

Grinnell United Methodist Church



NEWSLETTER

916 5th Ave. Grinnell, IA 50112

(641) 236-3757

www.grinnellumc.org

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Sunday Worship

@ 8:00AM & 10:30AM

Sunday School

@ 9:15AM (Sept-May 12th)

Live Stream Worship

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/grinnellumc

You Tube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw

Youth Group - Wednesdays

@ 7:00PM (Sept-May 1st)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1 - Upcoming Events

Page 2,3 - Youth News

Page 4,5 - Committee News

Page 6,7 - Church Council Minutes

Page 8 - Pastor Eric's Sharing

Page 9 - Calendar

Page 10 - Birthdays/Anniversaries

& Thank Yous

Grinnell Community Meal Thursdays @ 5:30PM

The meal is open to ALL community members and operates in partnership with community organizations. 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.

May Meals:

May 2 - TBD

**Provided by Grinnell College Comrades in the Kitchen*

May 9 - Fettuccine Alfredo, Garlic Bread, Peas, Salad, Dessert

**Provided by Grinnell UMC*

May 16 - Sloppy Joe, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit & Dessert

**Provided by Grinnell UMC*

May 23 - Chicken Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Salad & Dessert

**Provided by Grinnell UMC*

May 30 - TBD

**Provided by Love Grinnell*

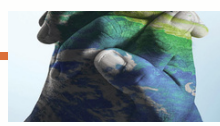
Upcoming Events!



**Confirmation
Sunday
& Brunch**
May 5th



**Senior
Sunday
& Brunch**
May 19th



**Peace with
Justice
Sunday**
May 26th



**Life Serve
Blood Drive**
Wed, May 29th
9:30AM

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, May 5th during the 10:30AM worship service. Come help us welcome our new members as they take the next step in their faith journey.

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

A brunch for the Confirmands, their immediate families and faith friends will be provided by the GUMC Connections Committee at 9:15AM.

Senior Sunday

Senior Sunday will be Sunday, May 19th at 9:15AM. Come join us in celebrating our 2024 GUMC Senior students graduating this spring.

2024 Seniors: Joel Dressler, Makayla Lloyd, Alyssa Rubendall & Trenton Turba
A brunch for the Seniors and their immediate family will be provided by the GUMC United Women of Faith at 9:15AM.

Peace with Justice Sunday

Donations for this special Sunday support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities.

To Donate visit <https://grinnellumc.org/online-giving>.

Life Serve Blood Drive

Grinnell UMC is hosting the Life Serve Blood Drive on Wednesday, May 29th beginning at 9:30AM. If you would like to schedule your appointment with Life Serve you may do so online at www.lifeservebloodcenter.com or by calling 800-287-4903. Thank you for being a part of this life saving mission!

Youth News



Super Church starts in June and goes through the end of July. Super church is a summer Sunday school program but held during the 10:30 am worship time. Kids who go up for the children's moment but then will be dismissed to go sit with their parents or go to Super Church downstairs. The new Super Church classroom is when you go down the west set of stairs, the first door on the left. **Youth and adult volunteers are needed!** The curriculum is easy and it's only about 45 minutes. If you can do even one Sunday it would help! Let Cindy know!



Sunday, May 12th will be our last Sunday School Celebration. 9:00 am-10:15 am
Bounce House, Popcorn and Games!

We will honor our teachers during the 10:30 service!

Come join the Fun



Sunday May 19th *Pentecost*

WORSHIP SERIES



**Worship will be led
by our amazing youth!**

YOUTH SUNDAY

**Senior Joel Dressler
will share the message**

Also Senior Sunday!

April GUMC New Members & Baptism



New Members: Peggy Parker, Lisa Hollopeter, Nathan O'Neill, Jessica O'Neill Thomas Lair, Stephanie Lair, Cindy Kidrowski, Kim Inman, & Grace Van Arkel

Baptism: Gavin Gritsch



Baptism: Soli Marsho

Baptism: Cindy Kidrowski



Baptism: Kim Inman

Discipleship Committee Updates

The Discipleship Committee is working on small group development for the summer months. If you have an interest in forming or participating in a small group, please contact the church office or let Andy Hamilton, committee chair, know by e-mailing hamiltoa@grinnell.edu.

The Sunday Evening Walking Group will take place again this summer. Leaders needed for a variety of small groups. We are trying to form a new weekday morning Discipleship Bible Study, a Cheesecake baking lesson, a movement class, a play group, and a gardening group.

The Discipleship Committee is supporting the completion of an active year of Christian Education. Upcoming activities are Take Away Hunger, Apr. 28; Confirmation Sunday, May 5; Last Day of Sunday School Celebration, May 12; Pentecost and Youth Sunday, May 19; Super Church starting June, 2; Vacation Bible School, July 24th-26th. Cindy Claussen has been the energy behind most of this work.

United Women of Faith News

May 13th, 1 p.m. - Dorcas knitting circle

Mal 14th, 1:30 p.m. - Trinity Circle

May 27th, 7:00 p.m. - Rachel Circle



SPRC Committee Update

The SPRC has completed the review of our personnel policy, will begin review of all job descriptions this summer and are working to secure worship leaders while pastor Eric is on sabbatical. We also completed the annual ministry appraisal form which is required by the Conference. Pastor Eric provides a self-appraisal in response to the same topics. There was strong response alignment contained in both forms reflecting on great ministerial priority progress.

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 from GUMC and 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 at (<https://grinnellumc.org/community-meal>)



Summer Special Music

Please consider sharing your musical talents with the congregation this summer (vocal, instrumental, individual, small group). Contact Jill Allen (641-990-1603 or jill.deiter.allen@gmail.com) to coordinate details.

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.

Milk Fund and Toilet Paper Donations

Each time we take communion in worship you may notice the small metal boxes at the front and back of the sanctuary. These are a visible reminder of our MICA fund collection, funds that originally went to cover milk and in recent years have expanded to also cover toilet paper. Any family who gets a food box from MICA now gets a gallon of milk or a voucher to Fareway to get a milk substitute (lactose free, soy, etc.).

They also get 3 rolls of TP in their food box, essential personal hygiene items that can't be purchased with SNAP (food stamps). Since 2018, the church has paid for delivery of a pallet of TP to MICA from Fareway four or five times every year. If you've never ordered TP by the pallet, it is around 2,016 rolls of TP and costs from \$1200-\$1400. As with everything, this cost has increased significantly over the last few years, at the same time the need has increased. While installation of a cooler at MICA has helped reduce their total milk bill, the demand on the fund to cover toilet paper continues to increase. If you are able, your support of this fund will directly help people in this community. You can give on communion Sunday, or you can add a regular monthly donation to the fund to your EFT by contacting the church office.

Since working on this project I find I think a lot more about the blessing of always having enough TP in the house! Thanks for your ongoing support of this important ministry, Monique Shore.

April Church Council Minutes

Grinnell United Methodist Church - Church Administrative Council Meeting - April 16, 2024

Attending: Ginny Cameron, Andy Hamilton, Jerry Lane, Ramona Mitchell, Tim Niswander, Gary Porter, Lyle Roudabush, Pastor Eric, Connie Scurr, Scott Sharp, Mindy Tokle, Carolyn Grosenbach, and on Zoom, Darwin Copeman.

Devotions/Opening Prayer – Scott Sharp - What Is My Net Worth in Christ? Defined by the wonder of his grace - Count your many blessings. Getting to know each other. We shared our favorite thing about Spring growing up. Review/accept previous months minutes. Motion by Scott, second by Connie that minutes be approved as presented.

Pastor Report: Confirmation Overnight went great - 5 Confirmands. On April 28 lots of people will be joining the church and we will have more in June. In preparation for the time he is gone, speakers are lined up, and 2 pastors are on call if needed for a funeral. On April 28 he will be meeting next year's confirmands (probably will be 3 or 4). During his renewal May 6 thru June 2, Eric has a cabin available to stay in.

Administrative committees:

Finance: Jerry Lane - Pledge data April 2024; 91 pledges total, 11 pledges are up to date (12%), 60 pledges are ahead in giving (66%) - an additional \$57,468.00, 20 pledges are behind in giving (22%) - a decrease of \$7,960.00. 60 different pledge cards paid ahead does give Jerry some concern about balancing the EOY, but the unpledged money is significant.

Foundation: Ramona Mitchell - Foundation met in March. They approved two grant requests: one for the December Dinner theater and one for Senior Bibles. Ramona reported they always review financials at their meetings.

Memorial: Don Burkhead -The Memorial Committee did not meet in March. When more information is available, they will meet to discuss allocating memorial funds for replacement of the speakers in the overflow area and equipment to support moving the bell choir performance to the front of the sanctuary. Hopefully all the Bell Choir Concerts will be in sanctuary this fall. Jerry said they are trying it out this week.

SPRC: Darwin Copeman - SPRC has completed the review of our personnel policy, will begin the review of all the job descriptions this summer and are working to secure worship leaders while pastor Eric is on sabbatical. They also completed the annual ministry appraisal form which is required by the Conference. Pastor Eric provides a self-appraisal in response to the same topics. There was strong response alignment contained in both forms reflecting on great ministerial priority progress. Dar reported that the speakers are lined up for when Pastor Eric is gone: Lora Cline, Jerry Lane, Barb Lease, Bobbye Schubert, and Joel Dressler on youth sunday.

Treasurer: Lyle Roudabush reported he continues to sign checks and we have enough money to cover them all! He is happy that people give pledges from their IRA's or stocks.

Trustees: Gary Porter - Scott German & Gary met with Delphina and are looking at a couple options for a new induction stove top with a convection oven. They would replace a couple stoves now and possibly buy a third one if they work well. There is a possible \$10K grant coming from the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation and another possible \$2500 coming.

April Church Council Minutes Continued

Gary had lunch with Richard and talked about organs. Gary found out that electric organs for churches are made to sound like a pipe organ. He is trying to find out if we can maintain our air drive organ. Gary is working with Ginny for Earth Day to provide info about our solar panels. The trustees are considering using some insurance money we received from the hail storm to make some cosmetic repairs. Craig Shore has been working on the speaker in the overflow. It is the same type as the one in the sanctuary (approximately \$600).

Program committees:

Connections: Scott Sharp - They are working on the details of the Confirmation breakfast scheduled for May 5 at 9:15am. They are looking forward to serving our 5 Confirmands, their families, and their Faith Friends. Work is also going into providing care packages for finals week for our Grinnell College students who have ties to our congregation. Bobbye is getting the addresses of about one dozen college students. This fall they will get with the committees to discuss the Fall Festival and do repeats of some of last year's events.

Discipleship: Andy Hamilton - The Discipleship Committee is supporting the completion of an active year of Christian Education. Upcoming activities are: Take Away Hunger, April 28, Confirmation Sunday May 5, Last Day of Sunday School Celebration May 12, Pentecost and Youth Sunday May 19, Super Church starting June 2, and Vacation Bible School July 24-26. Cindy Claussen has been the energy behind most of this work. At the meeting Andy talked further about some ideas the committee has come up with such as: Disciple Bible Study (Pastor Eric would like someone to have one this summer). Cindy would also like to do a weekday morning study. Cathy Sonnichsen is interested in starting a small group that involves food preparation, similar to one she has done before. Darcy Dawson could possibly lead a Yoga small group. The committee is also hoping to find someone who is willing to lead a gardening group for the summer.

Service: Ginny Cameron - April 28 is the Earth Day event along with Take Away Hunger between the services. May 12 is CWS Blanket Sunday, on July 21 Pastor Paul Witmer will be here from Women at the Well, we hope to have a discussion time with him between the services. Summer reading at GMHP will be held on Fridays from June 7-July 26. Amy found contacts for Mutambara Hospital and the Africa University Farm. Ginny is most excited about that.

Worship: Tim Niswander - July 14 is the date we are looking at to rent the Central Park stage for Outside Worship. The hope is to have the overflow area change by May 5. As church attendance continues to grow parking is being considered. Reminder, we can park in the Drake library and dentist lots on Sunday mornings. We will put out signs or put information on screen. There is a bit more parking on 6th Ave & Park St. We don't know how the new dorms will effect our parking.

UWIF: Carolyn Grosenbach - Rachel Circle is making food for the Luther College Cathedral Choir on Saturday, April 20. The concert is at 2pm.

Lay Leader: Monique Shore - no report

Old business: none

New/continued Business: none

Devotions for May - Ramona Mitchell. Closing Prayer - Connie Scurr. Adjournment - 8pm.

Next meeting: May 21, 7pm, unless we get agenda items before next meeting, in which case we may not meet, per Mindy.

Submitted by Carolyn Grosenbach, Secretary

Schub's Sharing

But Jesus would withdraw to deserted places for prayer. Luke 5:16

Happy May everyone! We have an inspiring start to the month with the Confirmation of five wonderful 8th graders: Weston, Athen, Vance, Izzy, and Nile. It will be a wonderful day! Please join us.

A reminder that I will be on spiritual renewal from May 6th through June 2nd . I will be back in the office the week of June 3rd and then in Des Moines for Iowa Annual Conference June 7th through 9th. During this time:

- Bobbye Schubert, Joel Dressler, Jerry Lane, Lora Cline and Barb Lease will be preaching. You will want to hear them!

- Rev. Chad Jennings (lead pastor at Newton St. Luke's UMC) and Rev. Doug Cue (lead pastor at Newton First UMC) will be available to cover for any funerals. I have spoken to the funeral homes and we are prepared in case of a funeral.

- Our visitation team of Tracee and Dave Van Arkel, Lora Cline, Allison Haack, Nancie Coomes, Deb Breeden, and Becky Neal, will also be notified in case of a funeral. Please feel free to contact one of them, or leave a message for Amy at the office who will then contact them, if anyone needs prayer, is hospitalized, is nearing the end of this life, or needs spiritual support.

I will be spending some of my renewal time alone as well with my family. Thank you again for your support and understanding as I take this much needed time to recharge.

Starting May 5th , we are launching a new tool for GUMC called the Volunteer Accelerator. This is a system through Ministry Architects (who helped us hire Cindy!) which will be a continual way for our congregants, including those who are new, to figure out the best way they can serve Jesus through GUMC. The Accelerator helps determine what you like to do, what you are good at, and what serving opportunities match your strengths and likes. It is a simple online form which takes less than five minutes to fill out and communicates with the heads of committees and others in the church to make sure you are serving in a place that matches your skills and preferences. I will explain it more during church.

Finally, we will be opening up the overflow this summer to seat more people at our 10:30am service. We have a wonderful opportunity to do the Lord's work, as the Spirit keeps bringing us new people! Opening the overflow for consistent seating will help more people attend services in person. Please remember you can park in the library parking lot! I appreciate you keeping me and the church in your prayers while I am on renewal leave.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30am Foster Care Review Board 7pm HS & MS Youth Group	2 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal	3	4 11am Church Use
5 8am & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 1:30pm Nursing Home Worship service: Windsor Manor	6 5:30pm SPRC Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts	7 2:30pm Staff Meeting 6pm Trustee Meeting	8 2pm Church Use	9 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	10	11
12 8am & 10:30am Worship – Confirmation Sunday 9:15am Confirmation Brunch 9:15am Last Day of Sunday School 11:35am Faith Food & Fun College Group	13 1pm Dorcas Circle 6:30pm Boy Scouts	14 1pm Trinity Circle 2:30pm Staff Meeting 4pm Discipleship Committee Mtg 5:15pm Finance Committee Mtg	15	16 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	17	18 1pm Church Use
19 8am & 10:30AM Worship - Pentecost & Senoir/Youth Sunday 9:15am Senior Breakfast 2pm Riverview Park District Spring Conference	20 6:30pm Boy Scouts	21 2:30pm Staff Meeting 6pm Worship Committee Mtg 7pm Church Council Mtg	22	23 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	24	25 10am Church Use
26 8am Worship 10:30am Worship Peace with Justice & Trinity Sunday	27 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm Rachel Circle Memorial Day - Office Closed	28 2:30pm Staff Meeting	29 9:30am Blood Drive	30 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	31	

Happy Birthday!

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

happy anniversary

- 1 - Kellan Harter, Meg Jones Bair
- 2 - Izzy Arseneault, Marge Kaloupek, Twila Rosenow
- 3 - Stewart Motta
- 5 - Harrison Laug
- 6 - Jared Breeden
- 7 - Judy Bush
- 8 - Virginia Breeden
- 10 - Clara Bulens, Erin Nicklas, Gavin Gritsch
- 11 - Alan Knaack, Sawyer Petersen
- 12 - Darlene Durand
- 14 - Carter Westcott, Kay Tharp
- 16 - Leah Harris
- 17 - Brent Wells
- 18 - Brandon Sharp, Marisa Tokle, Tom Clifton
- 19 - Isabel Rubendall, Teresa Rubendall
- 20 - Dave Van Arkel
- 21 - Doug Cameron, Joel Kelling
- 22 - Doug Cline
- 23 - Mary Jo Bailey
- 24 - Cheryl Latcham, Athen Schubert, Paul Schubert
- 25 - Jessica Turba, Lowell Bunger, Reg Wells
- 26 - Lexi Jay
- 28 - Benjamin Knaack, Coltyn Cameron, Mark Dimit
- 30 - Alyssa Lloyd, Amy Steffen

- 9 - Lynn and Jeanette Budding
- 10 - Duane and Pam Blagden
Rich and Joy Murphy
- 12 - Dick and Carolyn Rit
- 24 - Lowell and Mary Robinson
- 31 - Roger and Karen Fread

THANK YOU!

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 & Peace, Jubilee Project

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

Thank you for the prayers, cards and words of encouragement while dealing with my health issues. It is greatly appreciated.
Blessings to everyone. Ginger Sterk

Thank You! Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace & Peace, Africa Univ Farms

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 (Sept-May 12th)

Live Stream Worship

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/grinnellumc

You Tube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw

Youth Group - Wednesdays

@ 7:00PM (Sept-May 1st)

Grinnell Community Meal - Thursdays

@ 5:30PM

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Growing in Christ while loving and
serving all.