

GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
March 2025 Issue #3

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY
OFFICE VOLUNTEER: Peggy Kvam
TREASURER: Sharon Olson

MODERATOR: Bea Read

CHURCH ADDRESS: 210 NINTH AVENUE, GRANITE FALLS, MN 56241 CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS:

uccgfmn@gmail.com

CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442

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

www.granitefallsucc.org

March 2025

Weekly Scripture Readings for March 2025

- March 2: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36
- March 9: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
- March 16: Genesis: 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
- March 23: Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9
- March 30: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mission Emphasis for March: One Great Hour of Sharing

The March mission emphasis is One Great Hour of Sharing, one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

March Birthdays

March 1	Jordan Patke (Beninga) Jessie VanOverbeke
March 5	Greg Holmstrom
March 9	Marty Bergman
March 11	Zach Kopke
March 15	Brailee VanOverbeke
March 21	Katie Kvam
March 22	Bill Krinke LaVonne Mogard
March 26	Sharon Olson
March 29	Sally Thoma
March 30	Ron Bergman

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)
Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday February 16, 2025 at 11:00AM

UNAPPROVED

Assistant Moderator Spencer Kvam called the meeting to order at 11:15. Members present: Bea, Bryan, Karen, Peggy M, Sharon A, Sharon O, Spencer & Sue.

Devotions: Sharon Anderson

1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda: Bryan/Bea/U.

2. Review, Modify and Approve Minutes of January 15, 2025 & January 19, 2025 Council Meetings:
January 15: Karen/Peggy/U. January 19: Bryan/Karen/U.

3. Committee Reports

a. Christian Education: Not met.

b. Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership: Beverly & Rita have agreed to do the Ash Wednesday service. We will have soup & bread at 6:00 and a Lenten study from the Conference beginning March 12. Palm fronds are being ordered for the Palm Sunday service.

c. Building and Maintenance: A back pew was removed to make access to the sound system easier.

d. Stewardship: February mission emphasis is MN Food Share and March will be One Great Hour of Sharing.

e. Memorials and Bequests: Not met.

f. Pastor Parish committee: Not met

g. Wider Church Happenings: None
Approve reports: Sue/Bryan/U.

4. Financial Report: The monthly financial reports and spreadsheet were presented 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 January is \$41,695.69. Accept report: Karen/Sharon A/U.

5. Pastor's Report:

6. Old Business

a. Church Organ: The purchase of a CD set of music from our hymnal and a bid from New Life Communications to wire the organ to the sound system for recording were both approved by email. Randy also thinks he found a Yamaha MDF3 unit that we could use to replace the old one. Sue told him to go ahead and purchase it, but no further information yet. We need to make sure that both functions will operate without interference.

b. Church Secretary Job Description: Motion to accept both Office Assistant and Office Volunteer job descriptions as written: Peggy/Karen/U.

c. Search Committee: The committee assumed a half-time position for preparing the church profile. Motion to adopt the profile: Sue/Peggy/U.

7. New Business

a. Appointed Committee Positions: Motion to approve Nominating Committee appointment list:
Sharon a/Bea/U.

b. Moderator: Bea Read is willing to be moderator. Motion to appoint her to fill remainder of term:
Sue/Sharon A/U. Two more council members are still needed—notice will be put into the Week at a Glance and announced in church. Spencer will be listed as Vice Moderator & Stewardship rep and Karen as Pastor/Parish rep.

c. Mileage reimbursement: IRS mileage rate has changed. Motion to increase our rate to \$0.70/mile starting with February: Bryan/Peggy/U.

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

Stukels have requested use of the basement for meander weekend October 4-6, 2025. Approve:
Sue/Bea/U.

9. Devotions for Next Meeting: Bea Read

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

10. Next Meeting: March 16, 2025 at 11:00AM.

11. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer: 12:13, Sue/Karen/U.

Additional Information for March 2025

DAYD News – March 2025

Thanks to the drivers who volunteered for the February 2025 DAYD opportunity:
Sharon Anderson, Peggy Kvam, Bea Read, Sharon Olson, Vicky Zumhofe, Joel Beninga.

Our Church's next DAYD opportunity will be March 10-14, 2025.

The driver's list will be due to Henry Hill on Thursday, March 6.

Drivers will be needed: Monday, Mar. 10; Tuesday, Mar. 11; Wednesday, Mar. 12; Thursday, Mar. 13; Friday, Mar. 14.

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.

"Funerals, Feelings, Families, & Forgiveness"

Professional Workshop – Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

Anderson-TeBeest Funeral Home of Granite Falls (845 Hwy 212, Granite Falls, MN 56241)

We're hosting a free 60-minute professional workshop, and we hope you and/or someone from your organization can join us.

Relax with your peers, enjoy a light lunch, and listen as our presenters discuss ways that you can help grieving families. All too often, people who are grieving don't receive the caring support that they need during a time of loss. Anything we say will fall short, but we can listen, ask questions, and help families create a personalized funeral that will help them through the grieving process.

Based on the research conducted by Dr. Alan Wolfelt, the purpose of this program is to help care providers understand the central role played by a funeral (memorial service, tribute, celebration of life, or other gathering) in helping people heal.

There is no limit on how many people you can send to the program. Anyone is welcome, but we are asking for advance registration to assist us in our preparation. Please RSVP via any of the methods listed below. Lunch will be provided, so please register in advance to assist us in the preparation of food, seating, and handouts.

To RSVP, Call 320-564-0900 or email info@andersontebeest.com.

Church Calendar for March 2025

- March 1 (Saturday) – 9:01 a.m.: Meatball Dinner Prep!
- March 2 (Sunday) – 9:30 a.m.: Service
- March 4 (Tuesday) – Meatball Dinner!
- March 5 (Wednesday) – 7 p.m.: Ash Wednesday Service
- March 6 (Thursday) – 11 a.m.: Coffee Hour
- March 9 (Sunday) – 9:30 a.m.: Service
- March 10-14 (Monday-Friday) – Dinner at Your Door
- March 12 (Wednesday) – 6 p.m. : Lenten Soup Service
- March 16 (Sunday) – 9:30 a.m.: Service; Church Council after Service
- March 19 (Wednesday) – 6 p.m. Lenten Soup Service
- March 23 (Sunday) - Service
- March 24 (Thursday) – 2 p.m.: Circle of Stones at Pearl's
- March 26 (Wednesday) – 6 p.m. : Lenten Soup Service
- March 30 (Sunday) – 9:30 a.m.: Service