

GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
July 2025 Issue #7

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY
PASTOR Matt Danielson
OFFICE VOLUNTEER: Peggy Kvam
TREASURER: Sharon Olson

MODERATOR: Bea Read
SECRETARY: Katie Kvam

CHURCH ADDRESS: 210 NINTH AVENUE, GRANITE FALLS, MN 56241 CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS:
uccgf@mvtvwireless.com
CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442

OFFICE HOURS: 10:00AM-12:30PM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
WEB SITE: www.granitefallsucc.org

Weekly Scripture Readings for July 2025

- July 2: Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66: 1-9; Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- July 13: Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
- July 20: Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
- July 27: Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

Mission Emphasis for July: Living at Home/Block Nurse Program

The July mission emphasis is the Living at Home/Block Nurse Program (LAH/BN). LAH/BS is a community program that draws upon the volunteer services of local residents to provide information, social and support service for their elderly neighbors to help them remain independent in their homes.

DAYD News –July

Thanks to the drivers who volunteered and are scheduled for the DAYD M-Th, June 30-July 1, 2, 3: Sharon Anderson/Peggy Kvam, Bea Read, Sharon Olson, Joel Beninga.

Our Church's next DAYD opportunity will be July 28-August 1, 2025.

The driver's list will be due to Henry Hill on Thursday, July 24, 2025.

Drivers will be needed: Monday, July 28; Tuesday, July 29;

Wednesday, July 30; Thursday, July 31; Friday, August 1.

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

The 2025 DAYD Four Week Rotation M-F Delivery Schedule is posted on the upstairs hallway bulletin board.

Worship Leaders and Liturgists for July-August 2025

- June 29, 2025
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Cynthia Huse
- July 2, 2025 (6 p.m potluck; 7 pm worship)
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Helen Stukel
- July 6, 2025 NO SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE- July 4th Weekend
- July 13, 2025
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Karen Schmidt-Dill
- July 20, 2025
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Steve Zumhofe
- July 27, 2025
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Sue Selden
- August 3, 2029
 - Worship leader: Beverly Crute
 - Liturgist: Cynthia Huse
- August 10, 2025
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Helen Stukel
- August 17, 2025
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Karen Schmidt-Dill
- August 24, 2025
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Steve Zumhofe
- August 27, 2025 (6 p.m. potluck; 7 pm worship)
 - Worship leader: Matt Danielson
 - Liturgist: Sue Selden
- August 31, 2025 NO SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE- Labor Day Weekend

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)
Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday May 18th at 11:00 AM

Moderator Bea Read called the meeting to order at 11:00. Members present: Bea, Bryan, Matt, Peggy M, Sharon A, Sharon O & Sue.

Devotions: Sharon Olson

- 1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda:** Add 7A—Wednesday services; 7B—Saron church; 7C—Call agreement. Approve as modified: Sue/Sharon O/U.
- 2. Review, Modify and Approve Minutes of April 27th, Council Meeting and May 4th Special Meeting :** Sharon A/Peggy/U.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Christian Education:** Circle of Stones will continue to meet once a month at Pearl's (if she lets us!). Our new book for Bible study is by Max Lucado, Life Lessons: Acts Christ's Church in the World. Peggy will have books available in the office. The next meeting is June 26, 2025 at 2:00 pm at Pearl's.
- b. Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership:** Met May 12: planning for Lent next year; down to 59 members after Karen Moe requested her removal; Wednesday services are July 2 & August 26 with potluck meal at 6:00 followed by worship; Helen got Diane Baker to make red paraments for Pentecost; banners & flowers will be changed June 1; the committee is cleaning out the flower closet on Monday.
Matt suggested possibly moving the altar forward instead of using the lectern in the center. After some discussion, it was decided that maybe the communion table would work with a smaller lectern on it. Matt and Bryan will work out what will be best for Matt.
- c. Building and Maintenance:** Dennis contacted Jack Anderson, who put an LED light in the sanctuary pendant. He will also look at the bell ringer when he gets the boom truck. Sharon A asked that he check the light switch for the stained glass window, as it is blinking again.

d. Stewardship: The mission emphasis for May is Strengthen the Church and in June, we will focus on Project Turnabout instead of the YME school district as we have in the past.

e. Memorials and Bequests: Not met.

f. Pastor Parish committee: Not met.

g. Wider Church Happenings: We received the MN Conference Generosity Report, which lists us among the churches donating to them. Sharon A will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting.

Approve reports: Bryan/Peggy/U.

4. Financial Report: Sharon O presented the monthly financial reports and spreadsheet for review for the church checking account, savings account and the Memorials, Bequests and Special Gifts account. The balance in checking at the end of April is \$47,648.03. Sharon O let Matt know about completing the withholding form. Todd Soderstrom did a good job on taking care of the snow and also did sidewalks and steps. Sharon O checked on the solid waste tax for the county and we pay that even though we are tax-exempt otherwise. Accept report: Peggy/Bryan/U.

5. Pastor's Report: Matt has just been pulpit supply so far and will start doing a Pastor's report next month.

6. Old Business

a. Church Organ: Directions for recording not done yet. Sharon O noted that the check to New Life has not yet been cashed.

b. Rail for 3 steps by east door: Steve Laraby has completed his other job and will do this soon.

c. Checking on bell: Sharon O did contact other churches about their bell systems and shared that information.

d. Water spigot in front of church: Has not been added yet.

7. Business

a. Wednesday services: See 3B.

- b. Saron church:** Matt invited Saron church members to the Wednesday services. An invitation to join our Facebook group hasn't worked. Katie is now an admin for our Facebook page and is working on making it accessible. We also need to get rid of the old dead Facebook page. If Katie needs help, she can contact Andrew Rosenau.
- c. Call agreement:** Motion to sign the call agreement, effective June 1: Sharon O/Peggy/U. Bea, Sharon O, Sue & Matt signed. Copies of signed agreement go to MN Conference, ELCA office in Redwood Falls, Matt, and church files. We will revisit the Call agreement at the December Council meeting. Matt's installation service will be Wednesday, July 2nd. Sharon A will talk to the MN Conference about having someone come out if possible.

8. Church Use Requests:

Take Note on Tuesday evenings.

Living at Home Block Nurse Program

Tuesdays: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Grief Group

Wednesdays: Healing Connections Aftercare

~~Grief Support Group: Monday April: 7, 14, 28, May: , 12, 19, June: 2, 9:~~

Canceled due to low number of participants.

9. Devotions for Next Meeting: Bryan M

Devotion Rotation: (Karen Schmidt-Dill / Peggy / Spencer / Sue / Sharon A/ Bea / Sharon O/ Bryan)

10. Next Meeting: June 22, 2025 11:00 am.

11. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer: Sue/Bryan/U.

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)
Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday June 22nd 2025 11:00 am

Moderator Bea Read called the meeting to order at 10:50. Members present: Bea, Bryan, Matt, Peggy M, Sharon A, Sharon O, Spencer & Sue.

Devotions: Bryan M—Sharon A subbed for Bryan.

1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda: Add 7A—Wireless Mic; 7B—Camera; 7C—Website & Facebook. Approve as modified: Sue/Spencer/U.

2. Review, Modify and Approve Minutes of May18th Council Meeting: Sharon O/Bryan/U.

3. Committee Reports

a. Christian Education: Not met.

b. Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership: Helen is preparing the list for pastor & liturgist through October.

c. Building and Maintenance: Dennis & DuWayne replaced shrubs & repaired water lines. The spigot is in as well as the gate.

d. Stewardship: June mission emphasis is Project Turnabout and July will be Living at Home/Block Nurse.

e. Memorials and Bequests: Not met. Sharon O said that the welfare people would like a portable system for getting help. Konnie will check on the cost and they will discuss it next meeting.

f. Pastor Parish committee: Not met.

g. Wider Church Happenings: Sharon A read a summary of the Conference Annual Meeting sent out by the MN Conference. Theme: Together—to equip the saints for the work of ministry. We are to hold July 23rd for a possible candidate for the Conference Minister position.

Accept reports: Spencer/Bryan/U.

4. Financial Report: Sharon O presented the monthly financial reports and spreadsheet for review for the church checking account, savings account and the Memorials, Bequests and Special Gifts account. The balance in checking at the end of May is \$53,723.19. Pay for Rita has been made at the new rate back to January. Approve: Spencer/Bryan/U.

5. Pastor's Report: Matt hasn't heard from either the MN Conference or the ELCA office about his change in standing. He needs a new Letter of Call to take to the courthouse to update his status. He will reach out again. Sharon A will contact the conference about a date for Matt's Installation Service. Matt's new pay begins June 1. He also needs a list of people to visit. The baptism Matt did will be recorded in our church records.

6. Old Business

a. Church Organ

b. Rail for 3step east door inside: Steve will look at it on Tuesday.

c. Checking on the bell: John is still waiting for the lift.

d. Water spigot outside west side of building in (front): Installed but no bill received yet.

7. New Business

a. Wireless Mic: Sharon A talked to Andrew Rosenau who said he could hook it up, but he thinks we should also have a separate mic to use to walk around. Matt would prefer a lapel mic to a headset. Ron from New Life said he thinks the problem might be in the cable. Bryan & Dennis will continue to follow up on this.

b. Camera: Matt suggested we look into a more permanent camera setup. Ron might know about cost and setup for this kind of system.

c. Website & Facebook: Facebook has a policy that a private group cannot become a public group. It might be more practical to work through our website. We can talk to Andrew about how we can change things. Matt is willing to help keep the website up to date.

8. Church Use Requests:

Take Note on Tuesday evenings.

Living at Home Block Nurse Program

Tuesdays: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Grief Group

Wednesdays: Healing Connections Aftercare

9. Devotions for Next Meeting: Karen Schmidt Dill: Bryan will be backup.

Devotion Rotation: (Karen Schmidt-Dill/Peggy/Spencer/Sue/Sharon A/Bea/Sharon O/Bryan)

10. Next Meeting: August 20, 2025: 6:00 on Wednesday evening.

11. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer: 10:35; Spencer/ Bryan/U.

Church Calendar for July 2025

- June 30-July 4 – Dinner at Your Door
- July 2 – Potluck at 6 p.m., service at 7 p.m.
- July 6 – No service today!
- July 10 – Living at Home/Block Nurse 25th anniversary celebration
- July 13 – Service, 9:30 a.m.
- July 20 – Service, 9:30 a.m.; Prairie Arts Board meeting, 2-4 p.m.
- July 24 – Circle of Stones, 2 p.m.
- July 27 – Service, 9:30 a.m.

July Birthdays

July 2	Darrell Carter
July 8	Karla Slettedahl
July 10	Julia Sobaszkiewicz (Kvam)
July 11	Janelle Kompelien
July 17	Tom Bukowski; Jacob Anderson
July 18	Peggy Kvam
July 26	Alison Ator
July 27	Karen Schmidt-Dill

July Anniversaries

July 2	Jeff & Sheila VanOverbeke
July 11	Bill & Sue Krinke
July 19	Helen & Gene Stukel

Service changes for July and August!

Two Wednesday evening services with a potluck meal are planned for July 2nd and August 27th. They will replace our Sunday services: on July 6th for the July 4th weekend and on August 31st for the Labor Day weekend.

Potluck Picnic w/fellowship downstairs begins at 6 p.m. – please bring a dish to pass!

Evening Worship at 7 p.m. in sanctuary with Pastor Matt Danielson. Everyone is welcome!

Remember: No Church services on Sunday, July 6 and Sunday, August 31!

Notes from Members and Friends

"I cannot thank the United Church of Christ and Kiwanis enough for making these Crunch Labs classes happen. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff. Thank you to all the parents and their dedication to getting the kiddos geniuses there every week. Thank you to the Kid Geniuses! I hope you had fun and love what engineering can be and what bringing awesome people together can do! Thank you all!

Michelle and the Granite Falls Library"