

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

June 7	Genesis 12:1-9 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 14	Genesis 18:1-15 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8
June 21	Genesis 21:8-21 Romans 6:1-11 Matthew 10:24-39
June 28	Genesis 22:1-14 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42
July 5	Genesis 24:34-67 Romans 7:15-25 Matthew 11:16-30

HOW TO FIND US



United Methodist Church Of Grand Rapids

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June 2026

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



RAPIDS CONNECTION

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

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

MISSIONS 

QUILTER'S FABRIC SALE: A short time ago, a community member responded to the Quilters request for fabric donations. Sandy Grina connected with the quilter and found that it would be an incredibly large donation. As Sandy continued communicating with the quilter, she learned that there were many extenuating circumstances. Sandy, Patty Sawdey and Paula Hanttula made arrangements to pick up the fabric, pull out fabric for UMC, package remaining fabric into bundles and sell the fabric/kits at 1/2 of the original price. In 1 1/2 sale days, the total earned was \$12,228.00. All proceeds of the sale were used to help the family. Checks have been written to pay off the family car loan, a high interest credit card as well as \$775 for a gas card and Aldi gift card. A special thank you to all of the caring hearts and hands who made this incredible blessing happen for this family. The following message came from the donor: "Well, Jesus turned water into wine and fabric into the start of financial freedom, food for kiddos and gas to keep moving forward! May God bless and keep each one of you."

NEW BEGINNINGS PREGNANCY PROGRAM: • **Baby Bottle Drive** – Our Baby Bottle Drive is underway! Every cash filled bottle truly makes a difference.

- **Super One Foods Register Round Up** – From May 22nd through June 8th, customers can round up their purchases or make a donation at checkout to support New Beginnings.
- **Fatherhood Foundations** – We building our new Fatherhood Foundations mentorship program for dads and father figures. Meetings are held the last Saturday monthly and focus on encouragement, practical skills, mentorship, and building strong families and foundations.
- **Nurse Search** – We are currently seeking a part-time RN or LPN Client Advocate to serve women and children. From: MelissaWheelock@newbeginningspregnancy.com

COAT RACK: As you begin your spring cleaning, please remember to save your adult winter coats that you won't be using next year. We were short of many sizes in 2025.

GRACE HOUSE: Welcome to Julee Jackson who will be the new Executive Director on June 1. Julee has served as the Outreach Director at GRACE House from July 2022 until April 2026. She will be speaking about GRACE House during a UMC service in September.

COMMUNITY CONNECT STATS: Event Participation: 164 households registered with 338 individuals represented. **Special Populations:** 13 Veterans, 8 Homeless Individuals, 91 people with disabilities. **220 bowls of chili served and 146 quilts distributed.**

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!



I was with some young families on Memorial Day! It was a great time! It was about 80 degrees out that day and we were enjoying being outside - but it seemed really hot to me, which is odd because I usually love temps in the mid 80's to mid 90's. Why did I feel so hot? Then it occurred to me: Before moving here, I've always lived in places that had something called "Spring". Now just 5 days before being with these families, we had a frost warning! It got down to 28 degrees just five days before that. I had missed Spring! It can seem at times that events or special occasions we've been anticipating can skip right past us. One can look at their child and wonder "where have all the years gone?"

It's important to stay in the moment. God is always with us, and Jesus reminds us that his Spirit will never leave us. That makes each moment and every occasion sacred; full of the presence of God. Even if it might be a moment or an event of crisis, or loss, or pain. God is with you in that moment – during (in the midst of) the distressful event. That's the promise of God's faithfulness and steadfastness! God is faithful even when we are faithless, even when we are broken, or scared, or angry, or whatever.

With this truth we can see that God can redeem or overcome or reconcile all the moments in our lives. We need to be present in each moment through each day. Daily commit ourselves to Christ; turn over each decision, each action, each encounter to God. Find the Divine in all the occasions and opportunities that come your way each day. Important note: this doesn't mean bad things are just good things "in disguise". No – moments of loss, brokenness, crisis, chaos, and pain are just plain hard and awful. Still, God is with us and never abandons us. Often, people say it is only by leaning on God and God's grace that they make it through these hard times.

Being a disciple is a daily (if not moment by moment) choice. "Do I participate in God's Kingdom in the moment, with this decision or with this action"? What is the next right thing I need to do? Which choice is the one that most reflects Grace? These are some of the questions to focus on and keep in the back of your mind as you move through the day. I have a friend who always asks himself, "Who does this day belong to?" (Jesus or me?) or "Whose will I be today"? (Jesus' or the world's?) Each day my friend decides to live the day for Christ!

As we move through each day focusing on God's presence, we can discover more beauty in the world and the people around us. We can live into the moments of our lives and find that the events of our days are more gift than obstacle, more blessed than cursed, more vital than drab.

We're moving into the next season of our lives together as a congregation. Did you know our Discovery Zone has more teachers and more kids than in the past 15 years? Do you know we averaged over 15 people at all three Bible studies this past program year? We're installing the new playground in just two weeks! We had 27 kids sitting with Pastor Jim during Children's Moment on Palm Sunday! Our Youth Group has almost doubled this year! God is at work in the life of UMCGR! The Holy Spirit is moving through the members of our congregation in powerful, exciting and life changing ways!

Now we're in the season after the day of Pentecost: The Birth of the Church! What new doors will God's Spirit be opening for us? What new opportunities and blessings are in store – especially if we're expectant and watching for the next new thing God is doing even in the next day, the next moment of our lives?

Be God's, Pastor Jim

Block Party! Sunday, June 28th, 11:30am-2:30pm

Come one come all!! This Summer we're bringing back the Block Party! On Sunday, June 28th, we'll celebrate from 11:30 to 2:30. We'll have Hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill with chips and lemonade, a Dunk Tank, Face Painting, a Cake Walk, Yard Games, **and following the Ribbon Cutting, explore our new Playground.** This is a community directed event so invite your friends and bring your neighbors!



It's \$10 per person, \$5 for 10yr to 5yr olds, and free for preschool on down. We're looking for folks to run the booths, cook and serve the food, plus set-up and take-down crews. Circle your calendars now and invite friends, neighbors and family!

Playground Project Update:



We now have an itemized price list for the parts of the playground project that are being purchased from Playworld Systems. They are listed in this report in two sections: The first section includes the most expensive items in declining order of cost which our current cumulative donations are covering. As of May 19th the total in the Playground Special Purpose Fund is \$37,415.

LARGEST TICKET ITEMS

Cone Spinner with floor	17,641	
Pup Tent Climber	6,237	
Transfer Station with Barriers	4,036	ADA Item
Twist and Shout Climber	2,955	
Tree House Climber	2,932	
Rock Climber	2,586	
8 Ft Single Post Swing Assembly	1,791	
Double Slide Coated Deck Assembly	1,517	
Toddler Swing Add on Beam	1,135	
Total	40,830	

SMALLER TICKET ITEMS

(that remain to be funded/underwritten by individuals)

6ft Backed Mounted Bench	763	(memory of Warren and Beulah Rose)
16in Log Hop	676	
12in Log Hop	656	
12in Log Hop	656	
Approach Step for Transfer Station	574	ADA Item
3.5in X 136in Steel Post	330	
3.5in X 136in Steel Post	330	
3.5in X 136in Steel Post	330	
3.5in X 136in Steel Post	330	
7in Bell (Post Mount)	300	
Belt Seat Swing	187	
Belt Seat Swing	187	
4ft Border Timbers (52 needed) 92 each =	4,784	
Total	10,103	

Thank you to all who have contributed to purchasing the playground equipment to fulfill a vision that our young families, working with the Trustees, have worked on for several months.

Please prayerfully consider a second mile gift to complete the funding. I am very pleased to be able to donate the bench in memory of my parents, remembering the joy their four children had going to parks to play on the playground equipment.

The ABUNDANCE TABLE IS BACK!

The generosity of produce for the abundance table the last couple of years has been awesome. We will once again have that available outside of the fellowship hall. A donation container will be available at the table, give what you can and the \$\$ collected will go towards the general fund of the church.



Church Rummage Sale: July 22-23

Set-up & Drop-off: Sunday, July 19 after church - July 21. Clean-up July 24.

NO ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE JULY 19th!!

No: electronics, old TVs, clothing, shoes, big (heavy) items (furniture) unless you plan on taking it back if it doesn't sell (leave your phone number), things so worn down we have to throw it away. Pictures should be taken out of picture frames.



Tuesday Summer Concert Series:

Once again, we will be ridesharing to the concerts, contact Marva Jean for more information or watch the Monday/Friday emails for details. Concerts are at noon, a free-will offering is collected. Lunch typically follows the concerts for \$8, unless indicated that there is no lunch.



UMCGR will host the July 7th Concert:

Pastor Jim, Stephanie & the Giebners will share in their love of music, one another, and the community as they feature songs sure to please.



CHURCH SUMMER PICNIC: JULY 12TH

Save the date on your calendar.



Fireside Readers

Being we didn't meet on Memorial Day and since June has 5 Mondays, we will meet twice in June. I returned my copy of "Time of the Child" By Niall Williams to Libby, so if you haven't read it, you still have time. Please join us at 6:30pm at the church on June 1st and June 29th. Hope to see you there! Jan Rourk



Pentecost Sunday and the Season following Pentecost:

Pentecost is often called "The Birthday of the Church". It celebrates when the church received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). It is actually the last day of Eastertide. While the time after Pentecost Sunday is formally called the "Season After Pentecost", it's most often referred to as Pentecost Season. The symbols for the season all revolve around the Holy Spirit: wind, dove, and fire. So, colors representing fire (red, yellow, orange) are used on the altar. Later in the season (around September) the color moves to green; that and the occasional flowers represent growth in Christ. Throughout the season, symbols on the altar will tie into specific themes in that particular Sunday's scriptures. The Banners through the Summer continues the theme of Growth in Christ, which will give way this Fall to the banners focusing on Discipleship and Evangelism.





April 2026 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	24,899	26,873	(1,974)
Full Year 2026	105,063	113,272	(8,209)
			-
Monthly average - 2026	26,266	28,318	(2,052)

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

News From the Office:

Database & Online Directory Update:

Invitations are being sent out via email to set up your profiles on the new database. Please watch for 2 emails one says; *"You have been invited to join UMC Of Grand Rapids. You've been added to Ministry Brands Amplify with UMC Of Grand Rapids."* the 2nd will be from Jodi with directions about setting up your profile and how to download the app and set that up. **Note: you must set-up your profile on the database before signing into the app.**



Children & Family Ministry Info:

Summer Discovery Zone = Bright Beginnings: We are planning to meet 7 times between 5/31 & 8/30 and focus on the 7 days of Creation. The first lesson will be next Sunday, May 31st. The goal will be 2 lessons per month during June, July, & August. Jodi will inform the families as to which Sundays there will be a lesson each month.



Discovery Zone & Nursery Attendants: I am looking for volunteers that are willing to be Discovery Zone Leaders and Nursery Attendants this coming fall. ***There will be an organizational meeting for the Discovery Zone Leaders on Tuesday, July 14th at 4:30pm, if you are interested in learning more about being a leader, please join us!*** The goal for the nursery is to have it staffed with an adult each Sunday and we are exploring the possibility of having Junior Leaders (10 years old and up) to assist in the nursery also. If you are willing to service our growing church family in this manner please contact Jodi.

Vacation Bible Camp - August 5th, 9am - 1pm. The theme will be "Jesus is the Light" watch for more information coming soon or if you are interested in helping, please contact Jodi.

To Our Church Family:

Thank you for volunteering their time for our beloved, Carol Kerr, Celebration of life. The church has been such a blessing during this difficult time in our family. Sincerely, The Kerr Family and Sandy & Ken Hansen



A Message From Our Lay Leader: Love = Peacemakers & Peacemakers = Love

Many of us know 1 John 4:29

We love each other because He loved us first.

Once again, I am humbled to hear of a family's gift towards our church's missions, which in turn became our gift of gratitude, that turned into a servitude, which gifted back to the family that first gave, an unexpected gift of abundant blessings and love.

This chain reaction does not just happen, it happens because every moment of every day of every year in a Christian's life. . . hearts grow, souls hear, minds change and the Spirit moves, creating a servants response in God's pure, gentle, loving ways.

It is humbling and joyful to witness our faith family as James shares in chapter 3 verses 17-18; But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

How beautiful and holy the heart of a stranger, saw the good of our church's missions and willingly yielded her abundances, with no expectations. In return, our missions' hearts saw her needs and with an abundance, harvested back to the giver the fruit of loving compassionate care.

Faith in Jesus:

Matthew 25:40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' (NLT)

Alleluia! UMC Faith Family Alleluia for your faith and love that emanates into our communities!

Love & Joys in Jesus,
Your Lay Leader, Teresa

Just
Enjoy
Smiling
Unto
Salvation



Troop 41 News:

Lots of activities already this spring.

Our troop conducted our Spring Adopt a Highway cleanup, picked up a whole lot of garbage. We were able to cover the whole route and had a celebratory ice cream treat following all the hard work.

Our troop participated in the Merit Badge workshop day at NCTC in Bemidji. Three scouts attended, we had a pizza lunch and a full day of classes. Was a great opportunity to experience a wide range of trades and earn a patch. Automotive maintenance, electricity, and plumbing. Looking at holding a similar event in Grand Rapids this fall.

Our troop has been working on Cycling merit badge too, had a couple of meetings looking at bicycle maintenance, how to change an inner tube, gear and chain upkeep and got to go on a couple short rides.

In preparation of summer camping, we went through our tents and gear ensuring everything was ready to go. Our troop received a donation of some gear from another troop that we inspected and added to our cache. We should be in good shape for another season. Looking forward to some warmer weather.

Sincerely,

Troop 41 Committee

Congregational Care & Hospitality



RHUBARB SUNDAY-JUNE 7: Join the fun with your church family and Sunday, June 7th.

After the service we will enjoy homemade rhubarb custard pie. Ice cream will be served by Ellen and Sandy Verry who will be celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary. This would be a great Sunday to invite friends or prospective members.



BUBBLE UP will be a new attraction this year. You could find yourself inside a giant bubble! Families with kids won't want to miss this! Be prepared to take amazing pictures. Even adults can try this, and it's fascinating to watch too.

RHUBARB HELPERS NEEDED: Sign up after church or contact Nancy 218-256-7711.

Friday, June 5 at 1:00 p.m. Chop rhubarb and make pie crust. Both men and women are needed. Bring a favorite knife if you wish.

Saturday, June 6 at 10:00 a.m. Make pie.

Sunday, June 7 at 9:00 a.m. Cut and plate pie.

Sunday, June 7 at 10:45 a.m. Serve and clean up.



FATHER'S DAY: Let's remember the fathers of our church family in June as Father's Day is celebrated on June 21st. Is there an elderly or shut-in father that you have appreciated over the years? Is there a young dad you would like to encourage and thank for bringing their family to our worship services? Please take a little time to send a card, call, or send a text message showing your appreciation and care. Our new directories should be very helpful or this, or you can contact Nancy at 218-256-7711 if you need contact info.

Finance Committee:

Thank you so much for all of the work put into the plant sale!

Unfortunately, I am one who has not been blessed with a green thumb. There is so much happening with our faith family that the committee just wants to make sure that everyone knows that the work everyone is doing to balance the budget and fund the missions and projects is appreciated. When we all chip in, it seems more like fun than work. We know that not everyone can do everything but every little bit counts.



The Finance Committee is Seeking a New Church Treasurer:

As you may know, our treasurer has given notice so we are looking for someone to take over those duties. Please note that due to the software changeover, the earliest training could begin would be in June. If you think this is a something you might like to do for your church, please let Jodi know and stop at the office to get a copy of this volunteer job description.

Youth News!

Exciting Times have been a theme through this Spring and they continue into the Summer! Great video and courageously honest conversation last meeting. We have a bunch of "truth talkin'" youth; that's awesome! So, looking ahead, our last meeting is Sunday, May 31st as always at 6:30 to 8:00. We will have another Nerf War and Pizza Party (and yes, Penny, some hot dogs) ...and games and prizes! A great way to conclude our program year!! This Summer we're off to the Twin Cities for a Mission Experience! We'll leave early afternoon on July 7th and be back by Saturday the 11th. We'll be working at different mission projects around the Twin Cities, meeting Elders of Native American tribes, overnighting at United Methodist Churches, taking tours of a couple historical mansions,....and maybe we'll find ourselves at Valleyfair





JUNE



- 1 Avery Camilli
- 2 Beth Bloom
- 3 Janine Wagner
- 4 Shelly Broberg
- 4 Nolan Green
- 6 Felicia Elde
- 7 Darla Kirwin
- 9 Alana Holmstrom
- 13 Tony Larson
- 14 Rhoda Flinck
- 16 Steve Zimmer
- 17 Bonnie Larson
- 19 John Benzie
- 20 Joseph Spooner
- 20 Willie Nuorala

- 22 June Schmitz
- 23 Addison Linder
- 23 Lucy Epema
- 24 Sandy Verry
- 24 Jodel Crecelius
- 26 Brenda Brown
- 26 Patty Sawdey
- 27 Stephanie Zimmer
- 27 Mary Hanson
- 28 Ronald Williams
- 29 James Crecelius
- 29 Oliver Meyer
- 30 Mariah Linder
- 30 Dan Hess

- 7 Ellen & Sandy Verry
- 12 Nancy & Dennis O'Toole
- 12 Marie & Dan Duffy
- 12 Marc & Heather Simith
- 15 Dennis & Irene Drieman
- 22 Julia & Chuck Brewster
- 22 David & Nancy Tank
- 25 Sean & Emilie Duffney
- 30 Lisa & Mike Randall
- 30 Jim & Jodel Crecelius



Coordinator:
Alice Anderson & Faye Mostoller

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

Chuck Becker	Barb Green	Marilyn Hutchins
Pat Kutzorik	Julia Statsman	Ellen Verry
Roni Skoglund	Patty Sawdey	Judy Reddish

UMCGR Endowment Fund NEWS

The founders of the Endowment Fund intended to create a revenue source that would fund emerging ministries, but not at the neglect of our current responsibilities to fund our current ministries. This month we are in the middle of that very situation. The Principal is increasing slowly so that we will be able to have a distribution of some funds in October. The immediate need is to finish funding the Playground Project.

This past weekend I received a poem called "Remembrance" that describes that very situation and invites us to have a variety of ways of honoring those who have gone before us.



*You can shed tears that they are gone,
or you can smile because they lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that they'll come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all they have left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember them and only that they are gone,
or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,
or you can do what they would want:
Smile, Open Your Eyes.
Love and Go On.*