

## Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Feb. 2      Jeremiah 1:4-10  
              1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
              Luke 4:21-30
- Feb. 9      Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)  
              1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
              Luke 5:1-11
- Feb. 16     Jeremiah 17:5-10  
              1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
              Luke 6:17-26
- Feb. 23     Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
              1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
              Luke 6:27-38
- Mar. 2      Exodus 34:29-35  
              2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
              Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

## 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>



# February 2025

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



February 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

**UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF – CALIFORNIA FIRES:** We will be offering a donation opportunity to donate to UMCOR for the California Fire Disaster Relief. We are being asked to donate directly to the California-Pacific Conference. Below is the message from their bishop:

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ESCOBEDO-FRANK: *“Today the sky in Pasadena is different. The air is filled with ashes and the sun looks red. The sky is reflecting the reality that things have changed. The change is that we see the need before us; we feel our own vulnerability, and we know our need for God and God’s people. This is the moment in which our care for each other will be the hope for the future. Hope comes with action, and words of courage, and faithful generosity. Let us continue the work that is before us: the work to put love in action, word, and deed. As always, beloved, I walk with you through my prayers, presence, and service.”* If you would like to contribute, please write your check to UMCGR with Fires in the Memo. Donations will be received until February 25 and may be put in the offering plate or taken to the office.

**Sharon’s Free Wig Closet:** The Wig Closet name has been changed from Ruth's Free Wig Closet. To date, Sharon Rasmussen has helped 150+ ladies. Sharon shared that she feels so blessed and honored to have this opportunity to help so many ladies of all ages going through serious medical issues. She would like to thank Pastor Jim, Jodi and our congregation for having the wig closet at UMCGR and for all the help to make it a success. Donations are welcome. Anyone in need, can call Sharon at 218-244-7596 to schedule an appointment. If they are not looking for a wig, Sharon has several different head coverings to choose from.

**GRACE House:** As often happens with construction, the February 1 move in date has been pushed back to early March. The guest rooms will be the priority. All room furniture has been ordered and is waiting at Lake Country Furniture.

SET UP BOXES! A new ministry of Set Up Boxes for shelter guests moving into their own housing began with items from the annual rummage sale. Two guests have received boxes and are very thankful for the help. Just a reminder that we do not have room to store items for the boxes. If there is a specific need, we will reach out to you. Otherwise, please save your donations for the rummage sale. This is an exciting new ministry!

**DIVORCE CARE:** Thank you to Sean Duffney and Mary Hanson for their leadership during 2024 for our Divorce Care groups. Many people from our community have been blessed as they step out in faith and join the groups. Mary will begin a NEW 13-Week Class on February 10th at Noon.

**TOYS FOR TOTS:** The final numbers are in for Toys for Tots. They served 290 families and 962 children. The team did an amazing job. Thanks to everyone from UMC who helped in one way or another.

*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!*

So, I'm in the middle of making a special table for Jodel to place her Dicken's Village Collectables on during the Christmas season. It has a unique style to it so that all the cords of the little houses won't be seen or get in the way. To build the table in this way I've needed to buy a new power tool.... (Darn! Well, if I have to....since it's for Jodel and all)

But I needed to practice with it on spare pieces of wood from the scrap bin from other projects before I could trust myself and it on the expensive wood for the table. (Wow, does wood cost so much these days!) Sorry, that's an issue for another Pastor's Corner.

I remember making a candle sconce for my mother and a wall clock for dad in Shop Class in the 8th grade. Thank goodness for Mr. McMillen, the shop teacher, and his patience with me.

Our journey of faith in growing as disciples is a process of learning and discovery. As we begin following Jesus, it is a new way of living, one I and many feel unaccustomed to in those early days. We're learning new skills, discovering new understandings, and seeing life in new ways. It's a bit like learning carpentry. (I understand myself more of a "wood butcher" than carpenter).

We begin with foundational tools and learn how they can "Build" a life in Christ. Just as learning how to use a new tool, the first attempts don't always come out the way we envisioned or hoped. But that's why we practice; learn how the tool feels in our hands, get accustomed to how it shapes and changes the wood you're working with. As we move to other projects, other tools are needed. Not "Better" or more "sophisticated" tools; just different tools for different projects needed to be done.

As we grow and continue in our journey of discipleship, we discover other spiritual disciplines, deeper ways of following Christ, a larger array of Means of Grace. It is good to intentionally add these "tools" into our tool chest of discipleship. The more we work our "trade" of following Jesus, the more adept we will be in crafting our lives in Christ.

Sometimes I'm not so patient with myself as I should be. I have a project I want to accomplish, and I don't allow myself the time and practice I need with the tool. The results are usually evident that I worked in haste. Then there are times when I procrastinate, and the job falls behind because I didn't apply myself to becoming competent with the tool and the deadline is missed or the work rushed, and the project lessened because of it. This is why a disciple applies themselves to the journey daily...as you would a relationship, for that's what it is!

As we move toward Lent, I encourage you to daily walk with Christ in conversation and commitment: Discipleship. Learn from the Master carpenter in the use of spiritual disciplines as you grow in Christ as a follower in the ways of Jesus.

Be God's, Pastor Jim

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## **"The Chosen" Bible Study.**

Last Fall our fellowship's Thursday Evening Bible Study was based on the series, "The Chosen" from Angel Studios. The Chosen is a 6 season, episodic telling of the ministry of Jesus. The series has received many awards and is watched around the world. Last Fall we watched and studied the stories from Season 1. It was one of our best attended Bible Studies ever and brought in people beyond the membership of our congregation. Starting just before Lent, we'll begin Season 2.



### **The classes begin on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.**

We have dinner during the study so that we can keep the time to 2 hours and be done by 7:30. Each week we watch the episode and then, basing our study from the material from the show's creators, have discussion on the scriptures the week's episode is based on.

Please, come and be a part of this exciting way to learn of the life of Jesus, the Christ.



December 2024 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	27,860	27,919	(59)
YTD - 2024	301,049	283,974	17,075
			-
Monthly average - 2024	25,087	23,665	1,422

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is \$54,266. 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:

It's been a busy time for finance. A special thank you to Jodi Martin for gathering committee requests and to Tony Larson for the extra work to form the budget requests into the budget format. The church books will be audited soon by a three member committee. Should you ever want to be involved in the work of the finance committee, we would welcome you to join us. The end of the year giving statements were mailed the middle of January. If you did not receive one, please let the office know and we'll check on it. Best wishes for a great year ahead!

### A Message From Our Lay Leader ~ A "Yes" of Love

February. . .I'm not sure of you, but I cannot come into the month of February without the reflections of love. The LOVE month, as referred by some, usually means flowers, chocolates and special dates (which I do enjoy) but, what about the Agape Love that is reflected every minute of every hour of every day of every week of every month of every year since the beginning? It is a word in our Bibles mentioned 310-801 times (depending on the translation) and if it is mentioned that many times, I ask if this is a reflection in our lives as disciples of Christ?

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35(NIV)* Our love for one another will prove to the world that we are disciples of Christ." It is a new month in a New Year— and though there may be many sources trying to enter despair and hopelessness into hearts and home, we have the truth; *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17(NIV)*



No matter the; 'whats, whys, how comes or he says/she says', that surrounds us, may we have eyes that are open to see and hearts that are open to love, to truly reflect this ministry our Lord has commanded to each of us, and respond as Christ would; Love One Another, as His love, becomes our love, may we strive to give to all, the agape love in Jesus' way.

Grow & Go in the Love of Christ, Teresa

### Wedding Coordinator Position ~ Needed ASAP

UMCGR is seeking an individual to act as our Wedding Coordinator. This is an "as needed" contract position. The pay is \$100 for 6 hours then \$20 per hour after that which is paid by the wedding party. Contact Skip Drake or Jodi in the office if you are interested in more information. Please share with friends/family members that you think would be interested.



# Youth News!

Now we're really into the Winter/Spring semester and there's lots of ideas and possibilities in the air!



At our mid-January meeting, we talked about a lot of good ideas! Here's a list of just some of them: Horseback riding, Tubing in Coleraine, Lock-In, A day at Second Harvest, Faith Initiatives for growing as followers of Jesus, Youth Sunday, A couple of Cinnamon Roll Sundays, Tubing down a river.

And there were more! One of the issues was to grow in number and activity!

Our meetings are the first and third Wednesday Evenings each month (and fifth Wednesdays if the month has one)! Let's make this year continue to be one of the best!

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## Young Families "Meet and Greet" ~ Sunday, February 16th at 11:30am

Did you know there are now 19 families with at least 1 child 10yrs old or younger who participate regularly (to some degree or another) in our congregation? If you count all the kids from those families, those children number 36! Using the same criteria for families with at least a connection to our congregation the number grows to 26 and the number of children to 43! For these reasons and more, we are expanding our staff to add a Family Ministries Coordinator. This person will join the staff in mid to late Summer.



With all these new faces in our congregation, we're having a **Young Family Meet & Greet on Sunday morning, February 16th following worship**. As usual, everyone is invited into the Fellowship Hall after service bars/rolls/cookies. Here, everyone can meet, well...everyone! Around 11:30 we'll focus on young families. We'll share introductions so you all might connect faces with names. We'll share a little bit about the new position and answer any questions you might have. No big Q & A session or agenda. We'll be finished by 12:00 noon at the latest.

Please come and meet one another of this growing part of our congregation!!

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## Update from Boy Scout Troop 4041

**Mark your calendar, Scout Sunday, after service February 9, the troop will be serving breakfast in the fellowship hall. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, and sausage. Our Thanks for supporting our troop and activities!**



Hope all are off to a good start in the New Year.

Scouts had a nice holiday break, we've been working on scout skills, completing merit badges and starting some other ones.

Our trip to the Lake Leander cabin near Britt was a success. Primitive A-frame log cabin with no running water or electricity. The woodstove took five hours to warm up from 10 degrees when we got there Friday night. Was cozy for the rest of the weekend no matter how hard the wind blew. We got out for some ice fishing, a winter hike and worked on our cooking for a busy weekend.

The Northern Lakes Amateur Radio Club came to our meeting and gave us a demonstration of ham radio and went over some of the requirements for Radio merit badge. Was interesting to hear from the club members, and their stories of contacts made from across town, around the world, even to the International Space Station. Was neat to learn that if cell phones and communications go down, ham operators would still be 'on the air' to provide for emergency services.

The district's Klondike derby will be next month near Bemidji. Our troop will also be helping the Cub Scout Pack with the Pinewood Derby, and Blue/Gold Banquet.

Sincerely, The Troop 41 Committee



## Fireside Readers



The Fireside Readers will be reading and discussing the book "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. We will meet at the church on Monday, February 24th at 6:30pm. New readers are welcome to join us.

## Getting to know.....

Felicia Elde is a new member as of October 2024. She was born in Duluth and raised on a farm in Esko. She moved to Roseau where she graduated from high school. Previously she worked at a riding stable and a dairy farm. Currently she works for Harm Reduction Sisters helping people with addiction. She was addicted to meth for twenty-four years and had two spiritual awakenings which helped her stop using. Felicia has been meth free for a year and a half. She met Gretchen Benson at the YMCA and Gretchen invited her to come to church.



Felicia has two cats. She is artistic and enjoys pottery, ceramics and cross stitch embroidery. She is learning to quilt at our GRUMC quilt group on Tuesdays. She has also participated in our spring plant sale, the coat drive, and plans to be a Sunday greeter.



Felicia says that our church is very welcoming. She is open about her life story and feels that we have nice people who are not judgmental.

## Congregational Care & Hospitality

**Hospitality Teams for 2025:** The Hospitality Teams have been revised for 2025. Each list of people covers two months. The main purpose of them is to provide meals for church functions, especially funeral lunches. There are several ways for people to serve: Calling volunteer workers or bakers, Providing bars or cookies, Setting up, serving, and cleaning up after an event. You may view the lists on the bulletin board outside the church office. To add or delete your name or make changes to contact information, contact Nancy at 218-256-7711.



**Valentine Care List:** Thank you to everyone who reached out to the people on the CHRISTMAS CARE LIST. They appreciated the cards and contacts you provided. If you missed this opportunity in December or wish to do it again, please pick up a list at the Info Desk, Coffee Table, or contact Nancy (218-256-7711) to receive the list by email. Brighten someone's day by sending a Valentine note!

**Care Notes:** The Care Note Display has been moved to the Fellowship Hall. These inspirational messages are available for your own use or to share with friends or loved ones. Some of the topics include illness, death, suicide and aging. Please help yourself at no charge.

**Nametags:** If you attend regularly and need a nametag, please add your name to the list on the Info Desk. New ones will be ordered after April 1. If you wish to reimburse the church, the cost is \$10. Remember to wear your nametag. It will be very helpful to new people.

**Prayer Chain Report for 2024:** Requests - 149, December had the most with 20. July had the least with 5. About 50 people receive the email requests, even some who have moved away. Thanks to all of you who are faithfully praying. Would you like to join this ministry? Contact Nancy at 218-256-7711.



# FEBRUARY



- 1 Jim Danielson
- 1 Cindy Ridley
- 3 Mike Gorham
- 4 Eugene Rasmussen
- 5 Keith Seward
- 7 April Akre
- 9 Sheila Weeks
- 10 David Strock
- 11 Olivia Loney
- 14 Jodi Martin

- 15 Trudy Huffer
- 15 JoLynn Linder
- 15 Matthew Buchacker
- 17 Roy LaDoux
- 20 Mike Skoglund
- 20 Dean Anderson
- 21 Blaine Sawdey
- 22 Dale Anderson
- 23 James Hanttula



**Coordinator:**  
**Nancy O'Toole**

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

Marie Duffy	Gloria Gooler
Deb Hagenbuck	June Johnson
Sue Kolka	Sally LaDoux
Becky Larson	Willie Nuorala
Gene & Linda Rasmussen	Lisa Randall
Justine Williams	

- 1 Tommy & Sherry Thompson
- 2 Louie & Sandy Baumel
- 27 Jim & Rae Stephens



*Thank You* Thank You Church Family for all of the cards, gifts and kind words! I truly feel blessed to have had this opportunity! Thank you, Justine Williams

### Ride Sharing Ministry!

We have members of our congregation who wish very much to attend service but are unable to drive themselves to church on Sundays. We're looking for some additional drivers to pick one or two up on their way to church and get them home safely afterwards. We have a few drivers already, but it often means some of our drivers pick up as many as four folks on a Sunday. The cars that can best hold that many people and their walkers are cars these folks can't climb into. We're prayerfully asking for more volunteers so it could become both a rotation, and so each driver need not have to pick up so many. Please prayerfully consider bring a part of our ride share ministry.



### Serving and Building Up Our Children.

How exciting it is to see such an increase in the number of children on Sunday mornings! We are so blessed. What a blessing, privilege, and great responsibility God has given us. Teaching our children about God, God's love, Jesus, and being his disciple are now ours to do for these amazing little ones. **We are in real need of more leaders for our Discovery Zone Ministry and Nursery Attendants on Sunday mornings.** The Discovery zone is already prepared for the leader(s) each Sunday. The class learns, prays, and shares a craft together. The lesson, the craft supplies, and directions are all prepared. In 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. We hope to grow the list so a person would serve about 6 to 8 times a year. Please contact Pastor Jim or Jodi in the church office to get on the list. What an important and vital ministry this is for our congregation and our children!



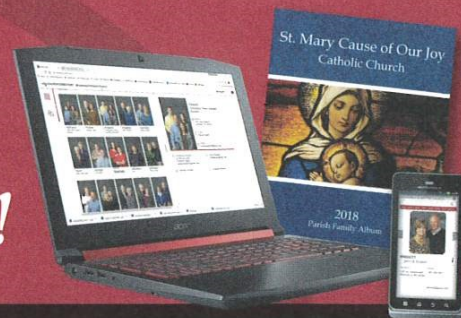
### Thank You and Job Well done!

I just wanted to take a moment and celebrate with you all the success we've been enjoying, not just the past year but continued momentum since returning to gathering together after Covid had us stop Sunday services for a while. We have so much to celebrate and be thankful for!! I hope you had a chance to come to the Charge conference or have read the reports. God has truly blessed us as a congregation! Jodel and I want to say how blessed we feel to be serving UMCGR and I just want to say to "Y'all", Good job, everyone, well done! Be God's, Pastor Jim





# 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!**



**UNIVERSAL**  
CHURCH DIRECTORIES

*Gathering families,  
Connecting generations.*



**Schedule Your Appointment Online! Our Photo Dates: Thursday – Saturday, April 10 - 12**

We need **YOU** to make our church directory complete! Please help by having your picture taken! You receive a free directory & a free 8 x 10 portrait for being photographed! (no obligation or pressure to order more)

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply scan the QR code to the right →→→

Or - go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) & click the "Photography Session Sign-Up" button.

Enter **mn534** in the "Church Code" field and enter **photos** in the "Church Password" field.

Online signup may not be available on Saturday & Sunday so we can have paper sign-ups at church on the weekends.

*Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to get the best date and time for you.*

