

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- August 2 Genesis 32:22-31
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21
- August 9 Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33
- August 16 Genesis 45:1-15
 Romans 11:1-2, 29-32
 Matthew 15:10-28
- August 23 Exodus 1:8-2:10
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20
- August 30 Exodus 3:1-15
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

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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August 2026

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



RAPIDS CONNECTION

MISSIONS

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

GRACE House: Join us for the ANNUAL BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER—

AUGUST 8 @ VFW from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Hashbrowns, Toast & Fruit will be served. Tickets are \$10.00 and prepurchase is encouraged. Tickets may be purchased at the shelter, VFW Club or AT THE DOOR. All proceeds benefit the Itasca Area Homeless Shelter. See Kay Klingman with any questions.

STUFF THE BUS – UNITED WAY: We will be collecting school supplies for the annual United Way Backpack program. The collection period will be from July 15 through August 24. The supply list is available at the Information Desk!

There will be a 3 day packing event at the arena August 25-27. We will be taking a team to the packing event on Wednesday, August 26 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. We will be helping accept & organize donations, as well as count, sort and fill backpacks with essential school supplies for Itasca County students. There will be a sign up sheet at the table or you can contact Kay Klingman at 612-845-6649.

COMMUNITY CONNECT: The annual event will be held at the arena on September 17. We will be cooking chili. We may be asking for donations for canned ingredients for the chili. More information will be in the September newsletter.

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 August. Watch for sign up sheets to help us determine what is needed!

DONATIONS: Donations will be made to Foster Love for 1 month rent and United Way Stuff the Bus.

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!

Fireside Readers

The group will not be meeting in August.

Please join us in September as we discuss "Riders of the Purple Sage" by, Zane Grey. We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Jan Rourk





How welcome was the rain the other day!? It's been a dry Summer. It wasn't much but it was some and more is in the forecast. Jodel and I have really had to keep the sprinkler going this Summer once or twice a week.

So much of gardening ties into my faith & theology. To begin with, just working in the dirt and being physically connected and interacting with God's creation is renewing for my mental and spiritual health. But here are three aspects of gardening that are touchstones of my relationship with God.

The seeds. All the potential within just a little seed is amazing! Left by itself – nothing. But if you place it in the nurturing and nutrient rich soil, it becomes something completely new. It doesn't even look like it's old self! Scripture tells us that we become a new being in Christ. "The old is past away. The new is come." When we place ourselves within the loving, nurturing, and blessing richness of a relationship with Christ we become a fully new person! Rooted firmly in a relationship with God we "Grow toward the light of Christ. As the stem looks nothing like the seed, so our new self takes on a whole new "Look" of Abundant Life! The potential of the seed begins to release itself into a living plant. In like manner, the potential of oneself releases in the nurture of God's love and we begin to see new life in ourselves.

As with a plant, Jesus tells us that our purpose is to "bear Fruit". Nothing like picking ripe tomatoes from a garden! All the vitamins and nutrition of the plant is in its fruit! As we grow in Christ, we bear the fruit of Love and Justice, of Holiness and God's Righteousness. All the basic "Building blocks" of the Kingdom of God are there within our lives as we bear the fruit of the Risen Christ within us! But if the fruit just hangs on the plant, it will over ripen and be wasted. We need to allow God to use us and the fruit of our lives for the work of God's purposes in the world. But look again in the fruit...seeds! It's not about us. The potential for the future of the movement of God through Jesus the Christ is there in the fruit we bear. It goes past, beyond our lives. The seed in the fruit are the future. As we open ourselves to the nurturing power of resurrection, our "fruit" carries the seeds of possibility for the new things God will be doing in both our future and the future which extends beyond our lives

Weeds! Oy, the bane of gardening. To have a productive and healthy garden you need to keep the weeds out. How true in our lives also. Weeds are the sin, brokenness, destructive habits & choices we make. The worst choice you can make about weeding is letting it go. The best and easiest way to weed is to get after it each day. Then there are fewer weeds and they're not establish well in the soil and pull out with the least amount of effort. The same is true in our lives. In dealing with "un fun" stuff we all find ourselves procrastinating. We need to daily confess ourselves to God, address our sin and brokenness. In daily availing ourselves to God's forgiveness we don't allow sin to gain much of a foothold in our lives and we will find it much easier to overcome it.

During this season of summer and gardening, may you discover or avail yourself more of God's nurturing presence. May you bear the fruit of resurrection and experience new life in Jesus, the Christ. And may you see the old self, giving way to new growth and new life in the Spirit of the Living God! Be God's, Pastor Jim

Care & Hospitality: THE PRAYER CHAIN CARES!

The Prayer Chain is an important part of the care we show as a congregation for our own people and others across the country and even the world. When a prayer request is received, an email is sent to everyone on the chain to begin praying. It is helpful to record the requests in an electronic or paper notebook so you can continue lifting the person in prayer. Everyone is asked to keep the prayer needs confidential.



It's very easy to join the ranks of our fifty plus people by contacting Nancy O'Toole at 218-256-7711. Just call or leave a message with your name and email to get started.

To request prayers: Send an email to nlotoole@me.com with a brief description of the need.

Everyone can be intentional in praying for our congregation whether or not you are on the Prayer Chain.

In August here are some things to pray for: The Memorial Service for Dave Hutchins on August 1, Marilyn and the family. Communion on August 2—When you are sitting the pew waiting, pray for each person as they take communion. Vacation Bible Camp on August 5, the workers and the children who attend.

Children & Family Ministry Info:

Summer Discovery Zone = Bright Beginnings: We are continuing the Creation Story in August, meeting on the 9th, 16th, & 30th.



Discovery Zone Helpers Needed: 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. If you are willing to serve our growing church family in this manner please contact Jodi.

Seeking Nursery Attendants: I am looking for volunteers that are willing to be Nursery Attendants this coming fall. 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.

News From the Office:

Jodi will be out of the office August 11-14, Roni will be covering the office needs for that week.



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

Please contact Jodi if you need the information to set up your profile on the database or download the new church app.

Church Directory Book:

If you had your photo taken and have not picked up your directory, you may find your directory in the mailbox slot corresponding with your last name. If you did not have your photo submitted in the directory and would like a

Troop 41 News:

In June we celebrated the crossover of three Cub scouts from Pack 51 and welcomed them into our troop. We're excited and looking forward to seeing our new scouts grow along with our troop.

During our meetings this summer, we've been focusing on some outdoor activities. We've learned and practiced how to build improvised, bushcraft shelters. Identified and prioritized survival needs and discussed what it takes to be prepared when heading out away from civilization. We spent one meeting at the American Legion Trails and had fun playing around a few holes of frisbee golf. We've had three rides so far working on Bicycling merit badge. Had some instruction on safety, bicycle maintenance and preparations for riding. We're working up to our 50 miler later this summer.

We've been gearing up for our week-long summer camp experience at Camp Wilderness later this month. We have 8 scouts attending. Looking forward to some outdoor fun, work on merit badges and camaraderie with other scouts. Camp Wilderness has generously opened their 'doors' to the displaced scouts from the Northern Tier High Adventure base near Ely that was evacuated for the wildfires. Will be interesting to hear the experiences from those scouts and leaders.

In our happiest piece of news we ask you to help congratulate Aaron McMullen, as he has passed his Board of Review and is the latest Eagle Scout to come out of Troop 41. Aaron is going into his Senior year at Grand Rapids High School, is a PSEO student, on the math team, is active in band playing the saxophone, as Drum Major with the Marching Band, on the Executive Student Council, is the Student Representative to the GR School Board competes on the swim team and with track and field. In his scouting career he is our current Senior Patrol Leader, Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and for his Eagle Service Project, designed, coordinated and built a prayer trail at Zion Lutheran church. Aaron is a very busy individual and we are proud to have him hail from Troop 41.



June 2026 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	22,343	22,705	(362)
Full Year 2026	154,366	172,325	(17,959)
			-
Monthly average - 2026	24,838	27,927	(3,089)

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

Finance Committee:

Mid-Year Giving Statements Were Emailed. If you have made a financial contribution to UMCGR since January 1st, you should have received an email on 7/10/26 with your current giving balance. The email title should say; "UMC Of Grand Rapids Giving Statement 1/1/26-6/30/26" if you find any errors, or didn't receive the email, please contact the church office, June Johnson, or Stephanie Zimmer. If you don't have an email address and would like your mid-year statement, please contact June Johnson to print one for you.



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.

A Message From Our Lay Leader: In and Within the Present of God

Happy August— wait, August... What happened to June or July????



I have decided not to count down what's left for summer days, but instead, Count Up my Blessings in what's in the summer days!!! Count your blessings count them one by one. . . Are you singing yet?

I have realized how much we miss by looking ahead, checking the boxes, creating the to-do list, start thinking for tomorrow when we are still in today— Is it really fair for us to overlook the importance and possibilities of the gift God has given us. . .the Present?

"Present" has several meanings: a current point in time or a gift or to introduce.

It's our today, our moments, our lives which by living in the present— we can present not only ourselves but also our loved ones and those around us, with full on respect and gratitude of God's love and gifts!

I am reminded of Matthew 6:34 "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Yes, planning is good, but living is all the better— May our today, always be Present in the gifts and gratitudes and joys of God's present.

Blessings & Love in Jesus, Teresa

UMC Chili Feed:

You may have heard about the Gala being planned for this September... Well, it is now a ***Chili Feed!*** And due to other events in our area, the date has been pushed back to October 3rd. This will be a community event, all are welcome Invite your friends!

Do you love: Fun Fellowships? Marvelous Music? Awesome Auction Items? Fabulous Food? Then you will **LOVE** our ***Chili Feed*** on October 3rd!!!

A ***Happy to Help*** Committee is being formed and **We need You!** Please join us in the planning and production for this exciting event and share ***your*** innovative ideas, inspirations and insights into creating a Community Event our guests will be asking for more!!! ***Hurry and Signup as not to miss your opportunity to serve.***

Get your Creative Skills Motivated to donate items for the Silent Auction. Create themed gift baskets, Find new items to be donated, Use the gifts you have been given to make something to donate (painting, carving, quilting, woodworking, etc.), Donate gift cards (purchased from a store or create one for something you can do), Or items for the Bake Sale Table.

Please contact Teresa via email or Text : rrtr3022@gmail.com • 218-259-8482. Love & Joys in Jesus, Teresa

A note from Ad Council ~ Young Families Options for Fall Programing:

Thank you, young families, for your feedback through these past 9 months as we continue to grow as a multigenerational congregation: continuing to add families with young children and the young families we do have continue to add new babies! (four new births since the beginning of the year!)

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. May 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.

PLAYGROUND'S PROGRESS FINAL EDITION

Thank you to all the people who donated to the Playground Project. After all the bills were received and paid, an audit was done to record all the deposits and expenses of the project. It was a surprise to see that the first deposit of \$1,000 was made in December of 2018. Deposits can still be made for the playground, but it will fall under the work of the Trustees to keep track of it.



Did you ever buy a big ticket item like a car or an appliance where you had to take money out of your savings account to purchase it with the promise to yourself that you would replenish your savings account as quickly as possible? We did a version of that with this project.

At the Church Conference in January of 2026, a motion was passed to use up to \$16,000 from the Trustees Parking Lot Fund with the understanding that it would be paid back (just like your savings account,) The audit and the Quick Book figures agree that the total cost of the Playground Project was \$54,412.12. We are still receiving some donations, so the books won't close until July,31. On that day the total amount of the deposits minus 54,412.12 will be transferred to the Trustees to reimburse the Parking Lot Fund and the Playground Special Purpose Fund will be discontinued.



AUGUST



4 Julie Werner
 5 Larry Christensen
 5 John Scheuer
 5 Gloria Gooler
 5 Mary Giese
 10 Duke Gmahl
 11 Cassidy Waller
 12 Emily Ann Zimmer
 13 Dave Middleton
 18 Keira Trest
 18 Gavin Simonson
 18 Jon Mason
 20 Sally LaDoux
 20 Sandy Baumel
 20 Ken Olson

20 Mary Tennison
 22 Tammy Blankenship
 22 Cole Selliers
 24 Kiley Duffney
 25 Tommy Thompson
 26 Gretchen Danielson
 26 Evan Statsman
 27 Joanne Dashel
 27 Tom Callahan
 27 Alex Troumbly
 28 Linda Rasmussen
 28 Jack Namyst
 29 Jane Bobich
 29 Olivia Hanson
 29 Julia Hanson

3 Dan & Lana Hess
 8 Larry & Patty Christensen
 9 Mike & Roni Skoglund
 11 Scott & Laura Hauser
 16 Randy & Sue Kolka
 17 Duane & Peggy Heikkinen
 21 Ron & Kay Klingman
 23 Dave & Margy Strock
 24 Tony & Becky Larson
 24 Ken & Lori Olson
 25 Dave & Jan Rourk
 29 Steve & Stephanie Zimmer



Coordinator:
Bonnie Drake

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

Julia Brewster	Jodel Crecelius
Janice Crandall	Irene Drieman
Joni Namyst	Lori Olson
Sandy Williams	Shari Tverberg
Emilie Duffney	Ashley Buell
Janessa Green	



The United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MN

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

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
VBC

LOCATION: UMCGR - 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:



The Chosen ~ Bible Study ~ Season 5

The next session begins on September 17th at 5:30pm with dinner. No need to have attended the previous sessions. Invite your friends.

The ABUNDANCE TABLE:

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.

