

Grinnell United Methodist Church



January

NEWSLETTER

916 5th Ave. Grinnell, IA 50112

(641) 236-3757

www.grinnellumc.org

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& Thank Yous

Sunday Worship

@ 8:00AM & 10:30AM

Sunday School (all ages)

9:15AM

Live Stream Worship

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/grinnellumc

You Tube Worship:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Closed Friday

Grinnell Community Meal Thursdays @ 5:30PM

The Community Meal is open to ALL and operates in partnership with organizations in Grinnell. Volunteer sign-ups may be made at <https://grinnellumc.org/community-meal>.

January Meals:

Jan 1 – no meal

Jan 8 – Taco Bar & Dessert

*Provided by Grinnell College Women's Basketball

Jan 15 - Loose Meat Sandwiches, Salad, Corn & Dessert

*Provided by St Mary's Church

Jan 22 – Beef Stew, Cabbage Salad, Corn Bread & Apple crisp

*Provided by Farm to Table

Jan 29 – Tatertot Casserole, Salad, Fruit & Dessert

*Provided by Grinnell UMC and Unity Point



Upcoming Events!



**Boomers
Potluck**
Mon, Jan. 12th



**Life Serve
Blood Drive**
Wed.
Jan. 14th



**Strategic
Planning**
Sat.
Jan. 17th



**Souper
Bowl**
Sun.
Jan. 25th

Boomers

The Grinnell UMC Boomers group will be meeting Monday, Jan 12th in the Friendship Center for their New Year's Party and Potluck. Anyone born before 1964 is welcome to join.



Life Serve Blood Drive

Grinnell UMC is hosting the Life Serve Blood Drive on Wednesday, January 14th beginning @ 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!

Strategic Planning 2026



If you are a member of any of our church committees, OR if you want to be engaged in a church strategic planning discussion, please mark your calendar for Saturday, January 17th. Building off our annual leadership retreat model, we will spend about 4 hours that day in discussion with conference leaders as we review the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey results and set our priorities for the coming 5-10 years. Those who are new to committee membership are asked to come at 9am for new leaders orientation. The strategic planning session will start at 10am and will include lunch. We should be done around 2pm. Questions? Talk to Pastor Eric or Monique Shore.



Souper Bowl

Grinnell UMC Youth will be hosting their annual Souper Bowl fundraiser on Sunday, Jan. 25th @ 11:30am, please plan to join in on the fun and help the youth raise money for their mission trip this July.



PARK STREET & CLUB 916

newsletter



GOODBYE 2025!

December was a wonderful month for Club 916 and Park Street High. Our students spent meaningful time reflecting on the Advent season and the hope and joy Jesus brings into the world. We also celebrated with plenty of fun—games, life-size gingerbread houses, and an enormous plastic-wrap prize ball that kept everyone laughing.

We were thrilled to welcome over 70 students through our doors this month. A heartfelt thank-you to the incredible adults who showed up to lead, serve meals, and invest in the lives of our youth. Your presence makes this ministry possible.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3rd High school sardines 5-9
- 7th - Club 916 3:30 -5, Park Street High 6-8
- 14th- Club 916 3:30 -5, Park Street High 6-8
- 21st - Club 916 3:30 -5, Park Street High 6-8
- 25th - Super fundraiser/lip sync contest
- 28th - Club 916 3:30 -5, Park Street High 6-8

For more information or to get involved, please contact Katie at assistyouth@grinnellumc.org





United
Women
in Faith

United Women of Faith News

January 14th @1:30 p.m. - Dorcas Circle
No Trinity Circle or Rachel Circle in January.

BOOMERS

*Happy
New Year
2026*



Party and Potluck

Monday January 12th 11:30 a.m.

Friendship Center

Anyone Born Before 1964

Is Welcome! Please Join Us

For Food and Fun!

Grinnell UMC Church Council Minutes

December 16, 2025

Attendees: Ginny Cameron, Darwin Copeman, Jeanette Copeman, Andy Hamilton, Jerry Lane, Tim Niswander, Lyle Roudabush, Athen Schubert, Pastor Eric Schubert, Monique Shore, Mindy Tokle, and Carolyn Grosenbach.

Meeting was brought to order by Mindy Tokle. Devotions: Mindy shared Upper Room devotion: Simple Wonders - We need to pause to take in treasures around us. Getting to know each other - Favorite Christmas Tradition

Prayer Concerns and Joys were shared.

Minutes for October and November were approved as submitted

Pastor's Report/Comments - It has been busy but good kind of busy. If weird weather would quit happening on Saturday/Sunday would be better. Last Sunday was still good. Lots of people watched it on line and lots of kids were in front; blessing in many ways Caroling on Sunday went well. The kids that got drug along actually loved it and it was fun watching them see how people appreciated it. In thinking of how many people not there but still kids had fun when were back to eat together and running around and having fun at church; hope in that joy they see Jesus. Pastor Eric mentioned will be 4, 6 & 9pm for Christmas eve services this year; will see how this works. Also was noted some churches have different times for service. Athen commented thinking of going to different services as friend does to try out different religions.

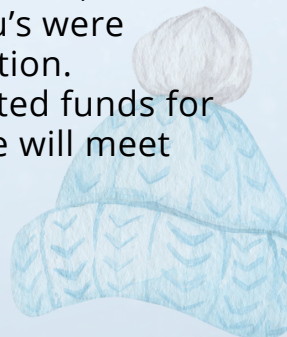
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Finance: Jerry said was was busy month culminated in Confirmation Sunday. The budget was finalized and brought to last meeting where it was approved. Pledge cards were then sent out; no report yet.

Memorial: Don had submitted report earlier but give us update that \$1050.00 in memorial funds in honor or Elaine Noe were directed to Foundation.

Foundation: Lyle reported the endowed fund growing from \$50,000 to \$81,000. We can take out \$20,000 if needed. Some people giving are non-members. As of October of this year \$140,000 was given by two people to Foundation. Earnings this year totaled \$160,000; total is now \$1,700,000. Comment was made about possibility of insuring ourselves; it was also mentioned could look at taking bigger deduction to make premium less. Lyle has been handling Foundation Account for 16 years and in those years three large gifts totaling \$3 million were given to Foundation from members Elsie Johnston, Dennis Anderson and Gail & Margaret Wheeler. The Wheeler Fund still has \$175,00 left and just spent \$150,000 on windows. There have been 5 or 6 donations to Foundation around \$50,000 to \$60,000. This is Lyle's last year as Church Treasurer after taking on the position 17 years ago when Bob Kaloupek said "you need to do this". He mentioned the period of time when apportionments were very high and we didn't pay for awhile; apportionments came down in price and and we caught up. Many Thank You's were extended to Lyle by committee members for his years dedicated to this position.

SPRC: Dar reported primarily business was to finish discussion about budgeted funds for discretionary bonuses; they will be paid this year. Each person on committee will meet with a staff member to thank them personally.





Grinnell UMC Church Council Minutes

Trustees: Jeanette reported the long awaited railings are installed and thanked everyone for patience. Because of Foundation and generous gifts that come through Foundation allows us to keep church fun good shape. Some tuck pointing is to get done yet but doing well. Sally Lang will be new trustee pending confirmation vote later in meeting.

Also noted that Brandon Dafoe is person doing sidewalk work and son is very ill. Pastor Eric mentioned that salt shouldn't be applied to sidewalks as have new cement; Jeanette will make contact on this.

PROGRAM COMMITTEES:

Connections: Report submitted.

Youth: Athen said everything going well; they have gotten into groove with changes. Question was alsom asked about how food is handled now and she reported new way is working fine.

Discipleship: Andy said It was discussed that need to mobilize congregation to step in and learn what Cindy is doing. They are praying about this and have put together a list of names; maybe find someone that can step in for Sunday School, etc when Cindy can't be here. He also reported the committee discussed CAT Survey results.

Service: Ginny - CROPWALK raised over \$3,000. Some donations were sent in directly. Upcoming Christmas Dinner -It was noted information was distributed to about 25 places. Pastor Eric mentioned situation when he answered phone today, as Amy was home sick, one person called in and wanted 16 meals; he let them know we could only can do 10 meals per family.

Worship: didn't meet this month. Comment made that Children's Program went together very easily even though weather interrupted practice.

NEW BUSINESS:

Since Charge Conference there have been 3 more committee members to approve. Mindy offered to continue as chair of Church Council and suggested maybe to find vice-chair now to replace Connie. It was noted Scott Baumann has accepted position on Memorial Committee and Sally Lang as Trustee. Monique moved to approve the above listed, seconded by Dar. Motion carried.

Leadership Training discussion: Monique thinks Strategic Planning needs to be talked about every 5 years and Leadership Training on annual basis. January 17th is date set at this point for leadership training with 9-10 am being for new committee members with 10-12 noon be planning time for all committee members. Pastor Eric checked dates and January 10th would work for Strategic Planning; he wants staff there when it is is done. Monique mentioned maybe do Strategic Planning same day as Leadership Training; discussion followed and several agreed with making that change. Also mentioned was possibility of moving 9-10 orientation to another date. Monique will check with Strategic Planning people about availability for January 17th. If they can come that day Eric will talk with Amy and Cindy to see if that day works for them, and if it does both the Strategic Planning and Leadership Training will be done on that day. Dar commented that facilitators would probably want a break in middle of day. He also posed question if the discussion of CAT survey needs to be done facilitator or could we handle that ourselves?

Closing Prayer by Andy Hamilton

Adjournment 8:10

Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey.

Psalms 119:105

Happy New Year! I pray you are all able to know God's presence and peace as we continue our journey with Christ and each other into the new year. Life can be difficult, life can be wonderful, and through it all we are given the grace to be with Jesus.

An important part of our journey is discerning where God is leading us and our church. On Saturday, January 17th from 10:00am to 2:00pm we are having a Visioning meeting at the church and everyone is invited! (Lunch and childcare will be provided.) God has been wonderful to us, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we have met all our goals from our previous Visioning meeting 3 years ago! Now, we get to figure out where we go from here. What is God wanting us to do next? Where is the path with Jesus leading us?

Please keep this event in your prayers, specifically that we can hear and follow God's leading as God shows us what to do next. May God's Word be a lamp before our feet and a light for our journey. I am really looking forward to our Visioning on January 17th, and I hope to see you there!

During January and the beginning of February we will be digging into Scripture and looking at phrases and ideas people use a lot but aren't Biblically supported. Phrases like "God helps those who help themselves", "everything happens for a reason", and "never judge". Some of these popular phrases have a basis in Scripture, but are over simplified or used in unhelpful ways. I invite you to join us as we discover what the Bible really says (and doesn't say)!

Finally, I will be on vacation from January 19th through February 1st. You will hear some wonderful preachers from our congregation, and the church is prepared to offer support and pastoral care when needed. Have a wonderful beginning to the new year, and may we follow God's light into 2026 and beyond!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 				1 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	2	3 5pm Youth Sardines Night
4 8am & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 1:30pm Windsor Manor Worship 2:30pm St. Frances Worship 6pm Staff Dinner hosted by Rachel Circle	5 5pm SPRC Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts	6 2:30pm Staff Meeting 6pm Board of Trustees Meeting	7 3:30pm Club 916 5:15pm RR Practice 6pm Park St High 6:15pm CC Practice	8 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	9	10
11 8am & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 11:45am Faith Food & Fun	12 12pm Boomers Lunch 1pm Dorcas Circle 6pm PFLAG Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts	13 2:30pm Staff Meeting	14 9:30am Blood Drive 3:30pm Club 916 4pm Discipleship Committee Mtg 5:15pm RR Practice 5:15pm Service Committee Mtg 6pm Park St High 6:15pm CC Practice	15 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	16	17 9am Leadership Event
18 8am 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School	19 6:30pm Boy Scouts	20 2:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm Finance Committee Mtg 6pm Worship Committee Mtg 7pm Church Council Mtg	21 3:30pm Club 916 5:15pm RR Practice 6pm Park St High 6:15pm CC Practice	22 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	23	24
25 8am & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 11:30am Souper Bowl	26 6:30pm Boy Scouts	27 2:30pm Staff Meeting	28 8:30am Foster Care Rvw Brd 3:30pm Club 916 5:15pm RR Practice 6pm Park St High 6:15pm CC Practice	29 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	30	31



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 - Larry Niswander, Marion Chamberland

2 - Nigel Smith

3 - Addilyn Gritsch

4 - Matt Kriegel, Sue Baker

6 - Janet Haley, Sandy Motta

7 - Sue Dimit

8 - Eric Schubert, Gene Nicklas

9 - Hadley Kinnick

10 - Kathy Petersen, Rich Murphy

12 - Becky Schlesselman

16 - Charles Brooke, Travis Smith

17 - Jerry Wehr

18 - Sharon Koger, Suzie German,
Tracy Reitz

19 - Jeannette Budding

21 - Betty Anderson, Sally Smith,

23 - Ryan Dodd

24 - Echo Jansen, Liza Bair,
Rosetta Willer

25 - Kinley Kriegel

26 - Alicia Turba, Mindy Togle,
Stevie Beall

27 - Bruce Togle, Catherine Schubert

28 - Delores Johnson, Rylee Petersen

29 - Justin Kelling

30 - Jackson Lovely

31 - Amara Risting, Theo Smith



11 - Larry and Twila Rosenow



Dear Friends at Grinnell UMC
Thank you for organizing a life-saving
blood drive and for all your dedication!
We truly appreciate your partnership in
saving lives!
LifeServe Blood Center



Dear Friends at Grinnell UMC
We truly appreciate your contributions
because every one helps MICA fulfill its
mission: Helping People, Changing Lives,
Building Communities.
Sincerely, Mindy Clayton - MICA



Thank you for being a part of our extended
family and allowing us to steward your
prayerfully considered gifts!
Midwest Mission

Dear Grinnell UMC,
Thank you for your ongoing support of
Simpson Youth Academy. Your generosity
nurtures young people as they blossom into
Christian leaders.
With Gratitude, Eric Rucker

Grinnell United Methodist Church

GUMC Staff:

Eric Schubert, Pastor
pastor@grinnellumc.org

Cindy Claussen,
Director of Discipleship
discipleship1@grinnellumc.org

Amy Keenan,
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adminassist@grinnellumc.org
finance@grinnellumc.org

Worship Coord: Melissa Breeden;
worship1@grinnellumc.org

Assistant Youth Coord: Katie Beall:
assistyouth@grinnellumc.org

Organist: Richard Tanimoto

Bell Choir Director: Monique Shore

AV Technician: Jared Breeden

Nursery Attendants: Tracy Reitz,
Kara Koester & Ava Seney

Sunday Worship

@ 8:00AM & 10:30AM

Sunday School (for all ages)

@9:15AM

Youth Groups

Club 916 - Wednesday @ 3:30-5:00PM

Park St High - Wednesday @ 6:00-8:00PM

Grinnell Community Meal

Thursdays @ 5:30PM

Return Service Requested

GRINNELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
916 5th Ave
Grinnell, IA 50112
Email: adminassist@grinnellumc.org
Growing in Christ while loving
and serving all.