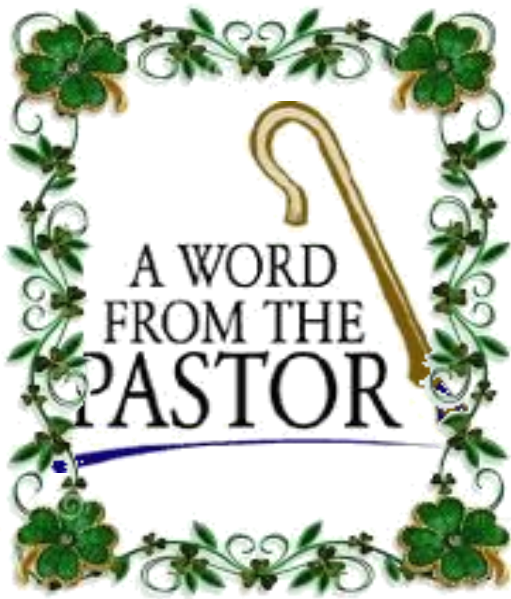


Grafton United Methodist Church
973 Mechanic Street
Grafton, Ohio 44044
Church Office: 440-926-2034
<http://www.graftonumc.org>



March 2023



From Pastor Bob's Desk

We have entered into the season of Lent, a time on the church calendar that is set aside for us to reflect on what we have done in the past year. Have we done the things of Christ or have we done the things of the world.

What is easiest?

Sometimes it becomes hard for us to separate the two. Remember the adage of WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)? Are our daily actions a reflection of Jesus or are they a reflection of the world?

We all stumble, we all fall, and we all make mistakes. But especially at this time of Lent we are offered the time to seek repentance for all that we have done and for all that we have left undone in the name of Jesus Christ. Many people give up something during Lent but a current trend is to do something. To do something that builds the body of Christ and shows the rest of the world who Christ is. Then they ask the question, what is this all about? We have a loving father, as I expressed, in my sermon on February 19, that gave us the gift of prayer and part of that gift of prayer is our ability to ask for forgiveness and seek repentance when we have done something we should not have done. We received ashes on Ash Wednesday, a symbol of mourning in ancient Israel. For Christians we are called to remember the Gospel when ashes are applied. Remember the Gospel and be thankful during this Lenten season.

I pray you have a very fruitful Lenten season.



Blessings
Pastor Bob

Serving the Lord

March 2023



Lay Liturgist

- 5 Carol Morley
- 12 Marilyn Chavalía
- 19 Anita Wheatley
- 26 Shirley Groves

Greeters and Ushers

- John and Anita Wheatley
- Barb Lynch and Diane Lach
- Bob Overy and Joe Mendlik
- Bill and Cheryl Grapes



Requests for Prayer

Our church has an active prayer chain where Prayer Requests and Praises will go out to the Prayer Warriors each week.

And we have several different ways of contact too !

If you have a prayer request or praise, or if you would like to be added to the prayer chain

please contact the church by email at:

graftonumc@mail.com

or by phone at 440-926-2034

or you may contact Shirley Groves by phone at 440-926-2319

or you may send an e-mail to Judy Miller at: graftongrandma@yahoo.com

God always hears our prayers.



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER



Happy Birthday March

- 2 Audrey Stevenson
- 3 Bob Morley
- 8 Rachel Potter
- 10 Marge Sayers-Rafter
- 12 Marilyn Chavalia
- 13 Joe Mendlik
- 17 Diane Lach
- 20 Amy Bajko
- 30 JJ Justice



Happy Anniversary March

- 22 Bob and Mary Brandal



Deadline
for
APRIL
Carillon
Articles
and
Information
Wednesday
March 15

Newsletter Info
Wanted!



An Irish Blessing

*May love and laughter
light your days
and warm your heart
and home,
may good and faithful
friends be yours
wherever you may roam,
May peace and plenty
bless your world
with joy that long endures,
May all life's
passing seasons
bring the best
to you and yours.*





The Administrative Council is in need of your help ...
We are actively searching to fill the positions for:

TREASURER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
SPRC CHAIR

The SPRC Chair has been open since the end of 2022
and the current TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY will
resign at the end of 2023.

We are looking to fill these positions before December 31, 2023
(or sooner if possible), to allow for cross training on the position.

Please prayerfully check your heart and let the Holy Spirit move
within you to help us in this important endeavor.

Please contact Pastor or Bob Morley here at church on Sundays,
or by phone:

Pastor (216-544-2441) Bob (440-365-7729)
or leave word at the church either by phone
440-926-2034 (please note there is no text option)
or by email graftonumc@mail.com

Most Sincerely, Administrative Council



UPDATE FROM TREASURER AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023

I have completed the Financial Statement for the period ending JANUARY 31, 2023.

The following figures are drawn from that report.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETED RECEIPTS:	\$10,740
(\$254 greater than last year.)	
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES:	5,308
(\$860 less than last year.)	
GENERAL FUND INCOME AT 1/31/23:	5,432
GENERAL FUND BALANCE AT 1/31/23:	11,521
GENERAL FUND BALANCE AT 1/31/22:	12,285

Total pledged, non-pledged and loose plate giving of \$10, 740 in January 2023 was greater than the prior year by \$254. The total received in January in both years is almost double what we anticipate each month for the remainder of the year. This happens because one pledge made in January is for the entire year.

Total general fund expenses totaling \$5,308 were less than prior year by \$860. The reduction in expenses is mainly because no apportionments were paid this year. Apportionments were paid last year until the month of October. Due to declining revenues and financial projections, Administrative Council decided to discontinue paying apportionments in October 2022.

The forecast I did for 2023 based on the 2023 budget and on the January receipts and disbursements resulted in a small profit. It is really too early in the year to know whether this will actually occur. I will be doing monthly analysis to try to determine a trend and issue a monthly update.

From: Amy Bajko, Treasurer

Our Church Family who are Away from Us

Mary Dawson Keystone Pointe
383 Opportunity Way
Room 308
LaGrange, Ohio 44050

Angelica Ritsko 756 N Center St LaGrange 44050

Ruth Sayles Keystone Pointe
383 Opportunity Way
Room 413
LaGrange, Ohio 44050

♥ ..this little hug is for you.. ♥



God says you are...



Unique
Psalm 138:13

Special
Ephesians 2:10

Lovely
Daniel 12:3

Precious
1 Corinthians 6:20

Strong
Psalm 135:2

Chosen
John 15:16

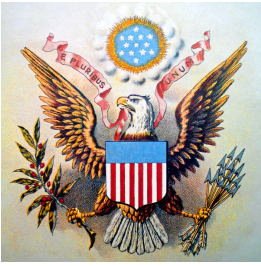
Forgiven
Psalm 103:12



March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>UMCOR March 19</p>			<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:00 am Worship Service</p>  <p>Holy Communion Open Table</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00 pm OutReach Meeting</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 pm Finance Meeting</p> 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</p> 
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 am Worship Service</p>  <p>Blood Pressure Sunday</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 pm Admin Council</p> 	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Newsletter Articles Due</p> 	<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> 	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>10:00 am Worship Service</p>  <p>Change for Change Sunday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>	

DUTY★HONOR★COUNTRY



If there is a member of your family in active duty in one of the branches of our military - we would be glad to place a flag in their honor on our Military Wall in the Sanctuary.



Please message the office with their name, branch of service and their rank either by sending an email to graftonumc@mail.com, or leave us a message on the phone at 440-926-2034. We'll take it from there ...

We salute all those who are currently serving and those who have served

spread the love ♥



**Daylight Savings
Time Begins March 12**

**Remember to set your
clocks forward one hour-**

**on Saturday March 11
or you'll be late for church**



Do you have information you would like to share with us? Information about projects, activities, special occasions, studies, really, anything at all

We would like to help you get the word out!

We can be reached in several ways:

email (graftonumc@mail.com), phone (440-926-2034), postal service (973 Mechanic St Grafton) or by leaving a note on the secretary's desk.

We are missing you!!!

DID YOU MOVE?



NEW CELL#



NEW EMAIL?



Please update the Church Office of your changes by calling 440-926-2034

Please keep us informed:

Due to HIPAA Regulations, hospitals, rehab centers and nursing homes are not permitted to share information of patients.

If you or a family member are hospitalized, have entered into rehab or a nursing facility, we ask that you or a family member please notify the Church Office at 440-926-2034 with the necessary information so that we may have the opportunity to keep you in prayer.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday ~ February 22

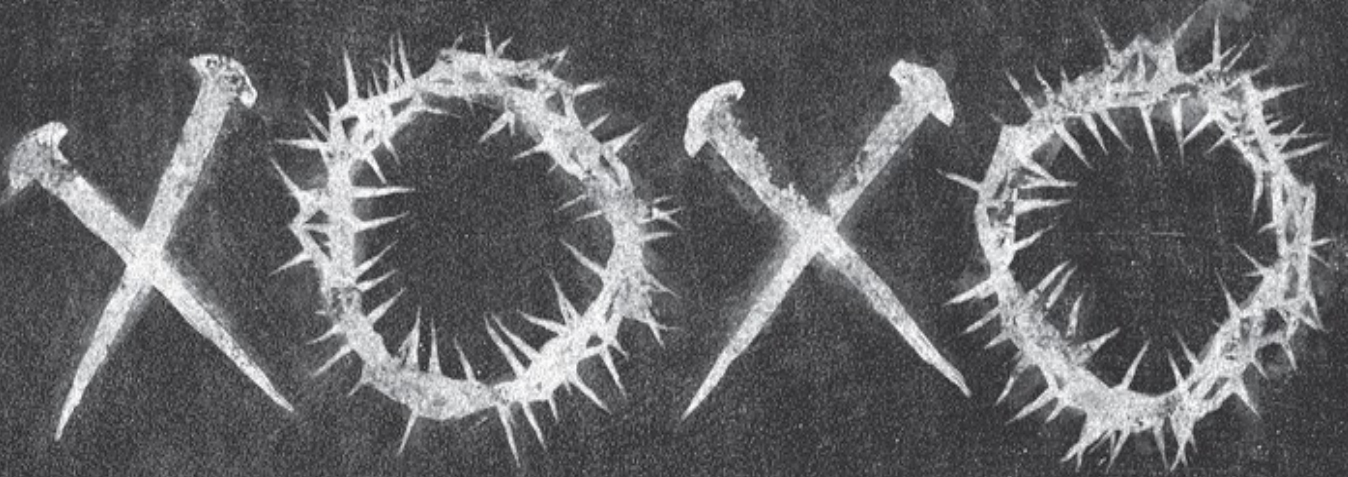
Top Ten List: THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

10. **Try an electronic fast.** Give up TV, Guitar Hero, texting, tweetering, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.
9. **Start a prayer rhythm.** Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your e-mail. Before you text someone, pray for them.
8. **Read one chapter in the Bible each day.** (Matthew's a good book to start with. Psalms, too.)
7. **Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.)**
6. **Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee.** Give the money you save to help folks in crisis or disaster.
5. **Create a daily quiet time.** Spend 30 minutes a day in silence and prayer.
4. **Cultivate a life of gratitude.** Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
3. **Be kind to someone each day.**
2. **Pray for others you see** as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.
1. **Volunteer one hour or more each week** with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry or a [Habitat for Humanity](#) project.

From an article by Rev. Penny Ford



God has defended you in battles you didn't even know about.



*Jesus wrote the
greatest love letters*

But He was pierced for our transgressions,

He was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on Him,

and by His wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5