

GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
September Issue No. 9



LEARNING is FUN!

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

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 3:00 PM WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY & BY APPOINTMENT

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

WED & FRI—GRANITE
TU & TH —MONTEVIDEO

WEB SITE: www.granitefallsucc.org



In the 1980s, Lou Anne Kling advocated for farmers against abuses by the federal Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Kling as the agency's national administrator of farm loan programs. Now, at 77 years, Kling has retired from her job as farm transitions coach for the Land Stewardship Project, and remains active in her community, as health allows, keeping a sharp eye on government shenanigans that affect farmers.

Kling's story begins on a farm near Granite Falls that her great-grandfather homesteaded after immigrating from Norway. "My childhood, to me, was the best ever," she says. Childhood ended early, when she dropped out of high school in her senior year to get married. She worked as a waitress, all the time knowing "that I was wasting time or wasting something because I could do more."

The marriage turned terrible, so she packed up her five kids and moved back to Granite Falls. There she met and married Wayne Kling.

"We were partners and I was a farmer just like he was a farmer," Kling says. "When I grew up, Dad was the boss and mother did the work. I wasn't going to be like that." Their family expanded with two more children.

Protesting foreclosures

During the 1980s, a national farm crisis gathered momentum, driving farmers into bankruptcy and off the land. Farmers were left with massive debt for operating loans and mortgages, at the same time that the worth of their main asset - their land - fell dramatically. In Minnesota, farm income dropped from \$1.2 billion in 1980 to \$208 million in 1983. The total number of farms in Minnesota dropped from 103,000 in 1978 to 73,000 in 1997, according to the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

Kling's response was visceral: "By gosh, they weren't going to take that farm away from us and they weren't going to take it away from my neighbors either. It was deep inside of me." She and her husband had long been active members of Farmers Union. Now, with their neighbors, they planned a plow-down - plowing under one acre of growing grain as a protest against the government policies that fostered the farm crisis.

Kling was the only one willing to put her phone number on the press releases. Her mother-in-law began writing her name: Mrs. Wayne Kling, but Kling said no. "I said I'm not his hunk of property. I have a name, I'm a person." As she recalls, her mother-in-law "about broke the pencil writing Lou Anne Kling," but eventually came around to claiming her own name, too.

From that 1980 plow-down protest, to standing on courthouse steps trying to stop farm foreclosures, to battling illegal Farmers Home Administration actions, Kling's activist career lasted more than 30 years. Her activism grew from the grassroots. A neighbor came over and "said he had a problem, a loan with the Farmers Home Administration, and they were going to foreclose." With her help, her neighbor won his appeal and stopped the sale of his farm.

"He told somebody else and somebody else and somebody else," Kling recalls. As she continued to work for farmers under threat of foreclosure by FmHA, she discovered "what they were doing to farmers, and how they had lied and cheated them." Government officials, from St. Paul to Washington, D.C., discovered Kling and her passionate, informed, effective advocacy. Her work, along with that of the first volunteers she trained, became Minnesota Farm Advocates, now part of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

As requests for training and advocacy rolled in, Kling traveled across the state and the nation. "It just would blow my mind," she says, "when I'd be standing up there telling a room full of bankers how they should do a cash flow for their farmers."

(continued on next page)

Farm Aid

In 1985, country music star Willie Nelson organized musicians to stage Farm Aid, a giant benefit concert responding to the farm crisis. Together with legal aid attorneys Lynn Hayes and Jim Massey, Kling asked Nelson to fund "a farm law center where farmers could get help without cost and lawyers knew the right stuff." The Farmers Legal Action Group, funded by that first Farm Aid concert, still serves farmers across the country.

Today, Kling says, the farm crisis is "not a sexy, front-page issue," but it's real. She serves on the county food shelf board and says the food shelf sees at least 150 people weekly, in a city of fewer than 3,000 people.

Looking back on her years of activism, Kling says, "It was wonderful. It was hard. It was sad. You went through a real emotional turmoil, but it was really great to watch success."

FFI:

Minnesota Farm Advocates: tinyurl.com/MNFarmAdvocates or Hotline 1-800-967-AGRI (2474)

Minnesota Family Farm Law Project: tinyurl.com/MWP-LawHelpMN or 1-800-247-2299

Farmers Legal Action Group: www.flaginc.org or 1-651-223-5400

Land Stewardship Program: landstewardshipproject.org

Farm Aid: www.farmaid.org

Lou Anne's story from the Women's Press quite obviously is missing any mention of her faith story. It seems that if you read between the lines you can hear Lou Anne's faith coming out in the stewardship of the land and the people of the land as well. To flesh out her story for the purposes of a church newsletter this writer asked her a few more questions. We talked for quite some time.

She was raised at Saran Lutheran church and had lots of fun growing up and learning about God with the other youngsters who also attended that church. The very first memory that Lou Anne talked about was on the way to church early one Sunday morning, the family car hit a skunk. Phew... but they didn't think the smell was too bad, after all, they were INSIDE the car. So they decided to continue on and went in to worship. They sat down in their pew but it didn't take too long before the unwanted perfume permeated the sanctuary and they all got up and went home.

Lou Anne mentioned the fun of the Christmas programs, she didn't think she had a favorite role and was cast as many different characters over the years. After the program, Santa Claus would be down in the church basement and they would get a bag of treats before they went home.

There was a youth choir, but Lou Anne did not sing in that. She did however participate in the youth group called LDR, Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation, probably for those ages about 7th grade and up.

We talked about the chicken supper fundraisers that occur there now and Lou Anne said while there aren't as many children there anymore there are quite a few young families. Many of those who are members still, were raised on the farms around the area and have stayed on the farm. Stony Run Cemetery is where many, many of Lou Anne's father's family are buried.

How did Lou Anne get to the United Church of Christ? Easy enough, she had gone to church with Wayne when they were dating and when they got married she joined the church. I know you can just hear Beulah Miller sitting down with Lou Anne and asking her to become a member. Beulah told her that "we really need your kids in Sunday School!" Wayne had been baptized and confirmed in our congregation while the church was still the Congregational Church. Lou Anne thinks that Wayne Kling and Sharon Anderson are probably the only 2, well, the oldest 2 members around, who grew up in our church.

Perhaps Lou Anne's fondest memory and liking of this congregation is how friendly everyone was. Ruth Dibble was another very personable and welcoming person. And then there was Kathy Jordan. Kathy knit a blanket while Lou Anne was pregnant with Mitch and as they sat around the coffee table and visited each week, Dr. Jordan would be explaining to Lou Anne what growth development was happening with that little fetus. "About now your baby is developing lips." It is that kind of friendliness and chatting and really getting to know one another that Lou Anne feels was so wonderful and that she misses now.

(continued on next page)

STORIES of FAITH (continued)

Church positions, jobs that Lou Anne has done? Well, she thinks she has done everything there is except for being the treasurer. She started as a Sunday School teacher and all the way to moderator, even delegate to Conference Annual Meetings.

The two pastors that we talked about were Jerry Hankins who was there when she joined and then Rosanna Walker. Rosanna and Lou Anne had many conversations about what was happening as the Farm Crisis was heating up and Rosanna served with Lou Anne on some community boards. Yup, here we came full circle back to the stewardship and caring for the land and the farmers. Lou Anne is truly passionate about this.

In 1984 Lou Anne was a very essential part of getting the first food shelf going in Granite Falls. Farmers were coming in and sharing how they had no food. Eventually that food shelf wasn't really needed and closed down for a few years but then Lou Anne helped with getting it going again and now it is funded with the Neighbors in Need program.

We could have talked for hours about Lou Anne's work as a farm advocate. Her riding the train across the state of Iowa being interviewed by Willie Nelson, who by the way is working on a documentary about the Farm Crisis and the farm advocate workers that should be out fairly soon. Lou Anne worked with developing farm programs First Nations, about 250 tribes, across the country. She did a press release with *Guns and Roses*. She was there at the very first Farm Aid Concert in 1986 and met all the performers.

I would encourage you to look in the church library for the book, "Breaking Hard Ground" by Dianna Hunter. Each of the farm advocates was interviewed and has a chapter in the book. Lou Anne's chapter is chapter 8, *A Desperation for Knowledge*.

Interviewed and written by Karen Schmidt-Dill

A Lovely Thinking of You Card received from :

Aug 2—2016
Dearest Friends—

Carol J. Ator
1010 E 13th St
Crete, NE 68333

Have been meaning to write you for a long time—Just can't seem to get it done. Hope you have time to read this, as my writing is awful and my spelling even worse! Hurrah for white-out!

Hope you are all well. I have my days.

Hate the thought of Rob & Janie leaving Granite, but am happy for Rob. Hope they get a good place. They have enjoyed all of you, the kids did well in school. Especially all the plays and musicals they were in. and they did do a good job, if I do say so.

We had a great rain last nite Has been hot & dry!

All of my girls and their families are fine. Great-grand kids are really growing up in a hurry.

This year is flying by too. Half over, and we'll soon be thinking Christmas again.

How is the church doing? We had vacation Bible school last week. Had a big group, Had 50 kids from our church plus a few extra. Have been well blessed to have 4/5 Couples with children join this last year.

Hope this finds you well. Think of you often. Love you all.

Take care and God Bless!

Dutch



RACING EXTINCTION is a DVD that is in the library at the First Congregational UCC.

Oscar-winning director Louie Psihoyos (THE COVE) assembles a team of artists and activists on an undercover operation to expose the hidden world of endangered species and the race to protect them against mass extinction. Spanning the globe to infiltrate the world's most dangerous black markets and using high tech tactics to document the link between carbon emissions and species extinction.

RACING EXTINCTION reveals stunning, never-before seen images that truly change the way we see the world.

If you are interested in watching this movie contact the church office at 320-269- 8244 or email at monteuucc@gmail.com.



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.



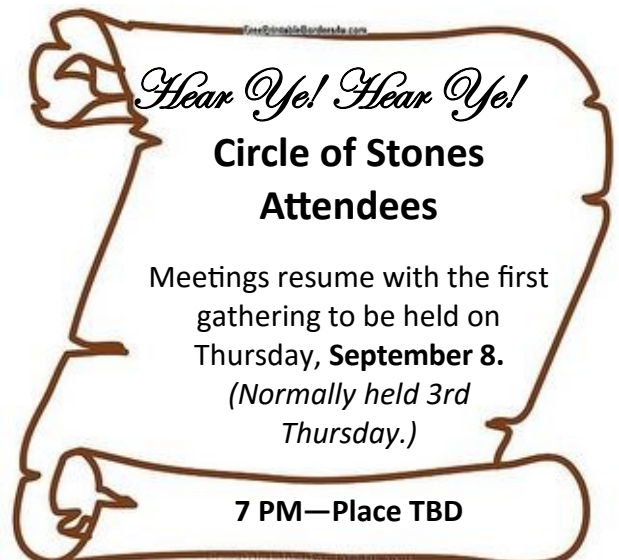
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 3	Kyle Mooney
Sept. 6	Pearl Lenzen
Sept. 6	Margaret Zumhofe
Sept. 6	Jared Zumhofe
Sept. 6	Curt Soine
Sept. 6	Karen Halling
Sept. 8	Brad Hall
Sept. 11	John Dack
Sept. 12	Sue Rollins
Sept. 17	Emily Rollins
Sept. 17	Steve Zumhofe
Sept. 21	Coleen Odegard
Sept. 23	Shelby Nielsen
Sept. 25	Terry VanDerPol
Sept. 26	Paul Ledford

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 6	Darrell & Hazel Carter
---------	------------------------

SEPTEMBER 4	Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 or Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14: 25-33
SEPTEMBER 11	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14 or Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
SEPTEMBER 18	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
SEPTEMBER 25	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 or Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31





SEPTEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES					
	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25	
Usher	Bea Read	Bea Read	Bea Read	Bea Read	
Usher	Pearl Lenzen	Pearl Lenzen	Pearl Lenzen		
Fellowship	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad	John/Julie Butterbrodt	Dick/Sharon Anderson	Tom/Linda Bukowski	
Fellowship	Wayne/LouAnn Kling	Sally Thoma	Bev Nordang	Sally Thoma	
Liturgist	Sharon Anderson	Karen Schmidt-Dill	Terry VanDerPol	Helen Stukel	
Clean Up	Tom/Linda Bukowski	Ron/Marty Bergman	DuWayne/LaVonne Koenen	Gail Rohlik	
Clean Down	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik	
Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.					



GRANITE FALLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (Congregational)

Sunday	August 28	9:00am	Worship
Sunday	September 4	9:00am	Worship/Communion
Sun-Sat	September 4-10	11:30am	Dinner@YourDoor Delivery
Monday	September 5		LABOR DAY
Tuesday	September 6		1st Day of School—Granite Falls
Thursday	September 8	7:00pm	Circle of Stones Meets (usually on 3rd Thurs.)
Sunday	September 11	9:00am	Worship
Sunday	September 11		REMEMBERING 9/11/2001
Monday	September 12		Eid al-Adha
Wednesday	September 14	6:30pm	CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES
Wednesday	September 14	7:30pm	Council Meeting
Sunday	September 18	9:00am	Worship/Noisy Offering/RALLY Day/CHOIR Returns
Monday	September 19	7:00pm	New Members Class in Granite Falls—Pearl Lenzen's
Monday	September 19		DEADLINE for ENCOUNTER articles
Wednesday	September 21	2:00pm	Granite Falls Manor Worship
Wednesday	September 21	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Tues-Mon	September 20-26		Pastor Dan on Vacation
Sunday	September 25	9:00am	Worship
Sunday	September 25	10:00am	Sunday School Begins
Monday	September 26	7:00pm	New Members Class in Montevideo
Wednesday	September 28	6:30pm	Choir Practice



Approved Council minutes at the August 17, 2016 meeting

June Council Meeting June 8, 2016

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

Agenda: *Approved Sue/Sharon*

Minutes: Starting time for clean up of file in study area and Sunday School rooms on June 26 is 9:02.

Sharon/Peggy/U

Christian Ed: No report: Dan suggested a core between the two churches to combine to form Christian Ed. We've done joint confirmation and it worked well. Opened it to anyone who wanted to attend. Would Wednesday evening be a good option? Send an exploratory letter in August.

Worship and Membership: No meeting. Memorial service at the park was good and widely attended.. Do we want to provide an alternative for those who don't want to come when we do services at the park or elsewhere, off-site. We should ask whether anyone would be interested in that.

Building and Maintenance: Dustin was here and washed the outside siding on the church. It really looks great. \$650 bill. Mike and Shelly are fine with the contract for lawn and yard maintenance. They generously donate their payment back to the church anyway. We have a volunteer to paint the railings. Is it time to get the dehumidifiers going?

Stewardship Committee: Will meet on the 26th.

Memorials and Bequests: Has not met

Joint Parish Council: Will meet next week.

Wider Church Happenings: Conference is being held this weekend. Dan and Paul are going as representatives of our Church.

Accept slate of reports, Sue/Peggy/U

Financial Report: Written report. Down \$173.33 but we had some extraordinary expenses (Quarterly payments) last month.

Sue/Peggy/U

Pastor's Report: Written report

Vacation—second week of September?

Old Business

Meatballs—let the funds remain undesignated for now.

Delegates: OK, Dan and Paul are going.

Church Directory—this is a fall project

Church cleaning: File cabinet and Sunday School Rooms on June 16 at 9:02

New Business

New microphone: Do we need a new mic?

Church Use requests None

Devotions for next meeting – August 10 at 6:30 –

Dan's on devotions

Adjourn at 7:30pm

Bryan/Peggy

Submitted by Terry VanDerPol, clerk



The Pastor's Quarter



Dear Friends and Colleagues in Ministry,

As I think about the upcoming holiday of Labor Day, I wonder what it means to our nation, especially for small towns such as ours. It wasn't too long ago that I wouldn't shop at the large, superstores because of their labor practices, but now I'm thankful for Paul's employment in a job that he knows and enjoys. Indeed, I am amazed by his capacity to shop appropriately, paying attention to what is happening in all of the nearby stores. *He has a passion for his work.*

I too have some experience in retail, but it was very limited, and definitely humbling. Several years ago I spent a Christmas season at Target, and it was somewhat disastrous. It certainly didn't help that I don't like to shop. I just want to get in and out with limited collateral damage. It was reflected in my work, as I dreaded those moments when someone would ask where some item might be found, as I could only point vaguely in some direction with the hope that another employee would pass their way.

It is my hope that the members of our congregations have found vocations which have brought them meaning and a drive to keep pressing on. I also hope that we are attentive to what is happening in our communities to nurture new opportunities, a challenge that is reflected in smaller communities where there are limited opportunities. There are also greater challenges that go beyond our local communities which challenge us as communities of faith: Do we have a responsibility for those who are not in our neighborhoods?

As your pastor, I wonder if we are interested in sitting down together, not to take sides, but to be engaged in conversation about "meaning" and "purpose." Hopefully, some of my sermons have touched upon these threads, but what we lack is an opportunity to "talk back." This was a practice of one my former congregations, for everyone was invited to get their coffee and cookie after the service and share what they heard in the sermon. Out of those conversations came new opportunities and direction. What might happen if we took time to consider what these texts say to our communities?

In consideration of Labor Day, I invite you to bring a symbol of your labor. If you're a farmer, and want to bring your tractor, it would be great. If you're a seamstress, share your creations with us. Let us share our passions, and if you are still striving to claim that passion, let us walk together.

Peace in Christ!

Dan

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS UPDATE

September 19—meets at Pearl Lenzen's home, 7:00pm. There will be a meal included.
678 10th Street

Please RSVP to Pearl.

September 26—will be held in Montevideo, place to be determined.

Happy
Labor Day
Weekend

About the United Church of Christ

The national [United Church of Christ \(UCC\)](#) is a diverse and welcoming community of 1.1 million members across the U.S. We welcome everyone and encourage you to come as you are. We advocate for justice and peace, encourage mission, and embrace innovation. We are forward-thinking and we are a church of "firsts." We were the first Protestant denomination to ordain an African American pastor (1785), a woman pastor (1853), and a gay pastor (1972).

Learn [who we are](#).

Discover [what we believe](#).

Learn about [UCC Firsts](#).

Read more [about the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ](#).

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

