

Flourishing

Look around. What if just *this* was enough?

What if this choir was enough, for example?

Consider the miracle that each week, a group of mostly volunteers gathers to sing together in (occasionally im)perfect harmony. Whether there are three of them, or thirty or three hundred, isn't it some kind of miracle that week after week this group of working folks and retired folks and just plain folks leave their daily occupations and raise their voices together in song?

What if our youth and children were enough? What if instead of worrying about the youth and children we don't have, we started noticing, naming and celebrating the youth and children we do have? If there are no children in this congregation right now, what if we recognized the abundance of children in our neighborhood, or in our nation or in our world? What if we asked ourselves to notice the way we can be in community with *THOSE* children?

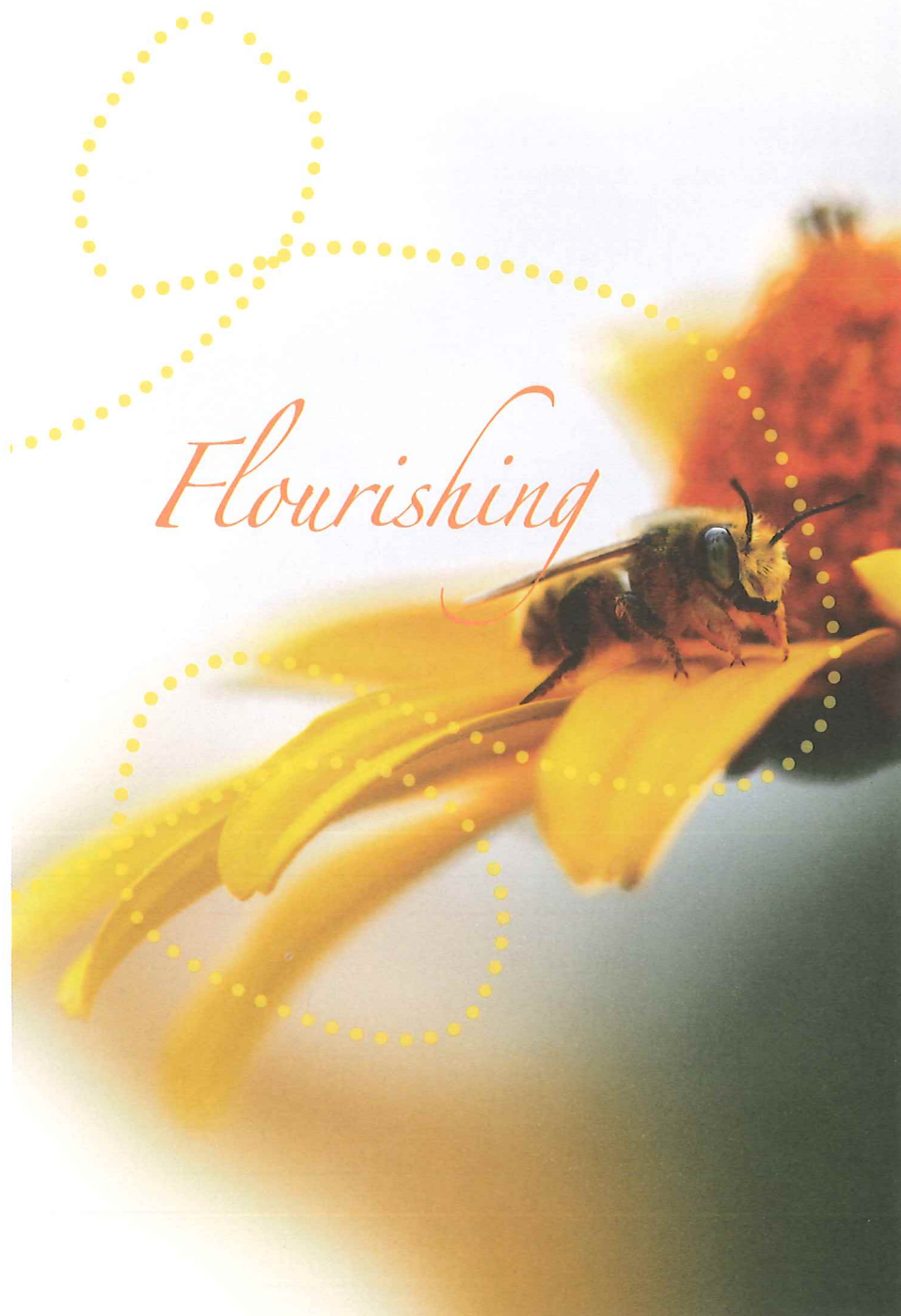
What if this congregation's leadership was enough?

What if God has called to this place and time exactly the people with just the skills, passions and gifts of the spirit that are needed for this moment? What if the church of the future is happening right now, today?

What if our church building was enough?

What if God has granted us this space in this time so that we might recognize it not as a burden or a project, but as a gift that we are privileged to steward?

The farmer in today's scripture throws seeds recklessly on seemingly infertile ground as well as obviously healthy soil. This image invites us to think the same way about our ministries and presence in the world. Rather than being obsessed with scarcity, scanning articles about the church in decline and worrying about the bottom line, what if we looked around at what we do have? What if we allowed ourselves to imagine our church in a new way, as a part of God's kingdom that has not just enough, but more than enough to share?



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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Bismarck-Mandan Area UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

June 13, 2021 at 10 AM Inside & Livestreamed

Guest Preacher: Bill Patrie | Liturgist: Camille Grothier

Accompanist: Darcy Avery | Video: Dana Jahner | Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg

INVOKE AWARENESS OF GOD

All: Praise God with thanksgiving.

HYMN For the Beauty of the Earth NCH 28

SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 & Psalm 20

CONFESSION

God of all knowing, You read what is on our hearts and in our minds more easily than we read a page from a book. We often take pride in calling ourselves Christians, but oftentimes fall short of actually following the teachings of Jesus. It is sometimes easier to talk the part than live the part. Forgive us our shortcomings, Holy One, and enliven in us the spirit you have placed within us to begin anew to tread the path of Jesus. Be with us as we begin a new adventure of extending the hand of Christian love whenever and wherever we have the opportunity. As our Psalm this morning entreats, "...O Lord, answer us when we call."

GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

LISTEN FOR GOD

SCRIPTURE Mark 4:26-34

REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD – Message Bill Patrie

HYMN Lift Every Voice and Sing NCH 593

SPEAK WITH GOD – Prayer

HYMN Bless Be the Tie That Binds NCH 393

CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Thank You for Sponsoring this Sunday



In loving memory of Roxann Sauter, who died on July 4, 2019. John and Gretchen especially remember her this weekend as they gather with family to celebrate Christmas in June, a tradition which Roxann started in John's family.

Sponsored by John Sauter & Gretchen Deeg.

Outdoor Worship - Sunday, June 20th

Weather permitting, we will be worshipping in the shade on the church lawn on June 20 and 27. **Bring your own chair** to outdoor worship. If it is raining or over 85 in the sun, we will move indoors.

Upcoming Social Events!

June 19 from 11 AM – 5 PM: UCC Booth @ Capital Pride – Stop over and visit us!

June 26 at 9 AM: Nature Walk. Meet at Fort Lincoln Visitor Center.



THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: June 13 - 20

- Sunday:** 11 AM Fellowship & Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
- Tuesday:** 6 PM Trustees ([online](#))
- Wednesday:** 6 PM Mid-Week Worship ([online](#))
- Thursday:** 5:30 PM Christian Ed (in-person & [online](#))
- Friday:** 8:30 AM Bible Study ([online](#))
- Saturday:** 11 AM – 5 PM UCC Booth at Capital Pride
- Sunday:** 10 AM Outdoor Worship (in-person & [online](#))
11 AM Fellowship & Noon [Online](#) Fellowship

OUR PRAYER LIST

Family of Peggy Iszler, Family of Ethel Tishmack (Diane Heidrich & Sally Ritz' sister), Eisenbraun Family, Jerry Reinisch, Family of Marvin Diede, Marni (family of Joann Otterness), Pat Lerberg, Connie Schwartz, Gerald White (Chris Lennon's father), Lisa (Pam Stein's sister), Maggie Demaree, James Burch (Darleen Cairn's nephew), Mike Reisenauer (Darleen Cairn's nephew), Ray Klein (Mike & Pam Stein's friend), Perry Weekes, Sarah Ripley, Jan Johnson, Janice Sather, Myron Rosene, Audrey Heinle, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, CHYFS, Those affected by COVID-19. *Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #732302-A.

For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH 28

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

NCH 593

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
God who has brought us thus far on the way
God who by your might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you

Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, forget you
Shadowed beneath your hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land.

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

NCH 393

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.