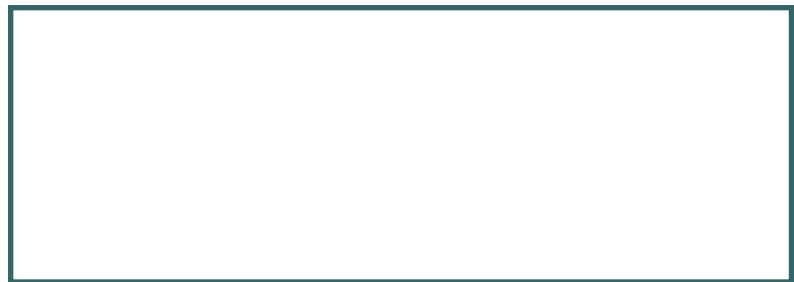


Grafton United Methodist Church
973 Mechanic Street
Grafton, Ohio 44044

Church Office: 440-926-2034

<http://www.graftonumc.org>



January 2020



NOT From Pastor Bob's Veranda

No I am not dictating this article from my veranda. It is currently snowing and 34 degrees.

I miss being out here. Sitting enclosed in the house not being able to hear the birds or see the routine of the people walking by taking the dogs out for a walk, running or just walking by themselves.

Not being out there in the morning feels like a time of isolation.

That got me thinking about how often we isolate Christ from the rest of the community. When we confine him to the four walls of the church.

After all Christ belongs to the world and not just to us. We need to be looking for ways to take Christ out into the community and not expect the community to come to us.

The angel at the tomb told the women not to fear that Christ had gone ahead of them to Galilee. Many theologians have argued that Galilee referenced in this passage was truly the world, Christ had gone ahead and would meet them in the world.

Agree or not agree with the theologians what was Christ's final commandment to his disciples prior to his ascension?

He commanded them to **"Go then to people everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit"** (Matthew 28: 19).

"Go", an action word, not "wait" for the seekers to come to us but to seek them out.

We have a rich heritage as United Methodists in being a movement for change in the world. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement said "the world is my parish". Let us reclaim the energy producing nature of our denomination by going into the world and not just consuming energy by waiting for the seekers to seek us out.

Pastor Bob



Serving the Lord

January 2020



Lay Liturgist

- 5 Dave Brest
- 12 Stan Benko
- 19 Larry Smeltz
- 26 Anita Wheatley

Greeters and Ushers

- John and Anita Wheatley
- Judy Wingate and Shirley Groves
- Emily and Molly Stonestreet
- Diane Lach and Judy Yusko

New Year's Resolution

Be More Awesome than last year.



Happy birthday



JANUARY

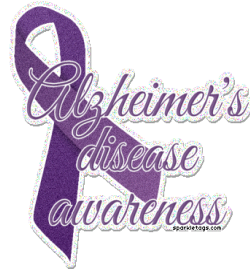
- 2 Chuck Stephens
- 3 Shirley Groves
Molly Stonestreet
- 11 Pat Coffman
Barbara Abbott
- 12 Xavier Gray
- 16 Robbie Morley
- 20 Rob Morley
- 23 Dave Brest
Phyllis VanKerkhove
Shana Stonestreet
- 24 Marilyn Ogg
- 27 Jim Westermann



Newsletter Info

Wanted!

Deadline
for
FEBRUARY
Carillon
Articles
and
Information
Wednesday
January 15



**Alzheimer's
Group
Meeting**

Monday January 20th
at 6:30 pm

**Find the
Joy in the
Journey**

**Life is a series
of thousands of
tiny miracles.
Notice them.**



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!

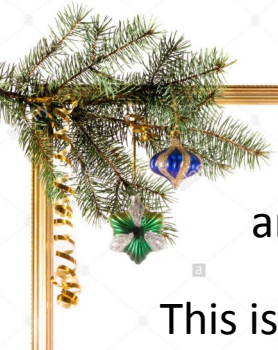
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Pete Bokesz | The Abbewood
1210 South Abbe Rd
Room 225
Elyria, Ohio 44035
Phone: 440-366-1014 |
| Betty Chopich | Avon Oaks Caring Community
37800 French Creek Rd
Room 101
Avon, Ohio 44011 |
| Mary Dawson | 13720 Durkee Rd Grafton 44044 |
| Angelica Ritsko | 756 N Center St LaGrange 44050 |
| Rick Riddle | 1029 Center St Grafton 44044 |
| Ruth Sayles | The Abbewood
1210 South Abbe Rd
Room 202
Elyria, Ohio 44035 |
| Judy Schultz | 12436 Indian Hollow Rd
Grafton, Ohio 44044
Cell 440-322-8818 |



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**


January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2 9:30 am Women's Study	3	4	
5 10:00 am Worship Service Holy Communion Open Table  Birthday & Anniversary Sunday	6 6:00 pm OutReach Meeting 	7 6:30 pm Finance Meeting 	8	9 9:30 am Women's Study	10	11
12 10:00 am Worship Service Blood Pressure Sunday	13 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Administrative Council 	14	15	16 9:30 am Women's Study	17	18
19 10:00 am Worship Service	20 6:30 pm Alzheimer's Meeting 	21	22	23 9:30 am Women's Study	24	25
26 10:00 am Worship Service Change For Change Sunday 	27	28	29	30 9:30 am Women's Study	31	



“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
“For the Newsletter”



WINTER WEATHER Closing Procedure

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

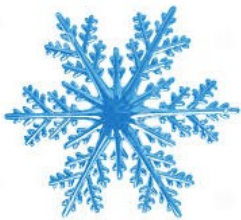
#1. First and most important: DON'T COME TO CHURCH IF IT'S NOT SAFE.

We care about you and don't want anyone to be in danger because of the weather. If your walk or drive or other conditions are not safe for you, we trust you and bless you to stay home.

#2. During the week, if schools are closed, then the church is closed.

The office will not be open and we'll not have evening meetings. Pastor Bob will be available by phone. His cell number is 216-544-2441. You can also leave messages on the church answering machine.

#3. For Sundays, as a general rule, the church will be open unless safety personnel ask that no one travel the highways.



If the church is closed, it will be announced on TV Channels 3 and/or Channel 5.

One of the brightest parts of the season for me are people like you!

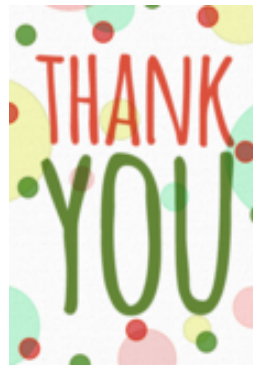
Your thoughtful Christmas gift brought much JOY to my spirit and made me feel so special.

Thank you so much!!

Merry Christmas!

And a truly blest New Year!

Diane



Thank you for the Christmas gift!

You are such a blessing to me and I treasure each one.

I pray for a Blessed New Year for each family and for our church.

Thank you again!

Doris



Sending out a very special thank you to John Dawson for taking time to care for the lawn here at the church all season!

May your helpfulness be returned to you in many ways!



Sending out our special thank you's to those who keep our church grounds looking tidy and beautiful!!

Diane Lach who takes care of the potted flowers at the front and back doors as well as the front flower gardens.

Fran Hurlburt for the never ending work spreading mulch and taking care of the leaves, and countless other jobs around the grounds.

And to any who I have failed to mention, may you be blest as you have blest us!



During this New Year 2020

may the world be blessed with Peace

God Bless America

By Roy Lessin

God bless America with -

COMFORT for all who mourn;
PEACE for all who are troubled;
GRACE for all who are needy;
COURAGE for all who fear;
STRENGTH for all who are weary;
FAITH for all who are seeking;
HOPE for all who are uncertain;
PROTECTION for all who serve;
WISDOM for all who lead.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Grafton United Methodist Church Leadership for 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL Chairperson Bob Morley

Recording Secretary	Barb Stephens
Chairperson PPR	TBD
Chairperson Trustee	TBD
Chairperson Finance	Chris Clapper
Financial Secretary	Chris Clapper
Church Treasurer	Amy Bajko
Outreach	Shirley Groves
Church Historian	Marge Sayers
Lay Leader	Dave Brest
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Carol Morley
Youth Representative to Administrative Council	Molly Stonestreet and Hailey Formosa

FINANCE COMMITTEE Chairperson: Chris Clapper
 Pastor, Amy Bajko, Chris Clapper, Carol Morley, Administrative Council Chairperson,
 Trustee Chairperson, PPR Chairperson

Counters

Mary Brandal	Marilyn Riddle	Lloyd Miller
Larry Smeltz	Marilyn Chavalía	Judy Yusko
Margie Lisle	Dick Lisle	Mindy Harris
Melissa Baldoza	Carol Morley	Bob Morley

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS Chairperson: TBD

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Carol Morley

2020	Marilyn Riddle	Jason Benko	
2021	Larry Smeltz	Joe Mendlik	Judy Miller
2022	Dennis Bajko	Judy Yusko	

TRUSTEES Chairperson: TBD

2020	Diane Lach	Stan Benko	
2021	Bob Brandal	Fran Hurlburt	Chuck Stephens
2022	Tim Pozda	Kevin Baldoza	J J Justice

Continued on next page



Grafton United Methodist Church

Leadership for 2020

WORSHIP

Musicians	Doris Rand	Carol Morley	Fran Hurlburt	Tim Pozda
Lay Speakers	Barb Abbott	Dave Brest	Tim Carter	Carol Morley
Projectionist	Kevin Baldoza	Mike Patik	Bob Morley	
Video Engineers	Rick Riddle	Bob Morley	Bob Brandal	Tim Pozda
Audio Engineers	Mike Patik	Dick Lisle	Tim Pozda	
Ushers and Greeters	Shirley Groves			
Altar Steward	Diane Lach	Marilyn Riddle		
Communion Stewards	Joe Mendlik	Diane Lach		
Acolytes	Dave Brest	Kim Justice		

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE / NOMINATIONS

2020	Marge Sayers	Dick Lisle
2021	Bob Overy	Rick Riddle
2022	Melissa Baldoza	Kim Justice

SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICY Report and Record Coordinator: Lloyd Miller

OUTREACH/NURTURE AND CARE Chairperson: Shirley Groves

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Marge Sayers Diane Peters

HISTORIAN Chairperson: Marge Sayers

FUNERAL MEAL COORDINATORS

Marilyn Chavalía Chris Clapper (alternate)

Thank You Lord

for giving me a brand new year ahead.

Help me to live the way I should
as each new day I tread.

Give me love and gentle wisdom
that I might help a friend in need.

Give me strength and courage
so a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty so

Help me fill it with good objectives
according to Your will and Your word.

I hope and pray that each day of the

coming year You'll fill it with joy, peace,

love and divine purpose for Your glory.



Amen.



A Special
THANK YOU

A special note of thanks to our church family for their part in helping to make our wedding celebration on November 30th so memorable.

There are so many of you who played a part in making it a special day - Pastor Bob, Diane the church secretary, Out-Reach Committee, the cookie bakers, reception hostesses/planners, furniture movers, organist, everyone! We couldn't have had such an awesome day without all of your love, prayers and support. You are such a blessing in our lives.

Marge and Joe Rafter