

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Aug. 3	Hosea 11:1-11 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21
Aug. 10	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40
Aug. 17	Isaiah 5:1-7 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56
Aug. 24	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17
Aug. 31	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14

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.

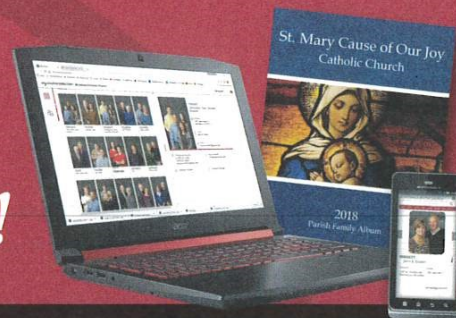
Thank you!



August 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

August 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



GRACE House: Join us for the ANNUAL BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER—

AUGUST 2 @ VFW from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Hashbrowns, Toast & Fruit will be served. Tickets are \$10.00 and prepurchase is encouraged. Tickets may be purchased at the shelter, VFW Club or AT THE DOOR. All proceeds benefit the Itasca Area Homeless Shelter. See Kay Klingman with any questions.

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 available at the Information Desk!

There will be a 3 day packing event at the arena August 25-27. **We will be taking a team to the packing event on Wednesday, August 27 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm.** We will be assisting children who will be picking up backpacks, inventorying supplies that are left and packaging the rest of the bags for delivery to the schools. **If you will be willing to volunteer, please contact Kay Klingman at 612-845-6649 asap.** Kay needs to let the United Way staff know how many volunteers will be available.

SHARON'S WIG CLOSET: The Free Wig Closet was envisioned as a safe, welcoming space where anyone facing hair loss or simply seeking the joy of self-transformation could access high-quality wigs without financial barriers. The closet stocks a range of styles, lengths, and colors to accommodate various preferences, gender expressions, and ages. It operates on the principle that hair is not just a cosmetic feature, but often a core component of identity, confidence, and dignity.

In the last year, the Free Wig Closet has distributed over 50 wigs to individuals in the community. The steady flow reflects a growing awareness of the program, as well as its responsiveness to both ongoing and emergent needs.

DONATIONS: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 5th Sunday offering for needed Preschool equipment. Donations were also made to Elder Circle – Transportation Funding and Boys & Girl's Club of Grand Rapids/Greenway.

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!

News From the Office:

Jodi will be out of the office August 4-15, Roni will be covering the office.

The office will be CLOSED Friday, August 8th.

Pastor Jim will be out of the office August 28-31.





This is the “center” or “middle” of Summer. As I write this there are as many weeks of summer break behind us as there are yet to be enjoyed ahead of us before the school/program year begins again. In these precious weeks, I hope you get a chance to spend important time with family and friends away from the usual pattern of your daily lives. Sneak away to “the lake” or “the cabin” or out of state and see a part of the country and nature you haven’t before.

The road back into my sisters’ resort in Canada from the Highway is about 5 miles long. I’ve driven on it going in or going out countless times. The last time I visited, I started walking from her resort about halfway back along that road and then turning around to head back to the resort. Before doing this walking, I might have said I knew that stretch of road pretty darn well. During my walks, however, I came to know it in a more intimate way and with a better appreciation of its beauty and challenge.

As I was about this exercise, I began to relate it to our lives in this world. The last 10th of a mile coming into Erin’s place is about a 6% grade hill: a good 4 -6 stories high (looking up from the bottom - and some days as your walking it - seems more like ten stories). As I would leave the property, that would be my start of the walk; up that hill. The road goes up and down as it winds its way back into the woods, I never really appreciated how “up and down” it is. It was a great road for exercise!

The trees and plants along the way go by pretty quickly when you drive. But walking along the road I was taken aback at just how beautiful the way really is. The beauty of the flowers blooming along the road. The majesty of the large pine trees reaching up into the sky on both sides of the road creating a little coniferous canyon that you walk along in the bottom of. And then, quite a few times, because I was not loudly driving by - but rather quietly walking, I would startle a deer or two.... or three! Once it was a big Buck, or foxes, once a hedgehog, once a porcupine.

This is not a “slow down and smell the roses” message. It is however an invitation to us, as it was a discovery for me, to not so determinedly move through my day that I miss the presence of the divine all around me. Do we see the presence of Christ in our co-workers on the job? Do we appreciate the blessing of family and take the time to talk and play together or is everyone in their own place in the house and/or absorbed into their own screen, or separated – away from each other due to work and sporting commitments? Do we regularly take the time and make space to connect with God and allow God to speak and awaken us to the possibilities of the gospel in each day or moment?

We are so fortunate where we are to live in such beauty. Make sure you pause often and be a bit overwhelmed by the majesty and beauty of the creation all around us. And walk! To tell you the truth it wasn’t always easy to get up the gumption to start down the road (especially looking up the big hill to begin the journey). But even that became a metaphor for me about asking God for strength and presence as I begin taking on an obstacle or overcoming an intimidating situation. And now, I rather look forward to daily walks - because I’m beginning to realize that I’ll always discover Christ astride with me, helping me see the world and people more through the eyes of grace.

When we move through each day at a more “Christ-tempered” gate, we will more often be delighted and surprised by the special experiences and moments that a less aware or more driven pace might scatter. Much like the deer, the buck, the foxes, the hedgehog, the porcupine all were for me on my daily hikes.

As the new program/school year begins, I invite us all to be intentional in our making room for God and God’s presence through each day. Who knows what we’ll discover? Who knows what surprises and new visions will come our way? God go with you and may Christ be astride your steps as you move through your days and God’s good creation.

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 Kelsey Duffney's paper:

God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He sent us his one and only son so we can be saved and forgiven of our sins. Jesus is the Binder of wounds, Companion of the lonely, Friend of the poor; He is the Messiah. Jesus is not only the Christ and Savior of our lives but also someone that is always there regardless of how we feel at that time.

I think some people forget that Jesus was a human just like we are. He was sent to this earth to save man from their sin and grant them eternal life. But only through him we will know his grace. I like to think about the saying that if you know God, you know peace, but if you have no God in your life, you have no peace.

The Holy Spirit helps me in my life by guiding me to do the right thing. And sin, sins are actions that draw you further from God. They cause us to lose track of what is important; and what the true reason we are placed on this earth for.

It is God's unconditional love for each and everyone of us. He offers us a new life through forgiveness and understanding. He teaches us to forgive our enemies; cause everyone is God's favorite person.

I understand the Bible as the Lord's guidance given to his people. It impacts my life by teaching me the ways of Jesus and how to live with him and for him. Demonstrating what we are capable of doing and becoming. The church isn't a church without it's people. You can say it's a 4 wall building with a roof, and although that may be true what makes up a church comes from within those walls. The many stories and testimonies within this building is what makes a church a church. The church's purpose is to change the lives of the people in it.

Church is a place for you to be with God, to talk to him. To feel all you need to feel with him, It's a place to let go if your burdens and give them to the Lord because he's there to carry all of them. "If God is all you have, you have all you need, (John 14:8)". Going forward I am honored to be walking in the path of Christ. Being a child of God and radiating the love he has shown to me back on to the others around me. Demonstrating there is good in everyone. Some people just need a little bit of encouragement and love to get on the right track, and telling them there is a man that saved me and many others and can save you too: his name is Jesus.



Youth News!

A shout out to any youth who want to be part of the leadership team for the kids at Vacation Bible Camp on Wednesday, Aug. 6th from 9 to 3. We could use some Junior Counselors in the classrooms and craft station, some Activities Assistant Coaches for the games, and a couple Jr. Guides helping Pastor Jim in the large gatherings.



On Aug. 24th all youth (7th through 12th) and their parents 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. We'll discuss what the focus and opportunities of our Youth Ministries might look like.

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



June 2025 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	28,171	21,334	6,837
YTD - 2025	151,374	144,833	6,541
			-
Monthly average - 2025	25,229	24,139	1,090

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. Here is a place where you can share your extra garden produce with others in the congregation. A donation container for the general fund is on the table; give what you can for the fresh produce you receive. All funds will go to the general fund of the church. Thank you!



A Message From Our Lay Leader ~ One Body with Many Parts

1 Corinthians 12: 4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. . . . 12: the human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

I’ve noticed in various communications, Jodi graciously acknowledges the volunteers that sign up and/or accepts a request to help in the many needs of our Faith Body’s Facility— we have Greeters and Bulletin folders, Fellowship Hosts/Hostess, Ushers and Readers, Elders, Missions, and so many more. Watching Each and Everyone participate in the love and servitude of our Lord, allows us to witness; 1 Corinthians 12 come to life! We are ONE body in Christ Jesus!! We each have so much to offer, even if it’s the littlest of talents, it becomes the biggest blessing!

Many opportunities are missed for the ones who may feel inadequate, insecure, to new or have not done it before, so why start now thoughts (I know- been there). There’s also the comfort of relying upon those “who have always done it” But then this does not fulfill the passages we read earlier. . .WE are the BODY!!!

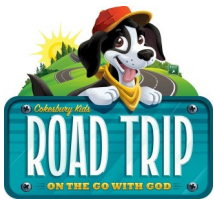
By sharing our Spiritual gifts and strengths, we become the physical presence within our church and communities. To “VOLUNTEER”, offer our time and service, talents and gifts— God says we all have them, we share our pieces to making our church’s existence whole. For every attendee, for every age, I believe the potential gifts and strengths that God has given us, are exactly the same ones that are needed. It’s not only a joy to share one’s gifts, it’s unbelievable of the unexpected, yet incredibly inspiring gifts returned back — becoming the Body of Christ!!!

Who knows how our gift(s) may compliment another’s and be strengthened in return?? We’ll know when we can answer the needs AND/OR ask; What can I do to help? Its humbling and an honor to be a part of this beautiful body - UMCGR!

I lift gratitude for each and all your gifted presence.

Happy in Serving the Lord, Teresa





Vacation Bible Camp - On The Go With God - August 6th, 9-3!

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. We'll have a fun day of crafts, games, story time, large group, lunch/snack, and viewing various types of vehicles used on road trips!

TWO CONCERTS AT UMCGR IN AUGUST!!!

Tuesday Summer Concert at UMC - August 12th at 12:00 (noon)

Northern Pine Trio: Harmonies Galore, Easy listening vocals featuring Marina Whight, Emily Slaubaugh, and Amy Leigh Kolvisto.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED BY OUR UMC QUILTERS: A fabric fundraiser.

Cost for lunch: \$8, Free-will donation for the concert.

Plan to attend and bring friends. Help us serve 100!



Jumping Jehosafats—Sunday, August 17th at 6:00pm!

Come, join us for a Root Beer Float and have a fun evening listening to The Jumping Jehosafats, a Gospel, Jazz, & Dixieland Band at UMCGR.

The concert is free; there will be a free-will offering to support the mission that JJ is currently supporting.

Invite friends, share the post on our Facebook page, pick up a flyer to post around town.

Time to Begin Thinking of Fall programming!

I know we're all getting in our last weeks of summer vacation fun – but, it's also time to look to an exciting New Program Year! There are new ministries starting this fall and opportunities to learn, discover, support, and nurture ourselves and each other. One of the most vital ministries of and within our congregation is teaching our children the faith of the gospel!



At the United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids we have a Sunday morning children's Christian Education experience called The Discovery Zone. It gathers children 1st to 6th grade about in the middle of the worship service. They head out to the education wing for a time of learning, crafts, fun, and a snack. This year there are some media helps to go along. The lessons are engaging but simple to teach. All the materials are preset for the teachers on Sunday morning!

Thank you to all of you who rotate this important responsibility!! It is greatly appreciated! But, We are in need of additional Discovery Zone Guides (teachers)!! Our desire is to have a solid 8, 2 person teams! That allows folks to share the time with another adult and with that many teams it would mean being a "guide" about five times a year. Would you prayerfully consider being a Discovery Zone Guide? Is there a more important ministry than bringing up our children in the knowledge of the Lord? Thank You!

Nursery Attendants!

Thank you to everyone who helps in being an attendant in the nursery. As our congregation continues to gain young families. Did you now in just the last 9 months we've gained 7 more kids through new people attending our services)I Know!! And that's following the best year in over a decade for new children in worship!! Please prayerfully consider being a nursery attendant. Our nursery is flexible in allowing children to come and go between the nursery and worship. Your being an attendant is a gift, allowing parents to get a bit more out of the worship experience. **Thank you to those folk who are already helping make this ministry happen. We still need a good half-dozen more.** Thank you!



AUGUST



4 Julie Werner
5 Larry Christensen
5 John Scheuer
5 Gloria Gooler
5 Mary Giese
10 Duke Gmahl
11 Gus Kirwin
11 Cassidy Waller
12 Emily Ann Zimmer
18 Keira Trest
18 Gavin Simonson
18 Jon Mason
20 Sally LaDoux
20 Sandy Baumel

20 Ken Olson
20 Mary Tennison
22 Tammy Blankenship
22 Cole Selliers
24 Kiley Duffney
25 Tommy Thompson
26 Gretchen Danielson
26 Evan Statsman
27 Joanne Dashel
27 Tom Callahan
28 Linda Rasmussen
28 Jack Namyst
29 Jane Bobich
29 Olivia Hanson
29 Julia Hanson

3 Dan & Lana Hess
4 Bob & Virginia Rucinski
8 Larry & Patty Christensen
9 Mike & Roni Skoglund
11 Scott & Laura Hauser
16 Randy & Sue Kolka
17 Duane & Peggy Heikkinen
21 Ron & Kay Klingman
23 Dave & Margy Strock
24 Tony & Becky Larson
24 Ken & Lori Olson
29 Steve & Stephanie Zimmer



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 also.



**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

RUBY SLIPPERS EVENT!

Join our fun group on Thursday, August 7th at 2:00 for a tour of the Judy Garland Museum. Following the tour, Nancy will serve beverages and scones. The cost is \$13 (\$5 admission and \$8 tour). Meet at the museum. Sign up at church or text/call Nancy at 218-256-7711.

Update from Boy Scout Troop 41 ~ Busy summer for our Scouts.

In Late June we attended our week long summer camp at Camp wilderness. Had 7 scouts attend, our largest group in a few years. The weather was spectacular, food was great and everyone had fun. Our boys earned 12 combined Merit Badges, 5 activity patches, and one completed the high ropes course. Well done scouts. Our troop earned the Herman Stern distinguished patrol award. First time in many years for that as well. Requirements include daily campsite improvements, participation in camp wide activities, service projects... we even painted a latrine. A big thanks to our Senior Patrol leader Aaron who took on that challenge and saw our scouts through. Another ribbon for our Troop flag!

The troop had our planning meeting for fall activities, we have some campouts coming up, some hikes and other fun before school starts.

Thanks for your support of scouting in our community.

Sincerely, Troop 41