

## “God’s Abundant Presence”

**Ecumenical** means promoting or relating to unity among the world’s Christian Churches. The United Church of Christ, which was founded just under seventy years ago out of an ecumenical impulse following the second world war, is founded on the principle that working together, people of many faith traditions can achieve more justice than any one organization working alone.

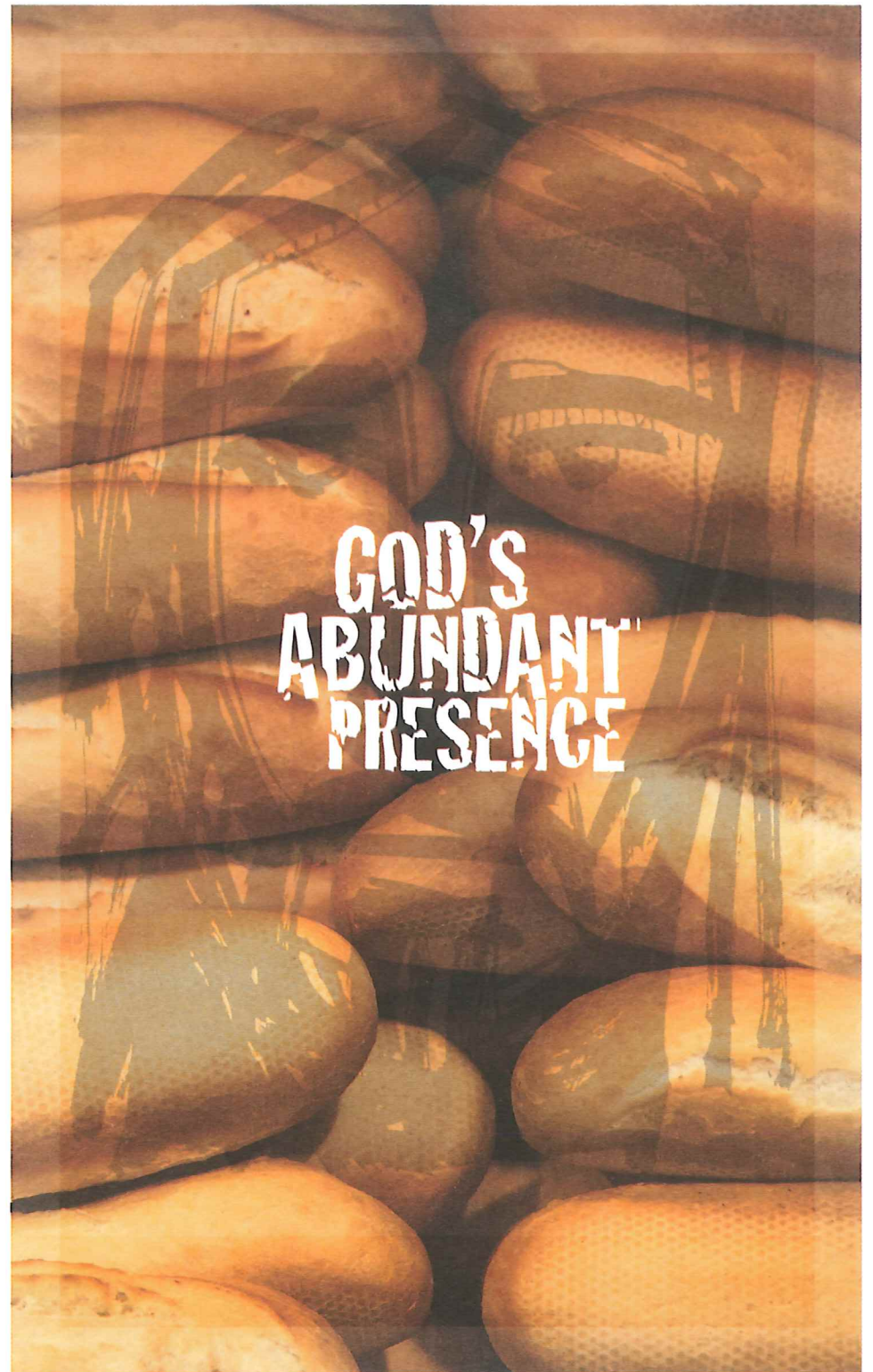
Inspired by today’s story, in which one gift multiplies to feed an entire crowd, many UCC churches have gathered **ecumenically** with other organizations to create feeding programs inspired by the story of the loaves and fishes.

One of those is Pilgrim Church in Fond du Lac, WI. Founded in 1982, Loaves and Fishes in Fond du Lac provides meals to approximately 150-200 local people twice a week. Pilgrim church provides volunteers for quarterly meal preparation that include donating and preparing food, set-up, serve, clean-up and distributing leftovers. The number of families served continues to grow and the program’s websites emphasizes its open and welcoming nature. “Sometimes they may not be hungry for food but for companionship. The lonely people are hungry too; we never judge. This is everyone’s program. It is **ecumenical** and covers all faiths.”

Another is St. Luke’s UCC in Jeffersonville IN. Loaves and Fishes in Jeffersonville is a weekly community meal in partnership with other local congregations and housed at St. Luke’s. Every Saturday, groups volunteer to plan, prepare, serve and clean up a meal for individuals who might not otherwise have a hot meal that day. Much more than a soup kitchen, Loaves and Fishes provides a sense of community and welcome to those who might not find welcome elsewhere.

Another Loaves and Fishes (this one called Fish and Loaves) program in Taylor, MI counts St. Paul UCC in Taylor among its charter members. Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry, a cooperative, non-sectarian, non-profit, faith based initiative seeking to insure adequate food and nutrition for all residents within seven local communities: “client choice” pantry that allows individuals and families to “shop” on a monthly or bi-monthly basis for items they need, providing not only food but dignity to all they serve.

How will the story of the loaves and fishes inspire YOUR congregation?



Bismarck-Mandan Area  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 [www.uccbismarck.org](http://www.uccbismarck.org)

July 28, 2024 at 10 AM Outdoor Worship

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Mary Blumhagen

Music: David Augustadt | Video: Kirby Kruger

\*Rise in body or in spirit.

**\*NO MATTER**

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what

No matter where you are on the journey of life;

You're welcome, welcome in this place.

Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>**

**All: Where is bread?**

**\*HYMN** Enter Rejoice and Come In

NCH 73

Enter, rejoice, and come in. (x2)

*Refrain:* Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

Open yourself to the song. (x2) *Refrain*

Open your hearts everyone. (x2) *Refrain*

Don't be afraid of some change. (x2) *Refrain*

Enter, rejoice, and come in. (x2) *Refrain*

**THE BOY BY THE SEA<sup>3</sup>**

*Wilhelm Eisenbraun*

**\*HYMN**

Table of Plenty

*Refrain:* Come to the feast of heaven and earth!

Come to the table of plenty!

God will provide for all that we need,  
here at the table of plenty.

Verse 1: O come and sit at my table  
where saints and sinners are friends.  
I wait to welcome the lost and lonely  
to share the cup of my love.

Verse 2: O come and eat without money;  
come and drink without price.  
My feast of gladness will feed your spirit  
with faith and fullness of life.

Verse 3: My bread will ever sustain you  
through days of sorrow and woe.  
My wine will flow like a sea of gladness  
to flood the depths of your soul.

Verse 4: Your fields will flower in fullness;  
your homes will flourish in peace.  
For I, the giver of home and harvest,  
will send my rain on the soil.

SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 4:42-44

TIME WITH CHILDREN

HYMN

Magic Penny

Refrain: Love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.

Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.

Verse 1: It's just like a magic penny,  
Hold it tight and you won't have any.  
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many  
They'll roll all over the floor! For...

*Refrain, Verse 1, Refrain*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>**

**Gracious and Generous God, we gather each week to be fed  
by your love, trusting that you will embrace us. We confess we  
are not nearly so generous with our gifts and love. We can be  
suspicious of others, fearful of what they seek from us. Forgive  
us, O God, and awaken our generosity toward others. In  
Christ's name we pray. Amen.**



## OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, our heavenly host;  
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE SERMON

John 6:1-21

## HYMN Come to the Banquet

Sing! 8



Come to the ban-quet, there's a place for you!



1. Though you may - be have no mon - ey,  
2. See, you are an hon - ored guest, from  
3. Wo - man wise one, mo - ther, maid - en,  
4. Work - er, fath - er, lit - tle boy, old  
5. Wheth - er you've been lost or faith - ful,  
6. Here is one who runs to meet you,



though you may - be feel un - wor - thy  
con - stant serv - ing you may rest; so  
see your plate with food is la - den  
man or youth with - out em - ploy, come  
wheth - er you've been wise or waste - ful,  
lov - ing arms stretched out to greet you.



in your strength or in your weak - ness  
sit you down, be fed and blessed, for  
and your place is set and wait - ing,  
rest your wor - ry, here is joy, and  
here's a place of rest and grace, and  
Do not let your fear de - feat you.



you are wel - come, come.

7. Willing hands have made this bread with yeast and salt and labor shared.  
Let all hungry ones be fed. It's time for feasting, come.

8. Abundant wine, enough for all! Our generous, loving host has called.  
The cup of blessing now is poured for sweet communion, come.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

\*HYMN Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ NCH 347



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## \*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE, License #732302-A](#).

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the song "Where is Bread?" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from *Worship Planner*. July 28, 2024. Presbyterian Church in Canada

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Mark Diller Harder. St. Jacobs Mennonite Church. 2010.



## Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at [www.uccbismarck.org/donate](http://www.uccbismarck.org/donate), mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

## Sponsored to Challenge and Inspire

Everybody needs a vision. God has a vision for all of us. I challenge each of you to take some time to write a purpose or mission statement for yourself. Think about what you would like to achieve as an individual, as a family or spiritually, let this purpose or mission statement be your guide to live your lives. To read the full reflection, see the August Newsletter.



Help us fill the 2024 sponsorship calendar. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit [uccbismarck.org/donate](http://uccbismarck.org/donate). Sponsorships are \$500.

## God's New Creation - Vacation Bible School



We would love to have all kids pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade join us from August 4-7, 6pm-7:30pm for a fun-filled experience with lessons, crafts, games, and snacks. We'll have special guests from the zoo! The parent's program will be held on August 7. Pick up a registration form in the welcome area or register online at [shorturl.at/3mrc1](http://shorturl.at/3mrc1).

## Block Party & Quilt Raffle - August 7 at 5:30PM

Join us for our annual Block Party with hotdogs, chips, beverages, along with games and dessert at Lutheran Church of the Cross at 7pm. Bring a side dish if you wish. Donations of non-perishable food items for Adopt-a-Block and school supplies for Bismarck Public Schools are welcome. Sign up to volunteer under the bulletin board.



Raffle tickets for a queen-sized quilt and matching pillow sham are now on sale for \$10 each under the bulletin board. Please pay when you fill them out.

## Bowling for Gutters - August 11

Join the UCC for bowling fun on August 11, 1-4pm at Midway Lanes in Mandan. Free turkeys for any one that bowls a turkey. The cost per bowler will be announced soon. All funds raised will be used to replenish the building fund.



## Interfaith Potluck - August 17

Come together with friends and neighbors for an outdoor potluck at Sertoma Park, shelter 10 from 11:30am-1pm. If you can, bring a dish to share and your own reusable tableware to reduce waste. Bring school supplies to donate to local non-profits.

## Outdoor Worship

Our last outdoor worship for the season will be held August 25 at 10am on the front lawn of Bismarck UCC. Please bring a chair, light jacket, and sunglasses. If the weather is poor, we will move worship inside to the sanctuary.



## THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: July 28 - August 4

- Sunday:** 11 AM Fellowship  
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
- Tuesday:** 10 AM NPC Clergy Zoom Gathering  
1 PM Quilting/Knitting  
5:30 PM Trustees (in-person & [online](#))
- Wednesday:** 2 PM Haycreek Lodge Ministries
- Thursday:** 5:30 PM Christian Education (in-person at Mayas)
- Friday:** 8:30 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Sunday:** 10 AM Worship (in-person & [online](#))  
11 AM Fellowship  
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship  
6 PM Vacation Bible School

## JAM-boree - September 14

Starting at 9am come and learn about the canning process as we make jams from this year's fresh fruit to give away to church visitors throughout the year. Please register in advance by contacting the church office.



## Called to Care

Save the dates October 18-19 for a Called to Care training at Bismarck UCC. UCC members from across the Northern Plains Conference will be invited to join us as we learn how skills for being present for loved ones and church members going through difficult times in their lives. Co-led by 3 UCC hospital chaplains. Registration information will be available closer to the event.

## OUR PRAYER LIST

Macyeo Franks (Jane Thomson's grandson), Frank Picard, Family of Dori Kent, Diane Kolberg (Jeanne Kolberg's sister-in-law), Judi Allen, Jasten Bearstail (Cheryl Dank's family friend), Matthew Nitschke and family, Preston Danks (Cheryl Danks' nephew), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Amy Thomson (Jane Thomson's daughter-in-law), Beryl Dinkins (Kyle Eisenbraun's grandma), Maggie Demaree, Doretta Reule, Bella & Kayla Bruning, Michael Bruning, Perry Weekes, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees



\*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.