

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

July 5	Genesis 24:34-67 Romans 7:15-25 Matthew 11:16-30
July 12	Genesis 25:19-34 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19	Genesis 28:10-19 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26	Genesis 29:15-28 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
August 2	Genesis 32:22-31 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

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

<https://umcgrmn.org/>



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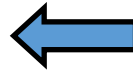
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on YouTube



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



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July 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 

DONATIONS: From the Congregational Endowment Fund - World, donations have been sent to the Strocks, the Cains and to ASON. We also sent \$160 with Pastor Jim to the Annual Conference. A donation was sent to our Grand Rapids Food Shelf this month.

COAT RACK: A special thank you to Anita Firman who has made it her mission to go to garage sales to pick up adult winter boots for the annual event. She also picks up adult winter coats as well and will be looking for children's waterproof mittens that are in good shape. As you begin your spring cleaning, please remember to save your adult winter wear that you won't be using next year. We were short of many sizes in 2025. In consideration of storage space in the UMC garage, we ask that you keep your items at home until October 1. Of course, if that is not possible, the coats may be hung on the rack near the office.

FOSTER LOVE: If you have donations for Foster Love, the shop has moved to Central Mall. A major storm this spring damaged the roof especially above the area where the shop was located. Donations may be dropped off anytime the Mall is open the bins are located in front of the doors. Financial donations go through the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation.

GRACE HOUSE: The shelter has been 85%-90% full the past few months. Because they have been so busy, volunteers are needed for the Breakfast shift (6:00 AM to 8:00 AM) and the Overnight shift (10:00 PM to 6:00 AM). If you are available to help out, please call the shelter (218-326-2790).

COMMUNITY CONNECT: It came to our attention that the Community Connect event would be cancelled. We believe that this is a very important event for our community. Three UMC representatives attended a meeting with the committee. Many members on the committee were volunteers from the Human Services department. As their case loads have increased, they do not feel that they can continue to be in charge of this event. Jennifer Mulligan from AEOA will be leading the 2026 event which will be held on September 17. We will continue to make the chili as we have for years. If you would like to serve on the committee, please talk to Brenda Brown or Sandy Grina.

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!



Due to the block party and playground dedication in June, the church picnic scheduled has been canceled this summer.

"My chains are Gone; I've been set free.

My God, my Savior, has ransomed me."

I hope you have a chance to celebrate July 4th. We are such a blessed and fortunate people. Oh, we are a broken and struggling nation, but we have so many advantages others around the world can only imagine and yearn for. We live in the "land of the free and the home of the brave." Or so the song goes. But much or many of the people I meet don't seem to be free. They're bound by all kinds of things. Some are bound by fear - fear of illness, fear of becoming financially destitute, fear of being alone, fear of the people not like themselves, fear of the future. Some are bound by pain--the pain from poor health. Or the pain of some trauma that was inflicted on them. It can be the pain of trauma or tragedy. Some are bound by addictions--to alcohol, drugs, food, and gambling, among many others. I find that many who are addicted to something are often trying to cover over the pain of whatever trauma they may have suffered. Then there are those who are bound by economic issues. Perhaps they simply cannot make enough money to support their family. Or perhaps they've made some bad choices and have got themselves into more debt than they can handle. Or perhaps they simply live in a place where a decent house costs more than a family can afford and are strapped with a huge mortgage that they can barely pay.

When you look more closely, it doesn't seem like many people in our society are truly free. And if you asked them where freedom is to be found, I'm afraid not many people have a very good answer. These days, it seems that we as a people believe--I mean really believe--that all our problems would be solved if we had enough money. And so, our culture has a fascination with playing the lottery--which most people have about as good a chance of winning as "getting mauled by a polar bear and a regular bear on the same day" (a quote from one of my favorite commercials of all time).

Others believe that if their political ideals could come to fruition all would be well. Or they think if we just got the right leader in the right office... Others are looking for and/or thinking that the "right person" might come into their lives and that will solve all their problems. In short, I'm afraid we're looking for freedom in all the wrong places.

Throughout the Gospels there is much to say about true freedom and where it is to be found. Freedom is found in Christ. Jesus didn't have to use elaborate means to "cast out" the demons that bound and tormented people. All he had to do was say the word. In fact, in every instance when Jesus encountered someone who was "possessed" by a demon, the spirit cries out in fear at the very sight of Jesus. They seem to know that he has a power they cannot possibly withstand.

One thing we can say, however, is that when Jesus worked exorcisms, there was a purpose to them. The healing miracle stories demonstrate that through Jesus, God was present among them and at work carrying out the compassion and mercy of the Commonwealth of Christ. In the same way, these stories demonstrate that through Jesus, God was setting people free from all that kept them bound. And in the face of the freedom of God's kingdom, the powers of evil have no defense.

Whenever Jesus encountered someone who was "possessed" by a demon, the spirit of evil was instantly terrified. Not only did they know who he was, they also knew what he could do--he could banish them with just a word! Also, Jesus left the man amongst the tombs who had been set free as a living testimony to the truth that evil cannot prevail over God's freedom.

Christ is still working in ways that release and set free in our world today! And while God's Living Spirit is the conduit for the source of Resurrection that releases and frees, we can be the vehicle through which this work is done! What a privilege and joy it is to be invited to participate in the healing and restoring – the Freeing work God is doing in this world God so loves!! Freedom from the evil and pain and trauma and injustice that binds people in our world today is the power of God's kingdom at work among us and through us.

Be God's, Pastor Jim

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.

⇒ **We are looking for someone to be a Co-Coordinator with Sandy Grina. Please let Jodi or Sandy know if you are able to help out. Thank you!**



Tuesday Summer Concert Series: 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. Lunch will be served following the concert by the UMCGR Quilters as a fabric fundraiser. Cost for lunch: \$8. Free-will donation for concert.



News From the Office:

Data Base & App – Have you set up your profile yet?

Invitations were sent out the week of June 8th 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. If you did not receive the emails, please check your spam/junk emails. If it is still not there, then it is because you may not be included in the online directory, if you wish to be included in the online directory, please contact Jodi.



Odd Texts & Emails – IMPORTANT INFO:

We must be very vigilant these days. Now that our directories are available, please DO NOT email a copy of our church directory to anyone. There is actually a scam email that has been received by some in the congregation asking that person to email them a PDF of our church directory. This would give unknown people access to addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all in the directory. Reminder to verify the phone number or email address against your contacts before responding if something doesn't seem right. NEVER buy gift cards or send gift cards or money electronically from a request that comes in this manner! If you ever receive an email related to the church in any way that seems odd, please contact Jodi in the office. Thank you for helping to keep us all cybersafe.

Church Directory Book:

The directories are here. We have a limited supply, so the first recipients are people who had their picture taken. We will keep a list of people that are also interested for possible distribution at a later time. See Roni or Jodi to get your copy or to be put on the list.



May 2026 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	16,938	31,582	(14,644)
Full Year 2026	124,342	144,854	(20,512)
			-
Monthly average - 2026	24,868	28,971	(4,102)

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

Finance Committee:

Your giving statements will be sent via email in the first half of July, please watch for them to arrive.



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. 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.

Children & Family Ministry Info:

Summer Discovery Zone = Bright Beginnings: We will learn about day 4 & 5 of the Creation Story on July 12th and 26th.



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 serve 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 of the World” watch for more information coming soon or if you are interested in helping, please contact Jodi. We are having an organizational meeting on Monday, July 13th at 4:30pm. Please plan to attend if you have volunteered to be a leader or if you are thinking about being a leader for this 1 day event.

Glass Jar Donations are needed for VBC. Please save your empty 12–18-ounce glass jars from salsa, pickles, jam/jelly, relish, gravy, olives, etc. Please be sure to wash the jars & remove the labels. Jars can be placed in the box at the information desk before July 19th. Thank you!

We could also use some strings of Christmas lights or if anyone has any “fun” summertime lights that we could borrow for a few days, please let Jodi know.

The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026, 9AM - 1PM

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

VBC

LOCATION: UMGR - 1701 SE 5TH AVE., GRAND RAPIDS, MN

QUESTIONS? 218-327-2216 OR 218-256-6748 (TEXT)

AGES: PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE

Preschoolers must be toilet trained to attend VBC. Thank you!

SCAN TO REGISTER:



250⁴TH OF JULY



1 Mary Hill
3 Sandy Williams
6 Dax Troumbly
6 Kane Renollet
6 Lisa Zimmer
7 Robin Renollet
7 Ethan Zimmer
7 Rachel Kortekaas
8 Kurt Werner
8 Carrie Zimmer
9 Carlee Buchacker
14 Otto Meyer
15 Ed Duke
17 Penny Melhus
17 Isabelle Danielson

18 Karen Andersen
20 Marie Duffy
20 Perry Bloom
20 Mary Kanian
21 Ashley Buell
21 Tashanna Martinetto
24 Ellen Verry
25 Jim Johnson
26 Robert Schuder
26 Clayton Stevens
28 Mike Randall
29 Barry Anderson
31 Mary Dewey

8 Ken & Pam Spangler
18 Randy & Teresa Savich
19 Susan & Kevin Hoolihan
23 Jon & Marion Mason



Coordinator:
Bonnie Drake

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

Julia Brewster
Janice Crandall
Joni Namyst
Sandy Williams
Emilie Duffney
Janessa Green

Jodel Crecelius
Irene Drieman
Lori Olson
Shari Tverberg
Ashley Buell

Playground Project Update:

A few years ago I was on a boat ride with my nephew, and he said, "BOAT is just an acronym for Bring Out Another Thousand!" I have thought of that often in these past few weeks as we have come to the completion of the Playground.



The project was researched, discussed, and voted on at the Church Conference in January.

Money was collected through the noisy offering, the pyramid project, and the opportunity to donate one of the pieces in the playground. The equipment has been assembled and the playground has been dedicated.

Now all that is left to finish it is to raise the remaining \$14,500. We don't need to bring out a BOAT, but we do need to be BOLD, Bring Our Love-filled Donations! At the January Church Conference we voted to use up to \$16,000 from the Trustees Special Purpose Fund for the parking lot, with the understanding that it would be paid back. Let's make a BOLD effort to raise the remaining 14,500 so that we use as little money from the Parking Lot Fund as possible.

Thank you to all that have helped with or contributed to this project in any way!