

## Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Mar. 3 Exodus 20:1-17  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22
- Mar. 10 Numbers 21:4-9  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21
- Mar. 17 Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33
- Mar. 24 Mark 11:1-11  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Philippians 2:5-11
- Mar. 31 Acts 10:34-43  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Joh 20:1-18

## 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)



# March 2024

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

March 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:** Sheila Weeks has been busy with L & M purchasing clearance items and ordering the snowpants for the 2024 Open Door Coat Rack. We're thankful for the discount that L & M gives us to provide new winter wear for our community. If you are considering donating to the Coat Drive, now is the perfect time to pick up coats, snowpants, waterproof mittens, or boots for children at marked down prices.

**DIVORCECARE:** The 2nd group of DivorceCare began on January 18th. There are 9 participants registered. Four people are attending regularly. If you know of anyone who might want to participate, please ask them to contact Sean Duffney or to register at DivorceCare.org.

**GRACE HOUSE:** Volunteers are always needed at the shelter. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Elizabeth at 218-326-2790. Thankfully, a new grant was secured to fund Elizabeth's position for 2024. 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.

**MONTHLY MISSIONS:** The first quarter mission request is for donations to Second Harvest. March is the month that Second Harvest has matched donations. If you would like to donate to Second Harvest, please make your check out to GRUMC with 2nd Harvest in the memo. Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate or brought into the office prior to March 25, 2024 to be included in this donation from GRUMC.

*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!*

**\$\$ A Note from the Finance Committee \$\$ - Outdoor Plant Sale**

The Finance Committee is very happy to share the news! A new fundraiser is being planned for May 29th. Mary Hanson (otherwise known as Miss Mary) has volunteered to organize **Our First Annual Outdoor Plant Sale**. This is an opportunity for the whole congregation, and it sounds like something that can become another signature event of the UMC.



We will be hearing more as the date gets closer (May 29th) but we need to begin thinking which plants we would like to nurse into becoming ready for sale. Mary has a whole bunch of ideas for not only growing and selling baby plants, but for repurposing our no-longer-used gardening tools and flowerpots. For those with woodworking talents, handmade planters or garden signs would sell well!

Mary's cell phone number is 218-259-9346. Put your thinking caps on and save an egg carton or a cottage cheese container as possible seed growing containers. More information will be coming. Share your ideas with Mary or ask her a question. The sale will be outside so put in your order for a sunny day.

In our Lenten bible study, youth fellowship meetings, and confirmation class (we have 5 members ranging from freshmen in High School to their 50's!) some great conversations have arisen about living a daily life in distinct ways that honor Christ. Some of the words the church uses to describe this lifestyle have taken on some "baggage" and lost their power to invite and encourage Christ followers to healthier lives of faith. Lent is a season ripe for growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ. I'll try to "unpack" two of these words so they might help you live into this season of Lent; that you might experience a deeper sense of God and a more transformative spiritual journey in these six weeks.

"Piety" has taken on a sense of "showmanship" in our world. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks of those "who like to display their piety in front of others" as inauthentic and insincere. But it's not piety or living piously that Jesus is speaking against. It is doing so in ways that emphasize, aggrandize, and showing display how religious one is. The word "Piety" means to live in "devotion to God that is shown in the way someone lives". (Cambridge English Dictionary). Piety is living out the values of Christ: humility, servanthood, forgiveness, honesty, strong prayer life. During this season especially, I encourage you to think through what living your piety might look like. Do we live out expressions of devotion? Do our daily life choices reflect our covenant with Jesus? Devotion – Piety - is not a pompous, self-glorifying lifestyle. It is a humble, service-centered, daily practice that glorifies God. I invite us all to be intentionally practicing our piety during this Lenten season.

"Holy" is another word that the world doesn't clearly understand nor does the church always express in healthy ways in its witness. All too often when the church says, "Holy", the world hears "Holier-than-Thou". Sadly, at times it's because of the way the church has lived out its holiness. To often in the church it suggests by its action and off-putting ways that Christians are better than or more loved by God than other people. In our services on Sunday morning, there is a moment called "The Assurance of pardon". I always end this part with the words, "....It is in the name of this Jesus, who we claim to be Christ of our lives, that you, and I, and each, and all are forgiven". It is a reminder that God's love is for each and all and that God's forgiveness is for each and all. God's not waiting for us to "say the magic words", or wants to hear us confess before he'll forgive us. God's work on the cross is already done for the whole world that "God so loves"! We as Christians hold no higher place in God's heart than anyone else – any more than a parent loves one child more than another.

The word "Holy" literally means "other". When scripture says God is holy its saying that God is "other than" the world God created. God is Creator, we are the creature. Just as scripture declares God is the potter, and we are the clay. Still, scripture tells us that "we are to be holy as God is holy". How do we understand that!? We are to live "other than" the world lives. We are to live in the ways of Jesus; the ways of Justice, Love, and Peace. The world's ways are injustice, violence, hatred, oppression, consumerism/materialism. We are to live "other" than that. We are to follow and live in the ways of Jesus! That's holiness and that's how we are to "live and have our being" as church tradition says. This Lent, may we all seek to live daily in ways of piety and holiness - that our lives would honor Christ and give glory to God. May this Lent be a season of preparation and reflection as we move toward the definitive act of Christ's love: the cross.

Be God's, Pastor Jim



**We welcome Roni Skoglund as our new Membership Secretary!**

**In the near future she will be updating our data base. This will include making phone calls to verify or update contact and other information from those in our data base.**



## Holy Week Schedule:

**Palm Sunday Service will be Sunday, March 24th, at 9:45am.**

**Maundy Thursday Service will be Thursday, March 28th, at 6:30pm.**

**Good Friday Service will be Friday, March 29th, at 6:30pm.**

**Easter Sunday Service will be Sunday, March 31st, at 9:45am.**



## Family Movie Night:

Our next Family Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30! Dinner is provided (something like Mac & Cheese and Hotdogs). We move out the majority of the tables in the fellowship hall, project the movie in the wall – and enjoy the show! While the movie is geared to younger families, **everyone is invited!** We even had Ed Duke (who's 93) come to our last one!

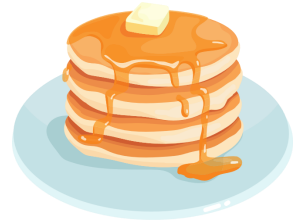


The Young Families with help from Memorials have purchased a new Popcorn Popper that we'll introduce that evening (We'll also use it for Frightfully Delightful Halloween Party, Fat Tuesday Party, Vacation Bible Camp, Church Picnic, Block Party,...) So, invite a friend or two! Come, join the fun!

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## Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast on March 17th:

Troop #41 will be serving a Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 17th from 11:00am to 1pm. The menu will be pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, coffee. Suggested donation of \$8 per person.



Our trip to "The Event" still has us talking about what it means to follow Jesus – especially in the world of being a student in school! As we share and discuss we're discovering more and more what being a "Jesus follower" looks like!

Thanks to all of the youth who are helping out on Sunday mornings!! We have youth who are Sunday School Teachers, Lay Readers, Acolytes, Nursery Attendants, and Fellowship Servers! (those were some super yummy cinnamon rolls, y'all!).

As we look to March, we have our regular meetings on the 6th and 20th. We are making and serving our famous cinnamon rolls on Palm Sunday, the 24th. We're looking to add a fieldtrip to Duluth in March/April aaaand...a new tradition starts: Juniors and Seniors going to the cities for a Broadway show and fine dining experience!! By the time you read this we'll have the date but it's not confirmed yet.

This Summer the group is planning on a retreat July 26th through the 28th. We're also looking to do a "Magical Mystery Tour"! Come to our meetings and find out what that is!!



**The Youth are serving cinnamon rolls on Palm Sunday, March 24th.**

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

United Methodist Church is not just a building in our community...I along with many others have found it to be a smile, a warm greeting, a heartbeat, a soul of discipleship just walking through the doors. Why? Because when you walk through the doors, you are 'Welcomed Home'. A Faith Family Home that not just sees the words on a Bible page but puts them into action with the love and joys of servitude. These would be the; you and I and all who willingly serve in a variety of ways, bringing our spiritual faith into physical works, all in the love and name of our Lord.

It is my hope to attend, participate and share with you, the variety of those who bring to life; Matthew 25:37-40 *Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

We are the Lord's hands and feet—The Sisters and Brothers. Who Grow • Who Reach • Who Heal – May our hearts be opened to where the Spirit leads us, as family members and serve together to his calling.



Jan. 2024 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	41,380	21,817	19,563
YTD - 2024	41,380	21,817	19,563
			-
Monthly average - 2024	20,600	21,817	(1,217)

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.



**Daylight Savings Begins March 10th:** Remember to “Spring Forward” before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th so you get to church on time for Sunday morning worship.

**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.

**UMCGR Endowment Fund (CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND) NEWS**



Thank you to all who have donated to the Endowment Fund over the years. On March 31st we will have the first “Fifth Sunday Special Offering”, of 2024, just as we have observed the past two years. With the generous support of so many people, the principal has grown to over \$619,000.

The other day I came across a handwritten piece of advice. I don’t know who wrote it originally, but it was on a file card in my mother’s handwriting.

A DAY  
This is the beginning of a new day.  
I have been given this day to use as I will.  
I can waste it or use it for good.  
What I do with it is important because I’m exchanging a day of my life for it.  
When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever,  
leaving in it’s place whatever I have traded for it.  
I pledge to myself that it shall be:  
Gain, not loss; good not evil; success, not failure;  
In order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it.

It reminded me of the balance between our church’s General Fund and Endowment Fund. Each week or month we are encouraged to support the work of the church in it’s day to day ministry. That is our first mile giving. A gift to the Endowment Fund is an investment in the future ministries as we say “yes” to God’s call to us to lead in new ways in the life of our community. That is our second mile giving.

May we read the advice for “A DAY “ as advice for how we use our resources. May we know the joy of giving and seek the guidance of God in how our gifts are directed.





# March

- 1 Dennis Drieman
- 2 Josephine Lund
- 3 John Linder
- 4 Gracie Zimmer
- 5 James Tennison
- 5 Kelly Smith
- 7 Al Wallace
- 8 Kathy Pliska
- 10 Sandy Hansen
- 11 Trevor Zimmer
- 13 Patty Christensen
- 13 Ross Cass
- 13 Bret Holmstrom
- 15 Ava Larson
- 15 Blake Brewster

- 15 Miles Akre
- 15 Alex Melhus
- 16 Alexander Brewster
- 17 Caleb Smith
- 21 Robert Rucinski
- 22 Carolyn Orlich
- 24 Braylin Sisco
- 25 Margy Strock
- 27 Tyler Danielson
- 27 Sharon Borst
- 27 Jayden Lenzen
- 28 Janice Crandall
- 28 Darwin Kutzorik
- 30 Walker Ritter
- 30 Sue Anderson



**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    |

08 Jim & Brenda Brown  
 12 John & Alice Anderson  
 26 Darwin & Pat Kutzorik



## Easter Flower Order Form

Orders are now being taken for Easter Flowers. These potted flowers will be placed in our Church Sanctuary in loving memory or in honor of your loved one(s).

Cost per plant is \$14.00.

Donations may also be given to the General Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Please fill out the lower half of this sheet and place it in the offering plate, email it to [secretary@umcgrmn.org](mailto:secretary@umcgrmn.org) or mail it to GRUMC.

**Deadline for ordering is March 24th.**  
**Please include payment with your order.**

Thank You!  
Worship Committee



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to order:

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Flowers at \$14.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation toward General Fund

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_