

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Apr. 7	Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31
Apr. 14	Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48
Apr. 21	Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
Apr. 28	Acts 8:26-40 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8
May 5	Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17

HOW TO FIND US

United Methodist Church Of Grand Rapids

1701 SE 5th Ave • Grand Rapids, MN
2 blocks west of the Grand Rapids Airport

218-327-2216

secretary@umcgrmn.org

www.umcgrmn.org



[https://www.youtube.com/c/
GRUMC](https://www.youtube.com/c/GRUMC)



April 2024

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

April 2024



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

OPEN DOOR COAT RACK: Thank you to everyone who has picked up the clearance winter wear and donated items for the 2024 event. A special thanks to Gene Rasmussen for moving the donated coats from the office rack to the garage weekly.

GRACE HOUSE: Volunteers are always needed at the shelter. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Elizabeth at 218-326-2790. If you have items you would like to donate, it is a good idea to contact them to be sure they have room to take your donations.

DONATIONS: Donations have been made to 2nd Harvest Food Bank and Boy Scout Troup #41. When the CEF funds are distributed, we will discuss the different options.

MARCH MISSION - SECOND HARVEST: As of printing we have collected \$320.

MISSION TRIP: A mission trip to Spirit Lake Mission (connected with the UM ND Conference) is being discussed. The trip would begin on June 9, 2024. The approximate cost would be \$200/person. We would like to determine interest in participating in this trip. If you are interested in joining the group please contact 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!

DIPPETY DOINGS: Sunday April 21st



Plan to attend church and stay for a fun event immediately after the service.

We will:

EAT yummy dip!

GREET new friends!

Laugh at jokes told by our church family at the "open mike".

Anyone who wishes may tell a joke or two. Find them in your memory, online, in joke books, or magazines.

Practice at home if you need to. "G" rated, family friendly jokes please. "Jane Gilbert will start us off with her joke about the Pearly Gates."

Invite your friends!

Sign up at the Info Desk if you want bring dip. Not everyone needs to, a little goes a long way!

Veggie dip

Fruit dip

Salsa & corn chips

Artichoke dip with
crackers

Cheese dip with crackers or
bread

Reuben dip with rye bread

Crab dip with crackers

Buffalo chicken dip

Mexican layered dip

Spinach dip

Bean dip

Chili cheese dip

Chocolate fondue

Hummus

Dipping oil with bread

Caramel dip

Marshmallow dip -
your favorite!



“That you may have Life and have it abundantly!”

The promise of resurrection is the truth that most excites me about the Christian message. That old patterns, addictions, destructive decisions, habits that diminish, systems that oppress are not the last word. They are overcome by grace! It is the good news; that restoration, reconciliation, renewal, and redemption are the work of God’s all-surpassing, unconditional Love! Broken relationships are healed and strengthened; hopes squashed by crisis and chaos find new life; New opportunities are discovered and chanced when no way was thought possible. These are the experiences of resurrection we can come to know, celebrate and live into!

Many folks responded to last month’s corner and said they appreciated some background and definition to Lent and its season. So, let’s do a bit of that for Easter. The Easter Season is also known as the Great Fifty Days. It begins at sundown on Easter eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It’s always good to remember that while Lent is such an Important season in preparation for Easter, it’s only 40 days while Easter is the “Great Fifty days”! Easter isn’t a “day”, it’s a new way of living! A few Easters ago I made up a wonderful word: “Easterishingly”. The suffix “ish” means; “in the manner of” or “having the characteristics of”. In like way, we should live in the manner of resurrection. Our lives should express (show the characteristics of) New Life! The suffix “ing” means “expressing the action of”. One is doing the that which has the “ing” on the end of the word. We need to be doing the actions of resurrection: Healing, restoring, uplifting, renewing! The work of Easter is always needed. We are always called to the work of New and Abundant Life! The suffix “ly” means to “resemble in appearance”. As disciples we seek to imitate the life and ways of Jesus. May that be true of our daily lives. Martin Luther said all disciples are “little Christs”. As a follower of Jesus, we hope our lives resemble Christ’s. We should encourage one another to live in an “Easter-ish-ing-ly” way.

Easter is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian Year! It focuses on Christ’s resurrection and ascension, also on the giving of the Holy spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). On the Sundays in Easter, we replace the Old Testament reading with one from the Acts of the Apostles because the early church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness the Resurrection. The ancient Christian name for this festival is Pauch, derived from the Hebrew pesah (“deliverance” or “passover”), this connects the Resurrection to the Exodus. The origin of the English word Easter is disputed but may come from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eastr and her festival.

May this Easter Sunday and the full Easter season be a time of praise, joy, thankfulness, empowerment, reconciliation, renewal, and the experience of New Life – for that is what it is. Our old lives are overcome and gone! Behold, new life, new opportunities! May the security of the Truth of God’s unconditional, unlimited, all-sufficient love blossom in your hearts and come alive in the lives of you, your families and loved ones, and us a congregation - as we live into the glory and triumph of Easter morning (and beyond)!

Be God’s, Pastor Jim

SuperOne Foods:

If you are one of the volunteers that shop at SuperOne Foods for items for the church, please contact Jodi in the office about new steps that have been implemented by SuperOne. Thank you.

APRIL SHOWERS Bring MAY FLOWERS



1st Annual Outdoor Plant Sale ~
Wednesday, May 29th ~
UMCGR FUNdraiser!



Ways We Can ALL Participate:

- Buy Seeds (flower, peppers & tomato) and Soil
- Reuse small containers for starting your plants
- Plant seeds between April 3rd and April 10th (see seed packet)
- Foster your planted seeds and nurture them (warm & sun)
- Clean out the SHED – garden tools, planters, pots (for the sale)
- Other used yard items: wind chimes, sprinklers, watering cans
- Wood Crafters – build a bird feeder, bird house, an outdoor planter?!
- DO you have flower Bulbs you never planted?
- Perennials that need thinning? (rhubarb, lilacs, other plants)
- TREES that you can save from the lawn mower or overcrowding?
- BE SURE TO LABEL YOUR DONATED PLANTS (popsicle sticks work well)
- SAVE – flat boxes for our purchasers to transport the plants.
- Mark Your CALENDARS to help with set up day or our sale day

It is my hope that this will become a new annual fundraising event! We can ALL get together, while reaching out and getting to know our community over a rhubarb cookie or some fresh squeezed lemonade!

Call/Text Miss Mary with any questions or offer your ideas 218-259-9346.

All proceeds will go to the General Fund.

Ideas for mini green houses for your seedlings:



Young Families / Education Action Team

The Movie Night was an even bigger hit than the last time! Three new families were part of the group who enjoyed dinner and watched “Moana”! The next movie night is scheduled for mid May. The group is looking for more Discovery Zone Teachers and more Nursery Attendants for Sunday mornings. The first part of Summer we hope to go on a picnic all together! Be looking for details on all these events.



We need your input! An idea of having a monthly “Messy Church” experience at the library. Families gather in a community room where we’ll read a popular/beloved children’s story, have “craft time” (the messy part), and then share a Jesus story. Probably have a snack during our time together also. We need to know if you’d be interested in participating if we did this? Please let us know! You can contact Pastor Jim.



Thank you for all the helping hands who made the cinnamon rolls served on Palm Sunday such a success! With that in the books we’re looking to what’s ahead in April. We have our meetings on the 3rd and 17th as usual.

The new project is the Senior/Junior trip to the Twin cities to see a live theater production and have a formal dinner. As plans are shaping right now, we’ll leave early on Saturday, April 27th. We’ll spend the first part of the day sightseeing a bit, then we’ll share in a fine dining experience and then off to the theater! This is a formal experience: Males in suits or sport coats and ties, Ladies in dresses. The cost of this will be between \$250 - \$300. It is open to Seniors and Junior only.

But there are other opportunities coming for everyone! Before the end of the school year, we’ll be off to Duluth. Then in the Summer we’re off on a Magical Mystery Tour and before school begins in the Fall, Valley Fair!

A Note From The UMC of GR’s Lay Leader: Teresa Savich

As shared in March’s Notes; I continue in the awe of how the Spirit moves within the walls of our church and the family members who embrace this Fire inside them. A Flame which warms the hearts and homes of not only UMCofGR families, but illuminates into our community through selfless and joyful servitude. One such flame is a soul who not only ‘lights’ up the community with her gifts, but truly creates beauty to everyone she responds to. Yes, our very own “Wig Lady” also known as; Sharon Rasmussen.

It was with Sharon’s own cancer journey, seeking head covering, she drove to Aitkin where Ruth’s Wig Closet was in operation, and here she asked: “Why isn’t there one in Grand Rapids?” As Sharon and her husband Ron drove home, the spark within her kindled as the Spirit whispered her ministry, she shared with Ron; “This could be my calling, why I have cancer” in which Ron responded; “Go for it.”

Sharon shared she had no idea what to do. After several attempts to house the Wig Closet, she walked into UMC, was greeted, encouraged, embraced by several, then offered the Choir room, where ‘Ruth’s Wig Closet’ has branched out from Aitkin. Sharon’s spark became His Flame and many of you are keeping her fire glowing through donations of prayer shawls, head coverings, chemo hats, prayers. When asked her reward, Sharon humbly responded; “I feel very blessed to help others, some for a short time, some for a very short time.” Again, Matthew 25:37-40 comes off the pages of Holy Scripture and into the hearts of our community through your faith.

NOTE: You can see Sharon on WDIO as she is interviewed with the sisters who started Ruth’s Wig Closet in Aitkin and see the story of receiving a ‘Bakers Dozen’ of beautiful woodturned wig stands from the Lake Superior Woodturners.

Here are the links to the two interviews:

<https://www.wdio.com/front-page/top-stories/lake-superior-woodturners-use-love-of-lathes-to-make-wig-stands-for-ruths-free-wig-closet/>

<https://www.wdio.com/front-page/top-stories/cancer-survivor-from-grand-rapids-continues-the-ruths-free-wig-closet-effort/>



Feb. 2024 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	17,777	24,463	(6,686)
YTD - 2024	59,158	46,280	12,878
			-
Monthly average - 2024	20,129	23,140	(3,011)

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is \$22,680. 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.

UMCGR Endowment Fund (FORMERLY CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND) NEWS



Thank you everyone who contributed to the First Fifth Sunday Special Offering of 2024 and for all who have been sending memorials and honorariums over these past two years. We have been able to give grants for emerging ministries without having a special offering for the project.

Last year the Trustees used the grant for Capital Improvements for two major projects. One was to install handicap door openers for the two main restrooms near the sanctuary and fellowship hall. For those who have always been able to open them without giving it a second thought, you may not have even noticed. But for those who use wheel chairs, walkers, or canes it is a very important sign of hospitality, indicating all are welcome.

The second was to pay for the building permit and install air conditioning in the education wing. That was a real gift to our Ready Set Grow and to the groups who meet weekly in our building. But that is just the beginning. Now you are invited to think about ways that we can make further use of comfortable meeting space during our hot summer days. Pastor Jim was thrilled because it means we can again host the bloodmobile which had been previously cancelled because it was too hot to host the donors. If you have ideas, talk to the Trustees. If you have other ideas, talk to Steve Zimmer, chair of Trustees or Skip Drake, Ad Council Chair.

May God bless and lead us as we live out our lives of discipleship and invite others to join us.



Lets Go Fishing ~ Itasca is getting ready for another season!

This program, started in 2008, is run 100% by volunteers who provide free fishing outings and cruises on a fully equipped handicap accessible pontoon. Senior living facilities, veteran groups, group homes, family groups, schools, community organizations, church groups, and more enjoy the pontoon each summer. A captain and co captain operate the pontoon and provide assistance when needed. If you enjoy helping people and like being on a pontoon consider volunteering for this very enjoyable program.

Contact Ross Cass, 218-999-9271 for more information.



Roni Skoglund our new Membership Secretary will be updating our data base following some training on the system. This will include making phone calls to verify or update contact and other information from those in our data base. She plans to make the calls from the church so if see our number on your caller ID it might be her.

Roni will also be trained in the office to fill in for Jodi as needed.



April



- 2 Beau Linder
- 3 Dewayne Loop
- 4 Bruce Robinson
- 5 Lori Olson
- 7 Carter Brewster
- 7 Dorothy Ganoung
- 7 Jacob Zimmer
- 9 Patrick Namyst
- 10 Richard Meyer
- 10 Linda Maki
- 12 Lloyd Weeks
- 12 Ann Ochoa
- 14 June Mitchell
- 14 Mandy Lakso-Norton
- 15 Ken Kerr

- 16 Kathryn Hamilton
- 17 Martha Lentz
- 18 Janice Beaver
- 18 Jarod Lund
- 19 Brayden Akre
- 19 Marilyn Hutchins
- 20 Patricia Browne
- 20 Kolton Larson
- 20 Shiane Larson
- 22 Chuck Brewster
- 23 Tabitha Hanson
- 26 Jim Stephens
- 28 Ken Spangler
- 29 Andrew Buell
- 30 Wendy Gorham
- 30 John Pliska

Hospitality MINISTRY

Coordinator:
Bonnie Larson

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

Brenda Brown	Kathy Mahaffey
Carolyn Salo	Sherry Thompson
Julie Werner	Lisa Zimmer
Sandy Baumel	Heather Smith
Wendy Gorham	Emileigh Latvala
Renee Veit	Ruth Anderson

2 Mike & Wendy Gorham	
4 Robert & June Mitchell	
9 Josh & Kate Larson	
15 Bill & Deb Hagenbuck	
16 Chad & Julia Statsman	
20 Lex & Alyssa James	
24 Jim & June Johnson	
25 Joe & Carol Spooner	
26 Roy & Sally LaDoux	

The week of April 21st is Volunteer Appreciation Week!

We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all of the AMAZING volunteers at UMCGR! The amount of time you donate to serving your church family and others in our community & beyond is so very much appreciated.



Ready Set Grow:

Registration for the 2024-25 school year has started for Ready Set Grow! They still have a few openings for the 3-day group (older 4s and 5 year olds) contact Miss Mary at 218-259-9346 for more information.

Ready Set Grow is also looking for empty glass bottles from the following products for a project: **Skinny Girl Dressing, Walden Farms Dressings and Syrup, G Huges Stir-fry or Marinade Sauce (NOT the Ketchup, BBQ Sauce or Yum-Yum Sauce size bottles).** If you use these *specific items*; after they are empty, please wash them and remove the labels and bring them to the office or preschool by April 15th. Thank you!

