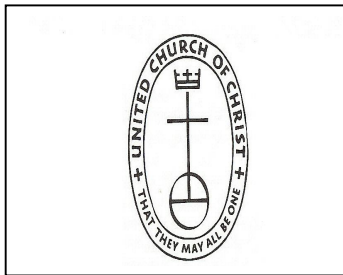


**NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

A monthly newsletter supporting the building of community in the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-national community of faith



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FEBRUARY AWARE 2012

Year End financial Reports will be emailed to the congregations:

The end of January the year-end financial reports will be emailed to the congregations of the Northern Plains Conference. They are being emailed to the pastors of the congregations in the expectation that they will then be shared with the appropriate folk in the congregations. Please report any discrepancy between your records and ours to the Conference Office.

Let us join in the celebration of a service of installation for the United Ministry of Mayville:

On Sunday, February 12th at 10:00 am (ct) there will be a service of installation for Jeffry Macejkovic and Kristina Waters as the pastors for the Ecumenical parish, United Ministry of Mayville. This ministry will be made up of the Mayville United Church of Christ and Mayville Lutheran church congregations. Let us join together and celebrate this exciting community ministry.

News from Lindy Holt, Disaster Ministries Coordinator: While we have been truly blessed with a mild winter, before long spring will be around the corner. Let's hope and pray that we have a mild spring and flood season. That said it is time to think about how you and your church can help those whose homes were flooded, damaged, or destroyed in the Minot area last year. The United Church of Christ is partnering with our ecumenical brothers and sisters to work together for long term recovery. Hope Village is being developed as a place to coordinate volunteers and the plans are to be fully functioning by April 15th. Volunteers will come from all over the country.

We will soon be listed on the United Church of Christ National Website as a place to register your group to come and help with the much needed work. The Minot UCC is able and willing to house groups that want to come and the registration will take place through the national website at <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/groups.html>.

Please do not contact them directly. Call me if you have questions at 1-701-430-0727 or ethelindholt@gmail.com. Now is the time to talk and plan with your church family and friends. The families in the Minot area need our help. . . so let's respond.

Many Continue to Respond to the "Friends of the Conference" Letter:

Just prior to Christmas, a letter went out to members of the Northern Plains Conference asking for their support. This letter sought support for the ongoing general ministry of the Northern Plains Conference. We want to thank all who have given so generously and feel that this offering might truly be a celebration of our life together. If you have questions about this offering and would like to talk to someone about it please call or email the Conference Office.

NYE: Imagine: The opportunity to meet a fellow teenager from every state in the United States; playing volleyball with kids from California; learning to hula dance with teens from the Hawaiian Islands; open-mike it with New Yorkers; rocking to loud music with Tennessee teens; college campus; dorm rooms, midnight pizza runs . . . Interested??!! Then the UCC National Youth Event is the place for you to be July 10-13, 2012 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Special guest speakers will be Dr. Marcia McFee who preaches and leads worship with music, theater, and dance. MK Asante will also be present; author, filmmaker, and master storyteller. There will be a wide variety of music . . . praise and worship from the Tribe of Judah; jazz from an all-teen group Gospel for Teens; rap and pop from JK West, and hip hop and soul from RhemaSoul.

Daytime activities will include service projects in the community, workshops where your gadgets are welcome; discussions, and recreation. Evenings will include concerts and

dances, games and karaoke. You may not want to, but at some point you do need to get some sleep. Oh, and did I mention lots of free stuff.

Grow in your faith and make new friendships in a fun and meaningful way. Get the scoop by going to the website: ucc.org/youth/nye. We will be traveling to NYE as a group from our Conference. Travel arrangements are still pending as we need to know how many youth are attending. Youth leaders and pastors need to get a "head count" into the Conference Office soon, so plans can be finalized.

By the way, NYE is \$425 so youth groups should be having fun fundraising right now in preparation for the big event!

--submitted by Rev. Tammy Toepke- Floyd, Chairperson for NYE for the Northern Plains Conference and pastor at the United Church of Christ, Wishek, North Dakota.

Articles in the Long Version of the February Aware: As I Look At It by Wade, ALWL Classes to begin, Congregations Seeking A Pastor, Kate Huey Stewardship WebEx Workshop, Media Resource Center, Celebrate Seminary Sunday.

The Conference Calendar for February

Date	Time	Event	Location
2/2	9:00 am (ct)	Conference Call Strategic Planning for NDCC	-----
2/7	7:00 pm (ct)	Stewardship Gathering with Kate Huey	WebEx
2/9	10:00 am (ct)	MV Cluster	Bismarck UCC
2/10	10:00 am (ct)	Midwest Seminary Conference Call	-----
2/12	10:00 am (ct)	Installation service	Mayville
2/15	12:00 Noon	Ft. Berthold Cluster	New Town
2/16	10:00 am (ct)	Fargo Cluster	Moorhead
2/18-2/21	-----	Council for Theological Education	Cleveland
2/22	-----	Ash Wednesday	-----
2/23	11:00 am (ct)	Minot Cluster	-----
2/26	11:30 am (ct)	CM attends worship	Twin Buttes
2/27	11:00 am (ct)	Central Cluster	-----