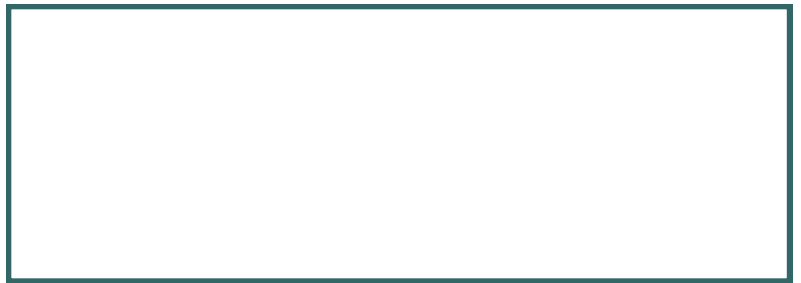
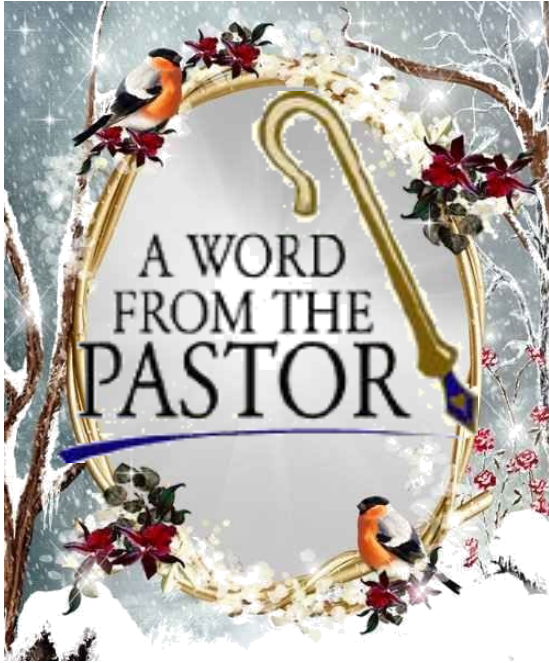




Grafton United Methodist Church
973 Mechanic Street
Grafton, Ohio 44044
Church Office: 440-926-2034
<http://www.graftonumc.org>



December 2023



NOT From Pastor Bob's Veranda

As we move through the time of Advent I asked each of you to partition some time out each day to sit in silence and think about all that God has given you this year. Yes, we just came through Thanksgiving which is a national holiday, but as Christians every day is a day of thanks for us.

We enter a time of gift giving. We give thanks for the gifts given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. The gift of hope, joy, peace and love. We will be lighting a candle for each of these gifts as we proceed through the season of Advent.

Christmas Eve this year is on a Sunday. We will have our normal 10 o'clock service and later at 4pm we will have our Christmas Eve celebration.

We've moved the Christmas Eve celebration to four o'clock so those who have issues driving in the dark will have the opportunity to participate in our candlelight service.

This is a time we are all called to prepare ourselves to remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings the Lord of lords.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all those I may not see a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Pastor Bob

Merry Christmas

Serving the Lord

December 2023



Lay Liturgist

- 3 Bob and Mary Brandal
- 10 Sue May and Judy Wingate
- 17 Joe and Barb Mendlik
- 24 Bob Overy and John Wheatley
- 31 Dick and Margie Lisle

Greeters and Ushers

- John and Anita Wheatley
- Fran Hurlburt and Diane Lach
- Barb Lynch and Beverly Macbeth
- Dennis and Amy Bajko



JANUARY 2024


- 7 Chris and Barb Clapper
- 14 Lloyd and Judy Miller
- 21 Judy Yusko and Fran Hurlburt
- 28 Bill and Cheryl Grapes



Happy Birthday December

- 2 Barb Ritsko Stephens
- 6 Dennis Bajko
- 7 Lena Hawke
- 11 Daniel Kimble
- 16 Noel Harris
- 25 JESUS
- 28 Chris Clapper
Ruth Gaetz
- 29 Julia Flinchum

JANUARY

- 2 Chuck Stephens
 - 3 Shirley Groves
Molly Stonestreet
- 



Newsletter Info

Wanted! December 13

Deadline
for
January
Carillon
Articles
and
Information
Wednesday



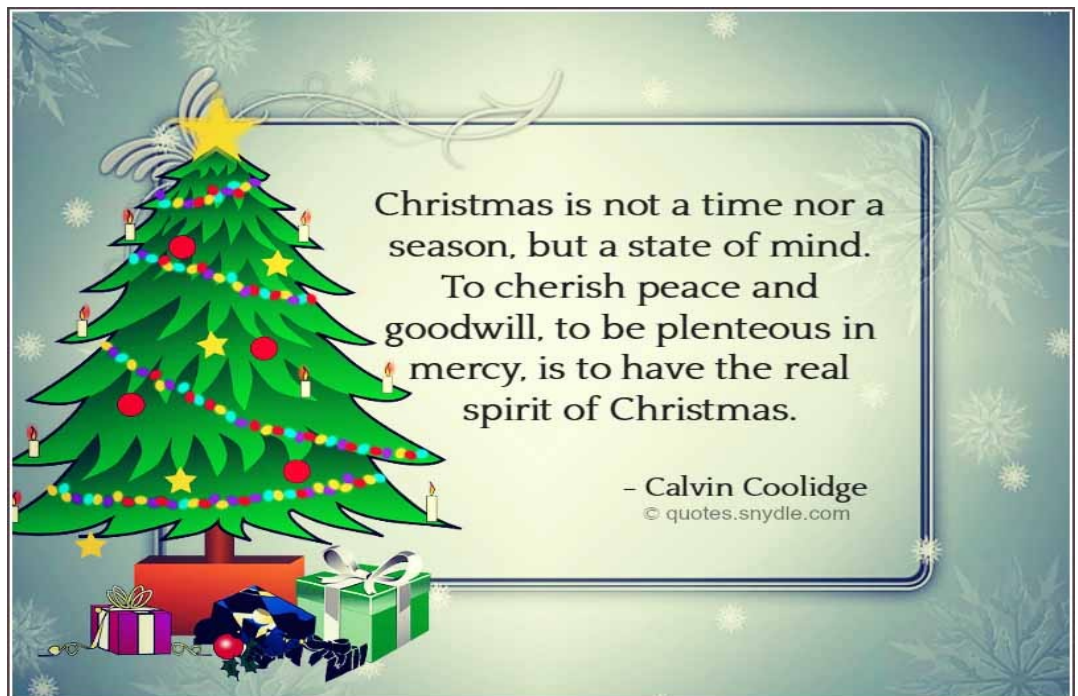
Our Church Family Who Are Away from Us

Shirley Groves 1024 Woodland Chase
Grafton, Ohio 44044

Angelica Ritsko 756 N Center St LaGrange 44050

(NOTE: Angelica is at Lifecare,
1212 S Abbe Rd Elyria 44035 Rm 205
Your thoughtful cards are welcomed!)

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



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 ADVENT BEGINS <small>-by George Skramstad</small>		Hanging of the Greens Saturday December 2 at 9:00 am 			1	2
3 HOPE 10:00 am Worship Service Holy Communion Open Table	4 1:00 pm OutReach Meeting 	5 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 	6 Mitten Tree Day 	7 11:00 am An Unlikely Advent Study	8	9 
10 PEACE 10:00 am Worship Service Blood Pressure Sunday	11  7:00 pm Admin Council	12 	13 National Cocoa Day!  December 13	14 11:00 am An Unlikely Advent Study	15	16 
17 JOY 10:00 am Worship Service	18	19 	20 	21 11:00 am An Unlikely Advent Study	22 	23 
24 LOVE 10:00 am Worship Service	25 Christmas Day 	26 	27 	28 	29	30 BACON DAY 
31 10:00 am Worship Service Change for Change Sunday	 					



The Annual
Hanging of the Greens
will take place
Saturday, December 2
from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help decorate
Juice, Coffee and Donuts will be served and who knows,
perhaps a carol or two will be sung Thank you



WINTER WEATHER

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

If 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.

Bible Study opportunities

INTERESTED IN LEARNING?

There are two opportunities in the works.

Starting soon, a group will be meeting at the church on Wednesdays at 1P.M. to read and discuss the Word and how it relates to our everyday lives.

ALSO there is a good possibility an Adult Sunday School Class will be beginning in January 2024 at 9AM.

Please see Carol Morley on Sunday morning or call 440-365-7729. Watch for more information in Sunday bulletins and the monthly newsletter.

Men and Women are encouraged to attend





Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline to order flowers is Thursday, December 14, 2023

Enclosed/Attached \$ _____ for _____ plants at \$8.50 each

Please order _____ RED _____ WHITE

_____ PINK

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

From: _____

ALL plants must be picked up and taken home
following Candlelight Worship Service, **December 24**

2024 Offering Envelopes

2024 envelopes will be available every Sunday in Advent,
beginning **Sunday, December 3**

Carol Morley will be in Howard Tran Hall to assign your
2024 envelope boxes.

Pledge Cards are still being accepted by mail or in person.

To donate your pledge card in person, please put your pledge card
in an envelope, seal the envelope, write the word PLEDGE
on the envelope, and put it in the offering box
in the church sanctuary.

Thank you everyone for your financial support of GUMC!

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



In the event you have a change in name, change to your family dynamic, a change of address, phone number (cell and land), and/or email

PLEASE contact the office in order for us to keep our records updated. Send us a message through ... US Mail, our email at graftonumc@mail.com or a voice message at 440-926-2034

We Thank You in Advance

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.



**STAY
in
TOUCH!**

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

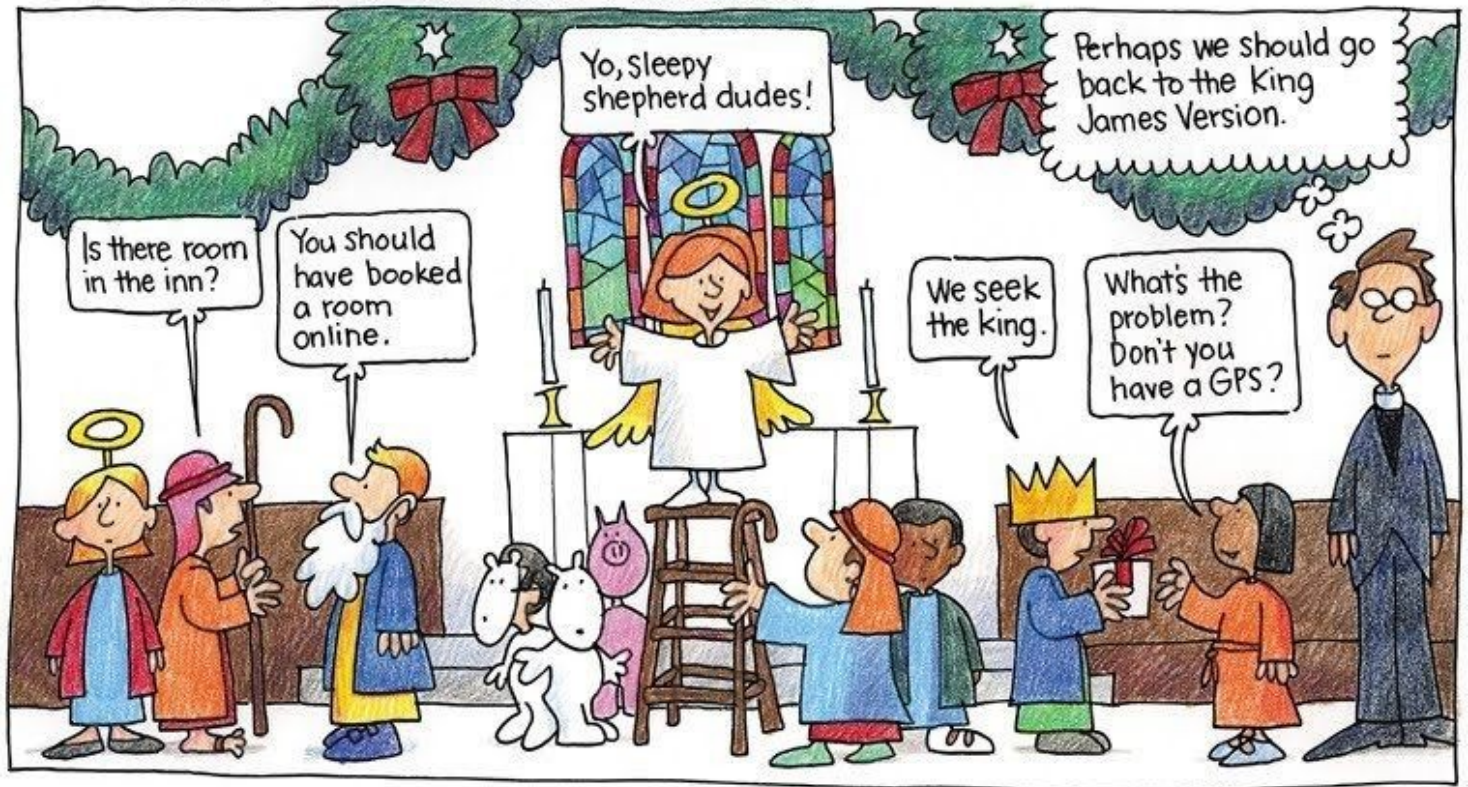
We would like to help you get the word out!

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!!!

THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL



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.

Recipe Books for Sale

Just in time for Christmas Giving



Our Favorite Recipes

A Collection of Recipes by
Grafton United Methodist Church
973 Mechanic Street
Grafton, OH 44044
graftonumc.org