

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

October 2021

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

The Guide of Faith in Grief

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

In the midst of this pandemic, there have been so many losses. I know many of you are exhausted from this, I know that you are grieving, and I want you to know that you are seen and so dearly loved.

There is no way to avoid grief, but there are a multitude of healthy ways to walk through and alongside grief. Storytelling, conversations, writing, singing, and engaging in your hobbies are just a few of the ways you can move through grief. You do not have to have personally lost someone to be experiencing grief in these times. There is a collective grief of knowing the pain of others that impacts all of us.

Our faith also offers us ways to heal during grief. Prioritizing serving others even while we are grieving can enlarge our view of the world and create opportunities to receive the compassion our broken hearts need. Requesting prayer from others can remind us that we are never alone on this journey and that God's love is bigger than even our greatest losses. Rituals can honor our emotions in ways that words cannot.

On October 31, we will be doing one such ritual for All Saints/All Souls' Day. During worship we will be naming the people we have lost in the past year and those whose deaths are still fresh in our hearts regardless of when they died. You can join in this ritual by sending names, bringing pictures, and/or sponsoring worship. If you wish to have a loved one named in the service, please send their names to the church office at office@uccbismarck.org. If you have a photo you would like placed up front during worship, bring it to church the week of Oct. 24. If you wish to join others in sponsoring our service of remembrance, put "Oct. 31 sponsorship" in a check memo. Any sponsorship amount is welcome. Together, let us remember and celebrate the beautiful lives that have touched ours.



2022 Pledge Drive

Oct. 17 – Nov. 14

Renew your commitments to this church family!



Neighbors in Need

Sunday, October 3

Details on Page 3



Oct. 31 - All Souls' Day

No matter what, you can take part in sponsoring this Sunday as we remember our loved ones.

Details on page 6.

Worship with us every Sunday at 10:00 AM in-person or online. Masks required indoors.

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."

Confirmation began last month! We have a great group of nine Confirmands. Our second year Confirmands are Rayann Knoll, Eden Kraft, and Shaylee Weil and our first year Confirmands are Sofia Augustadt, Addison Weil, Jett Roth, Isabell Rudy, Ashton Rudy, and Carson Hier. We also ask that you hold each of them in your prayers as they explore and grow into their faith.

Council Corner

by Mike Stein, Moderator

I hope this finds everyone staying healthy. We will be approaching about 19 months of trying to adjust and live in this pandemic driven world. The Council is reviewing our protocols monthly. We are following the guidelines of the North Dakota Department of Health and CDC. We will continue to monitor the increase in positive cases to determine if we need to make any adjustments. Please remember to wear your mask and social distance while you are in the church.

I hope everyone that attended the Church Block Party had an excellent time. I did receive some very positive comments from church members and neighbors. It was a time of celebration and fellowship! I would like to thank Dawn Archer for her hard work in getting this organized. I would also like to thank Bill Patrie in organizing the collection of automobiles. Overall, our numbers of attendees were down compared to 2019. This could have been due to the very hot afternoon and the rise in Covid numbers. I felt our goal of reaching out to the community was met.

Our next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 28th. At this meeting we will be discussing our protocols to deal with the increase in positive Covid numbers. We will also continue the discussion on our church governance. As we are 9 months into the 2021 year, please continue to support each other and support the church. The love we have for each other is the foundation of our church. Remember, 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 neighbor to any of the church functions. Let them all know that everyone is welcome.

Take care & God Bless!

Poinsettia Orders

Order in memory or honor of a loved one, family or organization

**Orders Due
Sunday, October 31st**

Please pay in advance!

Small \$12.00 ~ Large \$20.00

Money box is by the order sheets.
If writing a check, please write
“Poinsettia” in the memo.



Sign-up sheet located in the Narthex

FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to August 31, 2021

Revenue

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 105,165

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 3,558

Expenses

Actual = \$ 104,593

Total Revenue = \$

108,723

Total Expenses = \$

SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2021

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 1,012
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 269
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 7,325
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 315
Strengthen the Church	\$ 50
Neighbors in Need	\$ 20
The Christmas Fund	\$
Jack's Food Pantry	\$ 2,576
Total Shared Ministry	\$ 11,567



Serving Our Neighbors Around the United States

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 3rd, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our Native American neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.



Primrose Ministries

by Marcia Lerberg

It was at the invitation of Pastor Dale Carmen that I became involved with what would become known as Primrose Ministries. Dale talked about the need for a monthly Protestant worship service at the Primrose Assisted Living. At that time, our Bismarck UCC had senior members who lived at the facility. Two of those members were Dale's aunt and my mother-in-law. Dale worked hard to organize and launch the ministry with several volunteers from our church. I appreciated her endeavors and leadership. I knew this was also a good thing that I could do for my mother-in-law, Pat Lerberg.

Fast forward a few years and there is a worship service on the first and fifth Wednesday of each month led by someone from this church. It is a worship service that is attended by many Primrose residents, not just UCC members. It is a worship service that sees both the leaders and the residents through the church year with Bible-based messages, hymns, communion and fellowship.

I found that saying yes to being part of the Primrose Ministries was an opportunity for me to continue to learn more about the Bible, leading worship and my own faith. I seem to get more out of preparing and presenting worship each time that I volunteer. I especially enjoyed preparing the Advent services the past few years. The Christmas music, the Advent story and sharing them with the residents has been a joy for me.

I also have enjoyed working with the volunteer worship leader and music leader, Darcy Avery. Her talents have enriched the services. Her personality and care for the seniors add another connection to enriching the volunteer ministry for me.

Another valued connection for me is the sharing of worship with Pat. She so enjoys the regular worship at Primrose and that joy is shared with those others in attendance. Pat has based her daily life on her Bible reading, her prayer life and her music. Family is also important to her. She appreciates that she can go to church in her Primrose home and worship with her Primrose family. Pat also likes having monthly communion. She is thankful for everything Bismarck UCC and the Primrose Ministry has done to provide the services.

I want to encourage other people to join the Primrose Ministry. It is a way to connect with seniors and to enrich your own spiritual journey. A visit with Dale Carmen, Ken Trana, Camille Grothier, Darcy Avery or myself with any questions or thoughts about becoming a valued volunteer with Primrose Ministry could be a good thing for you and for others.

Ministry & Fellowship Groups

Mayflower Circle

This women's fellowship group meets every second Thursday of the month 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, October 14th** at noon in our Fellowship Hall.



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 on various Wednesdays throughout the year. Talk with Darcy Avery if interested in joining this group of worship leaders.

Threads of Love: Crafting Guild

Knit, purl, tell stories and have a great time with this group of knitters, quilters and crafters. This group meets **every Tuesday at 2 PM** in-person in the Fellowship Hall.

UCC Choir

We are bringing back the choir with masks and social distancing. We will not need to sing every Sunday, but can sing when we feel we are ready. We will meet **Wednesdays at 7 PM** for rehearsal. For more info, please contact choir director Craig Devos at 701-226-3860.



Handbell Choir

Let's ring in the new season! We are looking for 6 – 8 people to have fun making handbell music together. Practice is on **Sundays at 11:30 AM** with the first practice on Oct. 3. Contact the church office at 223-2915 with interest.

UCC Youth



Sundays at 10:20 AM

Kids will join their families in the sanctuary at 10 AM, and after "Time with Children", they will head to their classrooms with their teachers.

Our amazing teachers this year are:
Katie Mitchell & Autumn Eisenbraun.



Caffeine & X-ianity

Calling all youth, 6th grade and up!
Join us on Wednesdays from
4 - 5 PM at Bismarck UCC.

Teachers for this hour
of discussion are:

Rev. Gretchen Deeg & Dave Baber



Shine with the Light of Jesus

Let me shine with the light of Jesus.

*Let my eyes see the
beauty all around.*

*Never let me turn up
my nose to others,*

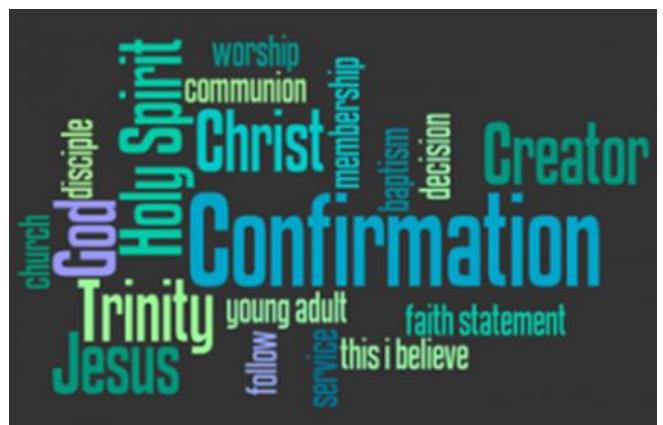
*And let my mouth share the
Good News I have found.*

Confirmation Class Information

Meeting on October 17th

Classes are every third Sunday from
2 PM – 4 PM at Bismarck UCC.

The November class date is Nov. 21st



Faith-at-Home

Designed for families with children age 2 to 6th grade. Available for pick up or drop off one month at a time. Contact the church office if you would like a Faith-at-Home packet for your family.



Let's Sponsor All Souls' Day Together



October 31, 2021 ~ All Souls' Day

The Sunday Sponsorships have been a HUGE blessing to our congregation. On October 31, our entire congregation is invited to jointly sponsor our All Souls' Day worship in remembrance of our loved ones. Sponsorships can be made in any amount. **To take part in sponsoring October 31, put "Oct 31 Sponsorship" in the memo of your check or online donation, along with who you are sponsoring the Sunday in memory of.**



Are you looking for a creative way to honor a loved one, or celebrate a special occasion? We have numerous dates available through the end of the year for sponsorships. Sponsorships are \$500, and can be set up by calling us at 701-223-2915, emailing us at office@uccbismarck.org, or visiting our website at www.uccbismarck.org/donate.

Rummage Sale



Thank You to Mayflower Circle
for all of their hard work and continued efforts to support our church.

Thank You
to everyone who donated this year.
We raised around \$1,500!

*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 Doug Klein | 19 Kay Royse |
| 02 Christina Prince | 20 Mark Clark |
| 03 Sally Ritz | 23 Norra Dobitz |
| 08 Jana Knoll | 23 Gemma Dobitz |
| 12 Isabella McFerran | 23 Rachel Patrie |
| 14 Annelise Klein | 25 Cole Stockert |
| 16 Zander Scheer | 28 Ryker Klein |
| 19 Katie Mitchell | |

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

More Prayer Shawls Needed

We are looking for people to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be given to those who are ill, or need comfort for other reasons, families with new babies, high school graduates, etc. We have a group called Threads of Love who contribute items, but we could use more help to supplement the supply on hand, and we would be glad to provide the yarn. We invite you to join our group, but making items at home would be helpful as well.



Help Wanted!

Now hiring a snow shoveler for our sidewalks at the church. Individual should be 16 or older. Contact the office at 223-2915 or Pastor Gretchen.

Ongoing Classes

Friday Morning Bible Study

This dedicated group meets every Friday at 8:30 am at the church for Bible study and fellowship. All are welcome.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Dive into the literary and historical context of the Bible. Are reading through the Major Prophets. Every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Online only via Zoom at this time. Led by Pastor Gretchen.



2022 Pledge Drive: October 17 - November 14

by Marcia Lerberg, Stewardship and Mission Committee

A pledge drive is our opportunity to invite members and friends of Bismarck UCC to make a voluntary financial commitment to support the ongoing ministry of Bismarck UCC in the coming year. That is what the Stewardship and Mission Committee is working on now. The pledge drive will begin on Sunday, October 17 and end with a blessing of our pledges in worship on Sunday, November 14. This is the time when we ask each of you to carefully consider what it is we really do here at Bismarck UCC, how much you value that, and to what extent you are willing to support it.

Pledges are commitments to give to the church a weekly, monthly, or annual gift of money. Members and friends of the church who pledge make it possible for us to continue our current ministries and make plans to add new ways of serving the wider community. Knowing that we have your support, helps our Trustees and Council dream even bigger about how we can serve others! The regular gifts can be of any amount as determined by the giver. No pledge is too great or too small.

Every pledge is valued as a genuine act of sharing. Sharing money as an offering is sharing a valuable resource that could be spent in other ways, especially in this pandemic. It has been a difficult year and a half. We all are deeply appreciative for every member and friend of the church who participates in making the commitment to financially support our church.

Along with asking for financial support, the pledge drive is also asking for members and friends of the church to make a pledge of time and talent. We know that not all people can make a monthly financial commitment, but many people can share the time and talents they have to help our church as it strives to serve others. This pledge will also help in planning the church year.

We hope that each of you will prayerfully consider pledging for the upcoming year. You are the greatest resources of our church. Please consider sharing in whatever way that you can. It will be appreciated and will be helpful.





BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A Global Ministry Church”

www.uccbismarck.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:30am Bible Study	2 NPC Annual Meeting
3 10am Worship & Communion 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship Neighbors in Need Special Offering	4 	5 2pm Quilting/knitting	6 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice	7	8 8:30am Bible Study	9
					Pastor Gretchen on Vacation	
10 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	11 Pastor Gretchen on Vacation	12 2pm Quilting/knitting 6:30pm Deacons	13 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice	14 12pm Mayflower Circle	15 8:30am Bible Study	16
17 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship 2pm Confirmation	18	19 2pm Quilting/knitting	20 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice	21	22 8:30am Bible Study	23
24 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship	25	26 2pm Quilting/knitting	27 4pm Caffeine & X-ianity 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice	28	29 8:30am Bible Study	30
31 All Saints & Souls Day 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11am Fellowship 12pm Online Fellowship						