

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

September 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Welcome The Afterschool Place

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

This fall season is full of new starts. We have our traditional annual beginnings with the start of faith education programs and choir (all of which you can read about in this newsletter), but this year we are also celebrating a new beginning with *The Afterschool Place*. For the past 15 years, *The Afterschool Place* has been providing childcare to Bismarck students. Starting this fall, we get to be a part of serving local kids and families by hosting childcare programming in the church basement between 3:05pm – 5:45pm, Monday thru Friday.

For *The Afterschool Place*, Mondays and Tuesdays are often field trip days. Wednesdays are art and science days. Thursdays are Lego lab. Fridays are afternoons filled with movies and chess. The kids are bused to the church, using *The Afterschool Place's* bus or vans, where they will gather for their afternoon programming, before parents pick them up at 5:45pm. The small bus and or vans will be parked in the church parking lot during the school year, letting the neighborhood know about our new partnership and service to the wider community.

It all began this past spring when *The Afterschool Place* approached us seeking a place where kids can grow and embrace their creativity in a safe and nurturing environment. Our Trustees and Council faithfully reflected on this opportunity and came to the conclusion that this is part of our vision too. We dream of being a place where all are unconditionally welcomed, talents are encouraged to be shared, and all ages can explore in a safe and nurturing environment. This is how we envision living out God's love in the world.

Our basement fellowship hall was previously under-utilized, especially on weekday afternoons. Now the sound of kids' laughter and imaginations will fill that space on weekdays and not only on Sunday mornings! A grant applied for by *The Afterschool Place* will help us make minor renovations to the space and an agreed upon donation will help cover usage costs. Lori, *The Afterschool Place* director, is excited to be meeting in such a welcoming church community. We too are blessed!



Starts Sept. 11!

Sunday School and Confirmation classes start up again on Sunday, Sept. 11! Don't forget to register. See page 6 for details.



Kick-Off Sunday

We're kicking off the start to a new program year with the return of our choir, start of Sunday School, a baptism, and ice cream on September 11!



24 Hour Retreat

Poetry, meditation, Tai Chi, quiet spaces to reflect, fellowship with other UCC members and friends. See page 7 for details.

Worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM in-person or at 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 children, youth, and adults learn that God is love and all are welcome to freely explore spirituality in a safe and nurturing environment."

Last month, our youth had fun experiencing the wisdom from 1 Corinthians 12:14, "We are one, we are strongest working together in unity" while they solved an escape room puzzle and found the hidden treasure! May we continually be reminded of the unique gifts of each person in our midst.



Council Corner

by Carly Retterath, Moderator

I love this time of year as we embark on a new year of Sunday school, confirmation, and adult bible study. Beginnings are always exciting and a breath of fresh air into our lives. It was a fantastic summer filled with pool parties, campfires, block parties, clean-up projects, and outside worship. Thank you to all who helped with these activities and projects.

The council met on August 3rd and had a great discussion on current committee vacancies and identifying individuals to potentially fill them. I encourage all church members and attendees to consider becoming involved in a committee. In an effort to expand committee membership and better include the diversity of our members, the council is going to explore ways to include our online members in committee work as well. We have such great individual talent in our congregation that our church would benefit from and it is a great way to get to know other members in a deeper way.

It's hard to believe that fall is already here. Please take some extra time this month to pray for our students and teachers as they begin another school year. Reflecting on the start of the school year and our church activities I thought of this verse from Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God." Have a blessed month of September!



Our UCC Jack's Food Pantry partners with Adopt-a-Block to ensure everyone has access to food. Thank you for your ongoing donations!

We are currently in need of

- Diapers (newborn – 6)
- Canned Vegetables
- Toilet Paper

Donations can be delivered to the church Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Sunday morning, or by appointment.

FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to July 31, 2022

Revenue

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 80,500

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 7,408

Expenses

Actual = \$ 99,037

Total Revenue = \$ 87,908

Total Expenses = \$ 99,037

NET ACTIVITY = \$ (11,129)

SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2022

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 190
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 140
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 1,669
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 893
Strengthen the Church	\$ 210
Neighbors in Need	\$ 100
The Christmas Fund	\$
Total Shared Ministry	\$ 3202



Thank You for Sponsoring a Sunday!

August 14, 2022 – In Memory of Eunice, Charles, & Ethel



We remember Gene's wife, Eunice, and his parents, Charles & Ethel. We give thanks for the life and love they shared with Gene and all who knew them!

Sponsored by Gene Weekes

Gene has been a long-term member of Bismarck UCC. We are blessed by Gene's wisdom, spiritual depth, and gentle guidance throughout the years.

August 28, 2022 – Happy Anniversary & Birthday!



Last month, John and Eunice celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary and John's 96th birthday! We wish them both all the best in this next year of marriage and life!

Sponsored by John & Eunice Toman

John and Eunice's dedication and love for our church family is a gift. They are active members of Bismarck UCC and have served in many ways over the years.

*It's easy to Sponsor a Sunday by calling the church at 701-223-2915 or visiting www.uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500. All Sundays in September and Oct. 9, 16, 23, and 30 are currently available for sponsorship.





Neighbors in Need

by Pamela Clark-Stein, Stewardship & Mission

The Bismarck United Church of Christ has a long and rich history of helping others — reaching across the local community, across the country and across the world. Supporting the national ministries through Our Church's Wider Mission and the five Special Mission Offerings is just one example of our collective caring and concern for others.

One of the 5-for-5 offerings, Neighbors in Need, is on deck for October 2. Your contribution to this special offering is dedicated to U.S. mission support and grant programs. This includes ministries of justice and compassion (including the Council for American Indian Ministries), advocacy work, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries.

Your Stewardship and Mission Committee invites you to join "hands and hearts" with us for Neighbors in Need.

Art of Biblical Words

Starts Sept. 12 at 6 PM

Enter into the Art of Biblical Words in this year's Monday Bible Study starting on September 12 at 6 PM. In past years, we have read the Bible from cover to cover. This year, we are taking a step back and learning more about key themes and words found in the Hebrew and Greek scriptures. This class is designed to be assessable whether you have been studying the Bible for decades or your experience with the Bible is minimal. Let by Pastor Gretchen and John Sauter. We hope to see you on Monday evenings at Bismarck UCC or on Zoom!

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 hot chocolate, 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 7th – 12th 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 of all ability levels and join others from the general public and our church 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: **Sept. 1 & Oct. 6.**



Ministry & Fellowship Groups

UCC Choir

Hooray!!! It's time for Choir again. This year our plan is to sing from our usual sitting area behind the altar with an empty chair between each person. We all know that the more people singing the merrier the song, so come and sing with us. Our first rehearsal will be on **Sept. 7th**, the choir meets for practice on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.**

Mayflower Circle

This women's fellowship group meets every second Thursday of the month at noon. Mayflower Circle leads various ministries throughout the year including funeral luncheons, annual rummage sale, numerous fundraisers, and others. Join us this month on **Sept. 8th at noon** or 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 2 to 4 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 Worship 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.

Quilt Blessing - Sept. 4

On September 4 at 10 AM, the sanctuary will be filled with lap quilts ready for donation to local care centers. Come and witness the incredible work of our Threads of Love: Crafting Guild and take part in blessing the lap quilts and prayer shawls. We may not know all the people to whom these lap quilts will go, but we can send the quilts off knowing that the recipient will be reminded that they are greatly loved!

Prayer shawls are available by the main doors into the sanctuary. If you or anyone you know would appreciate a prayer shawl blessed with the love and support of Bismarck UCC, we invite you to prayerfully consider which one feels right, and take a prayer shawl with you.



Ukraine Support

by Marcy Dawson, chair of NPC Mission & Outreach

The People of Ukraine have been on many of hearts and minds since Russia attacked Ukraine back on February 24, 2022. Initially this was constantly in the news and now the news is more on the back burner. Meanwhile the bombing and attacks continue.

The UCC Church has been working with the Reformed Church in Hungary. Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refugee in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as citizens of more than 125 other countries living in Ukraine.

The Mission and Outreach Committee of the NPCUCC would like to dedicate September 18 as a Sunday to remember the refugees and people of Ukraine. We are asking our churches in the conference to have a special offering and continued prayers. Donations can be sent to the Conference and make a memo for "Ukraine Relief Fund."

Some churches have already given donations and we thank you for doing so. You are welcome to donate again if you wish to do so. More information about Ukraine and the UCC Church appeal can be found at www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/

Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support disaster relief in Ukraine. Your gift of \$1,030 was received on 5/10/2022. Through your gift, families that have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support.

In faith, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President

Youth News



September

Sept. 11 First Day of Sunday School!
Begins at 10:15 am
Ice Cream and Hotdogs
at 11 am

Sept. 18 Sunday School at 10:15 am

Sept. 25 Sunday School at 10:15 am

Meet this year's teachers:



Autum Eisenbraun chairs our Christian Education Committee and has been serving as a Sunday School teacher for the last few years.



Katie Mitchell grew up at Bismarck UCC and previously served as our youth director. We are excited to welcome them both as this year's teachers!

***Children and Youth registration forms are available at the church office.** Please complete your registration on or before the first day of Sunday School/Youth classes.



Twice a Month on Sundays 2 PM - 3:30 PM

We are looking forward to a great Confirmation class this year! Confirmation is open to all youth grades 7th – 12th. 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 dates are:

Sept. 11
Sept. 25
Oct. 9
Oct. 23
Nov. 6

BISMARCK UCC YOUTH

*Caffeine &
X-ianity*

Every Wednesday
at 6 PM

for youth 6th - 12th grade

Starts Sept. 14, 2022



NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE

UCC Retreat

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2022

MARYVALE RETREAT CENTER
VALLEY CITY, ND

Poetry & Writing led by Rev. Jo Cassiday-Maloney
Meditation led by Rev. Ken Trana
Tai Chi Cha led by Chris McClain

Cost: \$35 - \$65
depending on room selection

Registration deadline:
Sept. 19, 2022

Register at www.npcucc.org



ANNUAL MEETING



Northern Plains Conference

Statewide UCC Gathering

October 28 – 29, 2022
Camp of the Cross
Garrison, ND

Friday evening begins with
dinner and a program.
Saturday will be the main
business of the meeting.

***Interested in being
a voting delegate?***

*Contact the church office or
Pastor Gretchen to indicate
interest or to nominate
another interested member.*



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.



02 Sue Pearson
09 Maiah McCowen
13 Susan Stockert
26 Chad Akovenko

02 Teri Nitschke
09 Michael Schmidt
14 Eden Kraft
27 Pam Smokey

03 Mary Knutson
13 Denyka Sauer
23 Maria Roll-Schlecht
30 Ruby Jackson

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

BLOCK PARTY!

We recently had our block party in coordination with our neighbors Lutheran Church of the Cross. There was quite the turn out as many people throughout our neighborhood came to join in the good food and fun. We had our master grillers Mike Stein and Dave Archer who kept the food coming and deserve a big thank you! There was plenty of wonderful food brought by many people. We also had our new partners The Afterschool Place. They brought their buses and had goodies for the kids. What a great addition to this years' event.

As the evening went on there were many engaging conversations, children playing games, great music (Thank you Dave Augustadt!), and an abundance of smiling faces. Many people mentioned how much they look forward to this event each year and are even spreading the news to close friends and family. The evening was completed with desert, games, and a bouncy house up the hill at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

This is so much fun and a great way to get to know our neighbors even better than we did the year before. We hope to be able to continue this new tradition for years to come!











BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF

"A Global Ministry Church"
www.uccbismarck.org

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm Game Night 	2 8:30am Bible Study	3
4 10am Worship & Communion 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 	5 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	6 2pm Quilting/Knitting	7 2pm Haycreek Lodge Ministries 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting 	8 12pm Mayflower Circle 6:30pm Deacons	9 8:30am Bible Study	10
11 10am Worship & Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation 	12 6pm Monday Bible Study	13 2pm Quilting/Knitting 6pm Parish Personnel Committee 6:15pm Christian Ed	14 6pm Caffeine & Christianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting 	15	16 8:30am Bible Study	17
18 10am Worship & Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	19 6pm Monday Bible Study 6pm Trustees	20 2pm Quilting/Knitting	21 6pm Caffeine & Christianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	22	23 8:30am Bible Study	24 9 am Fall Clean Up 
25 10am Worship & Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	26 6pm Monday Bible Study	27 10am NPC Clergy Zoom 2pm Quilting/Knitting 2pm NPC Member Zoom	28 6pm Caffeine & Christianity 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	29	30 8:30am Bible Study	
						UCC Retreat in Maryvale