

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Oct. 5	Lamentations 1:1-6 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10
Oct. 12	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19
Oct. 19	Jeremiah 31:27-34 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8
Oct. 26	Joel 2:23-32 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

HOW TO FIND US



United Methodist Church Of Grand Rapids

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2 blocks west of the Grand Rapids Airport

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Website: www.umcgrmn.org



<https://www.youtube.com/c/GRUMC>



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Thank you!



October 2025

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



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

October 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



COAT DRIVE: The annual Coat Drive Distribution will be **Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and Thursday, October 23, 2025 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.** We will be accepting coats from the churches on Saturday, October 18, Monday - Tuesday October 20-21. We would appreciate it if you bring coats or other winter wear after October 1st and use the hangers supplied to hang them up on the rack by the office. **If you would like to volunteer to help during the week of 10/18 - 10/24, please call Judy Peterson at 218-398-0849.**

GRACE House: During the three-month period of June - August, there were 37 new guests and served 49 guests overall with 1,564 bed nights - 85% full and 32 days average stay. 1,962 meals were served and Itasca County residents represented 85% of the total. So far this year, 50 volunteers have served 1,363 hours for overnights and breakfast shifts. Volunteers for both shifts, even one day a month, would be appreciated.

To keep everyone up to date: Ron Oleheiser, Executive Director will be retiring officially on June 30, 2026. To quote Ron, "This will be the end of my 11th year serving a great organization doing the awesome work of keeping people experiencing homelessness safe and secure in a temporary shelter". We are all thankful and blessed by the work that Ron has done for our community!

COMMUNITY CONNECT: Thank You to all of the volunteers who helped to make the chili and/or served during the event on September 18 at the Arena. We served chili to 220 guests who were most appreciative! They all love the UMC chili!! You will notice that the attendance was down this year. The committee has difficulties getting the word out. However, people from the agencies all agree that it is an important event to serve our community!

SHARON'S WIG CLOSET: 5 ladies have been served as of 9/20/25. A very special thank you to all of the ladies that knit beanies for us. They are perfect and very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: We can't believe we are talking about Christmas gifts already but it is time to start planning. We will be asking for lists for 7 families from Human Services as we have for the past several years. The Youth Group will be purchasing gifts for 3 families that Pastor Jim recommends. These gifts are always a blessing to the families! At our Missions meeting, we talked about the need to increase the amount of the gift cards from Aldi's and Circle K. As we all know, prices are increasing! We will be planning to do the shopping the first week in December. If you would like to contribute to this special mission, cash or check marked Christmas Families may be given during the offering or in the office at any time during October and November.

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!



"It's been a while" ...I've shared before that a hobby of mine is woodworking. I'm certainly no "fine craftsmen". In fact, I often kid that I'm more a "wood butcher" than a carpenter. I like to get to my workshop when I can, but of late "it's been a while" since I've done some "butchering" in my workshop. Like about a year and a half! Now some other newsletter I'll do a column on "Finding Time and Making Time". A subject, it seems, I need to address myself. I finally got back in there the other day to start a new project. As I work the wood it always amazes me how my thoughts are drawn toward God, God's grace, and the discipling process.

Here's some: much of the wood needs to be run through the planer and the joiner. This squares up the piece, so its lines are "true". The prophet Amos speaks to the people about being "plumb". If the piece of wood is not square the whole project will be out of line. This weakens the structure of the furniture piece. We need to make sure we are square with the dictates of the gospel – set right through God's grace so we are in right relationship with God. If we try "righting" ourselves, we discover (often painfully) the truth that only through grace are we restored to right relationship with God. Each of us being intentional with ourself in accepting God's forgiveness means we add to the strength of the whole congregation.

One of my least favorite parts of woodworking is sanding. It's not the most exciting part of the process but it is absolutely necessary. It evens the wood on a tabletop. It makes more exact, the curve of a cut or carved piece. It smooths the wood so that folks won't receive splinters when using it. As we work as a congregation let's allow Christ to sand us, so we work together more evenly and in concert together. Let's allow Christ to sand us individually so the "curve and cut" of each of us is of the best use for the Lord's purposes God has for each of us. Each day I offer myself for the Holy Spirit's sanding so I might not be rough or unintentionally give off splinters that might hurt other people's feelings of diminish their spirits.

In much of the projects there's a need to glue and join pieces of wood together. In the joining there are specific cuts to be made and the glue needs to be thoroughly spread on the areas of the wood being joined together. We need to allow the work of Christ to shape us in the ways that best connect and join us to each other. The "glue" of the Church as a whole and for each congregation is the Holy Spirit. We need to be "slathered" in the spirit! Opening ourselves to the activity of the Holy Spirit, especially and specifically through doing spiritual disciplines, allows the Spirit to spread throughout our lives. Let us be awashed in God's renewing, life-giving spirit. Allowing us to be joined in grace and allowing God's Spirit to equip us so that we may about the business of Mission and Ministry!

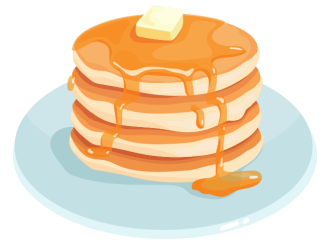
One of my favorite moments in the woodworking process is staining or oiling the wood. It makes the dullness of the wood disappear, lifts the grain of the wood, and shows the uniqueness of the grain's design within the piece. As the love of Christ grows within the individual, it's always wonderful to see the beauty of their God-given design. The dullness of our brokenness is lost to the glow of one's heart in Christ. A person's gifts, graces, talents, and abilities are lifted as the Holy Spirit fills their hearts and minds. The uniqueness's of a person and who they are in Christ are blended and highlighted as they are joined with the members of the congregation.

As we move into this new program year it is exciting to see the renewed momentum. The Sanctuary continues to become more and more full. The Sunday School/Discovery Zone is seeing new faces along with returning ones – plus new teachers along with ones already sharing their experience and "know how". New individuals stepping into leadership. Guest musicians and ensembles gracing our worship. New bible studies among our adults and youth. New faces in worship. New Fellowship groups among our younger families and our more "seasoned" members! As I've shared before, Vital Congregations build Healthy Disciples, and Healthy Disciples build Vital Congregations – and that powerful "spin" is growing our congregation! God is designing, shaping, and building us into an exciting witness for the Grand Rapids Area!

Be God's, Pastor Jim

Pancake Breakfast ~ October 5th, During Fellowship Time.

Join your church family after worship on Sunday, October 5th for a delicious pancake brunch. There will be a freewill offering with funds going to support the new playground. The community is welcome to join us so invite your friends and neighbors.



NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY

Bushels of thanks are extended to Roni Skoglund and Marion Mason for spearheading our new picture directory. It's a huge job to schedule everyone for a photo session. Now the work begins of adding pertinent information and photos of our church activities before the book is sent off to the printer.

If you did not attend a photo session and wish to receive a book you should:

PLAN TO POSE FOR A PICTURE AFTER CHURCH IN EARLY OCTOBER OR SUBMIT ONE OF YOUR OWN PHOTOS. Contact Roni with any questions about how to submit a picture.



Congregational Care & Hospitality

FRIENDLY PHONERS

Are you homebound most of the week or know of someone in our church family with limited mobility? The Friendly Phoners are willing to make phone calls for fun conversation and connection across the air waves. Contact Nancy O'Toole at 218-256-7711 to find a partner.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Please take a turn to serve our Sunday morning coffee fellowship. Maybe some snowbirds could work this in before flying away. Sign up at the "treat table" or contact Nancy at 218-256-7711.

We hope you will consider attending if it is not your habit. Many people would love to get to know you! Help us strengthen our church family bonds.

We are so happy that we have new people attending worship! Remember to wear your nametag to help them out!

Youth News!

Wow...who knew you could get 72 cheese balls to stick to a shower cap on someone's head that's covered with shaving cream? Well done, Penny! And so our new youth fellowship year began in a hilarious mess! Are you interested in having fun, going places, talking about the stuff that matters, and growing in faith?



New Meeting Time!

We invite you to 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings at the church. We meet at 6:30 and go till 7:45.

On Oct. 5th we'll be covering the town for our Annual Grand Rapids Scavenger Hunt. On the 19th we're meeting at Pastor Jim's for our Camp Fire / Cook Out. November has us going to Duluth, treating the congregation to Cinnamon Rolls, ushering on a Sunday morning, and helping at the Food Shelf.

Other things in the works are shopping for our "Christmas families", a Lock-In, and our Annual Christmas Party – this year we're going to the Bentleyville exhibit in Duluth! Come, get connected – to friends, to Christ, to our community!



August 2025 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	33,746	35,345	(1,599)
YTD - 2025	203,141	199,556	3,585
			-
Monthly average - 2025	23,922	24,945	(1,023)

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:

The finance committee along with Jodi and Roni have been exploring different software for the finance, membership and administration work of the church. We will have presented our findings to the Ad Council by the time you read this. A special thank you to Jodi for reaching out to other UM churches for their experiences with the Ministry Brands software we are considering. We try to take special care of the donations given. Donations are what empower the work of the church. Thank you.



Fireside Readers:

The Fireside Readers are reading and discussing the book “The Sweetness At The Bottom Of The Pie” by Alan Bradley. As usual, we will meet at the church at 6:30 pm. The date will be on Monday, October 27th. If you are a reader and would like to join us, all are welcome.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To Louie Baumel for keeping the church building clean. For those that don’t know, Louie has been our janitor since Justine retired last year. Janitorial Appreciation Day is October 2nd.



Thank you so much for your messages, cards and phone calls of thoughts and prayers for Ken as he continues on his treatment for MDS cancer. Knowing your praying for him is a real comfort for us both. God Bless you all. Ken & Sandy Hansen

DivorceCare:

The next session of DivorceCare will begin on Monday, October 27, 5-7:30pm. Classes are offered at The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN. The leader is someone from outside UMCGR that attend the first class, and has offered to lead this group. Here is a quote from her, “This was the best thing I have done.”

Please visit <https://www.divorcecare.org/findagroup> for information and to register.



Frightfully Delightful—October 31st, 4:30 to 6:30 pm!

A wonderful Halloween celebration for the whole family but designed for the smaller trick-or-treaters in mind!

Come join us for our annual Frightfully Delightful Halloween Party on Halloween evening (October 31st) from 4:30 to 6:30 pm! Dinner, treats, games, booths, prizes, delights and (little) frights! It's all inside so no matter the weather it'll be a great time!

Start thinking about your costume, watch for sign-up sheets, and the candy/trinket donations container to be out soon. This event is open to the community.

Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, Oct. 19th is the Blessing of the Animals. Please bring your house pets and "outdoor animals" to church that Sunday. During service we'll bless dogs, and cats, and other house pets.



Right at the end of service we'll bless "outdoor animals" (horses, goats, cows, etc...). It's a wonderful way to celebrate God's good creation and name the special connection our beloved pets have in our lives.

Children's Sabbath:

On Sunday, Oct. 26th we'll have our second Annual Children's Sabbath. It's a special Sunday designed for the kids of UMCGR! The music, the activities, the order of worship and what we'll do that morning are geared for our children. There might even be a costume parade... Watch for more details coming soon!



NEW Bible Study: Making Sense of the Bible

"Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today". **On Wednesdays from Oct. 8th to Nov. 12th** we're having a Bible Study Using Adam Hamilton's Book, Making Sense of the Bible. This short six-week study is both a video and book study. **We'll meet from 6:45 till 8:00.** Together we'll explore and discover how the bible. The video presentations from the author lead groups through the book, focusing on the most important questions we ask about the Bible, its origins and meaning. Our discussions help us discover how the Bible can shape and empower our lives as Jesus Followers.



The Catalyst Crew:

This team will primarily focus on the youngest amongst our faith family. The main mission of this team will be to support and guide children and adults to be Grace Growers (foster faith and love as we grow in God's grace); Hope Anchors (become firmly grounded in the promises of God's hope); and Mercy Makers (to extend God's mercy and grace through actions).



This team will facilitate Christian Education in the life of our congregation through Discovery Zone, Children's & Family Ministry, Vacation Bible Camp, and Adult Bible Study.

The Catalyst Crew will work closely with the Family Ministry Coordinator. We are still planning to have this position filled or partially filled starting in January. In the mean time, let get a great crew of people to be ready to support the person that will take on this role! Contact Pastor Jim, Dave Strock, or Jodi if you would like more information or to join The Catalyst Crew!



- 2 Alyssa Dormanen
- 2 Louis Baumel
- 3 Weston Meyer
- 3 Katie Sisco
- 3 Sharon Rasmussen
- 3 John Vanina
- 5 Vera Alto
- 11 Jan Rourk
- 12 Stephani Crecelius
- 14 Lillian Trest
- 14 Hallee Buchacker
- 16 Erika Hietala
- 17 Harper Waller

- 18 Clara Holmstrom
- 19 Trinity Smith
- 19 Shelly Swedeen
- 22 Marva Jean
Hutchens
- 24 Justine Williams
- 25 Addlynn Wilson
- 26 Joyce Dudley
- 27 Peggy Heikkinen
- 28 Claire Larson
- 30 Olivia Waller
- 31 Bruce Larson
- 31 Kelsie Duffney

- 15 Richard & Lynne Meyer
- 20 Jim & Mary Tennison
- 29 Jim & Sharon Borst



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 |



October is Pastoral Appreciation Month with Sunday, October 12th being Pastoral Appreciation Day.

This would be a great opportunity to remember Pastor Jim in your prayers.

All church clean up Saturday, October 11th, 9-3, lunch provided. Come and help our church family clean and prepare our church home for winter.

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

Been a busy fall so far with school starting and scouting picking up...

Our troop conducted our Fall Highway Cleanup, we picked 8 bags of garbage along Hwy 169. Maybe you've seen our Adopt A Highway signs between Walgreens and the water tower south of town.

One evening we took a Geocaching hike. Scouts learned how to operate a GPS, enter coordinates and follow them to find geocaches. It's a neat way to get outdoors and explore some trails that you might otherwise not have known about.

It's recruiting season for Scouting in the fall, our Troop and Cub Scout Pack held a 'Try out Scouting' evening in August. We had some activities for potential scouts, information for parents and our troop made three Dutch oven Cobblers to share, blueberry, apple and cherry. Was a great turnout. If anyone would like more information about joining Scouting, or you have kids or grand kids interested, reach out to Jodi who can get you in touch with our Scout leaders.

Check out our Facebook page, search Boy Scout Troop 41 Grand Rapids, MN.

Thanks for your support of scouting in our community.

Sincerely, Troop 41