

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

November 2021

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Do You Know Your Roots?

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Senior Pastor

When I think of my roots, the first things that come to mind are my German and Romanian heritage that gave me my physical characteristics and family traditions; my family, friends, and mentors who taught me about life and helped to hone my gifts and reshape my shortcomings; the land I have lived on and the cycles of the seasons; and the faith communities I have been transformed by. When you think of your roots what, where, or who comes to mind?

Our roots shape who we are, but we also continue to shape our roots throughout our lifetimes. The choices we make, the places we choose to live, and the communities we commit ourselves to eventually turn into our roots. Eight years ago, I committed myself to serve and be a part of Bismarck United Church of Christ. In fact, I moved halfway across the country because of who this church is. I chose to be rooted in and changed by this particular faith community because of your love for one another, your humor and laughter, your willingness to look at the world anew, your hunger for spiritual depth, your compassion for the wider-community, and so much more.

I also came because I felt I had things from some of my other roots to offer to you too. As your pastor, serving this congregation is my work, but Bismarck UCC is also the faith community that I, like so many of you, choose to be shaped by. And, like you, each year I get a pledge card and reconsider what I can add to God's work of transforming people's lives and the wider-community through Bismarck UCC. Each year, I recommit myself to the ministries of this church through my own pledge to Bismarck UCC and to OCWM (Our Congregation's Wider Mission). OCWM is the second line on the annual pledge card and donations to it magnify the work of our single congregation by supporting ministries of the entire UCC across the United States.

Some people pledge to meet the budget. I see the budget and am immensely grateful to all of you who help us meet the budget, because running programs, caring for the building, holding worship, and organizing community events all take money. But I don't pledge because of the budget. I pledge because Bismarck UCC is now a part of my roots and I have seen the impact this church has had on the wider community. Bismarck needs the love, compassion, and courage this congregation has to offer. That's why I look forward to dedicating my pledge in worship on November 14 alongside your own.



2022 Pledge Drive

Renew your commitments to this church family and celebrate Bismarck UCC's 67th birthday on Nov. 14th.

See Page 7



Join us and our faith partners on
Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021
7 PM at Faith Lutheran
See details on page 7



1st Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

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

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 we can bring our personal needs and struggles and count on support from our church family – which is the loving family we all deserve."

At the end of September, our church apple tree supported the Bismarck Cancer Center through Applefest. In October, household goods went to a family in need and food donations helped to feed hundreds of hungry families. Abundant life isn't experienced through the stuff we have, but it can be found in the act of sharing with others!



Council Corner

by Mike Stein, Moderator

Hello Everyone,

The season of Fall is a wonderful time of year. The leaves are turning color, there is a little brisk of coolness in the air, hunting season is upon us and, of course, there is football on the television.

I hope everyone staying safe and healthy. The Council is reviewing our protocols monthly. We are following the guidelines of the North Dakota Department of Health and the CDC. We will continue to monitor the increase in positive cases to determine if we need to make any adjustments. Please remember to wear your mask and as you leave the church or have fellowship please try to social distance.

At our last Council meeting we discussed the benefit of reestablishing greeters for our Sunday worship. We also talked about offering mentors to the newest members of our church family. We need to make sure that everyone feels accepted. This is our vision statement: **where are all are unconditionally welcomed, affirmed, accepted and loved.**

We ask, if you are comfortable to get involved with the church activities. This will help you during these stressful times to maintain and grow your spiritual health. I would encourage everyone to visit our website and our Facebook page. If you are not receiving our weekly updated email blast, please call into the church office and asked to be added to this list.

Please be safe! God Bless!

OFFICE HOURS

Effective

November 1, 2021

Monday - Friday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM



FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to October 31, 2021

Revenue

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 113,681

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 5,670

Expenses

Actual = \$ 118,298

Total Revenue = \$ 119,350

Total Expenses = \$ 118,298

NET ACTIVITY = \$ 1,053

SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2021

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 850
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 100
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 2,072
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,118
Strengthen the Church	\$ 706
Neighbors in Need	\$ 535
The Christmas Fund	\$ 0
Total Shared Ministry	\$ 5,381

Featured Family

Janice & Gary Sather

Gary has been driving truck for Knife River for the last 9 years. Maybe next year he will retire. Janice keeps busy with quilting and knitting. We are both doing very well health-wise. It has been 2 years since Janice had heart surgery and all is going well. We really appreciate having Sunday worship service live streamed, as we are not ready to be in groups at this time. We have both been vaccinated and are anxiously awaiting our booster. We will leave for Apache Junction, AZ the end of November and return to Bismarck about the middle of April. We will watch services online while we are gone. This church is very important to us. I remember as a little girl when we met in the Memorial Building, and then on 7th street before our church was built. It has changed a lot over these many years, but appreciate that the inclusion of all people stays the same.



Gratitude for Your Gifts and Giving

by Pamela Clark-Stein, Stewardship & Mission chair

On November 14, Consecration Sunday, members of the United Church of Christ (UCC) are invited to come together for a special worship service. On the one hand, it will serve as a culmination of collaboration and unity among members to support the annual pledge drive and the ministry of Bismarck UCC in 2022. Members are invited to return their annual pledge card and time and talent card by this date — using the return envelope they received in the mail to mail or drop off at the church — or bringing with them to church on Consecration Sunday. On the other hand, it's a time to recognize your generosity through giving over the past several weeks and throughout this year.

A recent example is the special "Sponsor a Sunday" on All Saints Day-All Souls Day to provide an opportunity for all members to participate. This is in addition to the Sponsor a Sunday initiative that is now in its third year! Your Stewardship and Mission Committee never expected this to be such a grand success past the first year — with continuing and increased support from members. It's such a joy to open each monthly newsletter and see the individuals and families who wish to honor loved ones, share special memories and recognize special life events. It's also a great way to become better acquainted with fellow church members and learn a little bit more about their gifts of time, talent and service to our church.

The Stewardship and Mission Committee is so grateful for all your gifts and giving. From our hearts to yours, thank you for all that you are and all that you do for the Bismarck UCC!

New Member Sunday

November 21, 2021

Have you been enjoying this church family? If you are interested in membership, please contact Pastor Gretchen to find out more about becoming a UCC member. We invite our members to join us in welcoming any new members on this day.



Ministry & Fellowship Groups

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 **Thursday, November 11 at noon** in our Fellowship Hall.

Primrose Worship Team

Have a passion for serving those in care centers? This team preaches and leads worship services at Primrose Retirement Community 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 is back with masks and social distancing! We do not need to sing every Sunday, but can sing when we feel we are ready. The choir meets on **Wednesdays at 7 PM** for rehearsal. 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.



November 7, 2021

Reminder that the time change will occur early that morning, and to set your clocks before bed so that we can enjoy worship together on Sunday morning.

Sunday Sponsors

October 24, 2021

Bill & Marcia Patrie

The months of November and October are full of birthdays and anniversaries for our family. So, in honor of all members of the Patrie clan we sponsor this Sunday to note their importance and value. To our parents, we remember with gratitude their love and support and honor their memory; and to our children and grandchildren, we celebrate your beautiful lives that bring us joy.



October 31, 2021

UCC Congregation

Thank you to everyone who helped sponsor All Souls Sunday in remembrance of our church members who have passed this last year, and all other family members that you chose to honor on this special Sunday.



Are you interested in Sponsoring a Sunday? This is a wonderful way to commemorate a special day, or honor a loved one while giving to the UCC. These donations help us to continue our mission of serving our church family and community in many ways both in person & online. We have dates open in both November and December.

Ongoing Classes

Friday Morning Bible Study

This dedicated group meets every Friday at 8:30 am at the church for Bible study and fellowship. All are welcome.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Dive into the literary and historical context of the Bible every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Online only via Zoom at this time. Classes are also recorded for later viewing. Led by Pastor Gretchen.



Ways to Care & Share a Smile

by Camille Grothier, Deacon's chair

At our recent Deacon's meeting, many issues were discussed. There are new opportunities available for our church family members to become more involved in the life of our congregation. If you have a desire to serve your brothers and sisters in Christ more fully, please contact me at 701-425-4256 or the church office at 701-223-2915. At present, we are looking for folks who would like to become NEW Connectors (phoning other church members to maintain connections with each other), or becoming a Greeter and welcoming people with a smile (beneath our masks, of course) when they arrive for worship.

A big "thank you" for continuing your support of Jack's Food Pantry. The food and goods donated are helping to feed people we may never meet, but who are fed by God through your giving hands.

We are always looking for ways in which the spiritual life of the church may be further enriched and welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Even during Covid, we are excited to continue working for all of our benefits in extending the hand of Christ in our midst. Stay safe and God bless!

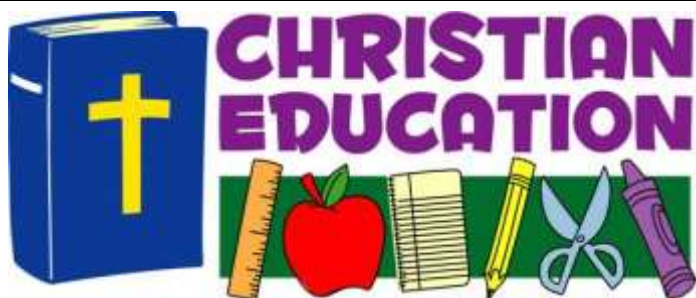
Remembering Those Who Walked Alongside Us

On Oct. 31st we celebrated All Souls Day and the wonderful lives of our church family members and friends who have passed away. Listed here are our church family members who have died in the past year. A number of our church families have also lost loved ones in their personal families and friend circles. We continue to hold all those who grieve in our prayers. We are blessed by the love they have shared with us.

- Harold Gomke – Oct. 31, 2020
- Edythe DeLange – Nov. 30, 2020
- Doris Ritz – Dec. 10, 2020
- Ann Glanville – Dec. 19, 2020
- Reba Walker, named Abiweash (Corn Silk Woman) – Dec. 20, 2020
- Esther Konrad – Dec. 27, 2020
- Robert Robidou – Dec. 31, 2020
- Rev. Keith Mills, Northern Plains Conference Minister – Feb. 1, 2021
- Opal-Jean Carlson – Apr. 27, 2021
- Marvin Diede – May 13, 2021
- Peggy Iszler – May 20, 2021
- Joyce Zook – July 1, 2021
- Lilian Wilson – Aug. 17, 2021
- Connie Schwartz – Aug. 19, 2021
- Esther Lang – Sept. 18, 2021



UCC Youth News



We have numerous opportunities for UCC Children and Youth to grow in their faith this year:

Sunday School: Sundays @ 10:20 AM

Confirmation: Every 3rd Sunday @ 2 PM

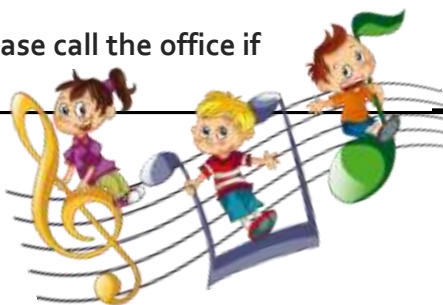
Next Meeting: November 21st

Caffeine & X-ianity – Wednesdays @ 4 PM

Fellowship Hall (6th – 12th Grades)

Nov. 3, 10, 17, and 24

Faith-at-Home – Please call the office if interested



Do You Like Singing?

If you like to sing, and would like to learn the special songs the Sunday School kids are planning to sing during the worship service, come and join us on Sunday mornings! We will be learning and practicing them during Sunday School which starts on Sundays at 10:20 AM.

Thanksgiving Family Fun

Blessing Jar – During the week leading up to Thanksgiving, each family member writes what they are thankful for each day, and places it in the Blessing Jar. We have a Blessing Jar in the sanctuary too!

On Thanksgiving Day, read all the pieces out loud as a family. This is a great way to recognize the small things we don't always remember to be grateful for.



Advent Family Ideas

Create an Advent Chain – Cut 27 strips of paper for your chain. Write a family activity on each chain link, along with a date (Plan activities according to the time you would have on those dates, so you don't have disappointed little people). Each day of Advent take off that day's link, and enjoy the listed activity as a family.

Weekly Shining of Light – Choose an activity for each week that allows you to share God's light with others. The following are examples to get you started:

- Shovel the neighbor's sidewalks
- Call or write to a family member or friend that may be lonely at this time of year
- Give someone Christmas flowers (real or art project) for fun
- Collect and donate unused toys, and donate to an organization that could use them
- Donate food to Jack's Food Pantry
- Color pictures for a nursing home



Christmas Card Prayers – As you receive cards from others in the mail, take time to pray for them and wish upon them a beautiful Advent season, and joy filled New Year.

Read Christmas Books – Enjoy time with your children by reading Christmas books, and discussing what Advent means in your family.

Family Nights – Take time to have family nights during the busy Advent season. Play games, bake cookies, watch movies, or check out the lights in town. Those days are often so busy that preplanning dates on a calendar with the family allows you to enjoy the season.



It is time to renew our commitment for 2022!

You should have received your Pledge Card and Time & Talent Card in the mail the last week of October. If you did not, please call the church at 701.223.2915.

Please return your Pledge Card by Sunday, November 14, 2020.



Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021 at 7 PM

Faith Lutheran Church - 1402 E Ave C - Bismarck, ND 58501

Bismarck UCC is partnering again with St. George Episcopal, Faith Lutheran, and Lutheran Church of the Cross for our annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship! The focus of this year's worship is homelessness and what already are doing and what more we can do to reduce homelessness in Bismarck/Mandan.

We will also be taking part in a "Pillow Fight" with our community church partners. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we will be collecting **New Pillows & New/Gently Used Pillowcases and Bedding**. Please launder used items and mark all items with sizes. Pillows and bedding are often in very short supply for homeless and transient populations.

*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 Steve Smokey | 17 Karen Beck |
| 03 Katie Vanderlaan | 18 Dustin Schmidt |
| 04 Carol Baber | 20 Jordan Kramer |
| 10 Marciana Mitchell | 21 Austin Crowley |
| 10 Kira Whitmore | 21 Riley Benson |
| 11 Gail Erickson | 21 Tristan Benson |
| 13 Elijah Meidinger | 26 Chase Stockert |
| 17 Larry Heinle | |



**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.uccbismarck.org

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px;"> Effective November 1st: Office Hours are Monday — Friday 8:30 AM — 12:30 PM </div>	2pm Quilting/Knitting	4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study(online) 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	5:30pm Worship Team for Nov. 14	8:30am Bible Study	
7 10am Worship & Communion 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 11:30am Handbell Choir 12pm Online Fellowship	8	9 2pm Quilting/Knitting 6:30pm Deacons	10 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study(online) 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	11 12 Noon Mayflower Circle 	12 8:30am Bible Study	13
14 Consecration Sunday & Happy 67th Birthday UCC! 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 11:30am Handbell Choir 12pm Online Fellowship	15 	16 2pm Quilting/Knitting 6pm Trustees	17 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study(online) 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	18 6pm Stewardship	19 8:30am Bible Study	20
21 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 11:30am Handbell Choir 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	22	23 2pm Quilting/Knitting	24 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Community Worship Thanksgiving Eve (Faith Lutheran Church) 8pm NA Meeting	25 Church Office Closed 	26 Church Office Closed 8:30am Bible Study	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 11:30am Handbell Choir 12pm Online Fellowship	29	30 2pm Quilting/Knitting	May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. ~ Num. 6:24-25			