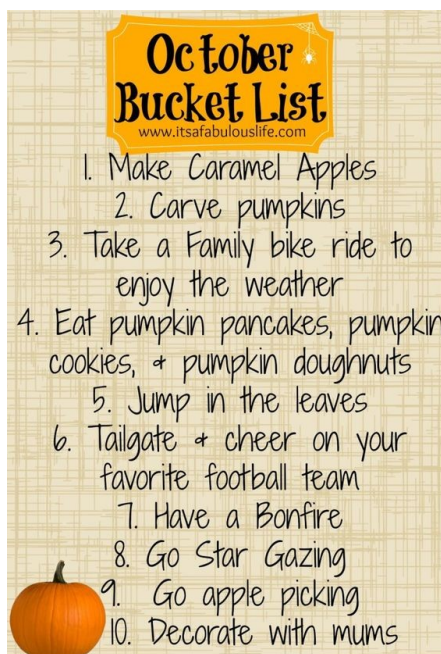


**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
October Issue No. 10**



CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN SCHMIDT-DILL
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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



CIRCLE OF SEEDS



WHEN: Thursday, October 20th, 7:00pm

WHERE: Sharon & Dick Anderson's Home
155 Jordan Drive #18

WHO: Women of the church and friends

WHAT: Bible study-Bring a Bible, any translation. We are finishing up Mark and choosing the next book to study.

This article was on Facebook recently and in light of the study group happening right now at First Congregational Church on Thursday's at 11:00am, Repenting of America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America, I thought I would include this article, written by John Metta.

There are a few swear words in this article and I hope none of you are offended by Mr. Metta's frank discussion. Karen Schmidt-Dill

<https://thsppl.com/its-not-about-race-fb140bac8f1#.dmc0jxtxl>

It's Not About Race!

Why do Black people think that everything is about race?

This is a speech that I wrote for a local event. I thought I'd post it on Medium because it might help explain some context to white people.

Recently, I was the only person of color in a discussion group about race.

Always fun for us. During the first meeting, I introduced myself by saying that talks about race are emotional.

"I speak with a lot of emotion," I said, "and sometimes that emotion is anger. That should be allowed, because anger is a valid response to oppression. I'm not angry at you as an individual, but at a system of injustice."

Sometime later, a man said that he hoped we could "rise above emotions." He wanted an "intellectual discussion" using logic so we could "really get to heart of the matter" without getting "derailed by emotions."

Now there is a heck of a lot of subtext there, and I really want you to understand it. But I need to lay a bit of foundation. So we're going to step back in time a bit so I can explain how a guy beating up his cousin a thousand years ago still affects how we act differently in the dining room.

A long time ago, there was this French cat named William.

(continued on next page)

mission MOMENTS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



When October arrives, the **Stewardship Campaign** kicks into high gear each year.

This year the theme is **"Go and Do the Same"**. Do you remember the story of the Good Samaritan? It is in Luke 10:25-37 that

Jesus tells this parable, verse 37 he tells the man who is questioning him, a lawyer, to "Go and do likewise (or the same)."

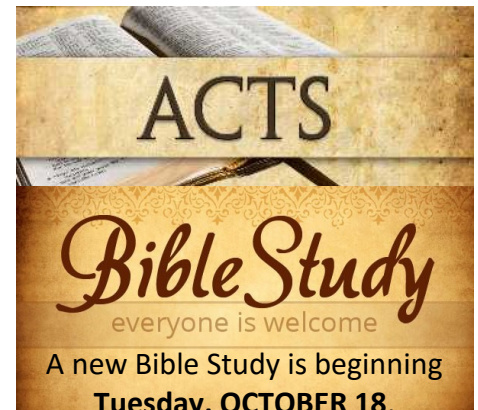
Watch your mail or email very soon for a letter introducing the 2016 Stewardship Campaign, the time and talent sheet that we rely on quite a bit and a pledge form.

Each person in the household is asked to complete a time and talent form and then either singly or as a family to fill out the pledge form and return to the church. There are plenty of extra forms at the church if you need them.

Please return them by November 1st.

Your pledges of time, talent and treasure will be dedicated during the worship service on **November 13th.**

As October progresses, you will be hearing more about the Stewardship Campaign during Mission Moments as well as broadening our horizons of what the scriptures say to us about good stewardship.



Alternating weeks with
Wednesdays at a different time.

Tuesday	Oct. 18	7pm
Wednesday	Oct. 26	4pm
Tuesday	Nov. 1	7pm
Wednesday	Nov. 9	4pm
Tuesday	Nov. 1	7pm
Wednesday	Nov. 23	4pm
Tuesday	Nov. 29	7pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

(It's Not About Race! continued)

One day, he jumped in a boat with a few hundred of his buddies and crossed the English Channel to pick a fight. That was when Norman France conquered Anglo-Saxon England.

Now when you conquer a people, you gotta make damn sure they know you're in charge. One of the best ways to do that is to make them speak your language. So French became the official language in England. Royalty spoke it, lawmakers spoke it. English was even outlawed in some areas. The French said their language was refined, proper, and that Anglo-Saxon was a crude, vulgar language of the unwashed rabble.

Total scam, of course. Anglo-Saxon English was just as refined, as beautiful, and it was hella poetic. But Billy and his boys had to convince "those people" that the French were "better." After awhile, the people started believing him.

Here's the crazy thing: We still do.

A damn lot of our words in English come from this period, and pretty much all of them seem... more refined, proper. This is why we "dine" at a fine restaurant but "eat" at a Barbecue. This is why we "drink" a beer, but might "imbibe" a 30-year-old bottle of Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

You need this to sink in: A dude makes up a bunch of crap about his cousin's language to justify three generations of oppression, and a thousand years later we still believe him.

We still believe William the Conqueror due to a remarkable thing called culture.

Culture is how we pass information about our world across generations. It's why our children speak our language, it's how they learn from us. Culture is why some humans eat with a fork, and some eat with chopsticks. Culture explains why someone standing really close while they talk to you might feel threatening to a European, but comforting to a West African. Culture defines what acceptable volumes are when speaking, and how women are expected to act in social situations.

Culture defines all of our social expectations, but also our social prejudices. Every single thing we do and say, we do and say in the context of our culture.

Now, making a culture normative—that is, it defines what is "normal"—is quite useful. The French used it well in England. Another time it was used was when West Africans were brought to this country as chattel slaves.

The society here in America needed a way to justify the enslavement of a people for no other reason than they looked a bit different. Like the Normans, they used culture to do it. Slaves were made to speak English but were forbidden to read and write. In fact, the myth was promoted that they were slow and couldn't even be

taught.

White people saw slaves as animals, apes or at best, "lesser humans." They expected slaves to work like animals too—long, hard, and without complaint. Naturally, slaves rebelled, slowing work or feigning sickness. Blacks were seen by everyone as inherently lazy, and lazy Blacks were beaten or killed.

White people expected slaves to be subservient—a particularly useful tactic since less than a quarter of whites actually *owned* slaves. Slaves had to do whatever any white person told them to do. This made all whites "better" than slaves, and supportive of the system.

And there were the sexual controls. White men objectified and raped Black women at will, while promoting the myth that white women's purity was threatened merely by the gaze of a Black man. This was particularly useful as a means to control both Black men and white women.

All of these prejudices still reside in white culture.

Antonin Scalia said that Blacks "should go to slower schools." This is a US Supreme Court Justice, folks.

Donald Trump said he believed that "Laziness is a trait in blacks." This is a man running for president!

A vegan activist Twitter account posted a picture comparing slaughtered pigs to lynched Black people. Leslie Jones rocked the Ghostbusters reboot and [was immediately compared to an ape by racist trolls](#). Meanwhile [Lena Dunham weaponized her white body against an innocent Black man because she felt insecure](#).

And apparently countless Black men would not have gotten shot in the back if they had "just done what they were told to do."

I think that much of this thinking is subconscious.

Like thoughtlessly "dining" instead of "eating," white people often carry prejudices about slavery without realizing it. That is why the white refrain of "slavery was a long time ago, get over it" falls on deaf Black ears. It's not Black people holding on to slavery, it's white people, carrying the prejudices in their culture.

It's a difficult problem to address. To paraphrase George Orwell, white people have prejudices about people of color because American culture has normalized whiteness, but the fact that people of color act "differently" further entrenches the "obvious correctness" of a white cultural norm.

Why is it normal to eat with a fork instead of chopsticks?

Why is it normal for a man to wear a suit to a business meeting instead of a loose, colorfully printed robe?

Why is it normal to sit in a chair instead of on the floor?

(continued on next page)

Why is a woman in a long gown and a bonnet accepted—archaic, perhaps, but accepted? Why is a nun wearing a black gown and habit accepted? Why is a woman in a burka and hijab somehow threatening?

All of these questions have the same answer: Because we live in a Western European society that was built by Western Europeans for Western Europeans to live in. This culture is so normative that most white people never have to think about it or even know it exists, because everything they do naturally fits the norm.

Damn near everything that Black people do *is already outside the white norm*. Black people talk too loud, they don't do what they're told, they "act out," they stand too close, they have weird hair, they dress funny, they shake their butts too much (which is fine if Taylor Swift does it).

And so [Black women having fun get kicked off a wine tour](#) for “acting disruptive” when they were doing the same thing White women do every day. But it’s not about race. If it’s not, then it’s about them not obeying the cultural expectations of white people—which amounts to the same damn thing.

All this simply because people of color have a different cultural foundation. Because they are not allowed to act within their culture.

This is the subtext I talked about.

Why do we need to center a discussion about racism in the white cultural experience? Why do we need to communicate using Western cultural norms? So, we can talk about race, but we shouldn't talk about race the way a Black person carrying West African culture would talk about it? We should avoid their anger and

And I'm sure he didn't even know he was doing it, because he can't see that white culture is normative. Every single thing white people do and say is done in the context of normative white culture, which they don't have to think about.

Because everything a person of color does is done while knowing they are *not* part of normative white culture. We have to think about everything we do and every word we say. Am I saying this too loudly? Do I look like I might be stealing? If I complain about these working conditions, will they call me lazy? Why did this teacher tell me I can't be an engineer when I've got a 3.8 GPA? Why am I being pulled over when I did nothing wrong?

And most of the time, they won't get it. Most of the time, they can't see their own culture, much less someone else's, meaning they have no idea what the hell we're talking about anyway. So either we get angry, or we just close our eyes, nod our heads, and say things like "Yeah, using the Socratic method to talk intellectually would probably be a good way for us to discuss systematic racism."

UU

It has been fun learning new things or remembering old stuff about our church friends. HOWEVER...

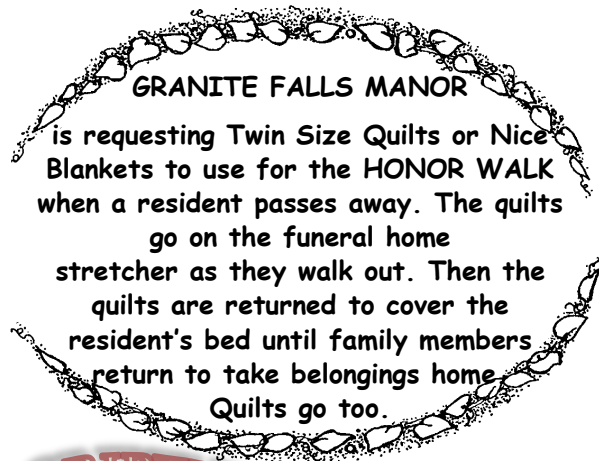
Please contact Karen in the church office if you are interested in doing interviews. There is even a form to help you with asking questions.

Thank you.



Shake the wrinkles out of your red UCC t-shirts.

Community Meal on October 16 at Granite Falls Lutheran Church from 3:30pm to... is our next opportunity to wear those shirts. Our primary objective is to be there and help, secondary is to bring dessert. (Apple Crisp) Or is it the other way around? Dessert should be primary! Sign-up sheet at church.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

- OCTOBER 2** Lamentations 1:1-16; Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137 or Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 15:5-10
- OCTOBER 9** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12 or 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17:11-19
- OCTOBER 16** Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104 or Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:9-14
- OCTOBER 23** Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65 or Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Psalm 84:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14
- OCTOBER 30** Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144 or Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10



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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Oct. 2 | LaVonne Koenen |
| Oct. 5 | Mike Gaffaney |
| Oct. 7 | Beth Muhl |
| Oct. 9 | Barb Gustafson |
| Oct. 10 | Beulah Miller |
| Oct. 11 | Julie Butterbrodt |
| Oct. 13 | Molly Nielsen |
| Oct. 19 | Sue Selden |
| Oct. 21 | Sheila VanOverbeke |
| Oct. 23 | John Butterbrodt |
| Oct. 24 | Stan Kompelien |
| Oct. 28 | Gene Stukel |
| Oct. 29 | Babe Gatchell |

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| Oct. 14 | Rob & Janie Ator |
| Oct. 21 | Pat Kuehn & Kari Mead |
| Oct. 31 | Karen Schmidt-Dill & Rich Dill |





OCTOBER RESPONSIBILITIES

	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
Usher	LaVonne Koenen	LaVonne Koenen	LaVonne Koenen	LaVonne Koenen	LaVonne Koenen
Usher	DuWayne Koenen	DuWayne Koenen	DuWayne Koenen	DuWayne Koenen	DuWayne Koenen
Fellowship	Bill/Sue Krinke	Jeff/Sheila VanOverbeke		Jen GoBell	John/Karen Halling
Fellowship	Rob/Janie Ator	Diane Bakker	DuWayne/ LaVonne Koenen	Mike/Shelly Gaffaney	Darrell/Hazel Carter
Liturgist	Karen Schmidt-Dill	Terry VanDerPol	Sharon Anderson	Sue Selden	Helen Stukel
Clean Up	Terry VanDerPol	Diane Bakker	Jerry/Sheila Koepke	Darrell/Hazel Carter	Gail Rohlik
Clean Down	NA	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik
Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.					



GRANITE FALLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)

Sunday	Oct. 2	9:00am	Worship/World Communion/Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday	Oct. 5	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	Oct. 9	9:00am	Worship
Sunday	Oct. 9	10:30ish	HWY Clean-up
Monday	Oct. 10		Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day
Tuesday	Oct. 11		Yom Kippur
Wednesday	Oct. 12	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	Oct. 12	7:30pm	Council Meeting
Sunday	Oct. 16	9:00am	Worship
Sun.-Sat.	Oct. 16-22	11:30am	Dinner at Your Door Delivery
Sunday	Oct. 16	4:30pm	Community Meal at GFLC/Serve & Dessert
Tuesday	Oct. 18	7:00pm	Bible Study-Acts Begins Church Basement
Wednesday	Oct. 19	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	Oct. 20	7:00pm	Circle of Stones at Sharon/Dick Anderson's
Saturday	Oct. 22	9:00am	Church Work/Clean-up Day
Sunday	Oct. 23	9:00am	Worship
Monday	Oct. 24		United Nations Day
Wednesday	Oct. 26	4:00pm	Bible Study-Acts Church Basement
Wednesday	Oct. 26	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thu-Fri	Oct. 27-28		Pastor Dan at Conference Clergy Retreat
Sunday	Oct. 30	9:00am	Worship
Monday	Oct. 31		All-Hallows Eve/Reformation/Reconciliation Day



UCC Granite Falls Council Meeting

August 17, 2016

Approved with changes

Present: Sharon A, Bryan M, Peggy K, Pastor Dan M, John B, Steve Z, Spencer K, Terry V, Janie A.

1. Review modify and approve the agenda
2. Minutes: **Sharon/Bryan/U** approve the minutes
3. Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Rally Sunday on September 18th. Peggy K will pick up a bible or two for a young child (intermediate, elementary) in case Sunday School happens. We should have one on hand. Dan drafted a letter to go out to parents and others about Sunday School, confirmation and other events. (Report later) Circle of Stones? We didn't set a schedule to start up in the fall last year.

Worship and membership: Haven't met

Building and Maintenance: We haven't met but the railing got painted and carpet laid on the front steps. Light in the altar area needs to be replaced. Janie volunteered Rob. He can borrow a long ladder and will do it tomorrow. Bell is not working well. Could the cord have gotten wrapped around the bell?

Stewardship: National UCC has put out a Stewardship program for the fall that we will be using in some form.

Memorial and Bequests: Nothing new

Joint Parish Council – has not met. Sept. 13 at 7 pm in Granite Falls, changed to Sept. 29 6pm.

Wider Church happenings—nothing to report.

Accept the slate of committee reports:

Sharon/Peggy/U

Financial Reports: June and July were good. Up both months.

Health and dental and annuity are to be paid in August. We received the 2nd notice and Janie paid it. What happened to the first notice? Janie will get this set up in auto-pay. Need to remind people about conference dues to be paid to the church.

Move to accept financial report: **Peggy/John/U**

Pastor's Report

—There is a letter from Dan going out to both congregations about a number of events. A few suggestions were made to strengthen the letter.

- Should we have a men's group? Put it out and see if anyone responds.
- Hawk Creek Pastor called in gratitude for our offer of our space after the church was struck by lightning and burned.
- Dan also distributed a written report of his activities.
- Funeral forms: For people to fill out before they pass away about how they want their memorial service to be. If we do this we need to develop a filing system that will last and that people can find in the future.

Old Business

Meatball dinner proceeds. Rainy day fund?

Church directory – it's a fall project

Church sound system and microphone. Has anyone called the sound people about this and the tape deck? Spencer will check with Karen.

New Business

Parsonage – taxes were overdue. Do we want to set up an escrow? Spencer will offer to them escrow on insurance and on taxes.

Food for Kids.— Saturday the 17th at St. Paul Lutheran at 10:00

Sewer gas leaking— Floor drains need to keep being filled and the toilets flushed occasionally to keep the sewer gas smell down.

Photocopier—Lease. It seems like a bit of an expensive outlay to not do some comparison shopping. Spencer will contact the proposer about a black ink printer and Janie will check into other possible vendors. We will take this up again in September.

Highway cleanup -- September 25th
Back-up date is October 9th.

Community Dinner – We can do as much or as little as we choose. Plan to serve, bring a desert and help with clean up on October 16.

Dan/John/U

Church use request – Act on Alzheimer's meeting on September 21st. May need a variety of rooms.

Peggy/Brian/U

Devotions for September 14, 2016: Dan M.

Council meeting time is back to 7:30 as choir practice will have started.

Move to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer:

Sharon/Brian/U

Terry VanDerPol, clerk

If I remember correctly, the festive holiday of Halloween began with the preparation for the celebration of the saints that have gone before us. It was a way to chase away the evil spirits that might bring calamity to our family and friends. It might also been an opportunity to consider those who had fought those demons – and prevailed.

[illegible]