

The 2011 Calendar of Prayer

Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ

- January 2 As we begin the journey of 2011 let us give thanks for the Spirit of the Living Christ that walks with us throughout the unknown of the next year, sharing in the times of promise and challenge Let us commit ourselves to channel through our lives God's grace, thus transforming despair into hope and resignation into conviction. AMEN
- January 9 Let us hold in prayer today our covenant partners, the leadership and staff of the National United Church of Christ. It is with gratitude that we give thanks for the dedication and care they bring to the ministry we all share. May God's grace and love embrace them as they continue to reach out to the wider world in Jesus' name, on our behalf. Let us ever seek to be one family serving in the name of our redeemer. AMEN
- January 16 We embrace with prayer this day the ministry of the Gardner Congregational Lutheran Church. As we celebrate the two rich heritages that come together we give thanks for the ways that they have been able to embrace each other in the past and look forward to new avenues of service and praise in the future. AMEN
- January 23 May the grace and wonder of God's love and abiding Spirit be with the members of Zion United Church of Christ of Manvel and the United Church of Christ of Grand Forks. We ask that God's abiding Spirit continue to enrich the ministry of these two historic congregations and to guide them on their prophetic ministry. Our prayers are with the members of this Northern parish and their pastor, Keith Mills. AMEN
- January 30 On this Health and Human Services Sunday we hold in prayer the Horizon Parish of central North Dakota. We pray that God in wisdom and grace continue to be with Emmaus United Church of Christ of Carson, Flasher United Church of Christ of Flasher, Bethesda ELCA of Leith, St. John's ELCA of Carson and ALDL-ELCA of Flasher. May God's holy wisdom guide their times of praise, fellowship and service as they continue to be beacons of hope in the midst of the prairie. We pray for the members of these congregations of Lutheran and UCC heritage and their pastor, Rose Trenbeath. AMEN

February 6 We pray that God's Spirit be with the members of the Federated UCC/UMC of Carrington and their pastor Susan Fandrich. May God's gracious presence enable this ecumenical parish to continue to proclaim, by its life and its words, the unifying message of promise and thereby continue to light the candle of God's hope. AMEN

February 13 Our prayers this Sunday are with the United Church of Hope. May God's gracious love be with its members as they seek pastoral leadership. We pray that God's blessing grant this small membership congregation the assurance that the measure of God's call is not limited to numbers on the roll but to the rather fullness of a Divine love. AMEN

February 20 Let our prayers this Sunday be with the congregation on the Western edge of the Northern Plains Conference. We hold in prayer the ecumenical parish of Beach Community Church, UCC/UMC, its members and its pastor, Warren Maxted. May God continue to embrace with new vision this congregation as its ministry forms an ecumenical bridge which proclaims our unity in Christ. AMEN

February 27 On this Church Vocations Sunday as we celebrate the ministry of the seminaries of the United Church of Christ, let us give thanks for dedication of the seven seminaries that are dedicated to preparing pastors for the leadership in the United Church of Christ. It is with gratitude that we hold in prayer Andover Newton Theological Seminary, Bangor Theological Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, Eden Theological Seminary, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pacific School of Religion and United Theological Seminary. May the God of grace and wisdom continue to empower their vital ministry. AMEN

March 6 The Congregational United Church of Christ of Valley City is the Northern Plains Conference Amistad Church, having hosted the 2010 Annual Meeting; therefore, on this Amistad Sunday let us hold in prayer the members of this East Central North Dakota Congregation and their pastors, Carleton and Dorothy (Darcy) Borden. May God's guiding hand be with this congregation as it explores the fullness of God's call for the future. AMEN

March 13 On this Sunday as we return to Daylight Savings Time we hold in prayer the Bismarck United Church of Christ. We ask that God's blessings be with this active congregation as it continues to be a center of proclamation and hope for the community of Bismarck and beyond. We hold in special prayer its ministry with the people of the Protestant Church of East Timor. May the richness of God's Holy Spirit be with the members of this congregation and its pastors, James Moos and Dawn Archer. AMEN

March 20 May the God that has called new life into being, continue to create within the membership of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ as they prepare to call a pastor. We pray for God's richest blessing to empower the members of this congregation and its intentional interim, JoBeth Marshall as they step fully into the promised land of tomorrow. AMEN

March 27 Our prayers this Lenten Sunday are with the members of Salem United Church of Christ and their pastor, Ron Hildahl. We pray that God's gracious loving care continue be with them throughout the year as they proclaim the fullness of a Divine love that knows no bounds and as they live out a hospitality that is radical. AMEN

April 3 Let our prayer be that God's grace continue to be with the United Parish of Hillsboro UCC/UMC. May the guiding presence of God's Holy Spirit be with the members of this ecumenical congregation and their pastor, Pete Young, as they continue to minister within the community of Hillsboro and beyond. May this congregation continue to draw strength from both roots of their heritage. AMEN

April 10 As we gather this Sunday in the embrace of God's holy love we hold in prayer the Filipino United Community Church of Winnipeg. We pray for God's divine blessing to be with this congregation as they gather in praise, study, worship and service. May the God's life giving Spirit continue to be with the members of this congregation and their pastor, Lito Rodriquez. AMEN

April 17 In this prayer we ask that God's blessing be with Hope United Church of Christ of Streeter. We pray that God's love continue to embrace this small membership congregation as it seeks to continue to meet the spiritual needs of its members. We ask that God bless Hope United Church of Christ of Streeter, its members and its pastor, Zach Dey. AMEN

April 24 This Easter Sunday as we gratefully give thanks for the promise of new life through the living Christ, let us rejoice in the assurance that the Spirit of the living Christ journeys with us throughout all the paths our life might take. Let us also give thanks this Easter Sunday for the ministry of Pierce Congregational United Church of Christ as they continue to be a center of hope and strength. We pray that God's holy blessing be with the members of this congregation and their pastor, Mary Peterson. AMEN

May 1 Our prayers this Sunday are with Charles Hall Youth Services, located in Bismarck. We give thanks for the healing promise which the programs and people of this historic CHHISM ministry provide to youth at the most critical time of their life. We pray that God's blessed Spirit continue to guide the work of this ministry of healing, touching with new hope its staff and residents. AMEN

May 8 On this day as we celebrate the Festival of the Christian Home and rejoice in the bonds that unite us we give thanks for the ministry of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Fargo. We pray that God's gracious Spirit continue to enrich the ministry of this historic congregation as they explore God's ever expanding vision of praise and service in Jesus' name. Are prayers are with the members of this congregation and their pastor, Kevin Cassidy Maloney. AMEN

May 15 On this Fourth Sunday of Easter we give thanks for the First United Church of Christ of Gackle and for its century plus history of service in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus the Christ. We ask that God's wise counsel be with the members of this congregation and their pastor, Tim Blackman. AMEN

May 22 We pray that the God of grace and love bring strength and hope to the Congregational United Church of Christ of Argusville. May their ministry be a beacon of promise that empowers the life of this small membership congregation as it continues to be a center of service in Jesus' name. We pray for God's continued embrace be with the members of this Eastern North Dakota Congregation and their pastor, Dorothy (Darcy) Borden. AMEN

May 29 Loving and gracious God we ask that your Divine Spirit continue to be with St. John Church of Hebron, North Dakota. Continue to guide them as they continue to proclaim God's loving message to an ever changing world. We pray for your loving care O God to be with the members of this Western North Dakota Congregation and their pastor, Gaylund Olson. AMEN

June 5 This Sunday the family of the Northern Plains Conference unites in prayer as we come together for our Annual Meeting at the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Fargo. We would pray that the God of all love and wisdom continue to guide this gathered body that our ministry together might be a declaration of God's Spirit alive among us. AMEN

June 12 Let us lift our prayers of thanksgiving for the recently formed New Horizon Parish and for the congregations that are a part of it. We celebrate the vision that called Lakota Lutheran, Lakota United Church of Christ, Brocket United Lutheran, Michigan Lutheran and Sarnia United Lutheran to join together in a ministry of praise and service. We ask that God's gracious Spirit be with the members of the New Horizon Parish and the pastors that are serving Sue Kana Mackey and Reuben Schnaidt. AMEN

June 19 This Sunday we hold in prayer the Union Congregational United Church of Christ of Hankinson. We pray that God's abiding love continue to be with this congregation as it proclaims by the events of its life the living presence of Jesus the Christ. We ask that God's abiding and loving care continue to be with the members of this congregation and their pastor, Phyllis Hagen. AMEN

June 26 As we gather to worship on this Summer Sunday, let us hold in prayer the one and only class 2 Congregation in the Northern Plains Conference. Barrie Congregational Church is located near Walcott. May God's blessed Spirit continue to embrace the members of this rural congregation. AMEN

July 3 Our prayers are with the Conference and National Church Staff, the Committee members and the delegates that are attending the 28th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Tampa, Florida. We pray that God's guiding Spirit be with the many United Church of Christ members who give of their time and energy to guide our church into the 21st century. AMEN

July 10 May God be praised by the ministry of First Congregational United Church of Christ of New England. We pray that God's wisdom continue to guide this community of faith so that God's grace might be shared through its life in worship service and fellowship. We lift this prayer for the members of this Western North Dakota Congregation and their pastor, Janel Kolar. AMEN

July 17 We pray for the ministry of Union Congregational United Church of Christ of Medora as they continue to bring comfort and Spiritual support to travelers and staff who visit this Summer Recreation Town. May God enrich the ministry of this congregation as they seek to be a center of renewal and promise for all who would come into their doors. AMEN

July 24 Our prayers this Sunday are with the Congregational United Church of Christ of Mayville. We pray for God's guiding Spirit to lead them during this interim period that they might find both vision and courage to live faithfully as a community. We ask that God's vision might guide and empower the members of this congregation and their pastor Steve Hastings. AMEN

July 31 We ask that God's gracious Spirit continue to embrace the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Dickinson. May the Spirit of God empower this Western North Dakota town to be a beacon of hope and promise all can follow. We pray that God's vision be their vision and that God's will be their courage as we hold the members and their pastor, Janel Kolar in our prayers. AMEN

August 7 We pray that God's gracious Spirit continue to guide the members of Malcolm Congregational United Church of Christ. May that Spirit bring the richness of a hope that embraces a holy vision as this rural congregation continues to be a center of promise and renewal. We hold in prayer the members of Malcolm Congregational United Church of Christ and their pastor Joan DeKrey. AMEN

August 14 May the continued guiding hand of God's abiding grace be with the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Garrison. May that Spirit so direct the ministry of this community of faith that all God's people can find a place in its worship and its fellowship. We pray for God's Holy Spirit to be with the members of this historic congregation and their pastor, Stephen Holmes. AMEN

August 21 Let the Spirit of the living Christ embrace the life and ministry of Emmanuel United Church of Christ of Hankinson. We pray that this South Eastern Congregation continue to be a source of Spiritual strength and promise not only to its members but to the community. May God's Holy Spirit be with the members of this congregation and their pastor Teresa Heupel Buckhaus .AMEN

August 28 Let us pray that the God of all creation and hope be with the parish of Hope United Church of Christ of Granville and the Congregational United Church of Christ of Minot. We pray that God's sustaining spirit continue to be a source of strength and courage for the members of these congregations and their pastor, Frank Picard. AMEN

Sept. 4 As we gather to worship on this special holiday weekend let us hold in prayer the Arickara Congregational United Church of Christ of White Shield. We pray for God's renewing Spirit to be with the members of this Reservation Congregation as they embrace their future and that the Holy Spirit be with their pastor, Kathy Holmes. AMEN

Sept. 11 Most gracious God we pray for healing and renewal as we hold in prayer the Mandaree Hidatsa Church located on the Ft. Berthold Reservation. May the healing of God's grace and the vision of God's wisdom empower them to walk faithfully into the promised land of tomorrow. We pray for the members of this faith community and their pastor, Elise Packineau. In the name of our Redeemer Jesus the Christ. AMEN

Sept. 18 Most gracious and loving God we come before you this day asking that our Divine and gracious Spirit be with the Independence Congregational United Church of Christ. May your blessed Spirit continue to empower them that they might be a source of light and hope within their community calling all to find the newness of God's loving touch. We pray for your Blessed Spirit to be with the members of this Reservation Congregation and their pastors, Randy Keehn and JoAnn Keehn. AMEN

Sept. 25 On "American Indian Sunday" we hold in prayer the Twin Buttes Congregational United Church of Christ. We pray that this community of faith might continue to be a source of healing and direction that is a harbinger of promise for all. May God's richest blessing be with the members of this Ft. Berthold congregation and their pastor, Barrie Zietz. AMEN

October 2 On this World Wide Communion Sunday as we gather to celebrate the unity of all God's people let us hold in prayer that United Church of Christ of New Town. May the God of goodness and hope continue to bless this blended congregation that it might ever continue to proclaim by its ministry the vision of God's multi cultural, multi racial, multi national family. Our prayers are with the members of this congregation and their pastor, Marilyn Kennedy Levine. AMEN

October 9 Our prayers are with the Shell Creek Congregational United Church of Christ near New Town its members and pastor, Elise Packineau. We pray that God continues to touch this renewing community of faith with a message of hope and promise that those within and those outside its fellowship might be blessed by the holy vision. This we ask in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus the Christ. AMEN

October 16 On this "Children's Sabbath Sunday let us hold in prayer the children of our communities, congregations and homes. May our prayers; be for their safety, support and spiritual health as they grow to take their place and guide all into the future. May we protect them from that which would bring harm and by our living guide them so that they might see a healthy path to tomorrow. AMEN

October 23 We pray that the fullness of God's Holy Spirit might be with the members of Memorial Congregational United Church of Christ of Parshall and their pastor, Marilyn Kenned Levine. May God's goodness and hope continue to shine a light on the path that God would invite all to follow. We pray that in God's holy embrace there be healing, strength and vision. AMEN

October 30 This Sunday let us hold in prayer the Ft. Berthold Council of Congregational Churches. May God bless the Reservation Congregations that are a part of it with a sense of God's holy vision for each congregation and for the ministry to and with all people on the Ft. Berthold Reservation. We pray that God continue to bless the members of this body with patience, understanding and a longing to be channels of a holy love. AMEN

November 6 As we gather on Laity Sunday with gratitude for the many ways the lay members of our NPC Congregations carry on the ministry entrusted to us by our Redeemer Jesus the Christ let us hold in prayer Ebenezer United Church of Christ of rural Elgin. We pray that this rural community of faith might continue to be a beacon of hope, where God's grace might be encountered and God's love shared. Our prayers are with the members of this Western North Dakota Congregation and their pastor, Hazel Behrens. AMEN

Nov. 13 On this Stewardship Sunday when we are invited to make our commitment to the ongoing ministry of our congregations, let us hold in prayer the ministry of two small membership Western North Dakota Congregations. Our prayers are with First Congregational United Church of Christ of Hebron and First Congregational United Church of Christ of Glen Ullin. May God's enriching and renewing blessing continue to guide these communities of faith that they may be centers of hope and fonts of promise. Our prayers are with the members of these Western North Dakota Congregations and their pastor, Marcy Dawson. AMEN

Nov. 20 As we prepare to lift our hearts and minds in Thankful praise this Thanksgiving Sunday, let us in Gratitude celebrate the ministry of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Jamestown. May they continue to feel God's Spirit calling them to explore new and exciting ministries. Our prayers are with the members of this Central North Dakota Congregation and their pastor, Susan Lester. AMEN

Nov. 27 As we begin the Advent Journey our prayers are with the members of the United Church of Christ of Wahpeton and their pastor, Ken Adams. Let us rejoice in the new life they are exploring as we give thanks for the ministry of community and hope to which they are called. May God's richest blessing continue to embrace their life together as a community of faith. AMEN

December 4 We give thanks for the ministry of the members of the United Church of Christ of Wishek and their pastor, Tammy Toepke-Floyd. It is our prayer that God's gracious Spirit might continue to embrace this South Eastern North Dakota Congregation as they share in praise and service in the name of Jesus the Christ. We pray that in Jesus' name the United Church of Christ of Wishek might continue to be a beacon of hope and promise. AMEN

Dec. 11 It is with thanksgiving in our hearts that we lift up the ministry of Parshall United Church of Christ. We celebrate the life of this congregation as it continues its faithful journey. May the Spirit of the Living Christ continue to empower this community of faith as through its ecumenical parish ties with First Lutheran of Plaza and Shell Creek ELCA, it ministers effectively in North Central North Dakota. May God's blessed Spirit be with the members of this Northern Plains congregation and their pastor, Chris Lenning. AMEN

Dec. 18 We give thanks for the First Congregational United church of Christ of Reeder. Let us celebrate the ministry of this small membership congregation as they continue to be center where the Living Christ is praised and the light of God's hope is shared. We pray for the members of this congregation and their pastor, Richard Wyman. AMEN

Dec. 25 As we gather to worship on this day of celebration let us give thanks for the ministry of Zion United Church of Christ of Medina. May God's vision of welcome for all continue to be the mission of this small town, central North Dakota Congregation. As we pray for the members of this community of faith and their pastor, Karl Limvere, may we continue to rejoice in the ministry to which they have been called. AMEN