

# Grinnell United Methodist Church



# APRIL

## NEWSLETTER

916 5th Ave. Grinnell, IA 50112

(641) 236-3757

[www.grinnellumc.org](http://www.grinnellumc.org)

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### OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Thurs; 8:30AM - 3:30PM

### Sunday Worship

@ 8:00AM & 10:30AM

### Sunday School

@ 9:15AM

### Live Stream Worship

#### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/grinnellumc](http://www.facebook.com/grinnellumc)

#### You Tube:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK\\_HXnYkbCw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw)

### Youth Group - Wednesdays

@ 7:00PM

## Grinnell Community Meal Thursdays @ 5:30PM

The meal is open to ALL community members and operates in partnership with community groups. Reservations and Volunteer sign ups may be made at

<https://grinnellumc.org/community-meal>

or by calling the GUMC Office at 641-236-3757 by noon on Wednesdays.

### April Meals:

April 4 - Ham Balls, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad & Dessert

*\*Provided by Grinnell UM Church*

April 11 - Tater-Tot Casserole, Salad & Brownies

*\*Provided by Bayer Corp.*

April 18 - TBD

April 25 - TBD

*\*Provided by Grinnell College Students*



# Upcoming Events!



## Confirmation

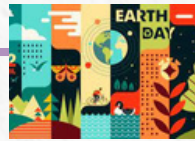
### Retreat

April 5th -  
April 6th



## Life Serve Blood Drive

Wed, Apr 24th  
9:30AM



## Earth Day

Sun, April 28th  
9:00AM



## Take Away Hunger

Sun, April 28th  
9:15AM

## Confirmation Retreat Bags

The Confirmation Retreat is on Friday, April 5th - Saturday, April 6th. If you would like to help fill our special goodie bags, you can bring items to Cindy's office during office hours. Ideas are: notes, cards, bookmarks, treats, favorite scriptures, or small fun items. (No peanuts, please.)

**2023-2024 Confirmands:** Vance Laug, Weston Grout, Athen Schubert & Isabel Rubendall

## Life Serve Blood Drive

Grinnell UMC is hosting the Life Serve Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 27th beginning at 9:30AM. If you would like to schedule your appointment with Life Serve you may do so online at [www.lifeservebloodcenter.com](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.com) or by calling 800-287-4903. Thank you for being a part of this life saving mission!

## Earth Day

Invest in Our Planet & Celebrate Earth Day

Sunday, April 28th @ 9AM - Sponsored by the Service Committee

Heirloom tomato seedlings grown by Monique and Craig Shore will be available for your garden. Organic fertilizer produced from worm castings by Central Iowa Organic Fertilizer (Indianola, IA) will be for sale. It will not burn your plants and is excellent for lawn and garden. The cost is \$5.00/4.5 lb. bag, \$11.00/15 lb. bag, or \$16.00/30 lb. bag.

Visit with Trustee Gary Porter to learn about our solar array, which is fully operational, and receive updates on recycling in Grinnell.

## Take Away Hunger Event

Grinnell UMC is hosting a Take Away Hunger packaging party on Sunday, April 28th @ 9:15AM.

To join us sign up at: <https://grinnellumc.org/signups>.

To Give to the Mission visit: <https://grinnellumc.org/online-giving>.

# Youth News



**Confirmation  
SLEEPOVER**

**Confirmation Overnighter!**

**Friday, April 5th-6th  
Arrive at 3:30pm Friday  
Concluded at Noon Saturday  
Please BRING  
Sleeping Bags & Bible**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**April 20th at 11am -  
Confirmation & Faith Friend  
Bowling Event**

**April 28th at 9:30am - Take Away  
Hunger Packaging Party**

**April 28th after 10:30am  
Worship - New Confirmation  
Youth & Parents Meeting**

**June 2nd - Super Church  
Begins**

**July 8th thru 12th - Summer  
Games**

**July 31st - Aug 2nd 5-8pm  
VBS - Be Brave!**

## **Happening in May!**

**May 1st – Last Youth Group Night**

**May 5th - Confirmation Sunday**

**May 12th - Last day of Sunday  
School Celebration with bounce  
house & activities**

**May 19th - Senior Breakfast &  
Youth Sunday**

**Seniors - Joel Dressler, Alyssa  
Rubendall, Trenton Turba, Mikayla  
Lloyd**

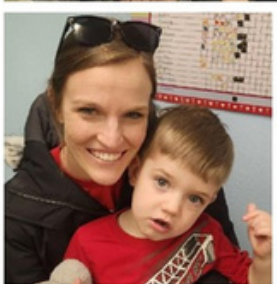
The youth will be providing worship  
service with Joel Dressler delivering  
the message!



**High School Students  
Participating in  
Link Mentoring  
Bowling Fundraiser  
April 13th at 1:30pm**



# Highlights From Kids Singing in Church, Childrens Moment and the Stuffy Party



# United Women of Faith News

No Executive Board Meeting  
April 8th, 1 p.m. - Dorcas knitting circle  
April 9th, 1:30 p.m. - Trinity Circle  
April 22, 7:00 p.m. - Rachel Circle

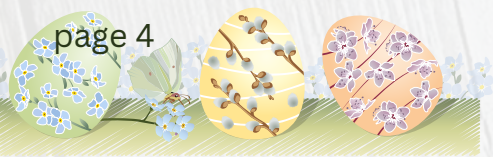


The Dorcas knitting circle would welcome yarn donations. These ladies knit prayer shawls for our church and knit kid's hats, sweaters, and blankets that are sent to World Vision.

## Update on the Grinnell Community Meal

Beginning in October 2023 our church started hosting the Grinnell Community Meal, a weekly free community meal dedicated to providing fresh, nutritious meals to members of the Grinnell community. The Meal is the result of a merger of the Davis Community Meal, a non-denominational, community-run meal, and our Blessed Community Meal, that was restarted in the Spring of 2023. The Grinnell Community Meal maintains the nonsectarian character of the Davis Community Meal along with its strong network of support from various community groups, and uses the kitchen provided by our church. The weekly meals are not restricted to any religious group, and everyone is welcome. The Meal's main purpose is to be a food resource for food-insecure members of the community; it is also a source of community engagement and fellowship.

Over the past few months, the Grinnell Community Meal has seen a regular attendance of around 45-60 individuals and has attracted a variety of volunteers. Volunteers from GUMC, several other churches, civic groups, non-profit organizations, and businesses have provided and served the meal. The majority of the meals are prepared in the church's kitchen and the weekly attendance includes 8-15 volunteers who cook, serve and cleanup. The largest number of attendees are senior citizens. Some are GUMC members, although most are not. Our goals are to serve 80 or more each week, to reach more families with children and involve more community groups in the project. For more information on the project contact church representatives: Delphina Baumann, Chris Bair, Lowell Bunger, Ginny Cameron, Scott Sharp or Craig Shore. You can sign up to volunteer to serve and attend meals on the church webpage or clicking here [Grinnell United Methodist Church: Volunteering for Grinnell Community Meals](https://www.grinnellumc.org/volunteering-for-grinnell-community-meals) ([signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com)).



# **News From Your GUMC Foundation**

The Grinnell UMC Foundation is always ready to receive and manage your gifts of cash, stocks, or funds from estates. I would like to share how one such gift was used.

In 2011, the Foundation received a gift of \$9,000 from the estate of a member's parents. In 2023, the remaining funds were all spent. Over that 12 year period, we spent a total of \$14,877.92 from the fund generated by the original gift of \$9,000.

The following is a list of the things that the gift funded:

\$500 toward a youth group mission trip

\$1,600 toward confirmation camp for kids

\$2,100 toward the TGIW (Thank God It's Wednesday) program, this was an after school program sponsored with the Lutheran Church

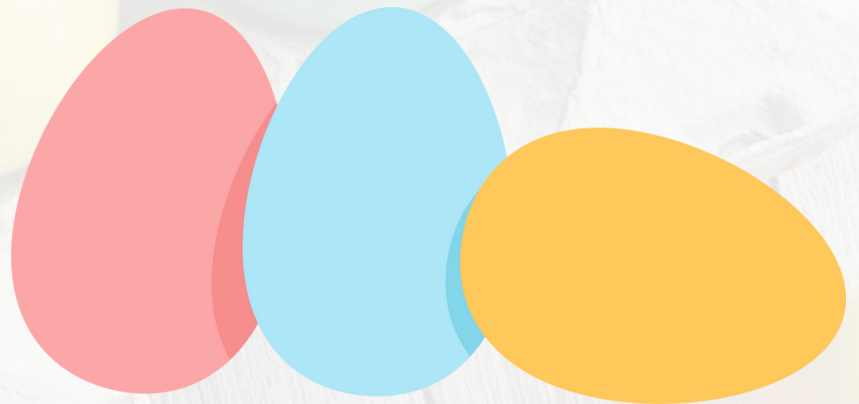
\$10,000 was part of GUMC's contribution for the Head Start 2018 remodel

\$402.04 towards course books for adult study groups

\$275.88 toward repair and replacement of bells for the Bell Choirs

Our church and Foundation are truly thankful of the support from the past and look forward to your continuing support in the future.

If you have any questions about the working of the Foundation, please contact Lyle Roudabush or any Foundation Committee members.



## **Experience the places St. Paul traveled!**

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai is leading such an opportunity,  
October 8-20, 2024!

The tour begins in Athens and concludes in Istanbul with many interesting stops in-between. Participation in the Journeys of Paul tour is certain to impact you in very positive ways. See the Journeys of Paul in Greece & Turkiye link below for details.

**<https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/gt24100824i61729#eotours>**

If you have questions, we are very interested in visiting with you about this trip. Shalom, Len and Diane Eberhart ([Lendiane92@gmail.com](mailto:Lendiane92@gmail.com) 641-990-3861 voice/text)

# February Church Council Minutes

GUMC Church Council Meeting March 24, 2024

Attendees - Ginny Cameron, Jerry Lane, Ramona Mitchell, Gary Porter, Pastor Eric Schubert, Connie Scurr, Scott Sharp, Mindy Tokle, and Carolyn Grosenbach

Mindy Tokle -brought meeting to order at 7:05pm. Pastor Eric discussed his friend that just did sermon on Forgiving God - he might ask for notes on that, he would like to use it here at some point. This Sunday "Vulnerability" will be topic of sermon. Getting to know each other - Easter growing up. Devotion given by Jerry Lane: "Don't Abandon Me" - cry from David

Prayers and concerns

Approval of February minutes - no changes to make

Pastor's Report/Comments- Pastor Eric reported that we are working on getting things set up so overflow can be used in that way again, he believes that we have worked a way to put bells in front of sanctuary when they play. Craig Shore is looking into options for changes to improve speaker system in overflow. The first Sunday in May will be Confirmation Sunday. Renewal Leave will be May 6th-June 2nd. Pastor Eric is working to make sure everything is ready to go and that everything happens that is on the schedule. He has sermon series planned out through summer and knows what he will be doing this fall. Phone system discussed as Jerry Lane asked how it is working. He had trouble having people getting back to him. Pastor Eric says app works well and when calls are returned it appears as he is calling from office.

**Finance:** Jerry Lane - Annual audits are completed.

They are getting ready to give the congregation the first quarter report of church finances

as follows:

	Actual	Budget	%
Total revenue W/O restricted income	\$169,852.21	\$502,766.00	33.78%
Total expenses W/O restricted expenses	\$116,221.59	\$502,766.00	23%
Net revenue W/O restricted accounts	\$ 53,631.16		

Pledge data 11 pledges are up to date (12%); 60 pledges are ahead in their giving (66%)- an additional \$57,468.00; 20 pledges are behind in their giving (\$22%)-a decrease of \$7,960.00

The Finance Committee wants to keep finance figures more up to date during year for congregation; Church Council members present agreed the above would be workable.

**Memorial:** Don Burkhead - The Memorial Committee met February 22nd and defined 2024 goals. Don sent following report as unable to attend meeting: The Memorial Committee approved using memorial funds to purchase repairs for the Park Street ADA entrance automatic door opener (thank you Gary for fixing!). Memorial funds were also approved to purchase items for new WiFi notification service addressing building safety concerns (3 water leak temperature sensors; 6 smoke alarm alerts; 1 armed intruder alert). We also received a request for funds to purchase new speakers and associated wiring for the overflow area to enhance audio for expanded seating.

**Foundation:** Ramona Mitchell - Foundation committee reviewed end of year financials and the funds held in the Foundation accounts. There were no expenses so far in 2024. We will invest in some new AI stock after discussion with Edward Jones representatives.

**SPRC:** Pastor Eric said they reviewed Personnel Handbook - making sure up to date. They may be increasing Amy's hours, going to go back to 40 hours total. While there was a job share for the position it was 30 + 10.

**Trustees:** Gary Porter - Gary asked about cleaning carpet and if it would be part of Trustee Budget. Jerry said he would check with Amy.

He is thinking about hiring Uni-First, which is a company that would swap out the rugs in front of the Park Street and Office entrance on a monthly basis. The registers in dining area need to be replaced; Gregg Hawkins tried to clean them. Gary asked if committee okay with white and we agreed; he will replace with white as was their first choice. Because we want protection over night-time hours a smoke/fire detection system is to be installed. Church Mutual device hears Smoke Alarm; hopefully someone else besides Pastor Eric would get call too. Gary said he feels members of committee all bring special skills. Scott German is working with Delphina about ovens; we might get funds to help with expense from 100 People Who Care, or maybe Greater Poweshiek Foundation will get involved. Jeanette serves as secretary to committee. Painting - ready to start in entryway - discussed needing to find volunteers. Entryway has been freshened up; thanks to committee member Sally, and also Cindy and Amy. Gary said possibly Eric Bailey and he would help pull wires for improving sound in overflow area if needed. Jerry said there is now Wireless System.

**Connections:** Scott Sharp - The Welcome Center table is up, running and staffed after each service. So far, we have given away 7 tumblers to visitors. The order for tumblers purchased by congregational members will be finalized soon. Additional orders will be taken as interest dictates. The March 17 potluck was attended by approximately 70 persons. Fellowship and food were great, and the event was very well received. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped clean up! The next order of business for committee is the Confirmation Breakfast on May 5th. He asked advice of time for breakfast -9:15 was decision. Scott also asked who to receive them. There was discussion about Care Packages. Scott said they will touch base with Connie Scurr about what we used to do for Grinnell College students around Finals time; we quit at Pandemic. Chris Bair says okay to do this again. Bobbye has list of all the people that are connected with our church; now 15 are involved per Pastor Eric. Mindy remembered used to be around 20 Care Packages. Chaplain position at Grinnell College is now filled.

**Discipleship:** Andy Hamilton sent report: gave a verbal update at the last meeting that we are looking at Pastor Eric's data to see where connections are being made and to determine interest.

**Service:** Ginny Cameron reported that Earth Day will be April 28th. This also will be Take Away Hunger Sunday so probably will do both in south part of Fellowship Center. Fellowship Time will move to Wesley Room and MASS Class to the Chapel. Ginny also advised us that Paul Stransky is no longer at Africa University Farm so we haven't gotten any updates. Amy is trying to help her find someone that can get us information. Woodamar - Doctor & wife were going to retire in 6 months but now at another hospital. It seems as if he was hoping funds donated would get transferred to this new facility and is working to try to make the connections. We have lost our missionaries at both Africa University Farm and the Mutambara Hospital, due to retirement and a move. Any has been helping us find new contacts. Amy is great resource in helping to find out info for the committee.

**Worship:** Tim Niswander - sent email - The committee did not meet this month.

**UWF:** Pam Kinnaird was not present. Carolyn Grosenbach reported that two circles don't meet in January and February but Dorcas Circle does. Pastor Eric let us know the musical at Grinnell High School is in the evening of April 20th; Anna Schubert is a part of that. He also reported our church will be hosting the Luther College Choir on April 20th; Rachel Circle will be providing a noon meal and the concert will be held in the afternoon. There was a change in time because of the musical at GHS. Pastor Eric said his sermon on April 7th will be talking about General Conference. Devotions for April - Scott Sharp; Closing Prayer: Scott Sharp; Adjournment: Next Meeting - April 16th

Respectfully submitted - Carolyn Grosenbach, Secretary



# Schub's Sharing

People are trapped by their fear of others;  
those who trust the LORD are secure. - Proverbs 29:25

Christ is risen! I pray you are having a blessed start to the Easter season, and those who have been going through difficult times have experienced some of the light of Christ in dark times.

As we welcome April and more Spring weather, the United Methodist Church as a whole is preparing for General Conference, when delegates from the worldwide UMC will gather to worship, pray, and discuss church business. On April 7th I am preaching about this. I welcome you to come to the service or watch online so you can have a better understanding of what will be considered at General Conference and how this process fits in with the growing church of the Bible.

During April we will be talking about trusting the resurrected Jesus in spite of our fears. The disciples reacted to Christ's resurrection with fear, and they lived in fear until they were blessed with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. After that, the disciples and new Christians continued to have problems. They were persecuted and forced to flee Jerusalem. We too live in a world with a lot of fears. We are going to be afraid – Paul feared for his churches and those he loved as we fear for our families and many other things. But how do we build trust in our resurrected Lord and not be trapped by our fears? Join me this month as we learn how to be secure in the Lord despite our circumstances.

There are many things to celebrate in April! We will be baptizing a child at the late service on April 14th and another child at the early service on April 21st, as well as welcoming at least 9 new members on April 28th (some in both services!) and baptizing two people! Then on May 5th we will be confirming four wonderful 8th graders. Please join us as we welcome people of all ages into the Grinnell UMC church family.

Finally, a reminder I will be on renewal leave May 6th through June 2nd. The May newsletter will have information for who to contact from our visitation team in case anyone needs emergency visitation. Rev. Doug Cue from Newton First UMC and Chad Jennings from St. Luke's UMC in Newton will be covering for any funerals.

Have a blessed month and I look forward to worshipping,  
serving, and connecting  
with you all!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Eric



# April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6
6:30p Boy Scouts	10a Luke Small Group Study 2:30p Staff Meeting 6p Trustee Meeting	8:30a Foster Care Review Board 5:15p RR Practice 6:15p Carillon Practice 7p HS Youth Group 7p MS Youth Group	5:30p Grinnell Community Meal 6:30p Praise Band		
7	8	9	10	11	12
8a Worship	1p Dorcas Circle	10a Luke Small Group Study	5:15p RR Practice	5:30p Grinnell Community Meal	
9:15a Sunday School	5:30p SPRC Meeting	1p Trinity Circle	5:15p Service Committee Mtg	6:30p Praise Band	
10:30a Worship	6:30p Boy Scouts	2:30p Staff Meeting	6:15p Carillon Practice		
1:30p Nursing Home Worship service: Windsor Manor		4p Discipleship Committee Mtg 5:15p Finance Committee Mtg	7p HS Youth Group 7p MS Youth Group		
14	15	16	17	18	19
8a Worship - Native American Sunday	6:30p Boy Scouts	2:30p Staff Meeting	5:15p RR Practice	5:30p Grinnell Community Meal	
9:15a Sunday School		6p Worship Committee Mtg	6:15p Carillon Practice	6:30p Praise Band	
10:30a Worship - Native American Sunday		7p Church Council Mtg	7p HS Youth Group		
11:35a Faith Food & Fun College Group			7p MS Youth Group		
21	22	23	24	25	26
8a Worship	6:30p Boy Scouts	2:30p Staff Meeting	9:30a Blood Drive	5:30p Grinnell Community Meal	
9:15a Sunday School	7p Rachel Circle		5:15p RR Practice	6:30p Praise Band	
10:30a Worship			6:15p Carillon Practice		
			7p HS Youth Group		
			7p MS Youth Group		
28	29	30			
8a Worship	6:30p Boy Scouts	2:30p Staff Meeting			
9:15a Sunday School					
9:15a Take Away Hunger Event					
10a Earth Day					
10:30a Worship					





## April Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 - Trent Rasmussen
- 3 - Macy Harris
- 4 - Betty Harris, Katie Tokle, Mike Whitley
- 5 - Karson Gritsch, Terran Gosselink
- 6 - Stan Reitz
- 7 - Annie Jensen, Lynette Lender
- 8 - Chloe Baumann, Jill Nicklas,  
Nicholas Brennecke
- 9 - Anna Schubert, Carol Jordan,  
Pat Rutherford
- 10 - Sue Hovenga
- 12 - Felix Lair
- 13 - Ray Bush
- 14 - Ron Edgington
- 15 - Alicemary Borthwick, Betty Ludden,  
Deb Breeden, Gary Blom
- 17 - Linda Stewart
- 18 - Cathy Van Wyhe
- 19 - Grace Van Arkel, Kevin Kolbe
- 20 - Delphina Baumann, Lucas Chamberland,  
Melissa Breeden, Scott Beck
- 21 - Diane Hawkins, Haley Breeden,  
Karen Fread, Pam Kinnaird, Tamer Bush
- 22 - Andy Hamilton, Stephanie Lair
- 23 - Adam Ebert
- 24 - Jim Gilbert, Levi Dressler
- 25 - Ann Knaack, Ken Steffen
- 26 - Ron Hauser
- 28 - Tate Petig, Terry Burkhead
- 29 - Dick Postels, Jim Ahrens

- 3 - Craig and Kari Gosselink
- 11 - Jack and Jan Mutti
- 25 - Gary and Sally Maring
- 30 - Marc & Marion Chamberland

*THANK YOU!*

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Dear Friends in Mission,  
Thank you for actively partnering  
with Global Ministries as we move  
forward in establishing new  
congregations and faith  
communities in nations around the  
World.

Grace and Peace, Jubilee Project

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Dear GUMC Funeral Lunch Staff,  
Please accept our sincere thanks  
for the lovely luncheon you  
prepared for our father's service  
on February 12th. It was such a  
comfort not to have to worry about  
providing a meal to all of our  
relatives and friends outside of the  
church building. The food was  
good and it was the perfect  
luncheon, Thank you for packaging  
up the leftover for us too.  
Sincerely, Pam Wood, Peg  
Wentworth and Moyle Fritz

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Grinnell UMC

Thank you again for all your  
dedication. We truly appreciate  
your partnership in saving lives!  
LifeServe Blood Center

# Grinnell United Methodist Church

## GUMC Staff:

Eric Schubert, Pastor  
pastor@grinnellumc.org

Cindy Claussen,  
Director of Discipleship  
discipleship1@grinnellumc.org

Peggy Parker, Worship  
Coordinator  
worship1@grinnellumc.org

Amy Keenan, Office  
Administrator  
adminassist@grinnellumc.org/  
finance@grinnellumc.org

Richard Tanimoto, Organist  
Monique Shore, Hand bell Director  
Kelly's Kleaners, Custodians

## Sunday Worship

@ 8:00AM & 10:30AM

## Sunday School

@ 9:15AM

## Live Stream Worship

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/grinnellumc](http://www.facebook.com/grinnellumc)

### You Tube:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK\\_HXnYkbCw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw)

## Youth Group - Wednesdays

@ 7:00PM

## Grinnell Community Meal - Thursdays

@ 5:30PM

Return Service Requested

U.S. Postage  
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Grinnell, IA  
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GRINNELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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Grinnell, IA 50112  
Email: adminassist@grinnellumc.org  
Growing in Christ while loving and  
serving all.