November 2026

Nov. 1	Rev. 7:9-17 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12
Nov. 8	Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25 1 Thess. 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 15	Judges 4:1-7 1 Thess. 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46
Nov. 29	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

1701 SE 5th Ave • Grand Rapids, MN

2 blocks west of the Grand Rapids Airport

218-327-2216

secretary@umcgrmn.org

https://umcgrmn.org/

FIND US

Watch our Livestream on YouTube

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

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Thank you!

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

The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

NOVEMBER 2026



RAPIDS CONNECTION

GROW
in love of
God and neighbor

REACH
new people

HEAL
a broken world

STAFF

Pastor
Rev. James Crecelius

Administrator
Jodi Martin

Accompanist
Susan Hoolihan

Ready Set Grow
Preschool
Mary Hanson
Shari Tverberg

Custodian
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



MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

EF Funds – Donations are being made this month to Itasca Life Options, Elder Circle – to be used where needed most, New Beginnings and Community Café.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: This year the Mission Committee will be asking Human Services for 5 families to give Christmas gifts to. The Youth Group will also be donating to 3 or more families. In addition to the gifts for the family, each family is given a gift card for Aldi's and Circle K. The Mission Committee will be serving the Fellowship treat on November 22. We will have a basket available for donations. Your donation may also be dropped off in the office or in the Sunday plate prior to December 1. Please designate Christmas Families in the Memo on your check. We will need 3 volunteers to shop for the gifts between 12/2 and 12/9. You will be given a list that we receive from Human Services. We will need several volunteers to help wrap the gifts on Thursday, December 10 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. There will be a signup sheet available prior to Thanksgiving.The gifts will be delivered to Human Services on Friday, December 11.

Foster Love – Many of the volunteers that regularly help sort donations at Foster Love leave for the winter. If you have an hour or two to volunteer either Tuesdays or Wednesdays anytime from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Karen Tinquist would welcome you.She really could use some help!

GRACE House: **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!** The annual shelter dinner, Home Is Where the Heart Is will be Thursday, December 3, 2026. In 2025, we had 6 tables of Methodists!Let's do it again!! Tickets will go on sale on November 1 for $65.00. Please see Kay Klingman or Pastor Jim for tickets.

OPEN DOOR COAT RACK: Thank you to everyone who has helped get our church ready for the annual Coat Drive. Thank you as well for volunteering to help during the distribution. We served 644 children and 372 adults! We had 59 volunteers from our church and the community, together they put in 442 hours!

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!

News From the Office:



The office will be CLOSED November 25-27 as both Pastor Jim and Jodi will be out of the office for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Pastor's Corner



"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!

It wasn't a question so much about the historical fact; "was there a Jesus of Nazareth?" It was a question about belief; about giving one's life to Christ; of trusting in God and God's love. Sometimes we question the truth of the historicity of the bible and of our faith traditions. Is there really a real, true presence of the divine I can trust in, who is active in this world? A Savior who fully and really loves me – completely?

"Is Jesus real? I mean really real?"

Sometimes, in our frustration with situations, 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 feel and think we just might be ready to "stop fooling ourselves".

But what would I do with all these people who talk to me in gentleness, who have such a love for others, who have such a passion for justice, all these folk with Christ shining out from their eyes? If Jesus didn't exist how'd he get inside so many people? Over and over and over people drop their "stuck in a meaningless routine" lives, or completely change their priorities, or overcome addiction, or step out of destructive lifestyles and begin to live with integrity….and begin to walk in 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 and thousands of people who live in him and in whom Christ lives.

The one who asked me this says they're deeply considering trusting Jesus and living in and for Christ. It's a question of someone who's rocking on the precipice of giving their life to Christ!

"Is Jesus real? I mean really real?"

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 right up in front of them. I love it when people say there is no Christ, and frown and mumble at a life that lives in Jesus and shouts of Resurrection! This 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 in new life-giving, meaning-giving, restorative directions. People who talk about changed priorities and knowing a living presence of grace in their lives: they call that…….Jesus!

Is Jesus real? I mean really real?Absolutely, Yes!

Be God's, Pastor Jim

Youth Fellowship Update:

Lost in a corn maze! Getting "rolled over and over and over" in a tube! Going for a long Hay ride! Swingin' on a swing! Aaand….getting bit by an ear of corn! (Don't ask, you had to be there) Anyway, we had a lot of fun at Cowhorn Crossing farm. We keep adding faces!. Thanks, everyone, for coming. Our next meeting is Nov. 1st! Come ready (locked and loaded) for the Fall Nerf Challenge!! In November we'll have three meetings: Sunday, Nov. 1st; Sunday, Nov. 15th; and Sunday, Nov. 29th. All at the church – or they begin at the church (hmmm..) – and, as usual, meet from 6:30 to 8:00.

Be circling Dec. 4th and 5th for the Winter Lock-in and Sunday Dec. 20th for our Christmas Party! We continue to build momentum as we keep on growing!!

Financial Update



	Sep 2026		
	Monthly Snap Shot		
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	18,464	22,241	(3,777)
Full Year 2026	207,713	239,948	(32,235)
Monthly average - 2026	23,079	26,661	(3,582)

Thank you for your continued support of the daily ministry of our church. We try to be careful stewards of your gifts.

A Note From the Finance Committee:

Dear UMCGR Family,

First of all, thank you. Thank you for your generosity of spirit and giving. We are blessed to be a congregation with a heart for supporting mission and ministry. Your faithful and consistent financial stewardship is deeply, deeply appreciated. Every gift given to the mission and ministry of our church is acknowledged and greatly valued.

As we do each Fall, we're coming into the weeks of our Stewardship campaign. With this letter is an Estimate of Giving Card. Please fill out the Estimate of Giving Card and turn it back in to the office, or bring it with you on Sunday, November 22nd, Consecration Sunday. During our Stewardship Campaign, members of the congregation will be sharing what being a part of this congregation means to them and why stewardship is important to them.

Stewardship is our response to God's Almighty Grace. It's a response expressed through our giving of "prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness". It's the promise we make to God, and in solidarity with one another - because of our personal relationship with God through Jesus, the Christ! We practice good stewardship to show gratitude for this life-giving relationship – a love that is unconditional and unlimited!

The Finance Committee and Pastor Jim encourage each of us to fill out and return our Estimate of Giving card. The Estimate of Giving provides essential information for how our church will be able to operate in the coming year. Let your financial covenant emerge from a true sense of thanksgiving for what this church means to you, and for how this fellowship of Christian friends has enriched your life.

As you complete your Estimate of Giving Card, keep these three things in your heart:

- Pray about your Estimate of Giving: Think about what UMCGR means to you. Reflect on how your life is blessed by being a part of this church family. Then, give out of thanksgiving - with a full heart of appreciation and joy.
- Give Generously: If you're able, increase your Estimate. Don't give "Till it hurts", give "until it feels good".
- Try your best to meet your Estimate of Giving in the coming year.

In service to Christ and to this congregation,

Finance & Stewardship Committee of UMCGR

P. S. You will find a Estimate of Giving Card on the last page of the newsletter.

A Message From Our Lay Leader - Thank You" with all my heart?

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

November, the month of Thanksgiving. As I read this passage in Psalms, it struck me how we have a full day of Thanksgiving to feast upon the bountiful in our homes and lives. But there are those who may have less— or nothing at all. There are those with losses so painful their hearts ache, there are those who feel hopeless, there are those. . . So then, how do they say; "Thank you"?

I believe, as Christians, it comes from the depths of our souls. For the fulfillments which God provides for us, is always more than our needs. We trust in Him, we trust in His words and promises, we trust in His presence— when there is nothing or no one, there is ***ALWAYS*** God!!!

I am thankful for each of you, I am deeply. thankful for Christ's love that pours from your hearts into our communities. I am so thankful for the loving and sincere caring that is generous and unconditional each and every day I have known you. I am thankful for your kindness, support and humor. I am exceptionally thankful for your faith.



May every day be our 'Thanksgiving' of multiple praise to our Lord with all our hearts for His ever abundant blessings and grace.
Thank You my Faith family— with ***all*** my heart!

Blessings & Joys in Jesus, Your Lay Leader, Teresa

Care & Hospitality News & Events



CHURCH FAMILY PHOTO

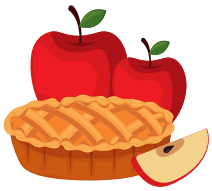
Plan to stay after church for a few minutes on November 22nd to meet around the altar and take a photo of our church family. We will create a GRUMC greeting card and send it to shut-ins during Advent.

REMEMBER THE SHUT-INS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

If you wish to send a Thanksgiving or Christmas card, call, or visit one or more of our shut-ins, a list will be provided before and after church beginning in November. The number of people you wish to greet is your choice. Help us spread some holiday love and cheer!

2nd Annual Apple Pie Sale

$16 per pie, order forms are available in the Narthex.
ORDER your pies by NOVEMBER 15th
Pie distribution by front entrance Sunday, November 22, 11-1 and Monday, November 23, 3-6 pm.



UPCOMING PIE DATES-ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR:

Thursday, November 5,2:30. Crust Sunday, November 8, After church. Peeling & rolling.

Fireside Readers



We will start Christmas early with the Life and Adventures of Santa Claus" by Frank Baum on November 23rd at 6:30pm.

December 14th will be our annual potluck and book exchange at 5:30 pm (we moved the date up to avoid Christmas conflicts). We will read the third excerpt from our Christmas book in the church library. Think of books for the upcoming year! We will vote at the December meeting.

A bit of history - the October meeting marked the 22nd anniversary of this book club! That likely makes our group one of the oldest book clubs in GR!

Faith Family Ministry Info:

3:6Tween Our next gathering will be Sunday, November 8th following worship from apx. 11:30-12:30 at this gathering we will focus on Thanksgiving. Parents are invited to stay in the fellowship hall to help with apple pie making if you wish. I am looking for someone to help me supervise the tweens as well, if you are able, please let Jodi know.

Our Staffed Nursery is going very well. At the October Ad Council Meeting, they decided to change the age range to be for infants & children up to kindergarten. If you are interested in volunteering in the nursery, please let Jodi know.

November Discovery Zone Lessons will be on the Tower of Babel and Abraham's Test. There will not be Discovery Zone on Sunday, November 29th due to the Thanksgiving weekend. If you are interested in leading or helping with DZ, please contact Jodi.

The Hanging of the Greens - our next Faith Family Minisrty Event

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 6th! Following the service we will have a pot luck meal and then stay to help decorate our church home for Christmas. There will be activities for children and families. Also, the 3:6Tween group will sneak away for a bit and have our Chirstmas party. Watch for details coming later in November.

UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS

Watch your mail for a letter from the Endowment Fund Committee that will include our brand new brochure about the Endowment Fund. It is with great gratitude that we also tell you about a success story of how the disbursements from the Fund has worked as envisioned by our founders.

The Trustees used the disbursement money from 2026 to replace four boilers that service the educational wing and kitchen. The General Fund, their Annual Budget, would not have covered the expense. But they were able to complete the project without having a Fund Raiser from the congregation. They have already planned to replace the other four boilers for the rest of the building in 2027 using the distribution for Trustees next year.

In recent weeks there have been questions and confusion about the finances for the church. Think of it this way:

- The **General Fund** is like your checking account.
  The income for that fund comes from our weekly and monthly giving. In November the Finance Committee or Stewardship Committee will be inviting us to make a pledge, or covenant of giving, or an estimate of giving, whatever you want to call it, so that they can develop a budget.

  The **expenses** are estimated by the various committees leading the ministry of our church.
  It pays the cost of caring for maintaining the building and equipment for the year and is monitored by the Trustees.
  It pays the salaries for our pastor and staff and is monitored by the Staff Parish Committee.
  It pays for the administrative costs of supplies need by the Education Committee, Membership and Congregational Care Committee, Youth Ministry, Ready Set Grow, and other programs.

- The **Special Purpose Funds** are like your savings account.
  The **income** comes from people donating to a specific special project such as flowers for Christmas or Easter, the Parking Lot Fund, the Scholarship Fund, the Playground Fund, etc.

- The **expenses** are monitored by the Finance Committee and the Administrative Council.

- The **Endowment Fund** is like your investment portfolio, or your pension fund
  The **income** comes from gifts in memory or honor of loved ones, or estates, or gifts of stock.Just as your investments have a Required Minimum Distribution,
  The Endowment Committee meets in October to review the Market Value of the investments and to bring a recommendation, that is made by formula, to the Charge Conference for distribution for the next year.

November

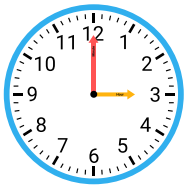
Happy Anniversary

21 Dana & Sandra Grina
30 Gene & Linda Rasmussen

Happy THANKSGIVING

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4 Jenna Naymst
5 Patti Kampa
6 Alice Anderson
6 Lana Hess
7 Ken Hansen
10 Becky Larson
12 Carol Spooner
13 James Borst
14 Ron Klingman
16 Julia Statsman
17 Morgan Troumbly
19 Jacob Larson
21 Benson Gmahl
21 Annette Couch
23 Vern Sisco
24 Dan Duffy
25 Joel Zimmer
28 Skip Drake
29 Corky Krall
29 Marit Tverberg
30 Kenyon Casper



Daylight Savings Time ENDS on Sunday, November 1st. Be sure to "Fall Back" before you go to bed on October 31st.

Veteran's Sunday will be Sunday, November 8th. Thank you for your service.

At 6pm on Veteran's Day, November 11th the Scouts will hold a Flag Retirement in the parking lot of UMCGR. You are invited to attend. If you have flags to be retired, please drop them off at the church or bring them that evening.



United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids Estimate of Giving

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous in every way." 2 Corinthians 9:11

Thank you for your commitment to support God's work through your congregation in 2027.

I/We want to express my/our gratitude to God for all the blessings God has given us by giving to the UMC of Grand Rapids Ministry in order that our mission will continue to GROW-REACH-HEAL lives through the love of Jesus Christ.

I/We Will Give General Fund $_____ Per: ___Week ___Month ___Year

Other:_____ $_____ Per: ___Week ___Month ___Year

___ I/We are tithers ___ I/We are growing toward becoming tithers

___ I/We would like information on tithing ___ This is our/my first time making a commitment

Name (please print): _____

Signature:_____ Date:_____

This commitment is for 2027. Please submit your Estimate of Giving Card on or before November 22, 2026.

To set up a recurring donation, please scan the QR Code.
The fees associated with online/recurring donations are less if you choose ACH payment option.