



Bismarck-Mandan Area

Summer Edition

United Church of Christ

1200 E Highland Acres Rd ~ 701-223-2915 ~ bisucc@midconetwork.com ~ www.uccbismarck.org ~ Like us on Facebook



AUGUST 2019

A GLOBAL MINISTRY CHURCH

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

HOW WE CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

by: Dawn Archer, Sabbatical Minister

*Come to me,
all you who are tired
and are carrying heavy loads.
I will give you rest.*
Matthew 11:28 NIRV

Our summer theme is Turning Toward One Another, but the reality is we can only help others if we, ourselves, are in a place where we are healthy enough, and strong enough, to do so. Self-care is one of those things we neglect, one of those things we feel guilt over. But self-care is addressed



in the bible. After all, our God calls us to care for the whole of creation, and we are a part of that creation. And Jesus frequently sought out alone time to rest, meditate, pray, walk, and sleep. And in Mark 6:31 we see that Jesus honored that same need for

rest in his disciples. If we believe we are created in the image of God, how can we expect anything less for our own lives, or grant ourselves less care?

This summer is a time of sabbatical for our Pastor, but also for our congregation. We are to spend time in rest and renewal, but also in contemplation of what kind of church we want to be moving forward. So, care for yourselves...catch a nap in the sun...take a walk in nature...listen to bird song, and whispers of wind, and falling rain...find your peace within...and imagine a future of possibility. For it is hope that lifts us, hope that carries us, hope that energizes us. It is hope that helps us build upon all that is possible. And as always, *do all your work in love.* 1 Corinthians 16:14



Interfaith Potluck

Save the date and join us on August 3rd from 6 pm to 9 pm at Sertoma Park, Shelter #6 (Riverside Park Rd). Bring a dish to share. See page 3.



Sunday School

It's just around the corner ... our fall classes for Sunday School and Wednesday night Bible Class will begin. Details are on insert #5.



5 for 5 Offering

One of the 5-for-5 offerings, Neighbors in Need, is on deck for the fall. More specifically, a special offering for Neighbors in Need is scheduled for Sept. 29.

Sunday Worship at 10 AM

Bible Study: Friday 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 embrace the still-speaking God and live in today's world."

In July, our UCC church family once again had the opportunity to serve The Banquet at Trinity Lutheran. This free community meal is open to everyone – young or old, rich or poor, alone or in families, walking a faith path or searching for something. It is routinely attended by those whose financial resources are meager, but also by folks who are elderly, or living with disability, or living alone, all of whom are in need of not just food for the body, but also nourishment of the spirit through fellowship and community. It's a good thing to be able to sit down to a meal, side-by-side with others, and share stories or even just greetings, to feel less lonely in this world, even if just for half an hour. We are called to feed people, and to love people. And that's what we did...we listened to our still-speaking God as we lived in today's world!



Council Corner

BY Mike Stein, Moderator

Greetings All,

As our summer starts to pick up speed, I hope that means more leisure time family and friends. This is an exciting time for the church. There are a lot of wonderful activities going on within the UCC Church family. I encourage everyone to pick up a copy of the scheduled activities from the front desk.

The Council is continuing their discussion on the improvement of audio and video in the Fellowship Hall. The committee members brought to our June meeting suggestions on how we can utilize an upgraded system. The Trustees over the next few months will look at custom design and price.

The first line on our vision statement reads: "The Bismarck and Mandan United Church of Christ is a thriving church transforming our lives and community". One important community project the Council is working on is how we can enhance Jack's Food Pantry. There is a huge social need with-in the Bismarck community to fight hunger. Jack's Food Pantry on average every month hands out about 16 to 18 bags of food to families in need. The Council is exploring ideas on how the UCC Church can increase this number. Another community project that the church is working on is the upcoming Highland Acres Block Party. This is scheduled for August 28th.

The Trustees are working on having the cracks in the parking lot sealed and having the parking lot re-stripped. The plan is for this to happen sometime yet this summer.

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

Interfaith Potluck

August 3 ~ 6 to 9 pm
Sertoma Park ~ Shelter 6
(Riverside Park Road)

Bring a dish to share

**We are collecting school supplies
for local children**

- ✓ Backpacks
- ✓ Folders
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Kleenex Tissues
- ✓ Markers
- ✓ Pencil Box
- ✓ Pens
- ✓ Crayons
- ✓ Glue & Glue Sticks
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Pocket Folders
- ✓ Hand Sanitizers



Alternate location in the event of heavy rain:
Muslim Community Center, 214 W. Bowen.

FINANCIAL STATUS

January 1 to June 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 | \$ 506 |
| Our Church's Wider Mission | \$ 1,850 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | \$ 1,181 |
| Strengthen the Church | \$ 431 |
| Neighbors in Need | \$ |
| The Christmas Fund | \$ |
| Total Shared Ministry | \$ 4,980 |

Stewardship and Mission Committee

BY Pamela Clark-Stein



Neighbors in Need: The UCC's next 5-for-5 offering

The Bismarck United Church of Christ (UCC) has a long and rich history of helping others — reaching across the local community, across the country and across the world. Supporting the national ministries through Our Church's Wider Mission and the five Special Mission Offerings is just one example of our caring and concern for others.

One of the 5-for-5 offerings, Neighbors in Need, is on deck for the fall. More specifically, a special offering for Neighbors in Need is scheduled for Sept. 29. Your contribution to this special offering is dedicated to U.S. mission support and grant programs. This includes ministries of justice and compassion (including the Council for American Indian Ministries), advocacy work and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries.



The Stewardship and Mission Committee extends a special thank you to members of the Bismarck UCC for participating in One Great Hour of Sharing and Strengthen the Church. We invite you to join "hands and hearts" with us again for our next special 5-for-5 offering, Neighbors in Need.

PREACHING THE WORD

BY Dale Carmen



The fall of 2018 saw four Northern Plains Conference laypeople take monthly discussion sessions to prepare for a Pulpit Supply Program.

They studied scripture, biblical history and context, congregational relevance and sermon delivery.

Bismarck UCC member, Harold Karch, was one of those students. Members Camille Grothier, Ken Trana and Dale Carmen were the leadership team for the course.

On June 8th at the Annual Meeting in Fargo; Bill Bender, Roxanne Rogers and Bradley Moser received a Certificate of Completion for Pulpit Supply. Harold Karch received his Certificate of Completion during the June 16th Worship Service at Bismarck UCC.

Congratulations Harold! Well done, you good and faithful servant.



BIBLE STUDY REMINDER

The Monday Bible Study is taking a break from meeting, but not from readings. This summer we are reading Psalms 1-150. Jump in and join us in reading this influential meditation literature.

Mayflower Circle

Dawn Archer

**Hey everyone,
... it's time for a new directory!**

Our church family has changed a bit over the past four years.

- ✚ Some people have passed from this world, and some have moved to new places.
- ✚ The young people have grown several inches taller, and the older folk have a few more grey hairs.

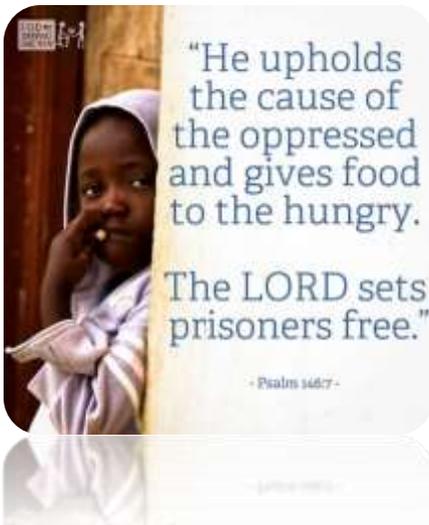
Mayflower Circle will be updating the church directory this October!

In partnership with Deacons, phone calls will be made in late August – September to verify we have correct contact information, and to set up appointments for photographs during the first week of October.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For those wanting to order photo packages, Lifetouch says they will be available for Christmas giving!

Mark your calendars, and then get back to enjoying your summer!



Jack's Food Pantry

Remember Jack's Place accepts Donations of:

- * Nonperishable food items
- * Cash
- * Check (Make payable to "UCC.")

Pantry Mission: *"To provide short-term emergency food and supplies for people in need with no qualifications requested"*

Write "Jack's Place" or "pantry" in the memo line or on the envelope.

Thank You!

In the last month we shared 15 bags of food with families in our communities.

**Current food pantry needs: Canned Fruits, Beans, Canned Meat, Corn and Peas, Raisins, Cereals, Mac-n-Cheese, and Peanut Butter.*

May God's gift of life be a blessing to you and may your life be a blessing to others on this special day of your birth and all year long!



- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Ryan Mandt | 20 Kori Schneider |
| 4 Harold Gomke | 21 Joshua Crowley |
| 9 Adler Scheer | 22 James Mandigo |
| 12 Dana Schaar | 24 Gayle Klopp |
| 13 Joan Darrow | 28 Cage Michael Akovenko |
| 14 Maria Scheer | 28 Shaylee Weil |
| 18 Irene Perman | 29 Gary Stockert |
| 19 Todd Mandt | 30 Clara Derby |
| | 30 Sheena Weil |

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

Youth News



2018-2019 TEACHERS WERE THE BEST!

- ~ Dawn Archer ... 3 and under
- ~ Kerri Kraft ... Pre-K to 1st grade
- ~ Autum Eisenbraun ... 2nd & 3rd grade
- ~ Tove Mandigo ... 4th – 6th grade
- ~ Paulette Whitmore
- ~ Cecilia Tolstedt
Pre-K – 6th grade



THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

WELCOME TEACHERS
For our 2019 – 2020 ~ Kid's Sunday School
~ Kid's Wednesday night Bible Class

- ~ To be determined ... 3 and under
- ~ Katie Mitchell ... Pre-K to 1st grade
- ~ Autum Eisenbraun ... K - 3rd grade
- ~ Kerri Kraft ... 4th – 6th grade
- ~ Cecilia Tolstedt pre-K to 6th grade (Wed. evenings)

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS: September 8th

Sunday School Kick-off luncheon

1st and 3rd graders get their Bibles

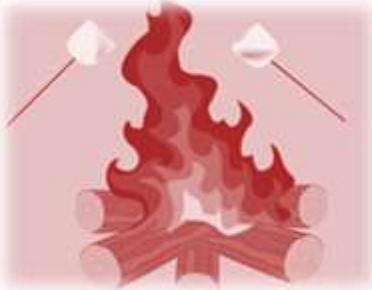
WEDNESDAY NIGHT STARTS: September



Fellowship

BONFIRE

August 7th



Friendship

@ PATRIES

5:30 pm

Bring your own drinks & lawn chairs

Roast Marshmallows

Roast Hot Dogs



How is your garden doing?
Do you have an abundance of fresh produce?

Consider bringing them to the church for...

- ✓ Our members who do not have a garden
- ✓ People picking up food baskets

We have a table in the narthex

Harvest Table

