

## Bismarck-Mandan Area

# United Church of Christ

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## May 2020

### A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

## The "New Normal" to Come

by Rev. Gretchen Deeg, Pastor

It's May, the weather is beautiful, and we are closely monitoring the recommendations from the CDC and ND Department of Health. Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> was our first online worship service and we will continue to have online-only worship services through at least the end of May. I know that this is difficult for many of you, especially our friends without computer access, our members who live alone, and our extroverts. I want you to know that we continue to not only hold each of you in our prayers, but that we have people ready to make regular phone calls and reach out in safe ways to keep you connected. If you have not been receiving a phone call, need more support, or are feeling disconnected, please do not hesitate to let me know. I can be reached on my cell 701-347-1235 or by email [gretchen@uccbismarck.org](mailto:gretchen@uccbismarck.org).

When we are able to resume in-person worship services, our process for worshiping together will likely look different. First of all, we will continue to offer online worship services! We have been having members and friends join us for worship from across the country and occasionally world. Our Trustees are working on updating our livestreaming equipment (right now everything is recorded on cell phones), so we can ensure worship becomes even more accessible whenever we meet together.

Second, we will likely have a gradual reopening of our in-person services. Our Council and committees are working on plans for safely reopening the church building. This will include procedures for physical distancing, the wearing of masks, increased cleaning practices, and reduced in-person activities at first. We are committed to living our vision of being a church where "all are welcome to freely explore spirituality in safe and nurturing environment."

Third, we need you to keep being the church. Although we love our building and we love meeting together, the church has never been the building. You are the church. This unique period in history may be providing you with some additional time to reflect on what is most important in your life. Over this next month, we encourage you to join us in reflecting on the "new normal" to come. You have been given the opportunity to hit restart on your life. What do you want life to look like when we do return to in-person activities? What do you want to prioritize and what do you want to not pick back up again? This is your one beautiful, sometimes messy, life. How is God calling you to live it to the fullest?

### OUR LIFE TOGETHER



#### Wisdom from East Timor

The Timorese people remind us how to release anxiety in times of high stress. Photo from Immanuel Church in East Timor. "Replace Anxiety..." page 4.



#### POSTPONED Rummage Sale

The May Rummage Sale has been postponed. See page 5 for more details.



#### Worship Online

- Sundays at 10 AM
- Wednesdays at 6 PM

# 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 embrace the still-speaking God and live in today's world."***

Today's world means protecting the vulnerable and worshipping online. If you haven't already connected online, here's how:

- 1) On a computer or smartphone: open a web browser (Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Internet Explorer, etc) and type [www.uccbismarck.org/worship](http://www.uccbismarck.org/worship) in the search bar.
- 2) Hit the arrow/play on the video in the middle of your screen to start worship.

You can join worship at any time. New services are posted online on Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 7pm (6pm on Facebook).



## Council Corner

by Mike Stein, Moderator

Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds you and your family are safe. Another month has gone by where people are isolating in place, people are working from home, schools are closed, bars and restaurants are shut down, businesses have to rethink how they are conducting their daily operation, and we are still at home streaming our church service. Society has dramatically changed over the past 2 months.

We will find a need to gather with family and friends as the weather continues to warm. This is where we need to fight the urge and be discipline and stay at home. This is for the safety of the people you love.

The streaming of the church service has gone extremely well. Thank you Pastor Gretchen for your dedicated time on this. A big thank you to Darcy Avery and Chris Lennon for your musical talents. I would also like to thank all the liturgy readers. It is amazing how in a time of need everyone comes together. I would like to encourage you to invite your family and friends to access the streaming of our church service.

The Trustees approved and coordinated with the Church Council to complete an application for the Paycheck Protection Plan. The application has been filed with a local bank.

We need to stay connected with our church family during this time of isolation. Please continue to reach out to your friends and develop your own fellowship time.

As society shuts down around us and as we settle in place at home, please remember we need to continue to support the church. We can support the church by mailing our offering directly to the church. The church is set up to accept automatic deposits from either your checking or savings account. The church is also set up to accept Pay Pal.

I am looking forward to the Sundays where we can meet again in person for our church service. Being part of a church family where we can go to a brick and mortar building to worship is of enormous appreciation during this time. God Bless and be safe!

## NPC Annual Meeting

The Northern Plains Conference Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for September 18-19, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This meeting will be held in Minot, ND. Registration information will be available closer to the new Annual Meeting date.

If you are interested in being a delegate from Bismarck UCC at the upcoming Annual Meeting, please talk with Pastor Gretchen or any Council Member.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
9 AM – 1 PM

### Office Closed

Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day

## FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to March 31, 2020

### Revenue

#### General Offerings

Actual = \$ 33,703

#### Other Income (Dedicated, Earned)

Actual = \$ 6,255

### Expenses

Actual = \$ 47,550

Total Revenue = \$ 39,958

Total Expenses = \$ 47,550

NET ACTIVITY = \$ (7,592)

## SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN 2019

East Timor Education Fund	\$ 831
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$ 169
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 1,265
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 40
Strengthen the Church	\$
Neighbors in Need	\$ 20
The Christmas Fund	\$
<b>Total Shared Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 2,325</b>

# United Living Trust Fund

by Beth Peterson, Admin Assistant

The Bismarck United Church of Christ established the United Living Trust Fund around 1996. This fund gives the congregation members another way to make meaningful planned gifts to support the church. The fund is managed by the UCC Foundation and its purpose is to disperse the interest earned for the furtherance of the church's ministry and mission.

Gifts may be made to the United Living Trust Fund through special offerings, gifts of cash, bequest when you do your Estate Plan, and gifts of life insurance or retirement account by a change of beneficiary.



The Board of Trustees maintain a donor recognition plaque to honor gifts.

If you have questions or if you would like to make a gift to the United Living Trust Fund, please ask any member of the Trustees. They are Kyle Eisenbraun, Bill Patrie, Marv Erhardt, Dana Schaar Jahner, Chris Lennon, Myron Rosen, Dave Archer, and Maria

## Thank You to Our Sunday Sponsors!!



April 26

### Sponsored in Memory of Rev. Dr. Jack Seville

Jack's Food Pantry at Bismarck UCC is named after Jack Seville. Jack had a vision of feeding families who were not able to get assistance elsewhere and continued to financially support the food pantry until his death in 2019. During his time in North Dakota, Jack also served for 12 years as the Conference Minister of the Northern Plains Conference.

**Sponsored by Rev. Dr. Jim and Sharon Moos**

*(Jim is a former pastor of Bismarck UCC and is currently serving in New York as the Executive Director of PBUCC's Faith and Finance Ministries).*

May 10

### Sponsored in Honor of Mother's Day!

Happy Mother's Day to every mother and individual who has stepped into the role of raising youth and teaching love to others.



**Sponsored by Marcia and Pat Lerberg**

*(Marcia serves as a lay minister at Primrose and on Bismarck UCC's Stewardship Committee. Pat is Marcia's mother-in-law and an incredible sharer of her deep faith through her loving personality).*

It's easy to Sponsor a Sunday online. Visit [www.uccbismarck.org/donate](http://www.uccbismarck.org/donate) to get started today. May 3, 17, 24, and 31 are available for sponsorship!

# Greetings from the Board of Deacons

by Harold Karch, Deacons Chair

It is hard to find words to express what is happening all around us and in the world. It is important to remember during this time that the United Church of Christ is still a caring, faith-based community helping us find a meaningful relationship with our God.

As we reach out to each other with our weekly phone calls, please feel free to make each other aware of any needs or questions you may have. The phone calls are a way of keeping everyone informed on any changes that may be coming in the future and to help each other in any way we can.

Until the church is back to a "normal" schedule, please join us for worship services online at [www.uccbismarck.org/worship](http://www.uccbismarck.org/worship) each Sunday morning at 10am. **Please stay well and God Bless You All!**

Your Board of Deacons,

Harold Karch, James Mandigo, Murrae Kramer, Darlene Kinnischtzke, Carol Baber, Sandra Domaqala, & Loren Knoll

# Replace Anxiety with Prayer

by Rev. Tom Liddle, East Timor Missionary  
(Reprinted from UCC globalministries.org)

If there's one thing I learned during seven years as a pastor among the Timorese people, it's that prayer is a simple, effective way to cope with anxiety. They take their cue from St. Paul. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul admonishes:

***"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God." (Phil. 4:6)***

In any and all circumstances, the Timorese replace anxiety with prayer. That is because Timorese are people of faith. But it's also because they have lived as vulnerable people for generations. They have been subject to colonialism, military occupation, war and conflict, realities the average person cannot control or manage. But he or she can pray.

One thing the coronavirus is teaching us is that we have far less control than we thought we did. Despite our scientific and technical prowess and in spite of our economic power, our capacity to cope, control and manage is stunningly limited. This is a new feeling for many Americans and one that makes people very anxious. Thus we can learn from the Timorese: replace anxiety with prayer.

We cannot base our lives on what we can control, because so much is beyond our control. In prayer, we can articulate our fears and make our requests known to God. As we give over our anxiety about tomorrow to God, we receive back the life that God gives us today:

***"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:7)***

## Festival of Homiletics

"Preaching a New Earth:  
Climate & Creation"

May 18-22, 2020

Top-notch preachers, uplifting music, week-long experience... all from the comfort of your home! Attend the Festival of Homiletics with Pastor Gretchen and experience some of the most powerful preachers from around the country at this year's ONLINE festival! Register for FREE at [www.festivalofhomiletics.com](http://www.festivalofhomiletics.com) and let Pastor Gretchen know you are joining!

## Threads of Love Is ONLINE!

Anyone is invited to this virtual quilting/knitting group on Tuesdays at 2 PM. No need to knit, crochet, quilt or craft, this group is also for fellowship! Check out the church calendar under the "NEWS" tab at [uccbismarck.org](http://uccbismarck.org) to find the schedule and links to join.



## Our Worship Schedule

### Sunday Worship at 10am

- Premiered on Facebook, YouTube, and our website at 10am
- Fellowship via Free Conference Call at 11am

### Wednesday Worship at 6pm

- Live on Facebook at 6pm
- Available on YouTube and our website at 7pm

### Daily Devotionals on Facebook

- Join Carly Retterath and baby Lauren for a daily practice of Bible reading and gratitude.

## We Honor & Remember

It is with heavy hearts of loss that we share with you news of the recent deaths of our members.



**Inez Link**, 93, died on April 12, 2020 at Bismarck Care Center.

Cards can be sent to:  
Bismarck Funeral Home  
Attn: Family of Inez Link  
3723 Lockport St  
Bismarck, ND 58503



**Gladys Ervin**, 93, died on April 18, 2020 at St. Alexis Medical Center.

Cards can be sent to:  
Eastgate Funeral Home  
Attn: Family of Gladys Ervin  
2302 East Divide Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58501

### Prayer

God of the living and of the dead, pull us into your tight embrace. The expanse of your love knows no limits. Yet in this time, we when we are socially distanced from each other, we grieve that we cannot offer the gifts of hugs and physical presence in the times of loss. Make our care known to these grieving families. Make our love tangible through prayers, cards, and calls.

Comfort these families in the ways we cannot and bless them with the richness of the lives lived by those we have lost and the certainty that both the living and the dead are given new life in your loving embrace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## EVERYONE COUNTS Census 2020

Thank you to everyone who already completed the 2020 Census! If you haven't yet completed the Census, please do so. A significant portion of our community funding will be distributed based on this Census. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail and it won't take more than 5 minutes of your time! All responses are confidential and by law they cannot be used against you in any way. Please respond to the 2020 Census today. Visit [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020CENSUS.GOV)

## Primrose Ministries

The Primrose team was very active during the first three months of 2020. Then the Coronavirus halted our services. Primrose invited us to continue connecting by phone. At this time, we continue to pray for the Primrose residents and staff. We look forward to providing services when it is safe to do so.

## POSTPONED Rummage Sale

by Marcia Patrie, Mayflower Circle

I know that many of you have been saving items for our rummage sale that was to be held in May. With the Covid19 keeping everyone home Mayflower Circle has decided to postpone the rummage sale. We don't know at this time if it will be later this year or if we will wait until next spring. We know that's a long time to hold onto items but if you have space, we would appreciate you keeping it for us. This is a large fund raiser for Mayflower and the money always goes for support of the school in East Timor, Charles Hall Youth or specific items that come up at the church.

There is an option that we could make donations to specific groups such as Lutheran Social Services of bigger items if they have a need. We will let you know if this is an option and you can email a list of items that you have at that time. We miss everyone and are glad Pastor Gretchen has found ways for us to connect virtually.

## Jack's Food Pantry

**Jack's Pantry Mission:** To provide short-term, emergency food & supplies for people in need, no questions asked.

We have partnered with Bismarck's Adopt-a-Block program to maintain the safe distribution to our local hungry families. Food or monetary donations continue to be accepted at the church during office hours M-F from 9am-1pm.



# Youth News

Keep your heart and mind engaged! Some great ideas would be to read a book, do an art project, put together a photo album, write a letter, be kind and helpful! We Miss Our UCC Youth! We will be together again soon! In the meantime, do your best to stay safe! 😊

## United Church



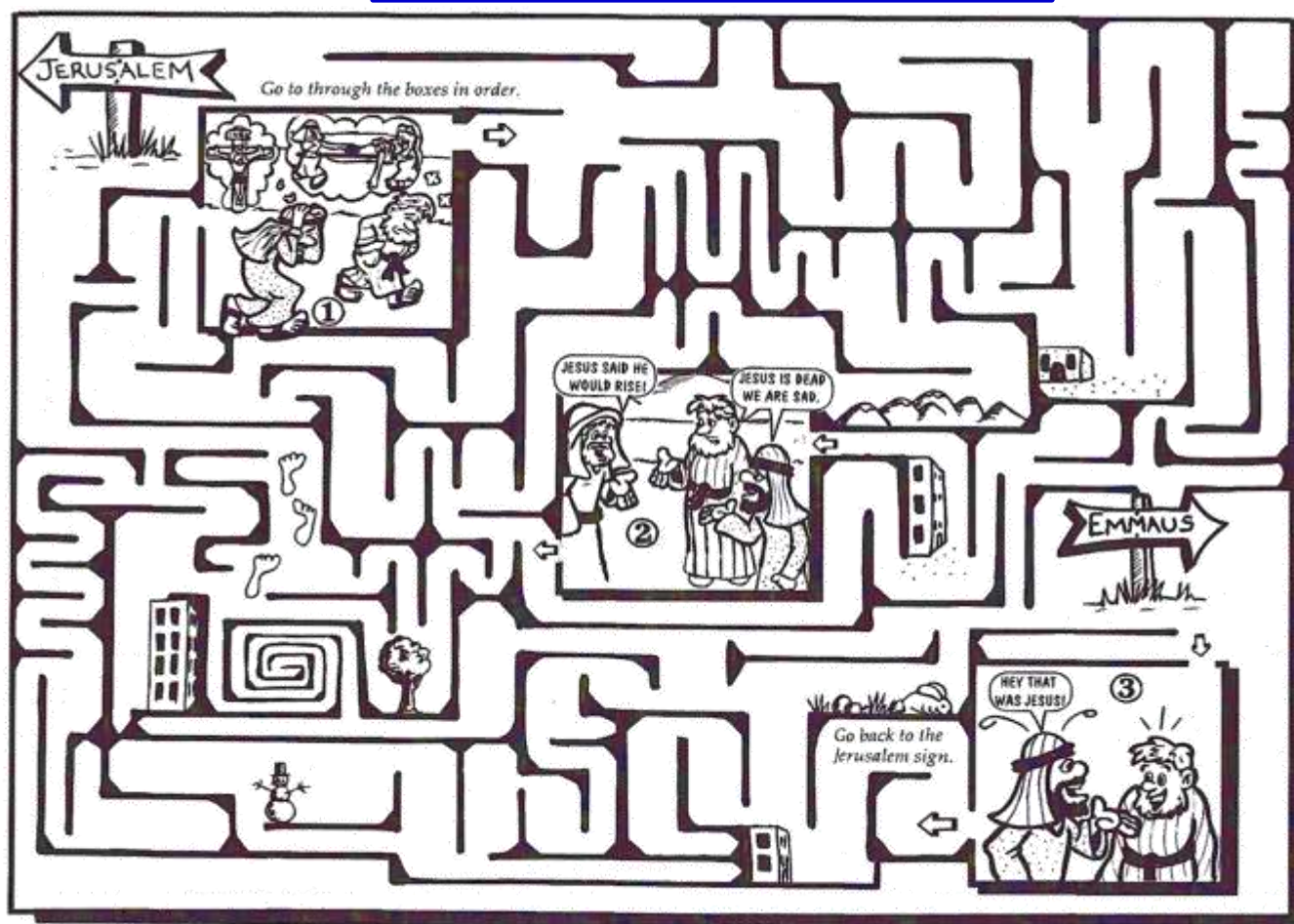
Kids, during this time of isolation, catch a little sunshine and exercise by going for a nature walk. Notice all the unique plants and animals God created! To keep celebrating God's creation at home, gather a few stones large enough to paint, and design some rocks to print joy around your yard or as gifts for others. Use your imagination, add your personal artistic flare and these beauties will brighten up anyone's day!

## Emmaus

Small village near Jerusalem

The Walk to Emmaus gets its name from the story in Luke 24:13-35, which provides the central image for the three-day experience and follow-up. Luke tells the story of that first Easter afternoon when the risen Christ appeared to the two...

Help the people find their way back to Jerusalem!



# A Message from Charles Hall Youth & Family Services

by Rhonda Styles-Rohde, Charles Hall Youth & Family Services

Charles Hall Youth & Family Services is now one of three Qualified Residential Treatment Programs serving high risk youth across North Dakota. Providing residential, therapeutic programming in the Bismarck area, Charles Hall joins Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (DBGGR) and Home on the Range to serve adolescents and teenagers in foster care from across the state.

The safety of Charles Hall staff and the youth they serve is, and has always been, the top priority for the organization. The agency responded proactively in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and implemented crisis plans and protocol beginning in mid-March. With local schools closed, Charles Hall youth, like area children, are completing daily lesson plans and school studies. In addition, therapy visits and other important connections are made using Zoom technology and video-conferencing.

Charles Hall Executive Directors, Gayla Sherman and Gayle Klopp, are staying closely connected with North Dakota's Department of Human Services, State Health Department, and Medical Services to ensure that operations are responsive and proactive, when possible. The agency's executive directors disseminate concise information daily and morale-building communication to staff to help minimize the fear that accompanies a health pandemic.

Charles Hall has dedicated direct care and program staff who have shown great commitment in this unprecedented time and employs a full-time registered nurse, Heather Pfaff. She and the agency's executive management team oversee the implementation of procedures to ensure Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and state-directed regulations.

To ensure a safe staff-to-youth care ratio, all youth currently reside in one group home, which easily accommodates co-ed living. Although the use of one group home is temporary during COVID-19, it has united staff to provide care while helping youth feel safe and connected during this difficult time, explained Sherman.

The agency's administration office remains open from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, with limited personnel. The nonprofit organization is accepting in-kind donations (e.g., board games, cleaning supplies, wash clothes), but requests that donors contact Kim Steffen at 701-255-2773, ext. 307, to make an appointment before coming to the office at 513 E. Bismarck Expressway.

Current agency needs include: Clorox and Lysol wipes, hand sanitizers, masks and gloves. Too, group home staff requests donations of gift cards to purchase robes for all youth to increase our modesty measures while our home is co-ed.

During this time of social distancing, secure online donations are welcomed at: [www.charleshallnd.org](http://www.charleshallnd.org), or checks/gift cards can be mailed to PO Box 1995, Bismarck, ND 58502.

For more information about Charles Hall Youth & Family Services or about current needs, contact Rhonda Styles-Rohde at 701-202-3637 or log onto the agency's new website – [www.charleshallnd.org](http://www.charleshallnd.org).

*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.*



06 Joyce Rosene	24 Mazey Akovenko
07 Caleb Kruger	25 Melissa Domagala
13 Brooklyn Berger	25 Skyler Benson
14 Tove Mandigo	26 Matthew Archer
19 Linnea Volk	26 Dave Augustadt
20 Case Akovenko	28 Gayla Sherman
21 Paul Prince	30 Luke McCowan
21 Zayden Bartosh	31 Loren Knoll
22 Richella Lutz	

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



# BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A Global Ministry Church”  
[www.uccbismarck.org](http://www.uccbismarck.org)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Live Daily Devotionals are available on Bismarck UCC's Facebook Page.				1	2
3 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	4	5	6 6pm Worship	7 6pm Christian Ed	8	9
10 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	11	12 6pm Deacons	13 6pm Worship	14 12pm Mayflower Circle	15	16
17 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	18 6pm Council	19 5:30pm Trustees	20 6pm Worship	21 6pm Stewardship	22	23
Continuing Education Opportunity: Festival of Homiletics. Register at <a href="http://www.festivalofhomiletics.com">www.festivalofhomiletics.com</a>						
24 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	25 Church Closed— Memorial Day	26	27 6pm Worship	28	29	30 
31 10am Worship 11am Fellowship		All activities can be joined at <a href="http://www.uccbismarck.org">www.uccbismarck.org</a> . In-person activities are currently suspended.				