

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
May 2017 Issue No. 5**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

**PASTOR: REV. DAN MAIDEN
OFFICE ASSISTANT: DANIELLE FARLEY
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

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

TUES. & THURS. —MONTEVIDEO



MAY RESPONSIBILITIES				
	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Usher	Pearl Lenzen	Pearl Lenzen	Pearl Lenzen	Pearl Lenzen
Usher	Bea Read	Bea Read	Bea Read	Bea Read
Fellowship	Ron/Marty Bergman	Rob/Janie Ator	Mike/Shelly Gaffaney	Bev Nordang
Fellowship	Tammy Anderson	Spencer/Peggy Kvam	Wayne/Lou Anne Kling	Darrell/Hazel Carter
Liturgist	Steve Zumhofe	Sharon Anderson	Helen Stukel	Sue Selden
Clean Up	Beth Ann/Jeff Muhl	Sally Thoma	Dick/Sharon Anderson	Gail Rohlik
Clean Down	NA	NA	NA	NA

Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.

CIRCLE OF STONES



WHEN: Thursday, May 4th @ 7pm

WHERE: Peggy Kvam's house

WHO: Women of the church and friends

WHAT: Bring a Bible, any translation.

DRIVERS NEEDED:

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

ENCOUNTER Deadline

Deadline for articles for the
June ENCOUNTER is
MAY 20.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

MAY CALENDAR

Wednesday	May 3	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	May 4	7:00pm	Circle of Stones at Peg Kvam's
Friday	May 5	3:00pm	Borman/Rust Wedding
Sunday	May 7	9:00am	Worship/Communion
Wednesday	May 10	6:30pm	Choir Practice
		7:30pm	Council Meeting
Sunday	May 14	9:00am	Worship
Wednesday	May 17	6:30pm	Choir Practice (Last Practice)
Sunday	May 21	9:00am	Worship (Last Choir Performance)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2	Sheila Koepke
May 5	Craig Giles
May 16	Marvin Nordang
May 25	May Peterson
May 27	Laura Butterbrodt
May 30	Nolan Zumhofe

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 3	Dick & Sharon Anderson
May 27	Keith & Deb Koerlin

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

May 7	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
May 14	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
May 21	Act 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
May 25	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
May 28	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Thank You so much!

To the members of Granite Falls United Church of Christ for being a 5 for 5 Congregation of the United Church of Christ in 2016. 5 for 5 Congregations support Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support, and the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ.

To the members of Granite Falls United Church of Christ for you 2016

contribution of \$9,268 for basic support of Our Church's Wider Mission Changing Lives.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE WITH PRIVILEGE?

What does it mean to live with privilege? I have been consciously wrestling with this question ever since the White Privilege curriculum was introduced from the United Church of Christ. But if I am honest, I have been un-consciously wrestling with this spiritual question my entire life. Growing up in Alabama in the 1980s, I wrestled with our communal sin called racism. I was fortunate to grow up in a progressive college town, where education for all was the bedrock of our community. In high school, I worked at a drug store, where James, an African-American in his 50s, taught me what subtle Christian racism looked like as an older customer entered the store with a nice smile and James whispered the customer's 30-year old sins of beating him for going to the "wrong bathroom."

The more personal expression of racism took many more years to process and confess: my family's sin of paternalistic racism. They disagreed with Governor George Wallace, who stood in my dad's high school doors, emphatically pronouncing segregation. Years later my family bemoaned Wallace's shrill actions when they could have worked toward a more peaceful resolution (which was a stalling tactic just as sinful as Wallace's doorway demands). They eventually fled their hometown when African Americans rightly boycotted my grandfather's business. But they did so because they had the financial means to leave and move to another town. Privilege.

I have privilege. I am a white, middle-class, middle-aged southern, educated woman. For many years, I was reticent to identify my privilege lest it sound like bragging in a terribly superior manner. But if I don't name my reality, I cannot breathe God's goodness and peace into my reality. I have been poor, but I have always known that I had a safety net to protect me from imminent financial danger. I have experienced sexism, but I have always had enough power to pick myself up, dust myself off, and start all over again.

When I named my privilege, it was as if I was finally open to healing within my body, mind, and spirit regarding my privilege and my racism. My spirit sought the stories of Jesus and how he interpreted and lived out his privilege. Jesus indeed had privilege. He was a man. He was Jewish. He was a rabbi. And he was educated enough to know, recite, and preach from the scriptures. In Jesus' privilege, he listened to the stories of the oppressed (Samaritan Woman), he gave his privilege away (healings on the Sabbath), and he spoke truth to the powerful (turning the tables in the Temple). When I named my privilege, it was as if I was finally open to healing within my body, mind, and spirit regarding my privilege and my racism. My spirit sought the stories of Jesus and how he interpreted and lived out his privilege. Jesus indeed had privilege. He was a man. He was Jewish. He was a rabbi. And he was educated enough to know, recite, and preach from the scriptures. In Jesus' privilege, he listened to the stories of the oppressed (Samaritan Woman), he gave his privilege away (healings on the Sabbath), and he spoke truth to the powerful (turning the tables in the Temple).

Recently I asked myself how I live out my privilege. How do I listen, give away my privilege, and speak truth to the powerful? After the Executive Order banning entry into the United States for Muslims from seven particular countries, I really wrestled with my privilege. What do I do with the power, prestige, and privilege I have been given as a UCC Conference Minister? And what is my spiritual obligation with this privilege? And so I decided that my Lenten spiritual practice would be to wear a hijab, or head scarf, to spiritually reflect on who God created me to be while giving my privilege away. I sought to stand in solidarity with my Muslim sisters and brothers, who are unfairly being judged and discriminated against because of how they worship God.

And so on Ash Wednesday, I donned a head scarf and began my journey. To be honest, wearing a hijab has been an eye-opening experience. Watching those who look past me, when they normally greet me warmly. Listening to people processing their own privilege as they admire my "courage" for this practice. And receiving racism in verbal and non-verbal expressions especially when I am at the airport. Last week, as I entered the St. Louis airport, there was a woman with a head scarf on and we looked at each other with big smiles on our faces. Talk about extravagant hospitality! There were people who were extra nice to me, and even a flight attendant who winked at me! Her wink lifted my spirits because, not 15 minutes earlier, a man gave me an ugly stare as we boarded the plane. At first, I forgot about my hijab and wondered what I had done to cause such an ugly stare. And then I remembered. And I stared at him right back as if to dare him, "*Bring it on, you mean man! I'll take you down!*" (Not quite the loving spirit of Jesus but I'm being honest). In my wearing a hijab, I have also committed to reading books by Muslim American women about their spiritual lives. I am currently reading "Threading My Prayer Rug," by Sabeeha Rehamn (here is a youtube interview with Ms. Rehamn) to hear the story of one Muslim-American woman.

I, like all of you, have been created in God's image. Our spiritual work will always be to live into who God created us to be while we give our privilege away. This indeed will be a just world for all!

By; Sandy Kellen

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



JUNE MISSION EMPHASIS

Strengthen the Church

*This offering is received on
June 4th, 2017*

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

mission MOMENTS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Granite Falls UCC (Congregational)

Council Minutes

March 2017

Present: Janie Ator, Bryan Mooney, Peggy Kvam, Terry VanDerPol, Dan Maiden, John Butterbrodt, Spencer Kvam, Sharon Anderson.

Minutes and agenda approved

Committees

Christian Education – Circle of Stones – Leadership?

Worship and Membership – Has not met

Building and Maintenance

Stewardship – Has not met

Memorials and Bequests – Met and decided to donate money for the food shelf.
\$400.00

Joint Parish Council—Meets tomorrow night at 8:00

Wider Church Happenings – Conference missionaries available to speak in April and May

Peggy/John/U

Financial Report

Down this month by \$1,177.54. --799.25 for the year

Peggy/Bryan/U

Pastor's report

Written report

Old Business:

Backing up computers--backups

Automated bell ringer—\$700.00 + John/
Peggy/5 yeas/2 nays

Maundy Service is in Montevideo at 7:00

Fat Tuesday Meatball – Written report

New

Secretarial position – Dan will come up with a list of duties

Staffing and volunteering at the church office

Planting trees on 2nd street – choose a tree next month

Membership transfer – Sherill Gatchell Sharon/Peggy/U

Church use requests

Devotions for next meeting – Sharon Anderson

Adjourn at 8:50 with Lord's Prayer

The Pastor's Quarter



Within a few days, we will bring closure to the Lenten study on race, with an emphasis on Black/America Africans. We have heard the voices of Black theologians and white pastors. We can feel good about this journey. Then again, what has changed? Earth Day is just around the corner, and don't forget Rural Life Sunday, and then Mother's Day, and so goes the cycle. Perhaps there have been stories that have touched you. Indeed, there

may have been stories that made your blood boil. Yet the question remains; how did this study change our lives?

I'm still struggling with the assignment to draft an autobiography from the perspective of race. It would be easy to simply offer a mea culpa, and hope that our Black African neighbors will understand. Indeed, I remember hearing stories of hazardous waste being dumped in black communities. It's an old memory, but can we truly believe that it doesn't go on.?

What if we used our Facebook accounts to lift up the stories that we encounter related to race? Perhaps it would be an opportunity to reflect on what these stories say about us. How do we prepare ourselves to listen to persons of color, and then listen again, and then again, until it has become a part of our DNA? That's not going to be easy. We've only made some baby steps. Might this also be an opportunity to work together as two bodies of faith seeking salvation from our own racism.

Might this also become a focus of the ministerium. Admittedly, we have more flexibility as to our denomination to set our own priorities, but all brothers and sisters of faith are caught up in this ongoing story.

As we continue through this Season of Easter, let us consider what God is calling us to do as individuals, as congregations, as well as our shared ministries here in Granite Falls and Montevideo. It is my hope that we will take the time to discern where God is calling us.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Dan