

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

February 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Miraculous Things Will Follow

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Senior Pastor

The feast of St. Valentine (Feb. 14) is almost upon us and so is Giving Hearts Day (Feb. 10)! Before you trade chalky candy hearts with anyone, let's pause and reflect on the big L word—Love.

We talk about love in the church all the time. You hear it every Sunday and I hope you hear it every time you read the Bible, reflect on your beliefs, or live out your faith. To love is the central tenant of Christianity. As it says in Matthew 22:40 about the two greatest commandments, "You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." and "You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself." Without love, it is impossible to follow in the ways of Christ. 1 Corinthians 13:2 says it this way, If I "do not have love, I am nothing." We are created to be love. That is what it means to be created in the image of God.

But we all know that love isn't candy. It isn't flowers. It isn't even always sweet or good smelling. Love is patience, kindness, humility, grace, truth, endurance, and so much more than words can express. Even those who do not profess a Christian faith know the immense power of love. Katharine Hepburn said, "Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get—only with what you are expecting to give—which is everything." Christ-like love is the same. Love is not given because we expect something in return. Love is given because that is what love does.

And in the giving of love, something miraculous happens. Zora Neale Hurston captured it when she said, "Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place." The act of giving love pulls our soul to the surface. This makes us vulnerable, which scares us when we don't do it often enough, but our own vulnerable act of giving love also encourages the souls of others to come out of hiding. It says to others, "you are a beautiful child of God, wonderfully made."

So this February, throw caution to the wind and send Valentines with your whole soul. Let others know that they are loved by you and by God. Miraculous things will follow.



Sponsor a Sunday

Be the first to sponsor a Sunday in 2022. Call the church office to sponsor. See page 3 for details.



March 2 at 6 PM

Mark the start of Lent in community on Wednesday, March 2 at 6pm as we gather for our Ash Wednesday worship service and imposition of ashes.



LENT

Centering Prayer

Every Wednesday, March 9 – April 13 from 6:00 to 6:30 pm, join Pastor Gretchen in the sanctuary for a time of music and prayer.

Worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM in-person or online. Masks are required inside.

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 powerful messages inspire and challenge us to be caring and compassionate to all – in our church, community, and world..."

The words and music of powerful speakers filled our hearts at this year's MLK event on January 17. If you missed the event, a recording can be viewed on the church's FB page. Bismarck UCC is the fiscal agent for the MLK Holiday Commission and UCC members help to plan the annual events.



Welcome

Council Corner

by Carly Retterath, Incoming Moderator

My name is Carly Retterath and I have been a member of the Bismarck United Church of Christ since 2015. I grew up in Pierre, SD and came to Bismarck to attend the University of Mary on a soccer scholarship. I received a B.S. in Elementary Education and Special Education as well as a Master's Degree in Special Education in my time at the University of Mary. I spent one year in Togiak, AK teaching special education before I came back to the Bismarck/Mandan area. I taught at Bismarck High and coached soccer for 4 years before moving over to Mandan Public Schools. I was a Special Education Programs Coordinator for Mandan for 5 years before becoming the Director of Alternative Education three years ago. I received my doctorate in Education Administration from the University of South Dakota in May of 2018.

In my personal life I am married to my husband Keenan and we have a two-year-old daughter Lauren. We live in Mandan and enjoy spending time outside, watching movies, and attending sporting events. I am an avid runner and enjoy being active. I also love to read and rarely go anywhere without a book. I am honored to be the next moderator of the Bismarck United Church of Christ congregation as this church has played a major role in my life and I look forward to continuing to help it grow.



Thank you to everyone who assisted with The Banquet. It takes a village to assist with feeding the community, and is a wonderful way to serve others while participating in the wider community.

We look forward to serving again on July 21, 2022!



Sponsor a Sunday

Have you ever wanted to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary with your Church family? Or maybe you would like to take a moment to honor a deceased loved one? The easiest way to celebrate or honor those special people and moments is to "Sponsor a Sunday" which also helps the church continue its mission therefore paying it forward.

The 2022 Sponsor a Sunday sheet is on the bulletin board and ready for you to all choose your special date. You may also request a Sunday by clicking on the Donate section on the UCC Bismarck website. Sponsorships are \$500, and if you have any questions, please contact the church office at 223-2915 or Pastor Gretchen.



Thank you to everyone who is able to attend the Annual Meeting on **Jan. 30 at 11 AM**. Your participation in the church community is widely appreciated. If you do not yet have a copy of the Annual Report, it is available in the narthex on a table near the bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Ministry & Fellowship Groups

Mayflower Circle

A women's fellowship group is for any age. Mayflower Circle leads various ministries throughout the year including funeral luncheons, annual rummage sale, numerous fundraisers, and others. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 10th at 12 Noon. Contact Jane Thomson or Dawn Archer to join or with questions.

Haycreek Lodge Ministries

Have a passion for serving those in care centers? This team preaches and leads worship services at Haycreek Lodge (formerly Primrose) on College Dr. on various Wednesdays throughout the year. Due to the continuing pandemic, they are not currently meeting, but if you are interested in helping in the future contact Darcy Avery.

Threads of Love: Crafting Guild

Knit, purl, tell stories and have a great time with this group of knitters, quilters and crafters. This group meets every Tuesdays at 2 PM in-person in the Fellowship Hall.

UCC Choir

The choir meets on Wednesdays at 7 PM for rehearsal. All are welcome. For more info, please contact choir director Craig Devos at 701-226-3860.

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir is currently on hiatus. They will need at least 5 people to continue in the future. Please contact the church office at 701-223-2915 if you are interested in joining.

FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to December 31, 2021

Revenue

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 146,058

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 7,857

Expenses

Actual = \$ 155,060

Total Revenue = \$ 153,915

Total Expenses = \$ 155,060

NET ACTIVITY = \$ (1,144)

SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2021

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 1,250
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 100
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 2,819
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,218
Strengthen the Church	\$ 706
Neighbors in Need	\$ 635
The Christmas Fund	\$ 635
Total Shared Ministry	\$ 7,363

Youth News



OUR YOUTH GROUP IS DOING WORLD VISION'S 30 HOUR FAMINE!

WHAT: For 30 hours, we'll skip meals to raise funds that will help feed and care for hungry children around the world.

WHY: Every 7 seconds, a child under 5 dies—and nearly half those deaths are from hunger-related causes. That's why we're taking action now!

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- 1. Give.** Every \$40 we raise helps feed and care for a child for one month. You can make checks out to "Bismarck UCC" with "World Vision" in the memo and give them to the church office.
- 2. Volunteer.** We need your help to make our Famine weekend a success! There are lots of ways to help out.
- 3. Pray.** Ask for God's grace over our event and our fundraising, and that we grow deeper in our love for Him while helping change the lives of kids who are hungry.

WHEN: February 25-26, 2022

OUR GOAL: We're raising as much as we can to help feed and care for kids around the world.

CONTACT: Pastor Gretchen at gretchen@uccbismarck.org



Join Us for Sunday School

Sundays at 10:20 AM

All Children Welcome!



Confirmation

Next Class

Sunday, February 20, 2022



Caffeine & X-ianity

Calling all church youth! Join us
Wednesdays at 4 PM for our
weekly youth group gathering.

World Vision
30 HOUR FAMINE

1.800.7.FAMINE (1.800.732.6463) | 30hourfamine.org

30 Hour Famine. Students loving God and fighting hunger.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. 30HF15240_1020 © 2020 World Vision, Inc.

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

Thank You Officers and Committee Members

We offer up big thanks to our outgoing officers and committee members who are continuing their current terms or have elected to serve for another term! UCC would not be the wonderful place it is without the participation of our incredible church family, and the continued donation of their time and talents as we pursue our local and wider missions.

Many heartfelt thanks to our out-going committee members who have reached the end of their term limits or have chosen to step down from their positions. Their work is truly appreciated!

Michael Stein, Moderator
 Scott Kleinjan, Treasurer
 Darlene Kinnischtzke, Deacons
 Carly Retterath, Christian Ed
 Doug Klein, Music
 Larry Schneider, Stewardship

Jane Thomson, Clerk
 Maria Scheer, Trustees
 Harold Karch, Deacons
 Dana Schaar Jahner, Trustees
 Allison Volk, Stewardship
 Marcia Lerberg, Stewardship

We would also like to thank and welcome the following new church officers and committee members:

Carly Retterath, Moderator
 James Mandigo, Treasurer
 Hannah Vanorny, Music
 Laurie Reinisch, Stewardship
 Betty Picard, Deacons & Liturgical Arts

Lonna Augustadt, Clerk
 Mary Beth Rush, Deacons
 Teri Nitschke, Stewardship
 Frank Picard, Stewardship & Haycreek Lodge Ministry

Bored This Winter? Check Out a Bible Study!

Fridays @ 8:30 AM

In-Person & Online

Join this dedicated group for a group discussion and fresh perspectives.



Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

Online only via Zoom at this time.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83042183605?pwd=bzl4U3kzSTdMZFZUM3hvMzYveWo4Zz09>

Join us as we dive into the historical and literary context of the bible.

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 Carrie Mandigo
 07 Tiffany Sonnenberg
 08 Lucille Ritz
 09 Ella Kraft
 11 Eugene Weekes
 16 Ashley Leier

19 Karsten Klein
 20 Aiden Meidinger
 23 Delani Berger
 24 Amber Augustadt
 25 Priscilla Sauer
 28 Elise Smokey

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

FEBRUARY



BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A Global Ministry Church”
www.uccbismarck.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>2pm Quilting/Knitting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4pm Caffeine & X-ianity</p> <p>6:30pm Bible Study</p> <p>7pm Choir Practice</p> <p>8pm NA Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>10am Worship & Communion</p> <p>10:20am Sunday School</p> <p>11am Fellowship</p> <p>12pm Online Fellowship</p> <p>12pm Baptism</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>2pm Quilting/Knitting</p> <p>6:30pm Deacons</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4pm Caffeine & X-ianity</p> <p>6:30pm Bible Study</p> <p>7pm Choir Practice</p> <p>8pm NA Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12 Noon Mayflower Circle</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>10:20am Sunday School</p> <p>11am Fellowship</p> <p>12pm Online Fellowship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Happy Valentine's Day!</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>2pm Quilting/Knitting</p> <p>6pm Trustees</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4pm Caffeine & X-ianity</p> <p>6:30pm Bible Study</p> <p>7pm Choir Practice</p> <p>8pm NA Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>10:20am Sunday School</p> <p>11am Fellowship</p> <p>12pm Online Fellowship</p> <p>2pm Confirmation</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Church Closed</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>2pm Quilting/Knitting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4pm Caffeine & X-ianity</p> <p>6:30pm Bible Study</p> <p>7pm Choir Practice</p> <p>8pm NA Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30am Bible Study</p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>10:20am Sunday School</p> <p>11am Fellowship</p> <p>12am Online Fellowship</p>	<p>28</p>					

Will you sponsor a Sunday? Contact the church office or visit www.uccbismarck.org/donate to get started.