
PREFACE

"Do not hide your light under a bushel". With these words our Redeemer called us to celebrate the light of God's Spirit that burns within so that the darkness might be overcome and a new day might dawn. We rejoice in that light as we celebrate the promise that it holds.

The Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ has many lights, each telling the story of the presence of God's Spirit bringing energy and hope within the life of its congregations. These lights declare that God is alive and well within the programs, worship and mission of NPCUCC congregations large and small. The light of God's Spirit brings healing, to the places that hurt, courage in the midst of our fear, guidance when the way is confusing and hope that overcomes the darkness of despair.

But our Redeemer's admonition reminds us that such a light should not be hidden but placed on a stand so all can see it and receive its blessing. The purpose of "Let It Shine" is to do just that, to place the light that is within the congregations of the Northern Plains Conference on a stand so it might be seen and its healing gifts received. You are invited through these pages to see the light of God's Spirit alive in NPCUCC Congregations and receive the gift which it holds that in turn your light might burn more brightly. Read, receive and enjoy for this work is a celebration of the gift of God's Spirit alive and well in the life and ministry of the congregations of this Conference. May your experience of that light illumine the dark corners of your world as you celebrate the Holy Spirit of the "Still Speaking God" which is alive in you . May you place your light on a stand and "Let It Shine".

Wade Schemmel
Conference Minister
Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ