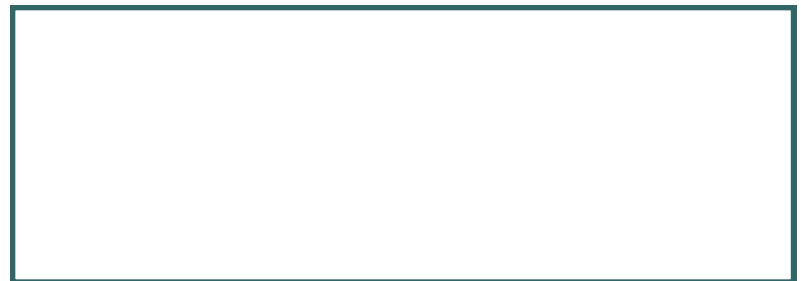




Grafton United Methodist Church  
973 Mechanic Street  
Grafton, Ohio 44044

Church Office: 440-926-2034

<http://www.graftonumc.org>



December 2019

# From Pastor Bob's Veranda



Yes the thought for this article did come to me while on the veranda a few weeks ago.

I had thought my veranda time was over but we had a morning when it was 48 degrees. My limit for the veranda is 46 degrees.

I started to think how many times in our lives do we think time has passed on our ability to perform activity we may

have done in our earlier years. As our children have grown up we think that our child care years may be over but along come grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren and out of our love for them we step in to provide child care. Society forced so many couples into both needing jobs and when we thought our child care days were over we lovingly volunteer to assist where we can. Some may argue that bending to the dictates of society that causes both parents to see a need to work is wrong but it is what it is.

That is what happens to us as we grow older, it is what it is (as I recently mentioned in a sermon). But as we find things harder to do than when we were younger that does not mean that God has no further need for us.

We are given many gifts as scripture tells us and as we can no longer use some of those gifts there are others waiting in the wings. That is why God has called us to be a family together with one another. Just as being grandparents stepping up to assist with care of our grandchildren God has given us additional gifts to use for his family.

We may no longer be able to work at a church dinner but God gives us the ability to thank and encourage those that do. We gather wisdom as we go through our lives and it does not take a lot of work to share that wisdom with others.

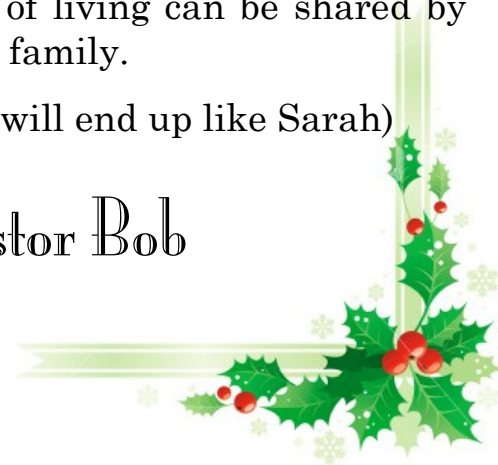
What about Faith, God has given us all an individual faith and the ability to share that faith with people of any age.

What about the knowledge we have accumulated throughout our lives. We don't need to be able to stand at a serving table or paint walls in the church or go on a mission trip but the knowledge that we have accumulated over decades of living can be shared by just talking to a youth or other member of the church or your family.

So never think your time to serve God is over. (or maybe you will end up like Sarah)

Signing off from the veranda. Or am I?

Pastor Bob



# Serving the Lord

## December 2019



### Lay Liturgist

- 1 Carol Morley
- 8 Marilyn Chavalía
- 15 Chris Clapper
- 22 JJ Justice
- 29 Shirley Groves

### Greeters and Ushers

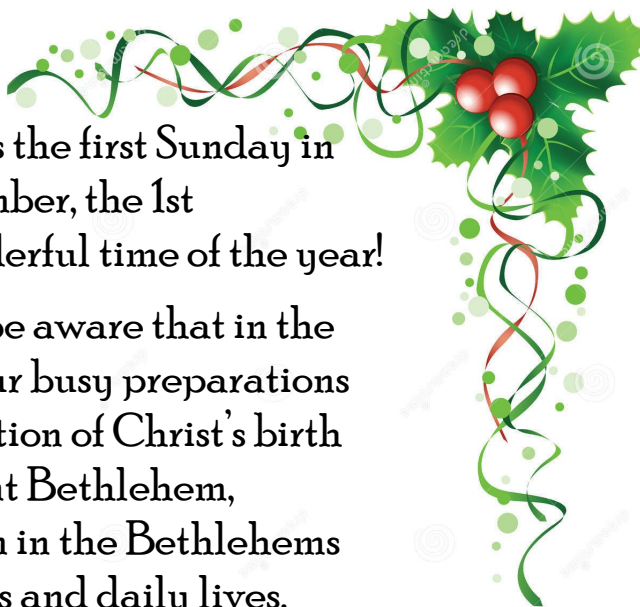
- Dennis and Amy Bajko
- Lloyd and Judy Miller
- Bob and Carol Morley
- Diane Lach and Judy Yusko
- Mindy and Nick Harris

Advent begins the first Sunday in  
December, the 1st  
It's the most wonderful time of the year!

"Take time to be aware that in the  
very midst of our busy preparations  
for the celebration of Christ's birth  
in ancient Bethlehem,  
Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems  
of our homes and daily lives.

Take time, slow down, be still, be  
awake to the Divine Mystery that  
looks so common and so ordinary  
yet is wondrously present."

~ Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac





happy birthday



- 2 Barb Ritsko Stephens
- 6 Dennis Bajko
- 7 Lena Hawke
- 8 Aidan Berstling
- 13 Ken Wingate
- 16 Noel Harris
- 25 JESUS
- 28 Chris Clapper  
Ruth Gaetz

JANUARY

- 2 Chuck Stephens
- 3 Shirley Groves  
Molly Stonestreet



Newsletter Info

**Wanted!**

Deadline  
for  
**JANUARY**  
Carillon  
Articles  
and  
Information  
Wednesday  
December 11



**Alzheimer's  
Group  
Meeting**

Monday December 16  
at 6:30 pm




Happy Anniversary



20 Larry & Kathy Smeltz

# Our Church Family who are Away from Us

Please remember those that are not able to be with us due to health and/or physical restrictions. They would LOVE to receive cards, phone calls and visits of ALL kinds at ANY time. Calls and visits are always welcomed. YOU could be the one to make the difference in someone's life!



Pete Bokesz      The Abbewood  
1210 South Abbe Rd  
Room 225  
Elyria, Ohio 44035  
Phone: 440-366-1014

Betty Chopich    Avon Oaks Caring Community  
37800 French Creek Rd  
Room 101  
Avon, Ohio 44011

Mary Dawson    13720 Durkee Rd    Grafton 44044

Angelica Ritsko    756 N Center St    LaGrange 44050

Rick Riddle      1029 Center St    Grafton 44044

Ruth Sayles      The Abbewood  
1210 South Abbe Rd  
Room 202



# December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p><b>HOPE</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship Service</p> <p>Holy Communion Open Table</p> <p>Birthday and Anniversary Sunday</p>  <p><b>ADVENT BEGINS</b> <small>-by George Skramstad</small></p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 pm OutReach Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 pm Finance Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 am Women's Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p><b>Hanging of the Greens</b></p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>LOVE</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship Service</p> <p>Blood Pressure Sunday</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 pm Trustees Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Administrative Council</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p><b>CARILLON ARTILCES DUE</b></p> <p>6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 am Women's Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>



## The Annual Hanging of the Greens (decorating the church for Christmas)

will take place the Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help. Coffee, juice, and donuts will be provided. If you have questions or would like to help, please see Carol Morley







# December 2019

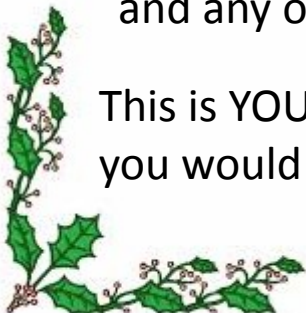
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
15 <b>JOY</b> 10:00 am Worship Service	16 6:30 pm Alzheimer's Meeting	17	18 6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	19 9:30 am Women's Study	20	21
22 <b>PEACE</b> 10:00 am Worship Service	23	24 	25  <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 9:30 am Women's Study  Church Office will be open from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Monday—Thursday and Friday	27	28
29 10:00 am Worship Service  Change for Change Sunday	30  Church Office will be open from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Monday—Tuesday and Thursday	31	1 <b>JANUARY 2020</b> 			

“We” are looking for YOUR newsletter articles, announcements, items of interest, thoughts, and any other things you would like to share with the congregation.

This is YOUR newsletter to communicate —please send the information you would like to share **before** the 15th of each month to:

[graftonumc@mail.com](mailto:graftonumc@mail.com)

“For the Newsletter”





## WINTER WEATHER

If you are wondering whether a Bible Study, Meeting or a Sunday Worship Service will be held due to hazardous weather conditions, there are a couple of ways to check:

If during the week, Midview Schools are closed, the Church will be closed also.

On Sunday, check Channel 3 and/or Channel 5 for Closing Announcements.

Ultimately, trust your own common sense if you feel it is too dangerous to go out, then don't.





# 12 Christmas... PRAYERS

- 1 Faith** Father God, it is by Your grace we have been saved, and through our faith - this is not from ourselves, but a gift from you - not by our works. Ephesians 2:8-9
- 2 Hope** May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope. Romans 15:4
- 3 Love** Help us to love because You first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 4 Forgiveness** Thank you for being faithful and just in forgiving us our sins and thus purifying us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
- 5 Mercy** Let us be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. Luke 6:36
- 6 Kindness** Let us be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as through Jesus, You forgave us. Ephesians 4:32
- 7 Generosity** Let us be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, and to give the glory and thanks to you Lord! 2 Corinthians 9:11
- 8 Compassion** Let us live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic and compassionate, love as brothers, and be humble. 1 Peter 3:8
- 9 Joy** Let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12
- 10 Salvation** Thank you for providing Jesus who is the way, the truth, the life and the only way to You. John 14:6
- 11 Obedience** Help us to not merely listen to Your Word, and so deceive ourselves. Help us do what it says. James 1:22-25
- 12 Life** Thank you for coming that we may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10



# Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline to order flowers is Tuesday, December 10, 2018

Enclosed/Attached \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ plants at \$8.00 each

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ RED \_\_\_\_\_ WHITE

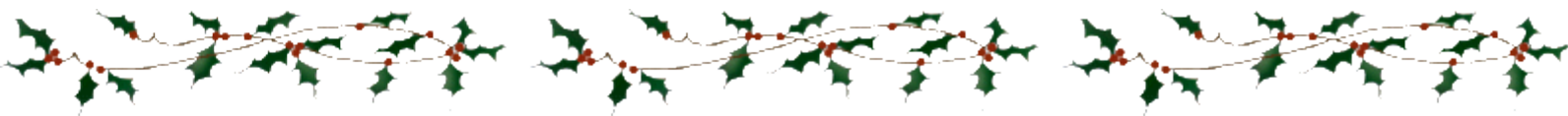
\_\_\_\_\_ PINK

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Plants may be picked up following Worship Service, December 29  
Please, ALL plants must be picked up and taken home



## 2020 Offering Envelopes

2020 envelopes will be available every Sunday in December, beginning **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Chris Clapper will be assigning your 2020 envelope boxes in Howard Tran Hall.

Please make sure to stop and see her in the Sundays to come before the New Year begins.