

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

May 4	Acts 9:1-20 Revelations 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
May 11	Acts 9:36-43 Revelations 7:9-17 John 10:22-30
May 18	Acts 11:1-18 Revelations 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
May 25	Acts 16:9-15 Revelations 21:10, 21:22-22:5 John 14:23-29
June 1	Acts 16:16-34 Revelations 22:12-21 John 17:20-26

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>



May 2025

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



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

May 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

Sharon's Free Wig Closet:

A very special Thank You to the With These Hands group and other knitters who are knitting beanies for the guests. They are really appreciated. 12-15 women have come to the Wig Closet since January 1. Many of Sharon's guests have only heard about it by word of mouth. Please share the information wherever you can.

GRACE House: The Grand Opening Celebration for the newly remodeled homeless shelter is May 8. There will be a program at 1:00 PM and tours available until 3:00 pm. We have a new Administrative Assistant, Jessica Kujala. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Jessica at 218-326-2790 to get on her call list.

OPEN DOOR COAT RACK: A special thank you to Lisa Randall for continuing to write grants. In the past month, we have received checks from GRACF, VFW, American Legion and Our Redeemer Lutheran Ladies. We appreciate the grants and donations from local churches, organizations and individuals that help to make the Open Door Coat Rack successful. The goal of the committee is to be sure that all children have coats this year.

Second Harvest Northland: Thank you for your donations to the annual MARCH FOODSHARE MN CAMPAIGN. A check was sent or \$1682. Your donations are directed to the Grand Rapids Food Shelf but count for the annual donations match.

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!

Congregational Care & Hospitality



MOTHER'S DAY is May 11th. Please help us reach out to the shut-in mothers of our church family. Pick up a list at church so you can reach out with a card, a call, or a visit. You do not have to know the person, and you may contact as many as you wish. Remember, some day you may be in the same situation!

SAVE THIS DATE IN JUNE: RHUBARB FESTIVAL—JUNE 22

Plan to donate some of your rhubarb for pie and join your old and new friends after church for a delicious treat. It's a great day to invite new people too!

PHOTOS:

Have you ever sent a photo for the church emails and screen? If not, take out your phone and find a picture of yourself. It can include other family members if you wish. Email it to the church office, secretary@umcgrmn.org and include your name and a few words about the location or activity.



"God is faithful". A good thought to keep in your heart & mind. It's not always easy. I think of Israel in exile. I think of Abraham struggling to keep trusting in God's promise. I think of Jesus' own struggle in the garden.

So, I feel a bit embarrassed to whine about the length of winter. Today, as I write this, there are only 11 days of April left and for the 4th week in a row snow is in the forecast. In some places, in our "neck of the woods" of Northeast Minnesota, up to 5 inches are being forecast. It seems winter simply will not go away. "When will this dark time pass?"

But then I remember Easter! "...While it was still dark." When Mary comes to the tomb, Resurrection has already happened! In the "nights", in the darkness, in the storms of our lives, God is *already* doing the work of Resurrection! Yes, there's snow forecast - but where I cannot see, Spring is already happening! Birds are returning to our feeders, seeds are beginning to spout, Sap is already flowing. (My friends who tap trees have been quite busy in the past weeks). While my attention might be drawn to the cold and flakes of snow, the truth of the coming season *has already* begun and *is* happening.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding..." (Proverbs 3:5). In the times when God seems distant or not attending to your prayers...Remember the unseen resurrection activity that has happened and is happening in your life and in the world. Let's not "lean on our own understandings". What we know is limited for we are limited. I can't see past the horizon of my experience but God is already about the work of reconciliation, renewal, and resurrection! "Easter", God's redemptive work already has and continues to break forth! Like Mary, we need to run and catch up with it! One of the joys of following and living with Jesus is the invitation Christ gives to you & I, and each & all to participate in this redemptive movement!!

We, the Church, ***(not the institution - but the Movement of God's work of Mercy and Justice done by those who seek to follow the Way of Jesus and claim Him to be Christ of their lives)*** are the Easter People! We can, through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, live, act, serve, and witness to the work of God's transforming action in the world. In fact, I believe Christ is counting on the Church! What transformation might we see in the world if the Church would live into the Easter promise of Renewal, Reconciliation, Redemption, and Living in New Ways of Grace and Justice with Humility?!

Sometimes the dark moments, the storms of our lives, the chaos of violence and hate, and the times when "winterish seasons" refuse to let go of our lives – can seem to overwhelm and out last us. But the Truth is...***God Is Faithful*** and ***Easter Has Happened*** and ***Christ is Risen***....indeed!!

Be God's, Pastor Jim

Easter Sanctuary!



While Lent is "stark" and "spare", Easter -in contrast – is Full and Abundant!! The decorations in the sanctuary (and beyond) are full of color and symbols of New Life and Rebirth! All through the worship space are declarations of celebration and praise! While White and Gold are the foundational colors of the Eastertide, it's important to add the full liturgical "pallet" of color: purple (Lent), blue (Epiphany), red (Pentecost) also orange and yellow (the colors of the Pentecostal flame). It spills out into the Narthex to remind us that God's love is "more than can be contained". Thanks to all the little church mice who helped get the church ready for Easter and the season of Eastertide!



March 2025 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	27,894	24,450	3,444
YTD - 2025	64,536	76,214	(11,678)
			-
Monthly average - 2025	25,692	25,405	287

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is \$21,745. 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.

UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS

Thank you to all who donated to the Endowment Fund on the Fifth Sunday of the March, continuing the practice of the Fifth Sunday Special Offering that we had for the previous three years. At the Church Conference in January the Endowment Committee presented the plan to change from the Fifth Sunday emphasis to lifting up this Fund twice a year: Memorial Day Sunday in May and All Saints Sunday the first Sunday of November.



In May you will be receiving a letter reporting news about how much has been received to be added to the principal and telling how the distribution is being used for this year. We are truly blessed that some of our leaders who have gone before us have had the insight to start this fund.

Any time in the year is a good time to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has touched your life or in honor of a special event in someone’s life. As the principal grows, so will the amount that can be distributed each year.

Update from Boy Scout Troop 4041

Wishing all a happy Easter season.

Our three scouts had a good time at the Council Merit Badge day in Bemidji. Two got First Aid and one Chemistry merit badge.

We're still working on our scout skills in preparation for the Spring Camporee coming up in May. The theme is Pioneering Days. We have been practicing our knots and rope work. Built a tripod, and practiced our square and diagonal lashings. The challenge is to build a rope bridge, free standing flagpole, and a lookout tower for some intrepid scouts.

One important skill our new scouts went over was the proper and safe use of our axes, bow saws, knives, lanterns and gas stoves. Was a good opportunity to look over our equipment, clean it up and touch up anything that needed sharpening.

We had a hike one evening with our Cub scout pack. Took note of the slowly approaching springtime. Watched the swans and geese in the marsh and even found a deer tick.

There are seven scouts signed up for our Summer camp, biggest crew in recent years.

Our roadside cleanup is scheduled for May also a canoe trip shakedown for the season.

Sincerely, The Troop 41 Committee

2nd Annual Outdoor Plant Sale ~ Update

Wednesday, May 28th~Outdoors. May 29th, Clearance Day/Indoors



Dear United Methodist of Grand Rapids Congregation, Friends and Families, I am writing to you to say 5 Things:

- 1) "Thank you for your participation in Our first United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids plant fundraiser, May of 2024, a huge success!"*
- 2) "Thank you for starting seeds in your homes for Our 2nd Annual Plant Fundraiser to be held Wednesday, May 28, 2025!"*
- 3) "Thank you, in advance, for all of your contributions of your time, Plant Fundraiser sign-up sheets will be available soon!"*
- 4) "Donations of perennials, indoor plants, outdoor plants, tree seedlings, planters, bird feeders, bird houses, yard and garden tools; will ALL be appreciated!"*
- 5) "Tell Everyone: Our Plant Sale begins 9am, Wednesday, May 28th and remaining sale items will be sold indoors on Thursday, May 29th." Please share the flyer enclosed in this newsletter.*

If you have any questions, regarding Our fundraiser, please text or call Miss Mary 218-259-9346

Sincerely, Mary Hanson

Youth News!

Great job on the Cinnamon Rolls, we made over \$400! **We want to give a big THANK YOU to our congregation for all your support!** We very much appreciate it! As we move toward the end of the year, there are still some important events coming up. In May are our two meetings: Wednesday the 7th & 21st. Confirmation in on Sunday, May 18th. Looking forward to the statements of faith these youth will be sharing! Graduation Sunday is June 1st. The Youth Group will be playing a major role in the service. In early Summer we'll be having our Horseback Riding event and a reminder that our Magical Missional Mystery Tour is set for July 6th through the 10th. Cost is \$250 per person (and yes, there are scholarships)



Serving and Building Up Our Children.

One of the pillars of any vital congregation is its intention and commitment to educating and teaching the faith in Jesus Christ, about God and God's love to their children. Every congregation is only one generation away from not existing.



Isn't it exciting to see such an increase in the number of children on Sunday mornings! We are so blessed! It is a great blessing and privilege. It is also a great responsibility God has given us! Teaching our children about Jesus and being his disciple is now ours to do for all these amazing little ones.

We are very much in need of more leaders for our Discovery Zone Ministry and Nursery Attendants on Sunday mornings. The lesson, craft & directions are all prepared for the Discovery Zone Leader. For the nursery we simply need adult supervision for the families who might have their children take advantage the nursery room.

News From The Office:

Clarification for the new Yoga 12-Step Program:

This program is designed for those in a 12-step program such as but limited to AA, NA, or Alanon. It is also open to anyone that has a friend, family member, or loved one that is part of a 12-step program or struggles with addiction of any kind (even if they are not in a recovery program). The group meets in the multi-purpose room on Thursdays from 1-2:15pm.

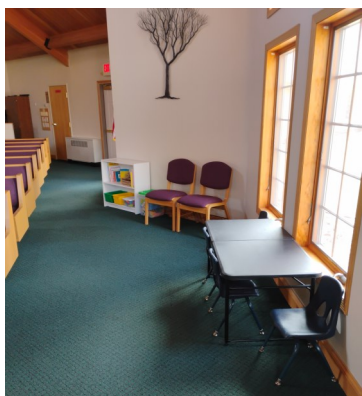


Office Coverage the week of May 19th:

Jodi will be taking time off the week of May 19th to care for her husband following a biopsy. Roni will be in the office the days Jodi is not working. The office will be closed on Friday, May 23rd and Monday, May 26th (Memorial Day Weekend). Please keep Jodi and her family in your prayers.

Church Cell Phone:

Please send a text message to Jodi at 218-256-8250 with your name. Doing so will indicate that you wish to receive text messages from the church. Certain group texts may be sent in the future.



Next Time You are in the Sanctuary, Look to Your Left!

We'd like to introduce you to a new "Pilot Project" (created with items already in our building): ***The Children's Nook!*** Here's a space for little ones to be engaged and stay in worship if a family wishes. At the windows on the left side of the sanctuary is a small table with children's chairs. There's also, a couple of adult/parent chairs and book shelves. On the table/shelves are crayons, coloring sheets, quiet toys, and some books. One set of parents shared, *"We love coming but I'd really like to hear a sermon"*. As always the nursery is available and we try our best to have an attendant.

Getting to know..... Dana and Judy Reddish

Judy was born in Grand Rapids, MN. Her maiden name was Bouchie and the family homestead was on Trout Lake Road. She moved to Alaska in 1972 and lived and worked there for 47 years. Judy had a career with the US Postal Service filling several positions such as a carrier, Labor Relations Representative and retired as a Postmaster.

Dana moved to Alaska in 2007. Before that his background starts in the town of Chatham, on Cape Cod, in Massachusetts. He is a direct descendant of William Nickerson who founded the town of Chatham. His father was in the Navy and that, along with Dana's positions with Transamerica Commercial Finance for 28 years, allowed Dana to travel and as a result Dana has actually lived in 11 different states. His career was in business management and included positions from a local Branch Manager to National Sales Manager to CEO/CFO.

Dana and Judy met in Alaska in 2012. They remained in Alaska until 2019 when they moved back to Grand Rapids. Dana was raised a Methodist and was looking for the right place to worship when he found "us" a little over a year ago (2024).

"Judy and I are so glad we found the United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN. We feel so welcome and comfortable and have met so many nice people. We look forward to continuing and building our relationship with God, the Church including Pastor Jim and the entire congregation."





3 Barb Green

4 David Watson

5 Nancy Grose

7 Dennis O'Toole

7 Nancy Tank

7 Marlene Zabel

9 Mary Ritter

10 Ardith Voehl

11 Bertha Hamilton

11 Madeline Larson

11 Faye Mostoller

12 June Johnson

13 Scott Hauser

13 Kathy Mahaffey

15 Harry Huffer

18 Jeanne Folsom

20 Bonnie Drake

20 Jane Gilbert

20 Tysen Lenzen

23 Scout Latvala

26 Lois Nelson

26 Lisa Randall

27 Heather Smith

30 Sandra Grina

30 Chuck Becker



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

Marilyn Hutchins

Julia Statsman

Rebecca Nellis

Patty Sawdey

Barb Green

Pat Kutzorik

Ellen Verry

Roni Skoglund

Judy Reddish

1 Dave & Marilyn Hutchins

1 Bob & Donna Schuder

2 Ron & Justine Williams

4 Ken & Carol Kerr

9 Jim & Cindy Ridley

17 Cole & Mackenzie Selliers

25 Bruce & Bonnie Larson

25 Jim & Gretchen Danielson

26 Kurt & Julie Werner

30 Pat & Joni Namyst



All Church Clean Up

Saturday, May 3rd, 9 AM

to 3 PM, lunch will be provided. Sign-up sheets on the information desk.

Fireside Readers.

The Fireside Readers will be meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 27th. Please note that this is the day after the regular meeting on the 4th Monday of the month. Monday is Memorial Day.

We will be reading and discussing the book "The Book of Charlie" by David Von Drahle.



MEMORIAL DAY



REMEMBER AND HONOR



Confirmation Sunday is May 18th!



We have 7 Confirmands they are; Kelsey Duffney, Ava Larson, Claire Larson, Randy Savich, Blaine Sawdey, Abigail Zimmer & Trevor Zimmer.

Congratulations and may God richly bless you as you continue your faith journey.

Graduation Sunday is June 1st!



High School Graduates: Your Scholarship

applications are due to the church office by May 5th.

Our Graduates are: Bree Bradshaw, Keira Trest, & Kelsie Zimmer. Congratulations Class of 2025!

College & High School Graduates: Your graduation pictures are due to the church office by May 15th to be included in the slideshow on Graduation Sunday.

The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids

1701 SE 5th Avenue, GR, MN 55744

2nd Annual Plant Plus More Sale

Wednesday, May 28th 9am - ?

Thursday, May 29th 9am - ? (remaining inventory - indoor sale)



Herbs, and Vegetables



Perennials & Trees



Indoor & Outdoor Plants

Handmade Outdoor Planters



Used Garden Tools and Lots MORE!



Got The Gardening "BUG"....

You never know what you will

find at our fundraiser!



The Plant Sale and MN Dept. of Agriculture Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) Quarantine.

If you live in the area in red below, please DO NOT donate saplings to the plant sale. If you donate other items please inspect them for eggs (a small brown mass the size of a quarter).

Please contact Miss Mary (218-259-9346) with any questions.

Thank you for your understanding and donations!

