

## Bismarck-Mandan Area

## United Church of Christ

1200 E Highland Acres Rd ~ 701-223-2915 ~ [bisucc@midconetwork.com](mailto:bisucc@midconetwork.com) ~ [www.uccbismarck.org](http://www.uccbismarck.org) ~ Like us on Facebook

February 2020

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## We Can't Be the Church Alone

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

Despite icy conditions on the last Sunday of January, we stayed warm inside enjoying chili and celebrating the work of this congregation at our Annual Meeting. We had a full year in 2019 organizing a city conference on the Doctrine of Discovery and neighborhood block party, a refreshing sabbatical time filled with community and spiritual growth, the hiring of new staff, the expansion of ecumenical relationships, and numerous educational, service, and fellowship activities. Throughout the meeting there was a great deal of gratitude shared to all of our leaders over the past year. We could not have done what we did without each and every one of you, because as one of our kids said in worship when asked what they could not do alone: "We can't start a church by ourselves!" It's true, a church cannot exist without a group of dedicated followers of Christ. Thank you for being among those dedicated members, friends, and supporters!

We have a couple of new things in the next two months. The first is weekly email announcements. As preferred methods of communication change, we too are always working to find better ways of getting opportunities for spiritual growth into your hands. You will still be able to get news from your UCC family through mailed newsletters, printed bulletin inserts, the calendar on our website, postings on Facebook, and photos on Instagram. The email blasts will just be one additional way of finding out what's going on. If you haven't yet received an email giving you the option to opt in, just contact the church office at [bisucc@midconetwork.com](mailto:bisucc@midconetwork.com).

Also, new in this season of Lent is an ecumenical Taize Worship with the Sisters at Annunciation Monastery, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and St. George's Episcopal Church. We have held Taize services with the Sisters and the UU before, but this is the first time St. George's will be joining us. Please note that this service will be on March 4 at 6:30 PM and will be held at St. George's. **All other Wednesday Lent services from February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup> will be held at the UCC at 6 PM with a soup supper served beforehand at 5 PM.**

These are just two of the new ways to deepen your spiritual lives and engage with your church family. I hope you'll find new way to prioritize your faith lives this year and remember the wisdom of our kids that, **we can't be the church alone!**



## Interfaith Potluck - Feb. 1st

Join the fun and bring a dish to share to the cultural potluck at Hillside Community Center from 11am to 1pm. See page 4.



## Ash Wednesday &amp; Lent

Wednesday evening Lenten worship services start Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, and Maundy Thursday worship will be on Thurs, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Soup supper begins at 5pm. See page 7.



## Ministry Recognition - Feb. 2

Celebrate the recognition of our lay ministers who volunteer to lead worship at Primrose Retirement Community. See page 4.

**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 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."*

Every Sunday, the music in worship is part of the powerful message which inspires us to go out into the world as followers of the Good News. This last month, our new bell choir joined our worship for the first time!! This group is a mix of individuals who have never previously picked up a bell to those who have played in a previous bell choir. More ringers are always welcome to join in inspiring and challenging others through the gift of music.



## Council Corner

by Mike Stein, Moderator

Hello Everyone,

The holidays are behind us! We can start the process of planning for a new year. A new beginning and a fresh start. The past 12 months flew by extremely fast. A new beginning is what makes everything exciting.

I am excited about the 2020 church year because of the enhancements we are going to make to the UCC social media footprint and the improvements in communication within the church. I am also excited about the many activities and community events that are being planned for the year. It is also exciting to see the many new faces serving on our committees.

We spent most of our time during our last Council meeting planning for our annual meeting. The 2020 budget was presented by the Trustees and approved by council.

As we kick off the new year, we encourage everyone to get involved with some of the church activities. The activities are posted for the week in the Sunday bulletin. They are also posted in the monthly newsletter.

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!

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS


**Jack's Food Pantry & Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
9 AM – 1 PM

**Office Closed**

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – President's Day!


**Mayflower Circle  
POPCORN BALL  
EXTRAVAGANZA!**

Sale after Worship on Sunday, Feb. 9th



## FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to December 31, 2019

**Revenue**
General Offerings

Actual = \$ 146,794

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 13,689

**Expenses**

Actual = \$ 168,799

Total Revenue = \$ 160,483

Total Expenses = \$ 168,799

**NET ACTIVITY = \$ (8,316)**

**SUPPORT OF OUR  
MISSION PARTNERS IN 2020**

East Timor Education Fund	\$
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 94
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 160
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$
Strengthen the Church	\$
Neighbors in Need	\$
CROP Walk	\$
The Christmas Fund	\$
<b>Total Shared Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 254</b>

# ONA & Vision Team

by Dawn Archer

We are planning a Reader's Theater event to take place during a Sunday worship service this year. Anonymous narratives from our church family, and others, will be shared by a few readers.

We are looking for stories from:

- ✚ Members of the LGBTQ+ community willing to share their truths about feeling welcomed or rejected by their communities of faith, families, friends, schools, places of employment, etc.
- ✚ Friends and relatives of LGBTQ+ folks telling how they have moved forward following the "coming out" of a loved one.
- ✚ All church members, to share with us how they feel, and how their understanding of others may have changed over time.
- ✚ What shapes your understanding? (i.e.: those who raised you, personal experience, etc.)
- ✚ If change has occurred, what prompted that change of heart and mind?

If you would be willing to write a one or two page story (leaving out identifying details of people's names, specific businesses, etc.) to be read anonymously in church during our Readers Theater, please **contact Dawn Archer**, or email your story to [bisucc@midconetwork.com](mailto:bisucc@midconetwork.com) ATT: Dawn Archer ONA Story. Thank you!

## Welcome Joann

by Waylon Peterson,  
(One of Joann's 13 grandchildren)

An exciting welcome to our new Organist & Accompanist Joann Otterness! We are both equally honored and excited to have her join the UCC family. For, Joann has been an active organist since her early teenage years and has played piano prior to the start of elementary school. In her career she has written many of her own selections and is also a composer for the piano, organ, and voice! Being an individual that cares for others and loves to watch people succeed, Joann has taught her students piano and even organ lessons and has helped them discover their hidden talents and compassions in music. Though along with all her hard work in music, Joann makes sure she has time for family and friends. She has been happily married to her stellar husband Wayne Otterness for over 60 years! Both in which are always



willing to play a few hands of cards while eating smoked salmon and popcorn. They both love to watch the NDSU Bison Football team play and are big Vikings fans, but they still make sure to cheer for Carson Wentz! Wayne and Joann also are active members at Trinity Lutheran Church and are very passionate about faith. A fun fact about Joann Otterness is she was UCC's previous organist approx. 30 years ago! Please help us in welcoming Joann to the UCC family!





# Primrose Ministry Team

by Darcy Avery, coordinator

Hello from the Primrose Ministry Team.

The Primrose Service is generally led on the first and fifth Wednesdays of the month at 2 pm in the Primrose Retirement Community Chapel. You are welcome to join us. We are starting our new year with a blessing on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> during our church service. May we share our faith with love, joy, and compassion at the Primrose facility. There are 5 leaders and a piano player who are volunteering to do this service. However, Pastor Gretchen and Dale Carmen are available to provide pastoral support and training to any new volunteers. As Marcia Lerberg writes, **"The team is never complete. Nor is the commitment to serve our neighbors."** Please contact any one of us if you have interest in helping.

Primrose is located at 1144 College Dr, Bismarck

## BISMARCK INTERFAITH POTLUCK & CULTURAL DANCES!

Join in the fun at the Hillside Community Room on Saturday, February 1 from 11am to 1pm for a community potluck with a cultural twist!

- ✚ Bring a dish to share from your culture
- ✚ Please bring toilet paper and peanut butter for donations.

Hillside Aquatics Complex is located at 1719 E. Blvd. Ave. - Bismarck



**Cultural Music, Fun,  
Food & Fellowship!**



## Northern Plains Conference Annual Meeting

This year's NPC Annual Meeting will be held on **June 12-13 in Garrison, ND. Registration will begin on April 1st.**

If you are interested in attending as a delegate from Bismarck UCC, please contact Pastor Gretchen or the church office.



## Ecuador Mission Trip!

Northern Plains Conference & First Congregational Church in Hebron is sponsoring a mission trip to Ecuador from **March 13 - March 22**. Those interested in participating should contact Marcy Dawson at **madawson1@yahoo.com**.

## Special Offerings

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – Soup Supper @ 5pm  
✚ Ash Wed. Worship @ 6pm  
March 4<sup>th</sup> – Taize Service @ 6:30pm,  
✚ St. George's Episcopal

## 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 at 6 pm.

### Sunday School

Classes for pre-school through junior high school aged are held on Sundays during worship. 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!

### Bell Choir

This new choir meets on Wednesdays at 5:30pm and welcomes ringers of all experience levels.

### 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. Next meeting on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> will be making popcorn balls at 10am. Contact Dawn Archer for more information.

### 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 Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<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 Marcia



## Jack's Food Pantry

by Lonna Augustadt, Deacons

Looking for a great volunteer opportunity? **Jack's** is an ideal place to make a difference for those in need.

**Where is Jack's Food Pantry?** It is located in the basement of the church, tucked away in the northeast corner. You are more than welcome to request a tour to check it out anytime!

**How can I help?** There is a sign up roster in the foyer of the church by the TV to sign up to fill bags of groceries for a month.

**What are the requirements of a volunteer?** 1) Donated food is left in the corner by the stairs near the elevator which needs to be taken down to the pantry (using the elevator and cart that is in the elevator to take donations downstairs and bring bags of groceries upstairs). 2) A list of the food that goes in each bag is listed on the bulletin board in the pantry and by the front desk. 3) Fill as many bags as you can with the food required. 4) Keep 6 - 8 bags upstairs in the office next to the administrative assistant's desk. 5) Make a list of what foods you run low on or run out of and give to the church administrative assistant or a member of the Deacons to be replenished to continue filling bags.

**Benefits in volunteering at Jack's Place** ~ Pride in knowing that you have made a positive difference in someone's life!!

ORIENTATION FOR VOLUNTEERS IN JACK'S PLACE CAN BE PROVIDED BY ONE OF THE DEACONS



Join in Food & Fellowship on  
Wednesday's at 5pm through Lent  
for our Lenten Soup Supper!

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, and that marks the  
beginning of another season of Lenten Soup Suppers!**

Sign-up sheets will be on the table near the bulletin board by  
Mid-February.

Dinner will be served from 5 pm – 6 pm this year. Worship begins at 6 pm. Please join us for this simple meal.

Free-will donations will benefit the East Timor Education Foundation. We look forward to this meaningful fellowship opportunity with all of you!

As always, we can use help with baking breads or desserts, serving or cleaning up.

# Youth News

## Come Join Us Sunday School Calendar!

Sunday School begins at 10:10 am

### February

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Worship
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Kid's Bible School @ 6pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School
16 <sup>th</sup>	Group Sunday School/Project Day
19 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Kid's Bible School @ 6pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday School



YOU are  
NEEDED!

YOU ARE  
AMAZING  
YOU ARE  
IMPORTANT  
YOU ARE  
SPECIAL  
YOU ARE  
UNIQUE  
YOU ARE  
KIND  
YOU ARE  
PRECIOUS  
YOU ARE  
LOVED

The Mayflower Circle needs your help!  
Calling All Youth!

4<sup>th</sup> Grade to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

to make Popcorn Balls!

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am



Kids  
BIBLE CLASS

For ages 3 to 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm

## United Church Caffeine & Christianity

Mondays 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Gifted Bean in  
Bismarck Public Library



Who's Invited?

Middle and High School Students

Why are we invited?

To get involved with your peers and explore spirituality

What can we expect?

1. Discussions regarding faith, what makes your life fulfilling?
2. Anything else? Perhaps hot chocolate!

Contact Pastor Gretchen for additional information 701-347-1235



2020 NATIONAL  
YOUTH EVENT

July 22-25, 2020

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Registration deadline: February 18

UCC's National Youth Event will take place at Purdue University July 22-25, 2020. This 4-day event is celebrated as the UCC's largest denominational gathering. Join with youth from across the country for this empowering time together focused on faith, leadership, service and social justice. Youth currently enrolled in grades 6-12 are welcome to register for the event. Contact Pastor Gretchen [gretchen@uccbismarck.org](mailto:gretchen@uccbismarck.org) or 701-347-1235.



## Knitting & Threads of Love

by Camille Grothier

Not to be outdone, the quilters produced a large number of quilts which were blessed during service and presented to Charles Hall Youth and Family Services. They also made some Christmas Pillowcases which were given to our kids in Sunday School and some which were made and sold with the proceeds going to one of our outreach ministries. We hope you are enjoying the quilts displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Can't you just see the JOY jumping out of them????

We did not have a fall fundraiser last year, but look forward to our "Surprise" Spring Fling (which will actually be held in the Spring (that's the 'surprise'). We are going to be working on Receiving Blankets in the near future, which will be given to Missouri Valley Quilt Guild for their 'Warm Start' program. One of the members prepares small gift sets which are given to new mothers (especially to those in need) at each of the hospitals. The newest members of our community begin their lives embraced in the love, prayers and joy that will go into their making.

We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our Church Family – thanks again for a GREAT year.....and we love you right back!!!



### Volunteering Makes a Difference!

We are looking for members who would like to 'get involved' with our church as Sunday morning hosts or photographers. It's a great way to meet and get to know the members... and the word is, that it not only makes a difference for the church, but it also gives you great satisfaction of making great new friends!



#### Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday

Soup Supper at 5 pm

Worship Service at 6 pm

#### March 4<sup>th</sup> – Ecumenical TAIZE Worship

Worship Service at 6:30 pm

*at St. George's Episcopal*

#### March 11<sup>th</sup> – Lent Worship

Soup Supper at 5 pm

Worship Service at 6 pm

#### March 18<sup>th</sup> – Lent Worship

Soup Supper at 5 pm

Worship Service at 6 pm

#### March 25<sup>th</sup> – Lent Worship

Soup Supper at 5 pm

Worship Service at 6 pm

#### April 1<sup>st</sup> – Lent Worship

Soup Supper at 5 pm

Worship Service at 6 pm

#### April 9<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday

Soup Supper at 5 pm

Worship Service at 6 pm

#### April 11<sup>th</sup> – Holy Saturday

Ecumenical Easter Vigil at 7 pm

*at Lutheran Church of the Cross*

#### April 5<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday

Worship at 10 am

Pancake Breakfast & Egg Dying at 11 am

#### April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at sunrise

*at Primrose Retirement Community*

Worship Service 10 am

Easter Egg Hunt 10:10 am

*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.*



03 Carrie Mandigo

07 Tiffany Sonnenberg

08 Lucille Ritz

09 Ella Kraft

11 Eugene Weekes

16 Ashley Leier

19 Karsten Klein

20 Aiden Meidinger

23 Delani Berger

24 Amber Augustadt

25 Priscilla Sauer

28 Elise Smokey

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