

# 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 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## Boldly Generous

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

When I was interviewing to move to North Dakota and serve as your pastor, someone on the search committee asked me "could you see yourself being our pastor for 3 years?" I prayerfully pondered that question and decided that I could commit to serving this congregation for 5 years. As of this month, it has been 9 years.

I am here because of you – because I am inspired by the way that you strive to love one another and be connected with the wider community. I am here because of your warmhearted humor and generous sharing of your time. I am part of this church family because of the vision you carried since before I arrived, to be a church that "transforms our lives and community." This congregation overflows with blessings. You yearn to follow Christ's ways of love and seek to always welcome people with open arms and hearts. You are not afraid to laugh, cry, and face difficult decisions together. It is a joy to be a part of this faith family.

A few years ago, former pastor Doug Roberts preached at Bismarck UCC for our Consecration Sunday. He said something which I admit that I am sometimes afraid to say – that this congregation is wonderful at many things, but we fall short in the sharing of our financial gifts. In reviewing the budget with our Trustees, I am grateful that we have a thrifty congregation which uses all our financial gifts with wisdom and intentionality. But thriftiness can have a negative impact on nurturing our generous spirits when we extend it to our donations. To be generous means to trust in God's abundance to such an extent that we can "go beyond what we think we can do," to quote our own vision statement. This month, each of us, myself included, are asked to prayerfully reflect on our monetary donations to Bismarck UCC. As you fill out the pledge card enclosed in this newsletter, may you do so with great trust in God's abundance and unfaltering courage to go beyond last year's donations. I promise that not only will we use your donations faithfully, but that the act of boldly giving will be transformative to your life and our community.



### Pledge Card Enclosed

Renew our commitments with this church family and celebrate Bismarck UCC's 68<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 13. Bring your pledge card to church on Nov. 13 or send to the church office anytime throughout November. See page 3.



### Fall Back

Get some extra rest and remember to change your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, Nov. 5.



### Thanksgiving Eve

We're hosting this year's community worship and pie social on Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 7pm. See page 4.

**Worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM in-person or at [www.uccbismarck.org/worship](http://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."***

On Oct. 23, the youth along with other congregation members joined together and shared our talents with a service project at Papa's Pumpkin Patch. We learned the value of serving together while having a fun and unforgettable experience. Keep an eye out for upcoming service opportunities that may be right for you! *"For even Christ did not come to be served, but to serve."* (Mark 10:45)



## Council Corner

by Carly Retterath, Moderator

Greetings UCC Bismarck,

Happy Fall! As we move into November, I cannot help but look forward to Thanksgiving. It is no secret in my family that Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday! I love the time spent with family, food and faith. However, if I am being honest this fall, I have not been very good at having a grateful heart. I have been too focused on struggles and stress and not on the abundance of blessings in my life. So, I am looking forward to the Thanksgiving season to refocus on the abundance of mercy and blessing God has brought into my life. I often find that focusing on the blessing in life creates a sense of contentment that I'm often lacking.

A quick update on church council, at our last meeting we wrapped up the details with the block party, discussed the Northern Plains Conference Annual Meeting, and shared committee highlights. The majority of the new business discussed centered around the Parish and Personnel Relations Committee. Council is re-examining the role of this committee and discussed appointing new members to fill two vacancies. In addition, council spent time examining the church's current connections and partnerships with outside groups and organizations. It is council's goal to identify one partnership to focus on and highlight throughout the next year.

In closing, as we look to Thanksgiving, I am reminded of a quote from John F. Kennedy, *"As we express gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."* How is God calling you to put your gratitude into action during the season of Thanksgiving? Have a fantastic month!



## 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 \$3,391 donations to cover the painting cost, but need your help raising the remaining \$7,071. To donate, write "Paint Project" on your check.

### FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to September 30, 2022

#### Revenue

##### General Offerings

Actual = \$ 111,657

##### Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 18,772

#### Expenses

Actual = \$ 138,173

Total Revenue = \$ 130,429

Total Expenses = \$ 138,173

**NET ACTIVITY = \$ (7,743)**

### SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2021

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 190
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 140
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 2,099
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 892
Strengthen the Church	\$ 210
Neighbors in Need	\$ 590
The Christmas Fund	\$ 0
<b>Total Shared Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 4,121</b>

# More than a blanket or quilt, more than just a pledge drive

by Pamela Clark-Stein, Stewardship & Mission chair



Earlier this year, I had the privilege of working with Councilwoman Monica Mayer, M.D. "Good Medicine." She represents the residents of North Segment on the Tribal Business Council of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA). MHA is the largest community on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in mid-west North Dakota. I reached out to her to speak at a conference, asking her to address the topic of diversity and inclusion. Her message was inspiring and rich with examples of generosity and caring for those less fortunate. Little did I know I would be blessed with a stunning lavender, purple and white star quilt at the end of her presentation. Within minutes, one of the conference attendees told me what a star quilt represents—honor and generosity. I didn't deserve this, but Dr. Mayer insisted on draping the beautiful quilt around my shoulders.

Honor and generosity. To me, these two words are so fitting as we think ahead to the United Church of Christ pledge drive. We honor the work and mission of our church when we make a financial commitment and pledge to share our time and talents. We demonstrate generosity when we give pause to think about what we can give and how we might give even more than before—to support the living tradition of the UCC annual pledge drive.

On November 13, Consecration Sunday, you are invited to come together for a special worship service. This is an opportunity for you to participate in the annual pledge drive to support the ministries of Bismarck UCC in 2023. Please use the pledge card you received with this newsletter and bring it with you to the special worship service on Nov. 13. Completed pledge cards may be dropped off at any time at the church as well.

Like the star quilt that is more than a blanket or a quilt, the UCC pledge drive means so much more than just giving money. It means UCC members coming together as a community. It means surrounding each other and the wider community we live in, with love and support and caring. Our pledge drive can also be a perfect way to celebrate the birthday of our church, which is Nov. 14, and honor its mission and outreach.

The Stewardship and Mission Committee is so grateful for all your gifts and giving. Thank you for all that you are and all that you do for the Bismarck UCC!



# November 2 - Soup & Worship

Twice a year, we partner with St. George's Episcopal church for special Taizé Worship services. Our next Taizé worship is on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at St. George's Episcopal Church (601 N 4<sup>th</sup> St) in memory of those who have passed away. This is a unique service of song, prayer, and silence. A soup supper will be served at 6pm and worship will begin at 7pm.

Taizé worship is ecumenical (represents many different churches) at its very core. This style of worship was started in the small village of Taizé, France by a monastic community of Protestants and Catholics from 30 different countries. It uses simple, but meaningful songs which are easy to learn and leaves space for the richness of prayer to enrich our lives. Taizé continues to be celebrated around the world with the goal of improving Christian unity.



## 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 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 and join others from the general public 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: **Nov. 3 & Dec. 1.**



## 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 will next be meeting on Thursday, December 8. Mayflower Circle leads various ministries throughout the year including funeral luncheons, annual rummage sale, numerous fundraisers, and others. 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 1 to 3 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 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.

## Haycreek Lodge Ministries

by Darcy Avery, UCC's Haycreek Lodge Ministries Coordinator



Hello UCC family from Haycreek Lodge Ministries. It has been a while since we have communicated. The residents so enjoy our UCC church fellowship. Marcia Lerberg will lead the November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday services to complete the 2022 year. We are working with Kristie Schumacher, their new staff liaison.

In December, we are planning to have Hannah Vanorny and her Scouts join us again for a Christmas Singalong this year. The residents enjoyed our

festivities last year. You are welcome to join in Christmas caroling. We will keep you in the loop for the date.

Kristie informed us that our church schedule of the first and fifth Wednesday of the month can continue for the year 2023. Our Haycreek Team is very welcoming and would love to mentor you in if you would like to join our team. Services last about half an hour and start at 2 p.m.

JOIN US FOR AN

# Interfaith Friendsgiving

BRING A DISH FROM YOUR CULTURE AND  
SHARE TRADITIONS OF GRATITUDE WITH  
THOSE OF ALL FAITHS

NOVEMBER 19TH 11:30-2:00 | UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST, 1200 E HIGHLAND ACRES RD

Sponsored by the Bismarck Interfaith Group  
Direct questions to [hvanorny@gmail.com](mailto:hvanorny@gmail.com)

We are collecting donations for the Dream  
Center's Adopt-A-Block program, so bring an  
extra food item to share if you are able!



# Youth News

## Trick or Treat FOR OTHERS TO EAT

We had a great turn out with the Sunday school kids on Sunday, October 16. We went through the neighborhood and collected donations for the food pantry. Between the congregation and our wonderful neighbors the joint effort was such a success!



## Advent A'Fair

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 4 and join us for Advent A'Fair!

Following the service, we will gather in the fellowship hall to enjoy food, fun, and fellowship as we honor this time of expectant waiting and preparation for the Christmas season.

We'll share a meal, then make cards & decorate Christmas cookies for church members who can't be with us. Maybe we'll sing along to a carol or two, hear a story, play some games.

We look forward to spending the afternoon together with you!

~Board of Christian Education



## Confirmation Class & Service

**Sundays from 2 PM - 3:30 PM**

Confirmation is open to all youth grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 & service project dates are:

**Nov. 6** – Class

**Nov. 20** – Class

**Dec. 4** – Class

**Dec. 18** – Service Project  
(Christmas Caroling at Edgewood Village)



## Youth Group:

**Caffeine & Christianity**

**Who:** All Middle & High School Youth

**What:** Games, Snacks, Conversation, Service Projects

**When:** Every Wednesday at 6pm

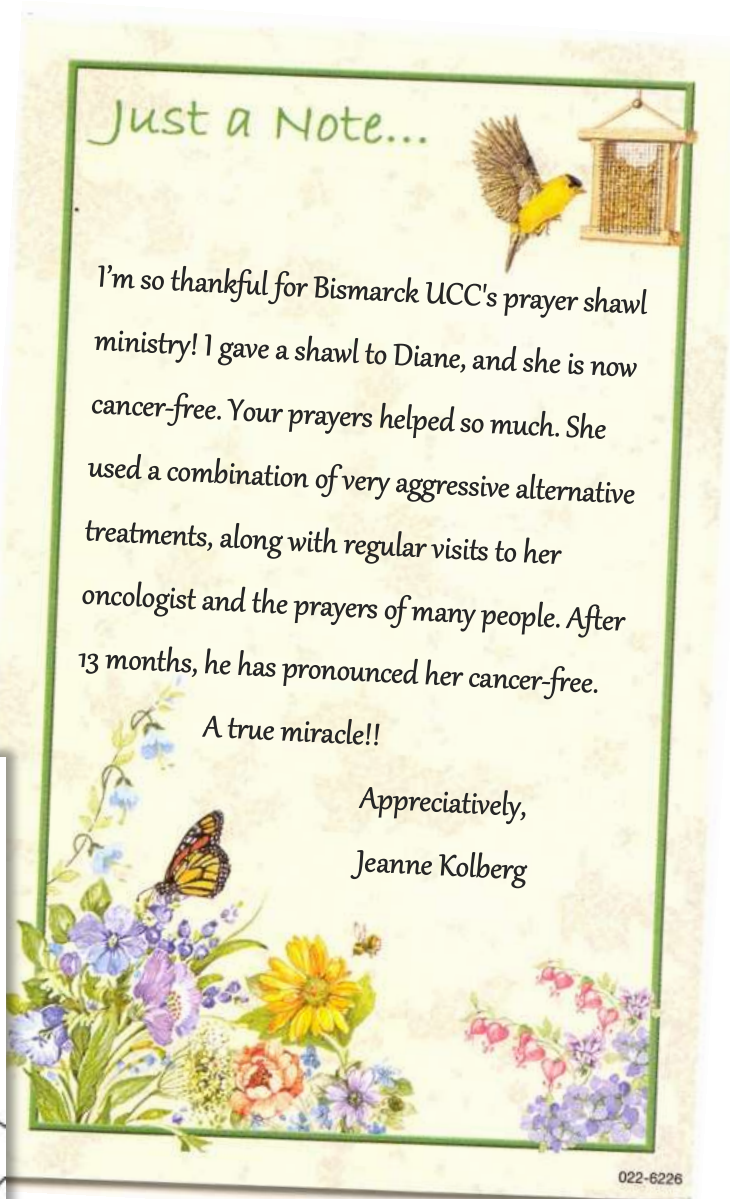
**Where:**

Nov. 2 at St. George's Episcopal Church  
(601 N 4<sup>th</sup> St, Bismarck)

Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30 at Bismarck UCC  
(1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck)



Congratulations to Brandon and Tasha Domagala on their wedding! They were married in Medora on Sept. 17, 2022.



*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

# 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1pm Quilting/Knitting 6:15pm Christian Ed	2 2pm Haycreek Lodge Ministries <b>Taize Worship at St. George's Episcopal</b> 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship 8pm NA Meeting	3 7pm Game Night	4 8:30am Bible Study	5
6 10am Worship & Communion 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	7 6pm Bible Study	8 1pm Quilting/Knitting	9 6pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	10	11 8:30am Bible Study 	12
13 <b>Consecration Sunday &amp; Happy 68th Birthday UCC!</b> 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship & Party 12pm Online Fellowship 	14 6pm Bible Study	15 1pm Quilting/Knitting	16 6pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	17	18 8:30am Bible Study	19 11:30am—2pm Interfaith Friendsgiving Potluck
20 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	21 6pm Bible Study 7pm League of Women Readers	22 1pm Quilting/Knitting	23 6pm Caffeine & X-ianity <b>7pm Community Worship Thanksgiving Eve</b> 8pm NA Meeting	24 Church Office Closed 	25 <b>Native American Heritage Day</b> Church Office Closed 8:30am Bible Study	26
27 <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	28 6pm Bible Study	29 10am NPC Clergy Gathering 1pm Quilting/Knitting	30 2pm Haycreek Lodge Ministries 6pm Caffeine & X-ianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	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		