

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
April Issue No. 4**



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**

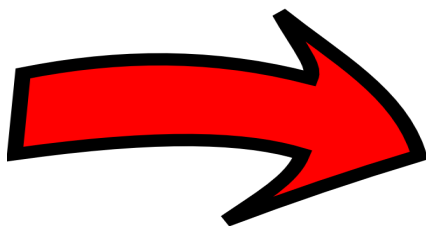
NEWSLETTER EDITORS: KAREN SCHMIDT-DILL, PASTOR DAN MAIDEN AND SUE SELDEN

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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



Quarterly giving statements are in your church mailbox. Be sure to grab yours.



April EVENTS



GRANITE FALLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)

	Mar. 28-April 11		Pastor Dan on Vacation
Friday	April 1		APRIL FOOL'S Day
Sunday	April 3	9:00am	Worship Terry VanDerPol Mexico
Wednesday	April 6	6:30pm	NO Choir Practice
Thursday	April 7	7:00pm	Circle of Stones Meeting at Helen Stukel's home
Sunday	April 10	9:00am	Worship Dr. Liz Fleming Haiti Missions
Tuesday	April 12		Pastor Dan Returns
Wednesday	April 13	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	April 13	7:30pm	Council Meeting
Sunday	April 17	9:00am	Worship/Noisy Offering
Wednesday	April 20		Deadline for Newsletter Articles
Wednesday	April 20	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Friday	April 22		EARTH Day
Sunday	April 24	9:00am	Worship

DINNER AT YOUR DOOR

During the week of March 20 - 26, Drivers for Dinner At Your Door were Lynn Holmstrom, Helen Stukel, Dick and Sharon Anderson with Brad and Amanda, Pearl Lenzen, Darrell and Hazel Carter, Helen and Gene Stukel.

It is always a joy to have you volunteers step forward to help others.

Your next opportunity to do service within the community will be May 1 - May 7.

Stories of Faith

will return next month.

An interviewer is needed to visit with someone and either write up the article or give it to the church office for Karen Schmidt-Dill to write up.

Please call the office if you would like to do these stories. There is a questionnaire that you can use to help with the interview.

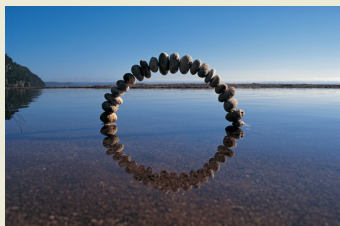
Thank You!

CIRCLE OF STONES

April 7, 7:00PM
Helen Stukel's Home
738 10th Street

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME.

Invite your friends and bring a bible, any version.
Mark Chapter 10



MN FOOD SHARE

Final totals are not in yet on the amount of donations given in February and March. However, the financial giving year-to-date totals \$485. Poundage given should be available after April 6 when more goods are taken to the food shelf.

APRIL 10 WORSHIP SERVICE WITH DR. ELIZABETH FLEMING

On Sunday, April 10th, Dr. Elizabeth Fleming will be with us to share her experiences in her Haiti mission work and her faith journey. She will also be speaking at the Montevideo church. If you have not met Dr. Fleming you are in for a definite treat. She is an amazing woman. Would you "spread the word"? Please make a special effort to join us on Sunday, April 10th.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April 1 Charlotte Zumhofe **April 12** Bryan & Peggy Mooney
April 3 Sandy Torgerson **April 14** Spencer & Peggy Kvam
April 7 Jackie Peterson **April 29** Rich & Sue Rollins
April 9 Lee Johnson
April 22 Ray Olson **Happy Belated Birthday to**
April 24 Rob Ator Jeff Muhl on March 11 and
April 26 Sharon Anderson **Happy Belated Anniversary to**
 Jeff & Beth Muhl on March 17

APRIL Scripture Readings

April 3 Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; John 20:19-31;
 Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8
April 10 Psalm 30; John 21:1-19; Acts 9:1-20;
 Revelation 5:11-14
April 17 Psalm 23; John 10:22-30; Acts 9:36-43;
 Revelation 7:9-17
April 24 Psalm 148; John 13:31-35; Acts 11:1-18;
 Revelation 21:1-6

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

As you can see, with the 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



April Responsibilities

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Usher	Steve Zumhofe	Steve Zumhofe	Steve Zumhofe	Steve Zumhofe
Usher	Vicke Zumhofe	Vicke Zumhofe	Vicke Zumhofe	Vicke Zumhofe
Fellowship	Wayne/LouAnne Kling	Tom/Linda Bukowski	Kent/Imo Sunderland	Jen GoBell
Fellowship	Mike/Shelly Gaffaney	Rob/Janie Ator	Sally Thoma	Darrell/Hazel Carter
Liturgist	Karen Schmidt-Dill	Sharon Anderson	Sue Selden	Helen Stukel
Clean Up	Bryan/Peggy Mooney	Ruby Hieb	Joel/Diane Beninga	Gail Rohlik
Clean Down	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik
Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.				

APRIL MISSION MOMENT EMPHASIS





Global Ministries sends letter of Solidarity to partners in Pakistan

By [Global Ministries](#) on March 29, 2016

We are indeed shocked and saddened to hear about the death of over 70 people and the injuries suffered by over 300 in a suicide bomb blast in Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park, Lahore, Pakistan on Easter evening. As you mourn with the people of Lahore and Pakistan, and strive to overcome the trauma of this tragedy, we write to let you know that we are with you and that we share your grief. Our mere words of comfort may not heal the pain and trauma or the sense of loss and fear, but we write to encourage you with our prayers and affirmations that God is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust. (Psalm 91:2)

On behalf of Global Ministries, we want to assure you of the prayers and solidarity with Global Ministries' partners in Southern Asia and in many parts of the world in this hour of sorrow. We shall continue to pray for comfort and healing, for courage and strength to those families who have lost their dear ones, for those who were injured, and for all of you as you accompany the victims of this mindless terror. We also pray for all those who are striving for peace, healing, and goodwill even as some continue to believe that violence is divinely ordained, and act out accordingly, especially against innocent and vulnerable children.

In solidarity,

Rev. James Moos
Co-Executive, Global Ministries
Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries

Rev. Julia Karimu Brown
Co-Executive, Global Ministries
President, Division of Overseas Ministries

Rev. Deenabandhu Manchala
Area Executive for Southern Asia
Global Ministries



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



UCC leader calls for prayer after bombs in Belgium during Holy Week



Photo credit: Sylvain Lefevre/
Getty Images

March 22, 2016
Written by **Connie Larkman**

A terrorism attack in Belgium during Holy Week, with bombs at the international airport and an explosion at a downtown metro station, is raising terror alerts across Europe, in the United States and around the world.

Immediately following the attack, United Church of Christ General Minister and President the Rev. John Dorhauer remembered the victims in a call for prayer, urging – especially during this week of hope and resurrection – that we all be instruments of God's peace.

The blasts, killing over two dozen people and injuring more than 150 people, rocked the city of Brussels during the morning commute, shutting down all public transportation in a city now under lockdown.

Belgium's federal prosecutor confirmed the airport attack was a suicide bomb. The explosion at the metro station was near buildings that house European Union institutions in central Brussels.

"We were fearing terrorist attacks and that has now happened," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said. French President Francois Hollande called the events an attack on all of Europe. Pope Francis prayed for the victims of the attack and their families.

The number of casualties is sure to rise as Belgian emergency crews continue to focus on those in need.

Pastor's Page

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Admittedly, I've been dreading my taxes this year. It's not that I dread paying taxes, for I believe we have a responsibility to maintain the infrastructure that sustains roads and highways, as well as maintaining our national and state park parks, as well as historic buildings and sites that tell the story of our nation. And yes, I feel that we have a responsibility for those in need, irrespective of whether they are worthy or not. And having to get to know you, I can't imagine that any of you wouldn't find a can or two to feed the hungry. It seems to be a part of your DNA. Of course, like many others, I don't want my taxes to be wasted. The challenge is determining what it wasteful.

My dread this year is that my taxes are going to be messy. On one hand, Paul and I can file as a married couple, or at least I think it will be a benefit when we file. On the other hand, there were several months that one or the other was unemployed. Thanks for some savings! Then again, Florida had no income taxes. Indeed, we could write off our sales taxes! Yep, it's going to be messy.

After putting it off too long, I finally gave in, and decided to schedule an appointment with a local accountant to bring us up to date, as well as prepare for the year 2017!

The office was rather quiet, and I assumed that I was speaking with the office manager as she began to start my file. There was an older woman sitting in the waiting room, and I assumed she was waiting for her appointment with the accountant. Meanwhile, the office manager began to ask the standard questions – address, phone number, etc. Then she asked if I was married, to which I replied, “Yes.” Then she asked for my wife's name, to which I quickly replied, “Paul.”

There was a pregnant pause before the older woman began to laugh, a laugh that was so contagious that I began to laugh with her. It was an awkward moment that could have ended badly if we had perceived the situation as hostile. Instead, we were faced with the complexity of life, one that was not threatening, but filled with new visions of the world. I would note that I was listed as “husband” whereas Paul was listed as “spouse.” Be assured that I will remind him of his status for the years to come!

As I thought about the laughter we shared together as total strangers, I was reminded of the comedians, Abbott and Costello. There was something about their laughter – focused on their own foibles that drew people in – because they helped others to laugh at themselves.

We also need to cultivate as a community of faith opportunities to laugh together. Indeed, the absence of a written text on Sunday mornings ensures that you will remember moments of laughter when my words, unintended, take a life of their own. Given my own fallibility, I would much rather laugh at the unexpectedness of life than be weighed down by what might have been done.

What might we do as a community of faith to cultivate laughter in our community? Might our visitors think of us as that community which seeks to restore laughter to our world?

Peace be with you,
Pastor Dan Maiden



February 17, 2016
UCC Granite Falls Council
Convened at 8:00 PM



Present: Spencer Kvam, Janie Ator, Dan Maiden, Bryan Mooney, Peggy Kvam, John Butterbrodt, Steve Zumhofe, Sue Selden.

Item 7d. Jeanette Olson estate added to agenda. Approve the agenda as modified: Sue/Peggy/U

Minutes: Myracle's name is spelled wrong. Approve minutes as corrected: Peggy/Bryan/U

Committee Reports:

Worship and Membership: Instead of flowers for Easter, gather food for food shelf. Ordered palms for Palm Sunday. Bring large wooden cross in during Maundy Thursday service.

Building and Maintenance: When weather allows: going to replace carpet on front steps, remove 2 trees, do landscaping where pipe was laid, power wash church—need to bring in outside line if they don't have a water supply with them. Mouse droppings were found in the Rainbow Room so some traps need to be set in there.

Stewardship: Has not met. Mission emphasis is food shelf in February and OGHS in March.

Memorials and Bequests: Going to donate \$500 to food shelf and pay to replace carpeting on front steps.

Joint Parish Council: Not met.

Wider Church Happenings: Nothing.
Peggy/Bryan/U

Financial Report: \$823 for the month with quarterly payments made. Janie is working on showing starting balances for savings in her spreadsheets.
Sue/John/U

Pastor's Report

1. Need to update online report with UCC for last 2 years—data in annual reports.
2. Book study postponed until after Easter.
3. Vacation March 28-April 11 and May 2-16.
4. Church Directory information also received from Life Touch. We will schedule photos between Dan's vacations, April 12-May1.

Old Business

Old files: A work day will be held on Thursday, June 16, at 9:00 am to go through files and clean cupboards.

Meatball dinner: 252 dinners were served. Leaders would consider doing jobs again. Expenses \$935.95, income \$3470.00, for a net income of \$2534.05 with all bills paid. Janie & Terry donated all Cajun supplies. Donations of \$250 from Thrivent and \$705 from others. Dishwasher and water pressure were good. The only problem was more takeout meals than expected. Sue Rollins will update the notebook and increase the ordering of take-

out supplies. Steve suggested next time to avoid people duplicating jobs—too many people were lining up for the same tasks.

January 31st at the KCC had a good turnout from Montevideo with kids enjoying the pool. Adults sat and talked instead of playing games.

Steve Z. will update the bylaws to include the amended language from the annual meeting. He would like to go over the bylaws and update them again. We need to keep better records of changes as minutes for some special congregational meetings can't be found.

New Business

Appointments: Add Vicke Zumhofe to Pastor/Parish Committee list and Pearl Lenzen and Ruby Hieb to Sanctuary Committee list. Approve modified list of appointments: Peggy/Janie/U

Large flat screen TV—Spencer checked with True Value and a 55" would be about \$800 and 60" about \$900. We need to convey this as an enhancement to worship not as just a power point presentation.

Real Estate Taxes were discussed and further conversations will ensue.

Jeanette Olson died in November and the church will be receiving \$5000 from her estate after it is probated.

Miscellaneous:

We will also be receiving \$195 from Thrivent from 4 members. Thank you notes have already been sent. This information will be given to the financial secretary. No presentation has yet been made on the mission trip. They are preparing for a presentation in Sacred Heart and could share that with us some time also.

Church use requests—Ray Martin and the food shelf wants to do a blood sugar testing some Wednesday—no date selected yet. This is approved when the application is turned in.

March 9th at 7:45 is our next meeting. Devotions: Steve.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 9:36 PM.

Sue Selden, Acting Clerk

Edited slightly by Karen Schmidt-Dill for this publication.

UCC Conference Dues—Did you know?

Like OCWM, per capita gifts are used in all phases of the work of the conference—things like programs and events, conference staff, search and call support, Pilgrim Point, the e-newsletter, the annual meeting—you name it. Unlike OCWM, 100% of per capita giving stays in the Minnesota Conference, while a portion of OCWM supports the work of the national UCC. Each church is assessed \$10 per member.

Have you paid your portion back to GF UCC yet?