

The “E Messenger”

Notes and Comments by Wade 031309

Our prayers this day are with the members of the Bismarck United Church of Christ and their pastor James Moos and recently called Christian Education/Pastoral Care associate, Dawn Archer. We pray that God’s Redeeming presence might continue to illuminate the light of hope and promise present within this congregation as through their mission and vision they declare to all that God’s Spirit is alive within.

Last Sunday it was our pleasure to lead worship at the United Church of Christ of Wishek. I want to thank the members of this congregation for their warm welcome during the worship and the fellowship which followed. May God’s grace continue to bless them as they journey through this Lenten Season.

This coming week we will be holding a Covenant Gathering on Monday, 3/16 at the Congregational United Church of Christ of Garrison. The remaining covenant gatherings are 3/23 at Medina and Hillsboro yet to be rescheduled. The Covenant Gatherings focus on the place and the options for congregations to receive support through planned giving (wills) as well as a general discussion of stewardship in the life of a congregation. If you have been unable to make some of the other gatherings please feel free to join us in Garrison, we will begin at 6:00 pm (ct).

Pastors (this includes ALWL and Licensed pastors as well as ordained pastors, and their spouses) who have not already done so are invited to register for the upcoming Post Lenten Retreat which will be held at Maryvale near Valley City, April 26 – 28. The retreat featuring Luther Snow will begin with dinner at 5:30 pm (ct) on Sunday, April 26 and will conclude following lunch April 28th. The cost for NPCUCC folk for lodging and dinner is \$70 and there is scholarship assistance available. Please check out the flier and the registration form you can find on the web site at www.npcucc.org/form/flier.

March 22nd is the date set aside for the receiving of the All Church “One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering”. The materials have already been sent to you. I would invite you to lift up this special offering to the members of the congregation that they might take advantage of this opportunity to share in the many special ministries which this offering enables. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.

It is time to make plans to attend the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ. The Conference will be held in Minot, at the Congregational United Church of Christ June 5 – 7. The cost of registration for the Annual Meeting is \$65 and housing will be at the International Inn. For more information and for registration forms please check the NPCUCC web site at www.npcucc.org/forms/flier.

As we celebrate the wonders of God’s Creation and dedicate ourselves to being stewards of its many blessings you are invited to purchase shopping bags that are made available through the Mission and Outreach Committee of the NPCUCC. The red bags have printed on one side, “In God’s world no person or thing should be thrown away” and on the other the comma and “God is still speaking. “ The bags can be purchased in bulk by congregations for \$2.50 each. There are also smaller bags available for \$1.00. If you are interested and would like to see examples please contact the Conference Office.

Around the NPCUCC 031309 - 032209

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/15	11:00 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	Twin Buttes
3/16	6:00 pm (ct)	Covenant Gathering	Garrison
3/18	1:00 pm (ct)	Ft. Berthold cluster	New Town
3/19	10:00 am (ct)	Fargo Cluster	Plymouth
3/21		CHYS Spring Fling	Bismarck