

Sunday Service is at 9:45 AM

- Apr. 05 Acts 10:34-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18
- Apr. 12 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31
- Apr. 19 Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35
- Apr. 26 Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10
- May 03 Acts 7:55-60
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

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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on YouTube



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



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April 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



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



WIG CLOSET: Six (6) women were served during March 2026. Sharon wants to thank the Lake Superior Wood Chippers who donate the beautiful wig stands which they carve for the Wig Closet. A special thanks to Bonnie Anderson who makes all of the bags which contain all the needs for the wigs. Thanks also to Karen Storlie for making and donating prayer shawls for the ladies. 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: As we mentioned last month, the grand total contributed to Greg and his family was \$1450. Below is a note from Greg and Kori to our congregation:

Dear Grand Rapids UMC,

We are so thankful to you for the gifts you have given not only this year but over the last 20 years. As you know the past couple years have been difficult for us as a family on the mission field. Being in Minnesota for this school year has been both refreshing and challenging. As things have been more expensive here than living in Czechia we've also had the extra expense of medical bills for our kids and us. Your gift that was above and beyond what you normally give has been incredibly timely. We've used it for counseling (for all 5 of us), psychiatric bills, medical evaluations, etc. Thank you. Some of you gave through the church or through our organization Josiah Venture and some directly to us. Again, thank you. Over the last 6 months of living in Minnesota we've seen a lot of progress. Both Kori and I are doing much better. We've engaged in the community at our church in Prior Lake. Elizabeth is thriving in jr. high youth group. Madeleine is loving Sunday school and Awana. Sophia is making progress with her severe social anxiety. It is hard to overstate how important this progress is. At the same time We see how far we have to go before we and the kids are able to thrive on the mission field in Czechia. Please continue to pray for us. We are looking forward to at some point visiting the church to say thank you personally.

In Christ, Greg, Kori, Elizabeth, Sophia and Madeleine

COAT RACK: Thanks to Sandy Grina who found clearance coats at 32 Degrees for \$17 - \$20 each. She was able to purchase 118 new winter coats for just under \$2,000. As the prices of winterwear has increased, this is definitely a bargain for the 2026 distribution!

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!

To our church family,

Thank you so much for all the love and support you have given Greg and Kori and their girls as they continue to heal. We are blessed. God is good. Dave and Margy Strock

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

**Pastor's
Corner**

The promise of resurrection is the truth that most excites me about the Christian message. That old patterns, addictions, destructive decisions, habits that diminish, systems that oppress are not the last word; they are overcome by grace! It is The Good News of God in Jesus, the Christ, that restoration, reconciliation, renewal, and redemption are the work of an all-surpassing, unconditional, and unlimited Love! Broken relationships are healed and strengthened; hopes squashed by crisis and chaos find new life; New opportunities are discovered and risked 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 just a day as much as it is a new way of living! If there were such a word, we should encourage one another to live in an "Easter-ish-ing-ly" way.

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.

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! May you and I and all, live in the Truth of God's unconditional, unlimited, all-sufficient, and all-surpassing love; and may it blossom in your hearts and come alive in the lives of you, your families, your loved ones, and us a congregation as we live into the glory and triumph of Easter morning!

Be God's, Pastor Jim

DIPPETY DOINGS: Sunday, April 12th

Plan to attend church and stay for a fun event immediately after the service. We will: EAT yummy dip! GREET new & old friends! Laugh at jokes told by our church family at the "open mike". Sign up at the church or contact Nancy 218-256-7711. Not EVERYONE needs to bring dip, a little goes a long way.

Dip Ideas:

Cheese dip with crackers or bread

Salsa & corn chips

Fruit dip

Artichoke dip with crackers

Veggie dip

Reuben dip with rye bread

Crab dip with crackers

Buffalo chicken dip

Mexican layered dip

Spinach dip

Bean dip

Chili cheese dip

Chocolate fondue dip

Hummus

Dipping oil with bread

Caramel dip

Marshmallow dip.....(your favorite)



Anyone who wishes may tell a joke or two. Find them in your memory, online, in joke books, or magazines. Practice at home if you need to. "G" rated, family friendly jokes please. Invite friends!



February 2026 Monthly Snap Shot			
	Income	Expenses	Net Income
General Fund	22,389	27,034	(4,645)
Full Year 2026	57,316	51,983	5,333
			-
Monthly average - 2026	28,658	25,992	2,667

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/App/Website Update:

EXCITING NEWS!!!! Our NEW Website is up and running!!! Check it out! <https://umcgrmn.org> (you should see "Welcome to UMCGR" and the first photo will be of the front entrance to the building followed by photos from in the sanctuary and the church picnic). If you see a red header and no picture of the church, you were brought to our old site. Not all search engines have updated yet, but if you type in <https://umcgrmn.org> it should bring you to the NEW site.



Database Update:

I'm sorry for the delay. If you are 18 & older, you will begin receiving the following email from Jodi: ***You have been invited to join UMC Of Grand Rapids. You've been added to Ministry Brands Amplify with UMC Of Grand Rapids. Click "Accept Invitation" to join and set your password!*** This will allow you to view your profile on the database, your giving history, and the Online directory. Please note that you will only be able to see church family that are 18 and over that have not opted out of the directory.

After you set up your profile here are a couple things you will need to know:

If you click the 3 dots beside your name and profile visibility, you will be able to control what others in the church family will see when they go to your profile on the directory. I have set the directory to not show birthdates or anniversaries, if you want yours visible you can change it there. The other thing to know is the Partners button at the bottom next to My Giving on the home page, please ignore that. I asked if it can be removed but it cannot be removed.

Important Information about the Online Directory:

Everyone 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!***

Email Jodi: secretary@umcgrmn.org to opt-out.

App Update:

The church app is complete on my end. However, I learned that I need to send out the invitations for people to set up their profiles on the database first. I also have to send the invitations individually; there is not an option to do it as a group invite. You will not be able to log into the app until your profile is set up from the invitation. Once we get to the other side of Easter, I will have more time to do take on this task.

Thank you all for your patience. There has been quite a bit of work (and training) for me to get all of this up and running smoothly.

Jodi

Youth News!



Who knew Nerf guns were/are such a hit amongst our Youth Group members? OUR YOUTH GROUP KNEW! What a great time we had at the March 1 meeting. We had a “Nerf War”. We usually have an icebreaker or a game during a part of our meetings. This time the members brought Nerf guns. Old Pastor Jim had no clue about them. Long and short of it – we had a great time chasing, hiding from, and ambushing each other! Our March discussions were full of authenticity, honest sharing, and brainstorming about what it means to be a Jesus Follower in these times. Topics like racism, bullying, poverty, living the Christian life authentically have all been a part of talking out our faith as a group. This coming month we’ll focus on Restorative Justice in the Grand Rapids/Itasca County area.

Thanks for all the hands helping to get the Cinnamon Rolls ready for the youth Fund-raiser! What a kindness for the group to give all proceeds to the Playground Fund! In the next update we’ll give the final amount raised. Thank you to such a generous congregation! We sold more bags of rolls than ever before. The gift to the playground looks to be between \$400 and \$500!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 19th! We’re all set to go to Duluth for the afternoon! We’ll leave the church around 12:00. We’ll go to the Sky Zone Trampoline Park, walk about Canal Park, have lunch at Grandma’s restaurant, and more! Cost is only \$10 per person.

There continue to be brainstorming and rough planning on a Summer Mystery Tour. Come, be a part of that discussion! Our next Meeting is Palm Sunday, March 29th. NO MEETING ON EASTER SUNDAY!

A Message Our Lay Leader: Can we Easter Overflow every day?

As Easter comes upon us, the Easter story is one that never changes in facts, always holds its truths and yet, every year, completely rocks across my emotional richter scale. Struggling between the horrific treatment our Lord endured and celebration of His resurrection— whatever could one possibly give in return?

Can we renew our life, to be His inspiration, to give His glory, to those in our life’s journeys? Can we look deeper to the resurrection of Christ to inspire our faith and renew our hopes? Can our faith lift a daily prayer for Christ’s unwavering love to be our kind of love? Can we learn to forgive as He forgives us?

I believe yes, ABSOLUTELY and with faith, we can overflow in doing so! His death is our freedom from sin, His resurrection is our salvation, His love is our grace. It is my prayer that Romans 15:13 may become our Easter embrace overflowing every morning;

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

Easter Blessings in Love of our Lord,

Your Lay Leader Teresa



Children & Family Ministry Update

Pastor Jim has designed the Easter Sunday service to involve children, so there will not be Discovery Zone on Easter Sunday. Be sure to join us for the next Super Book lesson on April 12th.



Congregational Care & Hospitality

LOOKING FOR OUR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY?

It is expected to hopefully arrive in May. Watch for news of a distribution celebration.



United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids 3rd Annual Plant/Garden Fundraising Sale - Wednesday, May 27th

Dear Friends, Please consider ways that you can participate in our plant & garden plant sale. Here are a few ideas, but I imagine you can think of even more ways to contribute:

Mark your calendars and plan to shop (Wednesday, May 27th)

Start some seeds and raise them with your love

Split and repot some house plants

Dig up perennials or small seedling trees for the sale

Clean out your garages and sheds to find items for our sale (garden tools, wind-chimes, planters, birdbaths, bird feeders/houses, garden flags, etc.)

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be made available in early May

Thank you, in-advance for your participation in this fundraiser!

Sincerely, Miss Mary (Text or Call me with Questions 218-259-9346)

APRIL SHOWERS
Bring
MAY FLOWERS



Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 19-25, 2026.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to ALL of our AMAZING Volunteers here at UMCGR! We are truly blessed by the time and commitment that is given by so many people. To see you all working together as the Body of Christ every day is truly beautiful!

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

KEENAGERS

Happy Spring Everyone!!! With the busy church activities during Eastertime, those traveling or having company, Keenagers will meet mid-April or so for the next activity, watch for information. Interested? Email Faye Mostoller (jeanettemostoller@gmail.com)



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. Roni was kind enough to take on those duties when Dan retired. She has worked with Dan on Quick Books and is working with Ministry Brands to make the switchover to them. Due to a change in her personal life, she has asked us to find someone else to take on these duties. She has given us a generous notice and will work with someone to make the transition. 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.

Troop 41 News

Troop 41 has officially converted from a designated boy troop to a Family troop. Unlike Cub Scout Packs, which are all Co-ed, Scouting Troops need to designate boy, girl or family. If anyone knows of youth looking to join a fun organization to learn leadership skills and experience the outdoors, please reach out. UMC has started the new Cub Scout Pack 44 for K- grade 5, and grades 6 to age 18 can join us in the troop.

The District Pinewood derby was held in early March. There were about 50 scouts and their families that came out for the event and to race over in Bemidji. Our troop helped out and some Cubs from Pack 51 came over to race.

Check out the article in the Grand Rapids Herald of Pack 51 and their collections for Scouting for Food.

We so enjoyed hosting Scout Sunday, ushering at service and making breakfast. Thank you again for your support of Scouting in Grand Rapids!



APRIL



- 1 Beau Linder
- 4 Erick Kanian
- 5 Lori Olson
- 7 Carter Brewster
- 7 Dorothy Ganoung
- 7 Jacob Zimmer
- 9 Patrick Namyst
- 10 Richard Meyer
- 10 Linda Maki
- 12 Lloyd Weeks
- 12 Ann Ochoa
- 14 June Mitchell
- 14 Mandy Lakso-Norton

- 15 Ken Kerr
- 16 Marion Mason
- 17 Emilie Duffney
- 17 Martha Lentz
- 18 Janice Beaver
- 18 Jarod Lund
- 19 Brayden Akre
- 19 Marilyn Hutchins
- 22 Chuck Brewster
- 26 Jim Stephens
- 28 Ken Spangler
- 29 Andrew Buell
- 30 Wendy Gorham
- 30 John Pliska

- 2 Mike & Wendy Gorham
- 15 Bill & Deb Hagenbuck
- 16 Chad & Julia Statsman
- 20 Lex & Alyssa James
- 24 Jim & June Johnson
- 25 Joe & Carol Spooner
- 26 Blaine & Patty Sawdey



Hospitality
MINISTRY

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



Playground Project Update:

For over a year, plans have been discussed to build a playground for children to use. There are many people who need to be thanked for their hard work in making a vision of our young families become a reality.

Marc Smith, Andrew Buell and Matt Buchacker have done extensive research to find a contractor who worked with them to design the proposed playground and will direct the construction. Pictures of the proposal are posted in the narthex.

Mary Hanson and Shari Tverberg gave input from the perspective of the Ready Set Grow Preschool that has classes five days a week during the school year.

Mary Ritter has also served on the Committee.

Our Children have been collecting the noisy offering each week since last summer to collect money to build the playground, so they have a vested interest in the project.

The Trustees, Finance Committee and Ad Council have had many discussions of how to raise money to pay for the project. So far there is \$24,590 in the Special Purpose Funds designated for the Playground.

At the last Ad Council meeting it was approved to have a fund raiser from Easter to Pentecost with a pyramid of envelopes to be filled and returned from members and friends to complete the funding.

- 1 @ 2,000, 4@1,000 8@ 500 10,000
- 20@100 20 @ 50 3,000
- 40 @20 40 @10 40@5 1,400 Total of 14,400

You will be receiving more information in the coming weeks

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

