

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
December 2021 Issue #12**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

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

Tuesday, Thursday

WEB SITE: www.granitefallsucc.org

DECEMBER

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- December 5 Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6
- December 12 Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6,
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:7-18
- December 19 Micah 5:2=5a, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10,
Luke 1:39-55,
- December 26 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148,
Colossians 3:12-27, Luke 2:41-52

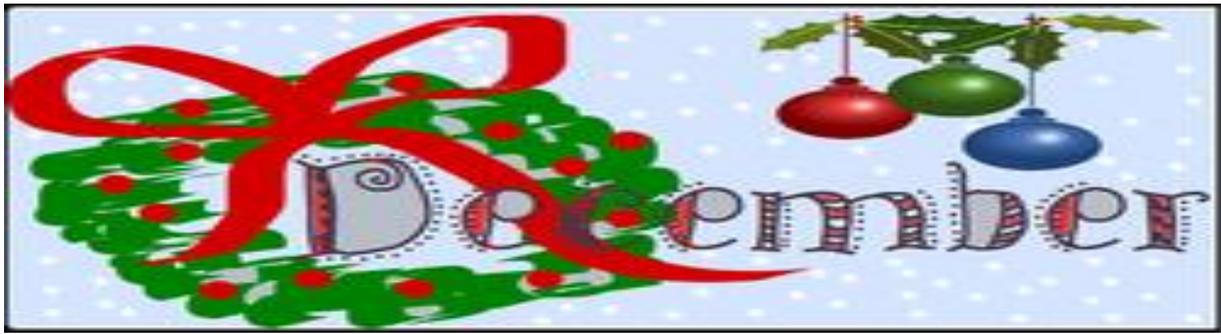
The mission emphasis for December is the "The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross". The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

CIRCLE OF STONES



Circle of Stones will meet on December 16th@ 3:30 in the Church. Our study this month is Philip. Scripture to read before we meet: Acts 8:5-8, 26-38. One of the discussion questions this series asks is "Why do you think God uses miracles to draw people to him?" Other than Acts 8, what examples of this can you think of in Scripture? Just something to think about!





December Calendar

Sunday	December 5	Communion Worship	9:30 am
			Pastor Randy Moe
Sunday	December 12	Worship	9:30 am
			Pastor Randy Moe
Sunday	December 12	Council	11:00am
Thursday	December 12	Circle of Stones	3:30pm
Sunday	December 15	Worship	9:30 am
		Pastor Randy Moe	
Sunday	December 22	Worship	9:30 am
			Pastor Randy Moe
Friday	December 24	Christmas Eve Service	5:00pm
		Pastor Randy Moe	

December Birthdays

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



December Anniversaries

Dec. 28	Mike & Shelly Gaffaney
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Challenge from Peggy Kvam

I got this note from Peggy and decided it was worth sharing with all of you! Flood my email with recipes and stories. I will share them in the encounter and put them together in a booklet for all to have. In case you don't know my email is kvmoe@hotmail.com

So I got to thinking about this being the 150th Anniversary of our church and all the people who have blessed us by coming through the doors and becoming part of our church family. So I thought I would throw out a challenge to others. Share with Karen Moe a story for the Encounter about a special memory of someone from the church. I'll go first!

Years ago, I had one of Delilah Kling's apple bars during coffee hour. It was delicious. So I found her recipe in one of our UCC Church cookbooks and attempted it. The crust fell apart, I had flour everywhere in the kitchen, the apple filling was *slimy*. It was HORRIBLE. So I told myself, I must have gone wrong somewhere and attempted it again. Same results. So I waited a few days and tried it again. Strike Three! Even the dog would not eat it. So I called Delilah up and asked if I could come over and talk with her about her Apple Squares. In the recipe, it says to "Crush 4 handfuls of Wheaties and sprinkle on the crust". I asked to see her hands. Sure enough, my short fat hands were not the same size as hers. (She had long fingers—I wonder if she ever played piano.) I traced her hand size right into my cookbook so I would have something to go by in the future. After a cup of coffee or two, I went home and tried it again. I still have trouble with the crust, but the apple part isn't slimy anymore. Here is her recipe in case you want to attempt! I will gladly sign up to be a taster to let you know how you did! After all, I learned from the BEST!

Apple Squares by Delilah Kling

2 1/2 c. flour

1 egg yolk & enough milk to make 2/3 c liquid

1 1/4 c. shortening

Mix together like pie crust. Roll out half the dough and place in a Jelly Roll pan. **Crush 4 handfuls of Wheaties and sprinkle on the crust.** Add 4 cups of sliced apples, 1 cup of sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Sprinkle this over the crust. Dot with butter: roll out rest of dough: place on top. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes. Decrease to 325 and bake for 30 minutes longer. When done, frost with 1 cup powdered sugar mixed with water.



DAYD News—DECEMBER 2021

**Thanks to the drivers for the week of November 29—December 3, 2021:
Sharon Anderson, Sharon Olson, Joel Beninga, Karen Schmidt-Dill and John
Butterbrodt.**

**UCC Church's next Dinner At Your Door delivery turn is January 3-7, 2022.
Drivers will be needed for Monday-- Friday. List of drivers will be due on
Thursday, December 30, 2021.**

**To sign up to drive and/or for questions about DAYD, please call or text Hel-
en @ 507-828-0565 or call 320-564-4596.**

A Note From Your Pastor

Advent Preparation

Advent is a time of preparation. The word advent means “the coming” and during this time we prepare for the coming of Jesus—not only the celebration of his birth, but also his promised return.

As advent begins, I often think of the person who first began to prepare for the coming of Jesus: his mother Mary. Luke chapter one tells us the story of what happened:

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

It’s hard to imagine all that Mary had to unpack from that conversation with the angel. She had been chosen to bear the child who would be the long-awaited Messiah. Her response to that amazing announcement stands as an inspiration to all who seek to be obedient to God. “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Advent provides an opportunity for us, like Mary, to respond to God’s direction with the same faithful submission to God’s will. While the specifics of how God’s will unfolds in our lives will vary, God’s overall direction is clear: we are to love God with all our heart, and love our neighbor as ourselves. If we follow that direction, the details will take care of themselves. As Jesus said, “Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you.”

May this advent season be a joyful time of preparation for each of us as we renew our commitment to serve and follow God’s will.

Pastor Randy



**Decorating the church for Christmas
with coffee and rolls afterward.**



**Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)
Council Minutes
October 13, 2021 (7:00 PM)**

Devotions: John

Moderator John Butterbrodt called the meeting to order at 7:07. Members present: Dennis, John, Peggy, Sharon, Spencer, Steve, Sue.

- 1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda:** Add 7A—New pastor contract; 7B—Flowers for Jerry Hankins; 7C—Drain in alley. Approve as modified: Dennis/Peggy/U.
- 2. Minutes of September 8, 2021 Council Meeting:** Approve: Spencer/Dennis/U. Sharon talked with Bryan and he is willing to update the sign in the spring. John will talk further with him.
- 3. Committee Reports:**
 - Christian Education:** Brailee received her Bible. Peggy offered to be Myracle's mentor for confirmation. Randy should coordinate with Vicke for Confirmation and Sunday School after church and then text Jen with the date—possibly the first Sunday of the month.
 - Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership:** Not met.
 - Building and Maintenance:** Dennis checked at the lumber yard and it takes 8-10 weeks for the door to arrive once ordered. Sharon has not gotten any response on lawn care. Stan Santjer is available for lawn & snow work if needed. Soine's snow removal cost is going from \$45 to \$50. Motion to approve contract: Spencer/Steve/U. The handicapped entry will have a deadbolt lock put on it so it can be opened from the outside. Steve will contact Wesley Just to do this.
 - Stewardship:** October mission emphasis is the Fall Stewardship Campaign and November is Food Shelf. The budget discussion will be held on December 5th after church. Information will be put in the November Encounter.
 - Memorials and Bequests:** Will meet October 24th after church. They wish to be kept updated on the door project.
 - Pastor Parish Relations Committee:** Not met. John will schedule a meeting as soon as he can.
 - Wider Church Happenings:** There is a new Associate Conference Minister—Dr. Kelly Gallagher.
Approve reports: Sue/Spencer/U.
- 4. Financial Report:** Dennis gave the report in Konnie's absence. City Hall will keep us informed about changes in the solar panel project. We will get some rebate from the new LED lights. There is \$7,701.05 in the checking account. The CCLI streaming license of \$72/year to use music for Facebook Live services was paid. Zoom renewal is due in January. It could be used for the Annual Meeting. Accept report: Peggy/Sharon/U.
- 5. Pastor's Report:** None.
- 6. Old Business:**
 - Membership Approval of By-Law Changes—approved by congregational vote September 19, 2021.** Steve distributed updated copies of the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - Training for Facebook broadcast of church services—instructions are posted on top of piano.** No update.
 - Rally Sunday (September 19) Assessment:** The hot dogs were a hit! Good attendance.
 - Plan for 150th Anniversary (October 20, 2022):** Granite Falls Lutheran invited former pastors to come back or send a video greeting.
 - Tim Hall Memorial—New Front Door:** Dennis has not received a bid yet from French Glass.
- 7. New Business:**
 - New pastor contract:** John will talk to Randy then bring it to Pastor-Parish Committee. The council will then make a recommendation to pass along to vote on at the Annual Meeting.
 - Flowers for Jerry Hankins:** There will be a celebration of life next summer. We will send Liz flowers in November with a Thank You note for all they did for our congregation. Peggy will make the arrangements for a reasonable amount.
 - Drain in alley:** We need to talk again to the Street Department. Spencer will talk to Steve.
- 8. Church Use Requests:** No new requests.
- 9. Devotions for Next Meeting: Randy**
Rotation: (Dec. Spencer / Jan. Steve / Feb. Sue / March Sharon / April Bea / May Peggy / Nov. Randy)
- 10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 (7:00 PM)**
- 11. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer: 8:24 Spencer/Peggy/U.**