

GRANITE FALLS  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
210 Ninth Avenue  
Granite Falls MN 56241  
Change Service Requested  
THE ENCOUNTER  
March 2017 Issue No. 3

# M<sup>♣</sup>RCH



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

PASTOR: REV. DAN MAIDEN  
OFFICE ASSISTANT:  
ORGANIST: JOAN LUNDELL

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

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: PASTOR DAN MAIDEN

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 3:00 PM WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY & BY APPOINTMENT

OFFICE HOURS: 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

WED & FRI—GRANITE  
TU & TH —MONTEVIDEO

WEB SITE: [www.granitefallsucc.org](http://www.granitefallsucc.org)

# MARCH

MARCH RESPONSIBILITIES				
	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Usher	Mike Gaffaney	Mike Gaffaney	Mike Gaffaney	Mike Gaffaney
Usher	Shelly Gaffaney	Shelly Gaffaney	Shelly Gaffaney	Shelly Gaffaney
Fellowship	Helen Stukel	Joel/Diane Beninga	Jeff/Sheila VanOverbeke	Bryan/Peggy Mooney
Fellowship	Meredith Lieser	Keith/Deb Koerlin	Rich/Sue Rollins	Ray/Sharon Olson
Liturgist	Steve Zumhofe	Sharon Anderson	Sue Selden	Terry VanDerPol
Clean Up	Meredith Lieser	Joel/Diane Beninga	Jon/Tammy Anderson	Gail Rohlik
Clean Down	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik

Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.

## CIRCLE OF STONES



**WHEN:** Thursday, March 9, 7pm

**WHERE:** Helen Stukel's home

**WHO:** Women of the church and friends

**WHAT:** Bring a Bible, any translation.

We will be studying

Ecclesiastes Chapter 7-12.

Check your church mail box for a study guide or contact Karen Schmidt-Dill.

**Dinner  
at  
Your  
Door  
Notes**

### DRIVERS NEEDED:

Your next opportunity to drive will be the week of **April 2-8.**

Our **UCC D@YD Coordinator** is Pearl Lenzen and Helen Stukel is on the **D@YD Board.**

**THANK YOU TO these February Drivers:**

Cindy & Cheri Fjermestad  
LaVonne Koenen  
John Butterbrodt  
Sharon Anderson & Brad Hall  
Helen Stukel  
Joel Beninga & Oliver X 2

### ENCOUNTER Deadline

Deadline for articles for the April ENCOUNTER is **March 20.**

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

January 2017 Income	\$5,164.00
January Expenses	\$4,785.82
Year-to-Date Balance	\$378.18



## MARCH CALENDAR

Wednesday	Mar. 1	3:00pm	Pastor Parish Relations Meeting
Wednesday	Mar. 1		NO Choir
Wednesday	Mar. 1	7:00pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Joint Service in Granite
Friday	Mar. 3	7:00pm	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Sunday	Mar. 5	9:00am	Worship/Communion
Wednesday	Mar. 8		NO Choir
Wednesday	Mar. 8	7:00pm	Lent Study
Wednesday	Mar. 8	8:00pm	Council Meeting
Thursday	Mar. 9	7:00pm	Circle of Stones at Helen Stukel's
Sunday	Mar. 12	2:00am	DAY LIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
Sunday	Mar. 12	9:00am	Worship
Wednesday	Mar. 15	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	Mar. 15	7:00pm	Lent Study
Friday	Mar. 17		ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Sunday	Mar. 19	9:00am	Worship/Noisy Offering
Sunday	Mar. 19	5:00pm	Community Meal at GFLC
Wednesday	Mar. 22	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	Mar. 22	7:00pm	Lent Study
Sunday	Mar. 26	9:00am	Worship
Wednesday	Mar. 29	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	Mar. 29	7:00pm	Lent Study

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1	Jordan Rustin (nee Beninga)
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 11	Jeff Muhl
March 13	Kristina Ellingboe Ricks
March 21	Katie Kvam
March 22	Bill Krinke
March 26	Sharon Olson
March 29	Sally Thoma
March 30	Ron Bergman

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 17	Jeff & Beth Muhl
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## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 1	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
March 5	Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
March 12	Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17; Matthew 17:1-9
March 19	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
March 26	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

# RACIAL JUSTICE IN OUR WEST CENTRAL REGION OF THE UCC

*At a recent gathering of the Conference Ministry staffs of the West Central Region (Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Northern Plains, South Dakota, Missouri-Mid South, and Kansas-Oklahoma), these 7 Conferences agreed that each would submit an article on a topic related to racial justice over the next several months, for publication in each of our Conference newsletters. This reflects our shared commitment to keeping the struggle for racial justice "front and center" in the lives and ministries of our Conferences. This article is the first in that series, written by Edith Guffey, Conference Minister of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference.*

This article was posted in the MN CONFERENCE COMMENTARY, Feb.. 15, 2017 issue.

## HIDDEN HISTORIES

Have you seen the movie *Hidden Figures*? If you haven't seen it, I hope you will. It's a great movie about the role of African American women in the space program. It's well acted, an incredible story, and has sort of a happy ending. There's no need for a spoiler alert here, we all know that the US space program has had many successes over the years. What we haven't known about is the role of African American women behind the scenes. So in a way, I was thrilled to see the movie and applaud the story.

But I was also irritated, unsettled, maybe even a little angry. How long has it been since that story happened? Why is it just now being told? And I wonder how many more stories and accomplishments of women and African Americans remain hidden and untold? Is it just NASA or is it only in the areas of math and science? Probably not; I suspect this "historical orthodoxy" is quite prevalent. My guess is that NASA did not intentionally hide or not tell the story of the African American women that we see in the movie. My guess is they never gave it a second thought because then and sadly now too often persons of color are simply invisible to many. Allowing others to be or making others invisible (intentionally or not) can be part of the privilege that so many enjoy in our country even at the expense of others.

This is Black History Month and while I agree with so many that Black History is not something that should be relegated to one month in the year, but celebrated as part of our history all year long, the truth is that historical orthodoxy still prevails. Black History Month is an effort to highlight some of the untold, forgotten or hidden histories of our country and the contributions of African Americans that have been crucial in building this country. But if we really want to make a difference long term, we have to find ways to stop the often unconscious exclusion of the histories and experiences of persons of color in our country, our society our own communities, and yes our own churches. That's a hard thing to do when much of our lives are so racially segregated. That is especially true for our sisters and brothers in the Conferences of the UCC that we call the West Central Region (Northern Plains, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri Mid-South and Kansas-Oklahoma). But that doesn't let us off the hook; groups of people are invisible because we allow them to be or maybe even unintentionally make them invisible. We can change that wherever we are; we can explore, claim and acknowledge white privilege that feeds historical orthodoxy and begin to reject that narrative. We can commit to going to movies that tell stories of persons of color, reading books, and poetry and exploring art, teaching our children history beyond the dominant culture. There are so many steps that can be taken to let go of assumptions and stereotypes and fully embrace and celebrate the gifts, contributions and history of all. That is how Black History Month can endure and become a yearlong, hopefully lifelong celebration.

By Edith Guffey





## MARCH MISSION EMPHASIS

### One Great Hour of Sharing

*This offering is received on the  
Fourth Sunday of Lent.*

Supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response. It is administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

## United Church of Christ Council Meeting January 11, 2017

Present: Bryan Mooney, Sharon Anderson, Spencer Kvam, Sue Selden, Peggy Kvam, Terry VanDerPol, Janie Ator, John Butterbrodt, Pastor Dan Maiden, Steve Zumhove.

Devotions from Steve:

### Adjustments to agenda:

7d: Repair the organ

Christmas Eve Service scheduling

Peggy/Sharon/U

### Minutes, approved

Janie/Steve/U

### Committee Reports

*Christian Ed* did not meet. Report is in.

Acknowledged Peggy Kvam and the success of the food drive in December. Samone was very appreciative and proud of what she helped make happen.

*Worship and Membership:* Has not met. Helen and Sharon went over friends and membership list. 102 members, and 11 friends

#### *Building and Maintenance:*

Smell in women's bathroom—we need to get a plumber to check out the floor drains

Front entryway—ceiling is water damaged.

Remove acoustical tile

Landscaping over the new water line to the boulevard

Shoveling—need more help

*Stewardship:* January is Justice and Witness, February is Food Shelf

*Memorial and Bequest:* Finished up the year at their last meeting. We will do the \$100 chamber membership

*Joint Parish Committee*—did not meet

#### *Wider Church Happenings*

Eight people from the Mn Conference went to Israel

Peggy/Sue/U

## mission MOMENTS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



### Financial Report

Finished the year \$649+. No internal borrowing.  
\$9326.00 to OCWM, \$180.00 Food Shelf  
donations to carry into March

Sue/Bryan/U

### Pastor's Report

Discussion of a conversation Dan wants to have with congregation about our future and how we want to shape it.

### Old Business

Sound system OK. Terry will install player --  
Photo/copier/ installed, running and paid for.

Backing up church and Dan's computers

Annual review of church employees

Meet with Karen—Next Friday

Annual meeting—reports are in

Nominating Committee

New Coordinator for Dinner at your Door—Bring it up at Annual Meeting

February 28 Cajun dinner with Meatball Option –  
It's all under control

Christmas Eve – Dan wants the Joint Council to set the times of the services.

### New Business

Pulpit supply for February 26, 2017 – Rosanna Walker

Lenten Services – Ash Wednesday, Lenten Services? Need to figure it out

Holy Week services

Organ repair—Jeff will get an estimate

### Church use requests

None

Devotions: Sue Selden,

Next meeting—February 8 7PM

9:08 -- Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

Terry VanDerPol

Clerk

## The Pastor's Quarter



Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

It should be noted that I am one of those who have gathered in front of the county courthouse in Montevideo with peace signs or signs in support of immigration, especially those who are trying to seek a better life for their children. Needless to say, we got the “finger,” plus a gentleman whose intention was not quite clear. Indeed, he was a bit unsettling. So too, it was disturbing to see our Hispanic brothers and sisters’ anxiety whether some of our brothers and sisters know who is legally here or not.

Please note, I don’t think anyone advocates wide-open borders.

Of course, this discussion about mass immigrations lacks the stories of the First Nations, which is still being played out on the plains of North Dakota oil lines, neglecting the fact that the Native peoples were named by the colonists, thinking they had found the passage to India. Do we really take responsibility for our ancestors? Have we forgotten the Civil Rights through the ongoing attempts to limit access to the polls?

As I wrote these words, I was reminded of the stories of the Hebrews (now known as Israel). They were to welcome the strangers into their midst. One of the ways that we can be with our brothers and sisters in these challenging times, irrespective of your political party, is to tell the stories of our families, the challenges they faced, and those who had absolutely no connection to you, reached out in a time of need.

In the weeks, ahead, I would encourage you to look for stories, poems, or pictures of people reaching out to those in need. But don’t simply keep it to yourself, let us share them on our Facebook pages, as well as engage as to what it means to you. (Don’t have Facebook? We have Bulletin Boards!)

Please note that Granite’s Facebook is functional with more information to come.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

# Thank You so much!

**Fat Tuesday Helpers and Contributors, you are awesome!**