

Bismarck-Mandan Area United Church of Christ

1200 E Highland Acres Rd ~ 701-223-2915 ~ office@uccbismarck.org ~ www.uccbismarck.org ~ Like us on Facebook

July 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

A Library in our Hands

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

Before I could write my name or see over the checkout counter, my dad took me to our local library and I got my very first library card. On a regular basis, we would go to that library, browse the books, walk through the gardens, look at the old pictures on the walls, attend 4-H meetings, enter into new worlds, and learn more about the world I lived in. I discovered early on that a library could continually spark the imagination to see yourself and the world in a new light. As the years went on, displays would be moved, the format of digital media changed, and renovations would happen. When I moved to new towns, I would get a new local library card and continue exploring the world, real and imagined, from viewpoints I had not yet discovered. The libraries would look different, but each one still contained opportunities for growth and wisdom.

At some point in my faith development, I learned that the Bible was a library. The word Bible simply means "books." I realized I could carry in one hand the wisdom of centuries, the timeless life-changing struggles of humanity, the songs and poetry that had been recited around campfires and in temples, and writings intended to continually spark the imagination to see yourself, the world, and God in a new light. And like the many different library buildings I have been in, I realized that I could encounter these sacred books in NRSV format, NIV, The Message, The Inclusive Bible, and so many others. When reading from multiple translations, I discovered that the perspectives of the different translators and the various levels of archeological and linguistic knowledge present at the time of translation provided me with additional windows through which I could enter into deeper understanding of the scriptures.

On May 1, 2022, an updated translation of the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) was released into print. The NRSV is one of the best researched Bible translations which includes scholarship from the Dead Sea scrolls. However, it was published in 1989 and knowledge about Hebrew and Greek and the cultures of our faith ancestors has advanced since then. The English language has also evolved since 1989! The new updated NRSVue (NRSV Updated Edition) takes all these updates into account. I encourage you to check it out and see how it might deepen your faith life. The most common translations we use in worship are NRSVue, The Inclusive Bible, and The Message.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Thursday, July 14 @ 5 PM
Party at the Patrie's
See page 5 for details.

Outdoor Worship Service

Summer Outdoor Worship Dates

July 10 and 24
August 14 and 28

The
BANQUET
A Community Meal

July 21, 2022

Join us for an evening of serving the community and fellowship. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex or call the church office.
Details on page 3.

Worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM in-person or uccbismarck.org/worship

Vision Statement

Adopted January 2016

**The Bismarck-Mandan UCC
is a thriving church transforming our
lives and community:**

- Where all are unconditionally welcomed, affirmed, accepted and loved;
- Where the good in every person is recognized and their talents are encouraged to be shared;
- Where children, youth, and adults learn that God is love and all are welcome to freely explore spirituality in a safe and nurturing environment;
- Where we can bring our personal needs and struggles and count on support from our church family – which is the loving family we all deserve;
- Where powerful messages inspire and challenge us to be caring and compassionate to all – in our church, community, and world, seeking opportunities to put our faith into action with courage to go beyond what we think we can do;
- Where we embrace the still-speaking God and live in today's world.



LIVING OUR VISION HIGHLIGHT

"Where children, youth, and adults learn that God is love and all are welcome to freely explore spirituality in a safe and nurturing environment."

From energizing songs to moments of focused painting, our kids learned of God's healing love in spirit, mind, body, community, and creation at this year's Vacation Bible School the first week of June. It's wonderful to get to share a nurturing VBS environment for this year's 20 kids with our partner church Lutheran Church of the Cross!



Council Corner

by Carly Retterath, Moderator

Greetings UCC Bismarck,

I hope that everyone is enjoying a relaxing start to the summer. The June 11th Northern Plains Conference picnic was so much fun. It was great to connect with other UCC churches and their members. Thank you to everyone who helped to make that event happen! I also want to say a big thank you to all who volunteered with the boulevard project in front of the church, it looks fantastic!

The council met on June 1st and had many items on the agenda to discuss. Here are a few of the highlights. Trustee's reported on the painting project for the outside of the church. They are hoping to begin collecting congregation feedback on the color and begin raising additional funds for the project. This will be an excellent update to the outside of the church. Council also decided to set August 17th as our date for the Highland Acres Neighborhood Block Party! We will be working with Lutheran Church of the Cross again and The Afterschool Place will also be invited to attend. This is always a wonderful community event.

I am looking forward to our summer activities as a church family. Having worship outside is always one of my favorite parts of summer! In closing, I was reminded this last week that with as busy as summer gets to remember that quality time with our loved ones is always more important than quantity. So, take the time to relax, read a book, enjoy the stars and enjoy the season!

Blessings!

Save the Date

UCC and Highland Acres Block Party on **August 17th at 5:30 PM**. We will hold the block party in conjunction with The Afterschool Place open house so that those families are able to meet some of our families and the neighbors. Dinner will be served at UCC, and dessert will be served at Lutheran Church of the Cross. We can't wait to see you there!



FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to June 30, 2022

Revenue

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 62,947

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 4,985

Expenses

Actual = \$ 67,426

Total Revenue = \$ 67,932

Total Expenses = \$ 67,426

NET ACTIVITY = \$ 506

SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2022

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 190
Charles Hall Institute	\$ 100
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 1,184
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 893
Strengthen the Church	\$ 160
Neighbors in Need	\$
The Christmas Fund	\$
Total Shared Ministry	\$ 2,527

Thank You, Sunday Sponsors!



July 4 – A blessed 4th of July

"In honor and in memory of those who have secured our freedom and sacrificed for our country. May we never forget, freedom is not free, God bless America!"

Sponsored by Darleen Cairns

Darleen Cairns serves as one of our financial secretaries and helps make treats for Sunday morning fellowship times! You probably have tasted her famous caramel rolls.

July 10 - In Honor of their 52nd Wedding Anniversary

Jeff & Darcy met in Medora, ND and still make an annual trip back to where their relationship first began. Congratulations Jeff & Darcy!!

Sponsored by Jeff and Darcy Avery

Jeff is our emeritus Handbell Choir Director and Darcy is our Primrose Retirement Community worship coordinator, a CONNECTOR, and shares her gifts of music during worship.



July 17 - In Honor of her 60th Wedding Anniversary



Mark Grothier and Camille Ezzo were wed on July 14, 1962 at St John's Church in Syracuse, New York. The last 60 years have been filled with much laughter and a few tears, but remains strong to this day. We want to invite the congregation to have some cake with their coffee following worship on July 17, 2022 to commemorate our beautiful union.

Sponsored by Camille Grothier

Camille is currently the chair of the Deacons Committee, participates in Threads of Love, and provides pastoral care.

Join Us in Serving the Community

We are serving The Banquet on **July 21** at their new location in the Dream Center, and are looking for volunteers! Please check the table under the bulletin board to sign up to assist with cooking, setup, and serving.

This is a wonderful way to give back to the community while participating in fellowship with UCC members and the community at large.



Tips for Aging Well

by Kirby Kruger (age 59)

I have been asked to occasionally contribute my thoughts on staying healthy while growing older. Although I am not an expert, nor am I a perfect example, my goal with my stories is to talk about the things I am inspired to do to try to stay healthy. Because I work in infectious disease control, you will be hearing about recommended vaccines for adults. But I will also talk about other things I have endeavored to do to try to maintain my health. However, I would like start today, by talking about something that is a challenge for me – regular exercise.

About five years ago, at a worksite wellness meeting, we were shown a video called 23 ½ hours. As I watched this video, already knowing the importance of exercise as part of healthy lifestyle, I came to realize how much I had underestimated the value of exercise. Exercise is important for so many reasons and one doesn't have to be an athlete, train for a marathon or lift heavy weights to gain significant benefits. Walking, for 30 minutes a day is all that is needed. If finding 30 straight minutes is difficult or walking for a continuous 30 minutes is challenging, then walk 3 times a day for 10 minutes per walk. I encourage you to watch the video to learn the benefits of just ½ hour of exercise a day. The video can be found at [24 Hour Fitness - 23 and 1/2 Hours - YouTube](#) or just Google 23 ½ hours.

So, enjoy the 23 ½ hours you have each day to work, eat, sleep, watch TV or work on hobbies and do all the other things you need to do. But take the one-half hour, each day, to walk, enjoy, and stay healthy.

Ministry & Fellowship Groups

Threads of Love: Crafting Guild

Come and join this lively group of crafters on **Tuesdays at 2 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. This group is for the experienced and novice crafter. This is a great place to learn quilting, knitting, or crocheting while visiting with old friends or making new friends.

Mayflower Circle

This women's fellowship group is for any age. Mayflower Circle leads various ministries throughout the year including funeral luncheons, annual rummage sale (tentatively scheduled for Aug. 27th), numerous fundraisers, and others. Currently on summer break. Meetings will resume as fall nears.

Hay Creek Lodge Ministries

This team holds worship services at Hay Creek Lodge on College Dr on various Wednesdays throughout the year. If you have a passion for serving those in care centers, please contact Darcy Avery to get involved. The July services at Hay Creek Lodge will be on **July 6th**.



Worship Under the Trees!

Join your friends and family as we worship together outdoors this summer on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, enjoying nature as we refresh our spirit and souls with the Word of God. If there is inclement weather or excessive heat we will plan to move back indoors.

July 10th & 24th and August 14th & 28th

Please bring your favorite lawn chair, sunscreen, and a light jacket.

Happy Birthday to our beloved members and friends!

May God's gift of life be a blessing to you and may your life be a blessing to others all year long.



06 Jeff Avery
06 Helen Lindgren
06 Travis Tolstedt
08 Petrea Klein
09 Liz Held

10 Jovi Holzworth
10 Kevin Nitschke
13 Lee Jackson
15 Brice Schemmel
15 Mason Kleinjan

16 Leah Stockert
19 Bailey Jackson
28 Darlene Kinnischtzke

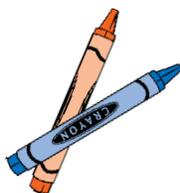
**Please contact the church office or sign up in the narthex if you would like your birthday listed in the newsletter.*

UCC Community News

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all the families who joined us for VBS. A great time was had by kids and adults alike as we learned about health and wellness for us and our neighbors.

This was a great opportunity to reflect on how God invites us to share in the building of a just world.



Party at the Patrie's

Thursday, July 14 ~ 5 PM

Join your UCC family for a campfire, grilling, some good conversation and lawn games for the younger ones. There will be hot dogs and hamburgers, and the rest will be potluck so bring a dish to share.

Bill and Marcia Patrie's House
7201 Burnt Creek Lp
Bismarck, ND 58503

Directions: North on River Road to Burnt Creek Lp, 1 mile toward the river, and 1 mile north at the curve. You will see a sign that says Olive Tree Dr, and this is our driveway.

Save the Date ~ Pool Party

Join your UCC family at Evan & Tove Mandigo's home Thursday, August 11th at 5 PM for a Pool Party!

This will be an evening of great conversation, food, and fun. Bring your swimsuit, sunscreen, a lawn chair and favorite side dish to share.

Mandigo's Address:
2489 Timberlane Pl
Bismarck, ND 58504



Community Space

Our boulevard planting project continues to move forward. Mulch was added to the area along with 2 new trees replacing some that had to be removed. On June 25th, a planting party was held to add the plants to the area. The BTS Grant has really allowed us to create a wonderful community garden space.

Pastoral Care Note

Pastor Gretchen will be at a continuing education opportunity July 8 – July 20. If a pastoral care emergency occurs during that time, please contact Camille Grothier at 701-425-4256.



Northern Plains Conference Summer Party

The weather was perfect for our first, potentially annual, Northern Plains Conference picnic on June 11! We had seven area UCC congregations represented with folks from Elgin, New Salem, Garrison, Jamestown, Medina, Flasher, and Bismarck and approximately 50 people in attendance at Sertoma Park in Bismarck. After enjoying walking tacos and incredible sides, the conversations deepened, our families played at the amusement park, four lucky individuals claimed a door prize, and Garrison UCC won the church door prize. The consensus of the attendees was that we should definitely gather our UCC congregations again!

Thank you to everyone who joined us on June 11 and who helped make the day possible. There was another NPC gathering in Fargo on the same day which was also sponsored by the Faith & Nurture Committee of the Northern Plains Conference. The next scheduled NPC event is a fall retreat Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City.



Why This Church Matters

by Pamela Clark-Stein, chairperson, Stewardship & Mission Committee

Every member has a story to tell when it comes to the personal connection with our church and our church family. For me, it started with one person I had the privilege of working with at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives for many years. That person is Bill Patrie. I had never even heard of the United Church of Christ (UCC) but thanks to Bill and his “talking up” the Bismarck-Mandan UCC, my interest was piqued. Then came visits with Pastor Jim Moos, attending services, being greeted by welcoming smiles, warm handshakes during the sign of peace and heartfelt hugs (before COVID-19). For me, it was connecting with members of the church one by one. My personal connection started with the power of one person reaching out to me — and has grown to include connections with many — once I decided to get more involved by serving on the Stewardship and Mission Committee. This has allowed me to learn about committee members’ personal stories and why the church matters to them. My personal connection became even stronger through unexpected loss of a loved one and members showing how much they cared. For example, before my youngest sister passed away from cancer, I “lost it” when someone asked me during fellowship time how my sister was doing. Suddenly, I was surrounded by many who came over to offer support and hugs. Although embarrassed when I lost control of my emotions, I’ll never forget the feeling of being surrounded by those women’s caring and compassion.

I’d invite you to take pause to think about why this church matters to you. Then consider stepping up to share your story whether through the church newsletter, weekly email blasts, at an upcoming worship service or a short video on the church website. I know Pastor Gretchen and the Stewardship and Mission Committee would be so excited if you would! Your personal connection, your personal story can help the Bismarck-Mandan UCC build membership, increase financial resources to advance the mission and outreach of the church, and strengthen involvement through committees and special projects. Your “power of one” can truly help grow the “power of many.”

NPC Events & News

2022 NPC Event Schedule

NPC Retreat
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2022
Maryvale Spiritual Retreat Center
Valley City, ND

NPC Annual Meeting
Oct. 28-29, 2022
Camp of the Cross Ministries
Garrison, ND

Stay up to date by visiting www.npcucc.org and signing up for email updates!

NPC July Zoom Meetings

Join Rev. Blood for her monthly Zoom meetings on Tuesday, July 26th.

10 AM NPC Clergy Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88517816700>
 MeetingID: 885 1781 6700

2 PM NPC All Member Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84652816017>
 MeetingID: 846 5281 6017



Rev. Deborah Blood - Designated Conference Minister



On behalf of the NPCUCC Conference Council, I am delighted to announce that the Conference Council has voted unanimously to hire Deborah Blood as our Designated Conference Minister through 2025. We have been blessed by her presence over the last year+, as she has brought her extensive experience in conference ministry, her deep and rich faith commitment and spirituality, lively curiosity, a listening ear to God and to the people of our conference. She has a yearning to forge ahead into new visions for who God might be calling us to be as a conference, as churches, and individuals each on a spiritual journey. In the aftermath of Keith Mills' death in February 2021, Deborah has not only kept the ship afloat in those tumultuous seas of shock and grief, but she has carefully and persistently built relationships throughout the conference, such that the "rowing crew" has found new energy and new hands to power our way forward through whatever continuing storms we may confront.

Deborah cannot do this awesome work alone, and she will need continuing input and action along the way, everyone rowing together as God's Spirit provides the oomph. You'll be hearing more about upcoming listening/greeting sessions once a new Conference Council Chair is elected, likely in the near future. And Deborah will be happy to be in conversation through whatever communication media work best. The future of the Northern Plains Conference is looking up!

Finally, as Jo and I prepare to move to Apple Valley, MN next month, I am grateful to have been able to help in this time of transition, and the Northern Plains Conference UCC will always have a special place in both our hearts.

Blessings,

Kevin Cassiday-Maloney, outgoing Conference Council Chair





BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A Global Ministry Church”
www.uccbismarck.org

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:30am Bible Study	2
3 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	4 Church Closed 	5 2pm Knitting/Quilting	6 2pm Hay Creek Lodge Ministries 8pm NA Meeting	7	8 8:30am Bible Study Pastor Gretchen at Continuing Ed	9
10 10am Outdoor Worship 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	11	12 2pm Knitting/Quilting	13 8pm NA Meeting	14 12pm Mayflower Circle 5pm Party at the Patries	15 8:30am Bible Study	16 Pastor Gretchen at Continuing Ed
17 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	18	19 2pm Knitting/Quilting	20 8pm NA Meeting	21 Serving The Banquet	22 8:30am Bible Study	23 Pastor Gretchen at Continuing Ed
24 10am Outdoor Worship 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	25	26 10am NPC Clergy Zoom Gathering 2pm Knitting/Quilting 2pm NPC All Member Zoom Gathering	27 8pm NA Meeting	28	29 8:30am Bible Study	30
31 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	For pastoral care emergencies, please contact Camille Grothier at 425-4256 from June 8—June 20.					