

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
March 2018 Issue #3**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

**PASTOR:
OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN MOE
ORGANIST: JOAN LUNDELL**

**MODERATOR: John Butterbrodt
TREASURER: JANIE ATOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR: JEFF IVERSON**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Karen Moe/Sue Selden

CHURCH ADDRESS: 210 NINTH AVENUE, GRANITE FALLS, MN 56241

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS: uccgf@mvtvwireless.com

CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442

PASTOR

CELL PHONE:

G.F. PASTOR'S HOURS:

OFFICE HOURS: 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Tuesday—Friday

WEB SITE: www.granitefallsucc.org

MARCH

	+March 4	March 11	March 18	Mach 25
Usher	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Usher	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Fellowship	John/Karen Halling	Diane Bakker	Bea Read	Keith/Deb Koerlin
Fellowship	John/Julie Butterbrodt	Chad VanOverbeke	Terry VanDerPol	Helen Stukel
Liturgist	Sue Selden	Steve Zumhofe	Terry VanDerPol	Helen Stukel
Clean Up	Rob/Janie Ator	Spencer/Peggy Kvam	Wayne Kling	Gail Rohlik
Clean Down	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik
Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.				

CIRCLE OF STONES



WHEN: Wednesday, March 28 @ 7pm

WHERE: Helen Stukel's house

WHO: Women of the church and friends

WHAT: Bring a Bible, any translation.

Mark 11 & 12

PONDER: What words or phrases "jump out at you" or "speak to you?"

DRIVERS NEEDED:

Your next opportunity to drive will be the week of
March 4—March 10

Our **UCC D@YD Coordinators** are Pearl Lenzen and Helen Stukel. Sharon Anderson is treasurer on the **D@YD Board**.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE DRIVING IN MARCH:

Dick & Sharon Anderson, John Butterbrodt, Lynn Holmstrom, Cindy & Chris Fjermestad, John & Karen Halling and Joel Beninga.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

February 2018 Income	\$3,052.00
February 2018 Expenses	\$5,710.63
Year-to-Date Balance	-\$2,658.63

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	March 4	9:00 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Choir practice
Wednesday	March 7	6:00-7:00 pm	Lenten Supper/Devotion
Sunday	March 11	9:00 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Choir practice
Wednesday	March 14	6:00-7:00 pm	Lenten Supper/Devotion
Wednesday	March 14	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Sunday	March 18	9:00 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Choir practice
Wednesday	March 21	6:00-7:00 pm	Lenten Supper/Devotion
Sunday	March 25	Palm Sunday	
		9:00am	Worship
		10:30 am	Choir practice
Wednesday	March 28	7:00 pm	Circle of Stones
			Helen Stukel's home
Thursday	March 29	7:00-8:00 pm	Quiet Meditation

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar	1	Jordan Rustin
Mar	5	Jordan Gaffaney
		Josh Beninga
Mar	8	Darrell Zieske
Mar	9	Marty Bergman
Mar	10	Carlee Kling
Mar	11	Zach Koepke
Mar	13	Kristina Ellingboe Ricks
Mar	15	Jennie Bardwell
Mar	21	Katie Kvam
Mar	22	Bill Krinke
Mar	25	Paula Soine
Mar	26	Sharon Olson
Mar	29	Sally Thoma
Mar	30	Ron Bergman

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mar	4	Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Cor1:18-25 John 2:13-22
Mar	11	Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21
Mar	18	Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33
Mart	25	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11



Allow me to introduce myself!! My name is Karen Moe and I am your new—returning—secretary. I was here many years ago and am thrilled to be back. I am married to my husband Randy and we have two grown children and one adorable granddaughter. I live in Sacred Heart. Please bear with me as I learn the ropes. I will be in the office Tuesday—Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Stop in anytime and introduce yourself so I can put a face with a name!

ENCOUNTER Deadline

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

Whenever you can't reach anyone in the church office please call Sharon or Dick Anderson at 320-564-0967 or 320-212-2005. They will know who is on call to handle emergency situations.

The Christian hope is the hope which has seen everything and endured everything, and has still not despaired, because it believes in God. The Christian hope is not hope in the human spirit, in human goodness, in human endurance, in human achievement; the Christian hope is hope in the power of God.

William Barclay, The Letter to the Romans

FROM OUR MODERATOR

Our Transitioning Church: A Message and an Appeal From Your New Church Moderator

Our church is in a transitional period and it is important for everyone to understand the sequence of developments and decisions that brought us to this juncture. For the past number of years the Granite Falls United Church of Christ and the Montevideo First Congregational United Church of Christ have operated under the terms of a Shared Ministry Agreement. That umbrella agreement facilitated a separate contract of compensation for a called pastor to serve both churches. Under that contract both churches would contribute equally financially and share equally in the pastoral services. These are the agreements that were in place during Dan Maiden's ministry. In November, 2017 the Montevideo church withdrew from the Shared Ministry Agreement and Dan's ministry in Montevideo was brought to a negotiated conclusion.

The Montevideo decisions had obvious consequences for our church and this was addressed at our January 24, 2018 annual meeting. At that meeting our membership was asked to decide whether our church, acting alone, wished to enter into a new contract with Dan. The church council, in consultation with Dan, established a threshold of affirmative ballots sufficient to indicate our willingness to do that. At the time the ballots were cast it was understood that a new contract mandated by a yes vote would have to be consistent with our proposed budget for 2018 and that the proposed budget would allow for only part-time ministry. The voting membership also understood that a no vote would leave us without ministerial leadership and send our church down an uncertain path. The balloting did not meet the established threshold, a new contract was not offered, and now we are traveling that uncertain path.

Not only is this a transitional time for our church, it is also a transitional and difficult time for Dan. We are keenly aware of this and the church council has taken action that will hopefully help Dan secure his future. We will honor our church's half of the compensation package as originally negotiated until the middle of May. It is our hope that this will allow Dan to move forward with a measure of security. We extend our thanks to Dan for his service to us and we wish him well.

The 2018 annual meeting also brought an end to Spencer Kvam's three-year tenure as church moderator and I have succeeded him in that position. I accepted this position with some reluctance because I understand that our way forward is not going to be easy, but having accepted the position I promise to do my best to help lead this church. Fortunately, I do not lead alone. There are many talented people in our church that have already helped me in many ways and that gives me confidence.

I have faith in our church. Our church has a future and we are already navigating our way into it. We just recently opened our doors to the community for our annual meatball dinner and the community was very generous in their support. Our membership stepped up with great leadership and enthusiasm to make the dinner a big success. We will be holding soup and bread meals as well as devotions at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings during Lent. For those Sundays when we have not been able to secure pulpit supply, church members have volunteered to lead our worship and their willingness to help carry our church forward is very much appreciated.

Now for the hard part. What is your role? Lent is an appropriate time for all of us to reflect on what our Christian faith and our church community mean for us. Come at 6:00 pm for soup, bread and devotions on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Prepare to celebrate the great miracle of resurrection on Easter Sunday. Reverend Rosanna Walker will lead services on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday as well as the first Sunday of each month starting March 4th. Allen Gislason will lead our service on March 11th. Come and fill the church as a visible gesture of your faith and commitment.

John Butterbrodt

MEATBALL DINNER RESULTS

YEAR	PROFIT	TOTAL SERVED
2015	2,239.58	230
2016	2,534.05	252
2017	2,556.77	240
2018	2,332.21	200
2019		