

Bismarck-Mandan Area

United Church of Christ

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September 2019

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

How We Care for God

by Dawn Archer, Sabbatical Minister



*So we know the love that God has for us,
and we trust that love. God is love.
Everyone who lives in love lives in God,
and God lives in them.*

1 John 4:16 (ERV)

How we care for one another, is how we care for God. So often in this world, we turn away from others, or turn our backs on them, because we fail to see God in them. The irony is that the people we deem worthless, useless, or less than within society are the same people Jesus hung out with when he walked the earth. We were

to learn from that, but we failed to, or we forgot the lesson. As humans, we are so competitive in this world, but God did not create us for survival of the fittest. Our God created us in his image – think of a military team building exercise – one for all and all for one! When we leave anyone behind, we are leaving God behind.

As I think about whom we are leaving behind today, my thoughts turn to the children on the border being “housed” in cages. When we call them illegal, are we seeing God in them? When we blame them for their circumstances, are we seeing God in them? When we fail to act, are we seeing God in them? When we turn our backs and leave them behind in society, are we leaving God behind? In the book of Matthew, Jesus said, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...and truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me.” Are we leaving God behind? During this summer sabbatical, we have challenged ourselves to turn toward one another. This involves turning toward God, no matter which face we are looking at when we encounter Him. Please, let’s not leave God behind...not in our places of worship, not in our own communities, and not as a small child, in a cage, on our Southern border. God loves us more than that. We are called to do the same, to love as we are loved.

**Buffalo Supper**

This annual event will be held on Saturday, October 19th. Serving will be from 4:30 to 8 pm. Adult Tickets are \$18, Children 4-10 are \$7 and under 3 are free. See page 5 for details.

**Fall Clean-Up**

After a short summer we are entering into the time of the year we get ready for the cold weather and do a deep cleaning inside & out. See page 3 for additional information.

**Church Directory Photos**

Save the Dates ... Oct. 2nd – Oct. 5th. We will be updating our parish directory and will have a photo opportunity for members See page 5.

Worship with us every Sunday at 10:00 AM | Bible Study: Fri at 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 we can bring our personal needs and struggles and count on support from our church family – which is the loving family we all deserve."

Each Sunday morning, during worship, we share our joys & concerns with the congregation. It is a time when people tell us of their anniversary, birthday, new grandchild, or request prayers for illness, job loss, or announce the death of someone dear to them. It is also a moment of such strong community and family love that a collective gasp rises from us as someone tells us of their cancer diagnosis. Or a round of applause bursts forth as we celebrate with them, the end of treatment or their remission! We are in this thing called life together with our God!

Several people work behind the scenes, helping to keep us connected. Darcy Avery pays monthly visits to members who can no longer easily make it to church. The Board of Deacons keeps an eye out for church family who may not have attended for a while and maybe need someone to give a phone call to check in on them. They also take turns writing cards to those who've gone above and beyond, in the past month, serving as the hands and feet of Jesus for our church family. Sandra Domegala sends cards for birthdays, get well, thinking of you, thank you, new baby, new home, sympathy, etc. And Harold Karch keeps our church family records entered in the computer, so everyone else can more easily do what they do. There are people and activities I'm forgetting, such as the prayer shawls knitted by our members, and the tea party home visits by a group of women from our church, and of course the work of Pastor Gretchen, bringing communion to those who cannot attend church any longer. In the end, whether it's a Sunday morning collective gasp, or a quiet hello from behind the scenes, we are family – you can count on that!

Hello everyone,

Council Corner by: Mike Stein, Moderator

I hope this finds you well! We are quickly approaching the months of Fall. School is starting, harvest is quickly approaching, hunting season is near, and Football is starting, Oh! What a great time of year!

We are 8 months into the 2019 year. The Council did not meet for the month of July.

During our sabbatical time the congregation should take this time to reflect on what we have in our personal lives and what we have as a church family. We need to take this time to grow and come together as a stronger church community. The church activities that were scheduled for the month of August accomplished this goal. The bonfire at the Patrie's brought the church community together for a relaxing evening. Clay Jenkinson made us reflect on how wonderful our heritage is and how some of it might be slipping away.

The schedule for the month of September is just as exciting! We have some great guest speakers to fill the pulpit. Sunday, September 8th Sister Kathleen Atkinson will be speaking, Sunday, September 15th Beverly Everett from the Bismarck/Mandan Symphony will have the pulpit and our own Chris Lennon will be speaking on Sunday, September 22nd. I encourage everyone to pick up the pink Summer at a Glance schedule of events located at the front desk.

Clay Jenkinson touched on the subject that a person can reflect and pray anywhere. He told us about the Medicine Rock South West of Mandan. This was holy ground for a lot of the native Americans to come and pray and worship during the era of Lewis and Clark. To this day this Medicine Rock is still a place to come and reflect. Clay also talked about how he will stop and pray at locations he feels are special to him. One of the strong values we have as a community of worship at the United Church of Christ is each other. The fellowship we have together as a community is priceless. Yes, we can go off on our own and pray and talk to God and we should do this. But, coming together as a community of worship is something that we should cherish.

Take care!

Fall Clean Up

October 5th

Contact Dave Archer
for details



Indoor List:

Wash windows & doors ~ Polish wood
in sanctuary ~ clean kitchen
refrigerator, ~ clean basement
refrigerator ~ clean and dust light
fixtures ~ clean kitchen ceiling vent.

Outdoor List:

Wash windows & doors ~ weeding ~
clean gutters

Kid's List:

Sharpen pencils in sanctuary ~ restock
giving envelopes ~ make sure each pew
has the correct number of hymnals



FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to June 30, 2019

Revenue

General Offerings

Actual = \$ 71,390

Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 7,433

Expenses

Actual = \$ 83,502

Total Revenue = \$ 78,823

Total Expenses = \$ 83,502

NET ACTIVITY = \$ -4,679

SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2019

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| East Timor Education Fund | \$ 1,012 |
| Charles Hall Youth Services | \$ 555 |
| Our Church's Wider Mission | \$ 2,435 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | \$ 863 |
| Strengthen the Church | \$ 1,182 |
| Neighbors in Need | \$ 100 |
| The Christmas Fund | \$ |
| Total Shared Ministry | \$ 6,147 |



NIN
2019 Theme

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

- One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry \(CAIM\)](#).
- Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Bismarck—Mandan CROPWALK for Hunger

Sunday, October 13th

Good Shepard Lutheran Church

- 12:30- Join us for the 50th Anniversary Celebration
- 1:30 Walk for World Hunger



To celebrate 50 years, the event will kick off at 12:30 with the walk's registration, an education fair, and a visit from Clark the Lark and Merifeather Lewis.

Special guests from Church World Services will be joining the Bismarck walk to help fight World Hunger. There will be two distances for the walk. A shorter walk of about 1/2 mile and the longer walk of about 2.5 miles. Be sure to stick around after the walk and have an ice cream sundae to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Not only does the CROP Hunger Walk help those around the world, but also those in need locally. 25% of the funds raised at the Bismarck/Mandan CROP Walk for Hunger will benefit the Soup Cafe, the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry, the Abused Adult Resource Center and AID, Inc.

Let's keep the ecumenical tradition of CROP Walk strong. Church World Service, our sponsoring organization, is made up of 35 different denominations of churches.



You can make a difference!

Once again, we have the opportunity to assist those in need with a meal.

Join Us ... October 12th @ at 11 am
Trinity Lutheran Church located at 502 N. 4th Street

Watch for additional information in the near future!

Bismarck United Church of Christ

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES



October & November Schedule
6:30 pm

In Fellowship Hall

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| October 7 th | Review of Psalms & 1 Kings 1-11 |
| October 14 th | 1 Kings 12-22 |
| October 21 st | 2 Kings 1-10 |
| October 28 th | 2 Kings 11-25 |
| November 4 th | 1 Chronicles 1-29 (chapters 1-9 are all genealogy – skim) |
| November 11 th | 2 Chronicles 1-9 |
| November 18 th | 2 Chronicles 10-20 |
| November 25 th | 2 Chronicles 21-36 |



ONA & VISION TEAM

Movie, Dinner & Discussion!

Sunday, September 15th

5:30 pm – 8 pm

at UCC



Call Me Malcolm is a beautiful documentary about a 27-year-old transgender seminary student, and his struggle with faith, love and gender identity.

RSVP to Dawn Archer, or please sign-up in the narthex.



The church office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2nd.
We will be open again beginning
Tuesday, Sept. 3rd at 3:30 pm. Have a safe weekend!

Sponsor a Sunday

A reminder that we are still looking for Sponsors!

Why ~ to provide our congregation with extra funds to meet the current budget!

Evaluation for Sponsorship
Participation ~ to support pastoral and lay leadership, to have a safe and clean place to worship, to have other resources for an inspirational worship service.

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 6:30pm starting October 7th.

United Church Youth (UCY)

A group of middle & high school youth. Gathers 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 5th graders. This Vacation Bible School style kid's class meets the 1st & 3rd 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 affirming your faith.

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

Ministry & Fellowship Groups

UCC Choir

– Craig DeVos, Choir Director

Thank you for working so hard during the 2018-2019 choir season. Our first rehearsal for the 2019-2020 season will be on Wednesday, September 4th at 7:00 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. I will once again provide the ice cream and chocolate sauce after our first rehearsal. You can bring something too if you'd like or just come and eat ice cream.

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, **Sept. 12th 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 **Sept. 10th & 24th at 1 pm**.

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.



Ready, Set, Smile 😊

It's time to update our UCC Family & Friends Directory!

- Lifetouch will be here taking photos...
- **Wednesday, October 2 through Saturday, October 5.**

A church member will be phoning soon to verify contact and other membership information, and to set up appointments.

No purchase is necessary, but if desired, purchased photos will be available in time for Christmas gift giving!



Buffalo Dinner

Mark your calendars for our
Saturday, October 19, 2018
4:30 pm – 8 pm



Tickets: \$18 adults / \$7 children / 4-10 yrs /
3 and under eat free

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

Please plan to enjoy this autumn feast with us, and volunteer as you are able.

Jack's Food Pantry

What goes in a bag of food?

Each food bag we pack contains the following items:

- 3 cans of fruit (12-14 oz)
- 3 cans of meat (tuna, salmon, chicken, turkey etc.)
- 3 cans of vegetables (15-16 oz. cans)
- 3 cans of soup
- 1 can of beans
- 1 jar of peanut butter (18 oz)
- 1 package of raisins (12-14 oz)
- 1 package/box (3 envelopes) dry soups (Ramen Noodles)
- 3 boxes macaroni and cheese
- 1 box/bag pasta (16-24 oz / or rice)
- 2 sleeves of crackers for each bag
- 1 box/bag of cereal or oatmeal (15 – 17 oz.)
- Snacks (puddings, fruit snacks, granola bars etc.)
- Reading to eat times for those who have limited kitchen access

We assisted 12 families during the month of August!

Youth News



KIDS Sunday School

Kids Wednesday
BIBLE CLASS

Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Katie Mitchell...Pre-K

Autum Eisenbraun ...K to 3rd grade

Kerri Kraft ... 4th to 6th grade

WED. KID'S BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Cecilia Tolstedt

Pre-K – 6th grade

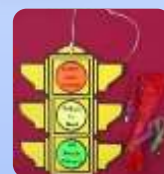


**SNEAK
PEEK**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10:10 am

- ❖ September
 - 8th First Day of Sunday School & Kick-off Luncheon
 - 11th First Day of Wed Kid's School
- ❖ October
 - Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat
- ❖ November
 - Christmas Program parts assigned
 - Program Practice
 - Thanksgiving Break
- ❖ December
 - Christmas Program
- ❖ Dec / Jan / Feb / Ma
 - Group Sunday School Service Project Days



- ❖ April
 - Palm Sunday Singing
 - Easter Egg Hunt
- ❖ May
 - Mother's Day Project Day
 - Last Day of Sunday School & Ice Cream Social



**SNEAK
PEEK**

KID'S BIBLE SCHOOL

by Paulette Whitmore

Bible School meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month from Sept. – May at 6 pm

Excitement is in the air!

We will practice our faith through ...

- ~ Songs
- ~ Games
- ~ Scriptures
- ~ Stories
- ~ Art
- ~ Prayer
- ~ Baking goodies in the kitchen
- ~ Making tie blankets
- ~ Making and Painting projects
- ~ Going on community field trips (with parental consent) ~
- Having guest speakers



We will have opportunities once a month to show hospitality & to open our hearts to others in our community, such as the Humane Society, the soup kitchen, the less fortunate, the sick, Charles Hall, etc. Of course we will enjoy a snack together - time to share, to listen and to learn from each other.

Please join us for what we hope will be an exciting year of growing in Faith and sharing our love.

See you September 11th at 6 pm.

Middle & High School Kids



United Church Youth (UCY)

Planning 2019-2020 Adventures

Your ideas and input are important!

Contact Pastor Gretchen with a time to meet.

Volunteer Opportunities

Make A Difference



We are looking for members who would like to 'get involved' with our church. 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!

Readings during Worship Service ~
No experience necessary!
You will assist with the Call to Worship and the Scripture Readings and will receive a copy of the readings several days before the service.

Sunday Morning Host ~
You can choose a month that works for you. The arrival time is at 9 am at which time you will unlock the doors, turn on the lights, and start coffee. Answering the phone in case someone needs direction to the church.

Next month you will receive information on the duties of ushering and greeting members on Sundays!

Northern Plains Conference NEWS



PURPOSE: To fund mission trips or projects which reach outside of the local church.

ELIGIBILITY: Any UCC of Northern Plains Conference is eligible to apply for a grant up to \$6000.

TIME FRAME: Application Deadline: January 30, 2020 (may be submitted earlier). Announcement of grants awarded will be made at the end of March 2020.



The Northern Plains Conference Mission and Outreach Committee believes that all people, regardless of their financial situation, should have access to mission trips. Scholarships of up to **\$500** are available for mission trips under the umbrella of Mission and Outreach.

*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.*



02 Sue Pearson
03 Mary Knutson
09 Michael Schmidt
09 Maiah McCowen
13 Denyka Sauer

13 Susan Stockert
14 Eden Kraft
23 Maria Roller-Schlecht
26 Chad Akovenko
30 Ruby Jackson

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