

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

October 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Halloween to All Saint's Day

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

The air has become crisp, the leaves are changing, and the coats are starting to come out of the closet. This new season brings carved pumpkins and hay rides, costumes and remembrances. At the end of October we will celebrate the eve of All Saint's Day... otherwise known as All Hallows' Eve or Halloween. Although trick-or-treat might come to mind first when you think of Halloween, as a church, we honor the holiday by remembering the loved ones who came before us.

Life is precious and so is the legacy that we leave when we die. Often people think about writing a will or preparing the details of their funeral when preparing for their eventual time of death. And those are two very important things which can make the grieving process so much easier for your family and allow your financial legacy to continue to support the church or communities that supported you and will keep supporting your loved ones!

Another very important, and potentially more fun, part of our legacy is what we do every day. It is the way that we love one another. The way we make time for our family, friends, and neighbors. The way we share our passions and talents with the world. These are the parts of life that create the gathered legacy of stories told not only at our memorial services, but sometimes for generations to come.

Every ancestor, friend, and neighbor has a legacy that they have left for us. We are here, in part, because of the lives they lived. And we remember them in the conscious and unconscious flow of our days and in our worship. On Sunday, October 30 at 10 AM we will remember our loved ones who have passed. If you have a name you would like said in worship, please email their name to the church office by October 26 at office@uccbismarck.org. Everyone is also welcome to bring photos of deceased loved ones to worship on Oct. 30 and place them up front in the sanctuary.



World Communion Sunday

Holy Communion join us in Christian unity. Although we are separated by denominations, on **October 2** churches around the world celebrate communion and the ways God brings us together despite our differences.



Replenish the Building Fund

Thank you to everyone who has donated towards the cost of painting the church exterior. Help us raise the remaining funds! See page 3.



Baptism on Oct. 23

We are blessed to welcome Hannah Vanorny into membership on Sept. 25 and to celebrate the baptism of Jax Weil on Oct. 23. Come and celebrate with us!

Worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM in-person or at www.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 the good in every person is recognized and their talents are encouraged to be shared."

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Fall Clean Up day on Saturday, September 24! Many hands really do make work not only light, but a lot more fun. Whether your gifts and talents are yard work, organizing, or testing markers, we are grateful to each and every one of you.

"For the body is not one member, but many." – 1 Cor. 12:14



Council Corner

by Carly Retterath, Moderator

Greetings UCC Bismarck,

Happy Fall! This time of year, the changing leaves remind me of the beauty that takes place as we transition from one season to the next. I have always found fall to be a time of reflection and letting go. As the trees let go of their leaves it is a good time for us to consider what we need to let go in our own lives. So, I encourage each of you during this season to reflect on what in your life needs to be let go of and creating space for that to happen.

There is not much to report from council as our next council meeting will be on September 20th. We will continue our discussion on current committee vacancies and identifying individuals to potentially fill them. In addition, we will continue our goal setting work that we began earlier this year.

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to lead our first confirmation session and I have to tell you we have some smart, insightful, and curious young people in our congregation. In addition, on September 11th we had our kickoff to Sunday school that was a great success and the following week the Monday night adult Bible Study started up again. If you are unable to attend Bible Study in person, I strongly suggest checking out the YouTube recordings each week as the lessons and discussion are fantastic. Thank you to Christian Education for all of your great work coordinating these programs and events.

In closing, as you reflect on what you may need to let go of in your life remember the following verse, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you," Ephesians 4:31-32. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!



Cover the Paint

We need your help! Nope, not with painting the building – that’s already done! The \$9,800 cost to complete the necessary repainting of the church has diminished our Building Fund and we are currently running a deficit. We have received \$331 donations to cover the painting cost, but need your help raising the remaining \$9,469. To donate, write “Paint Project” on your check.

FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to August 31, 2022

Revenue

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 91,709

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 14,078

Expenses

Actual = \$ 114,760

Total Revenue = \$ 105,787

Total Expenses = \$ 114,760

NET ACTIVITY = \$ (8,973)

SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2022

East Timor Education Fund	\$
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 190
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$ 1,814
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 893
Strengthen the Church	\$ 210
Neighbors in Need	\$ 150
The Christmas Fund	\$
Total Shared Ministry	\$ 3257



Thank You for Sponsoring a Sunday!

September 25 – In Loving Memory of Lisa Clark-Hoffman



It’s one year on Sept. 29 that our youngest sister, Lisa, lost her battle with cancer. We’re pretty sure she’s in Heaven watching football with our Dad, riding reining horses to her heart’s content – and most of all, is at peace.

We love and miss you, Lisa, and still reach for the phone to call you every day.

- Sisters Pamela Clark-Stein, Sandra Wieser and Karla Clark and daughter Haley Hoffman

Sponsored by The Clark Sisters: Pamela, Sandra, & Karla

October 2 – In Loving Memory of Roxann Sauter



Roxann died on July 4, 2019. John and Gretchen especially remembered her this past month as they fulfilled one of her dreams for them to visit Norway with John’s father, Tim.

Sponsored by John Sauter & Gretchen Deeg

*It’s easy to Sponsor a Sunday by calling the church at 701-223-2915 or visiting www.uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500. All Sundays in September and Oct. 9, 16, 23, and 30 are currently available for sponsorship.





Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering on Oct. 2 supports justice and compassion ministries throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC to fund local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Some of these funds are distributed through grants to local churches. If you have a grant idea for Bismarck UCC, let a member of Council know!

One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM.

Deepen Faith Word by Word

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg

Have you ever read a passage of scripture and, even though you knew the words, the passage didn't make much sense? You are not alone! The Bible comes to us across time and cultures and sometimes, even though the words are translated into our language, the meaning feels difficult to grasp. However, by digging deeper into the words, we can uncover the seemingly elusive meanings of scriptures. Join us for the Monday Bible Study class either in-person at the church or online via Zoom every Monday at 6 PM to learn more.

Ongoing Classes

Monday Evening Bible Study

Using video clips from *The Bible Project*, this class is for both entry-level and experienced Bible readers. Dive into the meanings behind the words of scripture and enhance your personal Bible study tools. Meets on Mondays at 6 pm.

Caffeine & Christianity

A group of middle & high school youth. Gathers on Wednesdays at 6 pm for conversation and fun. See page 6 for upcoming events.

Friday Morning Bible Study

A group for the lectionary lovers! This dedicated group meets every Friday at 8:30 am in the church library to study the weekly scripture reading and fellowship. All are welcome.

Sunday School

Classes for the youngest kids to middle school aged are held on Sundays. See the youth page for details.

Confirmation

A program for our 7th – 12th grade spiritual explorers. Meets twice a month on Sundays from 2 pm to 3:30 pm. Already confirmed youth are welcome to continue attending. Contact Pastor Gretchen if you are interested in affirming your faith.

Have an idea for a class? Contact Pastor Gretchen (223-2915) or Christian Ed with your ideas.

Just For Fun

Thursday Game Nights

Dust off your board games of all ability levels and join others from the general public and our church for the UCC hosted game night. The games begin the first Thursday of every month at 7 pm. Bring board games and a snack to share, if you wish. Next game nights: **Oct. 6 & Nov. 3.**

Bring your favorite board games every

FIRST THURSDAY AT 7PM

G _ M _ N _ G H T

Bismarck United Church of Christ
1200 E Highland Acres Rd

Ministry & Fellowship Groups

UCC Choir

Choir has begun singing in worship and what a beautiful addition to the worship experience. The choir would happily welcome anybody who is interested in joining. The choir meets for practice on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm**.

Mayflower Circle

This women's fellowship group meets every second Thursday of the month at noon. Mayflower Circle leads various ministries throughout the year including funeral luncheons, annual rummage sale, numerous fundraisers, and others. Join us this month on **Oct. 13th at noon** or contact Jane Thomson to learn more.

Threads of Love

Knit, quilt, tell stories, and have a great time with this group of crafters. Bring your own project, knit a prayer shawl to be blessed and gifted to another, or focus on your quilting. All are welcome to come join us at our **Tuesday gatherings from 2 to 4 pm, or later**. Experience or participation sewing, quilting, knitting, crafting, crocheting, are NOT required—we LOVE to fellowship with any and all. Hope to see you soon!

Haycreek Worship Team

Have a passion for serving those in care centers? This team preaches and leads worship services at Haycreek Lodge Retirement Community on College Dr on various Wednesdays throughout the year. Talk with Darcy Avery with interest in joining this group of worship leaders.

Gathering with Friends

Friendships are created by inviting and accepting invitations from others. In November, Bismarck UCC is blessed to gather with our friends from other Christian denominations and faith traditions in three specially worship services and community events that we helped to establish! Come and expand your circle of faith friends by joining a couple or all of our upcoming interfaith & ecumenical gatherings.

Ecumenical Taizé Worship for All Saints/Souls Day

November 2 at 7pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

Taizé worship originated in the small village of Taizé, France. It's simple, but meaningful music, times of silence, and prayers bring people together from all Christian traditions and languages.

Interfaith Friendsgiving Potluck

November 19 from 11:30am – 2pm at Bismarck UCC

After a pandemic induced hiatus, the Bismarck Interfaith gatherings are back! Bring a dish to share and a nonperishable food item for donation.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 23 at 7pm. Location to be determined.

Give thanks and share the joy of gratitude in worship and over a piece of pie.

Feeding the Hungry

Every donation to Jack's Food Pantry makes a difference in someone's life whether it is a food donation, personal care product, or money. For the past two years, we have been partnering with Adopt-a-Block to magnify the outreach of our donations. Now our food donations go directly to the neighborhoods that need them instead having those in need spend gas money to come to us. Although Jack's Food Pantry is no longer a distribution center, we continue to make the most of every donation and get food where it is most needed.

Recently, we put \$1,500 of donations designated for food ministries to work by supporting the operating costs of Adopt-a-Block and serving hot meals at the Dream Center. If you ever stop by the Dream Center, take a moment to look for the acknowledgement of your continued donations through Bismarck UCC near the Dream Center entrance.



Youth News



October
Sunday School
Every Sunday at 10:15am



Help Your Kids Engage with Worship

Help your kids prepare for worship by telling them about the upcoming special times in worship.

Oct. 2 – World Communion Sunday

Pulling out a globe or map and showing kids that there are churches all over the world is one way to prepare for World Communion Sunday.

Oct. 23 – Baptism of Jax Weil

Sharing the stories about your own baptism and the day of their baptism can help kids connect with worship whenever we celebrate a baptism in church.

Oct. 30 – All Saints/Souls Day

Taking time with your family to look at photos of loved ones who have died and tell a few favorite stories about them can teach kids about your family values and learn healthy ways to grieve. Bring the photos to worship to place up front during this special worship service.



Confirmation Class & Service

Sundays from 2 PM - 3:30 PM

We had a great start to our Confirmation class this year! Confirmation is open to all youth grades 7th – 12th. Already confirmed youth are also welcome to attend and further develop their faith knowledge.

Confirmation meets twice a month on Sunday afternoons from 2 pm to 3:30 pm and incorporates a mix of education, games, and service opportunities. Our upcoming class dates are:

Oct. 9 at Bismarck UCC

Oct. 23 Service Project at Papa's Pumpkin Patch

Nov. 6

Nov. 20

BISMARCK UCC YOUTH

Caffeine & X-ianity

Every Wednesday

at 6 PM

for youth 6th - 12th grade



Worship Connects us to Dig Deep



Getting to worship together is always a celebration and an important way to feed our souls! This month, we are pleased to share that Elicia Faul, who we connected with through our ecumenical Taize Worship services is releasing an album of her own spirit-filled music. Mark your calendars for our next Taize Worship service on November 2 at St. George's Church.

"Dig Deep." It's something Bismarck singer/songwriter Elicia Faul knows well. It's also the title of her recently released pandemic album. "I started posting a series of videos on Facebook (LooseLeaves) that captured my songwriting process." Those postings evolved into a worthy and evocative collection of heartfelt tunes. From her delightful, "Simple, Sacred Song," that appreciates the gifts of love even at the end of a relationship to "Beautiful" that looks at changing realities that are ultimately seen when grounded in feelings, Faul's lyrics and melodies have a certain North Dakota sensitivity that appeals.

When not creating, Faul, who started singing at age three, is an acupuncturist and single mother. "Coming back to music in my 40s with three kids is not the typical model. It forces me to face my own fears about what others think and not being good enough. Thinking of my daughters I wanted to show that vulnerability for them. If you have something you're passionate about, you should Dig Deep and try. Don't hold yourself back for any reason."

Find "Dig Deep" on Spotify and Amazon Music You tube channel Eliciahealing, and facebook page "Loose Leaves."



Northern Plains Conference Statewide UCC Gathering

October 28 – 29, 2022
Camp of the Cross
Garrison, ND

Friday evening begins with dinner and a program. Saturday will be the main business of the meeting.

Watch the weekly Friday emails from Bismarck UCC for registration information.



Afterschool Place Bus Driver

The Afterschool Place meets in the basement of Bismarck UCC Monday – Friday every school day afternoon! If you are looking for an afternoon job, enjoy kids, and are interested in helping out with a bus route please contact Lori @ (701)250-3109



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.



- 01 Doug Klein
- 03 Sally Ritz
- 13 Autum Eisenbraun
- 19 Katie Mitchell
- 23 Norra Dobitz
- 25 Cole Stockert

- 02 Christina Prince
- 08 Jana Knoll
- 14 Annelise Klein
- 19 Kay Royse
- 23 Gemma Dobitz
- 28 Ryker Klein

- 02 Teresa Heupel
- 12 Isabella McFerran
- 16 Zander Scheer
- 20 Mark Clark
- 23 Rachel Patrie

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



BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A Global Ministry Church”

www.ucbismarck.org

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 UCC Retreat in Maryvale
2 World Communion Sunday 10am Worship & Communion 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 	3 6pm Bible Study	4 2pm Quilting/knitting	5 2pm Haycreek Lodge Ministries 6pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	6 7pm Game Night	7 8:30am Bible Study 	8
9 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	10 Indigenous Peoples' Day 6pm Bible Study	11 2pm Quilting/knitting	12 6pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	13 12pm Mayflower Circle 7pm Music Committee	14 8:30am Bible Study	15
16 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	17 6pm Bible Study 7pm League of Women Readers	18 2pm Quilting/knitting 6pm Trustees	19 6pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	20	21 8:30am Bible Study	22
23 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	24 6pm Bible Study	25 10am NPC Clergy Zoom Gathering 2pm Quilting/knitting 6pm Council	26 6pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	27	28 8:30am Bible Study	29 NPC Annual Meeting
30 All Saints/Souls Day 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 	31 Halloween 6pm Bible Study			Happy Halloween 		