

“Do over.”

# Pastor's Page

## January Scripture Readings

Actually, the above quote is a line from a musical, but admittedly, I've forgotten its source. Yet those two words captured the tension as an older couple thought about their lives together – the moments of joy as well their shared grievances with each other. As your pastor, I could point to a number of “do overs,” such as a recent wordy communion prayer. (Had I only set it up as a responsive reading...) Meanwhile, the good news is not simply that we are forgiven. The good news is that we can start anew every morning – each day – filled with new possibilities. As our sacred texts testify, God is not finished with us yet! So what does this mean for us as a body of faith?

First, I would like to affirm Granite Fall's ministry with the Lutheran church on Christmas Day, I was amazed by the turnout by our brothers and sisters in faith to a share a Christmas dinner with those who might otherwise have been left alone. So too, it was fun to join together with members of our wider community to sing Christmas carols to those in assisted living facilities, and I want to thank Jeff Iverson for keeping us in tune throughout the night.

I am also encouraged by the members and friends of First Congregational UCC as they organize another community dinner under the auspices of “Beyond the Band-Aids”. Admittedly, we wondered last fall whether we would attract anyone from the wider community. So too, the members were not quite sure about “knocking on doors,” but their willingness to reach out to their neighbors provided new opportunities for dialogue.

In January, I will lead a new discussion on Michael S. Piazza and Cameron B. Trimble's book, *Liberating Hope: Daring to Renew the Mainline Church*. The discussion will follow the same format as last fall, with a session at 11:00 a.m. in Montevideo, and the other session at 7:00 p.m. The first class will start on Thursday, January 21, 2015. As last fall, the purchase of a book is not required.

As we move further into the new year, it would be appropriate as a faith community to engage our sacred texts, and I would welcome suggestions for a place and time. This would also present an opportunity to consider how our sacred stories intersect with other faith traditions.

Perhaps “do over” is not the best expression of this moment. Perhaps each moment has the capacity to recreate the world around us. May it be so.

Peace,  
Pastor Dan

**January 3** Jeremiah 31: 7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12\*  
Psalm 147:12-20 or  
Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21\*  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:1-18

**January 10** Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 17** Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

**January 24** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

**January 31** Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

\*Sirach or Ben Sira and Wisdom of Solomon are both books of the Apocrypha.

Apocrypha means 'hidden things' in Greek. The Apocryphical books of the Bible fall into two categories: texts which were included in some canonical version of the Bible at some point, and other texts of a Biblical nature which have never been canonical, ancient texts that have not been accepted by a religious body as being divinely inspired.

As I searched the church library, I did not find a Bible with the Apocrypha in it. I have several at home but many texts do not contain the Apocrypha, so good luck finding these scriptures in your old faithful Bibles that perhaps you received as a member in Sunday School long ago. Watch elsewhere in this issue of your newsletter, the Sirach and Wisdom of Solomon texts have been printed out for you to study.

Karen Schmidt-Dill, office assistant





### BIRTHDAYS

**Jan. 27**      **Bob Thoma**  
**Jan. 28**      **Spencer Kvam**  
                  **Diane Beninga**  
**Jan. 30**      **Dallas Odegard**  
                  **Cindy Fjermestad**  
**Jan. 31**      **Val Giles**

### ANNIVERSARIES

**None Listed**



Responsibilities					
	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
<b>Usher</b>	Helen Stukel	Helen Stukel	Helen Stukel	Helen Stukel	Helen Stukel
<b>Usher</b>	Pearl Lenzen	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Fellowship</b>	Diane Bakker	Sherri/Babe Gatchell	Terry VanDerPol	Ruby Hieb	Joel/Diane Beninga
<b>Fellowship</b>	Jerry/Sheila Koepke	Bea Read	Pearl Lenzen	Helen Stukel	Keith/Deb Koerlin
<b>Liturgist</b>	Helen Stukel	Terry VanDerPol	Karen Schmidt-Dill	Shelly Gaffaney	Sharon Anderson
<b>Clean Up</b>	Keith/Deb Koerlin	Bea Read	Pearl Lenzen	Babe/Sherri Gatchell	Gail Rohlik
<b>Clean Down</b>		NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik

**Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.**

### CIRCLE OF STONES

**When:** Thursday, January 7, 7:00pm

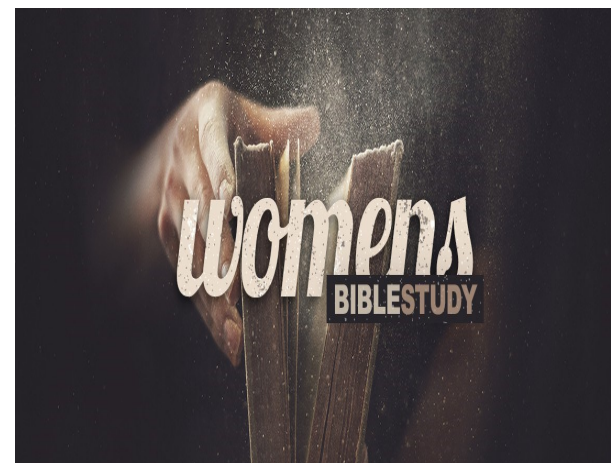
**Where:** Peggy Kvam's home

**Who:** All Women, Bring Friends

**What:** Bible study Gospel of Mark Chapter 5

**Study handouts** are in your mailboxes at church

**Why:** Because we need & learn with one another



## Sirach 24:1-12

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

### THE PRAISE OF WISDOM

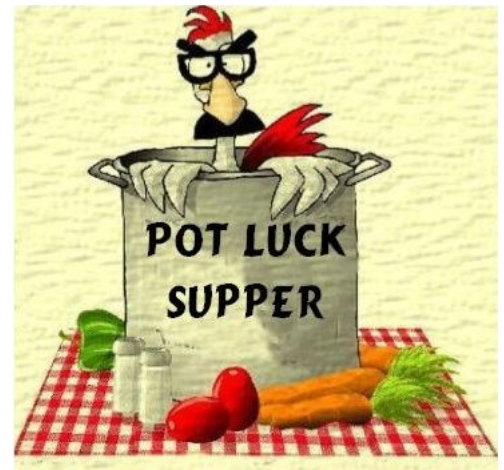
- 24 Wisdom praises herself,  
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
- <sup>2</sup> In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,  
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:
- <sup>3</sup> "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist.
- <sup>4</sup> I dwelt in the highest heavens,  
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
- <sup>5</sup> Alone I compassed the vault of heaven  
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
- <sup>6</sup> Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
and over every people and nation I have held sway.
- <sup>7</sup> Among all these I sought a resting place;  
in whose territory should I abide?
- <sup>8</sup> "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.  
He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'
- <sup>9</sup> Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
- <sup>10</sup> In the holy tent I ministered before him,  
and so I was established in Zion.
- <sup>11</sup> Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place,  
and in Jerusalem was my domain.
- <sup>12</sup> I took root in an honored people,  
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.



**January 27, 2016**

**Potluck Meal at 6:00pm**

**Meeting at 7:00pm**



### STUDY WITH PASTOR DAN

*Liberating Hope:*

*Daring to Renew the Mainline Church*

by Michael S. Piazza & Cameron B. Trimble

The discussion will follow the same format as last fall, with a session at 11:00 a.m. in Montevideo, and the other session at 7:00 p.m. The first class will start on Thursday, January 21, 2016. As last fall, the purchase of a book is not required.

**JANUARY 21, 2016 11am Monte Church  
7pm at Dan Maiden's**

## Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 (NRSV)

### WISDOM LED THE ISRAELITES OUT OF EGYPT

- <sup>15</sup> A holy people and blameless race  
wisdom delivered from a nation of oppressors.
- <sup>16</sup> She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,  
and withstood dread kings with wonders and signs.
- <sup>17</sup> She gave to holy people the reward of their labors;  
she guided them along a marvelous way,  
and became a shelter to them by day,  
and a starry flame through the night.
- <sup>18</sup> She brought them over the Red Sea,  
and led them through deep waters;
- <sup>19</sup> but she drowned their enemies,  
and cast them up from the depth of the sea.
- <sup>20</sup> Therefore the righteous plundered the ungodly;  
they sang hymns, O Lord, to your holy name,  
and praised with one accord your defending hand;
- <sup>21</sup> for wisdom opened the mouths of those who were mute,  
and made the tongues of infants speak clearly.



**UCC Council Minutes (Approved)**  
**Granite Falls United Church of Christ**  
**(Congregational)**  
**November 11, 2015**

Members present: Spencer Kvam, Sue Selden, Sharon Anderson, Bryan Mooney, Peggy Kvam, Terry VanDerPol, Karen Schmidt-Dill, Steve Zumhofe, Janie Ator, Dan Maiden.

Adopt the agenda as modified. Sue/Sharon/U

Minutes: Steve will talk to Eric about modifying the contract. Peggy/Bryan /U

**Committee reports**

Christian Ed: Have not met. Pre-confirmation is meeting Wednesday night with Peggy Kvam's leadership. Samone has a new bible.

Worship and Membership: Committee went through members and friends list. Regarding conference dues, we will pay and send in for the members we have (104). We have 12 friends. We will send what they pay. We need to remind members to pay their \$10/head.

Talked about participating in Santa's Sleigh or something like that. We discussed donating winter outerwear that is needed at the school. Gloves, snow pants, hats. Announce to congregation to shop for these items. Size six and up.

Communion: Four times a year we will have communion by intinction, four in a circle, and four served.

Building and Maintenance: Cleaned up on October 24. Send Stan a card to thank him for supplying us with tools and trailer. Gutters need to be cleaned. Big evergreen tree needs to be pruned back off the roof. Heat tape on the roof needs to be replaced. Brian will talk to someone from Wegdahl he has used for tree removal, Broken Limbs Tree Service. We had a bell tower tour on clean up day and we replaced light bulbs. Hemp rope is quite frayed. Needs to be replaced.

Janie will talk to Hazel about what she learned about the costs of an electronic bell.

Stewardship: 16 pledges for 2016.

Memorials, Bequests & Special Gifts: gave three scholarships at \$350.00. They will pay our Chamber dues. One more meeting will be held this year.

Joint Parish Council: will meet next Tuesday at 7:00.

Wider Church Happenings: Conference has micro grant, \$200 – \$700, for congregations to do special projects.

John Dorhauer, our new UCC General minister will do a podcast weekly—"Into the Mystic". [http://www.ucc.org/news\\_into\\_the\\_mystic\\_john\\_dorhauers\\_weekly\\_podcast\\_debuts\\_11092015](http://www.ucc.org/news_into_the_mystic_john_dorhauers_weekly_podcast_debuts_11092015)

Steve/Sue/U

Financial Report

\$.03 in the red in October. October was pretty quiet. On the income side, water fund is nearly filled. We need to bring our Transient fund donation to the Sheriff's fund. Parsonage rental line--need to correct that line. Should be \$3,780.00 \$10,680.96 total.

Karen/Peggy/U

Pastor's Report: Written report

Next year's book study—Liberating Hope—Daring to Renew the Mainline Church

Some question about Thanksgiving Eve service --we're inviting other churches to participate. Dan will discuss other church's participation with other clergy. Cider and cookies served at Fellowship after. Peggy K will take the lead.

Lutherans said they could use bread and dessert for Thanksgiving baskets. Fifty baskets will go out.

We do not have a pianist for Christmas Eve. Dan's sister might be able to serve in that capacity. Granite Falls at 7:00, Montevideo at 5:00.

Old business

Church secretary position. Karen has been hired. She will work 24 hrs a week split 50/50. Is that enough hours?

We need to preserve documents by scanning them.

Need to scan archives. Where are the documents?

Church shirts have arrived and most have been distributed. There are a few left to be purchased.

Small group meetings. How'd they go? Kvam's went well.

15/26. Bryan had six + Dan. 10 at Andersons.

Community dinner. Need someone for December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas day. Cakes and help. The Lutherans gave Sharon the recipe for the cakes they want.

Fat Tuesday is February 9.

New Business

Already covered a, b and f

Budget brunch is the first Sunday in December—6<sup>th</sup>.

Helen and Peggy will do Thanksgiving fellowship.

Karen's resignation from the Council. No need to replace her for two more meetings.

We need an office paper shredder. Karen brought her mother's in and it works. Pay Karen's mother \$25.

Proposed 2016 budget. \$59,919

Auto payments to avoid late fees. Just do it. Janie will do this. We need to close the loop on getting Spencer and Terry electronic access. Move to approve electronic banking: Peggy/Sue/U

We need to think about a candidate for the Treasurer's position.

December 9 devotions: – Sue S. Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry VanDerPol, clerk

## FINANCIAL NEWS

**November Income \$4,336.00 YTD Income \$46,185.25**

**November Expenses \$3,753.66 YTD Expenses \$44,202.55**

**Water repair expenses were over \$5,000.**

**Current total raised is: \$5,010.**

***\$10 OVER!!! Don't stop yet.***

**GRANITE FALLS  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
210 Ninth Avenue  
Granite Falls MN 56241  
Change Service Requested  
THE ENCOUNTER  
January Issue No. 1**

**February  
Ninth**

**Fat Tuesday  
is fast approaching.  
CAJUN & MEATBALL  
DINNER  
Needs to be organized  
ASAP.  
CONTACT the CHURCH  
OFFICE for the  
ORGANIZING materials.**



**CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY**

**PASTOR: REV. DAN MAIDEN  
OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN SCHMIDT-DILL  
ORGANIST: JOAN LUNDELL**

**MODERATOR: SPENCER KVAM  
TREASURER: JANIE ATOR  
CHOIR DIRECTOR: JEFF IVERSON**

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS: KAREN SCHMIDT-DILL, PASTOR DAN MAIDEN AND SUE SELDEN**

**CHURCH ADDRESS: 210 NINTH AVENUE, GRANITE FALLS, MN 56241  
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS: [uccgf@mvtvwireless.com](mailto:uccgf@mvtvwireless.com) CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442**

**PASTOR DAN'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: [revmaiden@msn.com](mailto:revmaiden@msn.com)  
HOME PHONE: 320-379-1051 CELL PHONE: 941-932-0163  
G.F PASTOR'S HOURS: 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 PM WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY & BY APPOINTMENT**

**OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. WED & FRI—GRANITE; MON. (optional); TU & TH —MONTE  
WEB SITE: [www.granitefallsucc.org](http://www.granitefallsucc.org)**

## CLEANING SCHEDULE 2016

		Aug. 7	Rob/Janie Ator
Jan. 3	Keith/Deb Koerlin	Aug. 14	Babe/Sherry Gatchell
Jan. 10	Bea Read	Aug. 21	Wayne/LouAnn Kling
Jan. 17	Pearl Lenzen	Aug. 28	Gail Rohlik
Jan. 24	Babe/Sherri Gatchell	Sept. 4	Jeff/Sheila VanOverbeke
Jan. 31	Gail Rohlik	Sept. 11	Ron/Marty Bergman
Feb. 7	Rich/Sue Rollins	Sept. 18	DuWayne/LaVonne Koenen
Feb. 14	Curt/Paula Soine	Sept. 25	Gail Rohlik
Feb. 21	Karen Schmidt-Dill	Oct. 2	Terry VanDerPol
Feb. 28	Gail Rohlik	Oct. 9	Diane Bakker
Mar. 6	John/Julie Butterbrodt	Oct. 16	Jerry/Sheila Koepke
Mar. 13	Bev Nordang	Oct. 23	Karen Schmidt-Dill
Mar. 20	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad	Oct. 30	Gail Rohlik
Mar. 27	Gail Rohlik		
Apr. 3	Bryan/Peggy Mooney	Nov. 6	Stan/Janelle Kompelien
Apr. 10	Ruby Hieb	Nov. 13	John/Julie Butterbrodt
Apr. 17	Joel/Diane Beninga	Nov. 20	Kent/Imo Sunderland
Apr. 24	Gail Rohlik	Nov. 27	Gail Rohlik
May 1	Jon/Tammy Anderson	Dec. 4	Bea Read
May 8	Sally Thoma	Dec. 11	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad
May 15	Rob/Janie Ator	Dec. 18	Ruby Hieb
May 22	Bill/Sue Krinke	Dec. 25	Gail Rohlik
May 29	Gail Rohlik		
June 5	Jeff/Sheila VanOverbeke		
June 12	Rich/Sue Rollins		
June 19	Spencer/Peggy Kvam		
June 26	Gail Rohlik		
July 3	Dick/Sharon Anderson		
July 10	Sue Selden		
July 24	Bill/Sue Krinke		
July 31	Gail Rohlik		

**Church members are scheduled to clean the church upstairs and ready for worship on the indicated Sunday. Cleaning supplies and a list of duties are downstairs in the closet between the bathrooms. Call for a key. If this week is inconvenient for you, please trade with someone else or for \$25 and a week's notice, you may hire one of the following: John Butterbrodt 564-3306, Pearl Lenzen 564-3224, or Gail Rohlik at Cell (507)829-8587 or one of the youth. Put the money in an envelope with both yours and their name on it and put in the secretary's office (or slip under the door). Gail Rohlik will clean upstairs and downstairs the last Sunday of each month. Thank you!**

## FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE 2016

Jan. 3	Diane Bakker	July 3	Dick/Sharon Anderson
	Jerry/Sheila Koepke	July 10	Sue Selden
Jan. 10	Bea Read	July 17	Bill/Sue Krinke
	Babe/Sherri Gatchell	July 24	John/Karen Halling
Jan. 17	Terry VanDerPol	July 31	Rob/Janie Ator
	Pearl Lenzen	Aug. 7	Babe/Sherry Gatchell
Jan. 24	Ruby Hieb	Aug. 14	Keith/Deb Koerlin
	Helen Stukel	Aug. 21	Ruby Hieb
Jan. 31	Joel/Diane Beninga	Aug. 28	Helen Stukel
	Keith & Deb Koerlin		
Feb. 7	Jeff/Sheila VanOverbeke	Sept. 4	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad
	Rich/Sue Rollins		Jeff/Sheila VanOverbeke
Feb. 14	Bryan/Peggy Mooney	Sept. 11	Ron/Marty Bergman
	Karen Schmidt-Dill		Jon/Tammy Anderson
Feb. 21	Stan/Janelle Kompelien	Sept. 18	DuWayne/LaVonne Koenen
	Sue Selden		Pearl Lenzen
Feb. 28	Dick/Sharon Anderson	Sept. 25	Bea Read
	Curt/Paula Soine		Steve/Vicke Zumhofe
Mar. 6	Jon/Tammy Anderson	Oct. 2	Bev Nordang
	John/Julie Butterbrodt		Terry VanDerPol
Mar. 13	Pearl Lenzen	Oct. 9	Diane Bakker
	Bev Nordang		Joel/Diane Beninga
Mar. 20	Spencer/Peggy Kvam	Oct. 16	Babe/Sherry Gatchell
	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad		Jerry/Sheila Koepke
Mar. 27	John/Karen Halling	Oct. 23	Bob Slettedahl
	Helen Stukel		Karen Schmidt-Dill
Apr. 3	Wayne/Lou Anne Kling	Oct. 30	Terry VanDerPol
	Bryan/Peggy Mooney		John/Karen Halling
Apr. 10	Ruby Hieb	Nov. 6	Bryan/Peggy Mooney
	Bea Read		Mike/Shelly Gaffaney
Apr. 17	Mike/Shelly Gaffaney	Nov. 13	Stan/Janelle Kompelien
	Joel/Diane Beninga		Curt/Paula Soine
Apr. 24	Kent/Imo Sunderland	Nov. 20	John/Julie Butterbrodt
	Darrell/Hazel Carter		Sue Selden
May 1	Ron/Marty Bergman	Nov. 27	Rich/Sue Rollins
	Jon/Tammy Anderson		Tom/Linda Bukowski
May 8	Tom/Linda Bukowski	Dec. 4	Kent/Imo Sunderland
	Sally Thoma		Jon/Tammy Anderson
May 15	DuWayne/LaVonne Koenen	Dec. 11	Sally Thoma
	Rob/Janie Ator		Bea Read
May 22	Bob Slettedahl	Dec. 18	Dick/Sharon Anderson
	Bill/Sue Krinke		Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad
May 29	Curt/Paula Soine	Dec. 25	Steve/Vicke Zumhofe
	Helen Stukel		Wayne/Lou Anne Kling
	<b>JUNE-JULY-AUGUST (ONE SERVER)</b>		
June 5	Jeff/Sheila VanOverbeke		
June 12	Rich/Sue Rollins		
June 19	Spencer/Peggy Kvam		
June 26	Darrell/Hazel Carter		

**Please bring two dozen treats on your assigned Sunday. If you are unable to serve Fellowship, please find a substitute and notify the church office. Thank you!**