderstanding. Even so, we believe that those so challenged, their families, and their communities are to be embraced by the church in its ministry of compassion and love. Our model is Jesus, who calls us to an ethic of love toward all. **(Book of Resolution #4207 Ministries in Mental Illness)**

The United Methodist Church affirms its long-standing support for persons with mental illness and their families. Jesus Christ made no distinctions in his healing ministry between persons with physical disabilities and those with what we might today call mental illnesses. **(Book of Resolutions #4284 Mental Health Discrimination in Disability Compensation)**

What do the facts say?

- Mental illnesses are common in the United States. Nearly one in five US adults live with a mental illness. (52.9 million in 2020)¹
- Young adults ages 18-25 had the highest prevalence of mental health concerns (30.6%) compared to adults ages 26-49 years (25.3%) and ages 50 and older (14.5%)²
- The COVID-19 pandemic caused a 25% increase in prevalence of anxiety and depression worldwide.³
- Suicide is the leading cause of death in the United States, with 45,979 deaths in 2020. This is about 1 death every 11 minutes.⁴
- In 2020, an estimated 12.2 million American adults seriously thought about suicide, 3.2 million planned a suicide attempt, and 1.2 million attempted suicide.⁵

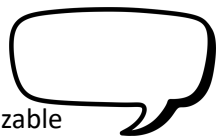
^{1,2}National Institute of Mental Health/National Institutes of Health, ³World Health Organization, ^{4,5}Center for Disease Control



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Remind** your elected officials that individuals and families experiencing mental illness form a sizable and vulnerable population in your community. Those dealing with mental illness benefit from public health services, community health initiatives, and having thoughtful advocates that listen to their needs. Programs at the community, state, and federal level help individuals in coping with mental illness and provide assistance to families.
- **Learn** more about how mental illness affects your community, and about how to support public and private resources for those struggling with mental illness through National Alliance on Mental Illness (www.nami.org/faithnet) and Path-ways (<http://pathways2promise.org>)



For more information contact: advocacy@umcjustice.org
www.umcjustice.org

Or join us at our next Church and Society meeting on Saturday, August 29 @ 10am

Altar Flowers

8/2
8/9 In honor of Gina & Bob Briscoe's
46th Wedding Anniversary
8/16
8/23 Worship in the Park
8/30 In memory of my parents, by
Dale Wolfram

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary, or feel free to call or email the office to order flowers for the Sunday of your choice. Flower arrangements are \$15.00 each and come from Grand Blanc Florist and you may take them home following the worship service. Your name and who the arrangement is in honor/memory of will also be listed in the Sunday bulletin.



Ushers

1st Sunday Nancy Bigler & John
Billings
2nd Sunday Kristin Ivan & Brian Rice
3rd Sunday Brian Rice & Kristin Ivan
4th Sunday Raeann & Bernie
Waisanen



Greeters

1st Sunday: Becky Doran
Virginia Sullivan
Raeann Waisanen
2nd Sunday: Stephanie Schick,
Cathy Melkus
John Billings
3rd Sunday: Joy & Jan Billyard
Kris Surdu
Nancy Lepri
4th Sunday: Cathy Melkus
Stephanie Schick
Cindy Duhon



COUNTERS

8/2 Carol Capell, Ron Blakemore
8/9 Kim Werth, Jan Billyard
8/16 Carol Capell, Jim Wise
8/23 David Lessel, Mariann Quaderer
8/30 Sandy Labby, Carol Capell



Birthdays

1st Dani Rossman
2nd Colleen Fitch (82)
6th Bruce Van Vlack
7th Wyatt Booms
8th Nick Federici,
Dorian Wagner
9th David Roberts (80),
Don Sawyer (85)
10th Paul Manning
11th Ron Blakemore (89),
Betty Gay Charmoli (82)
12th Shelby Mitchinson
13th Rhonda Lessel
14th Denise Holaly,
Richard Smith
15th Deb Caplan, Jean Sayre (96)
Linda Rodrigues)
16th Lauren Rice
18th Gary Dibeau (85),
Chuck Lawcock
20th Anne Coronado,
Sam Smith, Jane West
22nd Jennifer Banfield
23rd Laura Heberling
25th Sarah Anderson
26th Ann Fraile (81)
31st William Bigler



Nursery Volunteer Schedule

1st Sunday Kristin Ivan
2nd Sunday Shelly Gould-Rice
3rd Sunday Jan Johnson
4th Sunday Cindy Duhon

Anniversaries

2nd Rose Marie & Dick Shick (68)
9th Gina & Bob Briscoe (46)
10th Nancy & Craig Fiederlein (30)
13th Andrea & Jeff Mertz
15th Betty Gay & Rich Charmoli (56)
16th Vanessa & Michael
MacDonald
25th Samantha & Ryan Cantley
26th Traci & David Russell (31)
28th Ali & Chad VanOverbeke
29th Kim Pierson & Deb Koval (33)



SUMMER SNACKS

8/2 SHARON MORTIMER
8/9 KRIS IVAN
8/16 KRIS SURDU, NANCY LEPRI
8/23 WORSHIP IN THE PARK
8/30 CAROL CAPELL

Narthex Attendant

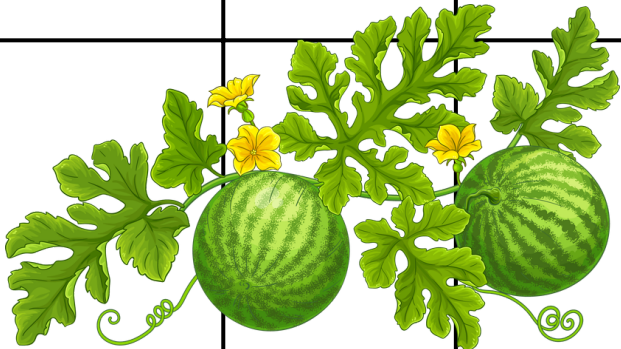
8/2 Cathy Mitchinson
8/9 Kris Surdu
8/16 Jan & Joy Billyard
8/23 Worship in the Park
8/30 Cathy Mitchinson

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
Financial Summary

General Fund Balance (as of 6-30-26) = \$12,003
Mortgage Fund Balance (as of 6-30-26) = \$1,707
MORTGAGE BALANCE (as of 6-30-26) = \$37,679



AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10a Worship 1p Service for Marcia Ferguson	3 7p ACA	4 Office 10-2 10a Yoga 5p-8p National Night Out at GB Twsp Police	5 Office 10-2 10a Prayer Shawl 5p FREE Community Dinner	6 Office 10-2	7 Office Closed 5p Compass Grp @ Martins 7p Al Anon	1 11a Yoga 8 11a Yoga FH in Use
9 10a Worship Cereal Sunday! Bring a box of cereal! 11a Video & Discussion w/light lunch	10 6:30p Compass Grp @ Cooks 7p ACA	11 10a Yoga	12 10a Prayer Shawl	13 Office 10-2	14 Office Closed Noon Blanket Event 7p Al Anon	15 11a Yoga
16 10a Worship 11a Video & Discussion w/snacks	17 7p ACA	18 10a Yoga	19 10a Prayer Shawl	20	21 Office Closed 7p Al Anon	22 11a Yoga
23 10a Worship in the Park!	24 4:30p Education Mtg by Zoom 7p ACA	25 10a Yoga 7p Trustees- Zoom	26 10a Prayer Shawl 1p Card Ministry 6p Compass Grp @ Rice's	27 5:30p Compass Grp @ Rahns	28 7p Al Anon	29 10a Church & Society 11a Yoga
30 10a Worship	31 7p ACA					

Thank you for your support of this project!! We have already collected over **41 pounds** of plastic!! You are welcome to bring your clean and dry plastic to the church whenever the building is open!

Your plastic bags/film/wrap must:

Have a  OR  SYMBOL or be one of the items listed below

Should **STRETCH** and **NOT TEAR LIKE PAPER**

Be **CLEAN AND DRY** and **FREE OF FOOD RESIDUE**



Grocery Bags



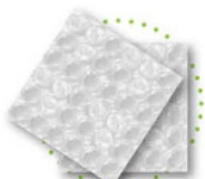
Bread Bags



Newspaper Sleeves



Salt Bags



Bubble Wrap



Dry Cleaning Bags



Cereal Bags



Ice Bags



Case Over Wrap



Plastic Shipping Envelopes
(including Amazon blue/white mailers)



Pallet Wrap & Stretch Film



Wood Pellet Bags

Remember, *never* put these items in curbside recycling or standard recycling dumpsters. You will do more harm than good.

For answers to FAQs about the program, please click on this link:

www.co.burlington.nj.us/DocumentCenter/View/16780/NexTrex-FAQs



CARD MINISTRY

JOIN US ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH AT 1PM.

WE HAVE HAD SUCH A WONDERFUL
RESPONSE TO THE WORK OF
THIS MINISTRY!

WON'T YOU JOIN US?



On Sunday, July 26, Pastor Brian shared information about our Building Enhancement Campaign. Information is available at the Welcome Center or if you would like, we would be happy to mail information to you, just contact the church office.

Together we can honor our past, meet the needs of the present, and build a faithful foundation for the future.

Grand Blanc United Methodist Church
515 Bush Ave
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Church office M-F 9am to 4pm
810-694-9040
office@grandblancumc.org
www.grandblancumc.org

Rev. Brian West, Pastor
Cathy Mitchinson, Office Administrator
Angela Campbell, Coordinator of Children and Youth
Ministries and Webmaster
Gary Brandt, Director of Common Grace
Andrew Cramer, Worship Music Director
Andrea Bernat, Nursery Supervisor
Kimmy Sayers, Custodian



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FRIENDS IN CHRIST EXERCISING
LOVE, HOPE AND GRACE TO
ENRICH ALL LIVES



The church office will be open 9am to 4pm
Monday thru Friday with the following exceptions:
Tuesday, August 4 10a - 2p
Wednesday, August 5 10a - 2p
Thursday, August 6 10a - 2p
Friday, August 7 Closed
Thursday, August 13 10a - 2p
Friday, August 14 Closed
Friday, August 21 Closed

CEREAL SUNDAY! **Sunday, August 9, 2026**



**Bring in one box of cereal (or more)
per person to help stock the
Local Little Food Pantries**

A monthly food drive hosted
by the Rice Compass Group.



Coffee Hour Hosts:

We are in the process of scheduling coffee hour hosts for September thru May. If you have hosted in the past, we will keep you on the list, unless you let us know you would rather not. If you have not hosted in the past, but would like to, please let the church office know! Thank you!

Blanket Event

**All are welcome to come on
Friday, August 14 from Noon to
3pm to help make tie blankets
to benefit Gift of Life.**

All supplies are provided.

All help is appreciated.

Questions? See Stephanie Schick