

September Sunday Schedule

Services at 9:30 AM

- Sept. 6 Exodus 12:1-4
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20
- Sept. 13 Exodus 14:19-31
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35
- Sept. 20 Exodus 16:2-15
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16
- Sept. 27 Exodus 17:1-7
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32
- Oct 4 Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

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



Password:
BeOurGuest

NEWSLETTER September 2020



United Methodist Church
Of Grand Rapids

September 2020



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
9:00-1:00

Dear GRUMC Family & Friends,

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Open Door Coat Rack will take place with some major changes. We recognize that there will be an increased need due to job losses, etc. However, for the safety of all of the volunteers and participants, we have had to make some difficult decisions after researching and discussion with the Itasca County Health Department. We will be unable to receive donated used winterwear. Therefore, we will only be giving out new winter items. It has been decided to provide winterwear for children/teenagers ages 0-18. Snow pants, boots and gloves were ordered last winter from L&M. We will need to purchase coats. We will be open to receiving homemade hats, scarves and mittens.

In 2019, \$7000 - \$8000 was spent to provide warm clothing for children. \$4000 was grant money. This year we won't be able to purchase coats at clearance prices. We are asking other community congregations to contribute monetarily, pursuing grant money and using a portion of the profits from the Gala event in addition to money left after purchasing items preordered from L&M. If you wish to donate to this mission of our church, your donation will be welcomed and appreciated. Please put "Open Door Coat Rack" on the memo line. As always, we don't expect anyone to give to everything, but we hope everyone will give to something!!

Donations received will help us determine how many children we can serve.

We plan to start distribution on October 12. We are considering several options to determine the safest way to distribute the winter wear. We will be in contact with you frequently to keep you up to date. The Open Door Coat Rack has been an important mission in our community for many years. The combined efforts and donations of many churches has made it very successful. Let's work together to serve our children the best we can during this difficult time. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sheila Weeks – Cell: 218-220-9505.

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



Church Finances

From the Finance Committee:

We want to update you about the finances of the church. The SBA Forgivable Loan helped us greatly. The fact that our expenses were down as we were not able to continue the normal outreach of the church, made us able to remain solvent.

Things are opening up again and we are looking forward to the "new normal". As of July 2020, our expenses were \$113,980. In July of 2019, they were \$162,074. Our 2020 average weekly income has been \$3749 and in 2019, it was \$5681. We want to keep you informed of our status and hope to see you in person again soon. Thank you for your continued support of the day-to-day of the church. We try to be careful stewards of your gifts.

Background information on SBA Loan:

In the later part of April 2020 we received information regarding the availability of a federal government SBA forgivable loan for nonprofit entities to help with maintaining our salary levels and to overall aid the economy. With the approval of the Ad Council, we applied for the loan through Grand Rapids State Bank and it was approved on 5/6/20. Based on our salary level information, we were approved for a loan of \$25,333. We are given a 24 week period to use the loan proceeds for qualified salaries and utility expenses. This period will end in early October. At that time we can apply for forgiveness to be approved through a rather complex formula. We are hopeful that a substantial portion of the loan will be forgiven, if not all. At this point in time, we have used all of the loan proceeds toward salaries and utilities. This has given us a substantial boost in our general fund balance. However, now that these funds have been exhausted, we must start to adequately fund the church again with our member offerings each month. The Covid – 19 pandemic has had a dramatic effect on many of our member families and it is our hope we soon can increase our offerings again to the level before the pandemic.

Getting to Know Your United Methodist Friends



Introducing the new Church Office Administrator:

I grew up in Cohasset and have lived in the area for most of my life. My husband, Dana and I have been married for 23 years. We spent the first few years of marriage traveling with the US Army. When he was discharged, we settled in St. Paul. We moved back "home" in 2011. We have two sons, Logan and Zach. Logan is 15 and going into 10th grade. Zach is 10 and going into 5th grade. Dana's mom, Ruth is a member of GRUMC. She lives near us in an assisted living facility. My mom, Marion lives with us.

I enjoy scrapbooking, camping, spending time with friends & family and relaxing on our new deck.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at GRUMC. I am excited to help you grow God's Kingdom.

God Bless,
Jodi Martin

"Frightfully Delightful Halloween"

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

In this time of Covid Care, we are all trying to think of ways we can continue to provide some of the same community contact we have had in years past. One event, that may be insignificant on some people's mind, but loom large for others is our "Frightfully Delightful Halloween". We've directed this to families with young children. The EATeam is quite aware we can't hold an in-church event as in years past — at least not this year — but perhaps there is a creative way we can still provide some fun and treats for kids and families this year. We are putting on our "thinking caps" and hope you will join us in considering ways we might offer a little Halloween fun to young kids and families. Please contact Carol Kerr, Lois Nelson, Mary Ritter, Stephani Crelius or Michele Olson with any ideas you may want to share.



If you don't already receive a daily "Thought for the Day" email, contact the church office at **327-2216** or secretary@umcgrmn.org

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

Thank you!

Thank you thank you thank you so very much for all the cards , gifts & warm wishes on my retirement! I'm still overwhelmed! It has been awesome to work with you all. I have made so many friends at Grumc & I'll miss you very much! Air hugs!!
Shirley

Information you may not be aware of:

Qualified Charitable Donations: Donors age 72 and over can make direct gifts to qualified charities via their IRA's WITHOUT owing income tax on those withdrawals. Grand Rapids United Methodist Church is a qualified charity. For more information, please talk with your financial advisor or IRA custodian.



If you or someone you know needs help with a handyman task or a special project in your home, i.e.: move an item, fix a door, window, etc., we have an awesome



Handwritten signature



The Membership Committee Thanks You

Thank you to everyone who reviewed their Church Directory entry and send either corrections or an "OK" message. It's important to keep everything current and there are quite a few changes. If you have not taken care of this little task yet, please call or text Nancy at 218-256-7711 and indicate the corrections or that all is correct.

Thanks, Nancy

Fireside Readers



Fireside Readers

Welcome back to our reading year which starts in September. Fireside Readers is a group that enjoys reading or listening to books and all are welcome to join us. The group selects the books they want to read for each month. We have voted and in September we will read **Finding Dorothy** by Elizabeth Letts. This book should be fun for our people living in our area as it is the "richly imagined novel that tells the story behind The Wonder Wizard of Oz, the book that inspired the iconic film." Copies are available through the public library. We will meet on Monday, September 28 at 6:30 PM and should be able to meet at church in the Fellowship Hall if the Choir/Gathering room is too close for social distancing. Updates on our meeting will come in Thought for the Day and by email to the Readers. Join us!



- Coordinators: Linda Maki
Mary Dewey
- Dave & Pam Bloom
- Tammy Blankenship
- Sharon Borst
- Randy & Marcia Brennan
- Annette Couch
- Sean Duffney
- Duane & Peggy Heikkinen
- Darla Kirwin
- Ron & Kay Klingman
- Ed & Linda Maki
- Ron & Michele Olson
- Jan Rourk
- Nancy & Dave Tank
- Jim & Mary Tennison
- Mike & Shari Tverberg
- Ed & Linda Maki

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

Serve Others



- Sept.4 Bette Sigfrinius
- 8 Randy Brennan
- 10 Duane Heikkinen
- 16 Jim Ridley
- 16 Bonnie Krall
- 17 Randy Kolka
- 17 Chad Keech
- 18 Julia Brewster
- 19 Molly Jo Johnson
- 20 Laurie Swenson
- 22 Dave Bloom
- 22 Jim Brown
- 22 Rae Stephens
- 28 Dennis Hier
- 30 Kay Klingman



- Sept. 4 Harry & Trudy Huffer
- 6-Zachary & Mariah Melhus
- 9 Bryan & Theresa Major
- 16 Jacob & Carrie Zimmer
- 16 John & Kathy Pliska
- 22 Ken & Sandy Hansen
- 25 Lloyd & Sheila Weeks



Pastor's Corner:

Not where we expected to be. Where we find ourselves seems to be a foreign land. Back in February, none of us would have ever thought we – ourselves, our country, the world - would be dealing and addressing the events and situations we find ourselves in at this moment, in this season.

A wonderful prayer keeps tapping on my heart these past months. Toward the beginning of it is this sentence: “Gracious and Loving God...when all else fails, you still are God.” Now, first of all, everything has not “failed” but much of what we took for granted and some to much on which we relied upon seems to be undependable or feeble at the least.

God is faithful and is an ever-present source of strength, renewal, sure foundation, refuge, acceptance,... the list of blessings goes on and on. In this season of crisis, chaos, violence, and storm – the truth is God-is-with-us! Or as we say in scripture; Emanuel! (The word literally means “God-with-us”). And while we may at times wring our hands, the evidence of God present and God, right now at work, bringing forth new life, Christ's Commonwealth, restoration and reconciliation can be seen! Not only all around – but even in the very midst of the chaos and brokenness of this world and our lives!

In the times we are anxious, let's remember we are the Easter People! We worship and are invited into partnership with the All-Surpassing, Ever-Faithful, Cross & Tomb Overcoming, Ever Loving, all Forgiving God! We need not fear. We can step out in confidence. We can continue to love our neighbor, build the New/Blessed Community, and live in strength & humility & grace!

Especially in this season of uncertainty and amongst a culture of fear, let us live brightly, fearlessly, graciously, forgivingly, servantly, as followers of Jesus, who we claim to be Christ of our lives! (Wow, now that was quite a run-on sentence!)

To do this we need the strength we find in our connectedness. We are meeting together in our church building again – safely, seated spread out from each other and wearing masks – but meeting. Looking into each other's smiling eyes and slightly muffled words of welcome and kindness! And we are getting our worship out to any who need to stay more safely at home! And you can call or email or text your joys and concerns to the church office! And we're calling up and calling on each other! And we're continually lifting each other in prayer! We can and are living in grace and life abundant & eternal! I invite you to come and join in worship; in person or through video. Intentionally re-connect with your faith family who holds you in love and in prayer. May we move with purpose and initiative as a congregation loving one another, serving our neighbor, and reaching out to the stranger – especially in this season when the Church and the Living presence of Christ is so needed!

Be God's, Pastor Jim

Rally Sunday! Hurray!

In the midst and maybe even a bit in defiance of a pandemic, Sunday, September 13th is Rally Sunday! **Now, we will be safe.** *Masks are required, we've spread out the seating, we aren't using a choir for now, not using hymnals or passing offer plates.* But we are definitely celebrating God and God's grace, praising the Lord, and declaring Jesus as our Christ! We invite you to come and worship! If you are of a population at risk or are immune compromised we ask you to stay home and stay safe! But still, watch our taped service available starting at 9:30 Sunday morning and available any time after. We'll be needing liturgists, folks to share announcements, acolytes, scripture readers, and others! It will be a grounding experience in this time of uncertainly.

Be Gods,

Pastor Jim

Sunday Worship Online:

For the month of September we will continue to offer both live in-person, socially distanced worship on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM and the recorded online service available each Sunday at 9:30 AM. The online address for our YouTube Channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdKZzWoWgOnjrV2NbZudelg>. The specific link to each Sunday's service is only created when the service is uploaded on Friday or Saturday, so the quickest way to be notified of uploads is to **SUBSCRIBE** to the GRUMC YouTube channel.

You can also quickly find our channel from our church website: <https://www.umcgrmn.org> and clicking on the YouTube icon.



Join us online or in person.
We average 85 online views each week.
And we now average 40 people in church each week.

