

November Sunday Schedule

Services at 9:30 AM

- Nov. 1 Joshua 3: 7-17
1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13
Matthew 23: 1-12
- Nov. 8 Joshua 24: 1-3, 14-25
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25: 1-13
- Nov. 15 Judges 4: 1-7
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30
- Nov. 22 Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1: 15-23
Matthew 25: 31-46
- Nov. 29 Isaiah 64: 1-9
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 24-37
- Dec. 6 Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15
Mark 1:1-18

HOW TO FIND US

United Methodist Church Of Grand Rapids

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November 2020 NEWSLETTER

United Methodist Church
Of Grand Rapids
1701 SE 5th Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744





United Methodist Church
Of Grand Rapids

Rapids CONNECTION

GROW
*in love of
God and neighbor*

REACH
new people

HEAL
a broken world

STAFF

Pastor
Rev. James Crecelius

Administrator
Jodi Martin

Accompanists
Susan Hoolihan
Gretchen Bensen

Ready Set Grow Preschool
Mary Hanson
Shari Tverberg

Custodial
Justine Williams

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00-2:00

Pastor's Corner

**The Lord will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest. – Psalm
85:12**

While the weather outside these days might suggest otherwise.... It is the season of harvest! Sometimes the growing season seems very long. Months go by, and at times the growth of a crop seems almost imperceptible. In midsummer, the calendar seems full of weeks when storms or disease

might threaten a crop, and harvesttime seems far away. Still, at other times in our lives the moment for harvest can seem to rush quickly toward us and we rush to be ready in time.

The same is true in our living before the Lord. While we occasionally have seasons of rapid growth in our faith, at other times the harvest seems far away, with many obstacles and challenges to trip us up. Storms of anger sweep over us, and we speak harsh words to a spouse or a child. We wilt in the heat and drought of financial pressures, and we are tempted to cut corners as stewards of the resources God has given. The floods of chaos and crisis can seem to overwhelm us

When the harvest seems so far off, we need to hear again God's promise. Yes, our brokenness and sin are a reality we need to deal with. But God has also shown us God's own unfailing love and also God's abundant and eternal life in Christ. While we might feel dried up, broken to bits, or overwhelmed, God is faithful, is All-Surpassing, and cannot be overcome!

The psalmist invites us to "listen to what God the Lord says" and to hear God's promise of love, renewal, resurrection, and peace! Jesus reconciles us and restores us to a right relationship! We are people of the empty tomb! In Christ, the harvest is guaranteed! And here we are in the season of harvest! (Hard to realize that with all this "white stuff" on the ground!) The fields are ripe, and the abundance and blessing of God is and are evident. While, in some seasons of life the fruit of our lives still seems far off, often we must be ready to act and harvest the opportunities of the Commonwealth of Christ. They are "at hand" as Jesus says.

Through the growing season, certain plants become mature and their fruit ripe at different times. We need to be daily checking the "fields of harvest" in our lives. The workplace, our neighborhood, the classroom, our community....in each of these places and more – God is breaking God's Kingdom forth! Are we ready to harvest the opportunity to touch a heart, change a life, build up and increase the community of faith for the Cause of Christ?

"The Lord will indeed give [us] what is good." In due time, our lives will yield a harvest in Christ.

Be God's, Pastor Jim



God is always with you and God is All-Surpassing. So why do we worry? In our discussion at Sr. High Youth meeting, we looked at Matthew 6:24-35. Jesus tells us not to worry. He says worrying won't "add a minute to your life", nor will it improve whatever situation you're worrying about. Still, we all find ourselves doing it at times. How especially true in times like we live in now.... Our discussion led to what we hope for, how frustrating it is to not be able to share certain things because you're pretty sure someone's going to "pounce" on what you say or get in your face about it. "How do we respect one another?" was one of the questions we considered,

It was great to welcome Hanna & Naesa to the group! Two brand new faces who jumped right in! Also, thanks to an anonymous church member sponsoring the sandwiches and salad!

Reminder that Jr. High Youth meets this Sunday following service till noon. Parents are encouraged to enjoy a brunch at a local eatery and pick up their youth at noon (we'll always finish at noon – even if we're not "finished"). Anyway, this Sunday we'll look at a video about courage in relationships and see how that ties into what God says about being a Christ Follower.

Other Important Youth Dates:

Sunday, Nov. 1 st	Last Confirmation Class (6:00)
Wednesday, Nov. 4 th	Sr. High
Sunday, Nov. 8 th	Jr. High
Sunday, Nov. 15 th	Confirmation Sunday!
Wednesday, Nov. 18 th	Sr. High
Sunday, Nov. 22 nd	Jr. High
Wednesday, Dec 2 nd	Sr. High
Sunday, Dec. 13 th	Jr. High
Wednesday, Dec. 16 th	Both Jr. & Sr. High Shopping for Christmas families and Christmas Party

Confirmation's last Meeting is Nov. 1st! We'll review the questions for your paper and make sure everyone's caught up! All confirmands really need to be there! Papers are due by Sunday, Nov. 8th. Confirmation Sunday is Nov. 15th! It will be a great service!! Your church is very proud of all of you!

MISSIONS

The annual Open Door Coat Rack was held October 12-15. Sheila Weeks put together a committee of Judy Peterson, Carolyn Orlich, Lisa Randall, Barbara Brossmer and Kay Klingman. Due to Covid, changes of operation were needed. After a discussion with the Itasca Health Department, it was decided that we would need to give out new items. We didn't feel we could wash every coat that came in. Therefore, we chose to only serve children 0-18 years of age. 562 children have been served from 193 families.

Our community generously donated financially so that we could provide new coats, snow pants and boots. A grant from the Community Foundation for \$5,000 and Business Professional Women for \$1,000 as well as a generous donation from the Colony Square residents. Donations were received from community churches and individuals. L & M and Glenn's gave us discounted items. Target discounted purchases as well as gave a \$200 gift card. Walmart gave a \$200 gift card. These donations are definitely a blessing to so many children in our community!

The best stories we heard were from a teacher whose students came in with their new coats and were so excited to have a new coat. One little girl said that it was the first time she had ever had a new coat. She wouldn't take her coat off all day.



Coordinators:
 Carolyn Orlich and
 Steve & Stephanie Zimmer

Karen Anderson
 Ross & Margaret Cass
 Patty Christensen
 Ken & Sandy Hansen
 Mary Hanson
 Marva Jean Hutchens
 Ken & Carol Kerr
 Candice Kortekaas
 Mike & Martha Lentz
 Jarod & Jen Lund
 Michael & Mandy Norton
 John & Kathy Pliska
 Jim & Cindy Ridley
 Dave & Margy Strock
 Sheila & Lloyd Weeks
 Jake & Carrie Zimmer



Nov. 29 Stephen & Bea Ovadje
 30 Gene & Linda Rasmussen

Nov. 1 Bryce Thompson
 4 Ruth Martin
 4 Jenna Naymst
 5 Patti Kampa
 6 Alice Anderson
 7 Ken Hansen
 8 Eugene Swedeen
 10 Becky Larson
 11 Michelle Vanina
 12 Carol Spooner
 13 James Borst
 14 Ron Klingman
 17 Morgan Meyer
 19 Jacob Larson
 21 Annette Couch
 21 Sheryl Tverberg
 24 Dan Duffy
 25 Joel Zimmer
 28 Robert Drake
 29 Lois Carlson
 29 Corky Krall
 29 Iris Nordby
 29 Curtis Person
 29 Marit Tverberg
 30 Kenyon Casper

The captain will contact you if there is a need for help serving a lunch, funeral or other event.



September 2020 Monthly Snap Shot

	Income	Expenses	Net Income
September 2020	16,828	20,336	(3,508)

YTD - 2020	179,232	153,180	26,052
YTD - 2019	219,901	223,549	(3,648)
Change	(40,669)	(70,369)	29,700

YTD - 2020 - Weekly Avg	4,596	3,918	678
YTD - 2019 - Weekly Avg	5,687	5,681	6
Change	(1,091)	(1,763)	672

Thank you for your continued support of the day-to-day ministry of the church. We try to be careful stewards of your gifts.



Fireside Readers

In October, we began our two-meeting plan. Each month, Fireside readers will meet on the 4th Monday, but you

may choose to attend a meeting during the day - at 1:00 PM or a meeting in the evening - at 6:30 PM. Our hope is by offering the meetings two different times, we'll encourage some new readers to join us as well as make it easier for those who prefer not to go out at night during the colder, darker winter months. Both groups will read the same book each month. You are welcome to attend either or both meetings. We also plan to gather as a larger group 3 times a year. For November, we are reading **American Dirt** by Jeanine Cummins. This is a top seller. There are copies in the Arrowhead Library region. If you don't plan to buy it, put a hold on now.

GRUMC SUNDAY SERVICE ON YOUTUBE

We now have the ability to LIVE STREAM our services as they occur. Our plan to do this each Sunday that we are able to meet. This means you will be able to log into our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdKZzWoWgOnjrV2NbZudelg>) each Sunday morning to watch the services as they occur. We will also continue to upload our services for ICTV, so that programming will continue as in the past. The best way to be notified about each new posting is to subscribe to our church YouTube channel. Click on or enter this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdKZzWoWgOnjrV2NbZudelg>



When you see the red SUBSCRIBE button on the right side of the screen, click Subscribe. You will then receive notification each time a service is ready to watch or uploaded. If you are interested in learning more and becoming a part of the team that works each week on this significant part of our ministry, please contact Justine (218- 259-3532) or Keith (218-410-1650). And thank you for watching!



Prayer Chain To receive or request prayer, contact **Nancy O'Toole** at nlotoole@me.com

The Season of Advent:



Advent begins on Nov. 29th. In such a distorted and chaotic season, we find ourselves in, how much more important to celebrate God's great love and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child!

Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. *Advent* derives from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means "coming." The season proclaims the coming of Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate, who comes continually in Word & Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each Sunday has a distinctive emphasis: Christ's coming in final victory (First Sunday), John the Baptist (Second & Third Sundays), and the events immediately preceding the birth of the Christ Child (Fourth Sunday)

As we do each Advent, we'll light the Advent Wreath and hang the Banners of the four themes of each Sunday: Hope, Peace, Love, & Joy! With every other pew taped off, the sliding panels at the back of the sanctuary completely open and chairs set up at safe distances from each other behind the pews; we are able to seat worshippers at a safe distance from one another and still enjoy congregational worship. You are invited to come and share in the Season of Advent.

Be Gods, Jim

A note from Nancy O'Toole:

June Kent, will be 99 on December 11th. I'd like to put out a request that members send cards to her. June



loves receiving cards and has also been a person who has sent many cards to others.

Her address is: June Kent

312 Second Avenue SE,
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

GRUMC Garbage Service:

During this Season of Covid Crisis, the Trustees have suspended UMC's garbage service. Please DO NOT put anything in the dumpster. Please DO NOT leave any food items in the trash cans within the building, in the cans outside or in the dumpster. The Trustees have made this decision in order to be diligent with the finances of the church.

Thank you, The Board of Trustees

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS.....

HARRY & TRUDY HUFFER



Harry and Trudy met in junior high when they both lived on County Rd 440 west of Trout Lake. After graduating from Greenway High, they attended school in Duluth. After their marriage they lived in Pine City but returned to this area in 1978. Harry taught for 25 years at Greenway and Trudy worked at Northland Mental Health & Arrowhead Consultation as business manager. Harry built a house on CR440 on the old family homestead.

The couple have two children. Derek lives in Pennsylvania and has three children. Jackie has five children in Wisconsin. Harry enjoys tinkering in the garage, hunting, fishing, reading, exploring the woods, and turkey hunting is a new passion. Trudy

likes gardening, sewing, baking, and her computer. They like to fish and go to the YMCA together.

Harry & Trudy attended a Lutheran church for many years, but while wintering in Gulf Shores, AL they enjoyed the open nature of United Methodist services. In 2015 they visited many area churches but kept returning to GRUMC where Pastor Al Bolte met them at the door, they knew some members, and Marie Duffy called on them and encouraged them to keep attending. They enjoyed the Sunday fellowship time and the chance to meet new people. "The Lord is the solid rock that has allowed us to get over the bumps of life. Church is very important for the trustworthy fact that we are loved by the Lord."

ZOOM TEA PARTY-JUST US GIRLS

Join us for a special event for the gals on Saturday, November 7th at 2:00 p.m. It will be offered on ZOOM on your computer. Normally we would be working together, serving, and enjoying the annual Fall Bazaar. Since we can't do that, here's something we can do!

Each participant is encouraged to create an interesting teatime table setting in their own kitchen or dining room. Suggestions are listed below to inspire you.

Table Covering: placemat, heirloom tablecloth, pretty dish towel, scarf, quilt, embroidery, wrapping paper, brown bag, fabric....

Dishes: china teacup, collectible teapot, pottery mug, souvenir dishes from travels, silly saying mug, your favorite thermal travel mug....

Decorations: live plant, seasonal centerpiece, candles, a bowl of fruit, sculpture, painting, collectibles, treat yourself to fresh flowers....

More Ideas: Create a table setting with a theme such as tropical, western, garden, birthday, Italian or another country, or use your collection (dolls, rocks, teddy bears, turkeys)

Your table setting can be fancy, casual, or just plain funky. Sharing these creations will be our entertainment.

Of course, you will need to prepare your own tea or favorite beverage. An easy recipe for scones that came from Joyce Eaton in our GRUMC cookbook will be sent out in the Thought for the Day if you wish to make them.

Zoom ID: Grand Rapids UM Church (JUST US GALS!) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: ZOOM TEA PARTY-JUST US GIRLS

Time: Nov 7, 2020 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/95580576109>

Meeting ID: 955 8057 610

Questions: Nancy O'Toole 218-256-7711



