

GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
September 2026 Issue #9

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: 8-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday
PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m-1 p.m. Thursday
WEBSITE: www.granitefallsucc.org
ONLINE SERVICES: youtube.com/@pastormattdanielson5627

Mission Emphasis for September: Neighbors in Need

The mission emphasis for September is Neighbors in Need. This is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Weekly Scripture Readings for September 2026

- September 2: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
- September 13: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans: 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
- September 20: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 1-16
- September 27: Ezekial 18:1-4,25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Worship Liturgists for September 2026

- September 13: Helen Stukel
- September 20: Karen Schmidt-Dill
- September 27: Sue Selden

Memorial, Bequest & Special Gifts Committee Scholarship Information

The Memorials, Bequests, and Special Gifts Committee is now accepting requests for scholarship assistance for the 2026-2027 academic year. Applications may be picked up at the Church on Sunday mornings or during Church Office hours, typically Tuesday and Thursday mornings. (Questions: Call 320-564-2442) Please return the information to the Church no later than October 1, 2026 for consideration. All church members are welcome to and encouraged to apply.

DAYD News—September 2026

Thanks to the drivers who delivered for DAYD M-F, August 24-28:

- Gene/Helen Stukel,
- Joel Beninga,
- Sharon Anderson/Brad Hall,
- Bea Read, and
- Vic Zumhofe.

Our Church's next DAYD opportunity will be M-F, Sept 21-25. The driver's list will be due to Henry Hill on Thurs., September 17. Drivers will be needed:

- Mon., Sept. 21;
- Tues., Sept. 22;
- Wed., Sept. 23;
- Thurs., Sept. 24;
- Fri., Sept 25.

To sign up to drive or for questions about DAYD, please call or text Helen 507-828-0565. The 2026 DAYD schedule is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Neighbors United Resource Center Food Shelf

Peggy had a chance to chat with Ray Martin at the food shelf last month. While he thanked us for our continued financial support of the food shelf, he also passed along some new and seasonal ways we can help them in their efforts to take care of our community, including:

- Donating extra produce from our gardens
- Bringing in our clean, empty egg cartons to help distribute the eggs a local farmer is able to provide
- Diapers (of any size) and diaper wipes
- Menstrual hygiene products

Feel free to bring your shelf-stable items to church and Peggy can coordinate getting things over to the food shelf on Tuesdays.

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)

Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20th, 2026, 6:00 pm

UNAPPROVED

Moderator Bea Read called the meeting to order at 6:06. Members present: Bea, Bryan, Joel, Matt, Peggy, Sharon A, Sharon O, Spencer, Sue, and Vicke.

Devotions: Sue switched with Sharon.

- 1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda:** No church use requests. Accept as modified: Spencer/Bryan/U.
- 2. Review, Modify and Approve Minutes of the June 18, 2026, Meeting:** Bryan/Spencer/U.
- 3. Committee Reports:**
 - a. Christian Education:** Will meet September 1.
 - b. Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership:** Items discussed: Wednesdays—could have more services next summer, possibly with other churches in the area; Sign—possibly move sign from front to back door and put new sign that can be changed in front—about 10 suggestions turned in for new wording; Joys & Concerns—Matt will demonstrate how last names will not be used on live streaming—written requests for prayers with forms at back of church; TV—Matt would like to do a slide show to go along with Gospel reading; Hymns—try singing all verses to most songs; Crismon—could we update the service; Lent—have services based on our favorite bible verses; Thanksgiving—Thanksgiving Eve service at our church this year; Sunday—possible time change for next year's services.
 - c. Building and Maintenance:** Camera done, north yard finished, A/C & surge protectors in. A suggestion was made to power wash the church again for \$675—wait until next year.
 - d. Stewardship:** August mission emphasis is UCC Disaster Response and September will be Neighbors in Need. We will need to meet to plan more mission moments and the Fall Campaign.
 - e. Memorials and Bequests:** Planning meeting held July 22nd. The changes in the account were gone over and \$165 will be paid for the lawn care. Total in the account is \$14,407.17.

- f. Pastor Parish committee:** The survey was sent to the congregation, but results have not yet been compiled.
 - g. Wider Church Happenings:** The conference will have a virtual meeting for all presiders of the churches. Spencer will attend the board meeting on September 12 in Little Falls.
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 July was \$39,071.28. The 6 CDs were rolled over. Sharon O will submit payments to Hoffman & Brobst and they will file them with the IRS to make sure everything is done correctly. The \$1700 landscaping bill will be reimbursed. The lost \$125 check to Dallas Klucksdahl was discussed and it was decided not to pay to have the check stopped, but ask him to destroy it if found.
Accept report: Spencer/Sue/U.
- 5. Pastor's Report:** can tell us on conference meeting: Matt had a printed report of activities. He attended Preaching Camp at Gustavus, which was very good. He is doing emergency pastoral care for Salem Lutheran.
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. September Meeting with both churches:** Bea is still waiting to hear from Clarkfield on a date.
- 7. New Business**
 - a. Organ:** Stops 1& 2 don't work. Sharon A talked to Randy Moe—he will come and look at it after he gets moved back to Sacred Heart.
- 8. Church Use Requests:**
 - a. None**
- 9. Devotions for Next Meeting:** Sue
 - a. Devotion Rotation (Karen Schmidt-Dill/Peggy/Spencer/Sue/Sharon A/Bea/Sharon O/Bryan/Joel/Vickie)**
- 10. Next Meeting:** Sept 17, 2026, 6:00 pm
- 11. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer:** 6:57, Bryan/Peggy/U. Church

Calendar for September 2026

- Tuesday, September 1 – Christian Ed at 5:01 p.m. in the Conference Room
- Wednesday, September 2 – Potluck at 6 p.m. and Service at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, September 3 – Coffee Hour at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, September 6 – No Service due to Labor Day Weekend
- Thursday, September 10 – Coffee Hour at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, September 13 – Sunday Service at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, September 17 – Coffee Hour at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, September 20 – Sunday Service at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, September 24 – Coffee Hour at 10 a.m.; Circle of Stones at 2 p.m.
- Sunday, September 27 – Sunday Service at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, September 31 – Coffee Hour at 10 a.m.

September Birthdays

- Sept. 3 – Kyle Mooney
- Sept. 6 – Pearl Lenzen, Margaret Zumhofe, Jared Zumhofe, and Karen Halling
- Sept. 8 – Brad Hall
- Sept. 11 – John Dack
- Sept. 12 – Sue Rollins
- Sept. 17 – Steve Zumhofe
- Sept. 25 – Terry VanDerPol
- Sept. 26 – Paul Ledford

Update to our approach to the sharing of Joys and Concerns during Service

Because we are streaming our worship services, it is important that we protect the privacy of those we mention in our joys and concerns and in our prayers. Going forward, we will not be sharing last names from the ongoing prayer concern list or during our joys and concerns. Instead, we ask that you write down the names on the provided form, and we will be taking a moment for the congregation to read the ongoing concerns from the bulletin. Full names will still be provided in the emails sent out from the church office, and they can be shared during the social hour following worship.

Our “Hand to Mouth” Existence

Shopping in a department store, a minister saw a man whom he knew to be the director of the City Mission on Skid Row. Although the minister did not know the director, he wished to be friendly and to encourage the fellow who spent most of each day ministering to those trapped in poverty and/or addiction.



Introducing himself, the minister began asking about the director's work. "How is it going?," queried the clergyman. "It's a hand to mouth existence," came the answer, "God's hand providing for our mouths."

That answer was and is a universal truth. It is true that whether we are "down and out" or "up and in," we exist only because God's hand provides for our mouths.

"Who provides the raven his food?," asks Job (38:41). And someone greater than Job said:

"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink or ... what you will wear: Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:25)

Our Lord reminds us that God always knows what we need and that what is truly important is that we strive first for the Kingdom of God. Then Christ's promise is: "All these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

Good stewards are those who gratefully acknowledge their "hand to mouth existence," and who generously share what God has provided to them for the work of the Kingdom.





MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

Your support can
change lives.

100 people
give \$1000



\$100 can provide
16 hot or frozen
Home Delivered
Meals!

OR

1000 people
give \$100



Prairie Five is experiencing a higher demand for home-delivered meals than we have in available funding. We may need to transition individuals to a waitlist. The waitlist may include current & new participants. We are seeking private donations that will allow older adults to continue to receive meals in Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift & Yellow Medicine counties, rather than implement a waitlist.

If you are interested in donating to the Prairie Five Meals Program, please scan the QR code or mail donations to: Prairie Five Meals, PO Box 159, Montevideo, MN 56265.



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[PrairieFive.org/meals](https://prairiefive.org/meals)