

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
May 2018 Issue #5100000**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

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

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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

MAY

<u>Responsibility</u>				
	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
Usher	Pearl Lenzen	Pearl Lenzen	Pearl Lenzen	Pearl Lenzen
Usher	Bea Read	Bea Read	Bea Read	Bea Read
Fellowship	Gayle Inks	Sandy Torgerson	Karen Schmidt-Dill	Sharon & Dick Anderson
Fellowship	Rob & Janie Ator	Bob & Karla Slettedahl	Bill & Sue Krinke	Cindy & Sheri Fjermestad
Liturgist	Sharon Anderson	Sue Selden	Steve Zumhofe	Terry VanDerPol
Clean Up	Darrell & Hazel Carter	Ron & Marty Bergman	John/Julie Butterbrodt	Gail Rohlik
Clean Down		NA	NA	NA
Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.				

CIRCLE OF STONES



WHEN: Wednesday, May 16 @ 7pm

WHERE: LaVonne Koenen's house

WHO: Women of the church and friends

WHAT: Bring a Bible, any translation.

Mark 14:12-15:15

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

welcome

MAY

please be good

MAY CALENDAR

Wednesday	May 2	5:00 pm	Sanctuary, Worship
			Membership Committee
Sunday	May 6	9:00 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Choir practice
Wednesday	May 9	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Sunday	May 13	9:00 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Choir practice
Sunday	May 20	9:00 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Choir practice
Sunday	May 27	9:00am	Worship



May BIRTHDAYS

May 2	Sheila Koepke
May 5	Greg Holmstrom
May 15	Craig Giles
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	6	Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17
May	13	Acts 1:15-17,21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19
May	20	Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27, Jn 15:26-27;16:4b-15
May	27	Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

Pastor Robert Vedell was born August 19, at Valparaiso, Indiana. He graduated High School in Chesterton, Indiana. He attended Luther Junior college in Wahoo, Nebraska, Augustana College in Rock Island Illinois and graduated from Lutheran School of Theology -Chicago – Rock Island Campus. He has continued his education at a multitude of continuing education events through the years.

He served several churches before his ordination and since ordination has served churches in Indiana, Kentucky, Canada, Minnesota and Illinois. He is married to his wife Janet and they have three children. Robert and Janet currently live in Sacred Heart, MN.

Since he retired on February 1, 2006 he has continued to serve as interim at several churches across Minnesota. His other interests are walking with his wife Jan and each dog that is and has been in the family. He loves being with family especially grandchildren. He likes promoting environmental stewardship with peacemaking.

We Welcome him to our congregation.

March 14, 2018

Granite Falls UCC Council minutes

Called to order at 7:08

Present: Janie Ator, Peggy Kvam, Sue Selden, John Butterbrodt, Sharon Anderson, Spencer Kvam, Steve Zumhofe, Bea Read.

Agenda: Add Sanctuary to the name of the Worship and Membership Committee.

Peggy/Spencer/U

Minutes of the February 7th meeting:

Change Link to Wink, take off "no committee" in Pastor/Parish, add Steve to attendees, correct spelling of Allen Gislason and Skalbeck, add Helen to Lenten services.

Sharon/Sue/U

Committee Reports

Christian Ed: Has not met **Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership:** Funeral preparation instructions have been updated with a copy in the secretary's desk file and in the basement by the coffee pots. Palms are ordered for Palm Sunday. Karen will get a photo for the directory. **Building and Maintenance:** Parking lot is muddy and there is ice by north & east doors. Eric will be contacted about pulling out the snow piles in the lot. John will try to shovel ice off sidewalk and the snow needs to be shoveled back from concrete so it doesn't refreeze by the entrance. Steve is trying to reset the bell tower clock so the light comes on at the right time. There is a small water spot in the entryway that needs to be checked. Three mice have been caught—think that's all. **Stewardship:** Hasn't met--OGHS in March and CUE in April. **Memorials and Bequests:** Will meet in April. Requests for Conference Annual Meeting funding need to be gotten in soon. **Pastor Parish Relations:** Not met **Wider Church Happenings:** Conference Annual meeting is June 8-10 at St. Benedict's. John would like to go. Spencer/Sharon/U

Welcome to new council member Bea Read.

Financial report: \$2,658.63 in the hole in February. Janie will add the checking account balance to the monthly report. Pulpit supply for March will cost \$940 due to mileage. Sharon/Bea/U

Moderator's report: Rosanna & Allen are covering 3 services a month. Bob Vedell from Sacred Heart is interested in pulpit supply. Randy Moe, a licensed lay minister, may be interested in long term job. John will contact both. Spencer will sit in on a meeting with Bob Vedell.

Old Business

Terry is looking at other insurance options for Dan. First quarter is already paid. Meatball dinner profit is @2,332.21: \$400 in gift cards to school, \$400 to food shelf, \$400 to Turnabout for Christmas gifts, remainder to general fund. Peggy/Spencer/U Janie is updating the Weather Calling List and adding Bea. Vickie & Janie are covering Sunday school when the girls are here. Peggy found some materials downstairs. Some lessons can be kept in the C.E. mailbox. The issue with emailing the Encounters was solved by MVTV removing the outgoing spam filter. Jeremy Posey will be removed from our membership rolls. Peggy/Bea/U. Working Guidelines for Worship, Sanctuary and Membership Committee were approved after removing section on funerals.

New Business

Issues with the church secretary will be given to John to discuss with her—too many people were giving her directions. The microphone didn't always work well for Allen last week. John will try to get the headset working. He could also use the corded mic by the choir loft. Pulpit supply: Allen will be here March 18, April 8 & 22, Rosanna on March 25 and April 1. Someone is still needed for April 15 & 29. John had a possible advertisement for a part-time pastor to post with the conference. We will wait until after Easter to do that, though prospects for responses do not look good at this time. Maundy Thursday service will be meditations, prayers and scripture readings for individuals to do along with communion.

Pilgrim Point has a Sowing Justice retreat May 22-24. John would like to attend and Peggy is also interested. The purpose would be to foster conversations in the community. Memorials, Bequests and Special Gifts might cover some of the expenses. Church use requests: no new requests. The piano will be tuned by PAC soon.

Devotions for next meeting—April 11, 2018 at 7:00: Steve

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer, 9:24 Spencer/Sharon/U

Believe in the Resurrection

When the world seems a defeat for God and you are sick with the disorder, the violence, the terror, the war on the streets: when the earth seems to be chaos, say to yourself, "Jesus died and rose again on purpose to save and his salvation is already with us."

Every departing missionary is an act of faith in the resurrection Every peace treaty is an act of faith in the resurrection. Every agreed commitment is an act of faith in the resurrection When you forgive your enemy, When you feed the hungry, When you defend the weak you believe in the resurrection. When you have the courage to marry, When you welcome the newly born child, When you build your home you believe in the resurrection. When you wake at peace in the morning, When you sing to the rising sun, When you go to work with joy you believe in the resurrection.

Carol Carretto in Blessed are you who believed

ENCOUNTER Deadline

Deadline for articles for the
June ENCOUNTER is
May 23.

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 Pastor's Quarter

Greetings, Granite Falls UCC members,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (It is hard to top Paul in his letters to Timothy when it comes to an opening greeting.)

Thank you for the opportunity to write an article for the Pastor's Corner (or whatever it is called these days). I used to write these on a regular basis back in the 2003-2006 era. That (2003-2006) is easy to write but hard to believe. I have mostly fond memories of my time as the Interim Minister at GFUCC. As I recall, Dick Andersson came up with the title of Person of Enhanced Pulpit Supply. I added "Inc" to it to make me the PEPSI person.

Jane and I first started coming to the UCC church in 1991 when Pastor Rosanna was there. [Side note: we named all our goats after her because she and they were so sweet.] I served on the Council for a number of years, some of those as Clerk. At one point, we even took over as the organizers of the famous Meatball Dinner. I believe it was Judd Copeland who persuaded us to take on that enviable task.

All of this history is a way of saying that I'm happy to be back preaching among you awesome folks. I can't think of another congregation of people for whom I would do this on an ongoing arrangement. Many of you know that I love getting into the Bible, researching topics, and then talking about the Lord. Thank you for being so supportive and welcoming.

Speaking of the Bible, I hope some of you will become more comfortable with asking questions about whatever passage I am discussing on any given Sunday. I am going to try using ¼ sheets of paper for submitting questions. Why do I want to do this? Mainly because that is the way it was done in the time of Jesus, Paul, and the other apostles. Any town that had ten Jewish men could, and usually would, start a synagogue. Often Jesus or Paul or others would go to the synagogue where the scripture scroll would be unrolled to a particular passage. After the rabbi (or a visiting teacher) spoke on that passage, there would be discussion among those present. Often you could find Gentile converts in the audience. People would go away from these presentations/discussions with a better idea of what God wanted them to do on a day-to-day basis. They learned how to live in a relationship with God. This is not what we western churchgoers grew up with, but, hey, who says we cannot learn new things? Try it; you may like it. By no means will I have answers to all questions or observations. But that's okay. Sometimes it just helps to know that others are thinking the same or similar thoughts as you.

See you soon. May God bless you and keep you.

Allen, PEPSI