

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Sept. 7	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Philem 1-21 Luke 14:25-33
Sept. 14	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10
Sept. 21	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
Sept. 28	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31
Oct. 5	Lamentations 1:1-6 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10

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.

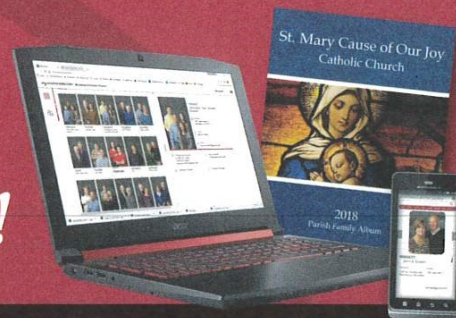
Thank you!



September 2025

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

Dear Church family, It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



Please be included in our New Pictorial Directory! It won't be the same without YOU!

Our Photo Dates are: Thursday - Saturday, September 11 – 13 (Th & F 2-8:30pm, Sa 10am-4pm)

Schedule your photography appointment online! Just scan the QR code to the right → → →

Or - go to www.ucdir.com & click the "Photography Session Sign-Up" button.

The "Church Code" is **mn534** The "Church Password" is **photos** (both are lower case)

Online signup may not be available on Saturday & Sunday so we will have paper sign-ups at church on Sundays.

You will receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free copy of our Directory just for coming in for a portrait!

Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule soon to get the best time that works for you!





The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

September 2025



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

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

MISSIONS

GRACE House: Thanks to everyone who joined us at the annual GRACE House breakfast. 119 people attended and many of them were from UMC!!

STUFF THE BUS – UNITED WAY: Once again the Backpack program donations have been a huge success. We have 2 overflowing grocery carts with school supplies that were delivered to the event at the arena. We also donated a check in the amount of \$1000 to be used for needed supplies. All backpacks that are not given out at the August event are taken to the schools. Molly Hikappa at UW shared with Kay that there never are enough supplies!

Thank you also to the 13 volunteers from UMC who worked at the Packing Event! A great time was had by all!!

COMMUNITY CONNECT: The event will be held on September 18 at the Arena. We will be cooking on Wednesday 9/17 from 9:00 – 12:00 and serving chili on 9/18. If you are interested in volunteering, this is an excellent one day event. Please contact Kay Klingman, rkklinger@gmail.com to join us.

SHARON'S WIG CLOSET: Last month Sharon shared information about the Wig Closet. Below is the remainder of her email to Kay. Thank you to Sharon for this wonderful outreach to our community!!

Beneficiary Demographics

The closet serves a diverse audience:

- Individuals undergoing chemotherapy or other medical treatments leading to hair loss.
- People with alopecia or other medical conditions.

Feedback from recipients consistently speaks to the life-changing confidence a wig can provide. Several individuals have noted that receiving a wig at no cost removed a major barrier to attending social events, going to work, or simply looking in the mirror with dignity.

Managing the closet requires ongoing attention to stock levels and variety. Recent donations from local businesses have allowed for a wider array of styles and colors, and donations from clients.

Sharon's Free Wig Closet has become an essential resource for many—restoring dignity, supporting creative expression, and fostering inclusivity. While challenges exist, the commitment of volunteers, the generosity of donors, and the gratitude of recipients fuel a sense of shared purpose. By continuing to adapt and grow, the closet is well-positioned to deepen its impact and serve even more people in the years ahead.

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!



Zephaniah 3:17 (WEB)

*Yahweh, your God, is in the midst of you, a mighty one who will save.
He will rejoice over you with joy. He will calm you in his love.
He will rejoice over you with singing.*

I have a deep affinity for the prophets. I hear so much of the gospel in their sayings and teachings. Especially the prophets of the 8th century. Now, Zephaniah was a prophet in the 7th century, but that means he would have been acquainted with the writings of the 8th century prophets such as Isaiah, Amos, Micah, Hosea and the like. I hear a significant resonance in this verse from Zephaniah with those from the 8th century.

It's the end of Summer - actually, it will be September when you read this. I hope you've had at least a chance or two to enjoy time with friends and family, maybe relax a bit. There's much, much to look forward to in the coming season, but with Fall there can be a sense of calendars too full, lives too busy, and a feeling of more pressure to accomplish and/or achieve. As we go into this season, I offer the faithfulness and foundation-giving promises of this verse.

Let's first look at the warmth and abiding grace of the promise of God that Zephaniah writes here. Right away is the declaration that God is with us. "Yahweh, your God, is in the midst of you,". Zephaniah isn't writing to one specific individual; he's writing to the people of Israel. That includes each individual and the whole collective of people who are Israel. God is not some far off divine presence. God is in the very midst of us; present, in *this* world (that God so loves), at *this* very time. And God is a "mighty" God who rescues ("saves"). We are not left to the brokenness and destructiveness of ourselves and of the ways of the world – we are rescued!!

The next sentence (promise) is God's feelings toward God's people: God rejoices over us. According to the Oxford dictionary, "Rejoice" is defined, "Feel or show great joy or delight." God feels *great* joy for and takes delight in you! This is a truth you can lean into on days of frustration or days that don't go as hoped and you feel defeated.

What a promise of grace is expressed in the next sentence (promise). "God will calm you in his love." It doesn't get much better than that: in a season of pressure and angst, of too many commitments and schedules too full; we can be calmed by the truth that God's unlimited, unconditional love – as scripture tells us – can not be separated from us! (Romans 8:39). That love is something we can lean on as well as lean into. Amid the cacophony, confusion and distractions of what can be a toxic culture, we can breathe a bit slower, think a bit quieter, move with a bit more purpose knowing the truth of God's steadfast love, that as the psalmist says, "...endures forever." (Psalm 136).

God's rejoicing actually invokes melody! The next promise is God rejoices over you, us, each and all – with singing! This joy God finds in you isn't just a little warm feeling, it is a deep and abiding joy! You make God's heart sing!! (I know you've heard me say that more than once in my preaching). Allow that truth (promise) to fill you with rejoicing yourself!

Now, why have I continued to put the word promise in parenthesis throughout this column? Because the word "will" is used in every sentence! It doesn't say "God might", or "God most likely", or "God could", or "if your good enough then...". It says, "God will". And God is faithful! God *will* rescue (save) us. God *will* rejoice. God *will* calm. God *will* sing. Just as God has and just as God does!! (for God always has, is, and will be...God!) As we move into this exciting season of Fall, with all it's wonderful experiences and opportunities – it may get the best of us at times and seem overwhelming. Let us live in the promise of God's abiding joy and calming love.

Be God's, Pastor Jim

**The Church Office Will Be Closed
on Labor Day, Monday, September 1st**

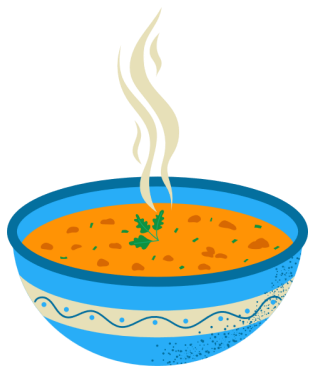


Gather the Family Sunday ~ September 28th!

On Sunday, September 28th, we'll enjoy our Second Annual Gather the Family Sunday! This event celebrates the entire UMCGR family! We're looking to have as many members (from our youngest newborn/baby faces to our "most seasoned" members) of our faith family as possible to come together in worship and praise and enjoy a special fellowship time following service enjoying lunch together! There'll be games in the yard & in the building, surprises, and more!

As we continue to grow and see more faces in our faith family, this is an important opportunity to be present and a part of a vital congregation!

(And a great opportunity to bring a friend!!)



We'll Gather in the Fellowship Hall
Following the Service for a
Fall Themed Lunch of:
Chili, Soup, & Pumpkin Pie



Pancake Breakfast ~ October 5th, During Fellowship Time.

TO OUR CONGREGATION

Hello Friends,

We are excited to share that we are working to **revive a much-loved tradition** from years past—the **Pancake Breakfast hosted by UMCGR**. For many years, before Covid closed the doors to the world, this gathering was always more than just a meal; it was a time of fellowship, laughter, and connection that reached far beyond the walls of the church.

As we bring this tradition back to life, we see it not only as a great way to gather with neighbors and friends, but also as a meaningful way to help support the Missions and Ministries of our church that make a difference in our community and beyond.

To make this possible, we need dedicated hands-on-deck during these events—people with a heart for service and community who are willing to step into this tradition as many were before us. As this event grows, we can create a *rotation list* like we have with other opportunities offered to each of us. Whether through serving, cleaning up, welcoming guests, or simply being present, your involvement will help ensure this tradition flourishes once again.

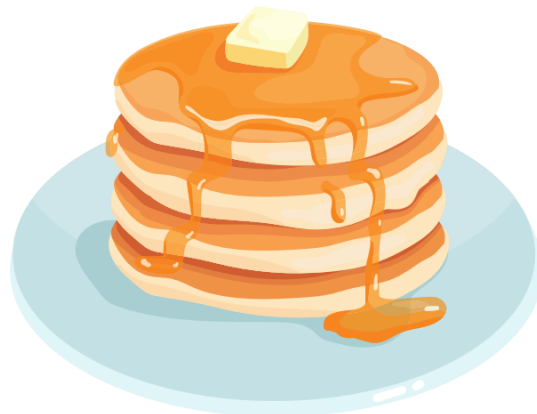
If you would like to be part of this valued tradition, we extend the invitation to you. This is an opportunity not only to share a meal together, but to create lasting memories with our families and friends while re-igniting a tradition that many still hold close to their hearts today.

The kiddos are encouraged to help, too.

Date to launch is October 5th, 2025

Please contact Sean Duffney with any questions.

A Sign-up sheet to help is available in the Narthex.





July 2025 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	15,092	19,447	(4,355)
YTD - 2025	169,395	164,281	5,114
			-
Monthly average - 2025	21,977	23,469	(1,492)

Our Advance monthly offering, Year to date, is \$35,345. 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:

Dan Duffy has made the decision to retire as the Treasure of UMCGR. We deeply thank Dan for his 17 years of volunteer service to our congregation. We are planning a retirement celebration for him in late fall, watch for details. Roni Skoglund is currently training with Dan to assume the Treasurer role; it has not yet been determined if this will be a temporary or permanent placement.



2026 Budget Information is due to the Finance Committee by November 1, 2025.

Membership Update – Church Photo Directory

Hello everyone,

You may have heard we are preparing a printed church directory. We are working with Universal Church Directories to have **professional photographs taken on September 11th, 12th and 13th (Thursday to Saturday)**. Please go online at <https://ucdir.com> to sign in. **Login is mn534 and password is photos**. You can also call the church office for help to schedule an appointment.



On photo session days, we ask you to arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment to fill out a sign in form and verify your church database contact information. People/families who are photographed will be mailed a free directory and a free 8x10 photograph. There are also options to purchase photos, these will be discussed after your photo session.

We are working on alternatives for those who cannot attend the above photo session dates and will keep you updated. You may also submit your own family photograph for directory inclusion, either by hard copy or by digital format. Vertical pictures are preferred to minimize adjusting pictures. Digital format is preferred; the directory company will not guarantee hard copy photographs will be returned. There **may be** a \$15 charge for photographs not taken by Universal Church Directories. We are working on ways to offset this cost, depending on the number of photographs submitted.

We hope everyone will participate in this opportunity to put names to faces in our church family!

Thank you, Roni Skoglund

Our Nominations Drive Starts on September 21st. ~ One Body ~ Many Parts

As we begin the new church year, our Nominating Committee will be looking for us as individuals to share the gifts we have been given to support our church family. Please prayerfully consider the list of volunteer opportunities below to see where you might serve as the hands and feet of Jesus within the life of our congregation.

Discovery Zone Leader (Sunday School)	Usher
Lay Reader	Greeter
Nursery Attendant	Tech/Media Team
Education Team	Fellowship Time Server
Trustees	SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations)
Outreach & Evangelism (coordinator & workers needed)	Membership Team
Congregational Care Team	Young Families Ministry Team
Youth Ministry Team (Adult Helpers)	Finance Committee
Music Ministry (Choir)	Communion (help serve)
Worship Committee (decorate for church seasons)	Mission Team
Hospitality Teams (Bi-Monthly teams to help with funerals or as needed)	

By sharing our Spiritual gifts and strengths, we become the physical presence within our church and communities. To “VOLUNTEER”, offer our time and service, talents and gifts we share in making our church’s existence whole. If you would like more information about these service opportunities, ask Pastor Jim or Dave Strock.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 12 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. . . . the human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.



Youth News!

It looks to be an exciting and fun year for our Youth Ministry! Last year was very successful and that momentum is something we can allow to launch us into this year! By the time you read this we will have met at Tioga Beach for our Youth Kick-off! We'll have talked through ideas and plans and possibilities for this year. We know that on Sept 7th we'll be headed to Duluth for a fun afternoon of shopping, eating, and sightseeing.



This year holds lock-Ins, meetings, trips, lessons on becoming followers of Jesus, ways to serve our neighbors and community, Youth Sunday(s) – notice the plural. Cook-outs, and lots more!! I want to be very intentional and direct in saying, “INVITE (Bring) YOUR FRIENDS”. We’ve seen great growth in our youth program through bringing friends! Who knows what all there is to accomplish and who all might become a part of us?!

Let’s make this year the best one yet!

FRIENDLY PHONERS

It’s time to review our Friendly Phoners list. Do you call someone from our church on a regular basis for a friendly chat? Would you like to be included on our list because it is difficult for you to attend church or other social events? Would you like to serve our congregation in this way and be assigned to call someone? Contact Nancy at 218-256-7711 (call or text) to make your wishes known.





September

6 Rebecca Nellis
9 Chad Statsman
10 Duane Heikkinen
14 Alex Sisco
16 Jim Ridley
17 Randy Kolka
17 Susan Hoolihan

18 Julia Brewster
18 Lori Staydohar
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
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:
Linda Maki & Mary Dewey

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

Sharon Borst	Sean Duffney
Duane & Peggy Heikkinen	Kay Klingman
Jan Rourk	Mary Tennison
John Vanina	Mary Kanian
Carlee Buchacker	Marion Mason

The Chosen ~ Bible Study ~ Season 3

The next session begins on September 4th at 5:30pm with dinner. No need to have attended the previous sessions. Invite friends to join



Fireside Readers:

The Fireside Readers will be meeting on Monday, September 22nd at 6:30pm. We will meet at the church and discuss the book "This Time Tomorrow" by Emma Straub. Please join us if you are interested in reading and discussing a variety of books monthly.



Update from Boy Scout Troop 41 ~ School is just around the corner...

Our troop went on a 15 mile bike ride along the Measbi trail one evening. Got to see the high water at the LaPrairie power dam and explore the gorge around the river.

Our troop had our summer Court of Honor to recognize our scouts' achievements. We awarded 23 merit badges, 3 activity patches, and two rank advancements. Congratulations to all for their hard work. After awards, our scouts held their annual elections. All scouts were elected to leadership positions. We encourage scouts to take responsibility for a specific aspect of our scouting program. We have a returning Senior Patrol leader, and a new Assistant Senior Patrol leader, Quartermaster, Instructor, Scribe, Outdoor Ethics Guide, Troop Guide, Den Chief and Chaplain's Aide. To cap off the night, we enjoyed root beer floats and camaraderie.

We had an overnight camp out and workday in August. One of our scouts is working on his Eagle Scout project. Building benches and constructing a prayer trail at Zion Lutheran church. The scouts built seven benches, grilled out and spent the night in tents. Planned installation and final construction planned for early September. Completion of all the requirements for the rank of Eagle includes planning, coordinating and executing a substantial service project. We're pretty proud of our scouts that take on the initiative and put the work needed into achieving their Eagle.

Thanks for your support of scouting in our community. Sincerely, Troop 41