

# Bismarck-Mandan Area United Church of Christ

1200 E Highland Acres Rd ~ 701-223-2915 ~ bisucc@midconetwork.com ~ www.uccbismarck.org ~ Like us on Facebook

## November 2019

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

## Being the Church

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

Dear Bismarck UCC family,

It is a blessing to be back among you again. I understand that you had an amazing couple months of God Sightings! I heard you filled our church parking lot with hundreds of neighbors and friends from the Highland Acres community and that you even made sure to invite Dewey, our mailman, to the summer block party. I heard numerous stories of incredible worship, a new appreciation for children's books and the Gospel, and wonderful musicians. There were stories of a camping trip, cookout, pool party, and more. Plus, the many stories of how you uplifted one another in your typical fashion of welcoming and loving everyone no matter what. Thank you for being an incredible congregation! While watching for God in your midst, you did not just sit and wait for God to show up – you went out into the world, interacted with your neighbors, welcomed people into sacred ground, and shared the love of God in your everyday life.

During part of the sabbatical, I was staying in a parsonage of a sister church in Bielefeld, Germany. The pastor of the church asked me what Bismarck UCC was like. I told her that it was a congregation made up of incredible people who were dedicated to showing the love of God to one another and the world; and that Bismarck UCC was one of the most welcoming congregations I had experienced. You lived that these past couple of months and, I know, will continue to grow even more into that in the years to come.

I have seen how you have grown over these past few months and I know that you are also interested in hearing what I did during the sabbatical. There were three major parts to my sabbatical time. The first was a sacred time of hosting hospice in our home for my mother-in-law, Roxann. As many of you know, Roxann died on July 4 so the time we had with her in our home was especially special to me and my family. The second was a time of spiritual grounding at a church camp and reconnecting with colleagues and family in Ohio and New York. The third, and largest portion, consisted of taking German language courses and learning about the culture and church in Bielefeld, Germany. No, I am not fluent yet, but my German most certainly is better!

So many thanks goes out to Dawn Archer and all our church staff, Ann Sharp, Jim Knutz, Mary Radar, Craig DeVos, our guest speakers, summer musicians, and EACH OF YOU! As go forward together, let us continue to hold onto our sabbatical learnings and be the church to one another and the world.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



### UCC's 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

You and all your friends are invited to our 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. The celebrations will begin in worship at 10 am and continue with ice cream cake at 11 am. Check out the narthex (entry area) for gifts ideas for your church's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday!



### Thanksgiving Worship & Pie

Guest speaker from the Native American Development Center. Come learn about this non-profit and give thanks for the work of God!



### Advent A'fair

Mark Sunday, Dec. 1 on the calendar and plan to attend our annual First of Advent party! We'll have crafts, food, music, and fun for all ages.

**Worship with us every Sunday at 10:00 AM | Bible Study: Mon – 6:30 PM & Fri – 6:30 AM**

# 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."*

Every Wednesday at 3:30pm, hot chocolates are ordered, school projects are shared, and faith conversations start up among our youth. Last month we discussed how faith informs our courage, being bold, trust, risk, and doing what's right (even when it's hard). All middle & high school youth are welcome to join.

**"On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased the strength of my soul."**

– Psalm 138:3



## Council Corner

by Mike Stein, Moderator

Fall is here and so is Winter! It is hard to believe we already had our first blizzard! We had a great Council meeting in September. Our Revitalization team gave us an update on their recommendations. They are recommending we look at 4 different items: 1) the communication and social media aspects of the church. 2) restructuring the church boards and committees. 3) development of an alternative/contemporary worship service, and 4) consider offering adult education at the same time as Wednesday Kid's Bible School or provide child care.

The Church Council would like to thank the Revitalization Team for all their hard work. Because of the past discussions we had regarding the communication and the social media aspects of the church, Council has started the process of working with the Revitalization Team on these improvements. The Council will continue their discussion on the other 3 items recommended by the Revitalization Team.

We are still in the process of gathering information on improving the audio and video functions in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall is being utilized a lot more by our wider community friends and the church. This upgrade is very important to the growth of the church.

The Council and Committee members are excited about all the activities that are going on within the church family. It is exciting times!

When you gather with family and friends, please tell them about our church family. Let them know about the wonderful things the UCC church is doing. Please remember to bring a family member or a neighbor to any of the activities. Let them all know that everyone is welcome. Take care!

## Alternative Gift Giving

Each year, around Christmas, our church offers *Alternative Gift Giving* cards for donations made to the East Timor Education Fund, in support of our sister school in East Timor.

This year we are expanding our *Alternative Gift Giving* to help support more of our church's Mission Partners: Charles Hall Youth & Family Services, Jack's Place Food Pantry, and as always, East Timor Education Fund!

If you are looking for ways to reduce the amount of "stuff" exchanged in the spirit of Christmas, or ways for your gift giving to send love out to our community and world, then consider donations over shopping.



The Eisenbraun Family will be celebrating Thanksgiving on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at the church in the fellowship hall. Anyone is invited to join them for Thanksgiving dinner. Bring a dish to share!

## Monday Bible Study

Fellowship Hall~ 6:30 pm

### November Reading Schedule

November 4 <sup>th</sup>	1 Chronicles 1-29
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	2 Chronicles 1-9
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	2 Chronicles 10-20
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	2 Chronicles 21-36



### Bring Photos

of deceased loved ones  
*Give us names of loved ones*  
who died this past year and for whom you would like to have a bell rung.

### Sunday, Nov. 3 in worship at 10 AM.

It is also known as All Hallows Day and the Feast of All Saints and is celebrated every year in November. The Christian celebration of **All Saints and Souls** stems from a belief that there is a spiritual bond between those in heaven, and the living.

*"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."*

— Psalm 23:4

## FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to August 31, 2019

### Revenue

#### General Offerings

Actual = \$ 92,043

#### Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 8,828

### Expenses

Actual = \$ 108,743

Total Revenue = 100,871

Total Expenses = \$ 108,743

**NET ACTIVITY = \$ -7,872**

## SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2019

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 1,012
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 555
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 2,810
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,182
Strengthen the Church	\$ 431
Neighbors in Need	\$ 100
The Christmas Fund	\$
<b>Total Shared Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 6,090</b>



On **Sunday, November 17** we are celebrating the many ways God has blessed Bismarck United Church of Christ for the past 65 years. It is great time to remember all the friendships made throughout the years and celebrate the many years to come!

## Threads of Love



### May this quilt warm your body and comfort your soul!

A major accomplishment has been completed which will give comfort to others because of a special church group known as "The Quilters." Because of their commitment to helping others they completed their task of making quilts for

Charles Hall Youth and Family Service.

On Nov. 24, we will bless the quilts in worship and celebrate our ongoing partnership with CHYFS! It is with great joy that these special handmade quilts, which will be donated to the CHYFS will be blessed in worship.





# COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

WED, NOVEMBER 27, 2019  
7:00 PM

BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1200 E HIGHLAND ACRES ROAD

SPEAKER: LORRAINE DAVIS  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

JOINT CHOIR PRACTICE AT 6PM

PIE SOCIAL FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP!



Save the Date  
Advent A'fair  
December 1<sup>st</sup>!

Meet us ...  
after Worship  
in the Fellowship Hall

There will be ...

*Music*



*Games*



*Food*



*Crafts*



*Cookie Decorating*

## Sponsor a Sunday

Thank you to our many sponsors! We have had 24 Sundays sponsored so far this year. There are just a few more opportunities for this year:

- ☐ November 10
- ☐ November 24
- ☐ December 1
- ☐ December 15
- ☐ December 29

Contact the church office if you would like to sponsor one of these open Sundays. Sponsorship is \$500 and can be done by individuals or groups.

## Ongoing Classes

### Friday Morning Bible Study

A group for the early risers! This dedicated group meets every Friday at 6:30 AM in the church library for Bible study and fellowship. All are welcome.

### Monday Evening Bible Study

Using video clips from *The Bible Project*, this class is for both entry-level and experienced Bible readers. Learn more about the historical and literary context of each book as well as its relation to today. Meets on Mondays at 6:30 PM.

### United Church Youth (UCY)

A group of middle & high school youth. Gathers on Wednesdays at 3:30pm at the Gifted Bean coffee shop and throughout the year for education, service, and fun. See page 6 for upcoming events.

### Wednesday Kid's Bible Class

A class for Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This Vacation Bible School style kid's class meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month.

### Sunday School

Classes for pre-school through junior high school aged are held on Sundays. See the youth page for details.

### Confirmation

Contact Pastor Gretchen if you are interested in joining Confirmation in 2020.

**Have an idea for a class?** Contact Pastor Gretchen (223-2915) or Christian Ed

## Ministry & Fellowship Groups

### UCC Choir

– Craig DeVos, Choir Director

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7 PM. We always have room for more members so if you like to sing, just come to one of our rehearsals and we will be glad to have you join us. Choir is always way more fun than work. Plus singing is great for emotional and spiritual health!

### Mayflower Circle

This women's fellowship group meets every second Thursday of the month (September – May) 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 Thursday, **Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at noon** or contact Dawn Archer.

### Knitting Group

Knit, purl, tell stories, and have a great time with this group of knitters. Bring your own project or knit a prayer shawl to be blessed and gifted to another. This group will meet on November 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Threads of Love

All are welcome to come join us at our **Tuesday gatherings from 2 to around 6 pm**. Experience or even participation sewing, quilting, crocheting, knitting are NOT required—we LOVE to fellowship with any and all. Hope to see you soon!

### Primrose Worship Team

Have a passion for serving those in care centers? This team preaches and leads worship services at Primrose Retirement Community on College Dr at 12:30pm on various Wednesdays throughout the year. Talk with Dale Carmen with interest in joining this group of worship leaders.



## Crop Walk

THANK YOU to everyone who planned, promoted, participated in, and contributed to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CROPWALK held on Sunday, Oct. 13! What a

wonderful celebration as we joined together and learned about hunger issues, heard beautiful music, and shared conversation with friends. Church World Service representatives, John McCullough and Lenny Blue experienced the hospitality of Bismarck—Mandan and the CROPWALK here. Though the weather caused us to wonder, we are thankful that moderation happened in time for the ecumenical walk and opportunity to take "one step at a time" to make a difference in our community, country and the world.

"We are walking in the light of God". That light leads us and guides us every day! With our thanks, Allison Germoulus & Mary Sherer

15+ Year Tradition!



## Buffalo Dinner

Thank you to everyone who helped at, or attended, this year's Buffalo Dinner!

Proceeds benefit our mission partner Charles Hall Youth & Family Services.



Special thanks go to Colleen Reinhardt for sharing her music!

*Gene Weekes, Wanda Benson, Kirby Kruger, Marcia Patrie, Larry Schneider, Priscilla Sauer, Camille Grothier, and Dawn Archer (Buffalo Dinner Committee)*



## The Banquet

We once again had the privilege of serving those in need of a meal last month! This tradition continues in the Bismarck-Mandan area where anyone is welcome to come and join the fellowship and a meal. It is a no questions asked program! Bismarck UCC thanks our volunteers who assisted in serving!





# Youth News



Sunday School ~ at 10:30 am on Sundays

Kid's Wednesday Bible Class ~

Wednesday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm

Wednesday Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm



Sunday  
School  
Program



Parts assigned  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>



Sundays after worship services  
11 am to 11:30 am

Additional practices

November 13<sup>th</sup>

December 11<sup>th</sup>

Dress rehearsal on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Program will be  
on December 15<sup>th</sup>**



## Caffeine & X-ianity

**Mondays 3:30 – 4:30 pm**

**@ Gifted Bean in Bismarck Public Library**

**Who is invited?**

Middle School Students

High School Students

**Why are we invited?**

To get involved with your peers

**What can we expect?**

Discussions regarding

Faith

What makes your life fulfilling

**Anything else?**

Perhaps hot chocolate

Now for additional information contact

Pastor Gretchen – 701-347-1235

## Children's Books from Summer Sabbatical Sermon Series

*\*Wonderful Gifts for Christmas, Birthdays, Baby Showers*

Little Cub by: Olivier Dunrea

You Are Light by: Aaron Becker

Tiny Perfect Things by: M.H. Clark

Remarkably You by: Pat Zietlow Miller

My Many Colored Days by: Dr. Seuss

Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect

by: Richard H. Schneider

Giraffes Can't Dance by: Giles Andreae

Whoever You Are by: Mem Fox

Little Blue Truck by: Alice Schertle

A Stone Sat Still by: Brendan Wenzel



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Make A Difference



**Getting involved** at church is the single best way to get to know the other members. When we work and play together, share our stories with one another, and join in laughter, it brings us closer together!

### Greeters

Arrive by 9:30 AM to greet people at the door. This involves smiling, shaking hands, and extending God's extravagant welcome to all who enter our doors.

### Sunday Morning Host

Hosting is a great one month commitment. As an added bonus, there are no committee meeting to attend! Arrive by 9:00 AM on Sunday, unlock the doors, turn on lights, and start the coffee in the month of your choosing.

### Liturgist

Read the Call to Worship and scripture readings for the day in worship. Worship is always better with many voices!

*Sign up in the narthex (entry area) beneath the TV for any of these opportunities.*

## Northern Plains Conference News

**CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP**  
**Extending an Extravagant Welcome**  
 Bismarck United Church of Christ (1200 E Highland Acres Rd)  
 November 1-2, 2019  
*Gathering will begin with dinner on Friday at 6 pm  
 end by 3 pm on Saturday*

## Community Events

You're invited! Join **Lutheran Social Services** in celebrating **their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!** Join us Monday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 1:30 pm at 1616 Capitol Way, as we honor generations of action, justice, love and mercy.



### Scandinavian Supper @ Camp of the Cross

- ❖ Saturday, November 23, 2019 @ 5:30 pm (one seating only)
- ❖ Menu: Salmon, Meatballs, Root Vegetables, Potatoes, Lefse & more!
- ❖ Adults \$30. Children under 12 \$10.

*Please reserve your seat by going online to [www.campofthecross.com/events](http://www.campofthecross.com/events) or call 701-337-2246*



## Notes

### Thank You Note...

We received a note of thanks and gratitude from the Weil family for the use of our fellowship hall to have Jax and Jett's birthday party! Remember, if you have a family event and are in need of a venue, please keep us in mind. We love having our members use the facility. The note came from Justin & Sheena Weil and her sister!

*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 Steve Smokey	13 Elijah Meidinger	21 Austin Crowley
03 Katie Vanderlaan	17 Larry Heinle	21 Riley Benson
10 Marciana Mitchell	17 Karen Beck	21 Tristan Benson
10 Kira Whitmore	18 Dustin Schmidt	26 Chase Stockert
11 Gail Erickson	20 Jordan Kramer	

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