

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
December 2018 Issue #12**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

**PASTOR:
OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN MOE
ORGANIST: JOAN LUNDELL**

**MODERATOR: JOHN BUTTERBRODT
TREASURER: JANIE ATOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR: JEFF IVERSON**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Karen Moe

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

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS: uccgfmn@gmail.com

CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442

PASTOR

CELL PHONE:

G.F. PASTOR'S HOURS:

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

WEB SITE: www.granitefallsucc.org

DECEMBER

Responsibility					
	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
Usher	Steve Zumhofe	Steve Zumhofe	Steve Zumhofe	Steve Zumhofe	Steve Zumhofe
Usher	Vicke Zumhofe	Vicke Zumhofe	Vicke Zumhofe	Vicke Zumhofe	Vicke Zumhofe
Fellowship	Cindy & Cheri Fjermestad	Sue Selden	Steve & Vicke Zumhofe	Spencer & Peggy Kvam	Ron & Marty Bergman
Fellowship	Bea Read	Sally Thoma	Stan & Nellie Kompelein	Rob & Janie Ator	Tammy Anderson
Liturgist	Sharon Anderson	Sue Selden	Steve Zumhofe	Terry VanDerPol	Helen Stukel
Clean Up	Jeff & Sheila Van-OverBeke	Cindy & Cheri Fjermestad	Steve & Vicke Zumhofe	Rob & Janie Ator	Gail Rohlik
Clean Down	NA	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik

Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.

THANK YOU DRIVERS IN November

Cindy and Cheri Fjermestad, LaVonne Koenen, Gayle Inks
Sharon Anderson, Amanda Hall, John Butterbrodt,
Lynne Holmstrom, Dan Maiden, Pearl Lenzen

Your service is greatly appreciated!

Our **UCC D@YD**
Director: Helen Stukel, Treasurer:
Sharon Anderson Coordinator:
Pearl Lenzen

New Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
10:00 am—2:00 pm



From your Secretary!

I want to take this opportunity to tell you how much all of you and this job mean to me. I am so thankful that I get to spend this time with you and serve you as best I can. This past year has been a challenge for you as a congregation and you have handled it with grace and dignity. Your service to your community is huge. I am very honored to be a small part of it all. With Advent upon us we are at the beginning of a new Church Year. As we look forward to the birth of Christ and His Subsequent death and resurrection let us rejoice in the great gift we have been given. May you all have a very blessed Christmas and wonderful New Year! I am waiting with great anticipation to see what is in store for your church in 2019. Karen

THE HEIFER PROJECT

The Heifer Project works in 25 countries and has for over 70 years. Their approach involves enhancing the capacity of vulnerable small-scale farmers, especially women, to secure their livelihoods.

Our collection of noisy offering on the third Sunday of each month goes toward buying animals to support this endeavor. In December of each year we ask the children in the congregation to pick out which animals they would like to "buy" that year. In 2017 this was 1 llama/Alpaca, 1 pig, 1 flock of Chicks and 1 Duck/Geese.

We encourage you to save your change (but we will gladly accept bills) for this monthly mission.

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational) Council Minutes

October 10, 2018 at 7:00 PM Council members present: John, Steve, Janie, Bea, Sharon, Peggy, Spencer, Sue. Devotions: Peggy Kvam

1. Review, Modify and Approve the Agenda: Add 7D—Another nibble. Approve: Peg/Sharon/U
2. Minutes of September 12, 2018 meeting Approve: Sharon/Bea/U
3. Committee Reports:
 - A. Christian Education: Rally Sunday went well. The girls want an attendance chart for their room. Steve put up the Johnny Appleseed banner downstairs.
 - B. Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership: not met
 - C. Building and Maintenance: The clock for the bell tower light was reset and will be changed to 5:00 when DST ends. The air conditioner has been removed from Karen's window and the one downstairs also needs to be taken out. Eric Soine's contract for snow removal will be renewed at the same \$35/push rate. The maple tree needs to have two leaders cut off.

Stewardship: The fall campaign was laid out with the budget being formulated on Oct. 31st so it can be reviewed by Council in November. The Budget Brunch is set for December 9th after church. Women's Fellowship will buy the rolls to serve.

Memorials and Bequests: will meet at the end of the month.
 - F. Pastor Parish Relations Committee: committee not currently active. Wider Church Happenings: Ad for Oct 14th went in the paper. Accept reports: Spencer/Steve/U
4. Financial Report: There is \$8,000 in checking and Janie will move \$3,000 tomorrow. Christian Education needs to reimburse the church for the Sunday School materials. Accept: Peg/Bea/U
5. Moderator's Report: Rick Wagner's visit reviewed. Okogyeamon prep—John reached out to churches and minority communities in the area.
6. Old Business:
 - A. Pulpit supply is set through November.
 - B. John checked with the Willmar business on the microphone—their suggestions were complicated. He would like to experiment some more.
 - C. Bea will move the couch to her garage this weekend. She has someone interested in it. D.Spencer has the data for calculating the amortization on the parsonage.
7. New Business:
 - A. Notices will be put in the paper and sent to area churches about the Thanksgiving Eve service. Sharon will look for older versions that could be updated.
 - B. Finalize details of Okogyeamon's visit: Arrival on Oct. 13th with a room at the Casino. John will check on arrival time and his interest in being shown the church & town and eating dinner out with church members—Kvams, Andersons & Bea are available and other members will be invited. The church will cover the cost of his meals Saturday night and Sunday noon as well as the costs of the Sunday night supper for the workshop. Karen should send out another email inviting everyone to attend both Sunday morning and evening events.
 - C. Follow up on Okogyeamon's expression of interest: During the Saturday evening supper he can be asked about his level of interest/willingness to relocate or commute to Granite Falls. There should also be a follow-up survey of the congregation's reactions to him.
 - D. Another nibble: Rick Wagner sent the resume of Terese Tomanek, currently of Duluth, who is looking for part-time work after retiring as a chaplain. She could be asked to come preach the 1st or 3rd Sunday in December.
8. Church Use Requests: none
9. Devotions for Next Meeting: November 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM: Janie
10. Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 8:50. Spencer/Bea/U

CIRCLE OF STONES



WHEN: Wednesday November 28th 7:00 pm

WHERE: Sally Thoma's home

WHO: Women of the church and friends

WHAT: Bring a Bible, any translation.

Studying The Birth of Jesus I
n the four Gospels

PONDER: The Birth of Jesus:
One Event—Four Narratives

December Birthdays

Dec 5	Calvyn Mooney
Dec 11	Lynn Holmstrom
Dec 15	Ethan Ator

December Anniversaries

Dec 28	Mike & Shelly Gaffaney
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Whenever you can't reach anyone in the church office please call Sharon or Dick Anderson at 320-564-0964 or 320-212-2005. They will know who is on call to handle emergency situations.

December Calendar

Sunday	Dec 2	Worship	9:00 am
		Chrismon Service	
		Choir Practice	10:30 am
Sunday	Dec 9	Worship	9:00 am
		Allen Gislason preaching	
		Choir Practice	10:30 am-
Wed	Dec 12	Council	7:00 pm
Sunday	Dec 16	Worship	9:00am
		Noisy Offering	
		Allen Gislason preaching	
		Choir Practice	10:30 am
Sunday	Dec 23	No Service	
Monday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service	5:00 pm
Sunday	Dec 30	Worship	9:00 am
		Allen Gislason	
		Choir Practice	10:30 am

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- December 2 Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10,
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36
- December 9 Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11,
Luke 3:1-6
- December 16 Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6,
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18
- December 23 Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10,
Luke 1:39-45, 46-50
- December 30 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148,
Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52