

# September 2024

## Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Sept. 1	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sept. 8	Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23 James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37
Sept. 15	Proverbs 1:20-33 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38
Sept. 22	Proverbs 31:10-31 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
Sept. 29	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
Oct. 6	Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16

## 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)



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



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

*September 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

## MISSIONS

**AUGUST MISSION:** Thank you to everyone who has contributed school supplies or financial support to the annual Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive. Your Mission Committee delivered a check from the Missions budget. Any financial donations that come in will be delivered to United Way August 28. We observed the "Packing Party" which was definitely an impressive operation. They are so thankful for the UMC involvement as they have received less donations than usual.

**GRACE HOUSE:** Thanks to all that joined us at the annual shelter breakfast.

**UNITED WAY DAY OF ACTION:** Check out the pictures of the 6 UMC volunteers who helped out at the Day of Action in Bovey.

**QUILTERS:** As of this writing, 65 quilts are completed that will go to the Community Connect event in September and Foster Love. A special thank you to Patty Christensen for her donation of 8 beautiful quilts.

**MISSIONARY CAIN FAMILY:** Thank you for your donations which totaled \$ 342. The Missions Undesignated fund contributed \$ 358 for a total of \$ 700 sent to the Cains.

**FOSTER LOVE:** It came to our attention that the Foster Love Closet is in need of formula, baby food and diapers. Each week 100 people pick up needed items from the closet. A donation was made to support this need especially earmarked for these 3 items for the little ones.

**DIVORCE CARE:** This year we are offering 2 DivorceCare sessions. Mary Hanson will lead a session on Mondays beginning September 9 at 12:00 PM. Sean Duffney will lead a session on Thursdays beginning September 12 at 6:00 PM. Please share the information with friends & neighbors. We would like to have 6-10 people to start the sessions. If you have any questions, contact Kay Klingman (612-845-6649 or rkklinger@gmail.com)

**COMMUNITY CONNECT:** The event will be held on September 26 and is back at the Arena this year. We will be cooking chili at UMC on Wednesday 9/25 and serving chili at the event on 9/26. If you are interested in volunteering, this is an excellent one day event. Please contact Kay Klingman, rkklinger@gmail.com to join us.

**OPEN DOOR COAT RACK:** The committee is beginning to work on the 2024 coat drive. If you are bringing used winter wear to church, **please remember that we do not take wool or leather coats or long coats.** During the past couple of years we have found that no one is interested in having any of those coats. There are hangers in a box by the rack near the office.

**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!**



## Fall Bible Study Begins on Thursday, September 12th at 5:30pm

We'll have dinner together while watching the video for the study with discussion following the video. This study will be based on a popular TV series about Jesus and his disciples.



While this is for the September newsletter, I'm writing this in mid-August. There are still summer weekends to the lake, vacations, county fairs and the State Fair, Labor Day weekend, Summer sport games yet to play... Still a lot of Summer yet to enjoy. I hope you had some opportunities to make some great summer memories.

But you're reading this with school schedules starting and "program year" commitments beginning. It's a "turn of the seasons". God is continually moving us into the next New Day: the next new season, as it were, to begin a new possibility for growth in our relationship with God, a new opportunity to be God's faithful one in sharing God's love or working for God's justice. A new season of blossoming into a fuller understanding and lifestyle as a disciple (a follower) of Jesus. God is ever faithful and consistent in inviting us into deeper relationship with Godself. We are always in an opportunity to follow Jesus more fully and with deeper conviction and devotion.

There is a new momentum in our congregation. There is an awakening of excitement, a growing number of new faces, a steady increase of seeing members who since Covid have been away from gathering back in attendance on Sunday mornings. We have new programs and events blossoming in our congregation: Story Trek, Plant Sale, VBC, new Youth experiences (Formal Night in the cities, worship at Park Ave. United Methodist Church in South Minneapolis), Divorce Care classes, Fall Bible Study based on a popular TV series about Jesus and his disciples....

God says, "Behold, I'm making all things new, do you not perceive it?" This season is an opportunity to seize the initiative of becoming more the disciple of Jesus, God has called and designed you to be! Seasons build on the previous one to grow. In our gardens I've been so excited to see the perennials that we've planted in seasons past multiply and blossom in increasing numbers! Seeds planted seasons ago are sprouting and blooming in numerous and multiple places that weren't there just a year ago! God has been planting seeds in our congregation for generations. Already we're seeing new growth and new faces becoming a part of our faith family! Your attendance, your smile, your handshake, your presence plants seeds you may not be aware of. The ripple effect of fellowship on Sunday mornings spreads from that morning and touches lives you and I are not aware of!

As seasons change, different gifts and new graces show themselves. As the Holy Spirit touches our lives we can experience growth of spiritual maturity, discover new gifts, new talents, find places where we can share ourselves and these gifts to bless others and to advance and augment the movement of Jesus. The gospel of God's great good news is ever present and always engaged in touching hearts and changing lives. Look at the rich history of our congregation; be reminded of the deep roots of faithfulness of generations past. Celebrate the current faith family that is UMCGR. Think about the friendships, the missions and ministries currently sharing Jesus' love and touching lives and our community. And then there's the new season – the New Day God is bringing! What will our children and their children build and accomplish for the Commonwealth of Christ?!

I'm excited about what God is doing in the life of The United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, Minnesota! I see the evidence of blessing and new life weekly in our worship and fellowship. Come, join us – especially on Sunday, Sept. 8th, "Gather the Family Sunday" and experience for yourself the joy, the celebration, the fellowship, the family – the New Day (season) God is blooming amongst us!

Be God's, Pastor Jim



# Gather the Family Sunday (Rally Sunday)

## September 8th



**This Fall, starting with Rally Sunday, is a new season of momentum and acceleration in the life of our congregation!**

**On Rally Sunday, we're naming it "Gather the Family Sunday", we're inviting EVERY-ONE to worship on that Sunday: those who attend regularly, new faces, friends, guests, those who have been away for a while, those who livestream,...EVERYONE!**

**After Service, we'll enjoy a potluck together (please bring a dish of your choice to share) and catch up on names and faces. Also we'll be giving away some door prizes!**

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### Youth News!

What a worship experience! Our Youth Fellowship worshipped at Park Ave. UMC in S. Minneapolis on July 28th. It was a great opportunity to experience a different style of worship. On the way home, one in our group shared, "Every time their choir sang, I got tears in my eyes." It was a fantastic service. We had one of our most active years last year and this one looks to be even more engaging!

**I want to invite all youth, 6th grade to 12th, and their parents, to a programing meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 4th, at 6:30pm.**

We'll get to know one another and talk about the coming year, our mission and our objectives. This year we'll continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. We begin with a meal, this year prepared by members/parents/connected groups of our congregation! Then we'll share in games, have discussions, watch videos and sometimes go into our community to learn about the activity of God's grace in our area. I hope to see you (and your parents) at this meeting as we kick-off our best year yet!

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### Young Families Ministry Meeting

**Please join us on Wednesday, September 11th, from 6:15- 7:15pm. The leadership of the congregation are inviting all families with a child or children from 4th grade on down to babies, to hear your ideas, hopes, and wishes about what ministry to young families might look like at UMCGR!**

Pastor Jim; Lay Leader, Teresa Savich; and Ad. Council Chair, Skip Drake will be there to listen and share ideas, ministries, opportunities, and programs for your children & you!

We understand that this falls around dinner time. Please feel free to bring dinner for you and your family. We'll share and discuss as we eat. We want to honor the one hour time limit for your family's evening schedules. Come and share with us what you are wanting from and hoping for in the spiritual development of your children and family.



July 2024 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	17,512	20,555	(3,043)
YTD - 2024	198,501	160,654	37,847
			-
Monthly average - 2024	24,967	22,951	2,016

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:

It's hard to believe how fast 2024 is going. School starts soon and then in a blink it will be 2025. We have one more major fund raiser, the Salad Luncheon on Saturday, the opening of deer hunting season. Last year was a success and we had many requests to continue it this year so with your help, it will happen. The finance committee is very grateful for your generosity of not only your monetary gifts but of your time and commitment to sharing the ministries of UMCGR.

**The MATCH** is at \$9817.26 as of printing the newsletter. The forecast from our Treasurer is that we will end the year in the black. Working together we can help make miracles happen. 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:** The final total was \$2400! Thank you again to all that contributed to, helped with, or purchased items from the Annual Rummage Sale and to Emilie Duffney for facilitating it again this year.

Your Finance Committee

### UMCGR Endowment Fund (FORMERLY CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND) NEWS

As the calendar turns to September, it is a time for some New Year’s Resolutions. Granted the calendar time for making those internal changes in our lives is on January 1 when we change the date of the year to the current year plus one. In the liturgical year of the church, the new year begins with the first Sunday in Advent when we repeat the cycle of preparing for the birth of Christ, Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Christ, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.



As children, we know that September marks the beginning of a new school year. That includes a transition from the “lazy, hazy days of summer” to a more regimented schedule of bed time and getting up earlier to catch a bus or ride to school. It means starting a new year in school with new teachers and classmates. Even as adults it invites us to get back into a routine of attending worship, restarting a daily devotional time, or to get back to that exercise plan.

This September is also one of those months with a Fifth Sunday Special Offering for the Endowment Fund. You will be receiving a letter from the committee in September. However, you may make a donation to the Endowment Fund in memory or honor of someone at any time. Just write the check or donate on line to UMCGR and put Endowment Fund in the memo line.



# Congregational Care & Hospitality

## GETTING TO KNOW: Mary Giese

Mary and her husband, Kent, lived in Grand Rapids for twenty years and attended The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids. They moved to Duluth to be Tupperware distributors. Kent passed away in 2023 and Mary returned to Grand Rapids where she has two daughters and a married granddaughter with three children.



Mary was born in Kansas and moved to Pine City when she was eleven. Her dad was a Methodist minister. She met her husband, a farm boy serving as a sailor with the Navy, in Jeffers, MN and they married in 1964. About UMCGR Mary says, "I feel very comfortable here and was glad to be welcomed by old friends. Even the people I don't know have been very friendly."

Mary loves gardening and flowers are her specialty. She is currently making a new perennial garden. In the winter she likes board games, puzzles and cards. She likes to cook and bake, especially Grandma's wild rice soup.

## HELP US GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER!

We are looking for both long term and newer folks to feature in a GETTING TO KNOW article. You do not need to be an official member. Contact Nancy O'Toole (218-256-7711), give her your information, and she will write the article. A picture would be helpful too.

## WHEN YOU SEE OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN THE COMMUNITY, GREET THEM! Be bold and courageous!

**Attention FRIENDLY PHONERS:** Remember to call the people who may be happy to hear from you! Fall is a great time to develop your telephone friends.

## PUMPKIN PIE SUNDAY: OCTOBER 6TH. SAVE THE DATE! INVITE FRIENDS!

Bakers invited to make the pie on Saturday, October 5th at 10:00 a.m. Bring your apron!

## STAY CONNECTED WITH CHURCH EMAILS:

If you would like to receive emails from the church, contact Jodi at in the church office at [secretary@umcgrmn.org](mailto:secretary@umcgrmn.org) or call 218-327-2216.

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## Salad Luncheon ~ November 9, 2024

It's too early to make the salads or bake the goodies for the bake sale.

The sign up sheets for set-up, kitchen help, wait staff, salad makers, cashiers and clean up will come out in October.

**It's not TOO EARLY** to start making crafts for the craft sale. Last year Steve Zimmer made beautiful cutting boards, Tommy Thompson made some wooden planters, Karen Anderson knit baby afghan blankets, Wendy Gorham brought Christmas ornaments, the Quilters donated quilts. If you have a craft that you would be willing to share, we would be most grateful for your donation.





# September



6 Rebecca Nellis

9 Chad Statsman

10 Duane Heikkinen

14 Alex Sisco

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

30 Kay Klingman

30 Randy Savich

4

Harry & Trudy Huffer

6

Dana & Jodi Martin

8

Vern & Katie Sisco

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



**Coordinator:**  
**Mary Dewey & Linda Maki**

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

Sharon Borst

Duane & Peggy Heikkinen

Kay Klingman

Jan Rourk

John Vanina

Sean Duffney

Darla Kirwin

Michele Olson

Mary Tennison

## Fireside Readers



The Fireside Readers book club will be meeting Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will meet at the church. This month we will be discussing "Sing A Song Of Murder" by Lori Roberts. This is based on a true story and written by Pastor Jim's cousin. Please join us if you like to read a variety of books and discuss it with friends.

## Notes from Boy Scout Troop 41...Our boys have had a busy summer.

Three scouts crossed over from the Cub Scout Pack this Spring. Welcome to Colton, Jaxon and Henry. Elections were held recently, and all our scouts have new leadership positions in the troop.

July was our week-long trip to Camp Wilderness near Akley, MN. Four scouts attended, and a total of 8 merit badges were earned. Our patrol participated in rifle and shotgun shooting, archery, swimming, pioneering, and even a pontoon ride.

In early August we had a weekend campout at Irma Lake in Marcell. We concentrated on our cooking skills, but still had time for canoeing, fishing, a presentation on forestry, and s'mores. The weather couldn't have been better and the bugs were barely noticeable.

With school just around the corner we're gearing up for fall, more camping and activities. 'Try out Scouts night' is coming up Aug. 26. We're putting on a Bike Rodeo at 6:00 at the Itasca fairgrounds. Anyone interested in joining Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts, bring a bike and helmet for some fun, games and information. Contact Jason at 715-816-0088, with questions.

Jason Langenecker, Scoutmaster

## Dorothy's Delight (The dessert that was mentioned at Dorothy Church's Memorial Service)

**Crust:** 1 cup flour, 1/2 cup butter (room temp.), 1 cup chopped pecans. Mix together until crumbly. Press into 9x13 pan. Bake 15 minutes at 350. Cool completely.

**Next Layer:** 1 8-oz cream cheese (softened), 1 cup powdered sugar. Mix together and add 1/2 large container of whipped topping (thawed). Pour over cool crust.

**Next Layer:** 1 large pkg instant chocolate pudding, 1 large pkg vanilla instant pudding, 3 cups cold milk. Beat together and pour over cream cheese layer. Put remaining whipped topping over pudding layer. Sprinkle with chopped up chocolate bar.