



# DECEMBER 2023

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Scriptures for December 2023

December 3, 2023, Karen Schmidt- Dill and Helen Stukel: Chrismon Service

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80, 1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10, 2023, Pastor Cynthia Huse: Communion Sunday

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; Mark 1:1-8

December 17, 2023, Karen Schmidt-Dill

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

December 24, 2023, Karen Schmidt- Dill and Helen Stukel

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96: Titus 2:11-14; Luke 1: 26-38, 2:1-20

December 31, 2023, Karen Schmidt-Dill

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 1:26-38, 2:22-40

## Mission Emphasis's : Stewardship Campaign

### December: Christmas Fund

December's mission emphasis is the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. This is designed to help support clergy and lay church workers in retirement and during times of emergency need.



## *December Calendar*

Sunday	December 3	Worship with Helen Stukel	9:30 am
Tuesday	December 5	LAHBN volunteer program	2:00 pm
		Take Note Rehearsal	Evening
Wednesday	December 6	Healing Connection Grief Support	10:30 am
Thursday	December 7	Coffee and Fellowship	10:00 am
Sunday	December 10	Worship with Pastor Cynthia Huse w/communion	9:30 am
Monday	December 11	Dr. Jordan Committee	10:00 am
		Circle of Stones	2:00 pm
Tuesday	December 12	LAHBN volunteer program	2:00 pm
		Take Note Rehearsal	Evening
Wednesday	December 13	Healing Connection Grief Support	10:30 am
		Church Council	6:00 pm
Thursday	December 14	Coffee and Fellowship	10:00 am
Sunday	December 17	Worship with Karen Schmidt-Dill	9:30 am
Wednesday	December 20	Healing Connection Grief Support	10:30 am
Thursday	December 21	Coffee and Fellowship	10:00 am
Sunday	December 24	Worship with Lay Leader	9:30 am
Wednesday	December 27	Healing Connection Grief Support	10:30 am
Thursday	December 28	Coffee and Fellowship	10:00 am
Sunday	December 31	Worship with Karen Schmidt-Dill	9:30 am

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 5           Calvyn Mooney  
 Dec. 11         Lynn Holmstrom  
 Dec. 15         Ethan Ator

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 19         Greg & Lynn Holmstrom



## DAYD News—December 2023

Thank you to the Dinner At Your Door drivers who volunteered for November 20-22: Lynn Holmstrom, Sharon Anderson and Gene/Helen Stukel.

**Our Church's next DAYD opportunity will be December 18-22. The driver's list will be due to Henry Hill on Thursday, December 14.**

**Drivers are needed for Monday, December 18, Tuesday, December 19; Wednesday, December 20; Thursday, December 21; Friday, December 22.**

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



The 2023 DAYD M-F Delivery Schedule is posted on the upstairs hallway bulletin board.

## Circle of Stones

We will be meeting Monday, December 11 at 2:00. We will be discussing Chapters 2 and 3 of the book [SOUL BOOM WHY WE NEED A SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION](#) by Rainn Willson. Extra copies are available in the church office. See information below for more information about this book.

Actor, producer, and writer **Rainn Wilson**, cofounder of the media company SoulPancake, explores the problem-solving benefits that spirituality gives us to create solutions for an increasingly challenging world.

The trauma that our struggling species has experienced in recent years—because of both the pandemic and societal tensions that threaten to overwhelm us—is not going away anytime soon. Existing political and economic systems are not enough to bring the change that the world needs. In this book, Rainn Wilson explores the possibility and hope for a spiritual revolution, a “Soul Boom,” to find a healing transformation on both a personal and global level.



**REMINDER** for all committee chairs, please get your annual reports to the office by the end of the year. Thank you!

Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational)

## Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 (6:00 pm)

**UNAPPROVED**

**Devotions:** Bryan

Moderator John Butterbrodt called the meeting to order at 6:00. Members present: Bea, Bryan, Dennis, John, Karen, Peggy M, Sharon A, Sharon O, Spencer & Sue. John talked about the Zoom session with Emily Meyer that will take place at 6:30 (see 7A).

**1. Review, Modify, and Approve the Agenda:** Add 7B—Reimagination Grant from MN Conference; 7C—Workman's Comp; 7D—MN Employment Laws; 8—LAHBN requesting for 3 events. Approve as modified: Spencer/Bea/U.

**2. Review, Modify and Approve Minutes of October 11, 2023:** Approve: Sharon A/Bea/U.

### 3. Committee Reports

**A. Christian Education:** Sharon A shared Peggy K's emailed report. Committee will meet Tuesday. Circle of Stones is doing a book study and Sunday school materials are on hand when needed.

**B. Worship, Sanctuary, and Membership:** Christmas Eve service will be regular Sunday time and Cynthia will play the piano for it. Karen will preach Nov 12, Nov 26, Dec 17 & 31. Decorating for Christmas will be done after church on Nov 26, followed by a potluck.

**C. Building and Maintenance:** Dennis contacted Rob Bremer about the roof and he put flashing up to direct water to the gutter. There is heat tape up there and Dennis will check to see if it's working. He has been catching rodents. Sharon O noted that MBSG got a \$200 donation to use for the wall repairs or other outside maintenance. Snow blowing: the north entrance will need to be kept clear for activities held in the basement. Bea will call Soderstrom to see if he can do it. John will let Stan know about this. Zoom session with Emily Meyer (see 7A).

**D. Stewardship:** November is Food Shelf and December will be the Christmas Fund. The committee will meet with Sharon O and Konnie to prepare the 2024 Budget Proposal. The discussion of the budget is scheduled for Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**E. Memorials and Bequests:** Year-to-date remainder is \$4,704.35. School defibrillator information did not come in time for the meeting, so will be allocated later.

**F. Pastor Parish Committee:** Not met.

**G. Wider Church Happenings:** None

Approve reports: Peggy M/Spencer/U.

**4. Financial Report:** Sharon O got a solicitation from another insurance company. Bank balance for October 31<sup>st</sup> is \$19,074.69.

**5. Pastor's Report:** None

### 6. Old Business

**A. Display Case for Bible:** Bryan has measured the items to into the case and described what he plans to build.

**B. Church Secretary:** Peggy K sent a message that Lisa Putz will be applying for the position.

**C. Handrails to Access Altar Area:** Railings will be installed by Thanksgiving.

**D. West Side Retaining Wall:** Nothing new

**E. Welcome ceremony for Cynthia Huse:** Karen has come up with the Liturgy. It can be done Dec 3 or 10 as Cynthia will be here those dates. John will check on which works best.

## **F. Ongoing Pulpit Supply:**

**Cynthia Huse will serve communion Sundays with flexibility to reschedule it as needed. Karen Schmidt-Dill will lead worship two Sundays a month.**

**Lay readers will fill in on remaining Sundays as needed.** Nov 19 needs to be filled yet.

**The possibility of getting a Seminary student to come out to preach.** John is hopeful that the Emily Meyer connection could help.

**The MN Conference sent John information of two possible options: 1) A comprehensive survey whose results would suggest directions we could go. 2) The Innovation Culture Index, which costs \$100. This was created in conjunction with United Seminary and finds the capacity of a church to go in a new direction and finds the will of its membership. John got the information on these options and sent it to the Council members.**

## **7. New Business:**

### **A. Zoom meeting with Emily Meyer (United Seminary): (6:30 PM)**

•Emily will provide an overview of the Innovation Culture Index (ICI).

•John will bring his computer for the meeting. One computer is all we need.

The Innovation Culture Index (ICI, cost \$100) is 40 questions online. A paper copy can be used and data entered by a trusted leader (Karen volunteered to do this). It measures congregational vitality and resilience, the ability to navigate change. Emily went over the 9 areas covered in the survey, which will be adapted to our congregation. When completed, there will be personal scores in addition to a community score. The process was reviewed—we need as large a group as possible and a broad range of people to answer it. Emily would come out and go over the results with the Council and other designated members. There would also be a debrief session with 5-10 congregational leaders to discuss what was learned and what our next steps might be. We would also have the option of participating in a n 18-month Transformational Lab (cost about \$4000, but MN Conference offsets some and a small amount available from Innovation Lab). This would be done with a team of 5-7 members in monthly meetings and the leader meets with Emily an extra time each month. There would be projects for the Team to complete between meetings.

Motion to participate in ICI: Sue/Spencer/U. John will let Emily know.

The Transformational Lab will be discussed with the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

**B. Reimagination Grant:** Up to \$2000 available from MN Conference to make changes. We can apply for this after we get the results of the ICI.

**C. Workman's Comp:** Sharon O noted that the bill arrived. After the audit (about Dec 6) the amount will be adjusted.

**D. MN Employment Laws:** Sharon O ordered a copy of the 2024 version—it will arrive after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **8. Church Use Requests: (Perhaps incomplete.)**

•Take Note is rehearsing here Tuesday evenings.

•Living at Home Block Nursing: Living Well with Chronic Conditions: Tuesday and Thursdays, November 7-November 28, 1:00-3:00.

LAHBN requests: 1) Tuesdays Nov 14, 11:30-1:00, for Grief Group. This will continue as a monthly session with dates set for the following months at each meeting. 2) Wednesdays Nov 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 27 and Jan 3, 10:30-12:00, for Healing Connections Aftercare. 3) Tuesday Dec 5, 2:00-3:30 for Volunteer Christmas Tea. Requests approved.

## **9. Devotions for Next Meeting: John**

**(John / Karen Schmidt-Dill / Peggy / Spencer / Steve / Sue / Sharon A / Bea / Sharon O / Bryan)**

## **10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 (6:00 pm).**

## **11. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer: 7:58, Spencer/Bryan/U.**



# SEASON OF ADVENT

As we move into the month of December we are preparing to observe the season of Advent together as a church community. The four Sundays leading up to Christmas are set apart for our community to intentionally focus on the hope, love, joy and peace that the coming of Christ brings.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>DECEMBER 2023</b>						
3 Worship with Helen Stukel Budget review	4 OFFICE HOURS 8:00-2:00	5 Take Note Rehearsal LAHBN Volunteer program @ 2:00	6 OFFICE HOURS 8:00-2:00 Healing Connections Grief Support @ 10:30-12:00	7 Coffee Hour at 10:00	8	9 Reverend Shari Prestemon farewell
10 Worship Led by Pastor Cynthia Huse w/ communion	11 OFFICE HOURS 8:00-2:00 Dr. Jordan committee @ 2:00 Circle Of Stones @ 2:00	12 Take Note Rehearsal LAHBN Grief group 11:30-1:00	13 OFFICE HOURS 8:00-2:00 Healing Connections Grief Support @ 10:30-12:00 Church Council 6:00	14 Coffee Hour at 10:00	15	16
17 Worship w/ Karen Schmidt-Dill	18 OFFICE HOURS 8:00-2:00 <b>DAYD</b> Deliveries	19 DAYD Deliveries	20 OFFICE HOURS 8:00-2:00 Healing Connections Grief Support @ 10:30-12:00 <b>DAYD</b> Deliveries	21 Coffee Hour at 10:00 <b>DAYD</b> Deliveries	22 <b>DAYD</b> Deliveries	23
24 Worship Lay Leader Christmas Eve	25 Office Closed  Christmas Day	26	27 OFFICE HOURS 8:00-2:00 Healing Connections Grief Support @ 10:30-12:00	28 Coffee Hour at 10:00	29	30
31 Worship w/Karen Schmidt-Dill						