

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Jan. 5 Isaiah 60:1-6
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12
- Jan. 12 Isaiah 43:1-7
 Acts 8:14-17
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- Jan. 19 Isaiah 62:1-5
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 John 2:1-11
- Jan. 26 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
 Luke 4:14-21
- Feb. 2 Jeremiah 1:4-10
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30

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>



January 2025

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



January 2025

RAPIDS CONNECTION

MISSIONS

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
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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! This January Mission News is basically a Thank You to our congregation for all of the special ways you have supported the Mission work of UMCGR. You have willingly shared your \$, your time and your talents to help others in our world and in our community!

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: Thank you!!! Your financial gifts blessed 10 families this year - 7 families from Itasca Human Services. The Youth Group raised \$ and shopped for the gifts for 3 families from Pastor Jim's outreach! A special thank you to Nancy O'Toole, Sandy Grina and Brenda Brown for shopping for the gifts! It takes a lot of time and is a little more difficult to find gifts for people we don't know. Each child and parent received at least one gift as well as a \$25 gas card and a \$25 Aldi's card. Thank you to the 11 volunteers who spent several hours wrapping the gifts. It is always an especially fun time working together.

GRACE House: The annual shelter dinner fundraiser was a wonderful success! UMC people filled 6 tables and a great time was had by all. The food and the dinner music were excellent. The numbers aren't in yet but 390 guests were served. It was announced that Hawk Construction expect the addition and remodeling to be completed by mid January. Thank you all for your continued support of the homeless in our community!

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING: Thank you to all UMC volunteers who took shifts ringing the bell at SuperOne North. All but one of the shifts we committed to were filled.

UMCOR HURRICAN RELIEF: Thank you to all that donated to UMCOR! A total of \$2,785, which includes \$500 from the Mission Committee, was sent to UMCOR for the Hurricane Relief.

DIVORCE CARE: Thank you to Sean Duffney and Mary Hanson for their leadership this year for our Divorce Care groups. Many people from our community have been blessed as they step out in faith and join the groups.

TOYS FOR TOTS: We hosted the Itasca area Toys for Tots distribution on 12/13 & 14. UMC volunteers welcomed participants. Thank you to Carolyn Orlich who coordinated volunteers to serve cookies and cider. We are happy to be a part of this important community outreach.

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!

How beautiful was the Christmas eve service! Thank you to the musicians, the team that decorated the sanctuary, our media team and all those who made the worship so Spirit-filled and celebrative! All the nativity characters who surrounded the manger as the nativity story was read. A beautiful service indeed.

Now, into the new year, all the wonderful Christmas memories that you and your families made are fresh in your hearts as we pack away the ornaments, take down the tree, put away all the decorations and finish off all the leftovers from delicious meals and parties through the Christmas season.

As all this fades into memory and cherished experience we might become less hopeful, less energized as we face the new year. With past pressures and angst still haunting our hearts and looking at the new year's coming deadlines and compounded commitments, we might feel deflated and a bit overwhelmed.

But now we move into a season called Epiphany (more formally called the season after the Epiphany)! Epiphany (manifestation) of the Lord celebrates the coming of the magi (the kings) and marks the end of the Christmas cycle which began on the first Sunday of Advent. During this season of Epiphany, we focus on the early ministry of Jesus. The first Sunday of the season is always centered on Jesus' baptism.

It is Jesus' baptism that launches him into the mission and ministry of his life that will change the world! As we move into this season ourselves, we can see the coming events in our lives not as obstacles to be overcome but as opportunities to build on and chances to live out the Commonwealth of Christ! This new year has potential for growth, for touching hearts and changing lives! The accomplishments of our past year (and there are many) are the fuel and foundation for us to build as a congregation!

We've gained more volunteers in education and for worship. We matched a large donation above and beyond our tithes and offerings. The number of baptisms in a year grew for the third year in a row. Our youth had their busiest year in a decade. We created new outreach/fundraising events, i.e. the UMCGR Plant Sale. (Thank you Mary Hanson). Our "Chosen" Bible Study saw our largest attendance for bible study and brought in new faces. We could keep naming blessings. The Holy Spirit has been active and increasing in our lives together as a faith family!

So, building on that, what might God do through us in this coming year?! I encourage each of us to be as engaged in the life of our congregation as you're able. Make worshiping together on Sunday mornings a priority! Not just "something I'll get to if I feel up to it" or don't have something "more important"! Meeting with God and gathering together in celebration as we praise our Savior is most important! Choose to participate in at least two missions/ ministries in the life of our congregation. Maybe one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Grow in your knowledge of God and the scriptures by being in a Bible Study. Build close relationships with others by participating in a fellowship experience: like our Fat Tuesday party of the Frightfully Delightful Halloween event.

God is inviting and empowering, and equipping us as we see ourselves grow as a congregation both in number and in discipleship; Praise God! May each of us open ourselves to the activity of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and in our lives. May we experience an "on going epiphany" of Christ amongst us!

Be God's, Pastor Jim



November 2024 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	19,187	30,658	(11,471)
YTD - 2024	269,308	258,216	11,092
			-
Monthly average - 2024	24,483	23,474	1,009

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:

I came across a quote that seems to fit at the end of the year: "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." by Thomas Edison. I am so happy that we met the challenge to do a bit extra and overcome a negative budget. Thank each of you for not giving up and doing one extra thing to keep UMC running in the black. From the Finance Committee to each of you: Wishing you God's blessings for a healthy and happy 2025.

UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Endowment Fund during these past three years of the strategic plan. With your help and the help of other donors, great strides have been made.

We will be recognizing the ministries that have been funded during this time and giving thanks for all the support that has been given during the Church Conference on January 26th. We will also be bringing a recommendation for disbursement of \$30,000 in 2025 to be approved at that meeting.



Happy New Year! May God bless and guide us in the year to come.

A Message From Our Lay Leader:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! That's the saying that rings out beginning 12:00a.m January 1st—

Happy New Year for us can be a reminder of Revelations 21: 5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." (NASB)

Is there really 'HAPPY' in every New Year? As a saying goes; **You bet your bottom there is!** We have to remember AND believe the many promises in God's word, promises to bring us hopes and joys, of love, of believing the possibilities even in impossible circumstances. . . We must remember it is our Lord who spoke His truths AND believe as of centuries ago— they are just as true today as written then. God's words are our 'happy' in every situation, for He says so;

Looking at them, Jesus *said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God. Mark 10:27 (NASB) (underline added)

So with the love that surrounds each of us in our beautiful faith family, a HAPPY NEW YEAR is our possibility, even in darkest moments- He *is* always The Light!!

Happy Blessed & Promises filled New Year!!! Teresa





Youth News!

It's been a great Fall for the youth group! We have new faces in our group and we've been more active than ever before (and that's with having to postpone our Lock-In till next year) Thank you to the youth who were able to help with the Cinnamon Rolls both in November and December. And thanks to Hannah and Yamka for their work at the Grace House Gala. They helped raise the largest amount to date in their event for the Homeless Shelter!! All of you youth are amazing and a great blessing for this congregation!!

As we look to 2025, our first meeting isn't until the 15th! In the coming Spring, we'll be planning a Winter Lock-In. The date we're confirming for our winter Retreat at Northern Pines Retreat Center in Park Rapids is January 31st through February 2nd. Please circle and highlight those dates!

Young Families "Meet and Greet"

Have you noticed the growth in the number of young families in our services on Sunday mornings? Isn't it a delight to see us having to "make room" up in the chancel area during the children's moment? Do you know we've run out of craft supplies a couple of times this Fall in the Discovery Zone? We have so many new young families amongst that there's a need to have them get to know one another! While it's a few weeks out, we're having a **"Young Families' Meet & Greet" on Sunday, February 16th starting at 4:30 (it will go no later than 6:00!). Please circle the date. For just this event we're defining "young family" as families with at least one child 4th grade and younger.** We'll gather for a hosted meal (part of the menu will be mac & cheese but feel free to bring what you know your small children would like) and we'll just put names to faces. The nursery will be open and have a couple attendants there. Come, meet one another, and celebrate the growth God is bringing to our congregation!



2025 Confirmation Schedule:

What an amazing confirmation class we have! With students and their mentors discussing and challenging each other to what it really means to be a "Jesus Follower" and to Confirm one's Baptism Vows. Here's this coming Spring's confirmation class schedule (6:00 pm) and who needs to be at which meetings:

No January meetings.

February 9th: Students & Mentors

February 23rd: Students

March 9th: Students, Mentors, Parents

March 23rd: Students & Mentors

April 13th: Students

April 27th: Students & Mentors



Keys: 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, she **DOES NOT** need to know if you have a key card. This is the information she will need: Your name, what the key is for and the number if there is one on the key.



Changes at our Custodial Position:

A Great Big **Thank You** to Justine Williams for 20 years of keeping our church building so clean and welcoming! It was so fun to celebrate her on Sunday, December 15th! (I think we really did surprise her). As we go forward into the new year, the trustees have contracted Busy Bees cleaning services to clean the facility once a week on Fridays. Also, with the use of the facility so busy and the need to attend to cleaning up after special events, Louis (Louie) Baumel has been hired as a custodian, his hours will be during the day on Mondays and as needed for special events. Thank you to Louie for stepping in.



Getting to know.....

Sam, Janessa, Mikaela, Nolon, and Adam Green moved to Grand Rapids in August 2022. T

The kids attend Northland Community School in Remer, where Janessa is the Elementary Principal. Sam works remotely for a software company called Infor. We spend a lot of our time on the lakes in Park Rapids during the summer and winter. We are very excited to be part of the GRUMC family.



Congregational Care & Hospitality

LUMBERJACK SUNDAY IS JANUARY 19TH



A popular winter church event has been Lumberjack Sunday. We will be looking for people to donate stew or bean hotdishes (but not soup which is more difficult to serve.) There will be a sign-up list available in January. Don't forget, we will also be serving OUR FAMOUS METHODIST PIE! Plan to attend and invite friends or family.



CHRISTMAS CARE: Thank you to everyone who picked up a Christmas Care List and contacted our shut-ins or people with special needs. I'm sure your thoughtfulness was enjoyed and appreciated.

News From The Office: NEW CELLPHONE FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE

PERMISSION TO RECEIVE TEXT MESSAGES IS REQUIRED - SEE BELOW.

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. **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).** Please keep in mind that this is a work in progress, and it will take time to get this service up and running! 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. The cell phone is NOT replacing the main office number and we will continue to send emails. Text messages in an additional means of communication.



Jodi Martin, Office Administrator



January



- 2 John Anderson
- 2 Margaret Cass
- 3 Sherry Thompson
- 3 Dana Grina
- 4 Kelsie Jo Zimmer
- 4 McKenzie Selliers
- 5 Carolyn Salo
- 6 Renee Veit
- 11 Virginia Rucinski
- 13 Joan Jones

- 15 Dave Hutchins
- 16 Virginia Loop
- 22 Laura Hauser
- 24 Lynne Meyer
- 26 Joann Gould
- 27 Bennett Hanson
- 28 Owen Linder
- 28 Irene Drieman
- 28 Sean Duffney
- 31 David Tank

- 5 Clayton & Leila Stevens
- 5 John & JoLynn Linder



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 | JoLynn Linder |
| Willie Nuorala | Lisa Randall |
| Gene & Linda Rasmussen | Justine Williams |

Annual Charge Conference

SAVE THE DATE Sunday, January 26th
following the service.



Coming Soon!

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Please plan to be part of our New Directory!

It won't be complete without you!

Each "family" photographed receives a free 8x10 portrait AND a free directory!

Our Photography Dates are:

April 10, 11 & 12

Weekday Photography Hours are 2:00 - 8:30 | Saturday Hours are 10:00 - 4:00

Scheduling Begins in February!

Watch for more details coming soon...

