

*“Once in our
world, a stable
had something
in it that was
bigger than our
whole world.”*

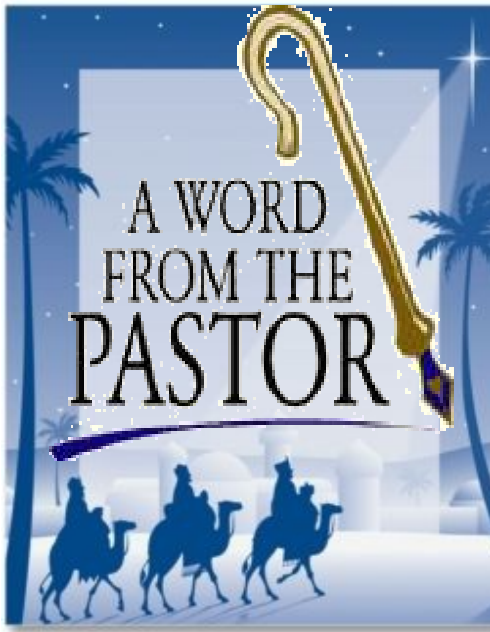
—C.S. LEWIS



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



January 2025



From Pastor Bob's Desk

On the day I wrote this article my meditation verse was:
Luke 1:68, Zechariah exclaims,

*“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited
and redeemed his people.”*

These words, spoken after the miraculous birth of his son John the Baptist, capture the profound hope and faithfulness of God's promises.

This verse reminds us that God does not forget His people. Through the arrival of Jesus Christ, He fulfilled His covenant to bring salvation and redemption. Zechariah's proclamation is a call to praise—a recognition that God's work among us is both personal and universal, touching every heart while transforming the world.

Let us remember that the same God who visited His people through Jesus continues to visit us today. He works in our lives, redeeming our brokenness and drawing us closer to Him. Let us join in Zechariah's praise and proclaim, “Blessed be the Lord!”

May this truth inspire gratitude and renewed faith in all He has done and continues to do.

Happy New Year!!!
Pastor Bob



Serving the Lord

January 2025



Lay Liturgist

- 5 Carol Morley
- 12 Judy Wingate
- 19 Anita Wheatley
- 25 Margie Lisle

Greeters and Ushers

- John and Anita Wheatley
- Barb Lynch and Diane Lach
- Beverly Macbeth and Sue May
- Bob Overy and Joe Mendlik



COMING UP
NEXT!



FEBRUARY 2025

- 2 Dick and Margie Lisle
- 9 Chris Clapper and Judy Wingate
- 16 Fran Hurlburt and Judy Yusko
- 23 John and Anita Wheatley

MARCH 2025

- 2 Bob and Mary Brandal
- 9 Barb Lynch and Diane Lach
- 16 Beverly Macbeth and Sue May
- 23 Bob Overy and Joe Mendlik
- 30 Dick and Margie Lisle

Happy Birthday January

- 2 Chuck Stephens
- 3 Shirley Groves
Molly Stonestreet
- 11 Pat Coffman
- 12 Xavier Gray
- 16 Robbie Morley
- 20 Rob Morley
- 23 Phyllis VanKerkhove
Shana Stonestreet
- 24 Marilyn Ogg



Sunday Child Care Volunteers

January 2025

- 5 Judy Wingate and Margie Lisle
- 12 Anita Wheatley and Aimee Benko
- 19 Chris and Barb Clapper
- 25 Mary Brandal and Judy Wingate



Requests for Prayer

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

If you have a prayer request or praise, please contact the church by email at:

graftonumc@mail.com

or by phone at 440-926-2034

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

God always hears our prayers.

“

In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories and steps, be a rebel and count your blessings instead.



LISA HECKMAN

TheCrystalGoddess.com



Our Church Family Who Are Away from Us

Marilyn Chavalia 842 Mechanic St
Grafton, Ohio 44044

Pat Coffman Keystone Pointe
383 Opportunity Way
Room E308-2
LaGrange, Ohio 44050

Shirley Groves 1024 Woodland Chase
Grafton, Ohio 44044

Angelica Ritsko 756 N Center St
LaGrange, Ohio 44050

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



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4
5 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Service Holy Communion Open Table	6 11:00 am OutReach 	7	8 1:00 pm Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Service	13 	14	15 1:00 pm Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Service	20	21	22 1:00 pm Bible Study	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship Service	27	28	29 1:00 pm Bible Study	30	31	

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



WINTER WEATHER Closing Procedure

If you are wondering whether a Bible Study or a Sunday Worship Service will be held due to winter weather conditions, there are a couple of ways for you 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 Midview 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.



Does your New Year's Resolution List include spending more time with the Lord in reading your Bible? If so, there are currently two opportunities offered to help fulfill the desire.

You are welcome to participate in the **Weekly Wednesday Bible Study** that meets at 1pm in Howard Tran Hall located adjacent to the church sanctuary. No need to feel as if you are coming in the middle of something, because each week is a new beginning. Come to see how welcoming and comfortable we will make you feel. Hope to see you next Wednesday.

You are welcome to be a part of the **Adult Sunday Morning Bible Class**. We meet in the downstairs classroom at the bottom of the front staircase at 9am. Each Sunday is a lesson from the "Our Daily Bread" devotional. Our discussions are lively and help us understand the scripture lesson and connect it to our daily lives. You are invited to come on any Sunday and see what you are missing.

May you have a Blessed New Year and may you grow in your faith and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Contact Lay Leader Carol Morley for more information. 440-365-7729



**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!!!

May you spend lesser time
online this New Year and more
with the real people who fill up
your real world. 😊

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.



During this New Year 2025

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 2025

<u>ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL</u>	Chairperson	Bob Morley
Recording Secretary		Carol Morley
Chairperson PPR		Beverly Macbeth
Chairperson Trustee		Bob Brandal
Chairperson Finance		Mindy Harris
Financial Secretary		Mindy Harris
Church Treasurer		Mindy Harris
Outreach		Shirley Groves
Church Historian		Marge Sayers
Lay Leader		Carol Morley
Lay Member to Annual Conference		
Youth Representative to Administrative Council		

FINANCE COMMITTEE Chairperson: Mindy Harris

Pastor, Mindy Harris, Carol Morley, Administrative Council Chairperson, Trustee Chairperson, PPR Chairperson

Counters

Mary Brandal	Lloyd Miller
Marilyn Chavalia	Judy Yusko
Margie Lisle	Dick Lisle
Bob Morley	Carol Morley

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS Chairperson: Beverly Macbeth

Lay Member to Annual Conference:

Mindy Harris Diane Lach Carol Morley

TRUSTEES Chairperson: Bob Brandal (elected in January)

Diane Lach Fran Hurlburt Carol Morley

Continued on opposite side

Grafton United Methodist Church Leadership for 2025

WORSHIP

Musicians	Doris Rand	Carol Morley	Fran Hurlburt
Lay Speakers	Carol Morley		
Projectionist	Mike Patik	Bob Morley	
Video Engineers	Bob Morley	Bob Brandal	
Audio Engineers	Mike Patik	Dick Lisle	
Ushers and Greeters	Diane Peters		
Altar Steward	Diane Lach		
Communion Stewards	Joe Mendlik	Diane Lach	
Acolytes	Carol Morley		

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE / NOMINATIONS

Marge Sayers

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 Chavalia Chris Clapper (alternate)



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.

Bob Brandal and Jason Benko for taking time to care for the lawn and bushes as well as the sidewalks when in need.

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