

PEOPLE'S SPEAKS

A weekly newsletter brought to you by People's United Church of Christ

VOL. 3 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2019

PEOPLE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**Worship Sundays @ 10a.m.—People's UCC worships at Studio 6
6 Broadway N, Fargo, ND**

Dear Partners in Christ:

The vision of a body united—in purpose, in mission, in vision—is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like 'terrorist' that attach too easily to Muslims, overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ's call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God's service,



The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer

Church Council Meeting

Wed, March 20 at 6pm

Main Library, Fargo

**Council Meetings are open for
your input.**



Combined UCC Adult Education in February

Last year Nadia Bolz-Weber, a Lutheran Pastor, spoke at Concordia. She was scheduled to speak about the reformation, but instead her talk was the introduction to her new book, *Shameless*. Many of us UCC folk who attended left feeling a hunger to hear more from her work on taking shame out of church. Her book comes out January 29th and it will form the basis of our combined UCC adult education for January and February.

In her book Nadia "unleashes her critical eye, her sharp pen, and her vulnerable soul on the caustic, fear-riddled, and religiously inspired messages about sex that have fed our shame...This is a journey of holy resistance. Along the way, as antidotes to shame, heresy, and all-too-familiar injustice, Bolz-Weber dispenses grace, freedom, and courage. She shares stories, poetry, and scripture, cultivating resilient hope and audacious love rooted in good news." (publisher's description)

Shameless will be released on January 29th. You can order your copy of the book through Zandbroz. They will be hosting our book discussions, which will take place on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm, February 12th, 19th, and 26th.

Each of the six sessions can stand alone, but you will get the most out of the series by attending all of them.

Stewardship Corner

As treasurer of our church, I have a concern.

Our church is growing for which we are very grateful, but we are not meeting our monthly budget. If not for a small surplus, we would be struggling.

If you have any ideas for a fund raiser or are able to increase your monthly giving by any amount we would be grateful.

Thank you for your generosity.

Jean Limuere

Lay Led Worship

Once a month, the congregation will lead worship. This month Scott Webster, Maggi Gadaire, and Cindy Saar will organize and lead worship on Feb. 17..

Bring your creativity forward, and volunteer. Your next opportunity will be March 17. Gather together a team, and prepare worship in the style that fits for you.



Got a question? Need to talk confidentially with Pastor Grace?

Email me at pastor@peoplesucc.com or call or text 701-630-9776. I look forward to listening to you.

People's United Church of Christ
pastor@peoplesucc.com
(701) 630-9776

GLITTER ASH



PEOPLE'S UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST OFFERING GLITTER + ASH
AT RED RAVEN ESPRESSO PARLOR

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019
6-7:30PM

WE WILL BE SEEN

Glitter is like love. It's irresistible and irrepressible.

WE WILL TELL THE TRUTH

Ashes are a statement that death and suffering are real.

Glitter is a sign of our hope, which does not despair.

Glitter signals our promise to repent, to show up, to witness, to work.

*Glitter **never** gives up* -- and neither do we.

Stop in, receive your ashes and go. Or stay, reflect, and pray.

WHAT IS GLITTER+ASH WEDNESDAY?

- Ash Wednesday is a day when Christians receive the mark of the cross on their foreheads to begin the 40 days of reflection and repentance in preparation for Easter.

- Glitter Ashes lets the world know that we are progressive, queer-positive Christians. We are in the pews, in the pulpits and giving glitter ashes in the street to those who either may not have time to go to a church—or may have been rejected by a church.

Learn more here: <https://parity.nyc/glitter-ash-wednesday2019/>

Northern Plains Mission Trip

The Northern Plains Conference, along with members of the Connecticut Conference, are in the Humacao region of Puerto Rico to assist with recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.. The group includes People's UCC moderator, Richard Jensen.

Let's be in prayer for the entire group and the people of Puerto Rico. Look on our Facebook page for regular updates on the trip. The group will be in Puerto Rico from February 16 to 23.

Richard takes in some of the sites before the team gets down to business.



Just Act

How do we live out the 3 Great Loves—Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, Love of Creation? The UCC Just Act Daily Action calendar offers ideas for us to participate in justice in our community.

Two February suggestion: Write a letter to the editor of your local media outlet on a justice topic important to you.

“Then I heard the voice of GOD saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here I am; send me.’”
Isaiah 6:8

Reflect on Psalm 1. What images delight you? What guidance emerges?

“Happy are those who delight in the law of our GOD, on whose law they meditate day and night.” Psalm 1:1-2

