

# 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

## August 2022

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## What's on the exterior?

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Senior Pastor

We have two glass jars sitting in the welcome area of the church. Beside the jars is a sign that says "We're painting the church. You pick the color." One jar represents *neutral ground* and the other jar is for *gray clouds*.\*

They are out there for three reasons:

- 1) to finalize the paint color for the exterior of the church building
- 2) to raise funds to pay for the paint project
- 3) to have fun picking the color as a community.

The process of preparing to paint the exterior of the church has gotten me thinking about the relationship between the health of our interior spiritual lives and what shows on the exterior. The familiar quote, "It's what's on the inside that matters" comes to mind. I agree with the sentiment that our personalities and integrity matter much more than our looks. However, when it comes to our spiritual lives, the impact of God's abundant love should not remain only beneath the surface. In Galatians 5:22-23, it says "**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**"

This fruit is first nurtured inside of ourselves, but it is fruit that is lived out in community. When we are filled with love inside of ourselves, we cannot help but to share that love with others. When joy makes us dance, others can see the lightness in our steps. When peace grounds us, calm radiates out into the situations around us. The fruit of the Spirit is grown inside of our souls, but it is lived out in very external ways that impact our families, friends, and even the world.

So this month, as you interact with the people around you, take note of how you are treating others. Are you living as if the fruit of the Spirit is well nurtured within you or is your exterior pointing out to you that the soil of your soul is cracked and dry? Notice, breathe, and invite Love in.

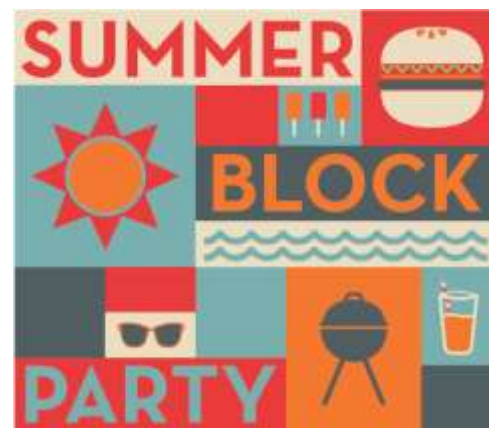
*\*If you want to donate and vote for your favorite color for the church exterior, just put "neutral ground" or "cloud gray" in a check memo or donate at [uccbismarck.org/donate](http://uccbismarck.org/donate).*



**Thursday, August 11  
at 5 PM**

Join us at Evan & Tove Mandigo's  
(2489 Timberlane Pl, Bismarck, ND)

This will be an evening of great conversation, food, and fun. Bring your swimsuit, sunscreen, a lawn chair, favorite side dish to share, and friends of course!



**Wednesday, August 17  
5:30 PM at UCC**

Details on page 6

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

We served The Banquet at its new location, The Dream Center, on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>: and appreciate all you did to make this possible. We would not be able to feed the community at large without your donations, cooking and baking skills, and volunteer time!



## Council Corner

by Carly Retterath

Greetings UCC Bismarck,

It's hard to believe that it is the middle of July already! These summer months always go by so fast. School supply lists are already out! We need to enjoy all the days we have and slow down to enjoy the season.

The council did not meet this month due to the busy schedules that everyone has this time of year. Instead of a council update, I would like to express my gratitude to Donna Poling for her time as our Administrative Assistant. Her last day with us was July 22<sup>nd</sup>. While I have always appreciated Donna and her positive personality, it was not until I became moderator that I truly realized what a gift she is and has been to our congregation. I wish Donna the best in her new opportunity and want to thank her for her service!

We hope to have news soon of a new Administrative Assistant. If you have time over the next couple weeks, give the church office a call (701-223-2915) and offer a few hours of your time to volunteer in the church office. It's a great way to learn more about the day-to-day work of the church.

This past week I have been reflecting on this verse from Peter, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms," 1 Peter 4:8-10. This verse reminds me that Jesus calls us to build bigger tables with others not burn bridges. Have a blessed month and I pray you have an opportunity to extend hospitality to those around you!

Blessings!

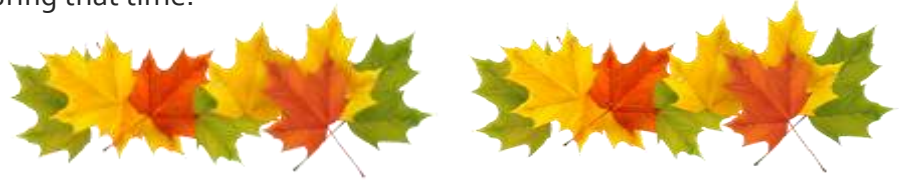
## August Worship Schedule

- Aug. 7 – Indoors w/ Communion  
Rev. Gretchen Deeg
- Aug. 14 – Outdoors  
Rev. Gretchen Deeg
- Aug. 21 – Indoors  
Hannah Vanorny
- Aug. 28 – Outdoors  
Rev. Deborah Blood



## Are You Celebrating Someone Special? Or a Special Event?

Sponsoring a Sunday is a wonderful way to honor or celebrate that special someone, or that special event that is taking place in your family. We currently have all of our Sundays in August and September free and ready for you to reserve. Another fun idea is the celebration of a favorite season! If you know of a few friends or family that love fall, it would be fun to sponsor a day in honor of fall and all the beauty nature shares with us during that time.



## Thank you for Sponsoring!

**June 26 – Happy Belated Anniversary Kevin & Teri Nitschke**

Thank you to Kevin and Teri for sponsoring June 26 in celebration of their anniversary. We know we are belated in our anniversary wishes, but so glad that we get to keep celebrating you in August!

### FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to June 30, 2022

#### Revenue

##### General Offerings

Actual = \$ 69,925

##### Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 5,360

#### Expenses

Actual = \$ 81,855

Total Revenue = \$ 75,285

Total Expenses = \$ 81,855

**NET ACTIVITY = \$ (6,570)**

### SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2022

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 190
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 140
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 1,474
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 892
Strengthen the Church	\$ 210
Neighbors in Need	\$
The Christmas Fund	\$
<b>Total Shared Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 2,906</b>

## Metigoshe Quilt Auction

Several members of "Threads of Love" quilters attended Metigoshe Ministries Quilt Auction. The quilters donated 12 quilts for the faith filled mission of summer camps and retreats, where attendees experience and celebrate the gifts of God. Funds raised help hire energetic and faithful counselors, and to assist with camperships to make certain no child is turned away from camp due to financial difficulties. Special weeks are dedicated to Ojibwa campers and adult special needs participants.

There were 181 beautiful quilts auctioned, raising \$94,015. Our donated quilts raised \$4,150!! We experienced so much energy and excitement, especially when our quilts were being auctioned off. The quilters stayed at the Lakeside Christian Center two nights and attended Sunday church services. One cannot measure this experience as we were inspired by the beautiful setting in the Turtle Mountains and the promises of God! We will forever treasure our adventure "Anchored in Christ!"

## Youth News

We are excited to announce that we will be taking the Confirmation and United Church Youth to Bismarck's newest escape room, Breakout. If you would like to attend, but are not currently receiving emailed invites to Confirmation or Youth Events, let Pastor Gretchen know at [gretchen@uccbismarck.org](mailto:gretchen@uccbismarck.org)

We look forward to having a fun time together before school begins!



## Families: Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Sunday, September 11 @ 10 AM  
Join us at church for 10 AM worship, the start of Sunday School, and our annual ice cream social!
- ✓ Wednesday, September 14 @ 4 PM  
Caffeine & Christianity for middle & high school youth starts up again on Sept. 14 and meets every Wednesday at 4pm at church.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01 Ryan Mandt	19 Todd Mandt	28 Cage Akovenko
09 Adler Scheer	20 Kori Schneider	29 Gary Stockert
12 Dana Jahner	21 Joshua Crowley	30 Sheena Weil
13 Joan Durow	22 James Mandigo	
14 Maria Scheer	24 Gayle Klopp	
18 Irene Perman	28 Shaylee Weil	

*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.*

## 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 (canceled for 2022 due to increase of COVID cases), 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 August services at Hay Creek Lodge will be on **August 3 & 31**.

### Confirmation

Contact the church office or Pastor Gretchen if your youth would like to join Confirmation this year. Confirmation is for youth in 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**



# UCC Community News

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022

5:30 PM @ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1200 EAST HIGHLAND ACRES ROAD

DINNER & GAMES



We will provide hot dogs, and if you would like to bring a side dish to share that is great. Games will be set up.

7 PM @ LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CROSS

1004 EAST HIGHLAND ACRES ROAD

DESSERT & BOUNCE HOUSE



### PLEASE JOIN US FOR SUMMER FUN!

*\*Bring a lawn chair if you're able*

**If you wish to donate:**  
**UCC: non-perishable food items for Adopt-a-Block**  
**LCC: school supplies for BPS**

*In the event of inclement weather, we will meet inside the church building.  
If you have any questions, please call Bismarck UCC 223-2915.*



## Saturday, August 6 at 9 AM

Take part in preparing the church grounds for our Highland Acres Block Party with a little weeding and trimming. Bring your work gloves and favorite weeding or trimming tools.



## 2022 NPC Event Schedule

**NPC Retreat**  
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2022  
Maryvale Spiritual Retreat Center  
Valley City, ND

**NPC Annual Meeting**  
Oct. 28-29, 2022  
Camp of the Cross Ministries  
Garrison, ND

Stay up to date by visiting [www.npcucc.org](http://www.npcucc.org) and signing up for email updates!



# BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A Global Ministry Church”  
www.uccbismarck.org

# 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 2pm Quilting/Knitting	3 2pm Hay Creek Lodge Ministries 6pm Council 8pm NA Meeting	4	5 8:30am Bible Study	6 9am Church Yard Clean Up
7 10am Indoor Worship & Communion 11am Fellowship 12 pm Online Fellowship	8 7pm Music Meeting	9 2pm Quilting/Knitting	10 8pm NA Meeting	11 5pm Summer Fun: Pool Party at Mandigo's	12 8:30am Bible Study	13
14 10am Outdoor Worship 11 am Fellowship 12 pm Online Fellowship	15	16 2pm Quilting/Knitting	17 4:30pm TAP Open House 5:30pm Highland Acres Block Party 8pm NA Meeting	18	19 8:30am Bible Study	20
Pastor Gretchen on Vacation: August 15 to September 1						
21 10am Indoor Worship 11am Fellowship 12 pm Online Fellowship	22	23 2pm Quilting/Knitting	24 8pm NA Meeting	25	26 8:30am Bible Study	27
Please contact Camille Grothier for any pastoral care emergencies at 701-425-4256						
28 10am Outdoor Worship 11am Fellowship 12 pm Online Fellowship	29	30 10am NPC Clergy Zoom 2pm Quilting/Knitting 2pm NPC Member Zoom	31 2pm Hay Creek Lodge Ministries 8pm NA Meeting			