

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
September 2020 Issue #9**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

PASTOR: RANDY MOE

OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN MOE

ORGANIST: Randy Moe

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Karen Moe

MODERATOR: JOHN BUTTERBRODT

TREASURER: Konnie Holtz

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Moe

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PASTOR E-Mail: Randy_Moe@ymail.com

CELL PHONE: 612-296-1210

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Saturday 2:00pm-5:00pm or by Appointment

OFFICE HOURS: 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

WEB SITE: www.granitefallsucc.org

SEPTEMBER

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Sept 6 Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20
- Sept 13 Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-25
- Sept 20 Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16
- Sept 27 Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

Anniversaries

Sept 6 Darrell & Hazel Carter

Birthdays

Sept 6 Pearl Lenzen
Margaret Zumhofe
Jared Zumhofe
Karen Halling

Sept 11 John Dack

Sept 12 Sue Rollins

Sept 17 Emily Rollins
Steve Zumhofe

Sept 21 Coleen Odegard

Sept 23 Shelby Nielsen

Sept 25 Terry VanDerPol

Sept 26 Paul Ledford



Confirmation - August 19, 2020

Samone Danielle Farris

&

Kaylia Melin Loraine Vavricka







INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

The mission emphasis for September is the Neighbors in Need fund. This offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third will support the Council for American Indian Ministry and two-thirds will be used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. NIN grants fund UCC churches and organizations doing direct service work and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Please give to the Neighbors in Need fund in your mission giving this month.

REMEMBER TO CONTINUE TO GIVE

Please do not forget that the expenses of the church go on even when we can't be there so it will be appreciated if you continue to send your offerings to the church. You are all the best!

FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE

All requests for financial aid scholarships for the up coming academic year must be received by October 15, 2020. Scholarships are available for camp registration, education, leadership and special training needs. The Memorial, Bequests and Special Gifts committee will meet about that date to consider and allot funds. All church members and friends are encouraged to apply.

OPENING OF THE CHURCH AND OFFICE HOURS

For now we will continue to hold our Sunday Services on FaceBook live at 10:00am with a Zoom coffee hour after. We feel it is safer to do things this way. The Council will revisit this at their September meeting. We have actually been able to connect with some extra people this way. Also please join us on Wednesday evenings for our zoom devotion-coffee time. It is a great way to connect with our church family. The church office will be closed until the church is open for services. I can be reached by email or phone as I am working from home. You can reach Randy at 612-296-1210 and Karen at 612-296-7072

COUNCIL

The church council will be meeting at the church on September 16th at 7:00pm with safety precautions taken. Note change of date!!

CIRCLE OF STONES

Good morning, Circle of Stones will be held on September 17th at 7:00 at the Church. Peggy will TRY to get out a Zoom invitation before that time so all can be there. The topic for September is Simon John of Zebedee. Please check your email and snail mail for a copy of the material and Bible verses for this discussion. Blessings. Peggy

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)

Council Minutes

July 1, 2020

John called the meeting to order at 7:11. Council members present: John, Peggy, Randy, Sharon, Spencer, Sue. Attending by Zoom: Dennis, Konnie.

Devotions: John

1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda: Add 8E—Review commitment to 16 solar panels. Approve as modified: Sharon/Spencer/U.

2. Minutes of March 11, 2020 Regular Council Meeting: Approve: Peggy/Spencer/U.

3. Committee Reports:

Christian Education: not met

Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership: not met

Building and Maintenance: no report

Stewardship: not met

Memorials and Bequests: not met

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: not met, John will talk with Randy to set up a convenient date to meet again.

Wider Church Happenings: Clergy in Metro area, including Shari Prestemon, marched quietly in response to George Floyd slaying.

Accept reports: Spencer/Dennis/U

4. Financial Report: April Maint/Supply expense of \$1348.72 includes the assessment payment, which did not get paid off as previously planned. We owe for 4 more years. We need to put out another appeal to members for pledged funds and mission moment giving. There is currently \$8923.08 in the checking account. Accept: Peggy/Dennis/U.

5. Moderator's Report: The Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting was a 2 ½ hour Zoom meeting in which John participated. Shari Prestemon talked about the unprecedented times and that the issue of racial justice is a priority for all of the UCC. John suggested everyone look up the website about a 21-day racial equity habit building challenge: <https://debbyirving.com/21-day-challenge/>

6. Pastor's Report: Sunday worship and Wednesday night meetings are going well. Randy has been dealing with racism issues—we need to help those people willing to learn and change. John thanked Randy for holding us together.

7. Old Business:

Church Bell: Randy has the mic and cables to install. It was suggested that he contact Keith Koerlin about helping to install them.

Parsonage Fund Investment: John suggested forming a subcommittee to investigate options in addition to the Racial Justice Investing that the UCC offers. Dennis suggested keeping the money local. In addition to CD or money market accounts, Spencer mentioned Thrivent. Dennis will check bank offerings and Spencer will check Thrivent to find the best rate of return on investment and liquidity factors.

Membership Approval of By-Law Changes & D. Membership Approval of Church Start Time: Start time will be left at 10:00 until we have been open for a while, by-law changes need to be announced two weeks prior to a congregational meeting. It was also suggested to continue using internet capabilities when services are open at the church. A good tripod and a tablet would be needed to do this. Randy will check with the conference about the Pandemic Assistance Grant to purchase these items. The internet access needs to be upgraded to cable for reliability. Motion to have Karen and Randy research the best choice and switch our provider accordingly: Peggy/Spencer/U.

Randy Moe Licensure with Minnesota Conference: The interview has not yet been rescheduled. Randy also has to submit transcripts.

Fund Raising for Air Conditioning: We will wait a while before starting an appeal.

8. New Business:

A. Junked Car in Parking Lot: John gave the plate number to the police and they contacted Randy with the name of the owner of the broken-down vehicle, who is from Sacred Heart. John talked to Greg Meyer about removing the vehicle. Motion to give Greg Meyer \$50 for removal: Sharon/Spencer/U.

B. Consider Minnesota Conference Pandemic Assistance Grants: See item 7 C & D.

C. Transient Fund: Designate Differently (YME Food Services): The Stewardship Committee voted by email to switch from the Transient Fund, which is no longer being used, to YME Food Services. There is currently \$370 available from 2019 and earlier this year. Dick Anderson will write up information for the bulletin if anyone wishes to make further donations this year.

D. When do we reopen for in-person Sunday Services?: We will not open yet and when we do it must be done carefully. Randy suggested that Dr. Darrell be involved in the plans. This will be discussed further in August.

Review commitment to 16 solar panels: The panels generated \$182.72 for the 7 months. Another year will cost around \$800 and we might get about half of that in return. We will renew our commitment to the 16 solar panels: John/Peggy/U. John will call the city and get back to Konnie on the amount.

9. Church Use Requests: Bev Nordang's granddaughter will be baptized July 18 in a small, private ceremony.

10. Devotions for Next Meeting: Sue

11. Next Meeting: August 12, 2020 (7:00 PM)

12. Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer: Spencer/Konnie/U