

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

Mar. 2 Exodus 34:29-35
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Mar. 9 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Mar. 16 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Mar. 23 Isaiah 55:1-9
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Mar. 30 Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Apr. 6 Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

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>



March 2025

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

March 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: As of February 20, 2025, \$1,142 has been donated. We will update the total amount in the April newsletter.

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. Sharon has served 8-10 people since January 1. Many of her guests have only heard about it by word of mouth.

GRACE House: Exciting news!!! Ron Oleheiser just shared that it "seems pretty certain that we will be back in the building by March 1 or within a couple of days". We have a new Administrative Assistant, Jessica Kujala. There may be a need for volunteers to help with getting the building back in order. Furniture will need to be set in rooms and offices, overall organization, kitchen organizing, etc. If you are interested in helping, please call Jessica at 218-326-2790 to get on her call list. **The tentative date for a Grand Opening Celebration is May 8. More details will follow!**

OPEN DOOR COAT RACK: Just a reminder to pick up adult sized winter coats for 12-18 year olds that are on clearance. We want to be sure that we don't run out of coats in October!

Coat donations may be put on the rack by the office.

Second Harvest Northland: The March mission will be the annual MARCH FOODSHARE MN CAMPAIGN. Your donations will be directed to the Grand Rapids Food Shelf but will count for the annual donations match. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to UMCGR with 2nd Harvest in the Memo. Please bring your check to the office or put in the offering plate by March 27 so that the check can be delivered on March 28 to be a part of the match.

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!



STRETCH YOUR DONATION

YOUR \$10 FOOD DONATION vs. **YOUR \$10 FINANCIAL DONATION**

GIVE MORE BY MAKING A CASH DONATION TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD SHELF.

Financial donations go further due to access to food banks and discount purchasing programs, allowing food shelves to purchase items most needed in their community.



Follow us @mnfoodshare

“Is Jesus real? I mean *really* real?” I had that asked of me following a service not too long ago. The person hung around late after the service and after the fellowship time. Caught up with me in my office as I was reading to go home and asked very intently. “Is Jesus real? I mean *really* real? A great question. An honest and searching question!

Did a group of guys just sort of get together and decide to pull off the greatest trick of all time? And did they write down some stories – quite alike, but not too much alike?

Sometimes, in our frustration with things, with our sadness about how “things” are going; especially when we hurt, or get angry at the headlines, or wonder about meaning or purpose – Sometimes we think we could believe that.

But what would I do with all these people who talk to me in gentleness, those with Christ shining out from their eyes? If Jesus didn't exist how'd he get inside so many people? Over and over people drop their lives, walk away from destructive habits & addictions, embrace folks who they have been at almost violent odds with, and walk in and with the Christ.

Spend a day looking for Christ living in others. Jesus is often in the most unlikely people in the most unlikely places. If Jesus isn't real, then you're going to have to exterminate thousands and thousands of people who live in him.

The one who asked me this says they're really thinking about trusting him and living in and for Him. It's a question from this person whose rocking on the precipice of giving their life to Christ!

I love it when people argue that there is no love, and then stand stupid before an act of selfless love. I love it when people argue that there is no mercy, then “whistle and look away” when an act of mercy looms in front of them. I love it when people say there is no Christ, and frown and mumble at a life lived in Jesus; the Jesus who is out stalking the world. This Jesus who seeks to establish himself in people's hearts.

Selfless acts of mercy and powerful acts of justice lived out or acted out by ordinary, not perfect, people. People whose lives are turned into new life-giving, meaning-giving, purpose establishing, community (even world) transforming, restorative directions. People who talk about changed priorities and knowing a living presence of grace in their lives: they call it/him Jesus!

Is Jesus real? I mean *really* real? Yes! *Really*, Yes!

Be God's, Pastor Jim

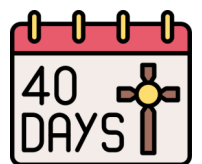
Serving and Building Up Our Children.

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 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.



Lent

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “Spring”. The season is a time for preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a time of instruction and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The first Sunday describes Jesus' temptation in the wilderness; and the sixth Sunday (Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Because Sundays are little Easters, the spirit of penance is tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.





January 2025 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	36,529	25,163	11,366
YTD - 2025	36,529	25,163	11,366
			-
Monthly average - 2025	20,526	25,163	(4,637)

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 Trustees ~ Dishwasher & Playground Equipment:

Great news, the dishwasher is working again, thank you for your patience.

On Sunday Feb. 16, we announced about setting up a playground committee to look into equipment & costs for a playground for the children. I asked for volunteers & we had 5 members step up to help. The Trustee's felt it was time for the church to invest in our children. Timing is unknown yet, but we would like to do it ASAP. More information will follow. Mary Hanson will be heading up the committee. Steve Zimmer, Trustee Chair



Attention! Church Directory Update!

The photos for the directory have been postponed until September.

More information will be shared in the coming months.



A Message From Our Lay Leader ~ March....

Many different references pop into my head for the month of March; Fat Tuesday Celebrations, worship on Ash Wednesday, St. Urho's Day for our Finnish Minnesotans, followed with Nationwide St. Patrick's Day, the first day of Spring. . .but the one that seems to be strongest is; March Madness. No, it isn't just March, for one can turn on the news and it seems every day is March Madness— but is it??



I have to believe, that no matter what earthly minds try to create with havoc or anxiety ~ we, WE as Christians still have our peace. For the Bible hold truths in God's words and promises, such as in Psalm 46:10 (NIV) He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Since there's madness that seems to get into one's heart~ remember our Lord's words, promises, wisdom and love can bring us hope and peace. As in John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

May you celebrate and worship and 'Spring' into the everlasting hopes and aspirations of March Miracles~ our Lord's promises.

Smiles in our Lord, Teresa

Youth News!



Hope You've all been keeping warm this past month. Well, we're headed to warmer times! As we look to our Spring semester there is a lot to get excited about! In the coming months we'll be tubing at Mount Itasca, going horseback riding, and spending a day in Duluth – at the mall, on canal park, and stopping by the "Copper Top Church!

Mark your calendars right now for Sunday, April 6th: Youth Sunday!! The Youth will be leading and serving in worship and serving our famous Cinnamon Rolls afterward!

Also, Book your ticket for this Summer's Magical Mystery Tour: July 6th -10th! We'll be roving all over Minnesota discovering adventures and doing some mission experiences at....whoops, almost gave it away! (That's why it's called a Mystery Tour!)

2nd Annual Plant Sale (UMCGR Fundraiser)

Our SALE DATE (Outdoors): Wednesday, May 28th

Clearance Date (Indoors): Thursday, May 29th

Ways We Can ALL Participate in MARCH:

1. Save the date.
2. Start seeds in your home.
3. Split your overgrowing houseplants.

WATCH for updates....as the planning process begins!

Coordinator of this project is Mary Hanson contact # 218-259-9346



Update from Boy Scout Troop 4041

Busy in the short month of February for the boys.

The Cub Scout pack invited the troop to their open swim at the YMCA. Lifeguards on duty that evening were able to sign off on the BSA swim proficiency test. A needed requirement to attend Camp Wilderness summer camp... It doesn't feel like it yet, but it's just around the corner...

Lots of activities with the Pack this month. Scouts helped out at the annual Pinewood Derby. Cub scouts carved, painted and readied their fastest cars to race for a chance to head to the District Pinewood Derby in Bemidji. Was a fun afternoon on a cold day.

February 8, 1910 is the date of the founding of Scouting. Each year in February the Cub Scouts celebrate with the Blue and Gold banquet. There was a taco bar dinner, potluck, and cake. Dens performed skits and awards were presented to Cub Scouts for all the adventures and rank requirements they are earning. Happy Birthday Scouting!

Our troop attended the Klondike derby at the Buena Vista Ski Area in Bemidji. We braved the windy cold and showed off our scout skills. Troops squared off in lumberjack-themed events. Crosscut saw competition, timed firebuilding, orienteering, and a first aid challenge. We cooked our lunch outdoors and there was plenty of hot cocoa to go around.

We appreciate all those who made Scout Sunday a success. We enjoyed cooking and serving breakfast. Thank you so much for supporting our troop and activities!

Sincerely,

The Troop 41 Committee

Fireside Readers



The Fireside Readers will be reading and discussing the book “Being Henry” by Henry Winkler. This is a memoir of his days in the TV show Happy Days along with movies, theatre and personal life. We meet at the church on Monday, March 24th at 6:30 pm.

Getting to know.....

Hello. My name is Brian Elling. I am somewhat a jack of all trades. I served in the US Navy as a radioman on a sub. I was a heavy equipment operator and a jackaroo in Australia for three years. I have also been a custom cabinet maker.

I have hunted nine different big game species in North America. Now I mainly hunt deer here in Minnesota. My dad and I spend a lot of time clearing and planting trees that are beneficial for deer on our property. We also plant food plots. Many other species benefit from our hard work including coyotes, small mammals, birds of prey and bear.

Family time and church are important aspects of my life and I like to help others when I can. I attended Hill City Methodist Church until I left for the Navy. The twenty-three years I was away, I attended a variety of churches, but I never did seem to find one where I felt like I fit in until now.



Congregational Care & Hospitality

Upcoming Memorial Services at UMCGR:

The Service for Lelia Stevens will be; Saturday, March 1st at 12 noon, visitation at 11am.

The Service for Marv Grina will be; Saturday, March 22nd, at 1pm, visitation at 12pm.

The Service for Roy LaDoux will be; Tuesday, April 29th; at 11:00am, Visitation at 10am.



Friendly Phoners & Card Care Lists:

Did you sign up to call someone on our shut-in list last May? Remember to pick up your phone and make a friendly call. Reach out to any others that come to mind. Winter can be long and lonely. Do you have a heart for the elderly and shut-in members of our church family? The Care & Hospitality Team is looking for a coordinator for Friendly Phoners, Holiday Care Lists (for sending cards) and other contacts that may be helpful. Contact Nancy: 218-256-7711.

Get To Know You Articles:

Do you like to chat with people and enjoy writing? The Care & Hospitality Team is looking for someone to contact people in our church family and write a few paragraphs for “Get Acquainted” articles in the newsletter. Right now there is a special need since we have a number of new families. Contact Nancy: 218-256-7711.

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. Please prayerfully consider bring a part of our ride share ministry and contact the church office if you feel called to serve the church family in this way.

Nametags:

New name tags will be ordered in April. If you attend regularly and need one please sign up at the Info Booth by Palm Sunday. If you wish to reimburse the church, the cost is \$10.

REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAG EVERY SUNDAY!



MARCH



- 1 Dennis Drieman
- 2 Josephine Lund
- 3 John Linder
- 4 Gracie Zimmer
- 5 James Tennison
- 5 Kelly Smith
- 7 Al Wallace
- 8 Kathy Pliska
- 10 Sandy Hansen
- 11 Trevor Zimmer
- 13 Patty Christensen
- 13 Ross Cass
- 13 Bret Holmstrom
- 15 Ava Larson
- 15 Blake Brewster
- 15 Miles Akre

- 16 Alexander Brewster
- 17 Caleb Smith
- 22 Carolyn Orlich
- 22 Mikaela Green
- 23 Lilly Melhus
- 24 Braylin Sisco
- 25 Margy Strock
- 27 Tyler Danielson
- 27 Sharon Borst
- 27 Jayden Lenzen
- 28 Janice Crandall
- 28 Darwin Kutzorik
- 28 Phyllis Bean
- 30 Walker Ritter
- 30 Sue Anderson

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	

08 Jim & Brenda Brown	
12 John & Alice Anderson	
26 Darwin & Pat Kutzorik	

Ash Wednesday Service:

7:00 pm Wednesday, March 5th




Fat Tuesday Party!

At UMCGR

Tuesday, March 4, 2025,

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Games with Prizes, Crafts for families, & Square Dancing. We'll be having Jambalaya (or hotdogs). Freewill donation. This is a community event. All are invited!



Spring Ahead

March 9th



UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS

March is the first month in 2025 to have five Sundays. For the past three years we have been inviting you to make a Fifth Sunday Special Offering in honor or memory of someone who has contributed to your life in a significant way. We have completed the three year strategic plan that put that effort in motion. Some people have been concerned that the Endowment Fund Committee was asking for money too often.



So the Committee has decided to just make a special effort twice a year, rather than four times. But, truth be told, any day is a good day to give thanks to God for people who have shaped your life. There are envelopes available at the information desk to make your gift or you may designate in the memo line on your check made out to UMCGR who it is in memory or honor of.