

September 2026

Sept. 6	Exodus 12:1-14 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20
Sept. 13	Exodus 14:19-31 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35
Sept. 20	Exodus 16:2-15 Acts 2:14-21, 33-35 Matthew 20:1-16
Sept. 27	Exodus 17:1-7 Acts 3:1-19 Matthew 21:23-32
Oct. 4	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Acts 4:5-12 Matthew 21:33-46

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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Thank you!

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



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

SEPTEMBER 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

GRACE House: Thanks to everyone who attended the annual breakfast. Attendance was a little down but not any more than expected with the change of the date.

STUFF THE BUS – UNITED WAY: Thank you to everyone who have contributed to the annual Backpack Program. Seven volunteers attended the Packing Party and had a great time.

COMMUNITY CONNECT: CAN, CAN, CAN you do the CAN CAN???

Help us get the ingredients for the chili for the annual Community Connect event on September 17 and for Praise & Peppers Chili Feed on October 3. Donations may be put on the kitchen counter 9/6 – 9/15.

We will need:

- #10 Cans of Crushed Tomatoes (7)
- #10 Cans of Tomato Sauce or Puree (7)
- #10 Cans of Diced or Stewed Tomatoes (7)
- #10 Cans of Pork & Beans (7)
- #10 Cans of Tomato Paste (4)
- #10 Cans of Kidney Beans (7)
- #10 Cans of Chili Beans (7)

Thanks for your help!!



OPEN DOOR COAT RACK: 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 will be doing an inventory during early September. Watch for sign up sheets to help us determine how many volunteers are needed!

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!

Rally Sunday!

Come one, Come ALL! It's the start of the New Program Year! Sunday, Sept. 13th, is Kick-off/Rally Sunday. That marks the day Discovery Zone Begins again! Our Worship will be especially designed for the day and we'll have a fellowship time all about Birthdays (including Birthday Cake & Ice Cream!). Circle the date & bring friends!! A wonderful event to introduce them to the UMCGR family!



Oh, how the seasons turn! Didn't school just finish? Wasn't I just counting down the weeks and days to go see my son and his family in Oklahoma...and now it's been three weeks since we got back? Can I even remember what we did on the fourth of July?

Well....two thoughts about all this.

First, we need to be present in the moment. Every day is a God-given gift; full of the possibilities of the Commonwealth of Christ and rich in the opportunities for expressing and sharing God's love. But we need to be mindful of each of the moments we find ourselves in. God is with us in our ups and downs, in our "ins" and "outs". As each day is God-given, each day is full of the presence of the Divine – Filled with the Holy Spirit! Let us open ourselves to this loving, inviting, calming presence! Avail yourself of the Holy Spirit's presence and seize the opportunities God's love and call for justice presence to you through each day!

One way to do this is to ask yourself, as you move through your day, "How can I be a presence of grace in this moment?" or "How can I best represent God's love in this situation?" Another might be, "What is the most just thing that needs to happen in this moment?" or "What do the dictates of the gospel ask of me here and now?"

Another way to approach intentional discipleship would be to ask yourself, "Where can I find the Christ in this time of Chaos or Crisis?" or "Where can I find the peace of Christ?" at times when I feel distraught or confused?" In being aware of and opening ourselves in the moment to God and the Holy Spirit's presence, we find an orientation that is life-giving and soul-strengthening!

And second...the Program year is about to start up again!!! 😊 We have a lot of great momentum and enthusiasm going into this new season! An exciting part of that is the finishing of and dedication of the new playground!! Woot, woot! It's so good to see it being used most every day since we had the block party and ribbon cutting! Families of the church swing by on weekdays and enjoy swinging, and sliding, and spinning and such. Also, many families in the neighborhood take advantage of it and are enjoying it also – just as we have prayerfully hoped! The other day a family was having a picnic as they played!

But also, the new program year means Discovery Zone, and Bible Studies, and Youth Fellowship, and Family Ministry events like Frightfully Delightful, a new Kid's Fellowship group (grades 4,5,and 6), and Gather the Family Sunday, and Pancake breakfast, and well....all that good, fun stuff brings us back together again! Back from the many trips, and vacations, and time at the lake, or grandma's....I'm calling us all back to participate in the life of our active, engaged, momentum filled life together as a family of faith!! Come, join the fun. Come, be filled. Come, be restored. Come, be included and woven together in the joy of a life lived together in Jesus!!

Be God's, Pastor Jim

TWO Bible Studies Beginning in September!



Understanding the Bible:

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 15th and running on the following four Tuesdays (through Oct. 13th) from 5:30 to 7:00, we'll be taking the next step in our "Making Sense of the Bible Bible Study". Using videos and reading through material by Rev. Peter Enns we'll discover and discuss how the bible come to be, how to address hard passages of scripture, talk about surprising teachings from Jesus, and come to better know the God's words (the bible) about God's Word (Jesus)!

The Chosen - Season 5

Thursdays beginning on September 17th at 5:30pm with dinner and running until November 19th (with a 2 week break in October due to MEA and the Coat Drive) There is no need to have attended the previous sessions. Invite your friends.

Financial Update



	Jul 2026		
	Monthly Snap Shot		
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	16,138	26,393	(10,255)
Full Year 2026	180,963	206,693	(25,730)
Monthly	23,595	27,707	(4,113)

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

The finance committee is excited to let you know that four people have indicated interest in serving as treasurer. We are still working to resolve some software issues so are not able to fully discuss which program will be in use for the treasurer. One of the goals of finance is to present a balanced budget for 2027. Something that would be of great help toward meeting this goal is to have more people submit an estimate of giving. It is not a promise but an estimate and will give us a better idea of what we have to use for the budget. The other thing we are requesting is that each committee asks for a budget of what they need, not what they would like, in order to fulfill the missions of UMC. We are open to any ideas you might have as to how you think we can reduce expenses and still be effective. Please put your thinking caps on and share ideas with us. Please contact June Johnson at 218-244-9637

UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS

This article is being written on the eve before installation of the new heating and cooling system is being installed for the Education wing and kitchen. The Trustees wisely committed the distribution for 2026 from the Endowment Fund to pay for this without having a special fundraiser in the congregation. The replacement for the sanctuary, fellowship hall and offices is scheduled for next year, hopefully funded by the 2027 distribution.



Thank you to all who have donated over the years as a way to give thanks for those who have touched our lives so deeply. They worked hard to build this beautiful facility and we honor them by continuing the good work that they started.

Youth Fellowship Update:

And we're baaaack! Hello all Youth! (grades 7-12) Hope you had a great summer! Can't wait to hear about all the trips, vacations, adventures, and fun!



On Sunday, Sept. 13th is our Kick-off! We're off on a city-wide adventure! We've got a lot of places to go (Duluth, Corn Maze, Horse Barns), things to do (Coaster riding, Nerf Wars, Games with prizes, Food Shelf, Homeless Shelter, horseback riding, Lock-in,...), and people to see (Judges, War Vets, Church Member witnesses,...)!! Come and bring a friend!

As usual, we meet Sundays from 6:30 till 7:50. Our meeting dates are Sept. 13th & 27th, Oct. 4th & 18th, Nov, 1st & 15th & 29th, and Dec 6th & 20th.

Again, don't miss our city-wide adventure on September 13th and bring friends!!!

News From the Office:

Monthly Newsletters:

You may have noticed that this month's newsletter is a bit different from the ones in the past; that is because Microsoft Publisher, the program that I use for the majority of our publications (bulletins, newsletters, annual reports, and more) will be discontinued on October 1st. This means that I will need to recreate any publications that I currently use Publisher for. I will also need to back-up each saved item already in Publisher on my computer as a PDF as to retain the information required for us to keep per the UMC Confrence. **This will be my main focus for the month of September. So please hold any extra or excess work you may need me to do.**

In an effort to reduce expenses for the church, if you receive **BOTH** a paper and emailed copy of the monthly newsletter, beginning in October you will no longer receive a paper copy in the mail. If you wish to pick one up, there are always a few extra copies at the information desk. The price of postage keeps going up, it increased again in July and with the discount we receive from Pitney Bowes, it costs 78 cents to mail a standard letter, this change will also reduce paper and printing expenses. Thank you, Jodi



Faith Family Ministry Info:



Our NEXT Multi-Generational Faith Family Ministry Event!

& PUZZLES

Gather The Family Sunday – September 27th

We will share a Pancake Breakfast together (freewill offering to cover expenses). Following the breakfast, stay and spend time with your church family of all ages - we will have a Puzzle Palooza (please bring 100 piece puzzles to share) or spend time enjoying the playground. Invite a friend or 2 and join in the fun!

3:6TWEEN

Jodi will be facilitating this new group (based on John 3:16) which will serve as our Jr. Youth Group for Grades 4-6. **The first event will be on Sunday, October 11th.** Watch for details coming soon. As per UMC rules, **Jodi will need another adult to help supervise the events - if you have a heart for Tweens, please let Jodi know. Thank you!**



Nursery Update: Volunteers Needed!

It is SO exciting to see all of the babies, toddlers, young children, and growing families attending our Sunday services! How do we balance the needs of nursing mothers, infants, preschoolers, lower elementary kids and upper elementary kids? What a wonderful problem to have to address!! We have wonderful options for these families; The Discovery Zone, the Nursery, and the Children's Nook in the sanctuary. **As we begin the new Fall Programing year, we're working to balance the needs of all families. Starting with Rally Sunday, September 13th, (the start of the new program year) we'll have the Nursey staffed and available for nursing mothers, infants and children up to 4 years old.** The Discovery Zone is available for children 3 yrs old to 5th grade. Many families want their children to stay in worship with them – the Children's Nook is a wonderful option with a coloring station, books to read, and soft toys to play with. **With offering a staffed nursery, we need volunteers to staff it. If you have a heart to serve infants, toddlers, and preschoolers please contact Jodi and say YES to being a nursery volunteer!** Please note, a background check must be completed for all nursery volunteers.

Discovery Zone

Beginning on September 13th we will begin the journey through the Old Testament with "In the Beginning" We have 6 leaders in place, now we are seeking 3 or 4 more adults or older youth that would be willing to assist the leaders during the lesson time. Please let Jodi know if you are able to help out.



A Message From Our Lay Leader



Summer is still the season, yet crispier nights and cooler breezes tease us with the coming of Autumn. I love all the seasons, each one is my favorite for each one is so uniquely divine in their gifts. Every change of season reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 The Purposes in God's Timing

When I think; Not now God, or Why now God or God, I don't have time. . .He reminds me to stop- look- listen- breathe for ALL around us is God's perfect timing. He warms us with the summer sun— He lights our evening with starlight twinkles. His Autumn is a canvas of spectacular colors and harvests of tastes. Winter renews even the bleakest of days when we see the freshness of fallen snow and the magnificent sparkles in each snowflake. And Spring~ Spring blossoms the scents and sights of rebirth as His Creation begins anew.

As the new church calendar begins, may we each be renewed in our church family and be the gifts this season needs— there is a time to teach and serve, to volunteer and learn. A time to greet or usher, to host or read. Yes, this is a time for each to follow God's call. May we remember; Our **CHCH** isn't complete unless **U R** a part of it!!!

Love with Jesus, Teresa

Care & Hospitality News & Events



BIRTHDAY BLAST - RALLY DAY, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH

Join old and new church friends of all ages on Rally Day, Sunday, September 13th right after the worship service. We will be celebrating our birthdays with cake and ice cream. You will meet new friends by sitting at a table with people with your same birthday month. Contact Nancy at 218-256-7711 to help with this event:

1. Bake a birthday cake-any flavor, 9x13 or layer cake.
2. Decorate a table for the month of your birthday- centerpiece, napkins, table covering, favors, or anything you can create.

Gather the Family Sunday-September 27th - Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

We will celebrate the blessing of having a very special church family with a PANCAKE BREAKFAST following the church service. Donations will be accepted toward expenses with extra dollars being added to the General Fund.

Remember to wear your nametag. It helps to learn our names!

Funeral Angels

Thank you to all of our "funeral angels". UMCGR people have such big hearts for families who are grieving the loss of a loved one. A recent funeral had only a two-day notice to prepare. A request for help was put out by email and text on Monday morning. By suppertime we had all the workers we needed and plenty of bar bakers. Many more people reached out to help and had to be told "you can do it next time". You are greatly appreciated!

Apple Pie Fundraiser



Apple season is just around the corner, and we plan to have another frozen apple pie sale. Last year the pies were wildly popular throughout the fall and especially for Thanksgiving. Nancy has already had someone request 3-4 pies!. We also plan to bake pies for our chili fundraiser. **Do you have apples you would be able to share?** Contact Nancy 218-256-7711.

FIRESIDE READERS

We meet September 28th at 6:30pm to discuss; "Riders of the Purple Sage" by Zane Grey. All are welcome to join us.



September

**The Church Office will be closed
on Labor Day – September 7th**



HAPPY ♥♥
Anniversary

6 Dana & Jodi Martin

8 Vern & Katie Sisco

16 Jacob & Carrie Zimmer

16 John & Kathy Pliska

21 Erick & Mary Kanian

22 Ken & Sandy Hansen

25 Lloyd & Sheila Weeks

28 Perry & Beth Bloom

30 Andrew & Ashley Buell

1 Ruth Anderson

10 Duane Heikkinen

14 Alex Sisco

16 Jim Ridley

17 Randy Kolka

17 Susan Hoolihan

18 Julia Brewster

18 Lori Staydohar

22 Jim Brown

22 Rae Stephens

22 Teresa Savich

30 Kay Klingman

30 Randy Savich

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

Community Event - All Are Welcome! Cost of Meal includes a ticket for a chance to win a Door Prize of a Quilt or Corn Hole Set! Famous United Methodist Pie for Dessert! Marvelous Music - Awesome Auction Items -Fun Fellowship! Plan to attend & Invite your friends & family!

Get your Creative Skills Motivated to donate items for the Silent Auction. Please bring Silent Auction Items to the church no later than September 30th, but the sooner the better. Please fill out a donation form and place it in the Secretary mailbox on the library shelves. **Bidding begins on September 19th.**



Ticket Sales & Sign-Up Sheets will be available beginning on Sunday, September 13th!

Please contact Teresa Savich (218-259-8482), Joni Namyst (218-244-0853) or Jodi in the office for information.

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, and support during Dave's short hospital stay. Also for the preparation for his service and the lunch that followed. GRUMC is truly blessed to have such a congregation of "worker bees". Marilyn Hutchins & Family

To my church family and friends: A big thank you for cards and gifts. The struggle has been a fight and I appreciate the prayers and support. Wendy Gorham



TROOP 41 UPDATE:

School is just around the corner and our planning for the fall is in full swing. We had a new scout join our troop recently and have some recruiting events coming up in early September. For information on joining Scouting feel free to reach out, boys and girls, kindergarten and up.

We held an Eagle Court of Honor to award Aaron McMullen his Eagle badge. Was well attended by scouts, family and community members. It was a fitting ceremony to recognize the dedication, leadership and effort to achieve that rank. Congratulations Aaron!

Our troop had a whole lot of fun at our Summer camp experience. Weather was warm, but great for swimming. Food was good, rain held off, and our scouts earned a grand total of 37 merit badges. One scout from our troop was also the archery Top Shot of the week. Way to go Scouts.

We're looking forward to some fall camping and outdoor activities as the summer wanes. Thanks again for your support of Scouting. Sincerely, Troop 41 Committee.