

October 2026

- Oct. 4 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Acts 4:5-12
Matthew 21:33-46
- Oct. 11 Exodus 32:1-14
Act 8:14-25
Matthew 22:1-14
- Oct. 18 Exodus 33:12-23
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 22:15-22
- Oct. 25 Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Acts 10:44-48
Matthew 22:34-46
- Nov. 1 Revelation 7:9-17
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

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/>



Watch our Livestream on YouTube

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



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



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

OCTOBER 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

SHARON'S WIG CLOSET: From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank my church family for the love, prayers, support, and blessings they have poured into my life and this ministry. Your kindness has helped make Sharon's Free Wig Closet possible, allowing me to serve and encourage clients who are facing cancer and medical hair loss. Every wig, every prayer, and every act of compassion is a reminder of God's love working through you. I am truly grateful for the faith, generosity, and encouragement that continues to bless me and all those we serve. 30-40 guests have been served since 1/1/26.

UNITED WAY – STUFF THE BUS: In addition to UMCGR being a drop off site, we sent a team of volunteers to help pack the backpacks. A special THANK YOU to our UMC Stuff the Bus team! It was a fun afternoon working together and supporting our community. From the local UW: "20 partners collectively donated 5,807 school supply items weighing a whopping 1,325 pounds! And those donations turned into real impact. With the supplies collected through this drive, 120 volunteers came together to pack 419 backpacks, serving 242 households across our United Way service area! Every backpack helps a local student head into the school year prepared and ready to learn, while helping reduce financial barriers that can impact the family's financial stability. Together, we're giving area students more than school supplies—we're giving them a strong start".

GRACE House: Plans are totally underway for the annual shelter dinner Home Is Where the Heart Is. Please remember to Save the Date—Thursday, December 3, 2026.

COMMUNITY CONNECT: Our UMC volunteers are amazing! We had 11 people fixing the chili for Community Connect and the Praise & Peppers Chili Fest. We used a total of 60 pounds of burger!! We also had 11 volunteers at the event where we served 211 bowls of chili. A special thank you to everyone as well as the men who moved everything to the arena and back and to Mary Giese for picking up the used items and washing everything.

OPEN DOOR COAT RACK: A special request: On Sunday, October 18 after church service, we will need your help to bring all the coats etc. in from the garage and remove the tables from the Fellowship Room so we can begin setting up. Judy Peterson will begin calling volunteers October 1. Thanks to everyone who helped with the inventory. We will be purchasing children's coats in the sizes that are needed. Please remember to save your gently worn adult winter coats. We would appreciate it if you could keep them until October 1 but if that doesn't work for you, you may bring them to UMC and hang them on the rack near the office.

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!



It's already happening. It's subtle but you can see (and this morning, feel) the change. In the past week the drive from my house to church has becoming more colorful. It seemed like we just had Labor Day weekend and now it's October – by the time you read this. It's just past mid-September when I'm writing this and when I took the dog out this morning it was just a bit "nippy" as they say.

I'm reminded by the change of colors and temperature that God is always moving into the next New Thing, and the Holy Spirit is always seeking to inspire our hearts and orient our souls on this activity. This momentum of God's grace, justice, and shalom already active and about the business of Christ's Commonwealth. And Jesus invites and calls us to join in; to "come, and follow me".

As we join in the work and movement of the gospel, I encourage us to look to scripture to give us guiding values both individually as each of us express our own personal discipleship and as a congregation; a community of faith seeking to express and live out the call of the gospel.

Let's start with Mark 12:28-31. Known as The Great Commandment, Jesus tells his listeners to "love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. Then he continues immediately saying, "love your neighbor as yourself". This scripture is a great place to begin setting guiding values. We are rooted in Jesus! Jesus is our foundation, the One who commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to love enemies and welcome the sojourner. Christ is the very embodiment of love; Emmanuel – "God with us." Let's engage in The Great Commandment in our daily lives, Loving God with our full selves and loving our neighbors.

We are grounded in the Wesleyan Movement. The great preacher and theologian, John Wesley, is called the founder of Methodism. Wesleyan theology is the tradition in which United Methodism is formed. It emphasizes personal piety (God's relationship with you personally and "right living") and social holiness (God's connecting and society-transforming love). God's grace journeys with us throughout our lives and calls us to fulfill "The Great Requirement" (Micah 6:8) to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Matthew 28:19-20 is known as "The Great Commission" that scripture tells us to go and make disciples of all nations. The invitation to become a disciple of Jesus, the Christ, is for each and for all. It is fully embracing of all people. We aren't to baptize only "Those" people or not baptize "That" person. God's love extends to each and all....period. The church is to invite, welcome, support, and nurture any and all; bringing them into Beloved Community – the Church.

A fourth guiding value from scripture is from Luke 4:16-21. Jesus, preaching in the synagogue, quotes Isaiah 61:1. We are a church created to participate in God's redemptive work in this world. We hold an unwavering commitment to the hard work of advocacy, justice, redemption, and liberation. Our work is shaped by this passage from Luke, often referred to as "The Great Proclamation", preaching good news to the poor and setting the oppressed free.

As we go forward into this new season- this "New Thing" God is already afoot making happen and inviting us to participate in, let's use these scriptural guiding values: The Great Commandment (Mark 12:28-31, The Great Requirement (Micah 6:8), The Great Commission (Matthew 18:19-20), and The Great Proclamation" (Luke 4:16-21) as we make happen our missions and ministries.

Be God's, Pastor Jim

FROM THE TRUSTEES:

We are looking for a volunteer to shovel the sidewalks at the church this winter. We shovel them when we get 3" or more of snow. Please contact the Trustees if interested. (If possible, the sidewalk by the preschool should be done by 8am on weekdays). Thank you

All-Church Clean-Up is October 10th 9-3. Please join your church family to care for your church home and prepare for winter.



Financial Update



	Aug. 2026 Monthly Snap Shot		
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	24,085	23,755	330
Full Year 2026	189,249	217,707	(28,458)
Monthly average - 2026	23,656	27,213	(3,557)

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:

We were so blessed to have four people step up and investigate becoming our new UMC Treasurer. They are Dana Reddish, Kathy Mahaffey, Beth Bloom, and Joni Namyst. After discussions, we find out that all four people are needed on the finance committee. The Ad Council will be asked to approve the recommendation of Dana Reddish to serve as treasurer.

We are working on the 2027 budget and urge each of you to please complete the Estimate of Giving for 2027 during the Stewardship Campaign which runs from October 25th to November 22nd.

Why is this important? The general fund of the church is how we fund our programs, the building's everyday expenses, the administration expenses, and enjoy a beautiful church in which to worship and forge new and lasting friendships. By furnishing an Estimate of Giving, you are helping to form the plan of how we can accomplish the Vision, the Mission, and share our Values with our community and the world. Your input for cost cutting ideas is also greatly appreciated as we form the 2027 budget.

During our yearly Stewardship Campaign we'll hear stories of how this congregation has touched hearts and changed lives. Each member or family is encouraged to fill out an Estimate of Giving card. On November 22nd, we'll celebrate and consecrate our giving cards and ourselves to God; dedicating ourselves to one another to the mission and ministry of UMCGR.

Thank you from the Finance Committee.

A Message From Our Lay Leader - Helping Others

"The body of Christ" You - Me - WE! How many times have we heard or read these words? How many times have we brought them to life? To think when Jesus ascended into heaven, He left us, commissioned us, to be His eyes, ears, arms, legs and voice - to Go out and make disciples - to LOVE one another as He loves us - to serve, not to be served. Our church is a home of faith, yes a home that is built on the foundation of God's love. And as in any home, we need each other to create a family that brings honor and glory together for God. We need to be His body in the gifts He's given each of us. We need **YOU!**

Nominations are up for Committee members, is it your turn to help, to be the arms in our Missions, the hands in our hospitality, the legs in our Trustees, the heart in this family of servitude?

Before saying no, it is good to remember God's promise of Isaiah 41:10 Do not be afraid—I am with you! I am your God—let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you. With God all things are possible~ be the possible!

Go in JOY ~ Jesus Only You

Teresa



News From the Office:

Monthly Newsletters:

Reminder that beginning with this edition of the newsletter, paper copies will no longer be mailed to those who receive it via email. There will be copies available at the information booth to pick up. They are located on the left side in the clear pockets.

Vacation: Jodi is planning to be out of the office on Friday, October 9th and October 13-16, Roni will be in the office the 13th & 14th, the office will be CLOSED on the 15th & 16th as Pastor Jim will also be out of the office.



The family of Mary Hill would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the countless number of people who went above and beyond to help make our Mom's celebration of life so special! We appreciate each and every one of you more than you will ever know!

Before Mary passed away she also asked that we thank her UMC family for all the cards, phone calls and visits she received over the past few years. Whether it was a holiday, her birthday or just because these points of contact meant the world to her! She appreciated and loved her church family very much! Thank you again, The family of Mary Hill.

Faith Family Ministry Info:



Gather the Family Sunday was SO much Fun!!! Thank you to all that participated and helped with the pancake breakfast!



Our NEW Jr. Youth Group for Grades 3-6 will meet at the church on Sunday, October 11th from 11:30am - 1:00pm. Just as Jesus seeks us, and as is fitting for early October, we will be going on a duck hunt! Come and join in the Fun!

Children's Sabbath – Sunday, October 11th

This will be a special service designed for and focused on the children of the congregation. The children will sing a song they have been learning in Discover Zone these past few weeks.



Nursery Update: Volunteers Needed!

Rally Sunday was the first Sunday with a staffed nursery and it went great!!! To quote one of the nursery volunteers; "I had so much fun in the nursery yesterday!" How often do you get to snuggle a baby or play with a toddler or early preschooler? If you would like to be a nursery volunteer on Sunday mornings, please contact Jodi.

Help is Still Needed

Thank you to those that have volunteered to be in the nursery, help with Discovery Zone, and help with 3:6Tween this past month! We could still use a couple more volunteers for all three of those programs.

For the Discovery Zone and 3:6Tween, per UMC rules a second unrelated adult is needed to be in attendance. A background check will be completed on each adult that attends to children. If you are willing to serve our growing church family with any of these needs, please contact Jodi.



FIRESIDE READERS



We meet October 26th at 6:30pm. All are welcome to join us. Here are the books for the rest of the year:

Oct- "Kindred" Octavia Butler

Nov. "The Life and Times of Santa Claus" Baum

Dec - The 3rd story in the Christmas book we read last year

UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS



The Endowment Fund Committee will be meeting on Friday, October 9th at 11:00 a.m. to review the investments for the year and make a recommendation for disbursements for the year 2027 according to the by-laws of the Endowment Fund.

- The Market Value minus the Principle Invested determines the amount that is available for distribution in 2027.
- Once the total amount for distribution is determined, it is available for distribution according to formula:
 - 45% for Capital Improvements for the building
 - 45% for Outreach in the Community
 - 10% for Outreach beyond the Community

When the Endowment Fund was created, it was intended to fund unexpected expenses, like replacing a boiler, or during Covid to get sound equipment in order to have services outside safely, or to develop an outreach to our community to meet a new need. It was never intended to replace the responsibility of the congregation to fund the ministry of the church through our tithes and offerings.

The banners in the front of the sanctuary describe our mission:

- “To know Christ better”
- “To make Christ better known”

Our congregation strives to know Christ better through quality worship, study opportunities, Discovery Zone for educating our children, creating ways to participate in mission opportunities or outreach opportunities, and enhancing individual spiritual practices.

We strive to make Christ better known through inviting others to participate in the life of our congregation through worship, small groups like Knit and Crochet, or Quilters, singing in the choir, or serving on the Care Committee, etc.

These are all aspects that we name in our membership vows to support the church by our prayers, our presence our gifts our service and our witness. In our Book of Worship, The Reception of New Members Service ends with the prayer:

With God’s help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, we may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.

To live out this prayer, the Trustees care for the facility, our branch of God’s house.

We have staff that provide leadership for our work. There are Administrative costs to operate the church. These are funded by our Annual General Fund which the Finance Committee will be addressing in the near future.

The recommended distribution from the Endowment Fund and the Annual Operating Budget will be presented in detail at the Church Conference in January.

Youth Fellowship Update:



What an exciting, fun, (and a little crazy) time we had at our Youth Fellowship Kick-off! And it’s only gonna’ get even more fun as we go forward into the program year! What a great thing to contune seeing new faces! By the time you’ve read this we’ll have met at Pastor Jim & Jodel’s house for a campfire; night games, hotdog, smore’s gathering and in this month we’re off to a Corn Maze! Later in the Fall/Winter we’ll be meeting a judge, having our semester “Nerf Extravaganza”, and a Lock-In! (And that’s not all!) In the midst of all this, we focus on Jesus and what it means to be a Jesus Follower! Our dates for meetings are Oct. 4th & 18th, November 1st & 15th, (also, maybe the 29th – it being a fifth Sunday), and December 6th & the 20th is our Christmas Party!). Sunday meetings are always from 6:30 to 8:00. As always....BRING FRIENDS!

Care & Hospitality News & Events

BEAUTIFUL BIRTHDAYS!

Thank you to our creative congregation for the delicious cakes and beautifully decorated tables at our Rally Day Birthday Celebration. We had fun displays of Mermaids, April umbrellas, Judy Garland, a November deer, a snowman display, and more. It was fun to mix up our church family at different tables and make new friends.

FRIENDLY PHONERS

Friendly Phoners are assigned a shut-in to call or visit as a friendly outreach of our church. This fall we are reviewing the list. If you know of someone who should be added, please contact Mary Giese (218-343-0171). You may also wish to be added to the names of people who would like to call someone.

Apple Pie Fundraiser

IT'S TIME FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL APPLE PIE SALE!

Our first work day will be on **Friday, October 2nd** at 1:00. We will bake pies for the Praise and Pepper Chili Dinner and assemble as many pies as possible for the frozen pie sale. **Bring your apple peeling knife or device.** Stay only as long as you wish. It's a fun social time and with a good crew we can finish in just two hours. If you can sit at a table with a paring knife, you can help!

On **Saturday, October 3rd** at 9:00 a.m. we will prepare 14 pumpkin pies for the same event. Sign up at church or contact Nancy at 218-256-7711.

UPCOMING PIE DATES-ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR:

Sunday, October 11th after worship & fellowship.

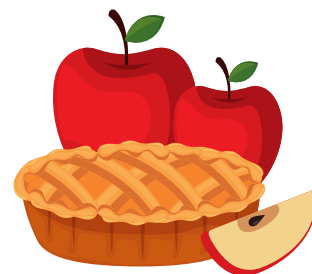
Sunday, November 8th after worship & fellowship.

If you wish, bring a finger food or snack to share.

Other dates to be added as needed based on apple supply and orders.

November 23- Pie distribution by front entrance 3-6 pm.

Do you have access to apples to donate? Please contact Nancy (218-256-7711)



DONATIONS FOR PIE SALE

Last year many generous donations for apple pie supplies helped to increase our profits. If you would like to help in this way, this is what is needed: DAKOTA MILL FLOUR (best for pie crust), SUGAR, LARD, & CINNAMON.

October is Pastoral Appreciation Month &

October 11th is the Day Set Aside

In Deep Appreciation. . .

You council, teach and advise.

Giving patience, love and sacrifice.

You are early Sunday mornings,

And midnight calls of loss and mourning.

Baptisms or wedding celebrations,

Sharing God's word in education.

Answering so many calls,

We thank you Pastor Jim for giving your all!

Pastor Appreciation may only be October on the calendar, but it is forever in the heart of your congregation. Thank You!



October 2nd is Custodian Appreciation &

Louie's Birthday

Thank you is not near enough,
For doing a job that's really tough—

You wash and clean and even scrub,
You pick up, take down the good and the grub.

"Rolls" are replaced, the soaps are full.
Hand towels ready to be pulled.

Garbage bins empty and trash tossed away,
You've prepare our home for Worship each day.

We thank you Louie for your helpful and generous attitude,
Reflecting your kindness and patience in Jesus' servitude.

Thank you for your service AND dedication!

October



HAPPY Anniversary

15 Richard & Lynne Meyer
20 Jim & Mary Tennison
29 Jim & Sharon Borst

Blessing of the Animals will be on Sunday, Oct. 25th.

Please bring your house pets and “outdoor animals” to church that Sunday. During service we’ll bless dogs, and cats, and other house pets.

Right at the end of service we’ll bless “outdoor animals” (horses, goats, cows, etc...). It’s a wonderful way to celebrate God’s good creation and name the special connection our beloved pets have in our lives.



2 Alyssa Dormanen	18 Clara Holmstrom
2 Louis Baumel	19 Trinity Smith
3 Weston Meyer	19 Shelly Swedeen
3 Katie Sisco	22 Marva Jean Hutchens
3 Sharon Rasmussen	24 Justine Williams
3 John Vanina	25 Addlynn Wilson
5 Vera Alto	26 Joyce Dudley
11 Jan Rourk	27 Peggy Heikkinen
12 Stephani Crecelius	28 Claire Larson
14 Lillian Trest	30 Olivia Waller
14 Hallee Buchacker	31 Bruce Larson
16 Erika Hietala	31 Kelsie Duffney
17 Harper Waller	

PRAISE & PEPPERS CHILI FEST - OCTOBER 3RD 5-7PM - \$20



Note: Children 10 and under are \$10 each

Come to a wonderful evening of fabulous food, marvelous music, and super silent auction items!! The Chili Fest is Sat., Oct 3rd from 5 to 7 in the evening. This fundraiser draws from beyond our congregation, filling tables with neighbors and friends to hear our story of Mission and Ministry, to participate and support the work of the gospel through UMCGR, and have a GREAT time! There are over 40 items to bid on and 2 door prizes!! Invite your neighbors and friends, fill a table, and get ready for a delightful time!

When trying to sell tickets, some have asked what to say if someone asks them; What do you get for \$20?? Good question! The simple answer, “A Full Meal Deal - Food, Fun, & Fellowship” The longer, more detailed answer: You get Our Famous Methodist Chili, cornbread, Famous Methodist Pie, a fun time with friends from your church family and friends from outside your church family (if you invite them), music, you have the opportunity to bid on some fabulous silent auction items for yourself or start your Christmas shopping early, and a chance to win ONE of TWO amazing door prizes.

Frightfully Delightful—October 31st, 4:30 to 6:30 pm!

A wonderful Halloween celebration for the whole family but designed for the smaller trick-or-treaters in mind!

Come join us for our annual Frightfully Delightful Halloween Party on Halloween evening (October 31st) from 4:30 to 6:30 pm! Dinner, treats, games, booths, prizes, delights and (little) frights! It’s all inside so no matter the weather it’ll be a great time!



Start thinking about your costume, watch for sign-up sheets to help, or purchase candy/trinkets to donate for the event. The shopping cart will be out soon to collect donations. This event is open to the community and in the past few years, we have had over 300 visitors at the event!