

When All Seems Lost

Human trafficking is a real, terrible and often invisible component of our daily life. The United Church of Christ is working to shine light on this hidden human rights crisis.

According to the UCC's justice webpage, https://www.ucc.org/justice_womens-issues_human-trafficking.^{*As of 2016, an estimated 24.9 million people were in modern slavery, not including the 15.4 million that were forced into marriage. Traffickers prey on those from vulnerable communities and force them into labor, and/or exploit them into commercial sexual enterprises. The influx of immigrants crossing the border into America are most susceptible to modern slavery, as traffickers use their vulnerability as immigrants as tools to manipulate and coerce.}

Trafficking in persons is a crime against humanity and ultimately a sin. Human trafficking denies the values of human life, exposes victims to serious health risks, endangers the mental well-being of victims and impedes the ability of victims to reach their full God-given potential. As Christians, we believe that every human being is created in the image and likeness of the divine Creator, of God. The prophets cried out against the exploitation of the poor and of laborers who are not treated fairly and compensated justly (Job 24:1-12, for example).

The United Church of Christ has consistently upheld the rights and dignity of workers and of women and children, believing that God calls us into community with each other as sisters and brothers, not as exploiters and exploited. The violence done to the physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing of children and women who are forced into prostitution, the pornography industry, sex tourism and other forms of sexploitation are violations of the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves. The kin-dom of God among us requires us to provide protection for those most vulnerable and to seek conditions which support wholeness and health for everyone.”

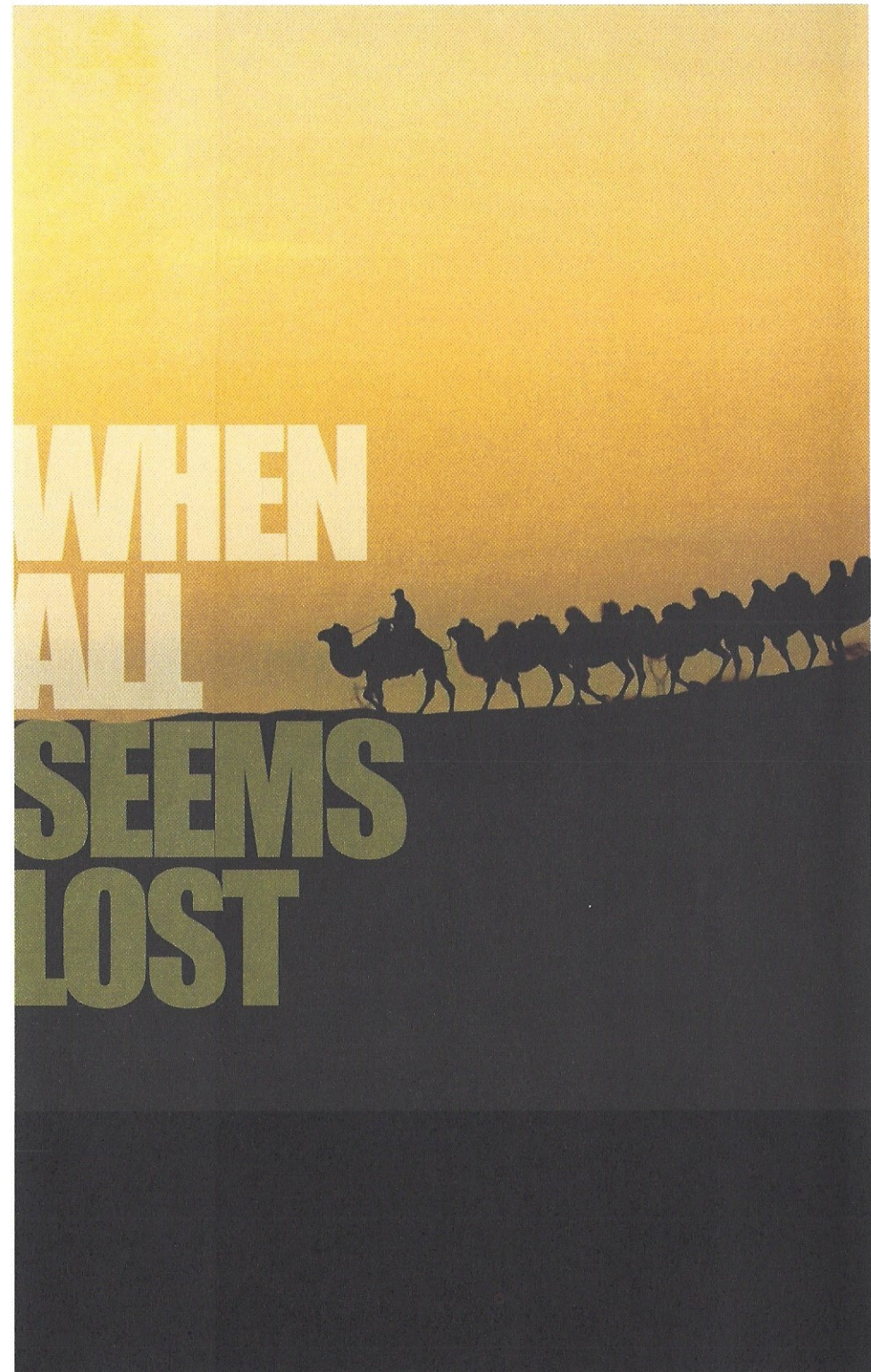
In today's reading from Genesis, Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers and trafficked across national borders. For him, this was the first step on the road to a new life, but he needed a lot of helping hands to get him there. May we, as a denomination, as local congregations, and as individuals be that helping hand for those who need it.

^{*}Accessed January 2020. https://www.ucc.org/justice_womens-issues_human-trafficking



8.5" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

Sunday, August 9 at 10 AM Indoor Worship & Livestreamed
Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Harold Karch
Musician: Darcy Avery | Video: Dave A.

WELCOME!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

NO MATTER

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
you're welcome, welcome in this place.

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
accepted, welcomed by God's grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP

All: We need this kind of hope.

WADE IN THE WATER

Wade in the water, wade in the water children.
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

Who's that yonder dressed in red?
God's gonna trouble the water.
Must be the children that Moses led.
God's gonna trouble the water.

Who's that yonder dressed in white?
God's gonna trouble the water.
Must be the children of the Israelites.
God's gonna trouble the water.

Who's that yonder dressed in blue?
God's gonna trouble the water.
Must be the children, now let them through.
God's gonna trouble the water.

CONFESSION

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

All: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

One: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:1-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON

STAND FIRM

Stand, O stand firm (x3)
And see what the Lord can do.

Prayers:

People of hope, stand very firm.
Brave followers, stand very firm.
Listening hearts, stand very firm.
Tired ones, stand very firm.
Grieving peoples, stand very firm.
Children of God, stand very firm.
Followers of Love, stand very firm.

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious lord, lead me home.

When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

BENEDICTION & THANK YOU

FELLOWSHIP

Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Offering can be given online, mailed, or placed
in the container at the back of the sanctuary.
Permission to stream the music in this service obtained
from ONE LICENSE, License #732302-A and CCLI License #20145128.



Welcome Donna Poling to Bismarck UCC!

This past Tuesday, we welcomed Donna Poling as our new Administrative Assistant! Stop by to say hello or send a note or email to the church office to welcome Donna.

JACK'S PANTRY: UPDATE

UCC Jack's Food Pantry is still serving families in Bismarck-Mandan by partnering with Adopt-a-Block. Groceries can be picked from various places around town Monday – Friday from 4:30 – 6pm and on Saturday from 3-6pm. View the food distribution schedule at www.uccbismarck.org/adopt-a-block. This month we are in need of **shampoo, deodorant, personal hygiene products, and laundry detergent**. Donations are accepted at Bismarck UCC M-F from 9am – 1pm and Sundays at 10am.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: Aug 10 – 16

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| Wednesday | 6 PM Worship (online) |
| Thursday | 12 NOON Mayflower Circle (online) |
| Friday | 8:30 AM Bible Study (Pioneer Park) |
| Sunday | 10 AM Worship (outside & online) 11 AM Fellowship (outside) |

OUR PRAYER LIST

Patrie Family, Jerry Lydeen, Family of Leonard Zier, Judi Allen, Harold Gomke, Family of Herbert Wilson, Sarah Ripley, Jan Johnson, Irene Perman's grandson, Ann Glanville, Connie Schwartz, Janice Sather, Myron Rosene, Audrey Heinle, Pat Lerberg, Scheer Family, Howard Etson, Kenneth (Laurie Reinisch's brother), Darlene Cairns, Camille Grothier, Roger Ritz, Eileen Ritz, Peg Iszler, Delores Hensel, East Timor, CHYFS, Those affected by COVID-19.

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

Sponsorships Available!

Sponsor a Sunday at www.uccbismarck.org/donate or call the church office at 701-223-2915. Sponsorships are \$500. August 16 and 23 and September 13 and 27 are currently available.