
BISMARCK UCC



Let it Shine. The Bismarck UCC lets its light shine by proclaiming a message of extravagant hospitality. On billboard, in newsprint and in worship the message is going forth: "Jesus Welcomed Everyone, So Do We. Bismarck United Church of Christ."

Let it Shine. Every month, an average of a dozen hungry families use the services of our food pantry. Originally started as the community's only "no questions asked" food pantry, we offer our guests more than groceries—we provide respect.

Let it Shine. Bismarck UCC seeks to live in faithful covenant with other settings of the church. We have long been active in the Northern Plains Conference and the national setting of the United Church of Christ. We also have a unique covenantal relationship with the Salem UCC of New Salem which enables us to share pastoral leadership.



Let it Shine. "Serving children near and far" is the core of our outreach. We are committed to the "near" ministry of Charles Hall Youth Services. In addition to financial and volunteer support, we share our facility with them for special events. Bismarck UCC is also deeply committed to the "far" children of East Timor through support of the East Timor Education Foundation.

Let it Shine. We are designated as a Global Mission Church by Global Ministries for our work in East Timor. In addition to supporting the East Timor Education Foundation, we advocate for justice in East Timor and provided relief supplies and pastoral care for Timorese fugues in the wake of social unrest in 2006.

Let it Shine. Our church council recently voted to become partners in the Rural Health Planning Collaborative. This initiative seeks to provide better health care services on the Ft. Berthold Reservation.

Let it Shine. We are politically active in our witness for peace and justice. As a congregation, we lobbied the state legislature for the creation of a civil rights commission to enforce North Dakota's civil rights laws. We have also petitioned for environmental justice and been active in a state-wide peace coalition.



Let it Shine. Even as we witness for peace, we remember the needs of those serving in the military, and their families. The congregation has a long tradition of supporting the military chaplaincy through the involvement of its pastors.

Let it Shine. Our fellowship hall does double-duty as an art gallery. We regularly display works of church, conference and regional artists.

Let it Shine. The Bismarck UCC walks with progressive ecumenical partners in the Bismarck/Mandan area. Together, we have provided community education in areas such as poverty, the death penalty, economic justice and the environment.

Let it Shine. Four of our members recently traveled to New Orleans as part of the conference volunteer recovery program. We also participated in the "Hope Shall Bloom" campaign, and provided funds for 3 months of the lease on a truck used in the recovery effort.

Let it Shine. Two years ago, we underwent major facility remodeling/expansion. Since that time, our church has increasingly become a center of activity for the Northern Plains Conference, the community, and state and regional non-profit agencies.

Let it Shine. We are committed to providing worship experiences that are meaningful and faithful. Our liturgical jazz band leads worship music on a quarterly basis. We have also incorporated ancient church liturgies into our worship, as well as resources from global church partners.

Let it Shine. We are happy to share our church leaders with other churches and church settings. Authorized lay worship leaders, licensed ministers and ordained ministers regularly go forth to serve other churches and conferences through pulpit supply and interim ministry.

Let it Shine. We celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Church of Christ. On All Saints Sunday, we invited the Salem UCC to join us in viewing the live webcast that kicked off the anniversary celebration. We also shared a meal (complete with a Let it Shine birthday cake), as well as stories of our personal journeys in the UCC.

Let it Shine. "Called to Care" volunteers assist the pastoral staff in calling on hospital patients, shut-ins and nursing home residents. Since Bismarck hosts two regional hospitals, they also call on many members of conference churches who come to town for medical care.

Let it Shine. The Bismarck United Church of Christ is currently in the early stages of a strategic planning process. We hope this process will enable us to discover new ways to let our light shine in our community, the broader church and the world.

