

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Aug. 4	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
Aug. 11	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51
Aug. 18	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
Aug. 25	1 Kings 8 selected verses Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
Sept. 1	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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)



August 2024

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



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

August 2024



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

AUGUST MISSION: August is the month for the annual Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive. UMC is a drop off site. **All supplies should be new and unopened.** If you would prefer to make a financial gift to support the purchase of school supplies and hygiene items for students, please make your check out to GRUMC with Backpack in the memo. Checks may be put in the offering plate or brought to the office by August 28, 2024.

Highly needed items include:

#2 Pencils	Headphones	Dry-erase Expo Markers Black
Blue or black pens	Water Bottles	3-ring binders (black) 1" or 2"
Highlighters	Disinfecting Wipes	Scissors (elementary & mid-size – 5")
Colored pencils	Pencil Boxes & Bags	Fine-Tip & Broad Tip Crayola Markers
Sharpies - Black	White Index Cards	Pint, quart, and gallon-sized Ziploc bags
Glue Sticks	Large tissue boxes	TI-84 Graphing Calculators
Post-Its	3 & 5 subject notebooks	
Standard-size, age-appropriate backpacks for elementary, middle, and high school students		
Plastic pocket folders (red, orange, blue, green, purple, and yellow preferred)		
3-hole punched looseleaf paper – College & Wide Ruled		

GRACE House: SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 3! The annual shelter breakfast will be held at the VFW again this year from 8:00 to 11:00. The \$10 tickets are available at the VFW, Super One stores & Kay Klingman. Join us for breakfast and then enjoy Tall Timber Days!!

QUILTERS: A special thank you to everyone who supports the quilters in any way! Quilters and volunteers hosted the Spring Concert at UMC on July 9. Proceeds will be used to purchase batting and backings. 50 quilts are completed to date that will go to the Community Connect event in September and Foster Love. The quilters are always looking for large pieces of fabric to be used for backing the quilts. Volunteers are welcome to join us. You do not need to know how to sew. Consider joining us on Tuesday from 9:00 – 12:00 and then lunch!!

DIVORCE CARE: The Divorce Care sessions went very well last year. Information about our fall session will be coming soon. Please share the information with friends & neighbors. We would like to have 8-10 people to start the sessions. If you have any questions, contact Kay Klingman (612-845-6649 or rkklinger@gmail.com)

BINGO AT GRAND VILLAGE: Servant Opportunity!! Renee Veit runs a Thursday BINGO at Grand Village. She is looking for volunteers to help the residents. This is run the 4th Thursday of each month from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Contact Renee at 218-398-0903.



It's been an exciting and full Summer. With youth events, and plant sales, and Annual Conference, and family visits and events, participating in the summer musical at the Reif, holidays.... Already we find ourselves past midsummer. As of writing this we are in the midst of planning the Rummage Sale, VBC, and the Youth trip to the cities. Families still have Summer Sport Camps, vacations to go on, fishing and camping weekends...it can seem at times that events or special occasions we've

been anticipating seem to fly right past us. One can look at their child and wonder "where all the years went".

It's important to stay in the moment. God is always with us, and Jesus reminds us that his Spirit will never leave us. That makes each moment and every occasion sacred; full of the presence of God. Even if it might be a moment or an event of crisis, or loss, or pain. God is with you in that moment – during the distressful event. That's the promise of God's steadfastness! God is faithful even when we are faithless, even when we are broken, or scared, or angry, or whatever.

With this truth we can see that God can redeem or overcome or reconcile all the moments in our lives. We need to be present in each moment through each day. Daily commit ourselves to Christ; turn over each decision, each action, each encounter. Find the Divine in all the occasions and opportunities that come your way each day. Being a disciple is a daily (if not moment by moment) choice. "Do I participate in God's Kingdom in this moment, with this decision"? What is the next right thing I need to do? Which choice is the one that most reflects Grace? These are some of the questions to focus on and keep in the back of your mind as you move through the day. I have a friend who always asks himself, "Who does this day belong to today"? "Jesus or me? Each day he decides to live the day for Christ!

As we move through each day focusing on God's presence, we can discover more beauty in the world and the people around us. We can live into the moments of our lives and find that the events of our days are more gift than obstacle, more blessed than cursed, more vital than drab.

We're moving into the next season of our lives together as a congregation. Did you know we average over 35 simulcast views each Sunday. The majority of those are multiple viewers (usually a couple, but we have folks who gather with friends to watch our worship on Sunday mornings. Meaning we have somewhere around 50 to 60 people worshipping with us on beyond the folk in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings? Do you know our "in sanctuary" worship attendance this summer is above average pre-covid summer attendance? Have you noticed the increased number of kids sharing children's moment in worship? Our support of the 12 Step ministries continues to grow along with outreach through Divorce Care. I hope you saw or heard about how wonderfully successful our new Plant Sale was. God is at work in the life of GRUMC! The Holy Spirit is moving through the members of our congregation in powerful, exciting and life changing ways!

Now we're in the season after the day of Pentecost: the Birth of the Church! What new doors will God's Spirit be opening for us? What new opportunities and blessings are in store – especially if we're expectant and watching for the next new thing God is doing even in the next day, next moment of our lives?

Be God's, Pastor Jim

VBC – Vacation Bible Camp 9am ~ 3pm on Wednesday, August 7th.

Come, be one of the Knights of the Round Table! Which is our theme for VBC this year. One day only! Wednesday, August 7th from 9am to 3pm for 1st to 4th grade and 9am to 1pm for Preschoolers and Kindergartens.



Using scripture from Ephesians chapter 10, the Gospel of John chapters 3, 14 & 15, 1 Samuel, and others, we'll have fun discovering what it means to Follow Jesus, Love Our Neighbors, and Seek Justice for the "least of these"! We'll do this through storytelling, games, lessons, crafts, music, and more! Together we'll learn about God's Kingdom: a place for everyone! There are some special surprises who will come and visit us!

Registration forms are available on the last page of the newsletter, on the VBC display in the Narthex or on the church's website www.umcgrmn.org. You can either drop them off at the church, email them to secretary@umcgrmn.org or snail mail them to 1701 SE 5th Ave, GR MN 55744.



We are looking for people to serve as Members of the Royal Court, sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Armors (Teachers), Minstrels (musicians), Castle Cooks & Serfs (Kitchen), Bards (Story Teller), Ladies of the Court (Registration and general helpers), Artisans (Craft helpers), Castle Sportsman & Knight Trainers (Recreation Team), and Men at Arms (Set-up/Clean-up helpers) to keep our castle strong and safe!



Youth News!

Our New Junior/Senior "Twin Cities Formal Night Out" was a wonderful success!! The dinner was delicious and the theater musical, Little Shop of Horrors, was great! Definitely a new yearly youth outing! By the time you're reading this we'll have been to ValleyFair and worshipped with the congregation at Park Avenue United Methodist Church. We opened the trip to UMC youth from all over north central Minnesota. May become another annual adventure!

Some of our last conversations during the program year included ways to raise money through the community. One of the best of the past and one the group had a lot of energy about was car washes. We hope to be having one in late August before school starts. Other ideas were offering fall leaf raking opportunities, and booths at community events selling food stuffs like Walking Tacos.

This early fall includes a Kick-off party at a lake home and trip to the Sky-Zone in Duluth we were not able to get to earlier. Our first Youth Group meeting this Fall is set for Wednesday, September 4th at our usual time; 6:30. As always, at our meetings, we'll have dinner (this year made by a parent of youth(s) or a member of the congregation! Then the meeting with games, videos, and discussions as we usually do.



From Dorothy Church: Thank you to all who celebrated my 100th birthday with me on July 14th. During the week following, Marva Jean read all the cards to me while Randy and Linda were listening also. She would tell them how we knew each other and I would add to the stories. I am truly blessed to have shared life with so many wonderful people.

Dorothy walked into the arms of Jesus on July 24th. Her memorial service will be Sat., Aug. 3rd visitation will at 10am, service at 11am and lunch to follow.



Rally Sunday September 8th

**Mark your calendars!
Come, join us and be
part of kicking-off the 2024-25
church year!**

We look forward to seeing YOU!



June 2024 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	21,472	18,709	2,763
YTD - 2024	180,989	145,779	35,210
			-
Monthly average - 2024	25,330	24,297	1,033

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is \$51,266. 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.

News From The Finance Committee:

Thank you all for your efforts! We are making headway on our projected deficit of \$54,000 that we started the year with.

Match the Gift Challenge Update: As of July 22nd, we have passed the \$9000 mark! If you would like to contribute, please write **MATCH** in the memo line of your check or on an envelope if you are giving cash. If you donate online, please type **MATCH** in the notes. Give as you are able and watch the thermometer grow!

Rummage Sale: Thank you to all that contributed to, helped with, or purchased items from the Annual Rummage Sale. Thank you to Emilie Duffney for facilitating it again this year. The final total was not available as of printing the newsletter, but we will get that amount out soon.

Produce Table: During the summer and possibly into fall we will have the Sharing Your Abundance Produce Table set up in the Narthex. If you have a garden and an abundance of fresh items, you can place them on the table on Sunday mornings and others from the congregation can take what they want. There is a canister on the table for Freewill offerings. All proceeds will go to the General Fund of the church.



All of these extra initiatives along with your continued financial support combined are helping to keep us running in the black.

Your Finance Committee

News From The Office: UMCGR Branding

Recently, I became aware that the church had been out of compliance regarding the use of the Cross and Flame logo for the UMC for quite sometime. With permission from the Ad Council, I worked with Local Church Services through the Conference to create a free official brand (logo) for UMCGR. You will see our new brand (which is below) on publications, Facebook posts, and other documents.

I have created new letterhead, envelopes, and return address labels with our new brand. These will be printed in house as needed, this is much more economical than using a print shop. If you create any publications or documents for church events or church use, please contact me for our brand.



Jodi Martin,
Office Administrator



"Knights of the
Round Table"

United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids 2024 Vacation Bible Camp Registration

August 7, 2024, 9am – 3pm

(One form per child, please)



Child Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical Concerns: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Siblings: _____

PLEASE RETURN BY Thursday, August 1, 2024

(You can email, US Mail, or drop off the form)

Questions or concerns - Contact UMCGR at 218-327-2216 or secretary@umcgrmn.org

Location: 1701 SE Fifth Ave., Grand Rapids MN 55744

We are offering In-Person Worship at 9:45 AM Sunday Mornings as well as our Livestream service on our YouTube Channel; <https://www.youtube.com/c/GRUMC> join us!



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN





AUGUST



3 Marv Grina
 4 Julie Werner
 5 Larry Christensen
 5 John Scheuer
 5 Gloria Gooler
 11 Gus Kirwin
 11 Cassidy Waller
 12 Emily Ann Zimmer
 18 Keira Trest
 18 Gavin Simonson
 20 Sally LaDoux
 20 Sandy Baumel
 20 Ken Olson

20 Mary Tennison
 22 Tammy Blankenship
 24 Kiley Duffney
 25 Tommy Thompson
 26 Gretchen Danielson
 26 Evan Statsman
 27 Joanne Dashel
 28 Linda Rasmussen
 28 Jack Namyst
 29 Jane Bobich
 29 Olivia Hanson
 29 Julia Hanson



Coordinator:
Bonnie Drake

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

Julia Brewster
 Janice Crandall
 Emilie Duffney
 Joni Namyst
 Rae Stephens
 Shari Tverberg

Jodel Crecelius
 Irene Drieman
 Bertha Hamilton
 Lori Olson
 Sandy Williams



Our Membership Secretary, Roni Skoglund is still updating our database. Watch for a call from these numbers 952-607-0615 or 218—999-9166.

3 Dan & Lana Hess
 4 Bob & Virginia Rucinski
 8 Larry & Patty Christensen
 9 Mike & Roni Skoglund
 11 Scott & Laura Hauser
 16 Randy & Sue Kolka
 17 Duane & Peggy Heikkinen
 21 Ron & Kay Klingman
 23 Dave & Margy Strock
 24 Tony & Becky Larson
 24 Ken & Lori Olson
 29 Steve & Stephanie Zimmer



UMCGR Endowment Fund (FORMERLY CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND) NEWS

During our three year strategic plan that was adopted by the 2022 Church Conference, the Endowment Fund has been using the tree of life as a symbol for our work. The goal that day was to increase the principal of the fund by 50% during these three years. With five months left in the three year plan, it is quite likely we will not meet that goal. However, we have had other success.

- We have raised awareness of the fund.
- Some projects have been funded and stories have been told about it.
- Ask people from the Missions Committee and Trustees to tell you about them.

The tree of life that has been used as our symbol was sculpted by Robert Mitchell, a member of our congregation. Robert passed away on July 8th. We commend him to God's eternal care and lift prayers for his family to experience God's peace and grace in this time of grief.

Similar prayers have been lifted for families in our congregation as former leaders have entered eternal life. Our challenge is to continue the good works they started.

Some churches have a sign over the door as you exit the building saying, "The worship has ended, now the service begins." May it be so with us.

