

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Sept. 3	Exodus 3:1-15 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28
Sept. 10	Exodus 12:1-14 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20
Sept. 17	Exodus 14:19-31 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35
Sept. 24	Exodus 16:2-15 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16
Oct. 1	Exodus 17:1-7 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

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)



Password:
BeOurGuest

September 2023

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

September 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

STUFF THE BUS MISSION: Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies and backpacks for the United Way Stuff The Bus Mission in August. It was exciting to see the “bus” (shopping carts) being filled up! Financial donations were also received. The Missions Committee donated \$500 as well.

GRACE House: The annual breakfast was held at the VFW. Over 150 people attended. It was great seeing so many friends from UMC attend.

COMMUNITY CONNECT: Thank you to all of the willing volunteers to help cook the chili. We always enjoy the fellowship of cooking together. As you know, the event was held at the Fairgrounds this year. The chili was a big success. We shared a bucket with GRACE House and froze one for the Coat Drive. This year we didn’t have to ask for volunteers to work the event. Eight people who have worked other years volunteered. This is an event that we all enjoy. Thank you all for being willing servants.

QUILTERS: 58 quilts were ready for Community Connect, and 7 were donated to Foster Love. Thanks to Patty Christenson for her donation of 9 quilts. One of Patty’s quilts has been chosen to be sold at the Salad Luncheon in early November. The quilters are always looking for large pieces of fabric to be used for backing the quilts. Volunteers are always 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: We are excited to start a new local outreach group in our community. Please share the information with friends & neighbors. We would like to have 8-10 people to start the sessions. The group will start on Thursday, September 7 from 6:30 – 8:30. If you have any questions, contact Kay Klingman (612-845-6649 or rkklinger@gmail.com)

DONATIONS were made to New Beginnings, Elder Circle and Youth for Christ.

BINGO AT GRAND VILLAGE: Servant Opportunity!! Renee Veit has recently started 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.

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!

Thank you from Lisa Arnold & The Community Connect Committee:

“It is with the most grateful heart this is being sent to the wonderful people from United Methodist that help us year after year in making Community Connect a successful event. The entire crew are rock stars and angels on earth. Thank you so very much for the quilts, food, and all of the great service you give to our community. Truly you are wonderful. Thank you so very very much!! Take care and happy last days of summer.”



What a “Summer of Learning and New Discoveries” I’m having! And 90% of these new understandings and discoveries are because of our Youth and our Kids! Our Youth went on a wonderful Summer Retreat in late July. Our theme was “the Great Adventure”. We shared with each other some of our favorite memories and experiences, some of our fears, some of our hopes, and other feelings and thoughts. I tell you, there was some very insightful thoughts and mature expressions of faith amongst these youth. Just this past Monday, kids from our congregation and their friends, and some wonderful new faces enjoyed this year’s Vacation Bible Camp. This year’s theme was, “The Limitless Love of God” or “God’s Unlimited Love”. It was said both ways, and the metaphor we used was “space”. We learned about God’s commandments to Love God with our whole selves, Love our neighbors, Jesus’ command that we love one another, that God so loves this world and all the people in it that God’s son gave up himself so we can all be in relationship with God, and that nothing can ever separate us from this love. That’s an amazingly limitless Love!

Here are some of the lessons and discoveries these youth and children taught me or reminded me of.

1) First, that we have amazing youth connected to our congregation. The youth trip was filled with an equal number of youth who have previously participated in our activities and meetings, and those participating for the first time. It was one of the largest number of youth on the retreat in recent memory! The conversations I heard and had with these young people were amazingly candid, truthful, and insightful. The courage some of these youth have is amazing. This courage was displayed in their sharing and in their afternoon at the Challenge/High Ropes course we visited. Heights are not easy for many people, especially when your 30+ feet in the air on just the top of a pole or walking on a cable stretched between towering White Pines. It was wonderful to watch and listen to these youth cheering and encouraging one another on! One young lady who is terribly anxious about heights was in tears as she climbed to the top of that pole, but with her friends shouting encouragement – she made it! There was that type of moment time and time again as the group achieved things they didn’t know they were capable of! Truly, a great adventure.

2) Our GRUMC Kids are inquisitive and intelligent! Now this is not something new I learned but was reminded of. Our theme, as I mentioned was the limitlessness of God’s love. We compared this to the limitlessness of space. As limitless as space seems to be, God’s love is even more limitless!! I was thrilled to see the kids lean into this concept and in our lessons talk about how we can share this love, how this love can help us – even in the tough times, how this love is something we need to share – even with people who are mean or are bullies or are the ones at school that people make fun of! They talked about how they can support one another – how the new friends they made at Vacation Bible Camp are friends they can look for in this up coming school year.

One of the exciting moments of the Camp was our Zoom meetings with NASA engineers from Langley Air Force Base near Washington, DC. It was really cool to meet with these people and the kids really ate it up! The questions they asked really impressed the engineers! After the camp they contacted me and shared how much they enjoyed the experience and how engaged and inquisitive the children were!

3) Now those first two were things I was reminded of, but one of the new pieces of information I learned at VBC is that the Sun is not yellow – it’s white. Now when I paused to think about that, it made sense. The Sun looks yellow from earth but that’s because of the distortion our atmosphere creates looking through it. In space, the sun is white; its real color. It reminded me of Proverbs 3: 5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make your paths straight.” In our lives the world can distort things. We need to trust in God and the ways Jesus calls us to live to have abundant and joy-filled lives. The way the world sees things can be distorted and lead us in ways that are destructive to ourselves and others. When we trust God and look at the world through eyes of justice and love; the eyes of Jesus, we find our lives have more meaning, less chaos, and are more full of joy

4) One of the other things I learned was that “Gaming” helps teach the truth of being the body of Christ! Who knew? Several of the youth are gamers – folks who play video games. Now these are no “Space Invaders” or “Pac Man”! These games can be played by numerous people in places all over the world together working toward a common goal: free the princess, kill all the zombies or aliens, whatever. During our retreat I mentioned that we are all One Body in Christ and that weaving and sharing our gifts together, we can more fully be the church God intended and work together to achieve the things of God. One of the boys in the group spent about 15 minutes sharing how “gaming” together with friends from all over the world is a good example to the church on how to bring together a variety of gifts from folks “all over” to, as he said, “Get done the things of love and justice that need to be done for God in this world.” (End quote). Pretty impressive.

Well, it’s been a very busy and blessed Summer at GRUMC. Thank you to the youth, kids, and members of the congregation who have helped me learn new things and be reminded of others. You’ve all made it such a wonderful season of learning, love, community, and blessing. I hope you enjoyed the last weeks of Summer with family, friend, adventure, fun, lessons and discoveries. By the time you’ll be reading this Scho** will have started!

Be God’s Pastor Jim

Rally Sunday!

September 10th is this year's Rally Sunday! The education team is putting together a surprise for after the service! Come and see what it might be! We'll start our Discovery Zone ministry that day. Following the Hymn of Thanksgiving in the worship service, children 6th through 1st grade are invited to attend a children's church experience called the Discovery Zone. There's a time of learning, a craft, some music, and things to take home for the family to share and talk about during the week!



What a great time we had at this Summer's Youth Retreat at Northern Pines! We went go-karting, swam, learned about the adventure of living for Jesus, made new friends, and did a high ropes/challenge course! We met Noah Larson, a new member of our Youth Leadership Team. It was a fantastic time together!

Our new Youth Program year begins Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 6:30 pm. We'll have a get together with youth and parents talking about this up-coming year, our plans, our calendar, our values, and our vision. We have a great team and an amazing group of youth! I know of new faces who are already planning to be a part of this new year! What a great time to get back into the fellowship, invite a friend, or get involved for the first time yourself!

Usher Recruitment is Going Great!

Usher recruitment is going great. We filled the month of August now we have only eleven more months to fill, beginning with this month September. So please consider taking a month between now and July and volunteer to be the Head Usher for a month. The job's not hard all you have to do iswell...usher and find two additional members of the congregation to help for that Sunday. It's really quite easy ... Skip Drake will give you the 60 second training session and you're an Usher. Further, you don't need to be there every Sunday of your month. If you get busy simply recruit someone to fill in for you on that Sunday and you are good.

So, please call Jodi at the office or Skip at 218-244-7319 and volunteer for Usher Duty. Thank You

A Message from your Lay Leader:

I read this recently: God doesn't always call the equipped. But He always equips the called.

I think that it very timely since our church is constantly trying to fill different places for our church family members to participate. There are always committees to serve on. This doesn't mean that you have to chair a meeting or take the minutes. It doesn't even mean that you have to set aside time every month- some committees only have a few meetings each year. There are also many ways to volunteer that can mean once a year, once a month, once a week or whenever it works for you.

Please consider searching for any and all that are calling you. Remember that God will equip you so that you can fill a spot labeled "Disciple".

A quote to end with "The greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more".

Happy Fall Blessings To You, Wendy

The Fireside Readers return in September after taking a break the month of August. We will be reading and discussing "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles on Monday September 25th at 6:30 pm at the church. This book takes place in 1954 and tells the story of an 18-year-old young man who has been released from a juvenile work farm in Kansas and driven home to Nebraska. His 8-year-old brother and him decide to head for California. Even though this is a long book, it is an entertaining book to read with some interesting characters.

New faces are always welcomed. Wendy





July 2023 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	20,796	15,356	5,440
YTD - 2023	152,837	148,183	4,654
			-
Monthly average - 2023	20,290	21,169	(879)

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is \$25,280. 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.

From the Finance Committee

This is a summary of our 2023 budget as it compares to our actual income and expenses.

Budgeted Offerings: \$163,299

Actual Offerings: \$152,837

Budgeted Expenses: \$164,529

Actual Expenses: \$149,922

Thank you so much for your continued support of the missions of GRUMC. We are truly an asset that we care for and share with the community.

CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND NEWS

On July 30th, we celebrated a “Fifth Sunday Special Offering” with the CTF Committee serving ice cream sundaes after church to thank the congregation for your support of the endowment fund. Thank you so much to all who contributed for the special offering that day.



We also heard from Justine Williams on behalf of the Tech Committee for the church to share a history of how grants from the CTF have helped the emerging technological capabilities that we have today.

- 20 years ago we had the microphones and an 8mm camera that recorded the service to be physically taken to ICTV to be broadcast during the week.
- Occasionally, in the ensuing years, a power point presentation was prepared by Shirley on her computer in the office and shown in the sanctuary on the west wall.
- 10 years ago 2 screens, 2 projectors, 2 new speakers and a fixed camera were installed. A bit later 2 remote cameras were purchased as were computers to operate the system from the back of the church.
- When COVID started, we had to learn how to use YouTube to pre-record parts of the service and combine them for presentation of worship service.
- That has evolved into our capability to live stream services, not only on Sunday morning but also for weddings and funerals.
- This current year grants have been used to upgrade license requirements for broadcasting and also for changing the tech support needed to maintain the system.

You can watch Justine’s presentation on YouTube. Just select the 7.30.2023 service and fast forward to 36 minutes to watch it.

On September 17th we hope to have an “Honoring Our Artists” Sunday where they will make available some of their art work to sell as a fundraiser for the CTF, similar to what Ross Cass did with his wooden bowls that he made. Darwin Kutzorick will be selling some paintings and a diamond willow walking stick that he crafted. We are hoping to have some other items also. If you would like to share some of your work, please contact Kathy Pliska or Marva Jean Hutchens.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP NEWS

To participate in any of these activities, contact Nancy by text or phone call at 218-256-7711.



Student Support

Do you have a student in college or vocational school? Would you like them to receive occasional messages from our church family to offer encouragement? Please provide their name and mailing address so the Membership Committee can make it happen. Volunteers who wish to reach out to students can do the same.

Friendly Phoners

We still have some shut-ins who would enjoy a phone call from someone in the church family. Can you make a call a couple of times a month? Even if you leave for part of the year, mobile phones mean that this is still possible for you. Let's reach out in love to our church family. Both parties will be blessed.

Brochures

Have you met a new neighbor or someone who is looking for a church? Invite them to visit and sit with you at a Sunday service. We have colorful brochures with information about GRUMC available at the Info Desk. Pick one up to share.

The Secret Service is Coming

The Membership Committee is planning to identify couples and singles to be part of the "Secret Service". Your mission is to locate visitors before and after church, introduce yourself, strike up a friendly conversation, and even invite them to join you at coffee fellowship time. There will be no "assignments" of specific Sundays made and you will receive suggestions of "Do's and Don'ts" to help you. Think about how you might be a part of this team and how fun it could be.

Save the Date: November 12th

On this Sunday our church will be 70 years old! We will celebrate with a birthday cake at coffee fellowship time. Do you have children in the area who attended our Sunday School? Do you know of people who moved away and might enjoy a trip back to see their "old church"? Extend an invitation and say a prayer!

Please sign up to take a turn at serving coffee on Sunday after church. People are really enjoying this special time of fellowship. A list of Sunday dates is available in the Fellowship Hall or you can call the number above.

Church Directory

Our 2019 Lifetouch Directory is very out of date! But we have a solution! BREEZE is an online directory that can be kept up to the minute with current data and include new people. You need to contact Jodi and ask to join. She will send a link. You can also sign up after church at the INFO desk or coffee table.

secretary@umcgrmn.org or 218-327-2216



SEPTEMBER

6 Rebecca Nellis

9 Chad Statsman

10 Duane Heikkinen

14 Alex Sisco

15 Bonnie Anderson

16 Jim Ridley

17 Randy Kolka

17 Chad Keech

17 Susan Hoolihan

18 Julia Brewster

18 Lori Staydohar

22 Dave Bloom

22 Jim Brown

22 Rae Stephens

22 Teresa Savich

28 Vern Anderson

30 Kay Klingman

30 Randy Savich

4

Harry & Trudy Huffer

8

Vern & Katie Sisco

9

Bryan & Theresa Major

11

Loren & Ardith Voehl

16

Jacob & Carrie Zimmer

16

John & Kathy Pliska

22

Ken & Sandy Hansen

25

Lloyd & Sheila Weeks

28

Perry & Beth Bloom

30

Andrew & Ashley Buell

Happy Anniversary



Coordinators:

Linda Maki & Mary Dewey

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

Pam & Dave Bloom

Annette Couch

Peggy Heikkinen

Kay Klingman

Jan Rourk

Sharon Borst

Sean Duffney

Darla Kirwin

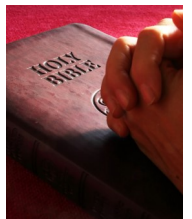
Michele Olson

Mary Tennison



Fall Bible Study:

This Fall we'll be having a Congregational Bible Study. It begins on Thursday, Sept. 14th and runs for 6 weeks through Oct. 19th. We're titling it Bible 101. Pastor Jim will lead us through an overview of scripture, how the bible came to be, and how the bible can inform our lives and help us to live faithfully with integrity. We'll meet from 6:30 to 8:00 sharing a meal as we learn and learning together in conversation and discussion. Come, join the fun as we discover God's words about God's Word (Jesus)!



We are excited to start a new local outreach group in our communi-

ty. The first meeting will be Thursday, September 7th (6:30-8:30pm) at GRUMC and will continue for 13 weeks. Please share the information with friends & neighbors. For more information and to register please go to:

<https://www.divorcecare.org/groups/168859>



Back To School Blessing

During our worship service on September 10th, we will have a time of intentional blessing for this school year and students in preschool on up. All students are invited to attend worship to receive a special blessing.