

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Apr. 6 Isaiah 43:16-21
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8
- Apr. 13 Isaiah 50:4-9
 Philippians 31:9-16
 Luke 22:14-23, 56
- Apr. 20 Acts 10:34-43
 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
 John 20:1-18
- Apr. 27 Acts 5:27-32
 Revelations 1:4-8
 John 20:19-31
- May 4 Acts 9:1-6
 Revelations 5:11-14
 John 21:1-19

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>



April 2025

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

April 2025



RAPIDS CONNECTION



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



UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF – CALIFORNIA FIRES: Thank you to everyone for your prayers and donations sent to help the thousands of people affected by the fires. The final amount of the check to UMCOR – California Disaster is \$1,212.

Sharon's Free Wig Closet: The Wig Closet has a new Facebook page -- Sharon's Free Wig Closet Hosted By UMCGR. Check out the page and "follow" it! Please share it with your family and friends to help get the word out. Many of her guests have only heard about the Wig Closet by word of mouth.

GRACE House: Exciting news!!! The guests moved into the newly remodeled and expanded shelter on March 10. The tentative date for a Grand Opening Celebration is May 8. They 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: Thank you to everyone who has brought in coats for the October event. Special thanks to Gene Rasmussen for moving the coats into the garage. Sheila and Lloyd Weeks have been working with L & M to make the annual order as well as inventorying items that have been added since the 2024 Coat Rack. The goal of the committee is to be sure that all children have coats this year. We appreciate the grants and donations from local churches and individuals that help to make the Open Door Coat Rack successful.

Second Harvest Northland: Thank you for your donations to the annual MARCH FOOD-SHARE MN CAMPAIGN. Your donations are directed to the Grand Rapids Food Shelf but count for the annual donations match. We will let you know in the May newsletter the amount of the check sent at the end of March.

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!

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday Service: Sunday, April 13 at 9:45 am

Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service: Friday, April 18 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Service: Sunday, April 20 at 9:45 am



Fireside Readers

The Fireside Readers will be reading and discussing the book "Speak To The Storms" by Ben Williams. Our next meeting is April 28th at the church at 6:30 pm.





*"Every morning is Easter Morning from now on,
Every day's Resurrection Day. The past is Over and Gone!
Good-bye fear, good-bye pain, good riddance; Hello, Lord! Hello Sun!
I am one of the Easter People, my new life has begun!"*



The beginning of one of my absolute favorite Easter Hymns! The words express such joy and such discovery. If Jesus is risen, (and He is – indeed!), then Christ has overcome the worst the world can dish out. The Truth of Resurrection isn't just about the day we celebrate God's victory over the world, the world's ways, and the world's limits. It's to declare that every day is filled with the power and possibilities of resurrection! The past is simply that – the past. It need not limit nor define us! As scripture says again and again, "God is doing a new thing – Do you not perceive it?"

We can risk living in new ways of liberation, renewal, revitalized lives and relationships! God is bringing forth New Life each day. We need not fear – God has overcome and brings the power of unconditional love and, as we read in Romans 8, not one thing can separate us from this love! Some folk in the congregation and even the Youth Group were/are asking for some "Background Information" about Easter....

The Easter Season is also known as the Great Fifty Days. It begins at sundown on Easter eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It's always good to remember that while Lent is such an important season in preparation for Easter, it's only 40 days while Easter is the "Great Fifty days"! Easter isn't just a day as much as it is a new way of living!

Years ago, I made up a word: "Easterishingly". (The congregations I've served through the years are quite use to this). If there were such a word, (and now there is) we should encourage one another to live in an "Easter-ish-ing-ly" way.

Easter: To rejoice and celebrate the Resurrection. "ish": to live in like manner of; our New Restored Life. "ing": To be in the action of – present tense; doing it now! And "ly": To reflect the way of – that our lives should daily express and witness to the truth of Jesus' Victory and God's Overcoming!

Easter is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian Year! It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension, also on the giving of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The ancient Christian name for this festival is Pauch, derived from the Hebrew Pesah ("deliverance" or "Passover"), this connects the Resurrection to the Exodus – specifically the Passover story. The origin of the English word Easter is disputed but may come from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eastre and her festival.

May this Easter Sunday and the full Easter season (and life going forward) be a time of praise, thankfulness, empowerment, reconciliation, and the experience of New Life – for that is what it is! The end of the refrain of the hymn at the top of the page reminds us; You are one of the Easter People! The Church, we are the Resurrection folk! We have it within ourselves through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to express resurrection every day! To share the joy and possibilities of Overcoming! To live out and to proclaim that brokenness and strife, sin and that which destroys and diminishes is not the last word. That New Life, Joy, and God's unlimited, unconditional Love is the last word! Our old lives are overcome and gone! Behold, new life, new opportunities! May you and I and each and all, live in the Truth of God's all-sufficient love; and may it blossom in your hearts and come alive in the lives of you, your families, your loved ones, and our congregation as we live into the glory and triumph of Easter morning! Yay, God!!!

Be God's, Pastor Jim



February 2025 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	28,006	26,590	1,416
YTD - 2025	64,536	51,753	12,783
			-
Monthly average - 2025	25,272	25,877	(605)

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is \$18,214. 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:

While writing this, the calendar says it is the first day of spring. It's always been a special time. It reminds me of a time for reflection and a time to renew my outlook on life. Like the seeds we plant to bring us beautiful flowers, it is a time to remind ourselves of how blessed we are to be a part of this United Methodist family. Thank you for bringing your special strength/talent to share with our UMC family. You are important!

Lets Go Fishing-Itasca is getting ready for its 18th season!

This all volunteer non profit, supported by the community organization offers free fishing and cruise outings on a 28 foot pontoon. Client base includes Assisted Living Facilities, Adult Day Cares, Support Groups, Church Groups, Veteran Groups, plus many more. A Captain and Co-Captain (1st mate) operate the pontoon and provide assistance to clients as needed. **Captains and Co-Captains are needed for the coming season.** Training is provided. If you enjoy helping others and being on a pontoon consider volunteering for this very enjoyable program. For more information contact Ross Cass (218-999-9271) You can also visit the Lets Go Fishing Itasca web site.

A Message From Our Lay Leader ~ Open our eyes – Open our hearts

Have you ever watched our wintery blanket being removed, anticipating the promises of God’s gifts through His perfect Creation hidden underneath? It reminds me of the stone being rolled away from the tomb. Is it the unknowing of what we kind of know, that brings the anticipation of what’s to be? Like tulips bursting up color in a garden from the tomb of their bulbs, eaglets hatch to reveal new life from inside the tomb of an egg, a delicately painted butterfly opening its wings from the tomb of a cocoon. . . We don’t see them, but we know they are there, the same with our Lord. We don’t see Him, yet we know He is here, in all that Creation’s unending festival of gifts from our Creator! Our faith, is like an unending Springtime, like the eaglet waiting to hatch, the flowers waiting to bloom, the butterflies waiting to fly— for we live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). We know the Easter story of our Lord is going to happen, an annual love story in which our faith seeks the unknowing of what we kind of know, that brings the anticipation of what’s to be... He died, He was buried, He rose from the dead—HE LIVES! I love knowing that buds on the trees will burst open each year, colors of the tulips will paint the gardens and the unique kaleidoscopes on butterfly wings will flutter... but most of all, I love knowing what scripture declares in John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed.”

Open the eyes of our heart Lord!

Happy Spring- Blessed Easter

Teresa



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.

Please prayerfully consider being a part of the rotation of Discovery Zone Leaders and/or Nursery Attendants. Please contact Pastor Jim or Jodi in the church office if you are willing to serve the church family in this way.

Youth News!

Things are taking shape for Youth Sunday, April 6th! We have music, skits, surprising prayers and more ready for worship! The group really worked to make it happen! Thanks for all the ideas and help in making it happen! We'll be serving Cinnamon Rolls after service. Any youth of the congregation are welcome to be a part of the service!



We continue our busy Spring! Great to see new faces at our meetings!! Pastor Jim was very touched the group chose to make their March 5th meeting (Which fell on Ash Wednesday) to come to Ash Wednesday service! He says, "Thanks!" and hopes it was a special moment of grace for you all. So, coming up we have our Lock-In, our trip up the north shore, our horseback riding event, and our End-of-the-Schoolyear Party all before June 14th! (and the Senior/Junior "dinner and a show" trip to the cities) We'll be securing the dates for all this at our April 2nd meeting ***so bring your calendars to the meeting and talk over family plans before the meeting!***



Cinnamon Roll Sunday - April 6th! The 6th is also that last day to pre-order roll dough for your Easter Morning Breakfast. Pre-orders can be picked-up on Palm Sunday (4/13).

Update from Boy Scout Troop 4041

Lots of activities this month. Scouts have been working on Communication and Citizenship in the Community merit badges. With the time change and weather warming we're hoping for more upcoming outdoor activities.

We had a campfire building event and sausage-on-a-stick feast one evening for our meeting. Getting a fire going in the snow is always a challenge. Might have even been a s'more or two had towards the end of the evening.

We had a visit from our local Lone Scout. Grace came to help out at our meeting, and listen in. She has been approved for her Eagle award and is just waiting for paperwork from the District. Congratulations are in order, it takes a lot of work to reach that rank.

We had two Arrow of Light scouts from the Pack come to visit our troop meeting. We practiced our lashings, clove hitch knot, built a tripod and learned how to light a match with a hatchet. By May, we'll Crossover those scouts from the Pack to the Troop.

We have three scouts signed up for the Council Merit Badge day coming up in Bemidji on April 5. They're looking forward to camaraderie with some other scouts and working on their First Aid merit badge.

Sincerely, The Troop 41 Committee

News From The Office:



Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 20-26, 2025.

I want to personally say **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to ALL of our AMAZING Volunteers** here at UMCGR! I am truly blessed by the time and commitment that is given by so many people. Of course, there are large events each year that require more volunteers and extra work, but... I **love** getting to see you all working together as the Body of Christ every day in small ways, mostly behind the scenes that many don't know about. It's one person for a few minutes, then another, and someone else later in the day or week taking care of various tasks. It's something as simple as folding bulletins or filling the candles with oil. Truly, amazing to see!

There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:12 & 27 (NIRV)

Jodi Martin, Office Administrator UMCGR



UMCGR is Hosting A New 12-Step Program:

We continue to be privileged and blessed to be a center for the 12-Step Community in the Grands Rapids area! A new "Yoga 12-Step" on Thursdays 1-3pm meets in the Multi-Purpose Room. **It is open to people in any 12-Step program.** A great way to heal and grow in body mind and soul!

Babies!!!

In a the March newsletter, I shared that we had 3 members pass away during the month of February. I am **EXCITED** to share that during the month of March we welcomed **TWO babies** to our congregation!



Colter was born to Alyssa Dormanen.

Mylo was born to Andrew & Ashley Buell.

Card Shower for the Buells!

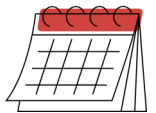
Please bring gift cards for local restaurants, Super One Foods, or Target to Jodi in the church office by April 13th. Contact Carlee & Heather with questions.

List of Restaurants:

Dairy Queen, Culvers, Sammy's, Smoke on the Water, Boulder Tap House, Papa Murphy's, Taco Johns.

Building Use Reminder:

When building our current facility, it was designed to serve both the Faith Family of UMCGR and our community. While church events and meetings take precedence over community events, it is extremely important to contact Jodi to schedule your *special* committee meetings and events to ensure there is space available.



By viewing our monthly events calendar, you'll see that we are most definitely serving our community by sharing our building! We currently have nine 12-Step programs & Boy Scout Troop 41 that use our facility on a weekly basis, as well as a number of various groups that hold their monthly meetings at our facility on a set day each month, and other groups that hold meetings in our Fellowship Hall. Add to that our committee meetings, various UMCGR groups, funerals, weddings and so on, the calendar sometimes gets a bit tight, **so please, please, please make sure to contact Jodi in advance if you wish to hold any special meeting or event. Thank You!**

Church Cell Phone:

If you wish to receive text message reminders about church events, 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.



Getting to know.....

Jon & Marion Mason are new faces around UMCGR. You may have seen Marion singing in the choir in the soprano section. She is an enthusiastic addition to the church family and is already working on a new church directory to be produced in 2025.

The couple met in Coon Rapids at a car dealership owned by Marion's dad. Jon had spent ten years in the Navy and was detailing cars while he attended Dunwoody. Marion had attended a National Academy for managing car dealerships and worked with human resources, finances, and warranty at one of her dad's five dealerships. Marion says, "I chased John for two years!" When they married, they had a blended family of six children. Jon adopted Marion's three on his birthday.



Jon was born and raised in Spring Lake Park. Marion was born in Sioux St. Marie, Canada and lived many places before graduating from Anoka High School. In 1991 she became a naturalized citizen. Thirty years ago, they bought the Ball Club Lake Lodge. They still live on the lake. Jon works at White Oak Casino in Deer River as the Slot Manager.

Marion watched our services online for a year before attending church. She says, "I've been a Methodist all my life." She finds UMCGR to be safe, warm, and welcoming. Marion has been clean from drug addiction for thirty-five years. She is very open about being bi-polar because she wants to talk and write about her experiences to help others. Marion enjoys baking (especially Canadian butter tarts), walking in the woods, crafting, and painting.

Congregational Care & Hospitality

Happy Birthday Cards for Shut-ins!

Thank you to Joanne Dashed for taking on the project of sending birthday cards to our shut-ins and to Marva Jean Hutchens for donating the cards. If you wish to brighten someone's birthday, watch the newsletter or MF Emails for the list of birthdays.



New Nametags

If you attend regularly and do not have a nametag, sign up at Info Desk and one will be ordered for you. Please do this by Palm Sunday, April 13th. If you wish, a \$10 reimbursement is appreciated.



DIPPETY DOINGS: Sunday April 27th



Plan to attend church and stay for a fun event immediately after the service. We will:

EAT yummy dip! GREET new & old friends! Laugh at jokes told by our church family at the "open mike"

Sign up at the Info Desk if you want bring dip. See the list at church or contact Nancy 218-256-7711. Not EVERYONE needs to bring dip, a little goes a long way.

Ideas:

Veggie dip	Fruit dip	Salsa & corn chips
Artichoke dip with crackers	Cheese dip with crackers or bread	Reuben dip with rye bread
Crab dip with crackers	Buffalo chicken dip	Mexican layered dip
Spinach dip	Bean dip	Chili cheese dip
Chocolate fondue dip	Hummus	Dipping oil with bread
Caramel dip	Marshmallow dip.....(your favorite)	

Anyone who wishes may tell a joke or two. Find them in your memory, online, in joke books, or magazines. Practice at home if you need to. "G" rated, family friendly jokes please. Invite friends!

APRIL SHOWERS Bring MAY FLOWERS



**2nd Annual Outdoor Plant Sale ~
Wednesday, May 28th ~ Outdoors
Clearance Day/Indoors, May 29th**



Ways We Can ALL Participate:

- Start Seeds at home (1 packet of seeds started by a few, can produce many)
- Split your House Plants
- Foster your plant/seedlings and nurture them (warm & sun)
- Clean out the SHED – garden tools, planters, pots (for the sale)
- Other used yard items: wind chimes, sprinklers, watering cans
- Wood Crafters – build a bird feeder, bird house, planter or garden signs (for example)
- Perennials that need thinning? (rhubarb, lilacs, other plants)
- TREES that you can save from the lawn mower or overcrowding?
- BE SURE TO LABEL the PLANTS and SEEDLINGS
- Mark Your CALENDARS to help with set up day, our sale day or clearance day

We can ALL get together, while reaching out and getting to know our neighbors!

Call/Text Miss Mary with any questions or offer your ideas 218-259-9346.

All proceeds will go to the General Fund.

Ideas for starting your seedlings:

- Start seeds in ice cream cones and then plant the cones in the ground when the baby plants are ready. The cones are biodegradable.
- Reuse empty clear plastic berry containers as a mini green house. Bonus: they already have drainage holes in the bottom.



APRIL



- 2 Beau Linder
- 3 Dewayne Loop
- 5 Lori Olson
- 7 Carter Brewster
- 7 Dorothy Ganoung
- 7 Jacob Zimmer
- 9 Patrick Namyst
- 10 Richard Meyer
- 10 Linda Maki
- 12 Lloyd Weeks
- 12 Ann Ochoa
- 14 June Mitchell
- 14 Mandy Lakso-Norton

- 15 Ken Kerr
- 16 Marion Mason
- 17 Emilie Duffney
- 17 Martha Lentz
- 18 Janice Beaver
- 18 Jarod Lund
- 19 Brayden Akre
- 19 Marilyn Hutchins
- 22 Chuck Brewster
- 26 Jim Stephens
- 28 Ken Spangler
- 29 Andrew Buell
- 30 Wendy Gorham
- 30 John Pliska

Hospitality
MINISTRY

Coordinator:
Bonnie Larson

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

Brenda Brown	Kathy Mahaffey
Sherry Thompson	Julie Werner
Sandy Baumel	Heather Smith
Wendy Gorham	Emileigh Latvala
Renee Veit	

- 2 Mike & Wendy Gorham
- 15 Bill & Deb Hagenbuck
- 16 Chad & Julia Statsman
- 20 Lex & Alyssa James
- 24 Jim & June Johnson
- 25 Joe & Carol Spooner
- 26 Blaine & Patty Sawdey



Easter Flower Order Form



Orders are now being taken for Easter Flowers. These potted flowers will be placed in our Church Sanctuary in loving memory or in honor of your loved one(s).

The cost per plant is \$14.00.

Donations may also be given to the Scholarship Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Please fill out the lower half of this sheet and place it in the offering plate, email it to secretary@umcgrmn.org or mail it to UMCGR.

**The deadline for ordering is April 13, 2025.
Please include payment to UMCGR with your order.**

Thank You!
Worship Committee



NAME: _____

Yes, I would like to:

_____ Order Easter Flowers at \$14.00 each

_____ Donate toward the Scholarship Fund

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____