

**GRANITE FALLS  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
210 Ninth Avenue  
Granite Falls MN 56241  
Change Service Requested  
THE ENCOUNTER  
January 2020 Issue #1**

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY**

**PASTOR: RANDY MOE  
OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN MOE  
ORGANIST: Randy Moe**

**MODERATOR: JOHN BUTTERBRODT  
TREASURER: Konnie Holtz  
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Moe**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Karen Moe**

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

**CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS: [uccgfmn@gmail.com](mailto:uccgfmn@gmail.com)**

**CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442**

**PASTOR E-Mail: [Randy\\_Moe@ymail.com](mailto:Randy_Moe@ymail.com)**

**CELL PHONE: 612-296-1210**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Saturday 2:00pm-5:00pm or by Appointment**

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

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

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

# JANUARY



Date	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26	
Usher	Helen Stukel	Helen Stukel	Open	Open	
Usher	Volunteer	Volunteer	Open	Open	
Fellowship	Wayne Kling	Helen Stukel	Spencer/Peggy Kvam	Brian/Peggy Mooney	
Fellowship	Steve/Vicki Zumhofe	DuWayne/LaVonne Koenen	Dennis/Konnie Holtz	Paul Ledford/Dan Maiden	
Liturgist	Sharon Anderson	Michelle Vavricka	Sue Selden	Steve Zumhofe	
Clean Up	Sharon Olson	Pearl Lenzen	Bryan/Peggy Mooeny	Gail Rohlik	
Clean Down	Gail Rohlik	Gail Rohlik	Gail Rohlik	Gail Rohlik	

Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.

Where it says "OPEN" we are in need of someone to serve. Please let Karen know if you are able.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jan 5	Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18
Jan 12	Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 19	Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42
Jan 26	Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

# CIRCLE OF STONES



**WHEN:** Thursday January 23, 2020

**WHERE:** Home Of Sharon Anderson  
155 Jordan Dr #18

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

**WHAT:** Bring a Bible, any translation.  
Studying Women of the Bible

## **A Note From Your Secretary:**

Greetings from the new year! As I begin my third year I find myself bringing back so many thoughts and memories for the past two years. I totally enjoy my job—most days! But as any job there are days when all I want is to go home (mostly because I am being lazy) but those are few and far between! I am so thankful that I have a job that brings me this much joy! I am very grateful for all of you that stop in from time to time. You know I am a people person so I enjoy conversation. Makes my day! I also need to say thank you to all of you for your generosity both financially and your understanding with my hours changing from time to time. Randy and I both appreciate the fact that we can encourage anyone to attend here and they will always be welcome. That is huge!! Above all thank you for being who you are and making me feel so welcomed. You are the best!! (doesn't hurt that I get along with the boss so well either)

Sincerely, Karen

## **January Birthdays**

January 27	Bob Thoma
January 28	Spencer Kvam
	Diane Beninga
January 30	Dallas Odegard
	Cindy Fjermestad
January 31	Val Giles



## **January Anniversaries**

None



## ***NEWS AND NOTES***

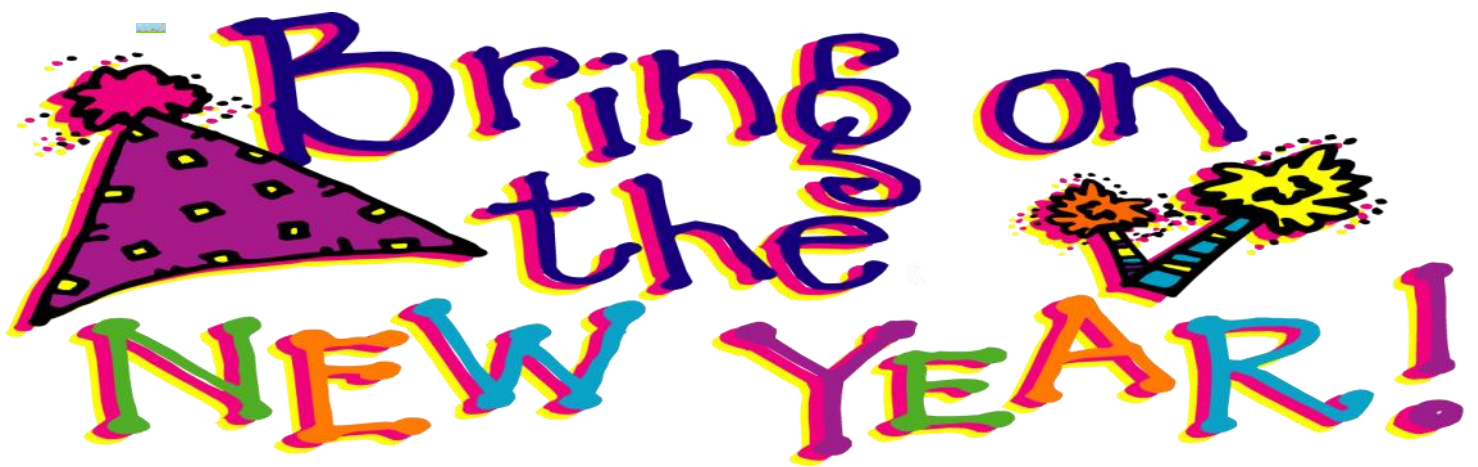
Whenever you can't reach anyone in the church office please call

Pastor Randy Moe @ 612-296-1210 or

Karen Moe @ 612-296-7072.

They will either handle the situation or know who is on call.

Thank you for your understanding.



## *January Calendar*

Sun	Jan 5	Worship	9:00am
		Communion	
		Sunday School	10:00am
Wed	Jan 8	Confirmation	6:00pm
		Council Meeting	7:00pm
Sunday	Jan 12	Worship	9:00am
		Allen Gislason	
		Sunday School	10:00am
Wed	Jan 15	Confirmation	6:00pm
Sunday	Jan 19	Worship	9:00am
		Sunday School	10:00am
Wed	Jan 22	Potluck Supper	6:00pm
		Annual Meeting	7:00pm
Thur	Jan 23	Circle of Stone	7:00pm
		Home of Sharon Anderson	
Sunday	Jan 26	Worship	9:00am
		Sunday School	10:00am

**Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)  
Council Minutes  
November 13, 2019 at 8:00 PM**

Devotions: John

Meeting called to order at 8:10 by Moderator John Butterbrodt. Council members present: Bea Reed, Dennis Holtz, John Butterbrodt, Konnie Holtz, Peggy Kvam, Sharon Anderson, Spencer Kvam, Steve Zumhofe, Sue Selden. Pastor Randy Moe was also present.

1. Review, Modify and Approve the Agenda: Add: 7D—Budget proposal; 7E—Memorials, Bequests & Special Gifts account; 7F—Audit. Approved as amended: Spencer/Bea/U

2. Minutes of October 9, 2019, meeting: Approved: Peggy/Bea/U

3. Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Meeting in December to change over CD and set date for confirmation.

Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership: Discussed Thanksgiving Eve service and preparing for Christmas. Goodie baskets will be filled in December—any donations to help fill about 12 baskets would be appreciated. Nov. 30 we will decorate Christmas tree and Dec. 1 will be Christmas service.

Building and Maintenance: Steve set the timer on the light in the bell tower, but Bea noticed it hasn't come on. He will check it again. The entryway ceiling is done and light installed. Keith Koerlin will replace the light in the spare office with an LED one and replace outlets that are too loose for the prongs to stay connected.

Stewardship: November's mission emphasis is the Food Shelf and December's is the Christmas Fund, also known as Veterans of the Cross. The committee also prepared a budget proposal.

Memorials & Bequests: Scholarships were presented to Ali Ator and Julia Kvam and money was donated to Santa's Sleigh and Trailer of Mercy. They will meet again in December to disburse the rest of their funds.

Pastor/Parish Relations Committee: John has not yet contacted all members about activating their committee.

Wider Church Happenings: Rick Wagner will retire in February.

Accept reports: Spencer/Bea/U

4. Financial Report: There is currently \$15,510 in the checking account. The replacement office floor mat will come out of maintenance/supply. Konnie noted that there is a large discrepancy between income and amount budgeted for the year. Sharon will order new forms for the Financial Secretary.

5. Pastor's Report: Randy thanked the council for their support and encouragement. He will check the microphone that failed on Sunday and any other old equipment we have and see what needs to be purchased.

6. Old Business:

Church bell: The bell will probably need to be wired directly.

Sidewalk snow removal: John talked to Stan and he will do the sidewalks for about \$25 each time.

Becoming a Creation Justice Church: John shared information about the Granite Falls Light and Power R4 Solar Program. He feels the church should make a positive effort to generate clean, renewable energy. More information will be gotten about the costs.

Air Conditioning for Sanctuary: Dennis shared bids from both Bisbee & Ims. Bisbee quoted a 4-ton unit at \$10,450 plus the cost of wiring on the electrical panel. If we need a second 2-ton unit it would be \$5,350. Ims quoted two 2-ton units at \$9,250 plus electrical work. Troy's Electric would increase panel space and add split for AC unit at \$1,860 which includes inspection fees and labor. Motion to buy an air conditioner for the sanctuary not to exceed \$15,000. Peggy/Sharon. Motion carried on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 1 nay, and 1 abstention. This will be on the agenda for the annual meeting to discuss a campaign to pay for it.

7. New Business:

A. Thanksgiving Eve service: A small ad will be purchased in the Advocate-Tribune, to include a notice in the Brieflies column. Granite Falls Lutheran and St. Andrews are both participating in the service. There will also be an ecumenical choir.

B. Randy Moe contract renewal for annual meeting: Randy has not completed the UCC licensure yet, but will make an effort to complete it before annual meeting. John will put a notice in the Encounter about renewal of Randy's contract or changing it to a called position at the annual meeting.

C. Advent & Christmas services: Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00.

D. Budget proposal: Sue presented the budget proposal prepared by the Stewardship Committee. This will be shared with the congregation at the Budget discussion after church on December 8.

Banking: Motion to authorize Konnie Holtz to transfer Memorials, Bequests & Special Gifts' savings account from Citizens

Alliance bank to a checking account at Granite Falls Bank. Spencer/Sharon/U

Motion to make signatories on Memorials, Bequests & Special Gifts' checking account be the Treasurer, Constance M. Holtz, and Clerk, Susan J. Selden. Peggy/Dennis/U

Audit: Internal review of books hasn't been done yet. Konnie does not have all the records for the full year. John will contact Janie about getting access to the records so Tammy Anderson can go over them. Konnie also need to know if the 1099 forms have been completed yet.

8. Church Use Requests: No forms submitted, but the YME band would like to use the kitchen to bake cookies for their fundraiser coming up. The council will do the approval by email when the form is submitted.

10. Devotions for Next Meeting: Spencer.

11. Next meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 8:00 PM.

11. Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 10:30: Peggy/Konnie/U

## ***A Letter From Pastor Randy***

### **Another Year; Another Chance**

At the beginning of a new year, we naturally think of fresh starts and second chances. Many of us make resolutions to change our behavior. We want to lose weight, get in shape, be kinder and better. But all too often our resolutions fall by the wayside. The fitness centers that are crowded in early January are empty by March. If we rely on our own efforts at self-discipline, we often fail.

Fortunately for us as followers of Jesus, we are not left to our own devices when it comes to doing better at the things that are truly important. In Luke 13, Jesus told a parable about a fig tree that was growing, rather incongruously, in a vineyard.

***A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'***

Jesus made it clear that he wants us to bear fruit for God's kingdom. This fruit is the result of our living out the command to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

As believers, we want to follow this command, and we often resolve to follow it. But if we try to bear this fruit on our own, we are like the unfruitful fig tree. Left on our own, we would be worthy only to be cut down. But God doesn't leave us to bear fruit on our own. Jesus promises to feed and nourish us, and to give us what we need in order to grow in our faith and bear fruit for God's kingdom.

As believers, we are strange and different in this world, much like the fig tree seemed out of place in the vineyard. That means that as we bear the fruit of love for God and love for our neighbor, we will stand out and make a difference.

My hope for this new year is that we, both individually and as a congregation, will stand out in our community as the bearers and sharers of God's amazing love: loving because we are loved, and giving because we are forgiven.

Dear Members and Friends:

Our church will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, January 22. A potluck dinner will be served at 6:00 and the meeting will follow at 7:00. Please mark the date on your new 2020 calendars, plan to come for the meal and to stay for the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting has not yet been finalized, but the following list is a good approximation:

1. A review of our church's activities in 2019.
2. Approval of the 2020 budget.
3. Contract renewal for Randy Moe.
4. Reconsider the start time for Sunday service.
5. Investment of funds from parsonage sale.
6. Solar panel(s) subscription: becoming a creation justice church.
7. Financing the cost of sanctuary air conditioning.
8. Highway cleanup. Do we wish to continue?

2020 Meatball Dinner

A renewal of Pastor Randy Moe's contract is the agenda item of greatest importance. Randy began serving our church in early July and his initial contract is now due for renewal. The church council has been well satisfied with Randy's service, but the council would like additional input from our membership. There are two avenues by which that input can be gathered.

One way is to contact a member of the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee and offer your thoughts on Randy's service to date. This committee is designed to operate in an open and confidential manner and is intended to be a forum where concerns between the pastor and congregation members can be aired. Members of this committee are Randy Moe, John Butterbrodt, Joel Beninga, Dick Anderson, and Vick Zumhofe. As we approach the annual meeting, this committee can be used to solicit input from our membership. Please take advantage of these committee members to share your thoughts either in person or by phone. Phone contact information:

John Butterbrodt: (H): 546-3306

(C): 320-226-9024

Vicke Zumhofe: (H): 564-4586

(C): 320-212-1826

Joel Beninga: (H): 564-2467

(C): 320-905-6566

Dick Anderson: (H): 564-0964

Alternatively, you can speak up at the annual meeting when we consider the contract renewal.

Because the first alternative promises confidentiality, it is the alternative that works the best if there are problems and concerns. If people are happy, confidentiality is generally not an issue. One way or another, your church council is looking to our membership for feedback on his first half year of service.

Faithfully, John Butterbrodt, Moderator