

**GRANITE FALLS  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
210 Ninth Avenue  
Granite Falls MN 56241  
Change Service Requested  
THE ENCOUNTER  
January 2024 Issue #1**

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY**

**PASTOR: Cynthia Huse and Lay Leaders      OFFICE ASSISTANT: Lisa Putz  
MODERATOR: John Butterbrodt              NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lisa Putz  
TREASURER: Sharon Olson**

**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**

**OFFICE HOURS: 7:30AM-12:30PM  
Monday and Wednesday  
WEB SITE: [www.granitefallsucc.org](http://www.granitefallsucc.org)**

# JANUARY 2024

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

### January 2024

January 7: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 14: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 21: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 28: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

### Mission Emphasis's

#### January: Justice & Witness

Doing justice, seeking peace and building community are central to the identity of the United Church of Christ. Join us in building a stronger faith-based movement for peace, justice, equality and inclusivity.



## *January Calendar*

<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 1</b>	<b>New Year's Day Office closed</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 2</b>	<b>Take Note Rehearsal</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 3</b>	<b>Healing Connections Grief Support</b>	<b>10:30-12</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 4</b>	<b>Coffee and Fellowship</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 7</b>	<b>Worship w/Pastor Cynthia Huse and Communion</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 8</b>	<b>Circle of Stones</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>Church Council</b>	<b>6 :00 pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 11</b>	<b>Coffee and Fellowship</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 14</b>	<b>Worship w/Karen Schmidt-Dill</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Mon-Fri</b>	<b>January 15-19</b>	<b>DAYD Deliveries</b>	<b>Mornings</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 16</b>	<b>LAHBL Grief Support</b>	<b>11:30-1:00</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 18</b>	<b>Coffee and Fellowship</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 21</b>	<b>Worship w/Lay Leader</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
		<b>Annual Meeting</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 25</b>	<b>Coffee and Fellowship</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 28</b>	<b>Worship with Karen Schmidt-Dill</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 30</b>	<b>Take Note Rehearsal</b>	<b>Evening</b>

All church services are in person and on FB live.



## *January Special Days*

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

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

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023 (6:00 pm)**

**Devotions:** John

Moderator John Butterbrodt called the meeting to order at 6:04. Members present: Bea, Bryan, Dennis, John, Peggy M, Sharon A, Sharon O, Spencer & Sue.

**1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda:** Add to 7A—Compensation & hours. Approve as modified: Spencer/Dennis/U.

**2. Review, Modify and Approve Minutes of October 11, 2023:** Approve: Dennis/Spencer/U.

**3. Committee Reports**

**A. Christian Education:** Materials for Sunday School are available if needed. Circle of Stones is reading Soul Boom.

**B. Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership:** Sundays are set up into January. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> fellowship will be done by Katie Kvam. Gift bags were prepared last Sunday.

**C.** Sharon A has the fellowship money divided up for Christmas cards.

**D. Building and Maintenance:** Railings were installed. Thanks to Bea who donated the cost. Dennis met with Rob Bremer about the threshold on the south door and they will replace the threshold to smooth the entry. The light in the bell tower still needs replacing.

**E. Stewardship:** December mission emphasis is the Christmas Fund and January will be Justice & Witness. The 2024 Budget Proposal was shared with the congregation on Dec. 4th. The committee will meet again in February to assign mission moments.

**F. Memorials and Bequests:** The committee recommended the following disbursements: \$600 scholarships to Samone Farris, Steven Kvam and Kaylia Vavricka; \$200 for Chamber dues; \$1000 for the Dr. Kathleen Jordan Project; \$1200 to the UCC National office's world disaster relief fund; \$800 for special church needs. Approve expenditures: Dennis/Peggy/U.

**G. Pastor Parish Committee:** Not met.

**H. Wider Church Happenings:** Shari Prestemon has moved to Cleveland for her new National UCC job.

**I.** Approve reports: Spencer/Bryan/U.

**4. Financial Report:** Bank balance for November 30<sup>sh</sup> is \$23,174.46. Sharon O received paperwork to complete before the Worker's Comp audit, which will probably be in January. She will also check with H&R Block on what forms are needed for Lisa Putz. Approve report: Sue/Spencer/U.

**5. Pastor's Report:** None

**6. Old Business**

**A. Display Case for Bible:** Bryan has measured the items to into the case and has described what he plans to build.

**B. Church Secretary:** Lisa Putz hired.

**C. Handrails to Access Altar Area:** Railings installed..

**D. West Side Retaining Wall:**

**E. Welcome ceremony for Cynthia Huse:** Welcome service held on December 10.

**F. Ongoing Pulpit Supply:**

- Cynthia Huse will serve communion Sundays with flexibility to reschedule it as needed. Karen Schmidt-Dill will lead worship two Sundays a month.

- Lay readers will fill in on remaining Sundays as needed.
- The possibility of getting a Seminary student to come out to preach. John is hopeful that the Emily Meyer connection could help.

## 7. New Business:

- A. **Compensation for new church secretary Lisa Putz:** Motion to hire Lisa Putz at \$15/hour for 10 hours/week: Spencer/Peggy/U.
- B. **Adjustments for Compensating Cynthia Huse for pulpit supply:** Cynthia suggested bringing our pulpit supply figure to \$200 plus mileage for out-of-town speakers. Motion to make this effective January 1, 2024: Bryan/Bea/U. Cynthia withdrew her request for mileage on the Sundays she plays piano.
- C. **2024 Church Budget Consideration:** Sue presented the budget proposal. The pulpit supply figure was adjusted to \$600 in light of the compensation change. Withholding will be added to the Secretary/SS line. Since Lisa will be working fewer hours than figured into this budget proposal, the difference should cover that payment. Until we have a new minister, expenses for Cynthia and Karen on Sundays will be taken out of the minister's salary line item.
- D. The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 21, 2024, after the service with fellowship: Spencer/Bea/U. The announcement of the meeting will begin December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- E. **Innovation Culture Index: Organize to Administer Survey:**
- F. **The Innovation Culture Index (ICI) is 40 questions online. A paper copy can be used and data entered by a trusted leader (Karen volunteered to do this). It measures congregational vitality and resilience, the ability to navigate change. We need as large a group as possible and a broad range of people to answer it. Emily Meyer will come out and go over the results with the Council and other designated members. There would also be a debrief session with 5-10 congregational leaders to discuss what was learned and what our next steps might be. We would also have the option of participating in an 18-month Transformational Lab (cost about \$4000, but MN Conference offsets some and a small amount available from Innovation Lab). This would be done with a team of 5-7 members in monthly meetings and the leader meets with Emily an extra time each month. There would be projects for the Team to complete between meetings. The Transformational Lab will be discussed with the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.** John received the packet of follow-up questions. In January we will have people complete the survey. Directions will be printed in the Encounter and the church computer will be made available for use.
- G. **Allocation of Undesignated Offertory Gifts:** About \$200 came in this year. It was decided to leave it in the general fund.
- H. **Meatball Dinner:** The Meatball Dinner will take place on February 13, 2024: Sharon O/Spencer/U.

## 8. Church Use Requests: No new requests.

- ◆ Take Note is rehearsing here Tuesday evenings.
- ◆ LAHBN requests:
  - ◇ Tuesday 11:30-1:00, for Grief Group. This will continue as a monthly session with dates set for the following months at each meeting. Dates unknown
  - ◇ Wednesdays December 13, 20, 27 and Jan 3, 10:30-12:00, for Healing Connections Aftercare.

## 9. Devotions for Next Meeting: Karen

(John / Karen Schmidt-Dill / Peggy / Spencer / Steve / Sue / Sharon A / Bea / Sharon O / Bryan)

## 10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 (6:00 pm).

## 11. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer: 7:32, Sue/Spencer/U.

HELLO ALL-

I would like to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Lisa Putz. I was hired to be the new office assistant. I have met a few of you and want to thank you for welcoming me to UCC. I am going thru a lot of changes in my life, so please bare with me as I adjust to life, and the effects it will have on the hours the office will be open. I hope this will be the last time I need to change them for awhile.

I have lived in Granite Falls for about 3 years now with my husband and 2 children, but I have lived within 45 miles of here for almost my whole life. I grew up in Vesta and have been coming to Granite to get ice cream from DQ and watch the pelicans down by the dam since I was a child.

A few things to know about me: I love candy; cooking and baking; spring and fall; being in nature, especially Lake Superior area; and photography, which I have been dabbling in for the last few years.



## Additional information



The Annual Meeting is January 21, immediately following the service during fellowship. Please try to have the annual reports to the office by January 7, to make sure there is time to get it typed up.

The Office hours will be changing Starting January 1, 2024. The days will remain the same, Monday and Wednesday. The hours will be changed to 7:30AM– 12:30PM.

**Circle of Stones** will be meeting January 8th at 2:00.

We will be discussing chapter 3 from the book Soul Boom.



### **DAYD News—January 2024**

Thank you to the Dinner At Your Door drivers who volunteered for December 2023: Joel Beninga, Lynn Holmstrom, Bea Read, Sharon Anderson and Gene/Helen Stukel.

**Our Church's next DAYD opportunity will be January 15-19. The driver's list will be due to Henry Hill on Thursday, January 11.**

**Drivers are needed for Monday, January 15; Tuesday, January 16; Wednesday, January 17; Thursday, January 18; Friday, January 19.**

To sign up to drive and/or for questions about DAYD, please call or text Helen @ 507-828-0565.

The 2024 DAYD Four Week Rotation M-F Delivery Schedule is posted on the upstairs hallway bulletin board.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2024</b>	1 Office closed	2 Dr. Jordan Committee Meeting @10 Take Note Rehearsal –Evening	3 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30 Healing Connections Grief Support @10:30	4 Coffee Hour 10:00	5	6
7 Worship with Pastor Cynthia and Communion Sunday	8 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30 Circle of Stones 3:00	7 Take Note Rehearsal-Evening	10 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30 Church Council @6:00	11 Coffee Hour @10	12	13
14 Worship with Karen Schmidt-Dill	15 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30 DAYD Deliveries	16 DAYD Deliveries LAHBN Grief Support @11:30 Take Note Rehearsal-Evening	17 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30 DAYD Deliveries	18 DAYD Deliveries Coffee Hour @10	19 DAYD Deliveries	20
21 Worship Service with Lay leader Annual Meeting	22 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30	23 Take Note Rehearsal-Evening	24 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30	25 Coffee Hour @10	26	27
28 Worship with Karen Schmidt-Dill	29 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30	30 Take Note Rehearsal-Evening	31 Office Hours 7:30- 12:30			