

# 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

## January 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## Walk on Water in the New Year

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Senior Pastor

The light of Christmas has broken into the world and the days are literally getting longer – yay, sunshine! Although the New Year according to the Gregorian calendar has come (if you're reading this after January 1) and some of you may have already packed away all signs of the past year, we are still in the season of Christmas until Epiphany on Thursday, January 6.

It is at Epiphany that we recall the story of the Wise Ones or Magi who came from the East bearing gifts for the toddler Jesus. The week after that, we hear the story of the Baptism of Christ when the heavens open up and proclaim that the now adult Jesus is "my Son, the Beloved; with whom I am well pleased." Although we pause for twelve days in the infancy and toddlerhood of Christ, the rest of the year we are called to jump feet first into the waters of our baptism – the life of following Christ with everything we are through service to others.

None of us know what 2022 will bring. We will likely still be experiencing the impact of Covid. Our country will likely still be struggling under the great weight of polarization and division. The hungry, homeless, and downtrodden will still be with us. There are parts of 2022 that will be out of our control. However, like the Magi before us, we can set our sights on the guiding light of God and proclaim that we will follow in the ways of Christ no matter who we are, no matter what occurs, and no matter where life may take us. This is the great step of faith that we are called into at the start of every new beginning – to hear God's call, get out of last year's boat, and step out into the water with Jesus.

We never know exactly what is going to happen when we follow in God's ways. We might find a star that leads us directly to a life-giving opportunity that changes our whole world or we might find ourselves starting to sink and crying out for God to grab ahold of us. But either way, when we commit to following in God's ways we will find God right there with us. For when we let ourselves jump completely into lives loving God with our whole selves and serving our neighbor, there is always adventure, joy and transformation, an opening of our hearts, and lots of love. This New Year, consider making the New Year's resolution you keep "to risk following in the ways of Christ and serve others" or in other words, "to step out and walk on water with Christ."



### Mark your Calendars

The annual meeting will be  
Sunday, January 30, 2022 @ 11 AM



### Peace of Mind Seminar

Sunday, January 23, 2022

11:30 AM

Details on page 3

The  
**BANQUET**  
A Community Meal

January 29, 2022

Interested in Helping?

Details on page 7

*Worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM in-person or online. Masks required by all.*

# 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."***

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of joy and leaned into joy with this year's intergenerational Christmas Pageant! At times the sanctuary sounded just like the Christmas stable with plenty of "moos" and "quacks" and other times it sounded like we were in the middle of the heavenly chorus. It is such a JOY to worship, reflect, laugh, and praise God together!

## Council Corner

by Mike Stein, Moderator

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday. I would like to wish you and your family, health, happiness, and prosperity in the New Year.

As we take a reflective look at this past year. It was another year filled with Joy and emotions! March of 2022 will mean 2 years of living in this new Covid world. This new world we are living in has affected us in many ways. Let us all pray that our beloved world returns to a sense of stability and peace and that the divisiveness we are experiencing everywhere melts away like snow on a sun-filled day.

The Council is trying very hard to get the church back to normal. Our first concern is the safety of you – our congregation members. We have followed the guidelines of the ND State Health Department and CDC. Our next Council meeting will be the end of December. One item on the agenda is the wearing of the mask.

I will be stepping down as Moderator the end of January. It was a total pleasure to be your Moderator for four years. I believe it is the best position to fill if you want to take more of an active role in the functions of the church. I would encourage everyone to get involved. We have committee vacancies that are open. It is a great way to meet other members and more importantly the service of members is how the church thrives.

As we prepare for the new year. Let's support and pray for the homeless and the less fortunate families. Remember to get involved and volunteer. All of us together can make a difference.

Take care & God Bless!

# Gift Giving All Year Long

by Pamela Clark-Stein, Stewardship & Mission Chair

With each Christmas season, there is a time-honored tradition of gift giving and generosity toward others who may need a helping hand. There are examples all around us — individuals, families and organizations stepping up to give gifts of time, talents and resources.

Gift giving has been a yearlong endeavor, thanks to the UCC church family. Participation in “Sponsor a Sunday” continues to be strong with 24 Sunday worship services sponsored in 2021. The 5-for5 special offerings and the annual pledge drive are other shining examples of gift giving throughout out the year. The Stewardship and Mission Committee thanks you for your gift giving and generosity!

Also deserving of recognition and our gratitude are Marcia Lerberg and Larry Schneider, outgoing members of our committee. They have been steadfast in their commitment and contributions to the Stewardship and Mission Committee and advancing the mission of our church. Thank you, Marcia and Larry, for your service and gift giving!



## FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to November 30, 2021

### Revenue

#### General Offerings

Actual = \$ 134,466

#### Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 7,505

### Expenses

Actual = \$ 122,958

Total Revenue = \$ 141,970

Total Expenses = \$ 139,174

**NET ACTIVITY = \$ 2,797**

(Predicting a deficit with end-of-year bills)

## SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2021

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 1,250
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 100
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$ 2,752
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,218
Strengthen the Church	\$ 706
Neighbors in Need	\$ 635
The Christmas Fund	\$ 170
<b>Total Shared Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 6,831</b>

Please join us for a  
**Peace of Mind Seminar**  
 on January 23, 2022, following Sunday’s worship.



### Allison Braun

Advance Funeral Planner

Cell: 701-390-4283

Email: allison@eastgatefuneral.com

Allison will share the many benefits of preplanning and funding your final wishes. She will be your guide as you thoughtfully consider each step of the preplanning process. It’s easy!

Brenda oversees the LOTUS (Looking Onward To Understanding and Serenity) grief support programs for bereaved family members. She also makes home visits for grief support to the families we served.



### Brenda Bergan

Grief Care Coordinator

Cell: 701-426-1021

Email: brenda.bergan@eastgatefuneral.com



2330 Tyler Parkway, Bismarck, ND 58503  
 Office: 701-223-1100  
 www.ParkwayFuneral.com

2302 East Divide Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501  
 Office: 701-223-7322  
 www.EastgateFuneral.com

## Welcome to New Members!

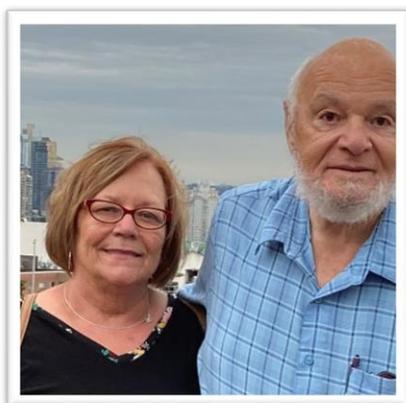
### Larry & Karol Parker

In the early 1980's after checking out various local churches, we decided to join the UCC church in New Town. At the time, the church, led by husband-and-wife co-pastors, appealed to our young family's needs because of their enthusiasm and energy on issues important to us. We liked that our children were included in the service through the children's sermon and other community activities. Most importantly, the congregation was welcoming to our family.



Later, we moved to Minneapolis to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota in 1983. In the Twin Cities, we became involved at various levels of church leadership such as the CAIM Board, Coordinating Center for Women, serving as delegates to General Synod, and a national group concerned with indigenous peoples' issues. Collectively, the experiences provided an opportunity for personal growth and empowerment.

Two years ago, we moved back to ND and the UCC. We met former members of the New Town church: Dr. and Mrs. Wilson —it felt like we came full circle back to the UCC. Being and living in Bismarck has allowed us to reconnect to our family's Nueta (Mandan) heritage by locating and visiting the land that holds the history of our people. Larry enjoys capturing the North Dakota sky and beautiful sunsets.



### Frank & Betty Picard

Frank and Betty Picard are new residents of Bismarck. Frank is an ordained retired UCC pastor serving congregations in WI, ND, and MN. His passion is golfing! Betty was with Burke and Burleigh County Social Services for 24 years. She is a newbie quilter! Together they had 6 children and have 13 grandchildren,

which they enjoy immensely! Ironically, it's like coming home to Bismarck-Mandan UCC, as they were married here!

### We Have Committee Openings, and Need You!

Do you have ideas you would like to share? Do you want to be part of the inner workings of the church? Maybe you are just looking for a group of likeminded people to have fun with while fulfilling your desire to help. We have openings on every committee, there is bound to be one that fits. Contact Pastor Gretchen or the office for details.

## Ministry & Fellowship Groups

### Mayflower Circle

A women's fellowship group is for any age. Mayflower Circle leads various ministries throughout the year including funeral luncheons, annual rummage sale, numerous fundraisers, and others. They typically meet on the second Thursday of every month. Call to church office for their next meeting date.

### Haycreek Lodge Ministries

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

### Threads of Love: Crafting Guild

Knit, purl, tell stories and have a great time with this group of knitters, quilters and crafters. This group meets every Tuesday at 2 PM in-person in the Fellowship Hall.

### UCC Choir

The choir meets on Wednesdays at 7 PM for rehearsal. All are welcome. For more info, please contact choir director Craig Devos at 701-226-3860.

### Handbell Choir

Let's ring in the new season! Practice is on Sundays at 11:30 AM. Contact the church office at 223-2915 with interest.



## Haycreek Lodge Ministries

by Darcy Avery

Happy New Year from the Primrose team: Dale Carmen, Ken Trana, Marcia Lerberg, Camille Grothier, Frank Picard, and Darcy Avery. We had such a beautiful December with our Primrose residents. We held two services and an additional church singalong with the residents. We are anticipating another beautiful year full of worship, song, communion and fellowship.

We plan to have 16 services this year on the first and fifth Wednesday of the month, covid permitting. Primrose has been bought and renamed Haycreek Lodge. Let us fill each breath with the spirit of God and breathe out God's love and light.



SAVE  
THE DATE

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Time 11:00 AM

## Charles Hall's New Beginning

by Gayle Klopp, Executive Director

**It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.**

Charles Dickens began his book, *The Tale of Two Cities*, taking a chapter from Ecclesiastes where it speaks about a time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance. With the ongoing pandemic struggle with COVID-19, these words speak to me.

For 55 years, Charles Hall Youth & Family Services fulfilled its worthy mission and cared for thousands of at-risk foster care youth, with over half of those served being Native American youth from North Dakota and regional tribal nations. As 2020 ended, our agency was forced to close its residential program due to Covid and changing priorities in the state's foster care system.

### A New Beginning

Charles Hall Youth & Family Services has pivoted in 2021 to create a spin-off organization called the **Charles Hall Institute**. With the Institute, our agency's legacy can continue with an evolving mission to design and implement educational programming and technology application(s) that promote healthy moral development, character, and self-valuing in children and adolescents. Our vision is that all children find within themselves the ability to reach their highest potential for capability and goodness, psychological security, and inner well-being. This is needed now more than ever.

Based on our decades-long service delivery, best practices, and research and evidence-based work, our efforts today can impact and make a positive difference in preventing classroom violence, disruptive and irresponsible behaviors, and promote pro-social behaviors such as empathy, self-control, responsibility, healthy problem-solving and cooperation, and respect for the rights of self and others. The Institute's foundation is that of almost 20 years of strength-based, trauma-informed work with respected program partners from across the United States.

### Pilot Project

Our beginning focus will be to work with North Dakota elementary and middle schools serving Native American youth. Our initial pilot project will be envisioned with teachers and staff at United Tribes Technical College (Bismarck) and the Theodore Jamerson Elementary School and the Grace Link Child Development Center.

Thank you for your continued support of Charles Hall. Your current gifts underwrite the new program developments and our pilot project with children in K-6 grades. To make donation to Charles Hall through Bismarck UCC, please note "Charles Hall" in your check memo.

# Children, Youth, & Adult Classes



## Monthly Service Projects

Christian Ed is working on setting up monthly service opportunities for everyone in our congregation, and are looking forward to having all ages participate.

Watch for details coming soon!

## Thank You to our Students!

Our Sunday School students have outdone themselves this year on the beautiful Christmas ornaments they created for our church family. A big "Thanks" to all of our kids and teachers for their hard work and creativity!



### Wednesday Bible Study

Dive into the literary and historical context of the Bible every Wednesday from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM. Online only via Zoom at this time. Classes are recorded and available for viewing at [www.youtube.com/c/BismarckUnitedChurchofChrist](http://www.youtube.com/c/BismarckUnitedChurchofChrist). In January class will be held on **January 12, 19, and 26** to study the books of John and Acts.

### Friday Morning Bible Study

This dedicated group meets every Friday at 8:30 am at the church for Bible study and fellowship. They also use Zoom for each meeting for those that cannot make it to the church that day. All are welcome.



Confirmation classes for youth 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up meet monthly from 2pm – 4pm. Below are upcoming dates in 2022:

- January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2 PM
- February 20<sup>th</sup> @ 2 PM
- March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 2 PM
- April 24<sup>th</sup> @ 2 PM

## Caffeine & X-ianity

for youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up meets every Wednesday from 4pm to 5pm at Bismarck UCC.



## Snowman Word Search

COAL	SNOW	E	O	Y	C	Q	V	B
CARROT	STICKS	T	O	R	R	A	C	T
SCARF	TOP HAT	S	K	C	I	T	S	O
		M	D	D	C	Q	G	P
		C	S	N	O	W	R	H
		K	F	R	A	C	S	A
		F	C	M	L	V	W	T



# Join Us in Serving Others at The Banquet

by Marcia Patrie

The mission statement for The Banquet reads,

*"The Banquet is a multi-generational, family-friendly ministry that feeds the body, mind, and soul. We seek to provide a place where all are welcome to share and enjoy a free meal together. We are geared toward serving: Low-income individuals and families, Senior citizens, single-parents and their children, hurting and broken people, the homeless, and those seeking fellowship."*

What a beautiful organization for our church members to be affiliated with. I received their newsletter this week and Bismarck United Church of Christ was listed along with 69 other organizations and businesses that host the meals served 3 days per week. Soon The Banquet will move their facilities from Trinity Lutheran to the new Dream Center, which will host the Adopt-a-Block Food Distribution program along with The Banquet and other services to aid those in need. Once the move is made, they will be serving meals seven days a week with an estimated 2000 meals per week being served. They have an expected opening of April 1, 2022. The building is up and are now fundraising to buy the equipment to furnish the kitchen.

On **Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** we will be hosting the noon meal. This isn't as big a job as they serve the lunch cafeteria-style, and it is a lighter meal. **We will need about 10 volunteers** and families are welcome to come to serve together. Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet that will be posted in the New Year.



*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.*



- 08 Diane Heidrich
- 09 Casey Devos
- 11 Carol Prince
- 16 Dave Archer
- 18 Ross Tolstedt
- 20 Jeanne Kolberg
- 21 Jeff Benson

- 24 Dawn Archer
- 26 Shawn LaVillie
- 27 Herbert C. Ritz
- 27 Sheila Schmidt
- 28 Dan Domagala
- 28 Eunice Toman
- 29 Darcy Avery

*\*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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2 10am Worship & Communion 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	3	4 2pm Quilting/ Knitting	5 2pm Haycreek Lodge Ministries 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	6	7 8:30am Bible Study	8
Pastor Gretchen on vacation. Contact Camille Grothier for pastoral emergencies 425-4256.						
9 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 11:30am Handbells 12pm Online Fellowship	10	11 2pm Quilting/ Knitting  6:30pm Deacons	12 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	13  5:30pm Christian Ed	14 8:30am Bible Study	15
16 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 11:30am Handbells 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	17  <b>Church Closed</b>	18 2pm Quilting/ Knitting	19 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	20	21 8:30am Bible Study	22
23 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 11:30am Handbells 11:30am Peace of Mind Seminar 12pm Online Fellowship	24	25 2pm Quilting/ Knitting	26 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	27	28 8:30am Bible Study	29  <b>The Banquet at Trinity</b>
30 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School <b>11am Annual Meeting</b> 12pm Online Fellowship	31					