

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

John 15:1-8

"Abiding in Love"

"We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates." –Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On this Break the Silence Sunday, churches can raise their awareness of gender-based violence by participating in Thursdays in Black.

*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women's resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in the campaign by doing the following:

Pause

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray

Pray with us:
We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence.
We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist, and tag us.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

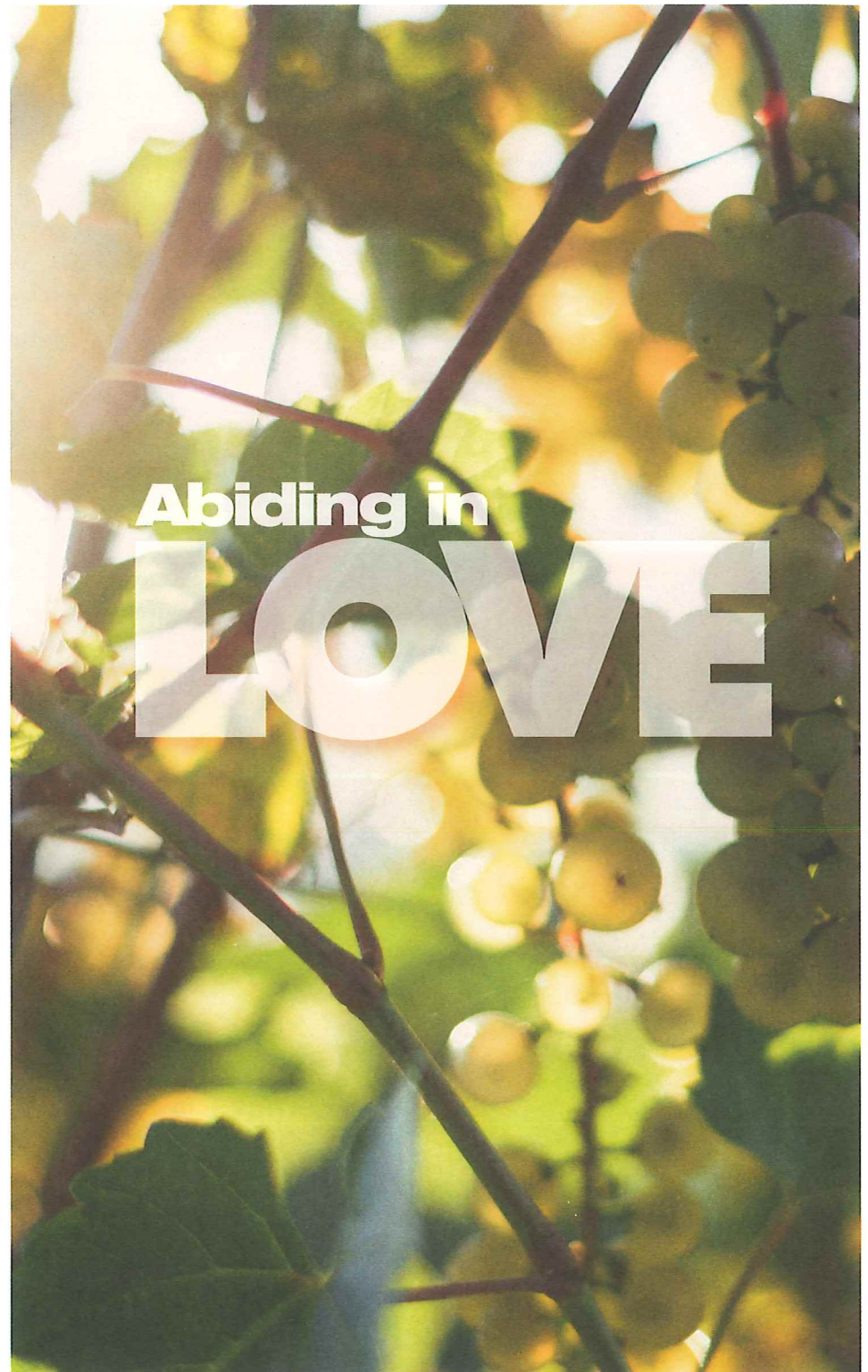
*<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/>



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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BUC0309



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



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

April 28, 2024 at 10 AM

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Carly Retterath

Music: Joann Otterness | Video: David Augustadt

*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 WORSHIP¹**

All: We need not look far to find God.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

***HYMN** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling NCH 43 vv. 1-3

TIME WITH CHILDREN & QUILT BLESSING

After the offering, children are invited to attend Sunday School or remain in worship.

Great Creator, we ask for your blessing on these quilts sewn together with loving hands. May each fiber be filled with our prayers. May those who offer them and those who benefit from them know Your presence and the love of this community of faith. 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.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Creator of All Things, you are our hope and the source of wisdom. Forgive us when we have failed to love one another fully. Forgive us for ignoring your ways and the needs of others. Forgive us for seeking praise from others, yet failing to encourage them in their endeavors. Root our lives more deeply in your love for you are the vine and we are branches. Amen.

***GLORIA**

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:26-40

CHOIR ANTHEM

Down by the Riverside

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:7-21

SERMON

HYMN

Breathe On Me

Sing! 25 vv. 1-2

RENOUNCING FEAR²

One: As we embrace love, let us renounce the fears that grip us.

All: Phantasm of fear, I renounce you!

I refuse to call you "spirit" for you are not of God.

One: You work to oppose the creative forces of the Lord in life and resurrection. Your efforts will not last. And you know this.

All: Delusion of fear, I renounce you!

One: You may talk loudly, boastfully. You may bring your buddies, death and destruction, as backup to your threats. You know your days are numbered. There is no fear in the life to come.

All: Specter of fear, I renounce you!

One: Your work of dividing, fomenting, pain-causing... We will overcome. With God on our side, You cannot stand. Perfect Love, the kind that comes from Christ, casts out fear.

All: Revenant of fear, I renounce you!
Shrivel and die, you impotent thing!
You may plant, but you will not reap.
You may build, but you will not inhabit.
You may fish, but you will not catch.
There is no home for you, no toe hold, no place of
belonging.
You are banished to wither and die... fertilizing the soil
of hope and joy.

*HYMN Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love NCH 498

*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

¹ Adapted. www.psucc.org. MLK Resources. ² Adapted. Lutheran Julia. RevGalBlogPals.
Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from
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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.ucbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsored a Sunday

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 ucbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Global Perspectives Bible Study - Apr. 29 to May 20

Explore the Bible alongside theological perspectives from across the globe. This Bible study will be held on Mondays at 6 PM in the church library and on Zoom.

Keep Bismarck Beautiful - May 4, 9am-Noon

Sign up to volunteer with Bismarck Interfaith at <http://tinyurl.com/445crmur>. Bring gloves, wear long pants and comfortable shoes. Garbage bags, safety vests and donuts for the first 100 participants will be provided. Meet at Peace Park, 400 E Front Ave. (Bismarck Parks and Recreation District Office).

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: April 28 - May 5

Sunday: 11 AM Fellowship
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
Monday: 6 PM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
Tuesday: 1 PM Quilting/Knitting
5:45 PM Council (in-person & [online](#))
Wednesday: 2 PM Haycreek Lodge Ministries
6 PM Youth Group/Confirmation (Bismarck UCC)
7 PM Choir Practice
Thursday: 7 PM Game Night
Friday: 8:30 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
Saturday: 9 AM Volunteer with Bismarck Interfaith
Sunday: 10 AM Youth-Led Worship (in-person & [online](#))
11 AM Fellowship & Church Pictures
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship

Attention Graduates!

We'd like to recognize our graduates on May 12. If you are graduating this year, please contact the church office.

Game Night - May 2 at 7pm

Last chance before summer! Grab your favorite board game and join in for an evening of fun. If you are interested in hosting game nights in the fall, contact the church office.

Church Picture Day - May 5

We're updating the church directory! Sign up in the fellowship hall or online to capture your portraits:
<https://calendar.app.google/cr4xcAQ3WHma4p5b7>



OUR PRAYER LIST

Family of Pat Unkenholz (Jeanne Kolberg's mother), Family of Bonnie Elizabeth (daughter of Brody & Taylor, Jeff & Wanda Benson's nephew), Judi Allen, Jasten Bearstail (Cherly 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), Herb Ritz, Beryl Dinkins (Kyle Eisenbraun's grandma), Maggie Demaree, Doretta Reule, Macyeo Franks (Jane Thomson's grandson), 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.



Pride in Texas

Through the **Strengthen the Church Offering**, people across the United Church of Christ support the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church.

Faith Church UCC in New Braunfels, TX, received a CASA New and Renewing Church Grant made possible by the Strengthen the Church Offering. The congregation felt called to reach out and support the LGBTQIA Community in their region. They began by hosting the area's first Interfaith Pride Worship Service and later hosted a Drag for a Cause fundraiser for local youth living in an emergency shelter. The public witness of Faith Church UCC rallied the local progressive community.

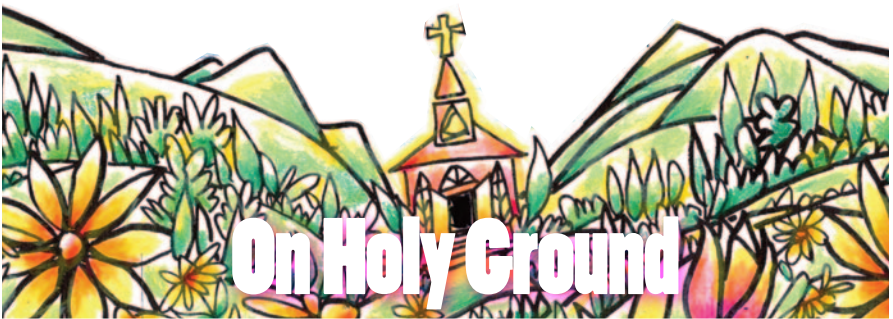
Before the grant, Faith Church took a "quiet" approach to their community. They did good work, like starting a food pantry, but avoided public stances

on controversial issues. The grant encouraged the congregation to think beyond their church walls. The congregation began by “coming out” about its values, welcoming people into its congregation and going beyond its wall to share its inclusive faith.

The church faces backlash for its courageous stances. “We received over 1800 negative messages, including threats, when we held Drag for a Cause,” Rev. Dr. Carla Cheatham noted. The threats were scary. “But supporters also showed up and outnumbered the hate without returning any evil or malice in their direction. It was a peaceful, loving, powerful event!”

Faith Church UCC became the hub of progressive people in New Braunfels. “We had 13 people join the church the month following the event, and every week, we still hear from members of the progressive, marginalized, and disenfranchised people impacted by our taking a stand.”

**The Strengthen the Church Offering,
helps congregations like Faith Church UCC
with renewal initiatives. Together, through this offering,
we help congregations live into our call to be a
multicultural/multi-racial, accessible to all
Christian movement.**



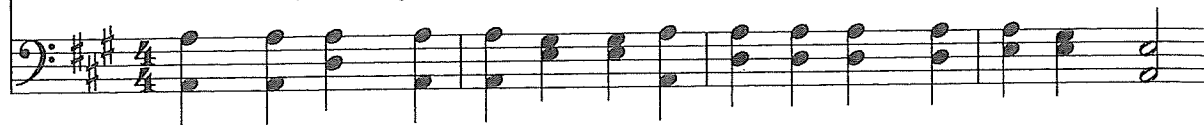
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.



GATHER

25

Breathe On Me

$\text{♩} = 84$

1. Breathe on me, O breath of God.
 2. Shine on me, O light of God.
1. Breathe in me, O breath of God.
2. Shine in me, O light of God.

Grant your life to me.
 Grant that I may see.
Grant your life to me.
Grant that I may see.

Make of me a rush - ing wind, come and
 Make of me a liv - ing light, come and
Make of me a rush - ing wind, come and
Make of me a liv - ing light, come and

breathe on me. Come and breathe on me.
 shine on me. Come and shine on me.
breathe in me. Come and breathe in me.
shine in me. Come and shine in me.

Use "in us/of us" in place of "in me/of me" for additional versatility.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

John 13:1-20; Gal. 5:13-14

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994

Refrain
Unison

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
 2 Neighbors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show - ing our faith by our
 5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
 race, neighbors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neighbors to us and you.
 deeds, serv - ing the neighbors we have from you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

This African folk melody was presented to the Church at Chereponi, Northern Ghana, by Ghanaian musicologist, A. A. Mensah, when United Church of Christ missionaries, Al and Sue Krass were serving there. Like Tom Colvin, a Scottish missionary in neighboring Tamale, Al Krass was encouraging the making of hymns to indigenous melodies. Tom Colvin wrote these words to this adapted form of the melody in dedication to the Church at Chereponi.

Tune: CHEREPONI Irr. with refrain
 Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969
 Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982