

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Jan. 1 Isaiah 63:7-9
 Hebrews 2:10-18
 Matthew 2:13-23
- Jan. 6 Isaiah 42:1-9
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 3:13-17
- Jan. 15 Isaiah 49:1-7
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 John 1:29-42
- Jan. 22 Isaiah 9:1-4
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Matthew 4:12-23
- Jan 29 Micah 6:1-8
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12
- Feb. 5 Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
 Matthew 5:13-20

HOW TO FIND US

United Methodist Church Of Grand Rapids

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2 blocks west of the Grand Rapids Airport

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secretary@umcgrmn.org

www.umcgrmn.org



<https://www.youtube.com/c/GRUMC>



Password:
BeOurGuest

January 2023

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



January 2023



United Methodist Church
Of Grand Rapids



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

**Ready Set Grow
Preschool**

Mary Hanson
Shari Tverberg

Custodial

Justine Williams

Office Hours

Jodi:
M-F, 9am-3pm

Pastor Jim:

M-F, 9am-Noon &
By appointment

Justine:

Tu, Th, F afternoons
and as needed

**MISSIONS
NEWS**

SALVATION ARMY: Thank you to everyone who volunteered to ring the bells for Salvation Army!! Of the 24 shifts we committed to, all but 4 were filled. Fantastic & very much appreciated!!

GRACE HOUSE: The annual fundraiser for the shelter was a wonderful success. We guaranteed 360 dinners and served 360 – a miracle! Ticket sales were close to 400 so we weren't sure how many to guarantee. UMC had 4 ½ tables full and a good time was had by all. Thank you all for your continued support.

GRACE HOUSE OVERFLOW: We need a volunteer to coordinate this program. As we have discussed in previous newsletters, the Overflow Program is definitely needed. The shelter is full the majority of the time. The goal of the Overflow program is that no person will go without shelter due to lack of vacancies. If you are interested in coordinating this important mission, please see Pastor Jim or Kay Klingman.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, seven families including 20 children will have gifts under the tree. A subscription to the newspaper was given to a gentleman at Grand Village. Needed items were also provided to be given out at the Grand Village Christmas party. A special thank you to the people who did the shopping, donated wrapping supplies, and joined in the wrapping party!

CHRISTMAS MAILBOX: Postage donations for Christmas cards will be going to the General Fund. PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK FOR YOUR CARDS SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE MAILED TO YOU.

MISSION TRIP IN APRIL 2023: The Mission team will be leaving for Kentucky April 10 and returning April 19, 2023. We ask that you prayerfully consider this opportunity to work and fellowship with friends from GRUMC and Nashwauk UMC. This is a wonderful experience helping others and getting to know people on the team. Questions can be directed to Jim Hanttula or Pastor Jim.

We don't expect everyone to donate and/or volunteer for every opportunity we present, but we hope that you will prayerfully consider missions that speak to your heart!

Hey Kids! We have an exciting new Sunday School lesson plan beginning on January 8, 2023! We will be learning "What's In The Bible with Buck Denver." Come and join us as we learn all about the New Testament of the Bible. Sunday school is during our family friendly worship service at 9:45am on Sunday mornings.

**We are SO excited to have you join us,
Your Sunday School Teachers**





Happy New Year! 2023....Not sure why, but that number catches my attention and brings a variety of emotions. Maybe it's that as a young person this year seemed so far away into the future and now it's here! Maybe it's my grandchildren's (still surprised that I'm a grandparent – "only old people are grandparents") newly blossoming little lives. But mostly, the emotion I feel is excitement and expectation. One of my favorite radio shows is Science Friday on NPR. During the afternoon on Fridays, the host looks at some of the top Science stories of the past week or month and it's amazing all the new discoveries and research that is happening and what the possibilities are for the future! With his guests, they explain and show the relevance of these new discoveries, ideas, and theories. I enjoy all the new things I learn!

As you read this column, we'll have finished Christmas & Christmastide and are now in the "Season after the Epiphany". An epiphany, according to Mr. Webster's book, is defined as, "a visionary moment when a character has a sudden insight or realization...". The Joy of Christmas moves to the discovery of what the Christmas event can mean in our lives. Those new discoveries lead to a new awareness and are the "epiphany(ies)" that lead us into deeper discipleship as we seek to follow the Christ.

The first Sunday of this season begins with the story of Jesus' baptism and the Last Sunday on the Transfiguration where Jesus goes to the top of a mountain with Peter, James, and John where he is "Transfigured" and appears to the three disciples in his glorified state. The Sunday Gospel readings center on stories from the early ministry of Christ.

While we celebrated the ancient story of the birth of Christ at Christmas, this new season following Epiphany can allow us the opportunities of "sudden insight or realization" of what the possibilities, outcomes, new ideas & new practices, and more intentional discipleship might mean for us as a congregation and personally for you and me! Just as Science Friday names the top stories of what's happening in the world of science, so I invite you to think through what are the "Top Stories" in your life and what might that mean for your spiritual journey in this new year and how might this deepen your relationship with Christ and grow you as his disciple?

Let me encourage you in four responses to Epiphany: 1) Make Sunday Worship a high Priority. Come, gather with your faith family regularly building bonds of deep friendship and connectedness to your family of faith. If you do come very often already, take a role in the worship leadership on Sunday mornings as an Usher, Greeter, Lay Reader, join the choir, help with the Tech Team, or help serve during the fellowship time following worship service. 2) Read more scripture; if you're wanting specific ideas, try reading two of the gospels and see what's unique and similar between the two, read the Book of James, or First John, or Isaiah. 3) Start or build on a devotional practice of prayer and reflection. 4) Begin or build on a health discipline of exercise and healthy lifestyle.

As we move into this season of new insight, new discoveries, and new awareness – may God lead us as a faith family while we seek to become the Resurrection Community as the Body of Christ we are called to be.

Be God's, Pastor Jim

FIRESIDE READERS:



Happy New Year To All,

Fireside Readers will be meeting at 6:30pm on Monday, January 23. We will be meeting at the church. Our book to read and discuss is: "Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting" by Lisa Genova. A few of our group have already read this book and highly recommended it. The author wrote "Still Alice" and we read it several years ago. Even though this book for January is not fiction, it is not a "textbook" style book. This author is very knowledgeable about this subject.

Enjoy reading it and we look forward to seeing all who are interested in discussing it. Even though we have a regular group of readers we always welcome new ones to join us.

Wendy



November 2022 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
November General Fund	29,603	20,250	9,353
YTD - 2022	236,027	220,126	15,901
			-
Monthly average - 2022	21,291	20,011	1,280

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is \$21,914. The above monthly average amount has been adjusted to account for this. Thank you for your continued support of the day to day ministry of our church. We try to be careful stewards of your gifts.

A Note From The Finance Committee:

Again, thank you so much for your giving. You are truly a blessing and supporter of God's work. Each committee works hard to stay in budget while supporting the mission and vision of UMC. You are an important part of this team effort. Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Finance Committee.

NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND COMMITTEE

In January of 2022, the Church Conference adopted a Strategic Plan for the next three years that included a goal to increase the amount of the principal in the Congregational Trust Fund by 50% or about \$250,000. A plan was implemented to initiate a series of "Fifth Sunday Special Offerings" that would include telling stories of how the distribution of funds earned through interest and dividends have helped the emerging ministry of the church, and encouraging people to make regular contributions to increase the principal.



First, thank you to all who donated gifts to the fund. 2022 had three special offerings since we didn't launch until May. At this writing, we still have eleven days in December to receive gifts, but so far we have received \$26,990. A full report will be given at the Church Conference January 29, 2023.

In 2023 we will have four "Fifth Sunday Special Offerings" which will be January 29, April 30, July 30, and October 29. Save the date.

Second, at last year's Church Conference the CTF Committee recommended the distribution of \$25,000 in the prescribed by bylaws of the CTF:

- \$ 2,500 for Outreach Beyond our Community
- \$11,250 for Outreach in the Community
- \$11,250 for Capital Improvements

This year the CTF Committee will move to disburse \$12,000 (a lesser amount because of the drop in the stock market) in the ratio of 10% - 45% - 45%.

Third, during the year we consulted with Dennis O'Toole to help update the Policy for the GRUMC Congregational Trust Fund. The purpose was to assure donors that money given to this fund will always be used as intended by the founders. Should the church discontinue for any reason, this fund would be transferred to the Community Foundation to be maintained and distributed as described in the policy. The amended policy was presented to the Administrative Council in November and will be presented for approval at the Church Conference on January 29, 2023. Copies are available from the church office or from Kathy Pliska.



Well...between illnesses and snowstorms we had a rather uneventful close to our Fall Semester. However, we hope you've had a wonderful and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's Day!

We're off to an exciting start for the new year! For our first meeting, on the 4th of January, we're off to go bowling! Meet together at the Thunder Alley Bowling Lanes here in Grand Rapids at our regular time, 6:30! The Youth Group Fund will pick-up the cost of the bowling and we'll have a dinner. But if you want to have more food during our time there you'll need to bring your own money for that. ☹️ This is a great opportunity to bring new friends you've been wanting to

Oh... and Arrows Embroidery called on Monday, Dec. 19th to let us know their embroidery machine is fixed and our Sweatshirts are finally done! We'll have them for you at the meeting on the 4th!

Lumberjack Sunday is January 22nd!

Join us for the lively celebration in the deep of winter for all of the brave and courageous. Wear your cozy lumberjack gear (flannel, buffalo plaid) to the 9:45 a.m. worship service. Then enjoy a meal of hearty stew, beans, and homemade METHODIST PIE followed by hilarious Minute to Win It challenges. This is a celebration for all of us who tough it out in the Northland. Invite friends or prospective members.

Sign up after church to help:

Bring a batch of your favorite beans or stew.

Share bread or buns with "smear" (butter, jam, jelly, or spreadable cheese).

Sign up to make pie with a fun group of camp cooks.

Volunteer to help with decorating or donate logging camp items.

Help in the kitchen with prep or clean-up.

We are "pining" for your attendance.

"Wood" you like some great grub?

We will welcome you and be "plaid" you came!

Whiskers appreciated but not required.

Call or text Nancy at 218-256-7711 for more info.



A Message from your Lay Leader:

A new year has arrived by the time you are reading this newsletter. Our church family continues to grow with new members and even 2 babies born this past year. I am delighted to see several children sitting with Pastor Jim for the message and love seeing baptisms.

We have some new things on the horizon that are being discussed and considered for the growth of our church. I like hearing the members described as disciples and not simply members. We all need to be participating no matter what our calling might be. You may be asked to consider serving on a committee, ushering, greeting, serving coffee, reading at the service, making phone calls, teaching a lesson, and the list goes on. Please prayerfully consider saying yes to a request or better yet, choose your own and contact the church.

Happy New Year and God Bless,

Wendy



- 2 John Anderson
- 2 Margaret Cass
- 3 Sherry Thompson
- 3 Dana Grina
- 3 Warren Ritter
- 4 Kelsie Jo Zimmer
- 5 Carolyn Salo
- 11 Virginia Rucinski
- 11 Amber Anderson
- 13 Joan Jones
- 15 Dave Hutchins

- 16 Virginia Loop
- 22 Laura Hauser
- 24 Lynne Meyer
- 24 Wyatt Ritter
- 26 Joann Gould
- 27 Bennett Hanson
- 28 Owen Linder
- 28 Irene Drieman
- 28 Sean Duffney
- 31 David Tank

Hospitality
MINISTRY

Coordinator:
Nancy O'Toole

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

Marie Duffy	Gloria Gooler
Deb Hagenbuck	June Johnson
Sue Kolka	Sally LaDoux
Becky Larson	JoLynn Linder
Lori Olson	Willy Nuorala
Lisa Randall	Linda Rasmussen
Justine Williams	

Happy Anniversary!

- 5 Clayton & Leila Stevens
- 5 John & JoLynn Linder

The 2023 Annual Charge Conference
Sunday, January 29th following the service.

Committee Chairs, please have your 2022 reports to the church office or submitted to People Portal no later than; Friday, January 13th. Thank you.



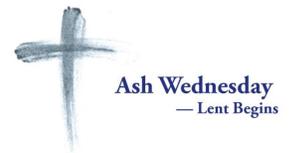
Family, Fellowship, Community Fun event!

On Tuesday, Feb. 21st from 5:00 – 7:30 come be a part of our “Fat Tuesday” party!

Fat Tuesday is a celebration tradition from the South; on the Tuesday night before Ash Wednesday. We’ll enjoy Jambalaya, have crafts to make, booths for games and prizes for the kids, and *Square Dancing* for everyone! Dan Sahlstrom is one of the best “callers” in Minnesota. He’s a Square Dance caller at the Minnesota State Fair! Not only a great way to enjoy the fellowship of our GRUMC family, this is a great way to introduce a friend to our congregation! So, come, enjoy the party - and bring a friend with you!

Looking Ahead to Lent:

While it’s over a month away, Lent will be here in no time. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22nd. We’ll have a service at 7:00pm including the Imposition of Ashes.



This Lent, as we did last year, We’ll be having a Wednesday Dinner and Bible Study on Wednesday evenings beginning on March 1st, at 5:00pm for Dinner followed by Bible Study from 5:30-6:30pm. The Bible Study is 6 weeks long and will run March 1st (the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday) to April 5th (the Wednesday of Holy Week).

This year we’ll be using a study by Adam Hamilton, one of our denomination’s best teachers and leaders. Adam is the lead pastor for Church of the Resurrection, the largest United Methodist Church in North America. We’ll be studying his book, “Creed; What Christians believe and why”, based on The Apostles Creed.

Each week a couple of members of the congregation will prepare a dinner and we’ll enjoy our fellowship as we discover a fuller sense of our grounding beliefs from one of the earliest statements of faith!