

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

June 1	Acts 16:16-34 Revelations 22:12-21 John 17:20-26
June 8	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17
June 15	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
June 22	1 Kings 19:1-15a Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39
June 29	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62

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 Text: 218-256-8250

secretary@umcgrmn.org

Website: www.umcgrmn.org



<https://www.youtube.com/c/GRUMC>



If you wish to send a donation,
please scan the QR Code.
Thank you!



June 2025

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



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

June 2025



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

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
Louis Baumel

Office Hours
Jodi:
M-F, 9am-3pm

Pastor Jim:
M-F, 9am-Noon &
By appointment

Louie:
Mondays - and as
needed for special
events

UNITED WAY DAY OF ACTION: TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025 – 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Lending a hand for a few hours or a full day gives you the opportunity to be part of “building a stronger, more connected community for everyone!” This year’s project will be in Cohasset. There are several different projects such as enhancing Portage Park & Tioga Beach areas, beautifying trails, painting, landscaping, sprucing up public spaces and helping local residents with minor home repairs. Consider joining in to make a difference! Be a part of “neighbors helping neighbors”! Several UMC volunteers are already registered. We will be partnering with First Lutheran church, our team name will be Churches United. Pastor Jim or Jim Brown can answer questions. You can register at: uwlakes.org/day-of-action or call 218-999-7570.

5TH SUNDAY MISSION DONATION BASKET: The Mission Committee will be serving during Fellowship on June 29. One of the directions for Missions from the Conference is to be connected with a school. It makes sense to check in with our very own preschool yearly to see if there are needs outside of their budget. Donations will be going toward the purchase of a new quality classroom rug for Ready Set Grow. The carpet was purchased in 1977 with a 5 year warranty. The backing is cracking and crumbling off.

SHARON’S FREE WIG CLOSET: Two to three guests have come into the Wig Closet this month. 12-15 women have come to the Wig Closet since January 1. Sharon is frequently told that they didn’t know anything about the Closet. Because of Sharon’s own cancer, she is able to identify and reassure the guests. Please share the information wherever you can.

GRACE HOUSE: The Grand Opening Celebration for the newly remodeled homeless shelter was May 8. It was a wonderful ceremony with several speakers and tours. Eric Grumdahl, Dept. of Human Service Commissioner and Stephanie Martin, DHS Shelter Capital Grants Manager came from the State Department to speak. They were both extremely impressed with this project. If you weren’t able to join us, please consider stopping in to visit. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Jessica at 218-326-2790 to get on her call list.

OPEN DOOR COAT RACK: We are planning to take a full inventory during the summer. Due to very minimal clearance coats, we will very likely need to purchase coats especially sizes 10/12 to 18. Our focus is having coats available for children 0-18. Lisa Randall has recently sent a grant request to LCP and will also be requesting grant \$ from Essentia in July. As your spring cleaning takes place, we would appreciate it if you would be able to hold any gently used winter wear that you are donating to the Coat Rack until mid September.



OK, so now we had snow up until Holy Week (and Easter was just about as late as it can be). Then we set two new highs for late April/early May – and now – May 18th, we had almost a hard freeze. Welcome to spring in Northern Minnesota! My wife, Jodel and I really enjoy gardening.

Yet, with weather such as it is – it's hard to get into the garden any time before Memorial Day weekend. Some of our friends don't plant until Father's Day. However, that makes for a pretty short growing season. Now I don't know about you, but I've got to get into the dirt!

So much of gardening ties into my faith & theology. To begin with, just working in the dirt and being physically connected and interacting with God's creation is renewing for my mental and spiritual health. But here are three aspects of gardening that are touchstones of my relationship with God.

The seeds. All potential within just a little seed is amazing! Left by itself – nothing. But if you place it in the nurturing and nutrient rich soil, it becomes something completely new. It doesn't even look like it's old self! Scripture tells us that we become a new being in Christ. "The old is passed away. The new is come." When we place ourselves within the loving, nurturing, and blessing richness of a relationship with Christ we become a fully new person! Rooted firmly in a relationship with God we "Grow toward the light of Christ". As the growing plant looks nothing like the seed, so our new self takes on a whole new "Look" of Abundant Life! The potential of the seed begins to release itself into a living plant. In like manner, the potential of oneself releases in the nurture of God's love and we begin to see new life in ourselves.

As with a plant, Jesus tells us that our purpose is to "bear Fruit". Nothing like picking ripe tomatoes from a garden! All the vitamins and nutrition of the plants are in its fruit! As we grow in Christ, we bear the fruit of Love and Justice, of Holiness and God's Righteousness. All the basic "Building blocks" of the Kingdom of God are there within our lives as we bear the fruit of the Risen Christ within us! But if the fruit just hangs on the plant it will rot. We need to allow God to use us and the fruit of our lives for the work of God's purposes in the world. But look again in the fruit...seeds! It's not about us. The potential for the future of the movement of God through Jesus the Christ is there in the fruit we bear. It goes past, beyond our lives. Remember back when we celebrated burning the church's mortgage? On that Sunday we spoke of those who came before us and how what we were doing was only possible because of what God had done in the lives of faithful folks before us. Then we spoke on how that day was also very much about our future – the generations following Christ after us. The seeds in fruit are the future. As we open ourselves to the nurturing power of resurrection, our "fruit" carries the seeds of possibility for the new things God will be doing in both our future and the future which extends beyond our lives. Weeds!

Oy, the bane of gardening. To have a productive and healthy garden you need to keep the weeds out. How true in our lives also. Weeds are the sin, brokenness, destructive habits & choices we make. The worst choice you can make about weeding is letting it go. The best and easiest way to weed is to get after it each day. Then there are fewer weeds, and they're not establish well in the soil and pull out with the least amount of effort. The same is true in our lives. In dealing with "un fun" stuff we all find ourselves procrastinating. We need to daily confess ourselves to God, addressing our sin and brokenness. In daily availing ourselves to God's forgiveness we don't allow sin to gain much of a foothold in our lives and we will find it much easier to overcome it.

As we move into this season of summer and gardening, may you discover and/or avail yourself more and more of God's nurturing presence. May you bear the fruit of resurrection and experience new life in Jesus, the Christ. And may you see the old self, giving way to new growth and new life in the Spirit of the Living God!

Be God's, Pastor Jim



April 2025 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	24,964	20,257	4,707
YTD - 2025	116,865	96,816	20,049
			-
Monthly average - 2025	25,821	24,204	1,617

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is 22,745. 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: The ABUNDANCE TABLE IS BACK!

The generosity of produce for the abundance table last year was awesome. We will once again have that available outside of the fellowship hall. A donation container will be there - give what you can and we will put it towards the general fund. Thanks everyone, The Finance Committee.



A Message From Our Lay Leader ~ HOPE: Having Only Positive Expectations

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:24

It could be easy in today's times, for one to be so earthly busy, we've forgotten our heavenly views. When worldly flesh begins to form, just a bit here— then more there, until thoughts and actions and deeds are consumed far more than God's desires are. These times, HOPE may be put on the back burner because the NOW is ever pressing.

Yet, Isaiah 40:31 reminds us; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

To renew our strengths, we must remember to renew our faith— to give time, not a moment here or a blip there, but true time with our Lord, in prayer, in reflection, in His word, in His presence! I believe a HOPEful attitude, is an attitude full of all God's promises. As God sees, we begin to see. . .the best in others, we share the good things and spread the positives around us.

It is my HOPE for each and all of us to ponder what 1 Thessalonians 2:19 asks; for what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

Having Only Positive Expectations with God, even gets one through the valleys. As the lyrics of one of my favorite songs says; We may not know what tomorrow brings, but we know Who brings tomorrow! Our Lord, the I Am of the beginning to this very moment through forever- He was, He is!

It is within this faith family that HOPE abounds— you are 1 Peter 1:8-9; And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, BUT believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your lives.

May your HOPE be contagious and infectious in and throughout our community.

In the Love & Joys & Hopes of our Lord,

Teresa



Youth News!



It's been a great program year for our youth group! We've welcomed 4 new youth from beyond our church family and accomplished a lot of events, programs, and had really good meetings! We must acknowledge our great leadership that is heading off for college next Fall: Kat Trest and Bree Bradshaw have been solid participants since their sophomore year and their leadership over the past two years has helped build and strengthen our Youth Ministry's program!! Thank you, Kat & Bree!! This means we have a lot of young talent in our youth group and new leaders are beginning to emerge – that's exciting!!



Our biggest event on the horizon is our Magical Mystery Tour that starts Sunday, July 6th, at noon. We'll be gone until Friday, July 11th. A Mystery Tour is when you're told what to pack and what you'll need on the adventure – and when you get on the bus, the itinerary will be given to your parents!

On the morning of each day on the trip, you'll be told what things that you packed and brought with you that you'll need! (That's why it's a mystery!) But you can pretty much count on a couple half days of mission work and lots of new adventures, like rock climbing, hiking, visiting new places, high ropes course, tubing down a river. Not saying' that's what we're doin'. These are some of the types of things that have been done before. We'll be staying in United Methodist churches, and we'll never leave Minnesota – but last Mystery Tour, we put on over 1200 miles in the week! As we get closer, you'll be receiving more information.

Also, be looking for a Youth Rally experience toward the end of Summer where ALL 7th through 12th graders in the congregation and their parents come together to discuss, brainstorm, and plan about the upcoming year. By then we'll have added our new Family Ministry Coordinator on church staff!!

Chaperones Needed!

This Summer, the Youth Group is off on a Magical Mystery Tour!! If you want to know what that is, read the Youth Fellowship Update. On that trip we will need two chaperones – one male and one female. After reading about what a Mystery Tour is, and that sounds fun to you, we'd love to have you along!! Please contact Pastor Jim if you're interested!

Getting to know..... The Selliers Family

"We are the Selliers family. We moved to Grand Rapids almost 3 years ago from MT to be closer to family and back in the state of MN. Mackenzie grew up in the Twin Cities and Cole grew up in IL. We met in the summer of 2016 while working at Red Willow Bible Camp in ND. We later married on May 17th, 2019. Our first year of marriage we lived, worked and traveled in an RV along the East Coast. When COVID-19 began, Mackenzie lost her job and we needed to adjust our plans. So we moved to MT for a few years.

Cole works developing finance technology and Mackenzie is a physical therapist. Our beautiful daughter Audrey was born in December of 2023. She is 17 months old now and keeps us very busy. We love spending time outdoors at the lake, hiking, camping and being with our dogs.



We had been looking for a church home on and off since moving here, so thank you for being so welcoming to our family! And a special thank you to the Buchacker's for personally inviting us to church!"

Update from Boy Scout Troop 4041

Our Adopt a Highway cleanup got rained out, we rescheduled for later in May. We completed a service project stacking split firewood for a family in need in the area. Moved almost two full cords.

Our fishing opener weekend was a success, our troop coordinated with the Cub Scout pack on a canoe demonstration and paddling skills. Most of us caught some fish and a bit of sunburn. We cooked pudgie pies over the campfire and enjoyed the sunny weather.

We're heading to the Spring Camporee soon. The theme is Pioneering Days. We have been practicing our knots and rope work. We have one of our scouts working on his cooking requirements for his rank advancement and gearing up for the dessert competition. Wish us luck for a repeat championship. Sincerely, Troop 41



Rhubarb Festival

New Date!

Sunday, June 8 following the worship service.

If you know people who are looking for a church, this would be a great day to invite them.



SIGN UP TO:

DONATE RHUBARB: Please wash, remove leaves, wrap in plastic and bring to the church refrigerator.

CHOP RHUBARB: Friday, June 6 at 10:00 a.m. If you have a favorite knife, bring it!

MAKE PIE: Saturday, June 7 at 9:00 a.m. Mix up rhubarb custard and roll crust.

Enjoy fun fellowship in the church kitchen!

Summer Adventure Photos

As you enjoy special activities this summer, remember to take photos. Then send one to secretary@umcgrmn.org we would love to see you up on our church screen! Include your name and a few words about the activity.



CHURCH SUMMER PICNIC: JULY 13TH AT VETERAN'S PARK

Save the date on your calendar.



**In Appreciation of Your Gifts to the
UMCGR Endowment Fund
For the Memorial Day Remembrance of
Your Loved Ones
You are Invited to the
Fellowship Time/Rhubarb Festival
June 8, 2025.**



**We will honor those who have been
remembered by reading their names out loud.**

Graduation Sunday is June 1st!

Celebrate with our High School and College Graduates following the Service with cake in the Fellowship Hall.



Fireside Readers.

The Fireside Book Club will be meeting on Monday, June 23rd at 6:30. This month we are reading "The German Wife" by Kelly Rimmer. This has been a very popular book for quite a while. Please join us if you love to read like we do.





JUNE



- 1 Avery Camilli
- 2 Beth Bloom
- 3 Janine Wagner
- 4 Carol Kerr
- 4 Shelly Broberg
- 4 Nolan Green
- 6 Harriet Lucia
- 6 Felicia Elde
- 7 Darla Kirwin
- 9 Alana Holmstrom
- 13 Tony Larson
- 14 Rhoda Flinck
- 16 Steve Zimmer
- 17 Bonnie Larson
- 19 John Benzie
- 20 Joseph Spooner

- 20 Willie Nuorala
- 22 June Schmitz
- 23 Addison Linder
- 23 Lucy Epema
- 24 Sandy Verry
- 24 Jodel Crecelius
- 26 Brenda Brown
- 26 Patty Sawdey
- 27 Stephanie Zimmer
- 27 Mary Hanson
- 28 Ronald Williams
- 29 James Crecelius
- 29 Oliver Meyer
- 30 Mariah Linder
- 30 Dan Hess

- 7 Ellen & Sandy Verry
- 12 Nancy & Dennis O'Toole
- 12 Marie & Dan Duffy
- 12 Marc & Heather Smith
- 13 Dewayne & Virginia Loop
- 15 Dennis & Irene Drieman
- 22 Julia & Chuck Brewster
- 22 David & Nancy Tank
- 23 Jarod & Jen Lund
- 25 Sean & Emilie Duffney
- 30 Lisa & Mike Randall
- 30 Jim & Jodel Crecelius



Church Rummage Sale: July 23-24

Set-up & Drop-off:

Sunday July 20 after church - July 22



Clean-up July 25.

NO ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE JULY 20th!!

No: electronics, old TVs, clothing, shoes, big (heavy) items (furniture) unless you plan on taking it back if it doesn't sell (leave your phone number), things so worn down we have to throw it away. Pictures should be taken out of picture frames.



Coordinator:

Alice Anderson & Faye Mostoller

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

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Chuck Becker | Barb Green |
| Marilyn Hutchins | Pat Kutzorik |
| Julia Statsman | Ellen Verry |
| Rebecca Nellis | Roni Skoglund |
| Patty Sawdey | Judy Reddish |

Funeral Coordinator:

We are seeking a Funeral Coordinator to assist with funerals held at UMCGR when Funeral Home Staff are not present at the church. **This will be a contracted/as needed position paid for by the family.** Requirement: Incumbent must be capable of sending and receiving emails and text messages. If you would like more information or are interested in the position, please reach out to Skip Drake, Pastor Jim, or Jodi in the office.

Thank you to everyone that helped with, donated items to, purchased items from, or participated in the 2nd Annual plant Sale in ANY Way!!! A HUGE Shout Out to Mary Hanson for all of her hard work to make the sale a success!!

