

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
January 2021 Issue #1**

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

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

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS: uccgfmn@gmail.com

CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442

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

JANUARY

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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|--------|--|
| Jan 3 | Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:1-18 |
| Jan 10 | Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11 |
| Jan 17 | 1 Samuel 3:1-20, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51 |
| Jan 24 | Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20 |
| Jan 31 | Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-132, Mark 1:21-28 |

Birthdays

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Jan 27 | Bob Thoma |
| Jan 28 | Spencer Kvam Diane Beninga |
| Jan 30 | Dallas Odegard Cindy Fjermestad |
| Jan 31 | Val Giles |



INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

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!

COUNCIL

The church council will be meeting by zoom on Sunday January 17th at 4:00pm.

CIRCLE OF STONES

Circle of Stones will meet on Thursday, January 21st at 7:00pm by Zoom only. The topic is Mary of Bethany. Lazarus and Martha's sister. Read Luke 10:38-42 and John 11:1-44, 12:1-8.

MISSION EMPHASIS FOR JANUARY IS CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

The mission emphasis for January is Justice and Witness fund. The call to be a multiracial and multicultural church is an acknowledgement that racial justice is the inclusiveness of all humans and never excludes anyone based on skin color, culture, or ethnic origin. The United Church of Christ stands in solidarity with the creation narrative in Genesis 1:26-27, which clearly outlines what matters to God-- all of humankind and a just world for all. God created humankind in God's image and likeness, women and men are image bearers, sharing equal status as human beings. Please make a gift to the Justice and Witness fund.

OPENING OF THE CHURCH AND OFFICE HOURS

For now we will continue to hold our Sunday Services on FaceBook live at 9:30am with a Zoom coffee hour after. (Note Change In Time) We feel it is safer to do things on line rather than in person. We have actually been able to connect with some extra people this way. 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

ANNUAL REPORT

Alas we have come to the end of another year. If you are on any committee of the church or officer that needs to do an annual report it is time to get those into the church secretary. You can email them to me and I will then compile the annual report for a meeting in January 2021. A huge thank you to our Church Council and committee members for all they have done during this past year to keep the church going in trying times.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be on January 27th at 7:00pm by zoom. All annual reports will be sent out by email unless you don't have email access. If you know of someone who needs a paper copy please let me know and I will see that one goes out.

DEAR GFUCC FAMILY,

I would like to thank you for all of your prayers and support over these past few years. My Mom's health had been failing this past year and it was very hard not to be able to be with her in person these past few months because of COVID. My sister was able to be with her last few days, but I know she was not alone. With your prayers and support, I know she was surrounded by God's Love. Blessings to all Peggy

**Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)
Council Minutes
December 13, 2020 (Zoom Meeting)**

Devotions: Peggy

John called the meeting to order at 4:07. Council members present: Bea, Dennis, John, Konnie, Peggy, Randy, Sharon, Spencer, Sue.

Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda: Add 8D—Zoom. Approve as modified: Sharon/Spencer/U.

2. Minutes of November 15, 2020 Council Meeting: Add list of attendees. Approve as modified: Dennis/Konnie/U.

3. Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Not met. Plans: January—Peggy bought a book about kindness for each child; February-May—Bible story with arts & crafts project.

Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership: Decorated church for Christmas. Helen is looking into updating the membership list—2 deaths, 2 transfers in, 2 confirmands added = 85 members.

Building and Maintenance: No report

Stewardship: December is Christmas Fund and January is Justice & Witness.

Memorials and Bequests: Not met. Disbursements approved last meeting were made.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Met today. Encouraged Randy to press ahead on licensure requirements. Recommend offering Randy a new contract which will run until February 2022 to avoid the January gap due to Annual Meeting. Choir Director will be changed to Music/Technology Coordinator and Konnie will pay back pay from September on.

Wider Church Happenings: Sale of Pilgrim Point: Property sold for \$5.4 million to Douglas County (8.2 acres for park) and developer (will be Pilgrim Point Shores). The money will be part of the Pilgrim Point Legacy Fund. The story of Pilgrim Point will be told through interpretive features permanently installed on the property.

Approve reports: Peggy/Sharon/U

4. Financial Report: \$3,199.47 is still owed the Parsonage Fund for the air conditioning installation. The full project was about \$13,000. Approve report: Peggy/Dennis/U.

5. Moderator's Report: None

6. Pastor's Report: Remote services are well-attended and appreciated. Allen Zempel came to today's service. His family would like to hold Audrey's funeral at the church on May 9. The type of service (in person or remote) will be decided on closer to that date.

7. Old Business:

Church Bell: Randy still needs to put an end on the wire to plug in it. This should be done before Christmas Eve service so everyone can ring the bell as they enter the church.

Membership Approval of By-Law Changes: TABLED

Randy Moe Licensure with Minnesota Conference

Fund Raising for Air Conditioning: TABLED

Consider Minnesota Conference Pandemic Assistance Grants

Reimbursement for Greg Meyer (Junked Car Removal): Konnie will give John and check for \$130 and he will cash it and pay Greg for removing the car.

8. New Business:

A. Christmas Eve Service and Church Open Door: Karen should send out an email or letter telling the plans for the service. The Zoom service will be at 5:00. The church will be open 4:00-5:00 and 5:30-6:30 for each family to come in. There will be a devotional reading and self-serve communion with the liturgy for that to use. The Worship/Membership/Sanctuary committee will set things up.

B. Annual Meeting: The meeting will take place on Zoom and it will be recorded and loaded on Facebook for later viewing. The booklets will be emailed and mailed by postal service for those who don't have email. The meeting will be January 27th at 7:00 pm.

C. 2021 Budget Proposal: A couple of changes need to be made to the budget proposal from the Stewardship committee. Choir director changes to Music/Technology and will be put back to \$2700 to match 2020 amount. The Association dues will be \$850. This will be put on the agenda for the January Council meeting.

D. Zoom: Peggy suggested that the church purchase a 1-year Zoom account so that we don't have to limit sessions to 40 minutes. The cost is \$149.90 per year. Randy will purchase the program and get reimbursed for it. Motion: Peggy/Sharon/U.

9. Church Use Requests: None

10. Devotions for Next Meeting: John

11. Next Meeting: Sunday, January 17, 2021, 4:00 PM (Zoom)

12. Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer: Sue/Dennis/U.

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR AND KAREN

Dear Members and Friends of Granite Falls United Church of Christ,

The start of a new year provides an opportunity to look back, as well as to look ahead. As we look back on 2020, it was certainly a year of challenges for all of us. A year that seemed to begin as a “normal” one quickly became a year we could never have anticipated. As a congregation we have made many adjustments to the new reality of living in the Covid pandemic, including worshipping and meeting remotely. We have lost some who were dear to us, and some have gone through times of serious illness. Through all the changes and challenges, God has been faithful to move us forward into new opportunities to grow in our faith and to share the love of Christ with those around us. As we look ahead to 2021 we can be confident that God’s faithful love and care for us will continue. We have every reason to expect this to be a year of new opportunities for each of us to grow and serve. Let’s move forward into this new year with confidence that God has given us a unique mission in our community. With God’s help, we can continue to lift high the cross of Christ, and proclaim God’s love for all.

Karen and I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you for your love and support during this past year, as well as for the congregation’s generous Christmas gift. We appreciate you more than words can express, and we rejoice in being part of Granite Falls United Church of Christ and the mission to which God has called our congregation.

Praying for God’s blessings in 2021 for you and yours,

Pastor Randy and Karen



2021