

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Nov. 3 Ruth 1:1-18
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34
- Nov. 10 Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44
- Nov. 17 1 Samuel 1:4-20
Hebrews 10:11-25
Mark 13:1-8
- Nov. 24 2 Samuel 23:1-7
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37
- Dec. 1 Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

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](https://www.youtube.com/c/GRUMC)



November 2024

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



November 2024



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
Justine Williams

Office Hours
Jodi:
M-F, 9am-3pm

Pastor Jim:
M-F, 9am-Noon &
By appointment

Justine:
Tu, Th, F afternoons
and as needed

UMCOR HURRICAN RELIEF: The Mission Committee is planning to send a check at the beginning of November to support the UMCOR effort. If you would like to donate, please write your check to GRUMC with Hurricane in the memo. Your donations may be put in the offering plate or brought to the office by November 1. All donations will go directly to these efforts.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: This year we will be serving 9 families. We ask Itasca Human Services for families that we can bless. They give us a gift list. Early in December we will be asking for volunteers to help shop and to wrap the gifts. If you wish to donate to the Christmas Family gifts, please write your check (or cash) to GRUMC with Christmas Families in the memo or in an envelope. Your donations may be brought to the office or put it in the offering plate by November 30. This is a wonderful opportunity to bless families who are truly in need.

GRACE House: TICKETS GO ON SALE NOVEMBER 1. The annual shelter dinner will be Thursday, December 5 at the TimberLake Lodge. We're excited to announce the dinner music will be shared by Moonlight Serenade. Susan Hoolihan will be joining Terry Price and Jerry to play for us. Tickets are \$65 or \$70 after November 30. Kay Klingman will have tickets.

COMMUNITY CONNECT: The UMC chili was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who helped in one way or another. People were asking for the recipe. Attendance was down this year. The leftovers were used for the annual church cleanup day and the coat drive. We are also planning a chili feed if there is any left. FYI, at the end of the event the quilts that were left went to Advocates for Family Peace, Support Within Reach and Northland Recovery.

DIVORCE CARE: Sean Duffney will be offering an evening session beginning on November 7 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Mary Hanson's noon sessions are going well. Please share the information with friends & neighbors. Attendees may return for a 2nd time. If you have any questions, contact Kay Klingman (612-845-6649 or rkklinger@gmail.com) or Mary Hanson or Sean Duffney.

OPEN DOOR COAT RACK: A special thank you to everyone who participated in the annual Coat Drive. As we dropped posters off at different organizations, we were told over and over again how many children have been outfitted for the winter at this event. We will share numbers with you in the December newsletter.

TOYS FOR TOTS: Once again, we will be hosting the Itasca area Toys for Tots. The actual distribution will be December 6 – 8. We will be serving cookies and cider this year. As you do your holiday baking, please plan to share some of your goodies! They will be hosting a Family Game Night on Thursday, November 21 from 4:00 – 7:00 PM at UMC. Please see the posters around the church.

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!

Sometimes the growing season seems very long. Months go by, and at times the growth of a crop seems almost imperceptible. In midsummer, the calendar seems full of weeks when storms or disease might threaten a crop, and harvesttime seems far away.

The same seems true in our lives as we seek to follow Christ. While we occasionally have seasons of rapid growth in our faith, at other times the harvest seems far away, with many obstacles and challenges to trip us up. Storms of anger sweep over us, and we speak harsh words to a spouse or a child. We wilt in the heat and drought of financial pressures, or we are tempted to cut corners as stewards of the resources God has given.

When the harvest seems so far off, we need to hear again God's promise. True, our brokenness and sin are a reality we need to deal with. However, God has also shown us God's own unfailing love. We are joined together in the Beloved Community of our congregation. Blessings and Graces abound in our lives. Christ journeys with us, leading us into God's New Day. The Holy Spirit fills and empowers us. Finally, the joy of God's abundant life and the promise of eternal life in Christ!

The psalmist invites us to "listen to what God the Lord says" and to hear God's promise of love, renewal, resurrection, and peace! Jesus reconciles us and restores us to right relationship to God and to each other! We are people of the empty tomb; the Resurrection Folk! In Jesus, the harvest is guaranteed.

And here we are -- in the season of harvest! The fields of possibilities and opportunities are ripe and the abundance and blessing of God is and are evident. While, in some seasons of life the fruit of our lives may seem far off -- we must be ready to act and harvest the opportunities of the Commonwealth of Christ. They are "at hand" as Jesus says.

Through the growing season, certain plants become mature and their fruit ripe at different times. We need to be daily checking the "fields of harvest" in our lives. The workplace, our neighborhood, the classroom, our community....in each of these places and more -- God is breaking God's Kingdom forth! Are we ready to harvest the opportunity to touch a heart, change a life, help heal the world, work for justice, love our neighbor, build up and increase the community of faith for the Cause of Christ?

"The Lord will indeed give [us] what is good." In God's perfect timing, our lives will yield a harvest in Christ.

Be God's, Pastor Jim

A Message Our Lay Leader:

November, the month of Thanksgiving— it is hard to believe, at the writing of this newsletter, 2024 has only 72 days remaining. Which means we have 294 to reflect upon.

Much can happen in a year, a month, one week or even a single day - good news is shared daily and sadness is felt unexpectedly. . .yet in all moments, we are reminded; ' in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NASB) . But how do we give thanks in all things? With moments of quietness and reflection - as during everything, God shows His presence; He guards us, He embraces us and God guides us-- He is present, with us, around us, holds us - **through it all**, valleys and mountaintops, Our God, our I Am! Just as all the yesterdays, and all our tomorrow-- HE IS. So in this month of Thanksgiving, as always, I thank our God for **each of you** and all the Jesus I see in you, and in this family, I am reminded by you, the gratitude and witnessing of Matthew 19:26; And looking at *them*, Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (NASB). Your faith is a reminder that *in all things* give thanks, so "Thank You", each of you, our dear Family of Faith, for the Jesus that is witnessed in your presence.

Loving our Lord, Teresa ~ *your humbled and blessed to be Lay Leader*



News From The Office: NEW CELLPHONE FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE

PERMISSION TO RECEIVE TEXT MESSAGES IS REQUIRED See the 2nd bullet below:

1. The office now has a cellphone in addition to the office line! The new cellphone number is 218-256-8250, please save it in your contacts so if calls or texts come from that number you know who it is. This will also ensure the calls & texts don't go to spam.
2. **If you wish to receive text messages, please send a text message to Jodi at 218-256-8250 with your name. Doing so will indicate that you want to receive text messages from the church (permission).**
3. Please keep in mind that this is a work in progress, and it will take time to get this service up and running!
4. The cellphone will be answered during office hours which are: 9am - 3pm, M - F. This will also be the best way to reach Jodi on Wednesdays when she works from home.
5. The main reason the cellphone was purchased is because texting is becoming the preferred means of communication over email. While we will still send emails, we will also send various items via text. That might be something as simple as, "Please check you email for an important notice from your church."

Jodi Martin, Office Administrator



Congregational Care & Hospitality

Pumpkin Pie Sunday

Thank you to everyone who baked or served pie and donated prizes for the cake walk. Sixty-eight people attended and enjoyed spending time with our church family. In the interest of continuing our church tradition of making pie, we hope to make this an annual event. "Methodist pie" goes back many years to the days of serving pie at the county fair in our church booth.



New Faces

It's been fun to see many new faces at worship this fall. EVERYONE needs to take time to greet newcomers and display the "friendly church" characteristics that we have been known for. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Go the extra mile by inviting them to join you at fellowship time after church or introducing them to your other church friends. You might tell them about upcoming special events or a small group you participate in such as choir, knitting, baking, or quilting.

Getting to know.....

Blaine and Patty Sawdey joined our church in October of 2024. Patty grew up in GRUMC and was the daughter of Bill & June Salo. Blaine was from Hill City. They met at the chiropractic office where Patty worked, and Blaine was a patient. The couple lived in Grand Rapids for four years, but Blaine couldn't handle the hectic pace, so they moved to Hill City. After twenty years at the chiropractic office, Patty became the administrative secretary and payroll clerk for the Hill City School District. Blaine took a pulp and paper course at Itasca Community College and then when he had been out of high school for one year, he began working at Blandin. He retired after almost forty- one years. The couple had two sons, one deceased. Their other son lives in Cromwell where they have a grandson and granddaughter who sometimes attend church with them. For about ten years they enjoyed dancing with the Mississippi Timber Cloggers. After Pastor Jim performed both funerals for Patty's parents, they decided to attend our services. They appreciate our welcoming congregation.





September 2024 Monthly			
Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	20,389	21,902	(1,513)
YTD-2024	235,221	202,948	32,273
Monthly average - 2024	24,487	22,550	1,937

Our Advance monthly offering YTD is \$51,266. 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:

The Finance Committee would like to thank each of you for the many ways you support the United Methodist Church. It is not always easy to give of your valuable time, but it is so worth it. Just thinking about all of the wonderful people that come to UMC brings on a smile. Since November is the official month of Thanksgiving, we give extra thanks for the privilege of getting to know you and for the support of your presence and of your giving. We are currently developing the 2025 budget trying to estimate the financial support needed to fulfill all areas of our mission and to maintain the church building and grounds that we've dedicated to: Grow in love of God and Neighbor, Reach new people and Heal a broken world.

2025 Budget Requests: Committee Chairs, please have your 2025 Budget submitted by the end of November.

The Abundance Table: Thank you to all who contributed to the Abundance Table, the free-will donations collected exceeded \$300!



2025 Stewardship Campaign:

Our annual Stewardship Campaign is all about stories of renewal, new life, and growing as a family of faith! All of the Sundays in November will feature stories from the family of our congregation of how this church and it's generosity have touched lives and changed hearts for Jesus, the Christ! If you haven't yet, you'll be receiving a letter from the Stewardship Team and Finance Committee informing and encouraging you about your estimate of giving for the coming year. Then, each Sunday of November there'll be a bulletin insert sharing more about our personal fiscal covenant with God *and* the missions and ministries of our congregation. Plus, we'll be hearing these life-changing stories from within our church family. All this culminates with Consecration Sunday, Nov. 24th with a Chili Feed!!



Fireside Readers

The Fireside Readers will be meeting at the church on Monday November 25th at 6:30pm. The book that we will be reading and discussing is "Dear Jacob" by Joy Baker and Patty Wetterling. We welcome new readers.



Hanging of the Greens:

On Saturday, November 30th we'll celebrate the "Hanging of the Greens" as we decorate the Sanctuary and all the church building for the seasons of Advent and Christmas! As we do, we'll enjoy Wassail (United Methodist style) and lunch and making family Advent/Christmas crafts!

The event runs from 10:00 – 2:00. Come, join with your church family as we prepare our facility and our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child!



Youth News!

Our trip to the Skyzone in Duluth is set for Nov. 2nd! We'll leave the church parking lot at 9:30 and return late in the afternoon. While we're in Duluth we'll also enjoy lunch at Grandma's on Canal Park and maybe see a freighter go under the Canal Bridge. We'll spend a bit of time window shopping also. The Youth Group will cover the cost of Skyzone. Lunch and any purchases made while "window" shopping will be your responsibility.

At our meeting on Nov. 6th, we'll have a surprise guest speaker! On Sunday, Nov. 17th we'll be serving our famous Carmel/Cinnamon Rolls as a fundraiser. We'll really need "all hands on deck" that morning! And on Wed, Nov. 20th is our Annual Fall Bowling outing!

December is another full month starting with our shopping trip for Christmas families on Wed., Dec. 4th. Then it's the Lock-In Dec. 6th and 7th. We'll start with dinner on Sat. the 6th and end with Breakfast on the 7th! We serve our rolls again on Sunday, Dec. 15th. Again, "all hands on deck". On Wed., Dec. 18th is our Christmas Party!!

Looking ahead; In Jan/Feb is our trip to the sledding hill in Coleraine and our Winter Retreat at Northern Pines in Park Rapids!

UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS

A wise spiritual director once said: "Every human being has two deaths:

The first is when you take your last earthly breath.

The second is the last time that anyone, anywhere, says your name out loud."



November offers two different opportunities to honor these two deaths.

- November 1 is All Saints Day. On Sunday, November 3 during worship, those who took their last earthly breath this past year will be named. You may contact the church office if you would like to include someone who is not a member of this congregation but has passed in the last 12 months and had been an important part of your life in that service.
- Thanksgiving is later in the month. As we pause to give thanks for the blessings that have surrounded us in this past year, also remember those who have gone before us to lead the way. Say their names out loud, either in the company of family or friends, or out on a walk in the woods, or in your devotional time, even driving in your car.

Both occasions are an opportunity for you to make a contribution in their memory to the Endowment Fund. (Write the check to UMCGR and write Endowment Fund in the memo line or give on line through Breeze).

Sometimes members of the Endowment Fund Committee are advised not to invite people to give money so often. But thankfully, many who are between the first and second deaths, who created the fund and invested in it, have sustained a Fund that has distributed over \$500,000 since it was started for the work of ministry.

Keys:

The Trustees are updating our key log. If you have a physical key for any of the doors in the building, including the garage or shed please let Jodi know. This **DOES NOT** include key cards, I **DO NOT** need to know if you have a key card. This is the information I will need: Your name, what the key is for and the number if there is one on the key. Thank you.



All Saints Sunday ~ November 3rd:

During this special service we will remember our loved ones that have passed since November 2023.

Veterans Sunday ~ November 10rd:

During this special service we will honor our Veterans.



2024 Salad Luncheon

In previous years the Salad Luncheon was planned and implemented by the United Methodist Women. Now it is a church wide event with the proceeds going to the General Fund.

Opportunities for people to get involved:

Sign up to bring a craft or baked goods to be sold, It helps to know how many tables we need to have set up. Carolyn Orlich will be coordinating those sales. Bring them in on Saturday morning by 10:00.

Thursday:

- ⇒ 10:00 Meet to prepare famous fair **Potato Salad** (ingredients provided) - Coordinated by Carolyn Chase
- ⇒ 3:00 Meet to **bake pumpkin bars** (ingredients provided) - Coordinated by Nancy O'Toole
- ⇒ 4:00 Meet to get **tables set up** (Coordinated by Trustees)

Friday

- ⇒ 1:00 Meet to **frost pumpkin bars** (Coordinated by Nancy O'Toole)
- ⇒ 1:00 Meet to **set tables** for serving (Coordinated by June Johnson)

Saturday

- ⇒ **Bring Salads to Kitchen** 10:00
- ⇒ **Kitchen Crew** (Coordinated by Stephani Zimmer)
 - First Shift 10:00 –12:00**
 - Second Shift 12:00 -2:00**
- ⇒ **Wait Staff** 11:15 – 2:00
- ⇒ **Clean-Up** 2:00 until done

Sunday after church "Twice Blessed Salads"

Sign up sheets will be in the narthex for workers.

You may also text Marva Jean (218-256-0265) or Email (marvajeanh@gmail.com) to volunteer to bring salads or to sign up to work.

Over the years the women made the salads, served the salads, and then paid to eat the salads (along with other paying guests). But now that it has expanded to an all church fundraiser, it would be nice to have members of the church, who are not able to participate in the event, provide a complimentary ticket (\$15) for those who provided salads, crafts or baked goods as an expression of appreciation for their efforts.



Notes from Boy Scout Troop 41....

Once again an action packed month.

Our Adopt a Highway cleanup gathered 9 bags of trash from Pokegama Avenue and ended with a treat at Dairy Queen. Thanks to the Webelos Scouts from Pack 51 for helping out!

Our Court of Honor recognizing our scouts achievements was held in late September. We had 6 scouts advance in rank, and awarded 26 merit badges and 4 activity patches. Congratulations to our scouts on their hard work. We enjoyed a taco bar, and ice cream and had a presentation by Ken Olson from the Northern Lakes Coin and Currency Club.

Our troop shoot was held at the Itasca Gun Club rifle range. Scouts got to shoot .22s and some even sighted in their deer rifles. We had a good presentation, discussion of firearm safety, and even some bullseyes! Thank you to the club for allowing us to shoot and for promoting youth shooting sports.

Our troop is working on Coin Collecting Merit Badge. Scouts visited the monthly meeting of the Northern Lakes Coin and Currency club. The boys prepared and brought along their collections. Each scout was paired with one of the club's numismatists to go over requirements, view some rare coins and learn about our monetary system. Five scouts earned the merit badge that night.

Our troop is also working on Communications Merit Badge and planning a Veterans' Day Flag retirement ceremony.

Thank you again for all the support from Pastor Jim, Jodi and the congregation at UMC.

Sincerely,

The Troop 41 Committee



November



- 4 Jenna Naymst
- 5 Patti Kampa
- 6 Alice Anderson
- 6 Lana Hess
- 7 Ken Hansen
- 10 Becky Larson
- 12 Carol Spooner
- 12 Charlotte Waller
- 13 James Borst
- 14 Ron Klingman
- 16 Julia Statsman

- 18 Loren Voehl
- 19 Jacob Larson
- 20 Sadie Larson
- 21 Annette Couch
- 23 Vern Sisco
- 24 Dan Duffy
- 25 Joel Zimmer
- 28 Skip Drake
- 29 Corky Krall
- 29 Curtis Person
- 29 Marit Tverberg
- 30 Kenyon Casper

- 21 Dana & Sandra Grina
- 30 Gene & Linda Rasmussen



Coordinator:
Carolyn Orlich & Stephanie Zimmer

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

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Margaret Cass | Sandy Hansen | Mary Hanson |
| Marva Jean Hutchens | | Carol Kerr |
| Kathy Pliska | Cindy Ridley | Candice Kortekass |
| Margy Strock | Sheila Weeks | Carrie Zimmer |



**Daylight Savings
Times ends
November 3rd.**




Order Your Poinsettias

Orders are being taken for poinsettias and donations to the Senior Scholarship Fund.

Please fill out the lower half of this sheet and place it in the offering plate or mail it to UMCGR.

Please include payment, the deadline for ordering is Dec. 8th.

Thank You!
Worship Committee

NAME: _____

Yes, I would like to order:

_____ Poinsettias at \$11.00 each

_____ Donation toward Senior Scholarship Fund

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____