

# 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

## June 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## May the Flowers Proclaim Peace

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

Martin Luther is attributed with saying "God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but in trees, and flowers, and clouds, and stars." Did Luther truly say that? Probably not in those words, but Luther was known to have said in sermons and conversations that signs of the resurrection are written in nature.

We have the opportunity to work alongside nature in telling the story of new life in a place where people walk and drive every day. Last fall, we removed the dead hedges around the church parking lot and left the ground bare in anticipation for this opportunity. Now the time is upon us and we invite you to be a part of proclaiming the Gospel through trees and flowers along the church sidewalk.

We want the walk along Bismarck UCC's sidewalk to be a restful and inspiring stroll for the entire neighborhood and a nurturing place for all of God's creation. We want our very grounds to gently reach out to passersby and say "God's Peace be with you." That's why we're planting flowering and drought-tolerant shrubs mixed with low maintenance native grass and flowers, a pollinator garden, benches, and a kid's play area.

I hope you will join us in transforming the bare ground into a lasting sacred space the entire community can be welcomed into for years to come.

- **Stage 1: Soil Preparation.** We have lowered the dirt level in preparation for the plantings and mulch.
- **Stage 2: Plant Shopping.** We'll need a small group to do the shopping and finalize plant placement.
- **Stage 3: Planting.** Many hands will make this light work as we install the new garden. Mulch will be laid.
- **Stage 4: Bonus Elements.** We'll plant 2-4 trees and install benches and a kid's hopscotch/play area.
- **Stage 5: Garden Party.** We'll have a dedication during and a garden party after outdoor worship on a Sunday.

Watch the bulletins and Friday email blasts for dates and please contact the church office if you would like to be a part of any of these stages. Much of this project is being funded by the "From What Is to What If" grant from the BTS Center. However, if you would like to contribute towards the bonus elements, let me or a member of Trustees know!



### June 2 Special Offering

Support new church starts and fresh ideas in UCC churches across the country. See details on page 3.



### June 11 Potluck with UCC churches in ND!

The fun begins at 11 AM at Sertoma Park, Shelter 11. See details on page 3.

## Outdoor Worship Service

Every month, we'll have two outdoor worship opportunities June to August. Join us on the front lawn on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month for our 10 AM worship outside, weather permitting. See page 5 for the exact dates and further details.

*Worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM in-person or [uccbismarck.org/worship](http://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 we embrace the still-speaking God and live in today's world."*

One of the growing needs in Bismarck is childcare. That's why we are excited to announce that starting this fall, we will be welcoming The Afterschool Place into our church basement fellowship hall for afterschool programming Monday – Friday from about 2:30pm to 5:45pm. The Afterschool Place will begin moving in this summer in preparation for the coming school year. Starting in the fall, you'll see this yellow bus in the parking lot reminding us of the ways we are called to creatively serve the wider community!



## Council Corner

by Carly Retterath, Moderator

Greetings UCC Bismarck,

As the weather starts to get warmer and the school year is winding down, I am getting excited for what summer has in store. There will be great church and community events throughout this summer that I encourage all to participate in. I know Lauren is especially excited for the pool party!

A quick update on what the church council is working on. The council met on May 1<sup>st</sup> to explore and discuss the church's vision and values. We spent much of the time individually reflecting on what we want Bismarck UCC to be known for and why we choose to be a member of this community. Over the coming months we will be sharing these reflections with the congregation and will be encouraging others to share theirs as well. At our next council meeting we plan to take a look at the various community partnerships Bismarck UCC has had over the years and talk about revisiting and re-energizing these connections after COVID.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> we honored our confirmation students at our worship services. I have had the honor of co-teaching confirmation this year and it has been such a blessing to work with our young people. To me one of the greatest tests of a church is what are the children in the church sharing with their words and actions? I can tell you firsthand that we have so much to be proud of! We have courageous, smart, compassionate youth that will do great things!

Blessings!



The Strengthen the Church special offering collected on **June 5** is one of our five special offerings through the National UCC. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of Strengthen the Church will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to create a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

**FINANCIAL STATUS**

January 1 to April 30, 2022

**Revenue**

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 48,878

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 2,979

**Expenses**

Actual = \$ 53,463

Total Revenue = \$ 51,857

Total Expenses = \$ 53,463

**NET ACTIVITY = \$ (1,606)**

**SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2022**

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 190
Charles Hall Institute	\$
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 949
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 872
Strengthen the Church	\$ 50
Neighbors in Need	\$
The Christmas Fund	\$
<b>Total Shared Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 2,061</b>

# Changing Lives Starts with Story

by Pamela Clark-Stein, Stewardship & Mission Chair

The Stewardship and Mission Committee met on May 12. The agenda centered on financial stewardship and key take-aways from the book, "It's Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship." Our discussion was robust and thought-provoking, and included ideas worth pursuing.

One of the greatest challenges — and opportunities — is to focus on the "big picture" and how the United Church of Christ can change lives within the church and community. A passion for giving and bringing together financial resources will help our church family achieve this. This passion is certain to grow when we share and celebrate with each other, what the United Church of Christ means to us and why, and on a regular basis. What steps can we take to encourage the sharing of these personal stories with each other, which in turn can inspire and engage? How can we get the UCC "story" out to others? The Stewardship and Mission Committee is excited to help jumpstart this effort.

## Sponsor a Sunday - June 19

### In Memory of Violet Karch and Edward & Bertha Karch.

Harold married his high school sweetheart, Violet, on 9/7/54 in Glen Ullin and they joined the UCC on 9/8/57. Harold would also like to remember his parents Edward and Bertha on this Sunday in thanks for the strong faith with which they raised him.

**Sponsored by Harold Karch**

*Harold is a generous soul with a heart of service. He is an integral part of our church family, holding a position on the Board of Trustees, singing in the choir, and makes himself available to help always.*



## BLESSED BE THE TIES:

### NPC Summer Party

One Day. Three Locations. Main Dish Provided. Bring a Side Dish to Share

**Saturday, June 11, 2022 - 11 AM**  
at Shelter 11 in Sertoma Park

Food served from noon to 1 PM

RSVP by June 5 at [www.npcucc.org](http://www.npcucc.org)  
or Bismarck UCC 701-223-2915.



# Tips for Aging Well

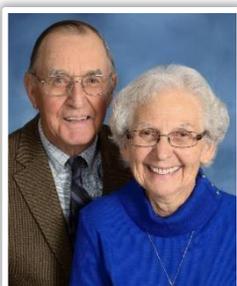
by John Toman (age 91) & Eunice Toman (age 87)

Tips for Aging Well! We like to think we are doing it. John retired from school bus driving at age 62; he retired from farming at age 88. I retired from teaching at age 65, and here we are!

We feel the first thing to do is KEEP ACTIVE and INVOLVED with people! We have been concerned with and involved with 'kids' all our lives, so why stop now? We get acquainted with a couple elementary students and follow their activities thru Jr. High, High School graduation and on to college; then we find another family with kids and attend their school sports (basketball, volleyball or track) until they graduate and find someone else.

Adult activities are abundant in Bismarck. We buy season tickets for the Bismarck Mandan Symphony, have had season tickets for Dakota Stage, appreciate BSC music activities, and U of Mary Steel Drum Band concerts. The Heritage Center is always a place to explore and appreciate (a good walking area too if you are counting steps). Sleepy Hollow is a great 'musical' spot in the summer.

They say USE it or LOSE it, and as Satchel Paige said "AGE is only a state of mind, and if you don't MIND it doesn't matter." Oh yes, be sure your hairdresser, barber, dentist medical provider and FRIENDS are all YOUNGER than you are!



## Ministry & Fellowship Groups

### Threads of Love: Crafting Guild

Come and join this lively group of crafters on **Tuesdays at 2 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. This group is for the experienced and novice crafter. This is a great place to learn quilting, knitting, or crocheting while visiting with old friends or making new friends.

### Mayflower Circle

This women's fellowship group is for any age. Mayflower Circle leads various ministries throughout the year including funeral luncheons, annual rummage sale (no sale this spring), numerous fundraisers, and others. Currently on summer break. Meetings will resume as fall nears.

### Hay Creek Lodge Ministries

This team holds worship services at Hay Creek Lodge on College Dr on various Wednesdays throughout the year. If you have a passion for serving those in care centers, please contact Darcy Avery to get involved. The June services at Hay Creek Lodge will be on **June 1<sup>st</sup> & June 29<sup>th</sup>**.

## Join UCC at Capital Pride!

On June 18, come as a booth volunteer or just to support our local LGBTQ+ community.

A sign-up sheet will be placed under the bulletin board, and we would love to have your help that day!



*UCC wishes all our dads and father figures a wonderful Father's Day filled with joy and relaxation.*



*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.*



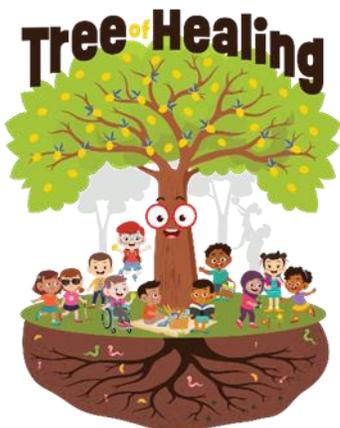
- 03 - Wanda Benson
- 04 - Jenessa Whitmore
- 06 - Misty Akovenko
- 07 - Emily Archer
- 10 - Bill Patrie

- 11 - Sara Ripley
- 11 - Krista Tolstedt
- 14 - Barb Gress
- 19 - Dave Baber
- 22 - Sofia Augustadt

- 24 - Addison Weil
- 29 - Kira Schemmel
- 29 - Danielle Neuberger
- 30 - Evan Mandigo

*\*Please contact the church office or sign up in the narthex if you would like your birthday listed in the newsletter.*

# Christian Education News



## Vacation Bible School

**June 6 - 8 from 5:30pm to 7pm**

Participants will learn about the health and wellness for us and for our neighbors. This is a chance for children and adults to consider what health means and how God invites us to share in the building of a just world where all can enjoy the gives of God's creation. This year's joint VBS will be held at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Visit <https://form.jotform.com/lccdod/2022vbsregistration> to Sign Up Today!

## Save the Date for Summer Fun!

**Saturday, June 11** - NPC Summer Party  
Sertoma Park, Shelter 11 at 11 AM  
Potluck with other UCC churches  
around the Northern Plains Conference.



**Thursday, July 14** - Party at the Patrie's  
Join us at Bill and Marcia Patrie's home at 5 PM for a  
campfire and evening of family fun. Bring a chair &  
beverages.

**Thursday, August 11** - Pool Party  
Join your UCC family at Evan & Tove Mandigo's home  
for a fun evening of swimming, relaxing, and fellowship  
at 5:30 PM. Bring sides to share!

## Worship in Nature!

Join your friends and family as we worship together outdoors this summer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, enjoying nature as we refresh our spirit and souls with the Word of God. If there is inclement weather or excessive heat we will plan to move back indoors.

**June 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**August 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

Please bring your favorite lawn chair, sunscreen, and a light jacket.



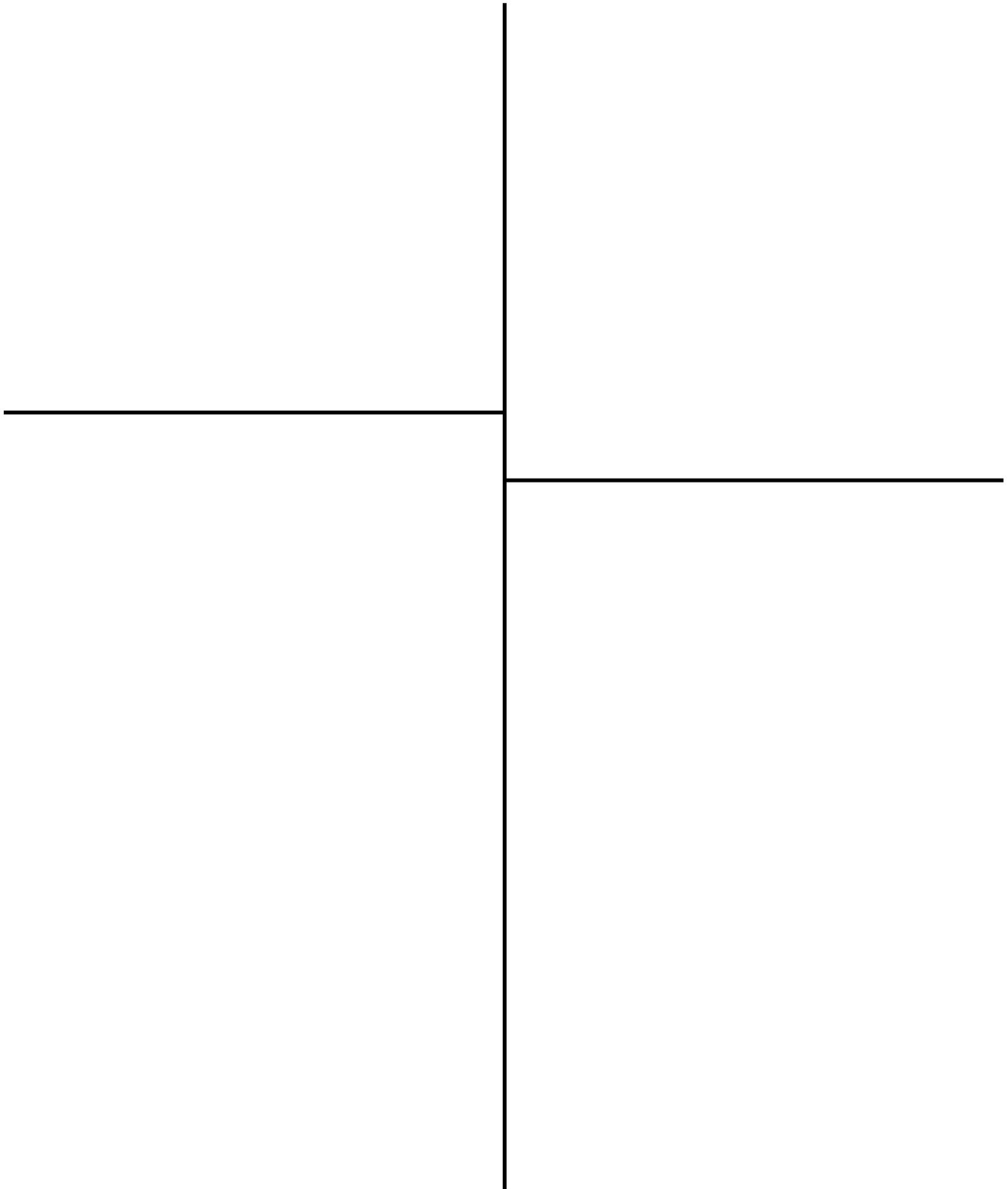
*Anthony DeVos '22  
BHS*

## Congratulations To All of Our Graduates!

We would like to extend our warmest wishes and hope that the future fulfills all of your dreams!

If you would like to put a notice in our next newsletter, please contact the church office at 223-2915.





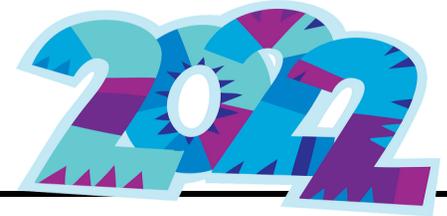




# BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A Global Ministry Church”

www.uccbismarck.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 2pm Hay Creek Lodge Ministries 6pm Council 8pm NA Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>4</b> 
Pastor Gretchen on Vacation						
<b>5</b> <b>Pentecost</b> <b>10am Worship &amp; Communion</b> 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship <b>Strengthen the Church</b> <b>Special Offering</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 2pm Quilting/Knitting	<b>8</b> 8pm NA Meeting	<b>9</b> 6pm Stewardship	<b>10</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>11</b> <b>11am UCC Potluck Sertoma Park— Shelter 11</b> (Main Dish Provided, Bring a Side Dish to Share)
Vacation Bible School from 5:30 PM to 7 PM						
<b>12</b> <b>10am Outdoor Worship</b> 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 2pm Quilting/Knitting 6pm Trustees  Flag Day 	<b>15</b> 8pm NA Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>18</b> 11am PRIDE at the Capital  
Pastor Gretchen on Vacation						
<b>19</b> <b>10am Worship</b> 11am Fellowship 11:30am Pride Worship 12pm Online Fellowship 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 2pm Quilting/Knitting	<b>22</b> 8pm NA Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>10am Outdoor Worship</b> 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 2pm Quilting/Knitting 2pm NPC Zoom Gathering	<b>29</b> 2pm Hay Creek Lodge Ministries 8pm NA Meeting	<b>30</b>		