

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

July 6	2 Kings 5:1-14 Galatians 6:1-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 13	Amos 7:7-17 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37
July 20	Amos 8:1-12 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42
July 27	Hosea 1:2-10 Colossians 2:6-19 Luke 11:1-13
Aug. 3	Hosea 11:1-11 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

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!



July 2025

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



"On The Go With
God"

United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids 2025 Vacation Bible Camp Registration

August 6, 2025, 9am – 3pm

Grades: PreK- 4th

(One form per child, please)

Child Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical Concerns: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Siblings: _____

Location: 1701 SE Fifth Ave., Grand Rapids MN 55744

PLEASE RETURN BY Friday, August 1, 2024

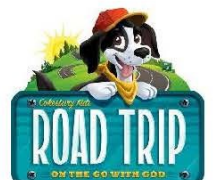
(You can email, US Mail, or drop off the form)

Preschoolers must be toilet trained to attend VBC.

Questions or concerns - Contact UMCGR at 218-327-2216 or secretary@umcgrmn.org



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN





The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

July 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 6/17/25: Thank you to Jim Brown who joined Dave and Pam Bloom to volunteer at the annual Day of Action in Cohasset.

FOSTER LOVE CLOSET: A special thank you to the quilters who put together 27 quilts for children. We delivered them on 6/17/25. Karen said that they will be probably be gone within 2 weeks. They have requested that we make some twin sized quilts for the older children Karen's staff told the quilters that it will be a true blessing for the elementary aged children.

GRACE House: May 1-June 15, 27 guests, including 8 children in 4 families were served.

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS! The 12th Annual Veterans' Ride for the Homeless will be held on July 27, 2025. The American Legion Riders Chapter #1, Deer River is the host and will lead this ride through northern Itasca. The Deer River Vets Club is a strong supporter of this event and will be the starting location. Additional sponsors are Lawrence Lake Liquors, Bovey and Super One Stores Grand Rapids. All motorcycle enthusiasts are welcome and encouraged to participate in this event.

Registration for this Motorcycle Ride starts at 11:00am at the Deer River Vets Club with the ride starting at noon. The \$20.00 entry fee/bike will be used to support GRACE House operations in fulfilling our mission. The ride will end at approximately 3pm at Lawrence Lake Liquor on Scenic Highway #7, Bovey with a light meal and conversation with riders and GRACE House staff. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Jessica at 218-326-2790 to get on her call list.

SAVE THE DATE: GRACE House ANNUAL BREAKFAST – AUGUST 2 @ VFW

STUFF THE BUS – UNITED WAY: We will be collecting school supplies for the annual United Way Backpack program. The collection period will be from July 14 through August 24. The supply list is being updated. We will have it at the Information Desk by July 14! There will be a 3 day packing event at the arena August 25-27. We hope to have a team to help pack on one of the days. More information in the August newsletter.

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!



Mid-Summer already! I hope your summer has its opportunities for family time, fun, vacation, and a chance or two to simply decompress. We're halfway through 2025. It's been a year of blessing for our UMCGR family – even as we've shared the loss of loved members of our congregation.

I thought it a good time to celebrate some blessings so far and look forward. Through this first half of the year we've seen a multitude of blessings! From fun gatherings like Lumberjack Sunday & Dippity Doings, to the growth in "The Chosen" Bible Study and more new faces in our Youth Fellowship, to increases in folks watching our Live-Stream/YouTube ministries to more and more young families joining and participating in the worship and life of the church. These are just some....there have certainly been more!

Looking ahead, there is Vacation Bible Camp on August 6th (we've seen increased attendance the past three years in a row). This Fall will see the addition of a Families Ministries Coordinator added to staff, an additional Bible Study on the book, "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton. Continuing "The Chosen" Bible study; we'll be up to season 3, and hopefully before the end of 2025 – the new playground outside the Fellowship Hall will have been built. Again, this is to name just some of what God is doing and completing amongst and through the membership of our faith family.

As we go forward as a faith family together, I'd like to put in our sights a threefold theme that was part of this year's Annual Conference: **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously**. I'll be introducing these themes starting in August and our worship through the fall: September through November will be focused on these emphasizes.

Loving Boldly is a call to be intentional and taking initiative toward extending and expressing God's love toward our neighbors and welcoming & including the stranger and sojourner amongst us. Where can we be offering and extending God's love in our community. What would it mean for The United Methodist Church family in Grand Rapids to be a presence of the unconditional and relentless love of God in our community? Who are the people(s) that are not included or are at the margins of the Grand Rapids area? Who needs to feel, see, and hear about God's grace? We are to boldly (Oxford dictionary defines as "confidently" and with "the willingness to take risks").

Serve Joyfully: It is a distinct blessing to serve our neighbor. Ask anyone of our members who have been on one of our mission trips! Talk to those of our members who have helped on one of the local Habitat 4 Humanity houses, or were a part of one of the United Way Day of Action. Listen to the experiences of those who volunteer and make happen our Open-Door Coat Rack. The theme that is consistent in their stories and their experiences is how much joy in brought into their life! Service is central to a life in grace and being Jesus' disciple. How are we building disciples who serve Christ by serving their neighbor? How do we intentionally infuse joy into the opportunities of serving through our missions and ministries?

Lead Courageously: The world is desperate for the leadership the church has to offer. In a world of violence, greed, war, poverty, hate, and increasing disrespect for and destruction of creation the church must courageously bring the voice of Christ, the dictates of the gospel, and live with the fire of the Holy Spirit. We must confront that in the world that is not of God, are antithetical to Christ's gospel, oppose the work of the Holy Spirit and the ways of Jesus! We are the people of The Way and we must demonstrate Jesus' way in deeds of Love and acts of Justice!

There is so much to be joyful of and to celebrate in the activity of Holy Spirit amongst us! There is so much to be excited about and look forward to in what God is building and creating through the missions and ministries of our congregation: The United Methodist church in Grand Rapids faith family! I'm looking forward to us all working together in the life of grace that is being a Jesus Follower!

Be God's, Pastor Jim

Confirmation Excerpts

People at Confirmation Sunday were much impressed with what the confirmands declared in their papers. With the permission of the confirmands, we'll be sharing the excerpts from their papers; one each month. These are excerpts from Abbie Zimmer's paper:

"Jesus is God's son, he is the Christ because he was the one chosen to die for our sins, and to bring hope, forgiveness, as well as eternal life to us. Being able to understand Jesus as the Christ affects how I view the world and encourages me to follow the example of Jesus and live a life of love, grace, and truth."

"The Holy Spirit is more than a feeling; it is a real and active part of God that helps guide us as believers. The Holy Spirit works in my life by reminding me to make good choices, be kind, have patience, and love all those around me."

"A sin is anything we do, say, or think that goes against God's will, and weakens the relationship between us and God."

"I understand that the Bible is God's words to us. It teaches us who God is, what he's done for us, and how we should live. The Bible is part of my life and impacts it daily because it gives me direction and inspires me to be the best I can in the Lord's eyes."

"The church as I believe is not a place, but it's people. It is the community that believes in God and Jesus Christ."

"The church works in a way to strengthen the relationship of the community's relationship with God and the individual. It is a place where you learn more about God and receive support from your fellow believers. The church is constantly encouraging me to grow and reminds me of God's purpose in my life."

"I will be a part of the church by being a more active member and living out my faith, as well as being there for others and supporting them in their journeys. I want to grow my relationship with God and Jesus and truly understand them the best I can. By confirming my baptismal vows I will work to bring myself and others close to God, and strive to be an example of his love, whether I do that by helping my family, friends, and community."



Family Ministry Coordinator Position:

As we continue to see more and more young families become a part of our church family and as our programs and ministries to families of all ages continue to expand, we're hiring a new position to our church staff: A Family Ministry Coordinator.

Purpose of Position: This position exists to provide for the spiritual growth and development of children, youth, and families of all configurations within the church and provide outreach growth for the Church to the Itasca County community. This position exists to understand and build upon the hopes, concerns and needs of the UMCGR families of all configurations to determine how the Church might serve and help them build and maintain a healthy and growing spiritual life. This position exists to lead, recruit, equip and build Church and community teams to meet the Mission, Vision and Values of the UMCGR.

The Coordinator will spend 50% of their time working with and building program for young families, 30% Assisting in building intergenerational spiritual family and community relationships between children, youth, and adults, and 20% assisting Pastor Jim in building program, curriculum, and activities with and for Youth Ministries.



May 2025 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	24,672	27,024	(2,352)
YTD - 2025	138,921	123,840	15,081
			-
Monthly average - 2025	27,784	24,768	3,016

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is 29,345. 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.

The ABUNDANCE TABLE IS BACK!

The Abundances Table is available outside of the fellowship hall. A donation container for the general fund is on the table; give what you can for the fresh produce you receive. Thank you!



From The Finance Committee:

It's hard to believe that we are half way through 2025. We will be emailing out the six months giving statements shortly after July 1st. If you do not receive the information, please let Jodi know at the office or let June know (218-244-9637) and we will get the information to you. We won't be sending any paper statements, only via email. The church rummage sale will be in July. What a good time to find new treasurers or clean out a few things you no longer want. Our church family always participates however they can and it is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for everything you do.

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

I have decided to rise each morning when our good Lord wakes me to spend time with Him. Since this decision, the song of the birds have been my “wake-up alarm” and trust me, if I think for a moment of snuggling into the covers, their song becomes a “joyful noise” (I truly think the squirrels join their choir).

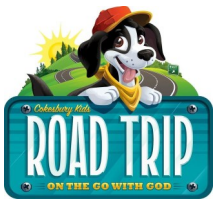
It's a humbling date to hear Creation singing to us, as the sun rises each day! Yes, even on the overcast cloudy drizzling mornings, there is light - And how I must smile in the early dawn knowing it's truly part of God's daily gift to us the **present**. As I walk in unexpected health journeys, I can always be assured of God's presence through His Creation, His Holy words, **His** promises and yes, His expectations of me.

God Has Only Positive Expectations of us - of you and me of each and all. . . Positive Expectations....the Bible is full of His HOPE in us which should emanate our HOPE in Him even during our hardest times. It is God's promises that enlightens my pathways, and I pray His promises are yours as in Romans 5.

Peace and Hope

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Blessings In the Love & Hope of our Savior, Teresa



Vacation Bible Camp - On The Go With God - Coming in August!

We're going on a road trip with God! Wednesday, August 6th, 9am-3pm for children PreK through 4th Grades. Preschoolers must be potty trained. Please fill out and return the registration form found in the newsletter.

Getting to know..... Weston, Emily, Otto & Oliver Meyer

Weston and Emily Meyer were married in Grand Rapids United Methodist Church by Marva Jean. Weston grew up in our church, the son of Rick and Lynn Meyer. They feel very much "at home" in our congregation and decided recently to have their boys baptized by Pastor Jim.

Emily says, "Right now is the busiest time of our lives!" She is a degree nurse and manager of the Women's Health and Birth Center at Grand Itasca. Weston works at Ponzi in LaPrairie servicing large logging equipment. Oliver, turning seven in June, is a second grader at West Elementary and Otto, who turns 3 in July, attends daycare at the YMCA.

The family lives north of Deer River where they have a large garden and love to snowmobile, ride 4-wheelers, go camping, fishing, and spend lots of time outdoors. They have a dog and two cats, and aspire to have chickens. They have a collection of vintage tractors and Oliver was actually named after Grandma Lynn's father's tractor.

We are thrilled to have these lively new kids and parents as part of our church family!



UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS

At the Minnesota Annual Conference gathering last month in St. Cloud, the theme was

Love Boldly

Lead Courageously

Serve Joyfully



During this Pentecost season of the liturgical year (which is about half of our calendar year) we focus on the work of the church in our community and the world. To carry out this work, we anchor ourselves in four Guiding Values.

- **Rooted in Jesus** The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."*
- **Inclusive of All Persons** The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*
- **Engaged in the Work of Justice and Redemption** The Great Proclamation (Luke 4:16-21) *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*
- **Grounded in Wesleyan Theology** The Great Requirement (Micah 6:8) *"What does the Lord require of us but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God."*

Your Finance Committee cares for the Umbrella Plan of how we as a church underwrite the implementation of these Guiding Values. The first is urging your regular gifts to the general fund through your weekly, monthly, or annual offering. The second is through giving to Special Purpose Funds for designated projects or programs. The third is through our Endowment Fund which invests your contributions to generate proceeds for years to come to implement new ways to live out our ministry.

Thank you for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness during this season of Pentecost. God bless you and your families as we live in the joy of summer. May we **Love Boldly, Lead Courageously, and Serve Joyfully!**



Annual Church Picnic - Sunday, July 13th at Veteran's Park following the service! Hot dogs, chips, watermelon, root beer floats. Free will offering for expenses.

Playground Progress:

Hi Playground Supporters!

Just wanted to get your attention to let you know that your playground committee is doing their best to get plans finalized and we really appreciate your excitement and your donations to the noisy offering each week! We will keep you posted!!



Fireside Readers:

The Fireside Readers will be meeting on Monday July 28th. We will be having our annual July potluck meal at 5:30 at the church. Then we will be discussing "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon.



We take a break the month of August and resume our 4th Monday get togethers in September.

Annual Rummage Sale

Set-up & Drop-off Begins: Sunday, July 20th after church

Drop-off & Set-up: Monday, July 21 - Tuesday, July 22 (9am-3pm)

Sale: Wednesday, July 24 - Thursday, July 25 (9am-4pm)

Clean-up: Friday, July 26 (9am until done)



SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE IN THE NARTHEX. 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.

Youth News!

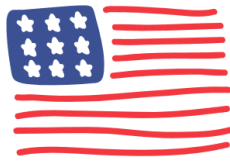
Looking to the end of Summer and the start of Fall, two big dates are: 1) Sunday, Aug. 24th and Sunday, Sept. 7th.

On Aug. 24th all families with youth from 6th grade to 12th are invited to a cook-out and swimming party at 4:30. Location is yet to be finalized. At that meeting we'll talk about the upcoming Youth Fellowship year and program, formally meet our new Family Ministry Coordinator, and discuss what the focus and opportunities of Youth Ministries might look like!

On Sunday, September 7th we're off to "A Day in Duluth". We'll head out at noon and spend the afternoon at the Sky Zone, spend time perusing Canal Park, have dinner at Grandma's and head back home – tired and tummies' full. Cost is \$50 per person.

Enjoy your summer and circle those dates on your calendars!!





4TH OF JULY



- 1 Mary Hill
- 3 Sandy Williams
- 6 Lisa Zimmer
- 7 Ethan Zimmer
- 7 Rachel Kortekaas
- 8 Carrie Zimmer
- 9 Carlee Buchacker
- 14 Otto Meyer
- 15 Ed Duke
- 17 Penny Melhus
- 17 Isabelle Danielson

- 18 Karen Andersen
- 20 Marie Duffy
- 20 Perry Bloom
- 21 Ashley Buell
- 21 Tashanna Martinetto
- 24 Ellen Verry
- 25 Jim Johnson
- 26 Robert Schuder
- 26 Clayton Stevens
- 28 Mike Randall
- 29 Barry Anderson
- 31 Mary Dewey

- 8 Ken & Pam Spangler
- 18 Randy & Teresa Savich
- 19 Susan & Kevin Hoolihan
- 23 Jon & Marion Mason



GRUMC Choir,

I would like to thank my choirmates for the lovely card and generous gift. I enjoy playing bass with y'all and plan continuing as long as I am able.

Love and Blessings to all!



Coordinator:
Bonnie Drake

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Julia Brewster | Jodel Crecelius |
| Janice Crandall | Irene Drieman |
| Joni Namyst | Lori Olson |
| Rae Stephens | Sandy Williams |
| Shari Tverberg | Emilie Duffney |
| Ashley Buell | Janessa Green |

Tuesday Summer Concert Series at UMCGR

Tuesday, August 12th

12:00 - 12:45 pm

followed by lunch for \$8

Northern Pines Trio: Harmonies Galore

Multi-genre, easy listening vocal trio featuring Marina White, Emily Slaughbaugh, and Amy Leigh Koivisto



Update from Boy Scout Troop 41

Welcome our new scouts. We had two Arrow of Light Scouts crossover to the Troop in early June. We welcomed Nathan and Perrin, glad to have you aboard!

Our scouts are headed to Summer Camp this month, looking forward to some good weather and fun experiences.

Congratulations to Abram Daigle, our Cubmaster from Pack 51, on receiving the District Order of Merit. The District Award of Merit is presented to Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature. Abe's leadership promoted scouting in the Grand Rapids area, fueled an increase in the membership of Pack 51 and enhanced the Scouting experience of those youth in the program. Through outdoor activities, day camps, responsible fun and adventure, Scouting instills in young people lifetime values, ethical character, self-confidence, citizenship, service and leadership skills. Congratulations Abe, on this outstanding achievement.

Sincerely, Troop 41