

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
April 2021 Issue #4**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

PASTOR: RANDY MOE

OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN MOE

ORGANIST: Randy Moe

MODERATOR: JOHN BUTTERBRODT

TREASURER: Konnie Holtz

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Moe

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 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

MARCH

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 4	Acts 10:34-43, Plasm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 13:1-11, John 20:1-18
April 11	Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31
April 18	Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24: 36b-48
April 25	Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Birthdays

April 1	Charlotte Zumhofe
April 3	Sandy Torgerson
April 24	Rob Ator
April 26	Sharon Anderson

Anniversaries

April 12	Bryan & Peggy Mooney
April 14	Spencer & Peggy Kvam
April 29	Rich & Sue Rollins



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 and in person on Sunday April 18 at 2:00pm.

CIRCLE OF STONES

Circle of Stones will meet on Thursday, April 21st at 7:00pm by Zoom and in the church. Masks and social distancing will be observed.

MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL IS CUE

The mission emphases for April is CUE. Since our faith is a living tradition that calls for continual discovery and re-discovery and demands that we equip leaders to interpret the tradition for our own time and place. Never has this call been more important than in these days of change and complexity. Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries are dedicated to the work of strengthening churches by educating leaders who will serve congregations and communities around the world with compassion and justice. Please make a gift to CUE this month.

OPENING OF THE CHURCH AND OFFICE HOURS/EASTER SUNDAY

It is with joy and a little fear that I am letting you know that we will be open for worship on Easter Sunday. In order to keep everyone safe, we will be practicing social distancing. Families may sit together, but alternate pews will be roped off to ensure separation. Masks will be absolutely worn. Worship leaders will speak and sing from the front of the church unmasked as we have been doing. If you choose to sing we ask you to wear double masks and sing only softly. Easter will be a communion Sunday, and pre-packaged communion supplies will be available for you to pick up and take with you as you sit down. At the end of the service you'll be directed to leave one pew at a time, and we ask you not to stop to visit inside the church. We're hoping for nice weather so we can safely spend time together outside following the service. If you prefer to worship remotely, the service will continue to be available on Facebook Live as it has been for the last year. This is a practice we will continue. We are looking forward to Easter and hope it will be great service. We appreciate your help keeping everyone safe. Please give a call to anyone you feel should be notified of this decision and may not get this message. Also please feel free to let me know if there is anyone I should be getting in touch with. Thank you.

Wednesday and Sunday Zoom Meetings

Please remember that we meet on zoom every Wednesday by zoom. Randy sends out the information both by email and on Facebook. Right now this is our substitute for Lenten services. We would usually have soup and sandwiches at the church and then a short bible study so enjoy your soup and sandwich at home and then join us. Sunday Zoom meetings after church are discontinued.

Quilt

The quilt that you see hanging in the church was made by our very own Bev Nordang. It was given by her as a gift to Pastor Randy and his wife in honor of his being licensed in the UCC. Randy and I decided it was only right to hang it in the church for a time before it is placed in his office at home. We feel it is very, very fitting for Easter Sunday. Thank you so much BEV!!

More News You Need to Know

Dinner At Your Door (DAYD) News

Until February 2021, DAYD program volunteers in Granite Falls picked up meals prepared at the Avera Health Care Center kitchen and delivered the meals to participants seven days a week. A transition was made to Prairie Five Meals Program that has been producing home cooked meals in Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties for over 45 years. www.prairiefive.org Currently, the DAYD daily hot meals and consumer choice frozen meals are prepared at the Prairie Five Meals Kitchen in Montevideo and then brought in a climate-controlled truck to the Henry Hill Apartments Building Monday-Friday (with the exception of seven P-5 Kitchen holidays). DAYD program volunteers from UCC, other local churches and organizations in Granite Falls pick up the daily hot meals w/cold sides and consumer choice frozen meals for entrée, evenings or weekends from Henry Hill **@10:45 to 11:00 a.m. for delivery Monday-Friday**. Frozen meals for weekends are delivered on the last day of delivery before the weekend.

*****Many thanks to Pearl Lenzen for more than 5 years of DAYD coordination!***** I will now be coordinating the DAYD UCC delivery schedules.

Our Church has 7 more opportunities for delivery in 2021! UCC has the week of Monday, April 12—Friday, April 16.

The sign up sheet is officially open.....

Feel free to call or text my cell: 507-828-0565 or call our home phone and leave a message: 320-564-4596. List is due on Thursday, Apr. 8th

Thanks, Helen Stukel

Church Office Hours

Our church office will begin to be open again now that we are meeting in the church. The hours will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Subject to change as Karen's schedule changes. If you need me please feel free to give me a call at 612-296-7072 to make sure I will be there. I will hold to this schedule as tightly as possible. If you see my car outside the east door please feel free to stop in and chat. I have missed all of you!!



**Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)
Council Minutes
February 14, 2021 (Zoom Meeting)**

Devotions: Randy

John called the meeting to order at 4:06. Council members present: Bea, Dennis, John, Konnie, Peggy, Randy, Sharon, Spencer, Sue.

Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda: Add 6F—Reopening Church. Approve as modified: Sharon/ Konnie/U.

2. **Minutes of January 17, 2021 Council Meeting:** Approve: Sue/Dennis/U.

3. **Committee Reports:**

Christian Education: Not met. Packets were delivered and mailed for February.

Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership: Not met. Paraments will be changed for Lent.

Building and Maintenance: Steve checked the light in the bell tower and will wait until it warms up to work on it. He also needs to check with the roofers to know if there is an opening in the membrane. A screw fell out of the timer for the light so it didn't go off. Dennis has been cleaning the steps and the corners of the lot. The valve in one of the registers sprung a leak so there was no heat in the sanctuary. Chappelle Heating came out to drain and repair it.

Stewardship: February mission emphasis is the Food Shelf and March is One Great Hour of Sharing.

Memorials and Bequests: Not met.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Not met.

Wider Church Happenings: There is a new director of the United Theological Seminary.

Approve reports: Sharon/Spencer U

4. **Financial Report:** \$75 in Misc. was to H&R Block and the Zoom upgrade cost \$160.21. \$6,613.24 is currently in the checking account.

5. **Pastor's Report:** Randy has a Zoom meeting with the Conference office on Thursday and he expects the process will be completed this week. Sharon suggested people might want a hymnal at home, so Karen will be asked to send out an email and set up a sign-out system for that.

6. **Old Business:**

Church Bell: Nothing new.

Membership Approval of By-Law Changes: TABLED

Randy Moe Licensure with Minnesota Conference: See #5

Fund Raising for Air Conditioning: TABLED

Soine Snow Removal: The problem stemmed from unfrozen ground, which has resolved itself.

Reopening Church: Minnesota Conference offices are still closed. Sue suggested we have a couple of people sit down with Darrell to lay out what he feels needs to be done before opening. We still have to be very careful. Peggy will do Circle of Stones from church since her home internet connection is not good and she will also Zoom the meeting. Social distancing will be observed for anyone coming to church for Circle. We are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccinations increasing.

7. **New Business:**

A. Sign Contract with Pastor Randy: Once Randy is licensed he would qualify to serve as a called minister instead of a contracted one. There was a question about vacation time as stated in the MN Conference boiler plate contract. Since Randy is half time, he will qualify for 4 weeks of vacation at half pay. If he must miss a Sunday, he will broadcast from wherever he is. After reopening, pulpit supply will be used for a live service. John will download the conference contract copy and check off the items we need and fill in the compensation amounts from the approved budget. He will mail it to Randy to sign and a copy will be sent to the MN Conference office.

9. **Church Use Requests:** None

10. **Devotions for Next Meeting:** Randy

11. **Next Meeting:** Sunday, March 21, 2021, 4:00 PM on Zoom.

12. **Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer:** 5:10—Dennis/Spencer/U.