

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
March Issue No. 3**



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 CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442**

**PASTOR DAN'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: 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 —MONTEVIDEO**

WEB SITE: www.granitefallsucc.org



GRANITE FALLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)

Tuesday	Mar. 1		MN Caucus Night
Wednesday	Mar. 2	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	Mar. 2	7:00pm	Lent Worship/Study
Friday	Mar. 4		World Day of Prayer
Sunday	Mar. 6	9:00am	Worship/Communion
Wednesday	Mar. 9	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	Mar. 9	7:00pm	Lent Worship Study
Thursday	Mar. 10	7:00pm	Circle of Stones Gathering at Vicke Zumhofe's home
Friday	Mar. 11		Communion to the Shut-In's
Sunday	Mar. 13	2:00am	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME- SPRING AHEAD
Sunday	Mar. 13	9:00am	Worship
Wednesday	Mar. 16	2:00pm	Manor Worship Service with Pastor Dan
Wednesday	Mar. 16	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	Mar. 16	7:00pm	Lent Worship Study
Thursday	Mar. 17		St. PATRICK'S DAY
Sunday	Mar. 20	9:00am	PALM/PASSION SUNDAY/Pack the Pews MN Food Share/ Worship/Noisy Offering
Wednesday	Mar. 23		NO Choir Practice
Wednesday	Mar. 23	7:30pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting
Thursday	Mar. 24	7:00 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Service in Granite Falls Joint with Montevideo
Thursday	Mar. 24	8:00pm	Joint Parish Committee Meeting in Granite Falls
Friday	Mar. 25		GOOD FRIDAY
Saturday	Mar. 26		HOLY SATURDAY/EASTER VIGIL
Sunday	Mar. 27	9:00am	EASTER Worship
Monday	Mar. 28-April 11		Pastor Dan on Vacation
Wednesday	Mar. 30	6:30pm	Choir Practice

EASTER: Attention all: We did so well last Christmas showing our love for others that for this Easter we thought we would try again. The Worship & Membership & Sanctuary Committees are asking that we flood the church with food for the Food Shelf. Paula Soine has done such a wonderful job with decorating that we felt no need for flower donations for the front of the church, but if anyone would still like to give for flowers, we may buy a few bouquets to pass to others. Thanks.

CIRCLE OF STONES

March 10, 7:00PM
Vicke Zumhofe's Home
1658 8th Avenue

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME.
Invite your friends and bring a bible, any version.
Mark Chapter 9 & 10





Pack the Pews Weekend: March 19 - 20

Our congregation is joining other faith communities across Minnesota on March 19 & 20 to Pack the Pews.

Please bring nonperishable foods to worship and consider making a monetary donation. Food will be delivered to our local food shelf.

Did you know hunger is still a problem in Minnesota?

- ☐ 1 in 10 Minnesota families experiences food insecurity.
- ☐ In 2014 there were over 3 million food shelf visits in Minnesota.

- ☐ Last year the March Campaign raised more than 4.7 million pounds of food and \$8 million for food shelves around the state.
- ☐ During the March Campaign, 100% of funds donated to Minnesota FoodShare go directly to 300 food shelves across the state.
- ☐ Your local food shelf can make each dollar donated stretch further through their access to low-cost products.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” -Matthew 25:35*

March Scripture Readings

- March 6** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
- March 13** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
- March 20 Palm Sunday** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or
Luke 23:1-49
- March 24 Maundy Thursday** Exodus 12:1-14;
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-17, 31-35
- March 25 Good Friday** Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:7-9;
John 18:1-19:42
- March 26 Holy Saturday** Job 14:1-14 or
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16;
1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 or
John 19:38-42
Easter Vigil Genesis 1:1-2:4a;
Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26; Exodus 14;
Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4; Romans 6:3-11;
Psalm 114; Luke 24:1-12
- March 27 Easter** Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25;
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12



Contact the church office if you would like to receive an online copy of the **ENCOUNTER** each month.

As you can see, with the new Publisher program, there are many changes happening with the newsletter. The graphics are in color. It will always be emailed to you in PDF format.

Thank you, Karen Schmidt-Dill

Stories of Faith

Let's see how long it takes you to figure out who this church member is.

This person was baptized in the First Congregational Church in Ortonville, Minnesota back in 1955 and remembers when there was major excitement and celebration as that church officially became United Church of Christ in 1960, although the official merger of the Congregational and Evangelical and Reformed Churches took place in 1957. As a youngster it didn't matter, of course, what church this shy youngster attended with the family because friends were there, the same minister and Sunday School teachers were there, it was the very same building up on the hill that it had always been.

Any of you that have been to the play, *The Church Basement Ladies*, have seen almost exactly what the church basement looks like at that First Congregational Church. Steep steps from outdoors into the church kitchen (not used very often) and a side door that either went up to the sanctuary or down to the basement or the big formal steps in front leading to the sanctuary took you into this small church. There were no individual classrooms there, big heavy, velvet curtains could be pulled to divide the space up in the basement. Lots of frosted glass basement size windows around the outer walls let in light. The kitchen was an almost forbidden place for young children to explore, but the large open serving window and counter were so inviting.

The many numerous children in Sunday School were pretty much unknown to this youngster. They attended a different school district, and the farm neighborhood this person lived in was heavily Catholic, so there were no neighbors at church either. Three younger siblings were the only kids well known until school districts merged and one could say to the 4th graders at school, "Oh, I know you from church!" Sunday School and church was mostly a fun place to be except when this youngster was expected to stand in front of the church and sing or recite parts in the Christmas program, bashfulness was a difficult problem when the voice is one that projects well and doesn't know how to whisper. (Laughter).

Eighth grade brought a move to an entirely different state and a new church, this one had the Evangelical and Reformed history. Confirmation began, ugh, Heidelberg Catechism and lots of memorization, new friends, a youth group to participate in and a growing understanding of the importance of faith and God in one's life. Then mid-year of ninth grade brought another relocation with the family, this time back to Minnesota but to a more central part of the state. There was no United Church of Christ in the area and the family worshiped at a Presbyterian church. Tenth grade another move and this time church activities and membership was in a Methodist/UCC federated congregation. Helping out with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School brought a deepening understanding of faith and the love of fellowship with a church family.

Graduation from high school brought the new challenge of facing moving away from home and it also brought the death of a beloved grandparent. The funeral was an eye-opening experience of how sad life can be and that not all pastors or people know what to say or do when someone dies. That same summer the loving grandma, spouse of the deceased grandpa, began to show serious dementia issues and moved away from the farm. Oh boy, maturing is coming at a speedy rate.

College that fall was a long way from home but closer to the maternal grandparents and some beloved uncles and aunts. Catholicism and professors who were NUNS was interesting, so was having Lutheran roommates but amazingly enough the closest church to the college was a UCC one and a relatively small congregation. They welcomed this young person in with open arms. Experimentation and spreading one's wings is a key aspect of college education whether it is inside a classroom or outside. Learning about bars and alcohol, different faith practices and attending a variety of denominations for worship, even none at all, women smoking cigars, traveling to Europe on an independent study, going to college hockey games and big name rock concerts, spending an entire summer away from home working, facing another beloved grandfather's death half-way through senior year and having to repeat a key course in college because of the emotional stress of losing that grandpa, life seems to move at a blinding rate.

First real job, clear up in far northwestern Minnesota, taking a membership class to join a Methodist congregation, first Christmas away from family, being welcomed by the pastor and his family to their home, having to tell the landlord you can't pay the rent on time, housemate drowning in the bathtub, siblings getting married, searching for a new job and moving, living in a beautiful resort community, new friends, growing questions about life and death and faith, years passing, decision making, new job, new education, new BIG city living, going to seminary in Chicago!

By now you surely must know who this church member is... but the story doesn't end there in Chicago. Several more moves, several more jobs, several more church memberships but now always in the United Church of Christ as the faith formation found a true church home. Lots of disappointments in life, lots of joys in life, that's all normal, right? Strong faith and strong support with a church family, I'm thinking that is an absolute requirement for a healthy, whole, maturing life.

Yep, it's me, very blessed to have you as my church family and to sit with you each week in the pews. See you Sunday, I hope.

Karen Schmidt-Dill

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

March 1 Jordan (Beninga) Rustin
 March 5 Jordan Gaffaney
 March 5 Josh Beninga
 March 8 Darrell Zieske
 March 9 Marty Bergman
 March 10 Carlee Kling
 March 11 Zach Koepke
 March 13 Kristina Ellingboe-Ricks
 March 21 Katie Kvam
 March 22 Bill Krinke
 March 25 Paula Soine
 March 26 Sharon Olson
 March 29 Sally Thoma
 March 30 Ron Bergman

ANNIVERSARIES

None listed



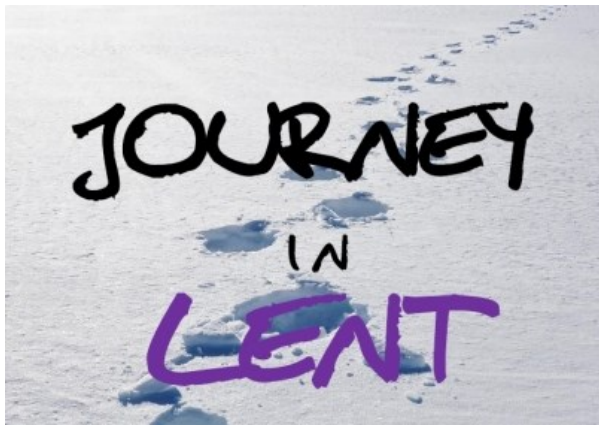
March Responsibilities

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Usher	Mike Gaffaney	Mike Gaffaney	Mike Gaffaney	Mike Gaffaney
Usher	Shelly Gaffaney	Shelly Gaffaney	Shelly Gaffaney	Shelly Gaffaney
Fellowship	Jon/Tammy Anderson	Steve/Vicke Zumhofe	Palm Sunday Brunch	Peggy/Spencer Kvam
Fellowship	John/Julie Butterbrodt	Bev Nordang	Palm Sunday Brunch	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad
Liturgist	Karen Schmidt-Dill	Sharon Anderson	Sue Selden	Helen Stukel
Clean Up	John/Julie Butterbrodt	Bev Nordang	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad	Gail Rohlik
Clean Down	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik

Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.



*Daylight Savings Time Begins at
2:00 AM on Sunday, March 13.*



Pastor's Page

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

There's something about repentance... There's something about repentance that we all affirm as a necessity for our spiritual development, yet find it difficult to approach. Perhaps it's a reaction to having someone see us when we are not at our best. Perhaps it's a poor joke that slipped out unexpectedly, a joke that you might have held back if you had taken a moment to think about its ramifications.

Perhaps it's a moment when our words reveal our ignorance. Indeed, I remember my father's remorse when he made a disparaging comment about people on welfare. He was among friends, but little did he know that one of those friends relied on its financial support. He mourned the loss of that friendship.

You have to wonder about the disciples as they reflected upon their lives following the resurrection. Yes, they were inspired to go out and proclaim the good news of Jesus raised from the dead. Yet it is also said that Peter was crucified upside down by the Romans because he felt unworthy to die as Jesus had. You have to wonder how many nights were spent in remorse.

We live in a culture that makes it increasingly difficult to admit that we sin. I am apt to say that we all fall short of the glory of God, but too often we act as if some have fallen shorter than others. I know from my own experience that I can react without having all the information to make an informed decision. Some may recall a story told about one of my classes in seminary. We had been asked how we would respond to a conflict in our community. Within an hour we had developed committees, agendas, and placards to emphasize our complaints and resolutions.

Once we had completed our presentations, we waited for his response. Indeed, we were confident that we had done the assignment well and awaited his praise.

He was quiet for a moment, and then asked if any of us had considered that we might wrong. We all sat there – speechless. It had not even crossed our minds. We simply assumed that we had all the information we needed.

Now this is not first time that I've shared this story, and I was blessed to have received the comments of one of our members. There are times that we have to stand up for justice for the least of God's children, as well as all of God's creation. Admittedly, it's been a while since I've participated in a justice march, or even sent a letter to the editor. Indeed, I have yet to subscribe to the local papers, though I have been thankful for those who have shared their copies with our offices. In this season of Lent I am seriously challenged to consider how I make a difference – not simply for my family and friends, but also for the members of our communities.

As we move forward in this Season of Lent, might we make amends with those we have wounded?

Perhaps we can start with those in our own homes whom we love, but don't always appreciate the fullness of their being. Perhaps we have to forgive ourselves, which may be the hardest of all. Perhaps in this Season of Lent it is time to start a fire in our hearts and let that which separates us from one another – as well as God – be consumed in God's holy fire.

Pastor Dan Maiden



MARCH MISSION MOMENT

Through **One Great Hour of Sharing**, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to:

Build sustainable communities. **OGHS** supports self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.

Respond to disaster. **OGHS** provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, storms, floods, tidal waves, fires, explosions, technological disasters, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused events. On average, **OGHS** responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days.

Minister to refugees. **OGHS** responds with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

In cooperation with Global Ministries, Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Foods Resource Bank, Oikocredit, Freedom from Hunger and hundreds of local partners around the world, **One Great Hour of Sharing** is part of a remarkable network of service and caring that is efficient, effective and faithful. Administrative costs are typically less than eight percent annually.

The United Church of Christ unites with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations and Church World Service in **One Great Hour of Sharing**, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over.

The partnership we share with nearly 6,000 United Church of Christ congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico is where this remarkable miracle connecting UCC members to the world truly begins. The UCC annually channels more than \$3 million dollars through **One Great Hour of Sharing** to humanitarian needs in the world.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is administered through Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

To support this Ministry:
[Make an online gift today](#)
or give a generous gift at your local UCC church
or send your gift by mail, made payable to:

One Great Hour of Sharing
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

*All gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** are tax deductible and 100% of designated gifts go to the designated area of response. Non-designated funds are encouraged. They allow **One Great Hour of Sharing** to address future hidden and forgotten emergencies around the world.*

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



One Great Hour
O F S H A R I N G

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING
COALITION**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



DINNER AT YOUR DOOR

Dinners delivered by Cherri and Cindy Fjermestad, Shelly Gaffaney, the Koenen's, Curt Soine, Pearl Lenzen, Helen Stukel, and Karen Schmidt-Dill were greatly appreciated by

recipients of the Dinner At Your Door program. The next assigned week will be March 20 - 26. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Ruby Hieb



Join us in Minnesota for National ONA Gathering June 7-9, 2016!

Now that marriage equality is the law of the land, what's next for the Open and Affirming movement in the United Church of Christ? "ONA NEXT" is the theme of this year's National ONA Gathering June 7-9 at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN.

"Marriage equality was a milestone on our journey towards justice, but not the end of the journey," says Andy Lang, the Open and Affirming Coalition's executive director. "There's plenty of work for ONA churches in the years to come: challenges but also exciting opportunities for ministry, mission, advocacy and evangelism."

Gathering begins at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, and ends at 5 p.m. Thursday, June 9. Social activities will be available Thursday night for participants who are leaving Friday morning.

UCC Granite Falls Council Minutes (Approved)

January 13, 2016 Convened at 7:00 PM

Present: Sue Selden, Sharon Anderson, Bryan Mooney, Spencer Kvam, Peggy Kvam, Terry VanDerPol, Janie Ator, Steve Zumhofe, Dan Maiden

Approve the agenda: Peggy K./Sue S./U

Minutes: John Dorhauer's name is spelled wrong.
Peggy K./Steve Z./U

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Bryan sent in the Annual Report. Has not met. As of the first of the year Bryan has been meeting with Myracle and Braylee.

Worship and Membership: Has not met.

Building and Maintenance: We're catching mice. Timer on the bell tower lights is not turning them off. Troy's Electric is coming to replace the electronic timer. We need to decide about the trees.

Stewardship: Met in December. Keeping the same mission emphasis schedule. (22) pledges for \$40,499, (13) Our Church's Wider Mission \$9,421.

Memorials and Bequests: Met and did the year-end gifts. Nearly zeroed out the year's total.

Joint Parish Council: Not met.

Wider Church Happenings: Friday night at 6:30, John Dorhauer will be at the Robbinsdale church.

Peggy K./Sue S./U

Financial Report:

\$6,380.13 up for the year.

Sue S./Peggy K./U

Pastor's Report:

Move Council meeting to the third week in February?

Palm Sunday brunch?

Memorial Day outdoor service (Joint)

New Church Directory? Who is going to organize it?

Dan's confirmation pastor does puppetry and characterization. Has offered his talents to our church. Council liked the idea but no specific plans were made.

Old Business:

Old files: Need volunteer help. Need to figure out where they are going to be stored.

Meatball dinner: Peggy distributed the notes.

Kitchen cleaning is on the 30th starting at

9:00 AM; February 6 is the prep day—safe food handling at 9:00 AM, make the food, set up the tables.

January 31st at the KCC.

New Business:

Annual Meeting Reports: are they all in?

Nominating committee?

Delegates to the MN Conference?

Heifer Project: Peggy talked to the kids about their recommendation. Had sufficient funds to meet their requests. Approve expenditure. Sue S./Bryan M./U

Vote on the change in By-Laws: Will be announced in the next two Sunday services to set up the vote at the annual meeting.

Large flat screen TV—Spencer will check with local hardware store.

Church use requests – none right now.

February 17th is our next meeting.

Devotions: Janie Ator

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry VanDerPol, clerk



FUTURE CHURCH: Carey Nieuwhow predicts that the church of the future will be less driven by 'consumer Christianity' and more by selfless discipleship. With the death of consumer Christianity, he says, worship will be less about what we can give. Churches that endure will be less about the 'already convinced' and more about the people on the margins of the church. Effective churches will focus on the few things they can do well, rather than trying to provide a multitude of ministries,"