

If we remembered everyday  
that we could lose someone  
at any moment, we would  
love them more fiercely and  
freely, and without fear- not  
because there is nothing to  
lose, but because everything  
can always be lost.

~ Emily Rapp

MAY WE NEVER FORGET

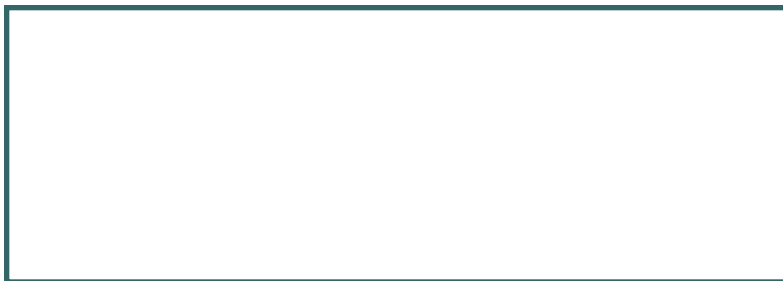
9.11.01

ilovemylsi.com

Grafton United Methodist Church  
973 Mechanic Street  
Grafton, Ohio 44044

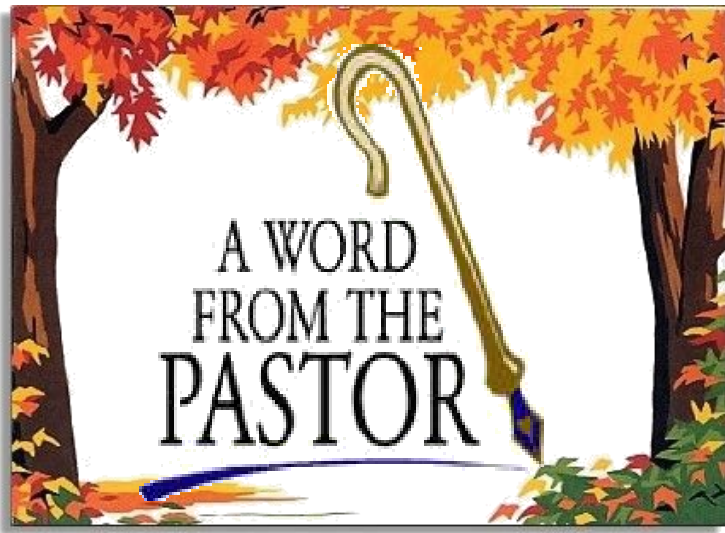
Church Office: 440-926-2034

<http://www.graftonumc.org>



September 2023





## From Pastor Bob's “Thundering”Veranda

Yes it is thundering in the distance but not  
raining here right now.  
Poor Cleo refuses to come out this morning.

The scripture offered for my morning meditation was Psalm 116:1-2 where it is written

*“I love the Lord, for you heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.  
Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.”*

This is a beautiful reminder that when we call out to God, He hears us and responds with love and mercy. It encourages us to continue calling upon him throughout our lives knowing that he's always there to listen.

How comforting is it to know that we can always talk to God and He will hear us?

We sometimes get so tied up in our life and the things around us that we forget that he is there to love us, to comfort us, to lead guide and direct us in our daily lives.

Let us not fall into the trap focusing on the wrong things in life, let our focus be on the “Founder and Perfecter” of our faith and always give thanks for the mercies and blessings He bestows upon us. In recognition of all he gives to us let us always be givers of love and mercy to those around us, even to those whom we do not agree with.

From a Stormy Veranda,

Pastor Bob

# Serving the Lord

## September 2023



### Lay Liturgist

- 3** Carol Morley
- 10** Marilyn Chavalia
- 17** Chris Clapper
- 24** Judy Wingate

### Greeters and Ushers

- John and Anita Wheatley**
- Richard and Margie Lisle**
- Beverly Macbeth and Judy Wingate**
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:graftongrandma@yahoo.com)

God always hears our prayers.

**REQUESTS**  
— **FOR** —  
**PRAYER**

Jeremiah 29:11

God  
DECLARES:

'I'  
THINK  
of you  
&

I HAVE

PLANS

for  
you-

PROSPERITY

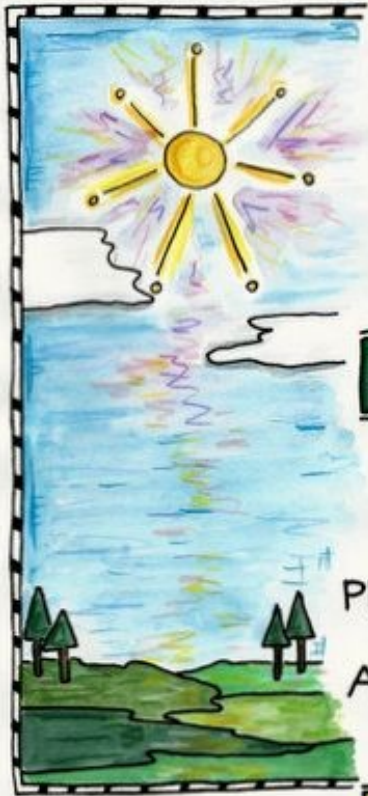
&

A FUTURE

FILLED

with

HOPE.



## Happy Birthday September

4 Chris Hoffmaster

9 Courtney Elliott

16 Anita Wheatley

21 Mary Brandal

24 Nathaniel Hoffmaster

## OCTOBER

4 Joe Yusko III



## Happy Anniversary September

10 Todd and Sarah Steele

20 David and Pat Coffman

26 Chuck and Barb Stephens

30 JJ and Kim Justice



Newsletter Info

**Wanted!** September 13

Deadline  
for

**October**  
Carillon  
Articles  
and

Information  
Wednesday





# Return to "Normal" Church Office Hours

Beginning Tuesday, September 5,  
the Church Office will be open

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM  
Wednesday NOON to 3:00 PM

Note: the Office is CLOSED on Friday

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## 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.



# Our Church Family who are Away from Us

Mary Dawson    Keystone Pointe  
383 Opportunity Way  
Room W 410  
LaGrange, Ohio 44050

Angelica Ritsko 756 N Center St LaGrange 44050

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

GOD  
bless  
—YOU—



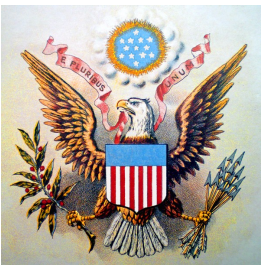




# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3 10:00 am Worship Service  Holy Communion Open Table	4 	5 1:00 pm OutReach Meeting  	6 7:00 pm Finance Meeting  	7	8 	9 
10 10:00 am Worship Service  Blood Pressure Sunday	11 7:00 pm Admin Council 	12	13 Newsletter Articles Due 	14 	15	16 
17 10:00 am Worship Service	18 	19 TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY 	20  NATIONAL PEPPERONI PIZZA DAY	21 	22 Elephant Appreciation Day 	23  HAPPY FIRST DAY OF FALL! <small>©TEAMORION</small>
24 10:00 am Worship Service  Change for Change Sunday	25 	26 	27 National Chocolate Milk Day 	28 NATIONAL GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY 	29  NATIONAL COFFEE DAY	30  LOVE PEOPLE DAY

# 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](mailto: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* ♥

If your contact information has changed,  
don't forget to let us know!





# PLANT EXCHANGE

SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> at Grafton UMC

10 AM – 12 Noon

Bring in your houseplants or garden plants that you would like to “weed out” from your house and/or yard.

*You could swap with someone else; sell to someone else; buy from someone else. You may even just leave your overstock and not take anything new home with you. Whatever works for you!*

We'll have a few boxes and bags for you to use to transport your new plants home, but bring whatever you think you may need. It would help if you knew what kind of plants you are bringing so we know how to care for them.

Bring a neighbor or anyone else who might be interested. All are welcome.

*Contact Carol Morley 440-365-7729 with any questions.*

# UPDATE ON HOW WE ARE “PUTTING GOD’S WORD TO WORK”

Contributions to Smile Train and “Children’s Change for Change” continue after the Covid 19 shutdowns.



We collect monies to support Smile Train which is a charitable organization that provides lifesaving surgeries to children who are born with a cleft palate. This condition prevents

babies from suckling and they are unable to thrive for lack of nourishment. Once the surgery is done, the infants have the ability to eat and grow healthy bodies. All surgeries are done by volunteer medical professionals and those trained by certified medical professionals. Families learn about good health practices and the love of Jesus Christ. Anyone may donate to this life-giving mission at any time.



“Children’s Change for Change” began many years ago and we are still providing support for a deserving young person in Rwanda. Our congregation sends \$38 per month to provide her with the teachings of Jesus,

clothing, food, school supplies, transportation, and other necessities to allow her to attend school. We also send an extra months allowance 2x a year; one for her birthday and one for Christmas. In order to make a change in someone’s life, it takes a little “change.” Thank you for giving to this mission any time.

# LAY SERVANT TRAINING COMING UP WITH SEPTEMBER

Interested in Becoming a Member of the Firelands Lay Servant Ministries Team?

Using your God given gifts and talents for the purpose of making disciples for the transformation of the world is the mission. If you would like to learn more on how you may develop ways to serve others by leading, caring, and communicating please look into this opportunity to grow in your faith and service.

Lay Servant Basic Training is scheduled for Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Norwalk UMC. It's located at 60 West Main St., in Norwalk. The cost is \$25 and that includes the book and a delicious lunch.

Registration forms are in the church office. If you have any questions please talk with Pastor Bob or Lay Leader Carol Morley.



Each month Outreach meets to discuss the current needs locally and elsewhere, as we are able. The earnings from our two Rummage Sales allow us to fund our decisions.

In August the Love Incorporated program of "Clothe a Child Program" (that we have been a part of for several years) has changed their process for providing for the children. To continue to support this necessary program we will donate \$100.

A "Hot Dog Picnic" following worship on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> is planned. The hot dogs will be hot off the grill and all side dishes are covered by the committee. **EVERYONE** is invited to bring your appetite and enjoy the fellowship. **Picnic attire is welcomed and encouraged.**

The Fall Rummage Sale is in the planning stage. Please look for more details later and continue to set aside your items in a corner of your house until we are ready to accept them here at the church.

Thank you for your support in helping us to help others.

Look for an Outreach Update next month. The support and help from our Church Family is truly appreciated.

If you'd like to join our group, please talk to Shirley Groves or any other member of the group. God's work takes many hands.



# Church Leaders



responsible with  
Charge Conference  
material

PLEASE have your  
reports and

information to the office no later than

**Tuesday, September 12**

## Charge Conference

Wednesday, October 4

6:00 p.m.

Amherst UMC

396 Park Ave

Amherst

Church Leaders are encouraged to attend

9/11

PATRIOT DAY

*we will never forget*



*Never Forget*

**2001: New York - Arlington - Shanksville**

**2012: Benghazi**