

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Jan. 7	Genesis 1:1-5 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11
Jan. 14	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
Jan. 21	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
Jan. 28	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28
Feb. 4	Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

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

January 2024

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

January 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

The Mission News this month is mainly a **THANK YOU** from the Missions Committee to all of our congregation who so generously support the missions of our church and our community. You are so appreciated and so willingly step up to help whenever we ask. We couldn't do it without you.

GRACE HOUSE: The annual fundraiser dinner was held on 12/7. It was a fun successful evening. We had 4 1/2 full tables from GRUMC! We don't have any exact numbers yet but we believe we served 360 people. Thank you to everyone who volunteers and contributes in any way to the shelter.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: Thank you to everyone who donated \$, shopped and/or wrapped gifts. We gave gifts to 8 families. When we delivered the truck load to Human Services, the social worker said to tell everyone how very special these gifts are and that we have no idea of how many lives we are touching of the truly needy families. Each child received a couple of gifts, each parent a gift and each family a gas card, an Aldi card and a quilt.

TOYS FOR TOTS: This has been a successful outreach mission. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or donated cookies during the drive pickup. 605 children were served from 175 families. Some of the toys that are left will be going to Foster Love.

DIVORCE CARE: The 2nd session of DivorceCare will begin on January 18. If you know anyone who might be interested, please share the information with them. If you have any questions, contact Kay Klingman (612-845-6649 or rkklinger@gmail.com)

KENTUCKY MISSION: \$577 was sent to Kentucky to help with Margaret's funeral service. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this mission in any way over the past few years.

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!

First, “Thank you!”. We have the saying amongst us at GRUMC, “God is good all the time. And all the time, God is good.” This is very true. Yet, when crisis and chaos, loss, injury, and other such things come our way, that saying can seem a little “flippant” or “trite”. And then again, maybe it is specifically in those times, moments, and experiences, that we should lean into that saying all the more!

So again, Thank you, God, for all your blessings, your faithfulness, your goodness, and your love. Next, Jodel and I wish to say, “Thank you” to each of you – the congregation (and our families and friends beyond GRUMC) for all the cards, gifts, expressions of kindness, but especially – your prayers! We knew Jodel’s hip replacement would not be an easy thing, even with such skilled surgeons and the care from nurses and all the medical staff. But two days into recovery Jodel was diagnosed with A-fib and spent 2 and a half days in the ICU. And all this the week before Christmas – well, to say the least, not an easy 6 days. All your care, meals you brought over, cards, gift cards, phone calls.... We are deeply touched and thankful to be a part of such a caring and loving congregation. So, while not all things are good, nor easy, nor a blessing – God works through and even amid the hard, painful, hurtful, tough times and God’s blessings are not canceled, overcome, or thwarted!

So, Thankfulness begins in acknowledging God’s goodness and the faithfulness of God’s love. In Chapter 8 of the book of Romans, Paul writes, “God works all things for the good.” That doesn’t say or mean that all things are good. No! Bad things are bad and there are moments, events, and experiences that are just that – bad! But the author shares that those things do not finally overcome or thwart God’s purposes! God’s faithfulness and goodness come through despite, or God can use or, as I said, work through the hard and painful times and experiences and still bring blessing and we can still stand on God’s promises of Love and faithfulness.

So, what does this mean for us as we look to the new year? Well... We’re finishing the season of Christmas. Where the very name of the Child King is the promise, “I Am with you”: Emanuel literally means, God-with-us! And we’re reminded of the ascension of Christ where he declares, “Lo, I am with you always...”. I can lean into this promise as I walk into this new year.

The Greek word for God’s love is agape. This is the highest form of love and it’s characteristics are that God’s love is Unlimited, Sacrificial, and Unconditional. Knowing this truth, we realize the empowerment of such love. The possibilities of Christ Commonwealth within the next 365 days can become manifest due to this truth.

And we need not fear. Scripture reminds us (Romans 8 – the very book and chapter I mentioned before) that nothing, NOTHING, can separate us from this unmatched, unbeatable love! With that truth we can risk much and in so doing achieve much for the cause of Christ! I can think on this simple but timeless truth as I go about my days and my tasks. Slowly those words can begin to strengthen my resolve and focus my frame of mind. If I needed something to help me leave behind or overcome old concerns and look to the “Manger possibilities” of the New Year, this scripture and it’s truth settle it ... the determination to face each day’s concerns, trusting in the words of God’s unlimited and unconditional love and the promise from the Source of all comfort and strength.

May you have a blessed, meaningful, fulfilling, purposeful, assured, grateful, hope-filled, and happy New Year!

Be God’s, Pastor Jim

The Fireside Readers

JANUARY SELECTION: LEOTA'S GARDEN BY FRANCINE RIVERS



DATE: Monday, January 22nd, 6:30 p.m.

“Through the lives of 84-year-old Leota, her granddaughter, and a college student, the author explores the new life that love can bring to a decaying garden of broken relationships. It features the roles of bitterness, secrets, and God in family dynamics with a theme of redemption.”

Sticking around this winter and looking for things to do? Jodel has chosen a book she especially likes for us to discuss. Everyone is welcome to attend. You will make new friends and enjoy the interesting discussion.

A Message from your Lay Leader:

Greetings and Happy 2024 to my church family,

This will be my last message as Lay Leader. When I was asked to serve our church in this position, I agreed for a year. Since the church year had already started, I agreed to do that year and the next full year. Now it is time for someone else to take on this role. The nice thing about it is that there may be expectations to live up to, but you can customize to what extent you feel like you can do the best job. You are invited to attend any or all committee meetings, but again you should choose the ones where you think that you can add something.

I found this thought for the day that seems to fit this:

God left you on earth for a purpose. Do it. Live on purpose.

May you seriously consider serving on a committee this year. Our church always welcomes new people and new ideas.

Thank you and God Bless,

Wendy



What a blast to shop for all those families and buy presents for their kids! Well done, y'all! And, by the way, thanks for all the hard work helping Justine with the caramel/cinnamon rolls to serve after worship service the weekend of our Lock-

In! Youth Ministries collected \$350, which went toward gifts for the Christmas Families. We are blessed to have such a supportive congregation!

The next big thing is the Youth Winter Retreat! It is set for January 18th through the 20th. Make sure to get those dates right: We leave following school on Thursday, the 18th and return late on Saturday, the 20th. Yes, that means you need to arrange to miss school on Friday, January 19th! We will be going to Koronis Ministries in Paynesville, MN. West and a bit south of St. Cloud. It will be much like our retreats at Northern Pines in Park Rapids. Koronis Ministries is located on Lake Koronis and is another United Methodist Camp. The cost for each person is \$75 dollars for two nights and 4 meals. As always, there are scholarships if needed. *Do not let the cost of the event be the reason you don't go!*

We've got a busy Winter/Spring schedule with this retreat, trips out of town - one to the cities, money makers, meetings and more! As always, we need to include everyone we can! Think of youth of our church who may not participate and encourage them to be a part. Especially, Invite friends!!!!



November 2023 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	17,975	21,171	(3,196)
YTD - 2023	226,473	235,021	(8,548)
			-
Monthly average - 2023	20,286	21,366	(1,080)

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.

GRUMC Church Insurance (update)

The Board of Trustee's received a notice from our current insurance provider (Grinnell) that they would not be renewing our policy in 2024. The Trustee's then received quotes from (2) other insurance providers, Church Asset Management & Church Mutual Insurance. The Trustee's approved going with Church Mutual Insurance. The church insurance will be increasing from approx. \$ 6,500.00 to \$ 13,000.00 per year.

CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND NEWS

Happy New Year! In preparation for the Church Conference on January 21, 2024, two action items will be presented and two informational reports provided from the Congregational Trust Fund Committee.



Action Item #1:

Move that the GRUMC Congregational Trust Fund be renamed UMCGR Congregational Endowment Fund.

Rationale: This is the name the Fund was originally given, but, for reasons that cannot be determined, at some time it began to be called the GRUMC Congregational Trust Fund. Calling the Fund a trust fund is confusing and problematic, as it was never set up as a legal trust, which implies substantial duties, such as a formal trust document, appointing trustees who have potential personal liability, tax reporting, court supervision and potential control and asset takeover by the Minnesota Attorney General. An endowment fund is simply an internal GRUMC fund, controlled by the GRUMC committee as it always has been. Changing back to the original name would accept continued operation of the Fund as it has been operated from its formation. Changing GRUMC to UMCGR is to comply with the Corporate Name of the church which was probably changed at the time the mortgage was satisfied.

Action Item #2:

Move that a distribution of \$20,000 be made in 2024 according to our policy: \$2,000 for Ministry Beyond Grand Rapids, \$9,000 for ministry in the community and \$9,000 for capital improvements of the facility.

Informational Report #1:

History of the Fund:

In 1995 the market value of the fund was \$212,269.82.

As we start 2024 the market value of the fund is \$589,368.55.

During these 28 years \$493,704.84 has been distributed for emerging ministries.

Information Report #2:

Thank you to the donors and acknowledgement of those who had gifts given in memory or honor of their life in this congregation.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

HOSPITALITY TEAMS



Our church family members serve a two month period in which they may be called upon to contribute food or help in the kitchen for funerals or other meals. These lists are reviewed in January each year. If you need information or wish to make changes to your status, contact Nancy at 218-256-7711.

FRIENDLY PHONERS

We have a list of people who are willing to call shut-ins or others who would like a friendly call a couple times a month. If you could serve others in our congregation by helping in this way, sign up with Nancy (218-256-7711).

HAVE YOU MET SOMEONE LOOKING FOR A CHURCH?

We have a helpful handout of GRUMC church information written just for this purpose. Copies are available at the INFO Desk.

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH JOHN VANINA :



John Vanina is a new member who is already very active in church activities. He has worked in the restaurant business and enjoys volunteering in the kitchen. John loves fishing for walleyes.

John was born in Connecticut and is a U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran. He met his wife, Magdalena, in Long Island, New York and married her when he returned from Vietnam. John has three sons and after his wife passed away, they told him he needed to go back to church.

John volunteered at the Coat Rack and felt very blessed to see the smiles on the faces of people he helped. At the salad luncheon he enjoyed working in the kitchen and visiting with the guests. He is happy to usher, especially helping the little ones to collect coins. John appreciates the understanding and caring he receives from Pastor Jim and the way he shares children's sermons with the kids. He says our church people treat him like family, and he needs a family at this time of mourning for his wife

We are so glad that John has found a church home at Grand Rapids United Methodist!

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH EMILEIGH LATVALA:



Emileigh Latvala is one of our newest members, along with Scout, her daughter, who is one and a half years old. Emileigh first connected with GRUMC when her mom, Jodi Taylor, was married here about five years ago. She finds this to be a very welcoming place with friendly people.

Emileigh works at First Call for Help, a crisis and information hot line in Grand Rapids. Scout receives childcare at the YMCA. They recently moved to Cohasset where Emileigh bought a little house. Her dad, grandma, and brothers live in Deer River.

Emileigh has a German wirehair dog that she enjoys taking grouse hunting. Scout and her mom love going to the beach and boating.



January

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 John Anderson | 16 Virginia Loop |
| 2 Margaret Cass | 22 Laura Hauser |
| 3 Sherry Thompson | 24 Lynne Meyer |
| 3 Dana Grina | 24 Wyatt Ritter |
| 3 Warren Ritter | 26 Joann Gould |
| 4 Kelsie Jo Zimmer | 27 Bennett Hanson |
| 5 Carolyn Salo | 28 Owen Linder |
| 10 Noah Larson | 28 Irene Drieman |
| 11 Virginia Rucinski | 28 Sean Duffney |
| 13 Joan Jones | 31 David Tank |
| 15 Dave Hutchins | 31 Corinne Youso |



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 | Lisa Randall |
| Linda Rasnussen | Justine Williams |



Happy Anniversary

- 5 Clayton & Leila Stevens
- 5 John & JoLynn Linder

Please **DO NOT PROP** the Outside Doors open, we are getting mice in the building. Thank you the Trustees.



Lumberjack Sunday has been postponed, date to be determined.

The 2024 Annual Charge Conference

On Sunday, January 21st following the worship service, We'll celebrate all the missions and ministries God is making happen in the life of our congregation at our Annual Charge Conference. We'll hear stories of hearts touched and lives changed through the work of our congregation. We'll also do a few actions of business; approve the 2024 budget, accept the leadership nominations, approve the Congregational Endowment report, and one or two other yearly actions for the order of the church. We'll enjoy a light brunch as we learn how God is sharing the Good News in the Grand Rapids area through the missions and ministries of The United Methodist Church in Grand rapids, MN!

