

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
Closed Friday

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1 - Upcoming Events
Page 2 - Youth News
Page 3-5 - Committee News
Page 6-7 - Church Council Updates
Page 8 - Pastors Letter
Page 9 - Calendar
Page 10 - Birthdays/Anniversaries
& Thank You

Sunday Worship

@ 8:00AM & 10:30AM

Live Stream Worship

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/grinnellumc

You Tube:

[www.youtube.com/channel/
UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw)

Grinnell Community Meal Thursdays @ 5:30PM

The Community Meal is open to ALL and operates in partnership with organizations in the Grinnell. Volunteer sign-ups may be made at

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

May Meals:

May 7 - TBD

**Provided by Grinnell College Football Team*

May 14 - Meatball Hoagie Sandwich, Carrot/Celery Sticks with Ranch Dip,
Chips, & Dessert

**Provided by Bayer Corp*

May 21 - Loose Meat Sandwiches, Salad, Corn, & Dessert

**Provided by St. Mary's Catholic Church*

May 28 - Roasted Chicken, Potatoes, Veg, Salad,
& Dessert

**Provided by Grinnell College CLS*

Upcoming Events!



**Earth
Sunday**
May 3rd



**Mother's
Day**
May 10th



**Senior
Sunday**
May 17th



**Memorial
Day**
May 25th

Earth Day

Join us at 9:30am on Sunday May 3rd
for **Earth Day** at GUMC.

Pick up litter and yard debris in GUMC's neighborhood,
other public areas and for friends and neighbors needing help.



Mother's Day

Grinnell UMC Youth will be having
a Mother's Day fundraiser for the summer mission trip

Sunday, May 10th

Make a Mother's Day flower bouquet for your mother, grandmother,
mother figure and donate to the youth for their mission trip.

*This will also be our end of year celebration for **Sunday School** with
inflatables, bubbles and popcorn at 9AM!



Senior Sunday

Sunday, May 17th

we will be celebrating with our 2026 High School graduates
at GUMC during 10:30AM worship and have a brunch for them and
their families in the Friendship Center.

Congratulations to Liza Bair, Cameron Corey, Liam Crites, Kellan
Harter, Drake Keenan, Janae Keenan, Liam Lease, Charlie Nicklas, &
Anna Schubert.



Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th

the Grinnell UMC office will be **closed**
in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.





GUMC YOUTH



PARK STREET HIGH NEWS

- **May 3:** Earth Day Service Project (3rd grade & up) during Sunday School, 9:15 AM
- **May 6:** Youth Group Sayonara Event at Town Square Shelter, 6–8 PM
- **May 10:** Last Day of Sunday School Celebration — volunteers arrive 8:30 AM; event starts 9:15 AM (contact Katie to help)
- **May 17:** Graduation Breakfast — graduates invited for a special breakfast in your honor
- **May 30:** Mission Trip Payment due

CLUB 916 NEWS

- **May 3:** Earth Day Service Project (3rd grade & up) during Sunday School, 9:15 AM
- **May 6:** Youth Group Sayonara Event we will walk to Town Square Park 3:15 - 5
- **May 10:** Last Day of Sunday School Celebration — event starts 9:15 AM



REGISTER FOR CLUB 916 PATKE STREET HIGH AT
[HTTPS://GRINNELUMC.ORG/REGISTRATIONS/](https://grinnellumc.org/registrations/) OR
USE QR CODE





United Women of Faith

Ladies: Come to a meeting listed below for the 3 circles and check us out. Guests always welcome. You don't have to be a church member to join UWF.

May 11th - Dorcas Circle 1 pm - 907 Orchard Drive - Second Floor Lounge

May 12th - Trinity Circle - 2 pm @ church **Note new meeting time**

May 18th - Rachel Circle - 7 pm @ church

THANKS TO THOSE AT GUMC - Pop tabs donations are increasing. There was a large bag full this time when left at the Ronald McDonald House. Please continue to fill the 2 cans marked for this at our church. Donations are processed by volunteers at Ronald McDonald House and that money helps pay their electric bill.



Bell Choir

As the director of both GUMC bell choirs, I come to the end of this ringing season with a heart full of gratitude for these ringers. The blessing of our "ringing family" was amplified last week as our hearts collectively shattered at the death of Dawn Jaeger. As with several in the group, her involvement spans more than a decade and her loss is deeply felt by us all. I wanted to take this opportunity to name and thank all of our ringers.

The Radiant Ringers plays a little easier music and is the group new ringers usually start in. We will be looking for a couple of new ringers next year as two individuals move to the other choir (let me know if you're interested!). Our ringers this year, from low bells to high bells, are: Athen Schubert, Jeanette Copeman, Tara Kastendick, Mary Smith (one of our UCC ringers), Melissa Breeden, Hunter Kinnick, Carolyn Grosenbach, Debbie Iverson, Kailyn Corey and Bobbye Schubert.

The Carillon Choir rings more advanced music and includes several members who have been playing together since I joined the group as a college student (yes, that was a long time ago!). The ringers from low bells to high bells are: Jerry Lane, Ramona Mitchell, Lynnda Risting, Peg Watson, Dena Peterson (another great UCC ringer), Alan Cline, Lora Cline, Diane Eberhart, the late Dawn Jaeger, and Anna Schubert.

Thanks to each one for their dedication to weekly practice and early Sunday mornings when we play at both services. Your gift of music is an offering that blesses the entire congregation.

Monique Shore, Bell Choir Director



Social Media Expanding @ GUMC

We are excited to share a new step forward in how our church connects with one another and our wider community. In an effort to meet people where they are and extend our ministry beyond Sunday mornings, we are expanding our presence onto social media platforms, you can now find us on **Instagram and TikTok**.

These platforms offer new opportunities to share the life of our church in meaningful and accessible ways. Whether it is a moment from worship, a message of hope during the week, or highlights from church events, this new digital outreach allows us to carry our mission into everyday spaces.

To support this growing effort, we are also pleased to welcome a new staff member, Isaiah Schlimm who will be creating content for our social media presence.

New Staffing Group

At Grinnell United Methodist Church, we are continually seeking ways to strengthen not only our ministries, but also the people who make those ministries possible. With that in mind, we are excited to introduce a new staffing support group dedicated to helping our church employees navigate workflow.

This team has been formed to ensure that our staff are well-supported so they can focus their time and energy on serving the congregation and sharing God's love.

As our church continues to grow and adapt, the demands on staff can also increase. This new group will act as a collaborative partner, helping to lighten the load and create space for creativity and connection in ministry.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to be part of this new initiative, please reach out to the church office. We would be grateful for your support and partnership in this effort.

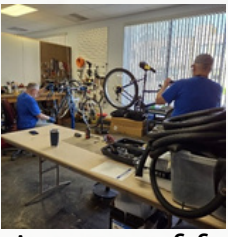


Director of Discipleship

WELCOME

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) gives thanks for the faithful service of our retiring Director of Discipleship - Cindy Claussen. Through her dedication, care, and spiritual leadership, she has helped shape the faith journeys of so many within our congregation. As she enters this new chapter of retirement, we send her with our prayers and blessings, trusting that God will continue to guide and enrich their path ahead.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome our new Director of Discipleship - Katie Beall. We believe God has been at work in this transition, and we look forward to the gifts, ideas, and energy they will bring to this role. We invite you to extend a warm welcome, offer your support, and keep both our retiring and incoming leaders in your prayers during this time of transition.



Committee News Continued...

Midwest Mission

A team of four, led by Deb Breeden, traveled to Jefferson, Iowa to work and learn about Midwest Mission, which partners with many charitable organizations including UMCOR. Deb and teammates Lora Cline, Carolyn Grosenbach and Ginny Cameron assembled school, layette and disaster clean-up kits, in addition to seeing other items collected and sent to places in need. As its mission states Midwest Mission is "...sending hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner." It was an inspiring and educational day for all! Bike repair volunteers at work. Good bikes are tuned up, others are repaired. If the bike is unusable, parts are salvaged and leftover metal is saved for scrap.

Nothing is wasted!

In May GUMC will be collecting used school supplies, which Midwest Mission will send to Honduras. Watch for details!

Summer Reading books for Grinnell Manufactured Home Community

During May there will be a collection box in the educational wing foyer for gently used books for infants-teens We are looking for high interest books of all types in good condition. Graphic novels are very popular.



Church Kitchen Restocking

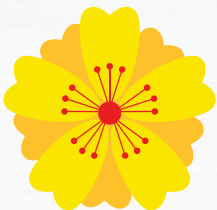
Grinnell UMC kitchen is in need of some regular and decaf coffee for our fellowship time on Sundays.

If you would like to donate please feel free to drop it off during office hours or on Sunday.

In Loving Memory of Janice "Jan" Eileen Mitchell December 30, 1938 – March 2, 2026

A Celebration of Life service will be held at the Grinnell United Methodist Church, 916 5th Avenue, on Saturday, May 16, 2026. Visitation with family members will start at 1:00 p.m. with her funeral service following at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Tidewell Hospice Foundation, 3550 S. Tamiami, Sarasota, Florida 34239. Please note on your check your donation is in memory of Janice Mitchell.





Grinnell United Methodist Church Church Council Minutes - April 21, 2026

Attendees: Mike Allen, Ginny Cameron, Darwin Copeman, Jeanette Copeman, Ann Knaack, Jerry Lane, Tim Niswander, Linda Risting, Pastor Eric Schubert, Alex Shults, Revae Shults,, Mindy Tokle, and Carolyn Grosenbach. Meeting was brought to order by Mindy Tokle.

Devotions: Tim Niswander used Upper Room selection "Constant Motion"- scripture 1Kings 19:11-15. Message - God is always around; wind blows wherever. Getting to know each other- what have you collected in past or present Joys and Concerns were shared.

Minutes from February 2026 meeting were approved with correction of spelling of last name of Alex and Revae Shults.

Pastor's Report/Comments - Pastor Eric reported things going relatively well.

He discussed at Worship Committee about first Intercession. There were only 17 there but it went well and will do again in May. Also getting used to not having Cindy in office; is change there.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Finance: Jerry Lane reported new numbers now & much better. Dar and he attended conference and got some good ideas. Jerry says have had trouble communicating finances to congregation, figures don't tell story very well. One thing he thought was to have committees give brief presentation one time a year. They would do this by every other month by identifying committee that has something to say. Jeanette has volunteered to be first one to do this. Idea for Congregation Sunday is instead of asking for money show them what we are doing. Dar mentioned celebrate gifts of either volunteering or money. He mentioned steps completed, updated wiring, and organ repair; have celebration of givers in our church. Jeanette commented some church members say church is amazing but there is always more that can be done. Black Electric is doing work on updating electric. We have done led lighting, Youth Room is done, have new steps and new dishwasher. Probably \$100K plus will be spent this next year keeping it secure and in shape for future. Ginny mentioned that need to talk about what we do as church. Tell our story! Jerry wants ideas to take back to committee of what is being done and how to relate to congregation.

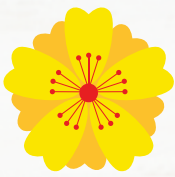
Memorial: Revae reported hey haven't had meeting but still working on format of Thank Yous for mailing to those that make donations.

SPRC: Mike Allen reported GUMC has added Instagram, TikTok and Facebook to its social media outreach. Cindy officially retired on Sunday, April 19 and on Monday, April 20. Katie accepted her new role as Cindy's replacement. The committee is still working on filling Katie's vacated position. They have college student Isaah Schimn helping us get into Social Media; still in process. Maddy Marsho is helping Eric work with Intersection. Face Book Page will be used by Katie now in her new position. Katie's old role needs new Job Description and more support from adults. We now have 40-50 middle school and 15-25 high school students attending. Katie is writing up new job description for HS position. At January Strategic Planning meeting it was decided more staffing and volunteers in office are needed. Staffing needs to change going forward. Isaiah Schlimm works 4-5 hours week - Foundation Grant request has been made. We have someone for 6 hours/week to fill HS position for a couple more weeks. There are lots of moving parts and people. Katie's old position is part time for now. Boomers was assumed by Alan & Lora Cline. Hope is for more volunteers.

Treasurer: Dar mentioned meeting scheduled for later this month for Foundation. They don't know who chair will be at this point. Shared investments showed decrease last month as markets were down but now mostly back up to what it was. A request had been made early 2026 to Foundation as funds needed for Katie's position; this will now be adjusted as changes have been made in position going forward.

Trustees: Jeanette reported lot of things going on. A couple years ago Richard commented on organ noises. Repair man was here; initial bid is \$23,600 to repair. Revae mentioned at that point there are some memorial funds for this.





GUMC Church Council Minutes Continued...

Pastor Eric mentioned ranks that Richard can't use any more; reason why need this all done. Trustees felt repairing organ is an integral part to keep; have had it since about 1911 Last year security cameras were installed with MCG; now going to have panic buttons installed in sanctuary, office, etc Black Electric is doing work on updating electric. Old knob and tube wiring in upper area of church will be replaced; bid came in at \$12,125. There was concern that maybe they hadn't seen everything so will probably need more work done. \$46,850 is cost to take off steps so will look like others. We will be spending \$8K for railing. Looking at spending over \$100K this year for work being done. Having all this here will expand our ministry. Also looking at having areas where monitors are set up besides just in overflow.

PROGRAM COMMITTEES:

Connections: Ann Knaack; Scott commented they felt they had good turnout for March Potluck. Committee is trying to have someone at Welcome Center each week. They will be soon be putting together Care Packages for College Students to get them through finals. June potluck is being planned similar to last year.

Discipleship: Lynnda Risting reported that Cindy has done great job getting some projects going forward taken care of. Boomers will continue; Alan and Lora Cline are taking this on. VBS is all set up for this year. Committee has discussed getting something set up to let people know where needs are.

Service: Ginny Cameron shared a team of four went to Midwest Mission in Jefferson, Iowa on April 16th to learn about and work on their projects. Working with the schools, we will collect gently used school supplies to ship to Honduras. May 3rd will be Earth Day event, similar to last year and will be held May 3rd, 9-10:15. They will do work in Central park, on church grounds, Arts by Central Park, and library. United Women of Faith will take responsibility for the MICA food collection cupboard in the hallway. Pastor Eric commented that do at times use items from this to give to people in need. Steffy and Amy Davis will take over the card ministry. They are looking for someone to organize the Christmas dinner.

Worship: Tim Niswander reported the outdoor worship will be September 20th. Lay preachers are needed for following dates; they are working on getting this organized. June 14th is Annual Conference. Other dates needed are July 26th, Aug 2nd, and July 19th.

UWFaith: Carolyn mentioned A Mother's Day Gift of Goods that United Women in Faith will be collecting for Families Forward facilities in Des Moines. A donation box is located under coat rack for paper products (toilet paper, paper towels & Kleenex) and personal care items (tooth brushes, toothpaste, body wash, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner) and we are inviting church members to help. If you don't want to shop, a check can be made payable to GUMC with Families Forward on check or envelope.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Another Outreach: Jon Risting who is now unable to work needs something to do during week and would like to have free Saturday morning take out breakfast here at GUMC. Jennifer Cogley will add to Food Coalition List if this gets started. Jon has worked out phone number that people would call to place order. He wants to call it MAAN - Mission All Are Nourished. There will be Free Will Offering and people will come in to pick up breakfast. They might need to put limits on this, and might need to reach out for funding later. It was mentioned that 100 People Who Care helped us with Blessed Community meals. The Risting Family is asking for our church to provide space for this. Dar made a motion to okay this request, seconded by Tim. Motion carried.

Devotions for May - Jerry Lane; Next meeting - scheduled for May 19th - Mindy will check school calendar for conflicts and let us know if date changes. Tim offered closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Carolyn Grosenbach, Secretary



Schub's Sharing



Turn your ear toward wisdom, and stretch your mind toward understanding. Call out for insight, and cry aloud for understanding. Seek it like silver; search for it like hidden treasure. Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and discover the knowledge of God. The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He reserves ability for those with integrity. He is a shield for those who live a blameless life. He protects the paths of justice and guards the way of those who are loyal to him. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, as well as integrity, every good course. Wisdom will enter your mind, and knowledge will fill you with delight. Discretion will guard you; understanding will protect you.

Proverbs 2:1-11

May is a very busy month for us! School is finishing up, which means various assemblies, concerts and contests. Track, soccer, and tennis meets are all going strong. Graduation is coming up as we send out and receive invites for various graduation parties. Finals are being studied for and papers are being written. The college is the midst of all this as well, in addition to students accepting job and grad school offers. At the church youth groups and Sunday School are finishing their year as Wednesday nights have school events scheduled on them and parents get very busy.

Seniors are getting ready for big changes, families for big transitions, and the schedule is beyond full. But in this busy time when so many things are not only happening but changing, God reminds us of what is most important, and what we need to have time for.

Being wise is different than being smart. Being able to discover what is true in our regular, everyday world, to judge well and fairly, to be able to see and follow Christ as go to new places – all this comes from wisdom. We have talked about how we are different parts of the Body of Christ and we don't all have the same gifts and talents, but wisdom is available to all of us. However, we need to go to God to get it.

As we go through our transitions in life may we all remember to keep Jesus Christ as our foundation and cornerstone. May we grow in wisdom and understanding as we walk further with our risen Savior. May we not get so caught up in the world that we no longer spend the time with God, with each other, in prayer, and in Scripture. When we don't have time for God we fall away from wisdom and into the traps of the world. And may we trust God to find us when we do fall away.

This summer, starting on May 17th with Senior Sunday, we will be reading the book of Acts – come join us and see how the Church was built!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Eric

May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 9:30am Central District Conf @ Waukee UMC	
3 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am SS 12pm Church Use - Wedding in Chapel 1:30pm Windsor Manor Worship 2pm Church Use - Boy Scouts 2:30pm St. Frances Worship	4 5pm SPRC Meeting 6pm PFLAG Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts	5 2:30pm Staff Meeting 6pm Board of Trustees Meeting	6 7am Men's Small Group 3:30pm Club 916 6pm Park St High	7 2pm UWF Exec. Board Meeting 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	8	9
10 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am SS 11:45am Faith Food & Fun	11 11:30am Boomers Lunch 1pm Dorcas Circle 6:30pm Boy Scouts	12 2pm Trinity Circle 2:30pm Staff Meeting	13 9am Blood Drive 4pm Discipleship Committee Mtg 5:15pm Service Committee Mtg	14 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	15	16 1pm Jan Mitchell Visitation 2pm Jan Mitchell Funeral
17 8 & 10:30am Worship	18 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm Rachel Circle	19 2:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm Finance Committee Mtg 6pm Worship Committee Mtg 7pm Church Council Mtg	20	21 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	22	23 7am Church Use - Graduation Party
24 8 & 10:30am Worship 12pm Social Justice Small Group @ Los Girasoles	25 8:30am Memorial Day - Office Closed	26 2:30pm Staff Meeting	27 8:30am Foster Care Rvw Brd	28 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	29	30 9am Church Use
31 8 & 10:30am Worship 4pm Church Use - Graduation Party						



May Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 -Kellan Harter, Meg Jones Bair
- 2 - Izzy Arseneault, Marge Kaloupek,
Twila Rosenow
- 5 - Harrison Laug
- 6 - Jared Breeden
- 7 - Judy Bush
- 8 - Virginia Breeden
- 10 - Clara Bulens, Erin Nicklas,
Gavin Gritsch
- 11 - Alan Knaack
- 12 - Darlene Durand
- 15 - Kathryn Wehr
- 16 - Leah Harris
- 17 - Brent Wells
- 18 - Tom Clifton
- 19 - Isabel Rubendall, Teresa Rubendall
- 20 - Dave Van Arkel
- 21 - Doug Cameron, Joel Kelling
- 22 - Doug Cline
- 23 - Mary Jo Bailey
- 24 - Athen Schubert, Paul Schubert
- 25 - Jessica Turba, Reg Wells
- 28 - Coltyn Cameron
- 30 - Alyssa LLOYD

- 9 - Lynn and Jeanette Budding
- 10 - Duane and Pam Blagden
Rich and Joy Murphy

Thank You

Dear Grinnell UMC.
Thank you Your gift will be a tremendous aid in helping us keep the doors open, the lights on, and expanding our mission to serve people.

Thank You Again
Jubilee Project

Dear GUMC,
Thank you for hosting the blood drive!
The official results from the blood drive were 16 registered to donate, 11 were able to donate, 12 units of blood collected, Up to 36 lives saved or sustained!! Thank you again for helping us save lives!
LifeServe Blood Center

GUMC Staff:

Eric Schubert, Pastor
pastor@grinnellumc.org

Amy Keenan
Office Administrator
[adminassist@grinnellumc.org/](mailto:adminassist@grinnellumc.org)
finance@grinnellumc.org

Katie Beall,
Director of Discipleship
discipleship1@grinnellumc.org

Melissa Breeden
Worship Coordinator
worship1@grinnellumc.org

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

Grinnell United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship
@ 8:00AM & 10:30AM

Super Church (ages)
@10:45AM

Intersection Conversation
Sundays @ 6:00PM
(in the Friendship Center)

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.