

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Feb. 4 Isaiah 40:21-31
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
 Mark 1:29-39
- Feb. 11 2 Kings 2:1-12
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
 Mark 9:2-9
- Feb. 18 Genesis 9:8-17
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15
- Feb. 25 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38
- Mar. 3 Exodus 20:1-17
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

HOW TO FIND US

United Methodist Church Of Grand Rapids

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2 blocks west of the Grand Rapids Airport

218-327-2216

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www.umcgrmn.org



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



Password:
BeOurGuest

February 2024

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

February 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:** We recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation. This grant is very timely as Sheila Weeks received a call from L & M letting her know that they are marking down winter inventory. Each year coats, boots and waterproof mittens are purchased from L & M at a low marked down price. Sheila & Lloyd will be storing everything in the garage prior to leaving on their winter trip. Thanks to Lloyd and Sheila for taking care of everything! A special thank you to Lisa Randall for writing the grants that help to make it possible for the new winter wear to be distributed to the people who attend the event. *"Markdowns on winter wear are beginning to show up on the Clearance racks. If you are considering a donation for the 2024 Open Door Coat Rack, this is a great time to purchase winter wear."*

DIVORCECARE: The 2nd group of DivorceCare began on January 18th. There are 8 participants registered. This group is a very needed outreach in our community. Several of the participants from the 1st group let us know how much they leaned from participating in the 13 week session. A special thank you to Sean Duffney for taking over leadership of this group. If you know of anyone who might want to participate, please ask them to contact Sean or to register at DivorceCare.org.

MONTHLY MISSIONS: For the past couple of years, your Mission Committee has presented a monthly mission opportunity for you to prayerfully consider supporting. This year we have decided to offer an opportunity during each of the four quarters. The first quarter we would like to send a contribution to Second Harvest toward the end of March. As you all know, 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.

ASON: Ellen Abramson recently sent letters from the two children that we support. 

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!

Child Name: Eliam Disla Geraldino

Original Letter

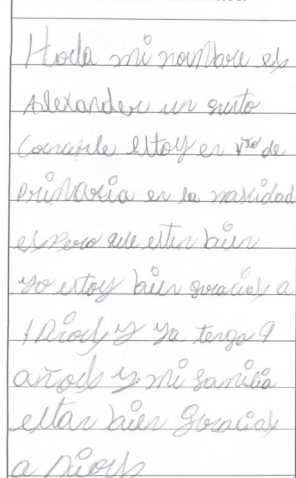
Dear : Friends at UMC



Child Name: Alexander Benitez Sanchez

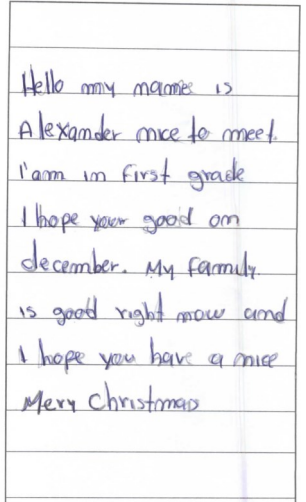
Original Letter

Dear UMC Missions Committee:



Sponsor: UMC Missions Committee

Translation





This Month Lent begins. Lent is a season. Lent is a time for self-examination, confession, spiritual exercise, discipleship training, and refreshing our perspective on what it means to follow Christ today. It is a spiritually challenging time, and it will conclude on Easter as we celebrate Jesus' victory.

Lent is an opportunity. An opportunity to practice "resetting" ourselves. A season to begin reorienting or retuning our lives to the ways of Christ. It's a period we can begin a process; not a moment to magically become someone we're not. Transformation is a process. As we move through this season let's invite ourselves and encourage one another to be intentional in our discipleship. What might that look like? Well, how about slowing down and listening more for Jesus' voice in our day. How about not so much "giving up" something but rather taking on a "Lenten practice" like weekly visiting a shut-in person, helping once a week during the six weeks of Lent at Second Harvest, or a soup kitchen, or choosing now "date afternoons" with each of your kids during Lent, or carving out a time through the season for a daily walk.

A compass can begin to lose it's sense of True North as it's used, and an instrument - as it's played - will begin to go out of tune. Our lives are the same. In our day-to-day routines and rhythms we can lose our orientation and we can go "out of tune". Lent is a time to be reoriented by the grace of God. During this lent allow the Holy Spirit to retune you to the key of God's unlimited and unconditional love.

One of the traditional Hymns often sung in this season is "Take Time To Be Holy". Holy literally means "other than" or "set apart". We are called by God to be "other than" the ways and values of the world. We have been, through the mercy and call of Christ, "set apart" for the work of the Kingdom of God; the Commonwealth of Christ!

These days are full of division, cruelty, violence, war, and much that is not of God. How do we continue to point toward the way of Shalom? How do we continue to stay in tune of the key of God's Love? How can the words of Jesus, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Arch Bishop Oscar Romero even begin to address the angers and dangers of our lives today? What is the alternative to despair?

The Jews have a word for it: Tikum Olam. It means "to repair the world." It's the activity of God's love in the world. We are invited to participate in this very work as followers of Jesus! This happens in big ways and in small ones. Sometime the repair is obvious, noticeable. Sometimes it is quiet, hidden. But it does not happen unless we give ourselves to the work of making the world more gentle and just. It does not happen unless you and I do something.

The good news of the work of the Holy Spirit is you and I do not work alone. We are woven into the cloth that is the church: the body of Christ. Sidney Haris said that the question, "What can one person do?" must be faced by each of us, and that sometimes it seems one person can do little – but one and one and one and one can do a great deal!" He's right. One and one and one and one can do a great deal! Attuned together in God's love, the "orchestra" of disciples can "turn the world upside-down". With our needles all pointed to the true north of justice for each and all, we can heal and repair the world through the balm of shalom!

John Wesley believed strongly that Christians are to be about the work of Christ in the world. He wrote: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." This Lent, let us live in the "other way" of grace. This Lent, let us be set apart for the work of love and justice. Allow the Holy spirit to reorient your life and re-tune your spirit.

Be God's, Pastor Jim



Thank you for calls, cards and prayers during my surgery and my recovery.. All went well and I am on the mend...Alice Anderson

Thank you very much for the prayers, cards, calls, texts, visits, food, goodies, etc. from my church family during this time. When facing health issues, it is such a BLESSING to have such support from my family and friends. Wendy Gorham



What a great time we had at Messiah UMC in Plymouth! We gathered there with UMC youth from around the state and played the “World’s Largest Game of Clue”! Our team won! We also learned about living our faith courageously (I Corinthians 16:13-14). The day concluded with an amazing Rap/Hip-Hop concert by the rapper Pierre. He challenged us to live out our faith through loving those at the margins of our society and having the courage to live a life of Love and Justice.

Our Christmas/New Year’s party was a blast! Did you know not all people can eat “hot-dog guts” and who knew moving ping-pong balls without your hands could be so funny? We broke open a piñata, and shared Christmas presents!

In February, our meetings are, as usual, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 (dinner included). We’re looking to add tubing at the ski-jump in Coleraine in February (if there’s snow). Looking ahead, On Palm Sunday (March 24th) we’ll be serving cinnamon rolls after church. Also, the group has decided to begin a new, yearly experience to the youth calendar: in the Spring, Juniors & Seniors will travel to the cities for a evening of fine dining and take in a theater show. We’ll finalize this Springs date at our Feb 7th meeting.

Confirmation Orientation:

Recently, some individuals have asked about a new Confirmation Orientation series. We will begin Confirmation this lent. This class will meet twice a month through Eastertide, have two sessions during the Summer and then meet twice monthly from Sept 2024 through May 2025. It is open to those who are high school freshman on up. Youth will have mentors and adults will have sponsors. Parents of youth and spouses of adults will often be a part of the class meeting also (about once a month). The class meets on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00. Dates for this Spring are: Feb 18th, March 3rd & 17th, April 14th & 28th, May 5th & 19th.



The Season of Lent:

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The English word “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “Lencten”, which means “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter.



Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Note that the readings during Lent, until Passion/Palm Sunday, focus primarily on the meaning of baptism and discipleship, in continuity with the season’s original purpose. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

Holy Week is the final week of Lent, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday and concluding with Holy Saturday. It is during these days that the readings focus primarily on the last days and suffering and death of Jesus.

The Great Three Days—sometimes called the Triduum or Pasch—from sunset Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day are the climax of Lent (and of the whole Christian year) and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. They should be seen as a great unified service beginning with a service of Holy Communion on Holy Thursday and concluding with the services of Easter Day. These services may be connected with a prayer vigil lasting from Holy Thursday evening (or Good Friday) until the first service of Easter and may be accompanied by fasting. *(From the United Methodist Book of Worship)*



December 2023 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	24,467	28,326	(3,859)
YTD - 2023	250,941	263,847	(12,906)
			-
Monthly average - 2023	20,912	21,987	(1,075)

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.

\$\$ A Note from the Finance Committee \$\$

By now, we hope you have been able to review and digest the 2024 budget. You should all be proud of the committees for being ever watchful and conservative. Each has tried to make every dollar work towards fulfilling the mission of UMCGR. With rising costs, it is becoming more of a challenge to keep running in the black. We ended 2023 having approximately \$13,000 of expenses over income. We plan to re-evaluate the 2024 budget at our July meeting and will keep you advised. We hope that anyone with ideas on how to turn our budget back into the black will let the office or any finance committee member know. Your input is appreciated. The Finance Committee

UMCGR Endowment Fund (CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND) NEWS

As the calendar turns to February, we have just celebrated the life of this congregation in 2023 and launched plans for 2024 at the Church Conference on January 21, 2024. At this Conference, there were two notable changes:



- The name was changed to UMCGR Endowment Fund. That means that when you donate to the Fund in honor of someone or memory of a loved one, make the check out to UMCGR and put Endowment Fund in the memo line. (However, being frugal, the Committee will continue using the already printed letterhead and offering envelopes for 2024)
- A motion was passed to distribute \$20,000 for use in 2024 according to our policy:
 - \$2,000 for ministry beyond Grand Rapids area
 - \$9,000 for emerging ministry in the community
 - \$9,000 for emerging capital improvements

It was also celebrated that as of January 1, 2024 the market value has increased to \$619,306 which generates the money available for distribution. During the 28 years of the Fund's existence, \$493,708 has been distributed for emerging ministries. It allows our Trustees and other committees to be nimble in responding to unexpected needs without having to launch a special offering for each one.

The Finance Committee reported that our anticipated operational expense budget exceeds the estimate of giving trend by \$54,000 for the coming year. By policy, that difference cannot be funded by the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund will continue to be a "second mile" giving, legacy gift. We encourage you to make sure your commitment to the General Fund comes first.

May God bless and guide us as we go about doing the ministry we are called to do.

Congregational Care & Evangelism NEWS



Friendly Phoners:

At this time of year, the Friendly Phoners list is reviewed. These are people who wish to serve our church family by calling shut-ins or the elderly a couple times a month. It's very easy to do from the comfort of your own couch. You might even make a new friend!

Contact Nancy O'Toole (218-25-7711) if you would:

Like to call someone.

Like to receive a call.

Do you take pictures with your cell phone?

Right now, take it out and open it to your photos. Choose a favorite to send to Jodi: secretary@umcgrmn.org Identify the people and add description if it would be helpful. We look forward to seeing you on the screen on Sunday or in the Friday email message.

NEED A NAMETAG?

If you are a regular attender and don't have a nametag, sign up for one at the INFO Desk. They will be ordered in February. If you wish to help with funding, the cost is \$10.

Lumberjack Sunday is February 25th.

Join us for the lively celebration in the deep of winter for all of the brave and courageous. Wear your cozy lumberjack gear (flannel, buffalo plaid) to the 9:45 a.m. worship service. Then enjoy a meal of hearty stew, beans, and homemade METHODIST PIE and ice cream followed by BINGO. Donate prizes of White Elephants or purchased or homemade food items in boxes or bags (no fancy wrapping allowed but be sure the prize is well concealed). This is a celebration for all of us who tough it out in the Northland. Invite friends or prospective members.



Sign up after church to help:

- ⇒ Bring a batch of your favorite beans or stew.
- ⇒ Make pie with a fun group of camp cooks.
- ⇒ Volunteer to help with decorating or donate logging camp items.
- ⇒ Help in the kitchen with prep or clean-up.



We are "pining" for your attendance. "Wood" you like some great grub? We will welcome you and be "plaid" you came! Whiskers appreciated but not required. Call or text Nancy at 218-256-7711 for more info.

Lenten Dinner and Bible Study:

This year's Lenten Bible Study is on the book of James in the New Testament. We meet from 5:30 to 7:00 (Dinner included). We will have child care available. James is a Bit of a "How to" on living out the call of discipleship and seeing each and all as God's beloved. The author of this short letter is concerned not only with what we as followers of Christ believe but also with how those beliefs shape our actions. Come join us for a very practical "Hands On" understanding of how scripture is lived out in our daily living.

⇒ Sign-up at the information desk to donate or serve dinner.


Sources for the study are the Interpretation Commentary Series Vol. 33, "James" by Dr. David Jeremiah, and "The Message of James" by J.A. Motyer.





FEBRUARY

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Jim Danielson | 15 Trudy Huffer |
| 1 Cindy Ridley | 15 JoLynn Linder |
| 3 Mike Gorham | 15 Matthew Buchacker |
| 4 Eugene Rasmussen | 17 Roy LaDoux |
| 5 Keith Seward | 18 George Orlovich |
| 6 Michele Olson | 20 Mike Skoglund |
| 7 April Akre | 20 Dean Anderson |
| 9 Sheila Weeks | 21 Bkaine Sawdey |
| 10 David Strock | 22 Dale Anderson |
| 11 Olivia Loney | 23 James Hanttula |
| 14 Jodi Martin | |



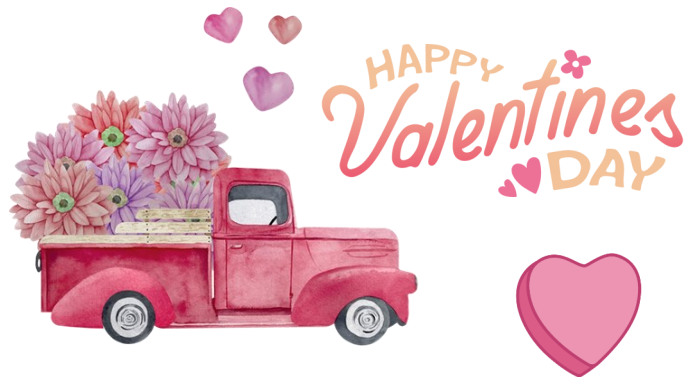
Coordinators:
Nancy O'Toole

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

Marie Duffy	Gloria Gooler
Deb Hagenbuck	June Johnson
Sue Kolka	Sally Ladoux
Becky Larson	JoLynn Linder
Willie Nuorala	Linda & Gene Rasmussen
Lisa Randall	Justine Williams

Happy Anniversary


- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 Tommy & Sherry Thompson |  |
| 20 Ron & Sharon Rasmussen | |
| 27 Jim & Rae Stephens | |



Join us for our

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14th at 7:00pm





Fat Tuesday:

Come, be a part of the fun and bring some friends! On Tuesday, Feb. 13th (5:30-7:30pm), is our Fat Tuesday Party!

We're anchoring the event with square dancing! Caller Dan Sahlstrom will be here to lead us! Dan is well known throughout the Midwest and is a Caller at the Minnesota State Fair!

The evening will include crafts of the Lenten season for families to make (Resurrection Eggs & a Lenten Candelabra), games for all ages and prizes to win. We'll enjoy Jodel's Jambalaya (and hot dogs for the kids). Wear your Mardi Gras mask (or make one at the party) and beads. You can be a part of the World's Largest Game of "Reverse Musical Chairs"!

