

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

March 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

Jump In and Live

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

Theology is the study of the nature of God and religious beliefs. It is important to explore and consider our theology, because the better we know ourselves and our beliefs, the more our choices will be in alignment with who we are. Knowing our theology has many benefits – our sense of satisfaction is increased when we make decisions in alignment with our core beliefs, we become more reliable to others and ourselves when our decisions are consistent, we live with integrity, and our impact on the world increases as our lives focus on what is most important to us.

However, to get those benefits we cannot just talk about theology, we have to take time to truly know the inner workings of our heart and actively listen for God. Jesus modeled this to us every time he went off to pray – and he did it A LOT. At the start of his ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness to pray for 40 days. Throughout his ministry, he regularly stepped away from all the demands of life to pray and Jesus was BUSY. This Lenten season, whenever I think I'm too busy to take time to be in prayer, I'm going to say to myself, "If Jesus, the most effective healer, teacher, prophet, and Son of God, who had people *constantly* following him around could find time to pray, then I can too."

It can be hard though to get into the routine of regularly letting go of everything else we have to do, quieting our minds, and moving into actively listening for God. Our focus is often divided and as a result our lives sometimes become scattered or begin to feel as if they lack purpose. So this Lent, every Wednesday at 6pm, you are invited to come to church for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer. We'll begin with brief instructions on how to engage in this method of silent prayer and a piece of music to focus our minds. Then we'll dive into not the words of our theology, but the very heart of it as our experiences of God become closer than our thoughts and even our breathing.

Let your life find new depth and energy this Lent by jumping into the heart of your theology and listening for God already at work in you!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Lent

Ash Wednesday is March 2. Please see page 3 for details on the Lenten season worship services.

Tips for Aging Well

Brought to you by the Women of
Mayflower Circle

Page 5



Sunday, March 13

Remember to change your clocks so we can enjoy the Sunday Service together!

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 the good in every person is recognized and their talents are encouraged to be shared."

The sacrament of baptism is one of the most powerful acts in our lives. In baptism we are claimed as God's own, accepted to the church family, and begin our growth into full Christian faith and life. We were blessed in February to be reminded of our own baptisms and celebrate the baptism of Eli Miller.

Council Corner

by Carly Retterath, Moderator

Greetings UCC Bismarck,

Again, I want to tell each of you how grateful and honored I am to be selected as moderator and look forward to working with the church council to meet the church's goals and vision for 2022. Just a quick update on what the church council is working on. Our last council meeting was focused around filling openings on our standing committees and planning for the annual meeting. The annual meeting was held January 30th and was a great success! It was exciting to install our new committee members, approve the 2022 budget and see so many people wearing their pajamas.

At our next meeting the church council will be looking at setting goals specific to outreach and engaging more people in our church family. With COVID much of the last two years have been focused inward and it is time to start looking out again as a congregation. The council will continue to evaluate our church's masking and COVID mitigation practices to adjust as needed based on community health guidance. I am looking forward to a healthy and joyous 2022 for UCC Bismarck!

Blessings!



Recenter Your Faith This Lent Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday – March 2

Soup Supper from 5:00 - 5:45 PM

Worship at 6 PM

Lenten Centering Prayer – Wednesdays March 9 to April 13

Worship/Centering Prayer from 6:00 - 6:30 PM

Bars or Pie served after worship

Ecumenical Taizé Worship – March 23

Worship at 6 PM

Maundy Thursday – April 14

Soup Supper from 5:00 - 5:45 PM

Worship at 6 PM

Ecumenical Easter Vigil – April 16

Worship at 7 PM (Lutheran Church of the Cross)

Easter Sunday – April 17

Easter Sunrise at 6:30 AM (Front lawn at Haycreek Lodge)

Easter Worship at 10 AM



**All services are at Bismarck UCC unless otherwise noted. All worship experiences, except Centering Prayer will be available both in-person and online. Centering Prayer is available in-person only.*

FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to January 31, 2022

Revenue

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 9,005

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 535

Expenses

Actual = \$ 11,662

Total Revenue = \$ 9,540

Total Expenses = \$ 11,662

NET ACTIVITY = \$ (2,122)

SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2021

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 90
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 315
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$
Strengthen the Church	\$
Neighbors in Need	\$
World Vision	\$ 80
The Christmas Fund	\$
Total Shared Ministry	\$ 485

A Fresh Look at Financial Stewardship

by Pamela Clark-Stein, Stewardship & Mission Chair

Several weeks ago, Pastor Gretchen shared a book with me. The book is titled "Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship." I admit to a fair amount of procrastination before starting to read the book. However, after reading the first few pages, I was hooked. It was surprisingly an easy read and full of ideas for rethinking financial stewardship and the ultimate goal of changing lives with our giving and financial resources.

Going forward, this will be an important discussion item for the Stewardship & Mission Committee. We also plan to invite all members of the UCC family to join in an open discussion in the coming months to explore ideas presented in the book – along with gathering your input on ways to sharpen our focus on the mission of the church.

The first 5-for-5 special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, is scheduled for March 27. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee and development ministries of the United Church of Christ. What a great way to exercise our financial stewardship to help change lives for those who need our help. Please join us in giving to this special offering!

Sunday Sponsors

Sponsored in Gratitude for You!

January 30, 2022

Thank you to the congregation for your wonderful outreach and continued support during this time of medical treatment.

Sponsored by Harold Karch



In Celebration of Birthdays!

February 6, 2022

We wished a very blessed Happy Birthday to both of Linda Larson's parents who celebrated their birthdays in January.

Sponsored by Linda Larson



Happy 86th Birthday!

February 13, 2022

In celebration of Jan Johnson and her 86th birthday our church family extended their many birthday wishes. We look forward to seeing her in-person again soon.

Sponsored by Kris & Scott Kleinjan



Happy 93rd Birthday!

February 20, 2022

In celebration of Yvonne Schreiner's birthday on Feb. 21st, Lance has chosen to honor her by Sponsoring a Sunday. Thank you for allowing us, your church family, to share in this special day.

Sponsored by Lance Schreiner



The 2022 Sponsor a Sunday sheet is on the bulletin board and ready for you to choose your special date(s) to honor those you love, commemorate a special day in your life, or extend a thank you. By choosing to sponsor, you are helping UCC continue its mission here in the local community and beyond. Sponsorships are \$500, and if you are interested, please sign up for your date on the board, or request your Sunday by clicking on the "Donate" section on the UCC Bismarck section of our website. If you have any additional questions, please contact the church office at 701-223-2915 or Pastor Gretchen.

Ministry & Fellowship Groups

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, numerous fundraisers, and others. The next meeting will be on **March 10 at 12 Noon** in-person and online. Contact Jane Thomson or Dawn Archer to join or with any questions.

Haycreek Lodge Ministries

This team preaches and leads worship services at Haycreek Lodge (formerly Primrose) 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 next service at Haycreek Lodge will be on **Wednesday, March 2 at 2 PM.**

Threads of Love: Crafting Guild

Do you enjoy visiting with others while crafting, quilting and knitting? Then come and join this fun group on **Tuesdays at 2 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Experienced and non-experienced alike are all welcome. If you have been wanting to learn a new craft, this might just be the group for you.

UCC Choir

The choir meets on Wednesdays at 7 PM for rehearsal. If you would like to share your singing talents, please contact 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 interested in joining.

Tips for Aging Well

by Dawn Archer & Mayflower Circle

As our Mayflower Circle members get older, we have engaged in discussion about how we can best continue to serve, contribute, and support the life of the church.

With the topic of age in mind, at our February meeting, Pastor Gretchen asked if we would be willing to share our "Tips for Aging Well" with our church family.

Many of us will take a turn, and we invite all of you to join us on this journey. It's easy, just write 1 to 3 paragraphs, for the newsletter, including your "Tips for Aging Well." Please include your name, also your age if you like. Email to Donna at: office@uccbismarck.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Tips from Wanda Benson...

It is quite the compliment for someone to say, "You age well!" What is my secret? I think first of all, I have pretty good genetics. My mom stayed young looking, as well as many of the other females in my family. Hats off to them & thank you! And something you might not know about me, my maiden name was Wanda Young!

But, I believe the best tip to staying young, for me, has been a positive attitude along with staying active and spending time with family and friends. Of course, the fresh air and enjoyment I get when I spend time at the ranch, helps too. The ranch life has always made me feel good, even if it is hard work.

When I feel good, I feel young, and hopefully that shows.



When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When human-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, **Love remains**.

Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 27

'Far Out' Book Study

by Dale Carmen

How does one reconcile science and religion? A small group of four from our congregation tackled that and other questions with 'out of this world' enthusiasm. 😊

We read and discussed A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes, by Stephen Hawking. Chapter titles included: Space and Time, The Expanding Universe, The Uncertainty Principle, Black Holes Ain't So Black, and The Origin and Fate of the Universe. There were theories discovered, disproved, redefined, and appeals to the natural laws of physics. We waded in over our necks and faced doctrine, faith and science issues with new eyes; in light of the real universe seen and heard today.

I grew from hearing the deity (noun = a person, place or thing) that biblical people experienced; to also recognizing God anew in the burning bush of Exodus 3:14. This is God, YAHWEH, I AM, a verb tense in Hebrew (verb = an action, motion, energy). Remember that in Genesis 1:1-2, God, RUAH, moved over the face of the waters. RUAH, is Hebrew for Spirit, breath and wind.

So, can gravitational waves and the laws of nature be some of the ways God is present to us? Instead of making God in our image (seeing, feeling, talking), are we able to let God be God, always a mystery to be discovered?

Let us be fearless on our journey of faith together.

Christian Education



Next Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 20 @ 2 PM



Caffeine & X-ianity

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



Join Us for Sunday School

Sundays at 10:20 AM

All Children Welcome!



Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

Online only via Zoom

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

Fridays @ 8:30 AM

In-Person & Online

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

(Links for all Bible Studies available on Bismarck UCC's calendar at www.uccbismarck.org/news-events)



MARCH

H	R	R	A	I	N	B	O	W	L
Q	C	A	W	X	G	O	L	D	E
G	O	I	Y	T	V	Y	Y	V	P
J	J	N	W	C	L	O	V	E	R
U	V	M	S	P	R	I	N	G	E
M	D	O	T	K	L	U	C	K	C
G	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	K	H
F	L	D	F	X	T	K	X	C	A
Y	Z	E	G	R	E	E	N	Z	U
F	S	U	N	Y	H	R	Y	X	N

LEPRECHAUN
SPRING
RAINBOW
SUN
GREEN
CLOVER
GOLD
LUCK
RAIN
FLOWERS

Thank You Note

Dear Bismarck UCC,

It's always a joy to open the mail when it contains generous offerings from "my" church! You make such a difference by giving to the Christmas Fund, OGHS, and OCWM. I appreciate your consistent generosity!

Blessings to all!

Peace, Deborah Blood

Order Easter Flowers!

Orders are due by Sunday, March 13th

In Memory or Honor of loved ones

6" Easter Lily is \$15

8" Easter Lily is \$25

Mums are \$15

There is an order form under the bulletin board in the narthex, email the office at office@uccbismarck.org, or call us at 701-223-2915.

Payment is due at time of ordering.



CALLING ALL GUYS???????

by Camille Grothier, Deacon's Chair

We women have several opportunities to join together for fellowship, gabbing, service and fun, but there's nothing that offers a similar opportunity for guys. Sooooo, to our brothers in Christ: if you would like to have a group of your very own...**here's your chance**. Call the office (223-2915) or Camille Grothier (425-4256) and let us know of your interest in creating a Men's Group. The calendar will be available to schedule your meeting times (weekly, monthly or whatever your group decides).

If you guys have even half as much fun as us gals, it will WELL be worth the effort. Trust Me!!

Bless you all for your desire to gather together for fun and the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our church family.

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 Eric Pearson
02 Christopher Gustin
06 Julie Dethloff
07 Rayann Knoll
13 Ken Trana
14 Ed Lutz
19 Roger Ritz

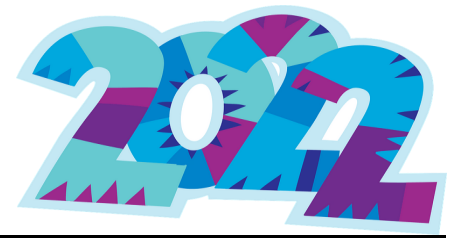
23 Kenleigh Volk
24 Cecilia Tolstedt
25 Carter Meidinger
27 Nicole Balliet
30 Gretchen Deeg
31 Weston Miller


**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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2pm Quilting/Knitting	2 Ash Wednesday 2pm Haycreek Lodge Ministries 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	3	4 8:30am Bible Study	5
6 10am Worship & Communion 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	7	8 2pm Quilting/Knitting 6:30pm Deacons	9 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6pm Lent Service & Centering Prayer 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	10 12pm Mayflower Circle	11 8:30am Bible Study	12
13 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	14	15 2pm Quilting/Knitting	16 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6pm Lent Service & Centering Prayer 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	17 	18 8:30am Bible Study	19
20 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	21	22 2pm Quilting/Knitting	23 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6pm Ecumenical Taize' Worship 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	24	25 8:30am Bible Study	26
27 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Fellowship One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering	28	29 2pm Quilting/Knitting	30 2pm Haycreek Lodge Ministries 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6pm Lent Service & Centering Prayer 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 8pm NA Meeting	31 <div>Pastor Gretchen Out of Office March 24—27. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Camille Grothier 701-425-4256.</div>		