

*Strengthen the Church Offering*

You might have heard someone joke, “King James English was good enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for me.” Today’s story is about the first day a small and ragtag group of Jesus followers became a church – the church we still are today. It’s our story, and it’s not a story about everyone suddenly speaking the same language. It’s a story about everyone speaking - all of them, all at once - the languages of each other. This is not a story about understanding each other. It’s a story about understanding that each of us speaks to God in our own way, and God speaks to us each in our own way.

Pentecost understood this way happens all the time. It happens whenever you have a meal with a youngster whose music and ideas you don’t understand, but who you love just the same. It happens when you sit with a loved one, whose words have been lost to disease, and so you no longer understand, but you love just the same. You are speaking the language of Pentecost, when you really listen to the person sitting next to you right now, whose hopes and dreams and visions you have only gotten a glimpse of, even after a lifetime of knowing each other.

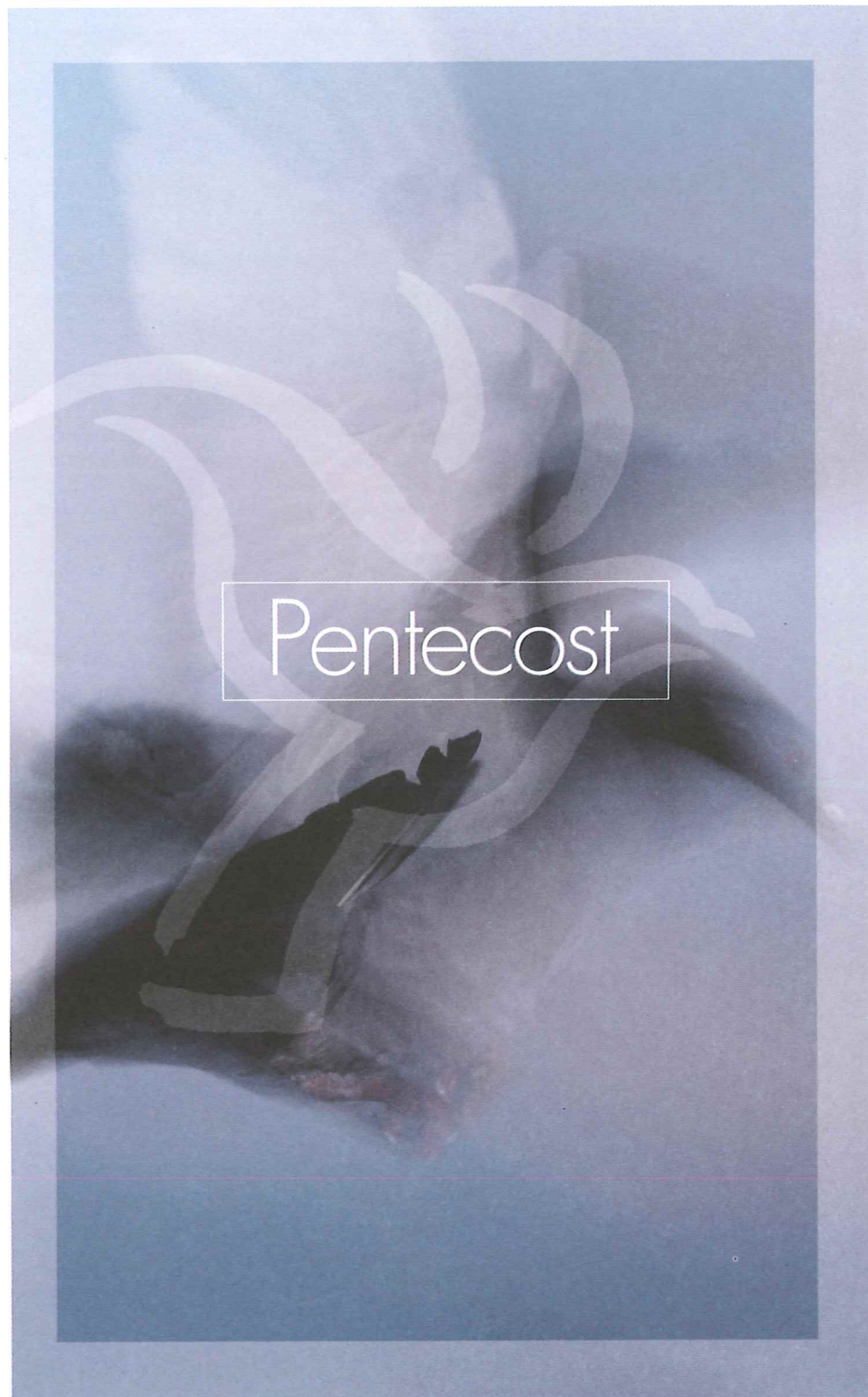
That we don’t all speak the same language doesn’t make us less of a community, it makes us more of one. Whether you came to worship this morning speaking the language of health or of illness, the language of joy or of sorrow, the language of despair or hope, the language of a pounded nail or a warm hug, Pentecost is the hope that your congregation can be a place where all those languages are spoken, all are heard. May your community be a place where people, when they hear you speak, can say in wonder “they are speaking in words I can understand.”

*Today, many churches receive the Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering. STC reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.*



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

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# 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)

**Pentecost Sunday** May 28, 2023 at 10 AM

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Frank Picard

Music: Joann Otterness | Video: Wil & Kyle Eisenbraun

\*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<sup>1</sup>

**All: O for a thousand tongues to sing sweet praise!**

## \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

\*HYMN Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ NCH 347

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

## CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

**O God, we know you continue to send gifts to us, even though we do not always open them. Move us, by your Spirit, to pick up the presents that you so freely give, to open them and spend them lavishly on the stewardship of your world. Break into our apathy and astonish us anew! Claim us again and silence within us our self-doubt, fears, and regrets, so that we might use our gifts out of a place of love. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Karla Miller, Old North Church in Marblehead, MA.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Rev. Gord & Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, NZ

## \*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

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

## OFFERING

### \*DOXOLOGY/SONG OF DEDICATION

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

John 7:37-39 & Acts 2:1-21

## SERMON

## HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

NCH 283

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

## HYMN

God, You Have Set Us

NCH 372 vs. 1-4

## \*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

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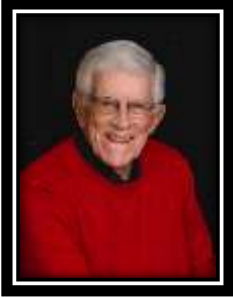
## Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

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

## Summer Hunger Program

In partnership with United Way and Bismarck Public Schools we are serving lunch at the Highland Acres School (1200 Prairie Dr) on Mondays and Wednesdays. All food is provided. We need **one** volunteer on each day to help serve from **11:45am – 12:30pm**. Sign up by the bulletin board.

## Sponsored in Memory of George Dynes



George was a lifelong member of the UCC in Dickinson and its oldest member at his passing on January 9, 2023. His memorial service will be held on May 27 at the UCC in Dickinson. The family is very grateful for the prayers after George's passing.

***Sponsored by John Dynes & Family***

June 18 and 25 are open for sponsorship. Contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit [uccbismarck.org/donate](http://uccbismarck.org/donate) to choose your date. Sponsorships are \$500.

## Refugee Support

A group from our church has applied to sponsor a Ukrainian woman and her child. They have held several gatherings and have set up a bank account at Bravera Bank. The first goal is to buy a plane ticket and have a 3 month cushion for support. If you would like to be a part of financially supporting the family, checks can be made out to "North Dakotans 4 Ukraine" and left at the church or dropped off at any Bravera Bank. Refugee support donations are not tax deductible. If you want more information, contact Bill or Marcia Patrie or Kate Kilzer, the group's treasurer.

## "The Chosen" Summer Bible Study

This Bible Study series is open to everyone and will be held weekly on Monday nights in the Edgewood Village movie theater beginning on June 5 at 6:30pm.

## OUR PRAYER LIST

Stacy (Gail Erickson's niece), Family of Joan Durow, Family of Jan Johnson, Beryl Dinkins (Kyle Eisenbraun's grandma), Family of Rodney Friesz (Kyle Eisenbraun's uncle), Dana Brandenburg, Maggie Demaree, Jim Kuntz, Sharon Vanorny (Hannah Vanorny's mother), Harley Halvorson (Carrie Mandigo's step-father), Doretta Reule, Maceo Franks (Jane Thomson's grandson), Bella & Kayla Bruning, Michael Bruning, Perry Weekes, Audrey Heinle, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

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

## THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: May 28 - June 4

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> 11 AM Fellowship 12 Noon <a href="#">Online</a> Fellowship <i>*Pastor Gretchen is on vacation May 29-June 3. During this time, please contact Camille Grothier for pastoral care emergencies at 425-4256.</i>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 PM Quilting/Knitting
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2 PM Haycreek Lodge Ministries 6 PM VBS Volunteer Meeting 8 PM Narcotics Anonymous
<b>Thursday:</b>	7 PM Game Night
<b>Friday:</b>	8:30 AM Bible Study (in-person & <a href="#">online</a> )
<b>Saturday:</b>	10 AM Youth Group – Clued Upp Mystery
<b>Sunday:</b>	10 AM Worship (in-person & <a href="#">online</a> ) 11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon <a href="#">Online</a> Fellowship 6 PM Vacation Bible School

## Upcoming events:

### June 1 at 7pm - Game Night

A night of fun where members of the congregation and community come together to enjoy games, conversations, and snacks.

### June 3 - Clued Upp Youth Group

Youth 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for a scavenger hunt around Bismarck! Contact the church office for starting location.

### June 4-7 - Vacation Bible School: River of Life

6pm – 7:30pm at Bismarck UCC. Registration forms and volunteer opportunities are by the bulletin board.

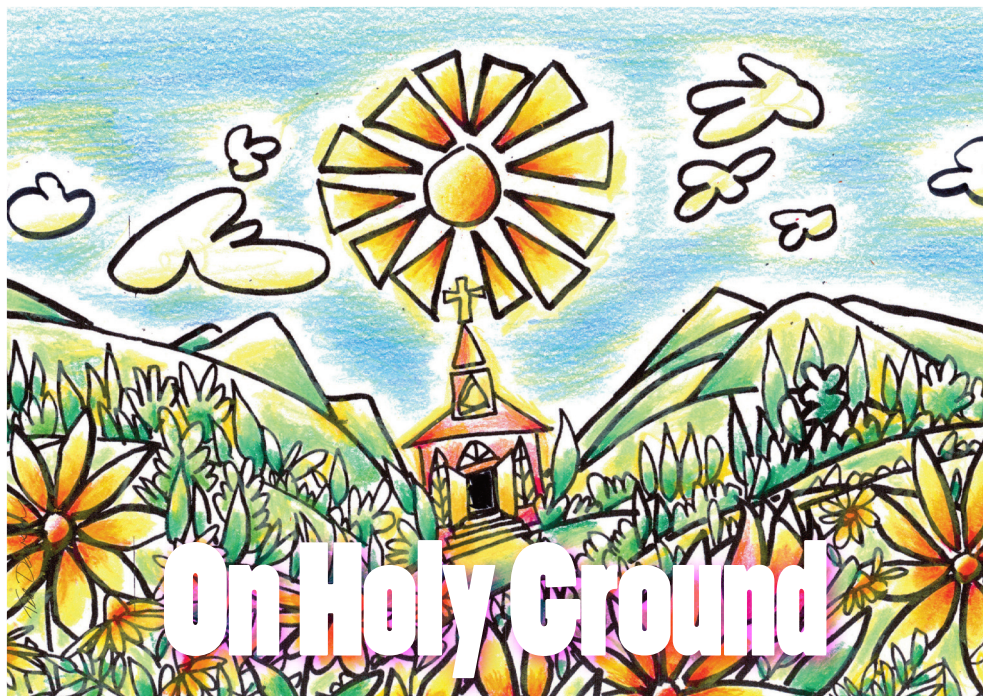
### June 10 - Summer Potluck at Bismarck UCC

Join UCC churches across western North Dakota for a potluck gathering on Saturday, June 10 at 11am. Bring a dish to share and come meet fellow UCC members from around the state!

### June 17 & 18 - PRIDE Festival & Worship

Check out the UCC booth at this year's Pride Festival at BSC Energy Center on Saturday (11am – 5pm) and join us for a multifaith worship service at the Hillside Aquatic Center on Sunday (11:30am).





# On Holy Ground

**T**he Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.

## **From Holy Ground - A Prayer to Strengthen the Church**

*By Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, Conference Minister, Heartland Conference*

Loving God,  
Ground us anew  
In Your deep desire  
For a fullness of flourishing  
Yearning to rise throughout  
Your whole creation.

Plant us deep  
In the soil of Your love

Bursting open seeds  
Often long-forgotten  
Except by You  
Bearing a strength  
For blessing and healing  
In a world of hurt.

Form Your self-giving  
In our deepest selves

Giving grace and space  
For Your strength of soul  
To rise anew in acts  
Of joy-filled giving  
Bearing unexpected hope  
In a world weary with worry.

Grow us in Your Holy Ground  
Supplying every needed nutrient  
Of body, mind, and soul  
In just the right amount  
At just the right time  
Giving rise to a beauty  
And delight not of our making  
Yet requiring our consent.

By this, O Love,  
Strengthen the covenant

Of Your Christ-formed community  
Gifting a renewed energy  
To bear Your deep desire  
Into a world that hungers  
For resurrection risings.

Now, strengthen Your church  
With Your self-giving Spirit  
That we may strengthen others  
For Your holy work of unfolding  
Abundant, blessed, beloved, joy!

Yes, O Love, raise us up  
From your Holy Ground  
For nothing less than this  
And let it be more than enough.

Amen.

**Through the Strengthen the Church Offering,  
we help support the work of conferences and the  
national setting as we become a multi-racial/  
multi-cultural church.**



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# Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

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,

C F G Dm7 C G C

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!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

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

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches

Tune: LINSTeAD L.M. with refrain  
 Jamaican folk song  
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

## Spirit of the Living God

283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

Acts 11:15; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:25

Chorus 1: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

Chorus 2: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Chorus 3: Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Chorus 4: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

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Chorus 4: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Presbyterian minister Daniel Iverson was inspired to write this chorus one evening while attending revival services led by the George T. Stephans Evangelistic Party in Orlando, Florida, in 1926.

Tune: IVERSON 7.5.7.5.8.7.5.  
Daniel Iverson, 1926

## God, You Have Set Us

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Jane Parker Huber, 1984; rev. 1993

1 Cor. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:10-11

1. God, you have set us in this time and place,  
 2 We ded - i - cate this work of hu - man hand;  
 3 Let doors and hearts pro - vide a wel - come here.  
 4 Call youth and age in - to these halls for praise.  
 5 So may the world be - come our neigh - bor - hood,

Called us as stew - ards of your love and grace.  
 Built for your glo - ry, may it firm - ly stand.  
 Let walls and voic - es ring with songs of cheer.  
 Then send us out for ser - vice all our days,  
 Each wish - ing each the right, the true, the good,

O keep us faith - ful, set our souls a - fire,  
 Let truth be preached and jus - tice right - ly done.  
 Let win - dows speak of beau - ty and of light.  
 Your word of peace and chal - lenge here made real  
 Word, font, and ta - ble call - ing us to be

And by your Spir - it all our work in - spire.  
 In Christ our Sav - ior make us tru - ly one.  
 Let smile and ges - ture show your love a - right.  
 Spurs us to act with en - er - gy and zeal.  
 Bound up in Christ, in Christ set bold - ly free.