

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Mar. 1 Genesis 12:1-4
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17
- Mar. 8 Exodus 17:1-7
 Romans 5:1-11
 John 4:5-42
- Mar. 15 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41
- Mar. 22 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Romans 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45
- Mar. 29 Palm Sunday
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 19:29-40

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



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March 2026

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

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday Service: March 29 at 9:45 am
Maundy Thursday Service: April 2 at 6:30 pm
Good Friday Service: April 3 at 6:30 pm
Easter Sunday Service: April 5 at 9:45 am



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
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

GRACE House: In January, 31 guests were served. There were 475 bed nights-77% full and 702 meals. It was a busy month! The hiring committee hopes to recommend to the board a candidate(s) at our March board meeting and a new person would start in early April.

The GRACE House mission is, "to provide safe, temporary shelter for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness and connect them to community resources". Individuals interested in GRACE House and its mission are encouraged to be involved on a committee or the board and can do this by calling GRACE House, 326-2790. Volunteers are extremely important to the success of GRACE House serving 2,408 hours in 2025. There continues to be a need for volunteers for overnight shifts as well as the breakfast shift.

WIG CLOSET: Sharon has done the paperwork and been awarded to grants for the purchase of wigs and supplies from GRACF and Lake Country Power. During 2025, 41 women were served. Seven (7) women were served in January of 2026. We're thankful that the word is getting out to the community. If you know anyone who might be interested in a wig, please share information about our Wig Closet.

GREG STROCK: Thank you so much to all of you who contributed to the fund to help Greg Strock and his family. A grand total of \$ 1450 will be sent to Josiah Venture for Greg to help them during this crisis.

PLAYGROUND: The Playground Committee will be serving Fellowship coffee and treats on March 29 – the 5th Sunday of March. **See more details in the Playground Project article.**

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: Important Information - Online Directory:

Everyone (18 and up) that is currently in our database will automatically be included in the online directory. **NOTE: only people in our church family will have access to your contact information in the online directory.**

YOU MUST Opt-Out if you DO NOT wish to have your contact information included in the online directory! CONTACT Jodi and let her know if you DO NOT want to be included!!! Jodi: secretary@umcgrmn.org

Breeze our old database will be disabled by the end of March. Watch for invitations from Jodi to log into the new Ministry Brands system much the same way you did with Breeze. There will also be an invitation for the new church app.





“That you may have Life and have it abundantly!”

The promise of resurrection is the truth that most excites me about the Christian message. Old patterns, addictions, destructive decisions, habits that diminish, systems that oppress are not the last word; they are overcome by grace! It is God’s Good News that restoration, reconciliation, renewal, and redemption are the work of an all-surpassing, unconditional Love! Broken relationships are healed and strengthened; hopes squashed by crisis and chaos find new life; New opportunities are discovered and chanced when no way was thought possible. These are the experiences of resurrection we can come to know, celebrate and live into!

Many folks responded to last month’s corner and said they appreciated some background and definition to Lent and its season. So, let’s do a bit of that for Easter. The Easter Season is also known as the Great Fifty Days. It begins at sundown on Easter eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It’s always good to remember that while Lent is such an Important season in preparation for Easter, it’s only 40 days while Easter is the “Great Fifty days”! Easter isn’t a day, it’s not just a season, it’s a new way of living! If there were such a word, we should encourage one another to live in an “Easteri-sh-ing-ly” way! (It really needs to be a real word!)

Easter is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian Year! It focuses on Christ’s resurrection and ascension, also on the giving of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). On the Sundays in Easter, we replace the Old Testament reading with one from the Acts of the Apostles because the early church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness of the Resurrection. The ancient Christian name for this festival is Pauch, derived from the Hebrew pesah (“deliverance” or “passover”), this connects the Resurrection to the Exodus. The origin of the English word Easter is disputed but may come from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eastr and her festival.

Easter is an invitation to the church to express itself to its neighbors, in all the places the Holy Spirit has planted it, in ways that demonstrate the possibilities of New Life, Resurrection, and Renewal. Let us demonstrate to our neighbors and communities we’re placed amongst here in the Grand Rapids area that grace overcomes and resurrects lives that are damaged and broken. Let us embrace the stranger, the excluded, the marginalized and place them in the circle of love and acceptance in our church family. Let’s show our neighbors the nurture, love, and embrace of Beloved Community. Let’s witness through our lives that tombs cannot hold the power of God’s unconditional love – which is available to each and to all!

May this Easter Sunday and full Easter season be a time of praise, thankfulness, empowerment, reconciliation, and the experience of New Life – for that is what it is. Our old lives are overcome and gone! Behold, new life, new opportunities - the security of the Truth of God’s unconditional, unlimited, all-sufficient love blossom in your hearts and come alive in the lives of you, your families and loved ones, and us a congregation as we live into the glory and triumph of Easter morning!

Be God’s, Pastor Jim

March 29th at UMCGR ~ Mark Your Calendars for a Busy & Fun Morning!

- ⇒ **Palm Sunday!**
- ⇒ **Easter Egg Hunt for All Ages During Fellowship Time!**
- ⇒ **Return your Baskets Full of Easter Gratitude!**
- ⇒ **5th Sunday Playground Fundraiser Freewill offering collected at Fellowship Time.**
- ⇒ **Last day to order Easter Plants for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.**





January 2026 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	35,302	31,001	4,301
Full Year 2026	35,302	31,001	4,301
			-
Monthly average - 2025	35,302	31,001	4,301

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

A Basket Full of Easter Gratitude – UMCGR General Fund ~ Fundraiser Challenge February 22 ~ March 29, 2026

We've all heard; "Don't put all your eggs in one basket", which is good advice - so we have multiple baskets available to collect funds for UMCGR's main basket, AKA our General Fund Budget, which was accepted in faith at the Annual Conference with a deficit.

Beginning Sunday, February 22nd (the 1st Sunday of Lent) ALL are welcome to receive a basket to fill-up with financial donations from friends, family, neighbors, co-workers. OR maybe your own savings from the cost of Lenten sacrifices such as specialty coffees, going out to eat, sweets, entertainment, sodas.

This will be a challenge between Two Teams "Reflect or Renew". **The challenge will end on Palm Sunday**, where we'll collect the baskets and count each team's "eggs", sharing the totals and winning team on Easter Sunday! Remember the Widow's gift; Luke 21:1-4

Team Renew: "See, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5 NRSVUE
 Team Reflect: I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 NRSVUE



May your baskets overflow in joys and funds for the Lord!!



We want to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped us welcome Archer. We have felt your love in prayers, meals, cards and warm wishes! Thank you for your support as we've become a family of four!
 With Love, Cole, Mackenzie, Audrey and Archer Selliers

KEENAGERS (women & men 55+) who stay active, engaged and youthful in spirit!



If you are interested in this group, please send me an email with your name, phone number, email address PLUS comments on what type of events/activities you would like to do as a group. Faye Mostoller (jeanettemostoller@gmail.com)

The Gala is Rescheduled:



The Gala has been rescheduled to September 19, 2026. This will give us much more time for planning. A Task Force is still needed to organize this event. Please prayerfully consider ways you can contribute to this fundraising event for our church.

Children & Family Ministry Update

SuperBook was a hit with the kids! Discovery Zone is now using this exciting biblical based video curriculum. I'm still looking for 2 more people to help lead Discovery Zone on Sunday mornings. No prep, just show up and help the kids, you will need to be able to use a laptop computer.



UMCGR Faith Family Easter Egg Hunt!!! At the Young Families meeting held in February it was determined that meeting monthly may be too much for families, so we'll plan quarterly events. The families wanted to "take over Fellowship Time every so often and involve **EVERYONE in the Faith Family!** So our first event will be an **Easter Egg Hunt for ALL of us! Plan to stay for Fellowship Time on Palm Sunday, March 29th and join in the fun!!!** Blessings, Jodi

Youth News!

Can you say....**Nerf War!** Our next meeting, March 1st (remember, 6:30 pm), will be a Nerf war! Bring your Nerf gun(s). If you don't have one, borrow a friend's. If that doesn't work, no worries, we'll have extras. Hey, our last Faith Conversation was full of insight and honest feelings. Well done. We have an amazing youth fellowship...



Anyway, we decided to do Take-n-Bake Cinnamon Rolls again for your Easter Breakfast! Pick up date is Sunday, March 22nd. \$10 for 8 rolls, sign-up to order in the Narthex through March 15th. The group decided to give the proceeds to the new playground fund. Good form y'all!

Lots of new brainstorming going on but we'll need to coordinate calendars! Lots of great ideas – not so much time. We're trying to get to Duluth in the Spring, and to the courthouse here in town. Plans for a trip to the Twin Cities right after school is being developed. Great to see all the new faces this semester...Keep inviting friends....especially to the **Nerf War!**

A Message Our Lay Leader:

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Good Works or Work? It's all in the eyes of our hearts~ do we respond to the opportunities God prepares beforehand for us, seeing them as "good works" in Christ's servitude or work we have to do? If we look around our House of Faith we will see His workmanship in all the Good Works of those who were here before us, those whose Faith built a foundation of Good Works that blankets our community in love, care and compassion of Jesus Christ, and those still today, who work endless hours to provide fellowship, comfort, encouragement, prayers and support.

We are His workmanship; we are His hands, His feet to be and do the Good Works of our Jesus and each of us are needed to share God's gifts amongst this family. One may not be able to do it all- but together — WE can do much!

There is opportunity, there are needs, there is you and me to keep cultivating His seeds!

May we seek the works prepared beforehand, so the Jesus in us can be the Good Works needed of our Faith Home— UMCGR!

Whoever speaks *is to do so as one who is speaking* actual words of God; whoever serves *is to do so as one who is serving* by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through **Jesus** the Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Your Lay Leader, Teresa



3rd Annual Plant Sale (UMCGR Fundraiser) May 2026 ~ dates announced soon!



Items you can donate:

Yard/garden tools	Lawn furniture	House plants	Garden plants	Seeding trees
Planters and pots	Windchimes	Lawn ornaments	Bird feeders	Bird houses

Thank you, in advance, for your contributions. Please do not bring your donations to the church until May. Any questions can be directed to Miss Mary at 218-259-9346

Preschool News:

Our Preschoolers are learning ways to “mission” in our community. For the month of March we will be accepting donations for the YMCA food pantry. Non-expired/non-perishable food item donations can be dropped off at the preschool classroom or the church office. Thank you.



Playground Project



Check out the project board in the Narthex! If you would like to contribute at anytime checks may be made out to UMCGR with Playground in the Memo or scan the QR Code to donate online:



Drop-down arrow Choose: GRUMC Trustees Funds. Playground Fund will populate automatically.

The Playground Committee will host the 5th Sunday in March Fellowship Time; There will be a Free Will Offering basket for donations for the playground. Thank you for considering giving a playground donation.

We plan to break ground this spring and have then new playground equipment installed by mid-summer.

From the Board of Trustees



To all groups meeting at the United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN:

Any church or non-church groups meeting or hosting events in our facility, need to clean-up after the event is completed, unless other arrangements have been made before hand (example: vacuuming, washing dishes/utensils etc.) and then put the items away, including tables and chairs as they were.

Troop 41 News

It's been a busy couple months early in the year for our scouts.

After a Christmas/New Year break, early in January we had our winter primitive cabin camp out at Lake Leander in Britt, MN. Four scouts attended the weekend. We worked on our cooking requirements, got in quite a bit of ice fishing, and enjoyed the quiet.

Later in January, the district Klondike derby was held. We had a good crew this year to compete against five other troops testing our outdoor skills. Scouts were challenged in knots, lashings, first aid, teamwork and leadership. We had great weather and a great lunch. We also had a presentation by Tom Chapin, retired Conservation Officer, about fishing and game laws with a display of pelts and furs. There was an evening campfire with skits and snacks. Some hardy souls spent the night in tents and woke to a couple inches of fresh snow.

The Cub scout pack held their Pinewood derby in early February. Thirty eight cub scouts raced cars in a fun filled afternoon. There was even a spotlight article on the front page of the Grand Rapids Herald. Our troop was there to help support race logistics and cheer on the racers.

We're looking forward to hosting Scout Sunday on March 8. Come hungry for breakfast after service served by our troop.

Hoping to see some spring weather soon and more outdoor activities. Sincerely, Troop 41 Committee



MARCH



- 1 Dennis Drieman
- 2 Josephine Lund
- 2 Colter Dormanen
- 3 John Linder
- 4 Gracie Zimmer
- 5 James Tennison
- 5 Kelly Smith
- 7 Al Wallace
- 8 Kathy Pliska
- 10 Sandy Hansen
- 10 Milo Buell
- 11 Trevor Zimmer
- 13 Patty Christensen
- 13 Ross Cass

- 15 Ava Larson
- 17 Caleb Smith
- 22 Carolyn Orlich
- 22 Mikaela Green
- 23 Lilly Melhus
- 24 Braylin Sisco
- 25 Margy Strock
- 27 Tyler Danielson
- 27 Sharon Borst
- 28 Janice Crandall
- 28 Darwin Kutzorik
- 28 Phyllis Bean
- 30 Sue Anderson

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



Coordinator:
Bonnie Larson

The captain will contact you if there is a need for help serving a lunch, funeral or other event

Kathy Mahaffey	Sherry Thompson
Julie Werner	Sandy Baumel
Heather Smith	Renee Veit
Mackenzie Selliers	Emily Meyer



Spring Ahead March 8th!
Daylight Savings Time Begins



Easter Lily Order Form

Orders are now being taken for Easter Lilies. These potted plants will be placed in our Church Sanctuary in loving memory or in honor of your loved one(s).

The cost per plant is \$14.00.

Donations may also be given to the Scholarship Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Please fill out the lower half of this sheet and place it in the offering plate, email it to secretary@umcgrmn.org or mail it to UMCGR.

The deadline for ordering is March 29, 2025.
Please include payment to UMCGR with your order.

Thank You!
Worship Committee

NAME: _____

Yes, I would like to:

_____ Order Easter Lilies at \$14.00 each

_____ Donate toward the Scholarship Fund

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____