

**GRANITE FALLS
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
210 Ninth Avenue
Granite Falls MN 56241
Change Service Requested
THE ENCOUNTER
March 2022 Issue #3**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

**PASTOR: RANDY MOE
OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN MOE
ORGANIST: Randy Moe**

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PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

WEB SITE: www.granitefallsucc.org

MARCH

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 6	Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13
March 13	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35
March 20	Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9
March 27	Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The mission emphasis for March is One Great Hour of Sharing. It is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within the Wider Church Ministries. Please make a gift to OGHS this month

CIRCLE OF STONES



Circle of Stones will meet on March 17th at 3:30 in the Church.

Did you know there are over 3,000 people named in the Bible? Approximately 187 women are mentioned by name, the rest named are all men! During the month of March we will be studying Abigail and Tekoa. Please read 1 Samuel 25:2-42 and 2 Samuel 14:2-24. Looking forward to seeing everyone in green and/or orange that day! Peggy

MARCH

March Calendar

Wednesday	March 2	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00pm
		Pastor Randy Moe	
Sunday	March 6	Communion Worship	9:30 am
		Pastor Randy Moe	
Wednesday	March 9	Lenten Service	7:00 pm
Sunday	March 13	Worship	9:30 am
		Pastor Randy Moe	
Wednesday	March 16	Lenten Service	7:00 pm
Thursday	March 17	Circle of Stones	3:30pm
		Pastor Randy Moe	
Sunday	March 20	Worship	9:30 am
		Council	11:00am
Wednesday	March 23	Lenten Service	7:00 pm
Sunday	March 27	Worship	9:30 am
		Pastor Randy Moe	
Wednesday	March 30	Lenten Service	7:00 pm

March Birthdays

Mar 1	Jordan Rustin
Mar 9	Marty Bergman
Mar 11	Zach Masr
Mar 13	Kristina Ricks
Mar 21	Katie Kvam
Mar 22	Bill Krinke
Mar 26	Sharon Olson
Mar 29	Sally Thoma
Mar 30	Ron Bergman



NEWS AND NOTES

The date has been set for our 150th Anniversary celebration. Mark your calendars for September 11, 2022. The Council put together a planning committee at our last council meeting. More information will be coming after this committee has had a chance to meet. If there is some part of this day you would like to be involved in, PLEASE contact Peggy Kvam. So far we know there will be a church service with special music and a meal to follow. Like I said, we are just beginning to plan! Peggy

Let's Celebrate! Julia Kvam's Bridal Shower

Saturday, April 2nd, 2022, 11:00 am to 1:00pm at Granite Falls United Church of Christ
Julia and Rick are registered at Target. RSVP by March 1st to Kim Kvam @ 320-226-1097.

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday: March 2: **Pastor Randy at Church and FB Live: 7 p.m. worship** following 6:00 p.m. soup and bread supper.

Lenten Wednesdays: March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6: **Pastor Randy on FB Live from home @ 7 pm.** We have the possibility of Mark Weberg or family member setting up the TV at Church so that people who come to "Soup and Bread" supper at Church at 6:00 p.m. can watch service on FB Live at Church as well as people at home.

Palm Sunday: April 10: **Pastor Randy at Church and FB Live: 7 p.m. worship : 9:30 a.m. worship.**

Maundy Thursday: April 14: **Pastor Randy at Church and FB Live: 7 p.m. worship : 7 p.m. worship** with Communion.

Easter Sunday: April 17: **Pastor Randy at Church and FB Live: 7 p.m. worship : 9:30 am worship.**

There will be a sign-up sheet in back of the church if you would like to bring a light meal on Wednesday evenings. Peggy will help with set up each Wednesday.

URGENT NEED!!!!!!

We need many more submissions like the ones that Peggy Kvam has posted in the Encounters the last couple of months if we are going to have enough for a booklet for our anniversary! Please submit during the rest of this year through August!!! She submitted recipes from our cookbook and a memory going along with each one, but will settle for memories of past members. Thanks

From your absent secretary: I just want to say thank you to all of you for standing with me in prayer these past many months while I heal. It means so much to know you are all out there. I especially want to thank the two ladies who have been here most days to actually help me. You know who you are. AND Sue Selden and Peggy Kvam—what would I do without you to man the office in my absence. You are the best. If you could all know how badly I want to be there but you will just have to trust me on that. Again—thanks for being you!!!! Karen

Minnesota Blizzard by Edgar Lampman.

“This winter of eighteen-hundred seventy-three
Was the coldest winter I ever did see.
One fine January morn
I started to my neighbor’s farm
Intending to return about half past two
to see what a sharp ax to my woodpile might do
For being a carpenter and used to their ways.
I was building a house for Warren A. Graves.
So taking my ax to sharpen that day,
I bid adieu to my family and hastened away.
This house was completed except finishing inside.
A beautiful finish which I did with much pride.
So engrossed was I, so bent on making a showing,
I did not realize how it was snowing and blowing
But as it grew dark, though the time was but four
I thought of my family with no wood cut at the door
Tools packed, I shouldered my ax I sharpened with care
Behold, what a change from the morning so fair.
A man at the distance of three steps to four
Would be as invisible as Jordan’s sunny shore
Said the farmer coming in from his barns nearby
You cannot reach home and there is no use to try.
For in the few moments, I stood my course to decide
How the snow, wind and darkness intensified.
So that night I spent at my neighbor’s place
Anxious and sleepless while the floor I paced.
Finally, the morning broke with the storm unabated
The suffering and death in its track is still being related.
After remaining at this farmhouse another day and a night
I ventured my way homeward as soon as it was light.
I sought out my direction as best I could
With all things so changed in the neighborhood.
I uttered a prayer that the Lord might guide
My steps through the storm to my family’s side.
At last, through the blinding storm my eyes caught sight
Of a high drift that I was passing on my right.
I made for this drift as fast as I could
And found there buried in snow my pile of wood.
Then I realized that near all buried in snow
In the dugout was my family, to them I must go.
Pushing aside the blanket I entered the place
How the snow had blown in, what a sight to face.
Said Emily, my wife, God bless you Ed
You have been gone so long I thought you dead.
The children were cold, so I kept them in bed
We had no fire to thaw, so we ate frozen bread.
I made fire and soon they were warm as could be
And the joy of the hour was like heaven to me.
Such were the winters as the old timers relate
Back in the seventies in this Minnesota state.

Edgar was born in Canada on the 19th of March 1838. He was married to Emily Woolworth in the year 1857. Their son Hugh Sylvester became a member of our church in 1908. Edgar is the Great-Grandfather of Sharon Anderson.

***There was a W.A. Graves that joined the church in 1884.*

DAYD News—March 2022

UCC Church's next Dinner At Your Door delivery turn is March 14-18, 2022. Drivers will be needed for Monday-- Friday. List of drivers will be due on Thursday, March 10, 2022.

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

Thanks to the drivers for the week of February 7-11, 2022: Joel Beninga, Gene/Helen Stukel, Bea Read, Lynn Holmstrom, John Butterbrodt.

FYI: DAYD M-F Delivery Schedule begins a Four Week Rotation Schedule with the UCC week of March 14-18.

The 2022 DAYD M-F Delivery Schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

What is Lent?

The term "Lent" comes from the Old English word for the spring season, and the lengthening of days. In the Christian church, it is a period of penitential preparation for Easter beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending during Holy Week. Lent is forty days long in commemoration of Jesus' forty days of fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

Historically, Lent was a time of fasting, and believers wore sackcloth and more sprinkled with ashes. These days most of us don't fast during lent, but many people choose something to "give up" as a way of fostering simplicity and self-control, and focusing on spiritual matters.

In worship, the church traditionally refrains from using the word Alleluia, and certain aspects of worship are somewhat more muted than usual. In some traditions, organists avoid the use of certain "bright" sounds.

While some consider Lent a sad or gloomy time, sadness and mourning really aren't the main point of the season. Rather, it's a time to reflect on our need for God's love and mercy. Because of human rebellion, each of us is naturally separated from God, and unable to live in a way that pleases God. By taking time to reflect on our need for God's love, we prepare our hearts for the joy of celebrating God's perfect provision for us in Jesus. We look forward to Easter, when we proclaim the resurrection of Jesus, which fulfilled the love of God and brought us into complete forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

May God bless you during this time of reflection and preparation.

Pastor Randy

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)

Council Minutes

Sunday, January 9, 2022 (10:45 AM)

Devotions: Steve

Moderator John Butterbrodt called the meeting to order at 11:03. Members present: Bea, John, Peggy, Randy, Sharon, Spencer, Steve, Sue.

1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda: Peggy/Sharon/U.

2. Minutes of December 12, 2021 Council Meeting: Approve: Sue/Peggy/U.

3. Committee Reports

Christian Education: No report.

Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership: No report. Committee will put away decorations on Friday.

Building and Maintenance: No report.

Stewardship: January mission emphasis is Justice & Witness and February will be the Food Shelf. Sharon noted that \$1275 was given to the Food Shelf in 2021.

Memorials and Bequests: No report.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: No report.

Wider Church Happenings: No report.

Approve reports: Spencer/Bea/U.

4. Financial Report: Peggy presented Konnie's notes. Funds from the Jeanette Olson Foundation were put into the savings account and a Thank You note was sent. The Marco account automatically renewed for another year—we will terminate it effective Dec. 27, 2022. The \$188.42 rebate for the LED bulbs was received by check. The bill from Troy's Electric for 22 bulbs at \$30 each was paid in January. Information was sent to H&R Block for W2 and 1099 forms. Approve: Sharon/Bea/U.

5. Pastor's Report: Randy will try to repair the wiring or get a new microphone for his headset. If he can't, he will order the complete setup. Randy is trying to stay connected to those who don't attend services live. Sharon noted that it has been a year since Jerry Gustafson's death and Randy should reach out to Barb.

6. Old Business:

Plan for 150th Anniversary (October 20, 2022)

Peggy is working on list of past members (since 1900): An unofficial membership list from the early years has been found with the 100th Anniversary information.

Collect Stories (Encounter Entries)

New Signage for 150th Anniversary

Bryan has a design

Tim Hall Memorial: New Front Door--Complications with Building Code: Code requires a crash bar for non-residential buildings and those doors are too tall to fit the opening. We will try to get the locking mechanism repaired on the current doors. Randy checked on a remote locking system for the East entrance—about \$150-250—which would replace the deadbolt and use a phone app to open it along with a keypad. The West door & basement door will have a key lock that works with the crash bar. Steve will have Wes Just do all of these. He will also be asked to get the safe in the basement open. Randy will get a wireless doorbell to put by the East door.

Clergy Care Grant: John applied for travel expenses.

Meatball Dinner--Scheduled for March 1, 2022 (Take-out only is an option): Due to COVID increasing, the date is put on hold until maybe this fall.

Marco Copy Machine Contract: Konnie can send the termination notice right away.

Coordination with Montevideo UCC / Facebook Live Worship: John called Vickie Poier & Okogyeamon to discuss cooperation between the churches. This conversation will be continued.

7. New Business:

A. Plan for Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 23, 2022 (Backup January 30): Meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

Pot luck at 10:30. Meeting at 11:30: The pot luck is cancelled. There will be more variety for fellowship food.

Agenda Items: Approve Budget, Authorize Internal Borrowing, Pastoral Call: Add Nominating Committee report. Sue will update the budget proposal by adding \$300 to the heating costs and changing the membership number to 81.

8. Church Use Requests: None.

9. Devotions for Next Meeting: Sue

Devotion Rotation: (John / Randy / Spencer / Steve / Sue / Sharon / Bea / Peggy)

10. Next Meeting: Sunday, February 13, 2022 (10:45 AM)

11. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer: 11:57: Spencer/Peggy/U.