Grinnell United Methodist Church
NEWSLETTER



October

916 5th Ave. Grinnell, IA 50112
(641) 236-3757
www.grinnellumc.org

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon - Thurs. 8:30AM - 3:30PM
Closed for Lunch 12:30-1:30PM
Closed Friday

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

Sunday School (for all ages)
@ 9:15am

Live Stream Worship

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/grinnellumc

You Tube:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw

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Grinnell Community Meal Thursdays @ 5:30PM

The Community Meal is open to ALL and operates in partnership with organizations in the Grinnell. Volunteers can sign-up online at https://grinnellumc.org/community-meal.

October Meals:

Oct 1 - Pulled Pork, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, & Cookies
*Provided by Prairie Lakes Church

Oct 8 – Taco Soup, Cornbread, Salad & Dessert
*Provided by Grinnell UMC

Oct 15 – Chicken Tetrazzini, Vegetables, Rolls, Cookies & Bars
*Provided by UCC

Oct 22 – Meatloaf, Mash Potato, Broccoli, & Brownies
*Provided by Grinnell College Men's Soccer Team

Oct 29 - TBD

Upcoming Events!



Boomers Potluck
Oct. 12th
@ 11:30AM



Blood Drive
Oct. 14th
@ 9AM



Cribbage Night
Oct. 24th
@ 5PM



Dance-tacular
Oct. 28th
@ 6PM

Boomers

Monday, October 12th @ 11:30AM

The **Boomers Small Group** will be meeting for their monthly potluck at Grinnell UMC. If you are a Boomer, bring a dish and join us for great food, great conversation, and some fun games.



Life Serve Blood Drive

Tuesday, Oct. 14th

Grinnell UMC will be hosting our monthly Blood Drive with Lifeserve. To make your appointments please visit **Forcyte - Donor Portal** and find a time that works best for you!

Cribbage Night

Grinnell UMC will be having
Cribbage Night, Sat. Oct. 24th from 5-7PM.
Bring your family and enjoy a fun evening of playing cribbage with your friends!

Dance-tacular

Wednesday, Oct. 28th 6-8PM

Grinnell UMC will be having our Dance-tacular!
This is a family friendly fun dance night for all ages with a Costume Contest, food, candy and so much more.
To sign up for treats go to **https://grinnellumc.org/signups/**



GUMC YOUTH

OCTOBER 2026
Growing in faith • Building community • Having fun







A GREAT START TO THE NEW YEAR

September has been a busy and exciting month for GUMC Youth! Our weekly programs are up and running, and we are excited for another year of building relationships, growing in faith, asking questions, and having fun together. Whether your family is brand new to GUMC or you've been part of our youth ministry for years, there is a place for you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays • 9:15 AM

A weekly time to learn about faith, explore Scripture, ask questions, and connect with others.

CLUB 916

Wednesdays • 3:15–5:00 PM • 4th & 5th Grade

Our after-school program where students ride Bus 3 to church for games, a snack, faith lessons, crafts, discussion, and prayer.

CONFIRMATION

Sundays • 9:15 AM

A year-long opportunity to explore Christian faith and Methodist tradition through learning, service, and visits to other faith communities. This year's class is already underway.

PARK STREET HIGH

Wednesdays • 6:00–8:00 PM • High School

Our weekly high school youth group includes dinner, games, conversation, and meaningful discussions about faith and everyday life. All high school students are welcome.

NEW TO GUMC? Start with Sunday School or one of our weekly youth programs. We'd love to have you!

OCTOBER AT GUMC YOUTH

Regular weekly programs continue each week, with two special Wednesday events.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

FIELD OF FAITH

NO CLUB 916
NO PARK STREET HIGH

Students 6th grade and up will meet at T.T. Cranny Fields at 7:00 PM for Field of Faith. This special evening brings students together for community and a night centered around faith.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

ALL-CHURCH DANCETACULAR

HALLOWEEN EVENT

Everyone is invited for a fun night of music, dancing, and Halloween fun. Wear your favorite costume, bring your dancing shoes, and come ready to have fun! This is an all-church event for youth, families, and our whole church community.

DANCETACULAR FOOD SIGN-UP

Help us feed the fun! Sign up to bring food for Dancetacular.

QUESTIONS?

Katie Beall
Discipleship Director
discipleship1@grinnellumc.org

GROWING IN FAITH • BUILDING COMMUNITY • HAVING FUN

We are so excited for another year with GUMC Youth. Thank you to our students, families, volunteers, and leaders who make youth ministry such a meaningful part of our church community.



For more information
or to volunteer with youth activities
please contact Katie
at discipleship1@grinnellumc.org

GUMC KIDS

OCTOBER 2026 | FAITH • FUN • FRIENDSHIPS



LOOKING BACK: SEPTEMBER

SO MUCH JOY!

What a fun start to a new year of GUMC Kids! We kicked off Sunday School with a beautiful outdoor celebration! The kids had a blast **bouncing, playing games, creating chalk art, making giant bubbles,** and getting excited for a new season of learning, growing, and having fun together!

A very special **thank you to all of our wonderful Sunday School teachers and volunteers!** Your time, energy, and willingness to share your gifts with our children make such a difference. We are so grateful for each of you!

September also brought our **CROP Walk**, where our kids had the opportunity to walk together, learn about hunger and helping others, and be part of making a difference in our community and around the world. We loved seeing our kids put their faith into action!

Faith in action:
Kids walking, learning, serving, and growing together.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NURSERY?

Our nursery friends have wrapped up their **fair series** and are moving on to a brand-new **apple picking theme!**

If you haven't already, be sure to check out the **beautiful apple tree** created with all of the stunning apple-themed art and crafts made by our nursery children! The tree is a wonderful display of their creativity and a fun way to celebrate the season together.

We love watching our youngest GUMC Kids learn, create, explore, and grow!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:15 AM

Join us each Sunday morning as we learn about God, explore our faith, build friendships, and have fun together!

Please remember to register your children for Sunday School!

REGISTER ONLINE

PUPPETS & CHILDREN'S CHOIR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Our GUMC Kids will be sharing their gifts during worship! The **Puppets** will be performing, and our **Children's Choir** will also be singing.

We hope you'll join us for worship and help us celebrate all of the hard work our kids have put into preparing!

DANCETACULAR!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Get ready for our **All-Church Dancetacular Halloween Event!**

Wear your favorite costume. Bring your dancing shoes.

Get ready for music, dancing, and lots of fun!

This is a night for the whole church family, so come ready to celebrate Halloween together!

DANCETACULAR FOOD SIGN-UP

HELP MAKE THE NIGHT DELICIOUS!

We'd love your help making Dancetacular a delicious night for everyone! If you'd like to bring **meat & cheese, sweet treats, or savory treats**, please sign up.

SIGN UP TO BRING FOOD

QUESTIONS?

Have questions about GUMC Kids, Sunday School, or any of our children's programs? We'd love to hear from you!

Katie Beall • Discipleship Director • **discipleship1@grinnellumc.org**

GROWING IN FAITH • GROWING TOGETHER • HAVING FUN

Thank you for making GUMC Kids such a special part of our church community. We are excited for all that October has in store and can't wait to see our kids continue to **learn, grow, serve, and shine!**

SEE YOU AT GUMC KIDS!

COMMITTEE NEWS



United Women of Faith

October 12th - 1 PM - Dorcas Circle
@ 907 Orchard Drive - 2nd Floor Lounge
October 13th - 2 PM - Trinity Circle @ church
October 26th - 7 PM - Rachel Circle @ church
October 28th - 2PM - UWF Exec. Brd. Meeting @ church
All women are invited to attend any of meetings to get acquainted and learn about our Mission and Vision for United Women in Faith.



Crop Walk Update

Thank you to all who helped with Crop Walk, by volunteering, attending and donating funds for Church World Service.

The total amount GUMC raised for the Grinnell Community Crop Walk was $731.10.
Donations are still being accepted at: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/grinnellia

Poverty Workshop @ GUMC

Rooted in Hope: Understanding Generational Poverty in Our Community
Our ministry to the world beckons us to understand the challenges faced by our neighbors. Among the most challenging can be the complexities of generational poverty. Building on the compassion this congregation already exhibits, Pastor Eric is asking all members to consider attending a workshop to help deepen our knowledge of this subject and how it impacts our community. It will be a time of learning, reflection and growth.
The workshop will take place on Saturday, November 7th, from 10am-3pm in the Friendship Center. Lunch will be provided. Advanced registration is requested and is availale online at https://grinnellumc.org/signups/

Christmas Dinner

For many years GUMC has provided a Community Christmas Dinner served at noon on Christmas Day. Church members plan, set up, donate food, cook, serve the meal and deliver to those unable to attend in person at the church. There is no charge, free-will donations are accepted.
Soon, we will need to start planning.
Our most urgent need is to find someone or a group to lead the event. Call the church office to volunteer.

Grinnell United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting - Sept. 14, 2026

Attending: Ginny Cameron, Dar & Jeanette Copeman, Andy Hamilton, Al & Ann Knaack, Jerry Lane, Tim Niswander, Pastor Eric Schubert, Athen Schubert, Mindy Tokle, Tracee Van Arkel & Carolyn Grosenbach

Getting Acquainted time was sharing where have you seen God recently: highs and lows. Prayer concerns were shared. August 2026 minutes were approved as submitted.

Pastor Report/Comments: Eric reminded us we have been discussing Dysfunctions of Team. We have discussed Absence of Trust and Fear of Conflict and how to work through this. He shared information from reference on Dysfunction # 3 - Lack of Commitment What is needed is for everyone's ideas to be genuinely considered. If this is not possible leader is allowed to make call and if it is wrong this is still better than to do nothing as this turns into waiting too long. Also when making decision to go forward everyone in system needs to know what is happening. If adjustments have to be made team needs to be open minded about this. Plus side is this develops ability to learn from mistakes. At end of meeting there needs to be agreement on key issues and what needs to be told to members. Also, clear deadlines are good. Pastor Eric reported the Church Directory will be here by end of month.

Apportionment Figures for next year were reported by Mindy: $14,220.00 General Budget, $49,756.00 Ministries, $9,324.00 Mission giving, $2,808.00 Central District Asking, $76,909.00 TOTAL. Andy made motion, seconded by Jerry to accept apportionment figures for next year. Motion carried.

Jerry passed out to committee chairs present a copy of their last years budget and asked them to get budgets updated and bring back figures next month. Dar talked about the need to continue to present information by committee chairs to church members. It was suggested to reach out to Isaiah Schlimm and not hesitate as he will help. When the Trustee information was given by Jeanette it was recorded and he used some of it for social media and also took pictures of steps. Looking ahead Charge Conference is December 6th and there are big things to work on. Mindy will send out information on this before next meeting.

Goal 2 for 2026 is Continue to improve the worship experience, both in person and on line. Eric reported that Tim has been working with some on-line research. There have been positive comments from people that have visited our church. People have said we have been very welcoming.

Grinnell UMC is phenomenal place to be and we need to offer to more people . There were more comments shared about starting a third church service to be offered at 9:15. This would not have Children's Time or Bell Choirs performing. Praise Team will need to find another place to practice and if start around Lent we would have problem with Confirmation Class. Question posed was if there is support from this group would some that attend last church service switch to this time? Also, we need to make sure church wants to be part of this, and also wondered if some might by upset as held same time as Sunday School. The hope is families that have children involved in sports activities will attend as this will allow families to get out of church earlier.

Church Council Meeting - Cont.

There are good reasons to not change second service to completely different one and if we do add another church service should plan to put in place for full year or beyond; also possibly choose ways to cut length of services. We also need to understand that once we make a decision and move forward we can make changes. It was noted nursery care will be available. Pastor Eric felt might be best to not start until February 2027. Committee is okay with continuing to move forward toward changes and next meeting will have graph that Amy will put together to show the attendance figures for second service. First service is still growing. Tracee said she is doing research about having United Methodist Church a part of Homecoming Parade. She is thinking to pass out cards, have banner, and pass out candy. She asked for approval from committee and there were positive comments so now will work towards getting financing. It was suggested she make a request to Foundation. Mindy asked that Tracee send out email. Ann reported that Connections Committee does have a banner. They use that for Trunk and Treat when they give out cards with candy. It was reported Fall Festival won't happen this year and will possibly do some afternoon festival later in year. Tim closed meeting in prayer. Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm. Next meeting will be October 20th

Committee Reports:

Trustee's: Koda Customs, who made the railings on the east side of the church, are repairing and repainting the light poles. Latcham will rewire and reinstall the poles. We are looking into making the outside and inside step edges more visible for safety. The lower-level windows on the west side of the church need replacement. Several painting projects were identified and a painter contacted. The number of students attending youth groups continue to grow and we are discussing how to remodel the youth room to meet their needs.

Connections: Our September potluck was attended by 50 persons. Thank you to all who attended and provided food. If you are participating in a Faith and Fellowship group this year, please continue until the end of 2026. Connections will be asking for 2027 participants in the next few weeks and then construct new groups by the end of December so they are ready to go in January 2027.

Service: 1. Planning for Crop Walk, Sunday, 9/27 from 9:15-10:15 at Central Park. It is an ecumenical event with all churches and community members invited to attend. Activities will be similar to last year. 2. Old Mutare Hospital was scheduled for the Advent offering, however, Florence Mefor is retiring at the end of December. We sent a gift of $1000 in advance, hoping it will reach her before retirement. We will be selecting another international mission for support during Advent. 3. We need a coordinator for the Christmas Dinner.



Worship: Committee did not meet this month.

United Women in Faith: Church Circles will be meeting in October. All women are invited to attend any of meetings to get acquainted and learn about our Mission and Vision for United Women in Faith. Church Attendees- thanks for donating pop tabs in the 2 containers available on tables in the halls of our church. Another BIG BAG was delivered to Ronald McDonald House last month.

Schub's Sharing

Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all. God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given by Christ. That's why scripture says, When he climbed up to the heights, he captured prisoners, and he gave gifts to people. He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

--- Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-16

Grinnell United Methodist Church does a wonderful job of living out the first paragraph of this letter from Paul to the Christians in Ephesus. And because you have lived into Christ well, the Body of Christ is actively growing at GUMC, and you continue to grow every way into Christ. It is beautiful to witness!

The 10:30 service has hit a plateau, and in fact, may be getting a little smaller. I have talked before about our 10:30 service being "functionally full." Unfortunately, a church is never "Christmas Eve full" for long. People want space, new people want to sit on the sides and back, and so do most of the regular attendees. We have had wonderful people sitting in the middle and up front, but even then, we are often comfortably full or beyond comfortably full. This is a wonderful problem, but it also means we don't have room to grow in our 10:30 service.

For those of you who don't know, the 8:00 service has seen significant growth as well! There are new people of all ages, including families with babies and young children who are early risers. I love seeing how the Body of Christ is growing at GUMC!

After a lot of prayer, thinking, and talking among various committees we are moving forward with starting a 9:15 service this February! It will be just like the other services but with a few omissions. There will be no children's time, because any children would be attending Sunday School at 9:15, and no hand-bells or Praise Team due to group members having Sunday School commitments. We would have to figure out a different time for Confirmation and a different location for Praise Team practice. We also need people to volunteer to "seed" the new 9:15 service. This would be people who already attend a different service who would agree to start worshiping at 9:15 for at least 6-12 months. This immediately opens up room at the 8:00 and 10:30 services, and provides greeters, ushers, liturgists, etc. for the new service. Logistically, it's also less awkward for new people to attend, sing along, and share prayer requests if we already have 15-20 people who are "seeding" the service. The 10:30 service will still be the livestreamed service.

As we work toward the new service, we need to continue praying, thinking, and talking about how we see Christ growing GUMC. "The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part." (Ephesians 4:16) Please pray with us that we may be able to overcome any stumbling blocks and end up with a wonderful new 9:15 service which allows our congregation to continue growing!

Feel free to ask any questions, as well as bring concerns or support. And please pray! This is an amazing community and a wonderful place for people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds to experience the love and care of Jesus Christ. Let's work together to see who else may be joining us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric

OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7am Men's Small Group @ McNally's 5pm Grinnell CM 6:30pm Praise Band	2	3 9am MAAN Breakfast
4 8 & 10:30am Worship 9am PT Practice 9:15am Confirmation Class & SS 1:30pm Windsor Manor Worship 2:30pm St. Frances Worship 6:30pm BS Crew Meeting	5 5pm SPRC Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm PFLAG Meeting	6 10am 3 Simple Rules Study 2:30pm Staff Mtg 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 CM 6:30pm Praise Band	9	10 9am MAAN Breakfast
11 8 & 10:30am Worship 9am PT Practice 9:15am Confirmation Class & SS 11:45am FF&F 6:30pm BS Crew Meeting	12 11:30am Boomers Lunch 1pm Dorcas Circle 6:30pm Boy Scouts	13 12pm Nominations Committee Meeting 2pm Trinity Circle 2:30pm Staff Mtg	14 9am 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 CM 6:30pm Praise Band	16	17 9am MAAN Breakfast
18 8 & 10:30am Worship 9am PT Practice 9:15am Confirmation Class & SS 6:30pm BS Crew Meeting	19 6:30pm Boy Scouts	20 10am 3 Simple Rules Study 2:30pm Staff Mtg 5:15pm Finance CMTE Mtg 6pm Worship CMTE 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 CM 6:30pm Praise Band	23	24 9am MAAN Breakfast 5pm Cribbage Night
25 8 & 10:30am Worship 9am PT Practice 9:15am Confirmation Class & SS 12pm Social Justice Group 6:30pm BS Crew Meeting	26 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm Rachel Circle	27 10am 3 Simple Rules Study 2:30pm Staff Meeting	28 8:30am Foster Care Rvw Brd 6pm Dance-tacular 2PM UWF Exec Brd Mtg	29 5:30pm Grinnell CM 6:30pm Praise Band	30	31 9am MAAN Breakfast





October Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 - Eric Bailey, Tracee Van Arkel
2 -Jacob Chamberland
3 -Bill Smith, Julie Kingery, Sol Paul Brim
4 - Katie Beall
5 - Cathy Sonnichsen
7 - Phil Arnold
10 - Carolyn Roudabush
12 - Jim Ludden
13 - Morgan Brennecke
14 - Merra Gosselink
15 - Sylvie Lair
17 - Ashtyn Cameron
19 - Ginny Cameron
20 -Dave Nevins
21 - Becca Harris
22 - Peggy Parker
24 - Dave Harris, Diana Buter
25 - Gregg Hawkins
26 - Kelly Werner
28 - Rachel Arseneault
30 - Lisa Sharp

3 - Bob and Linda Stewart
6 - Gene and Jill Nicklas
10 - Eric and Julie Kingery
Len and Diane Eberhart
11 - Joel and Carla Kelling
12 - Matt and Ashley Kriegel
13 - Alan and Ann Knaack
22 - Kurt and Rhonda Brennecke
27 -Sharp and Linda Lannom



GUMC,
God bless you and other Stephen Ministries as you walk alongside others facing death, loss, and other difficulties.
Sincerely, Barbara Noe Koch

Grinnell UMC,
Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and hospitality in allowing us to hold the memorial service in your facilities for our parents.
Blessings to You, The Rogers Family

Dear Friends in Mission,
Thank you for choosing to be Christ's hands in our community.
Grace & Peace, Jubilee Project

GUMC Staff:

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Katie Beall
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discipleship1@grinnellumc.org

Melissa Breeden
Worship Coordinator
worship1@grinnellumc.org

Richard Tanimoto, Organist
Monique Shore, Hand Bell Director
Kelly's Kleaners, Custodains

OUR SOCIALS EXPLAINED

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE GUMC COMMUNITY

@Grinnell United Methodist Church

AND FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES TO STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

@United Methodist Church

@grinnell_umc

@grinnellumc

Return Service Requested

GRINNELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Grinnell, IA 50112
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Growing in Christ while loving
and serving all.