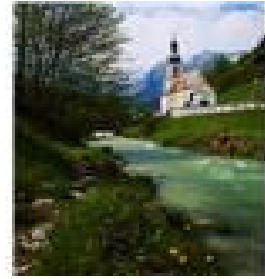
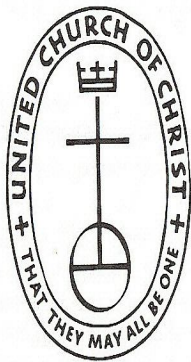


**THE NORTHERN  
PLAINS  
CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

**1200 EAST  
HIGHLAND ACRES  
ROAD  
BISMARCK, ND  
58501-1252  
701-255-1104  
701-255-0103, Fax  
<http://www.npcucc.org>**

**AWARE FOR:  
MARCH 2011**

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



**As I Look At It**

During September and October of 1963 folk singer and poet Bob Dylan wrote one of his most popular pieces entitled, "The Times They are A Changin'". The first verse begins "Come gather round people wherever you roam and admit that the waters around you have grown, and admit that soon you'll be drenched to the bone, if your time to you is worth savin', then you better start swimming or you'll sink like a stone, for the times they are a changin'". While this piece was written during the turmoil and unrest of the 60's, in ways that are very profound, it speaks to us today.

Bob Dylan wrote this piece over 45 years ago, during a time of social and economic turmoil and unrest, but as the recent events in Egypt point out, change has not taken a vacation, "The Times They Are A Changin'". Jesus Christ addressed this reality in the "Sermon on the Mount" when in Matthew 5 verse 13 and following he calls on people of faith to face the future as salt and light. The message is that we do not have to just be overwhelmed by the change, and we can do more than just keep up with it, we in Jesus' name, have the means to shape the future that change brings. As "Salt and Light Christians" we have the means to transform the future change brings from chaos into new creation. Salt was the First Century miracle drug, it was a disinfectant, a preservative, a tonic with which newborns were rubbed. Being a Salty Christian, in a time of change, is not for the faint of heart. It calls

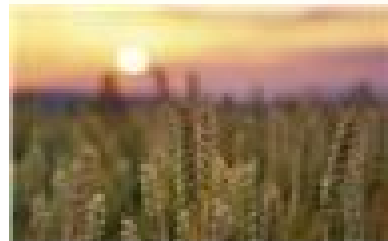
on all who would to be faithful in the midst of the fears that can swirl about, as well as the temptations that greed and consumerism can place before us. Salt does not stop being salty unless it is deluded with something else. Neither will the compassion and grace of God in Christ change, unless it is deluded by the threats a frightening world will place before us. Our faith will guide us, like a compass on a stormy sea, but we have to keep that faith true and strong. As light is meant for sharing so is faith. Our faith is not our private stash, but the grace of God seeking to be released through us into a needy and hurting world.

God in Christ empowers us to turn the change and all that it brings into the hope and renewal that we so desperately seek. God promises to be with us as we face this uncertain future. God's Spirit in our life empowers us to be the Salt and Light Christians our communities, nation and world so desperately need. The assurance is that it can transform life from a tedious and sometimes frightening drudgery into a hope filled pilgrimage.

The last stanza of Dylan's ballad expresses the following; "The line is drawn. The vision is cast, The slow one now, Will later be fast, And the present new will later be past. The order is rapidly fadin, and the first one now will be the

last, for the times they are a changing." May we with God's grace be the Salt and Light Christians that not only endure the fright of change but are able to transform the threat of chaos into a pilgrimage of hope.

Namaste  
Wade



#### Voices From The Prairie

Winter has always been my favorite time of year. I enjoy the clean, crisp, diamond glint snow. I liken a field or pasture after a new fallen snow to that of our souls after God's grace washes over us. I attended seminary in Bangor Maine, and to say the least they get their share of wet heavy snow. When I first experienced snow here in the Dakotas, I said it was like shredded Styrofoam. But I so enjoyed the fact that here in the Dakotas the snow stays white for longer than a few hours.

I was born and raised in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and the snow there would turn a dull gray within an hour or two. This was due to the Bethlehem Steel mills in the area. When I look back on that now, I

cannot help but compare this pollution problem to that of our souls and sin. God's grace washes us as clean as the newly fallen snow, but in a short time we stray and allow ourselves to become dirty and dingy with the pollution of sin.

Whenever I look out over a field, yard, pasture of undisturbed, newly fallen snow, my heart sings with joy at such a beautiful sight. When I see the diamond glint on snow, I think of it as the twinkle in God's eye. God's creation is truly beautiful, and I am eternally grateful for being blessed with clear vision to enjoy it all.

Susan L. Fandrich  
Pastor of the Federated Church UCC/UMC,  
Carrington, ND



News from Disaster Ministries – Are you prepared for the Spring Thaw? By Lindy Holt

It is time now to prepare for potential flooding and snow melt across the State of North Dakota. While we don't know with certainty what will happen in part because we still have more weeks of winter to

contend with, the National Weather Service is predicting potential flooding that maybe less or greater than the 2009 flooding that affected most of the state.

There are practical things that you, your churches and communities can do to be proactive. First you can prepare your homes and church buildings by moving valuable items away from potential flooding to higher ground. Setting up a calling tree to check on members and friends of the congregation can bring hope and support when people are feeling fearful, alone and isolated. Have your church consider making clean up kits and keeping them in your church building to be used in your area. Also let me know that you have them so if you don't end out needing them, then they can be directed to someplace that does. Go to:

[http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits\\_emergency](http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits_emergency) to learn what goes into the buckets.

Prepare yourself emotionally for what you may face. Check out the resiliency materials on the Northern Plains Website. Fill out the **“Being a Resilient Disaster Responder: Coping**

**Tips for our Volunteers (and Ourselves)**". Also check out the resource **Know the FACTS of Resilience...“Bounce Back and Adapt”**". You'll find a link to both resources on the Northern Plains UCC Website at <http://www.npcucc.org/> under the Church News tab.

As the Disaster Ministries Coordinator I am here to help you, your church and community in any way I can. I have lots of resources and can be a go to person if you have questions or need to locate resources. I can be reached at 701-430-0727 or at my email address of: [ethelindholt@gmail.com](mailto:ethelindholt@gmail.com)



### Youth Ministry:

By Carleton Borden, Adjunct for Youth Ministry, pastor of Congregational UCC, Valley City, ND.

### Rally 2011



Spring and preparing for the joy of Easter are just around the corner, and in our Conference it is time to think of ideas that you might enjoy participating in our Northern Plains

Conference, United Church of Christ. We are beginning to (believe it or not) plan for this year's Fall Youth Rally. It is to be held later this year October 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Bismarck United Church of Christ. We welcome your ideas and suggestion on this special and meaningful event.

There were discussions earlier this winter of organizing a spring time Rally in the eastern side of the Conference. Due to scheduling problems we have been unable to insure a top quality event could be put together. We apologize and we will try very hard for a Spring Rally in 2012. If you have any ideas or questions about Rally's contact Conference Program Minister Rev. Darcy Borden: 701-840-5105 / [revdarcy@yahoo.com](mailto:revdarcy@yahoo.com)

### Summer Camp 2011



### *The 2011 New Earth Summer Camp Experience*

With the melting snow all around us it is time to think summer camp. This year we have moved our camp program to Camp of the Cross in

Garrison ND. The sign up forms are now online at the conference website [www.npcucc.org](http://www.npcucc.org) for you to download. If you would like hardcopies of the application sent to your church let us know. To save some paper we did not put the health forms in the applications. You will need to go to the Camp of the Cross website

<http://www.campofthecross.com/documents/healthformforweb.pdf> and print the health form file. For more info on summer camp contact Rev.

Carleton Borden:

[revcarletonborden@gmail.com](mailto:revcarletonborden@gmail.com) / 701-840-5104.



***Imagine What's Possible!! Youths & Young Adults at General Synod XVIII Tampa, Florida July 1-5 2011***

*Come join the United Church of Christ as we imagine what's possible at General Synod, the biennial national gathering of the Church. We want to see YOU in Tampa, Florida!*

*Young adult opportunities will include...*

- \* Stillspeaking social opportunities
- \* Workshops
- \* Young adult caucuses
- \* Casual after-hour gatherings
- \* Elections for Council Youth & Young Adult Ministries

We want you there! The National UCC Council for Youth and Young Adult ministries is searching for affordable and family friendly housing options, scholarships, and more ways to help YOU get to General Synod. This and more will be going down at General Synod. See you at the HUB (the 'as-official-as-it-gets' young adult hangout)! The Northern Plains isn't organizing a contingent but Co-Adjunct Ministers Revs Carl & Darcy Borden will be in Florida during the Synod to help any Northern Plains youth who attend. Facebook: "Young Adults at General Synod" Twitter: @CYYAM

Web [www.ucc.org/synod](http://www.ucc.org/synod)  
[www.ucc.org/cyyam](http://www.ucc.org/cyyam)

Email: [cyyamchair@gmail.com](mailto:cyyamchair@gmail.com)



NYE 2012

The United Church of Christ wants you to come to the National Youth Event in 2012. All youths who will be under 18 and over 13 before the summer of 2012 make plans now to go to NYE2012. Our Conference Program Minister Rev. Carleton Borden is on the visioning team for the National Youth Event. If you have any questions feel free to contact him. 701-840-5104 /

[revcarletonborden@gmail.com](mailto:revcarletonborden@gmail.com)



### **AWARE Available in TWO Versions:**

Starting with the December 2010 issue, the Northern Plains Conference AWARE will come in two versions. There will be one that as before, will be held to two pages, and may have a smaller print size to accommodate that limitation. This is especially helpful to Congregations that mail it out via the US mail. Then, there will be a second version of the AWARE which will be an expanded version and sporting a larger font. This version will serve Congregations that send out the AWARE via email.

Please let the Conference Office know how this works for you.



### **Lenten Retreat: The Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:**

The Northern Plains Conference Welcomes Jennifer Kottler from Sojourners Magazine in Washington, D.C. to the Lenten Retreat, April 3-5, 2011. The Northern Plains Conference Lenten Retreat which will be held at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Jamestown. The theme for the Retreat will be "The Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". In a time of radical change which calls forth new gifts, and blesses with new challenges, the church is called to walk into the promised land of a new tomorrow. Jennifer Kottler, an ordained Disciples of Christ pastor, and member of the Sojourners editorial staff, will guide

us in discussion of the future as we see it and how we need to prepare for it

Please check the Northern Plains Conference Web Site under Church News or put Lenten Retreat in the search box and read more about our Lenten Retreat speaker.

Housing arrangements have been made at the Quality Inn and Suites in Jamestown and you can register for a room by calling 701-252-3611 or email your request for a room to

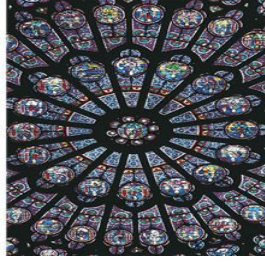
[GM:ND034@choicehotels.com](mailto:GM:ND034@choicehotels.com), request the Northern Plains Conference block of rooms.

You can also find registration forms on the Northern Plains Conference Web Site under Church News or by entering Lenten Retreat in the search box. To help offset the cost of several meals, there will be a \$25.00 charge, payable to the Northern Plains Conference. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.



## Nominations Are Received for Northern Plains Conference Offices:

As we prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting, June 3-5, 2011 in Fargo at First Congregational United Church of Christ, we invite Northern Plains Conference members and congregations to prayerfully consider serving in a Conference Office. At the Present time, the Northern Plains Conference Nominating Committee will be looking to fill the position of Conference Secretary, Conference Treasurer, Church and Ministry Committee (2 positions), Faith and Nurture Committee (3 positions), and Mission and Outreach Committee (3 positions). Many of these positions can be filled with those that are already serving should they wish to serve another term. You can find a "2011 Nomination Form" by going to the Northern Plains Conference Web Site and looking under "Resource" or by putting "2011 Nomination" in the Search area.



## Congregations Seeking A Pastor:

The following churches are seeking new pastoral leadership:

**New Horizon Parish** (near Lakota), **Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo** (currently with a hold on profiles).



## Medallion Award

Each year at the Annual Meeting we recognize Northern Plains Conference members who distinguish themselves in service by presenting them with a Medallion Award. The Medallion Award is to honor deserving lay persons and ministers who have served in the Conference in some capacity. The Award is intended to recognize

members of the Conference who have served voluntarily for a sustained duration in one or more of these areas: Conference and local church, Regional and/or National Synod instrumentalities and Local Church, Local Church and Community.

Medallion Aware Nomination forms and background information can be found on the Northern Plains Conference Web Site, [www.npcucc.org](http://www.npcucc.org) and typing "medallion award" into the search box. If you have difficulty or need a nomination form sent to you, please contact the Conference Office.

All Medallion Award Nomination forms are to be sent to the Conference Office



The Media Resource Center: Looking For A Lenten Study?

Looking for a Lenten Study?  
Need some discussion starters  
for your small group?  
How about a good children's  
video?

Check out the Media Resource Center!

[www.plainsmedia.org](http://www.plainsmedia.org)

**If you see something you like**

e-mail Carmen Gill

[mrc@sodakucc.org](mailto:mrc@sodakucc.org)

to check availability

and we'll send it to you!

The Media Resource Center is funded by the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Presbytery of South Dakota, and the Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Individual churches pay a small yearly fee in order to borrow resources.



**Yankton College Spring Courses Announced:**

Eden Theological Seminary and Yankton College have announced Spring courses and Leadership event for Yankton Pastoral Theology program. We welcome the revival of

the Yankton Program under the guidance and support of Eden Theological Seminary. The first course, "Creating Healthy Boundaries for a Healthy Ministry", will be offered at Chamberlain United Church of Christ in Chamberlain, South Dakota, April 29 and 30.

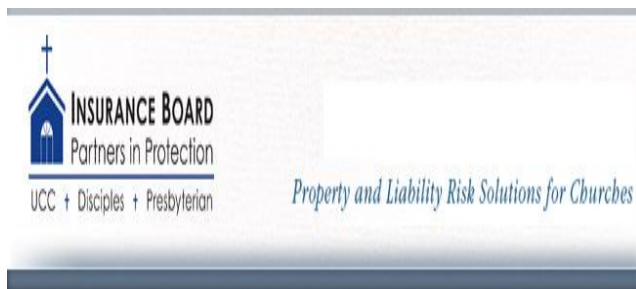
For more information on the entire program, please check the press release entitled, "Eden and Yankton College announce Spring Courses" which you can find by checking the Northern Plains Web Site under Resources or by typing Eden and Yankton College in the search box.

**Summer Camp**

**Registration:**

On the [npcucc.org](http://npcucc.org) website under the Church News tab there is the registration form for the Summer Camp Experience, July 24-July 28, 2011. The location of the Camp Experience is at Camp of the Cross for ages 8-18.





**Insurance Webinars:**  
The UCC Insurance Board is presenting a series of informative webinars that would be helpful for church leaders (lay and clergy). They are presentations by Don Clark the National Council for the United Church of Christ dealing with what to do when the church is sued March 23, 10:00 am (ct) and 2:00 pm (ct), What is your church worth April 13, 10:00 am (ct) and social media, plan prepare and protect May 18, 10:00 am (ct). For more information and the link to connect to the webinars please go to the Northern Plains Conference Web Site [www.npcucc.org](http://www.npcucc.org) and look for "Insurance Webinars" under "Church News". If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.



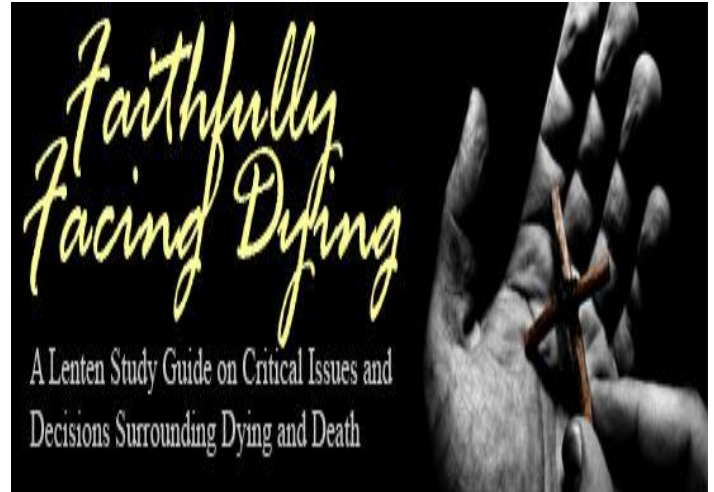
**One Great Hour of Sharing Materials to Arrive at Congregations Soon**  
On April 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This special offering provides each member and congregation an opportunity to embrace the wider ministry of the United Church of Christ as the life giving message of God's care and love is shared by word and deed. If you do not receive the materials in the very near future, please contact the Conference Office for assistance.



## United Church of Christ “ Faithful Walking Challenge” Help Deliver 600,000 miles/.steps to the White House

As a part of her initiative to reduce obesity in children, first Lady Michelle Obama has issued a challenge to faith and community organizations to get members walking a collective three million miles across the nation by the end of November, 2011. The UCC is joining the effort! Recognizing that walking creates an overall sense of well-being – mind, body and soul, we have boldly stepped up this challenge by asking all UCC churches to participate in this walking challenge throughout 2011. Our goal is to join together a minimum of 250 UCC churches and/or 2500 UCC members committed to walking 5 miles or 10,000 steps a week. To access the Faithful Walking Challenge Guide and to register go to the UCC Website [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) and type “Faithful Walking Challenge Guide” in the search area and you will find access to the information to share in this

program. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.



## Faithfully Facing Dying Lenten Study

The United Church of Christ has developed a Lenten Study series entitled Faithfully Facing Dying which is available on the UCC web site [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) and can be accessed by going to the web site and typing Faithfully Facing Dying in the search area. Included in the website is a questionnaire that could be helpful for any who have to deal with this delicate and often emotionally and spiritually challenging area. The study guide contains helpful information that could prove useful. If you have questions or need assistance in downloading the information, please contact the Conference Office.



2011 Mission Offering will focus on Northern Plains Conference Youth:

Each year at the Annual Meeting a special mission offering is received. This offering is dedicated to one particular area of the Conference's ministry. This year that offering will go to support the continued

development of the Northern Plains Conference Youth Ministry Program. All the Congregations of the Northern Plains Conference are invited to share in this mission grant. Each congregation is invited to give \$1 for every member in their membership or \$100 whichever is larger. The offering will be received during the regular offering which will take place at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Congregations can either place their offering on the offering plate at that time or send it to the Conference Office either before or after the Annual Meeting (June 3 – 5). Please contact the Conference Office if you have any questions.

### The Calendar for March

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/1	1:00 pm (ct)	WebEx meeting with SD Conference	Computer
3/2	10:00 am (ct)	Litigation 101 UCCIB Webinar	Computer
3/6	6:00 pm (ct)	Rural Ministry Gathering	Dubuque, IA
3/7	-----	Rural Ministry	Dubuque, IA
3/8	-----	Rural Ministry	Dubuque, IA
3/9	-----	Ash Wednesday	-----

3/10	6:00 pm(ct)	Sharing Prairie Hospitality	WebEx
3/13	9:30 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	Wahpeton
3/15	10:00 am (ct)	MV Cluster	Flasher
3/16	12:30 pm (ct)	Ft. Berthold Cluster	Memorial, Parshall
3/17	10:00 am (ct)	Fargo Cluster	-----
3/18	5:30 pm (ct)	Multiple Paths	-----
3/19	9:00 am (ct)	Multiple Paths	-----
3/23	10:00 am (ct)	Abuse Prevention Webinar	Computer
3/24	11:00 am (ct)	Minot Cluster	-----
3/25	11:00 am (ct)	Central Cluster	-----
3/27	10:00 am (ct)	CM leads worship	Jamestown
3/29	1:00 pm (ct)	Meeting With SD Conference	WebEx