



## ***CATCH THE SPIRIT***

### **BISMARCK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**7075 Highway 7---PO Box 100**

**Bismarck, Arkansas 71929**

**Church: (501) 865-3414**

**website: [www.bismarckumc.net](http://www.bismarckumc.net)**

**Facebook: [umcbismarckar/](https://www.facebook.com/umcbismarckar/)**

**Pastor: Reverend Fred W. Hunter**

**Cell: (501) 627-2638 Email: [fredwhunter1965@gmail.com](mailto:fredwhunter1965@gmail.com)**

**February 2023**

### **Sweetheart's Night**

When: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: Lake DeGray Lodge

This is a church wide event hosted by the United Methodist Men's Group.

The cost is \$30.00 per person. This cost covers the rental of the private room and our own buffet. A signup sheet is located in the fellowship room. Checks (made payable to the Bismarck UMCM) or cash may be paid to Dave Greisinger or Gary Burroughs by February 5. A head count must be given to the lodge no later than February 6. We will have entertainment by our own musical talent, a skit, and door prizes.

NOTE: The Cost of any unescorted ladies will be paid for by the Men's Group.

This was an annual event until COVID came along. So sign up and show your support to another step toward getting back to normal.

### **Prayer Ministry**

If you know of someone who needs to be lifted up in prayer, please contact Debbie Stivers, 501-538-7110 or [dnstivers14@gmail.com](mailto:dnstivers14@gmail.com) or Kathy Green, 501-282-4116 or [greenk@obu.edu](mailto:greenk@obu.edu) anytime during the week. Or you may fill out one of the prayer slips and drop it in the box located in the foyer.

### **Church Library**

If you have not been to visit the church library, drop in before Sunday School or after worship. Jane Knickerbocker has done a wonderful job of organizing the library and keeping new books coming in.

### **Pastor's Thursday Schedule**

Pastor Fred will have office hours from 10:00 to 12:00 for administrative time and anyone who would like a pastoral visit in person. In the afternoons, 2:00 -5:00, he and Carolyn will be making home visits. They will always call prior to a home visit.

Happy  
*Valentine's*  
Day

From the  
Pastor's Pen



# WORLD RELIGIONS

We are and have been a people, a nation, of religious people in heritage and traditions. We are conditioned toward the religious environment, of church, family, culture and place. If we were born in China, Japan, India or Burma, we might be of the Buddhist Religion. If from Europe, we have a link to Jewish Christians, Romans plus Greeks. It might be enlightening to look at these connections we have to world religions to better understand where we are today in thought and purpose of religion.

Just who are the major religions? They are, *Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity*. Some others are *Confucianism, Shinto and Taoism*. Briefly lets examine these religions.

Buddhism teaches the “*middle way of compassion and enlightenment.*” Hinduism teaches, “*ancient past lead to the modern world and reincarnation.*” Judaism teaches, “*the religion of a chosen race of people by the one true God.*” Christianity teaches, “*the way of goodness and mercy is through the person of Jesus the Christ.*” The head of these religions: Judaism it’s one God, named “Yahweh”. (*King James Bible authors called him “Jehovah”.*) Christianity, it’s Jesus God’s son, In Islam it is Allah God and his prophet Mohammad. Hinduism it is one god with their founder Brahman. Founding dates are: Judaism 3200 B.C, Islam 600 B.C., Christianity 30 A.D. Each has its own symbol of their religion: Judaism the *Star of David*, Christianity the *Cross of Christ*, Islam the *Crescent Moon*. Hinduism the *8 Spoke Wheel*, Buddhism the *Lotus Blossom*. Others religions focused on nature, *sky gods, enlightenment, and philosophy*.

Six of the world’s religions were founded by One Man and his inspired teachings. Judaism it is *Abraham*, Islam its *Mohammad*, Buddhism, its *Buddha*, Hinduism its *Brahman*, Christianity its *Jesus*. Where are these founding leaders today? Abraham died and we know of his burial site. Mohammad. went to heaven on a winged white horse, Buddha died a natural death and was cremated. Brahman return to life in another form. Jesus died, resurrected and ascended to heaven. Shinto and Taoism see only nature and returning to nature at death.

The big question, have all these world religions benefited the people of the earth? Most agree they have helped shape us in every aspect of our lives. Our thoughts, behavior, life styles, cultures, music, songs, musical instruments, and our governments. We within the Christian Community of faith owe much to the Jewish faith and traditions. We share together scripture, traditions and reasoning. Jesus our Christian Savior and Lord, was a Jew. He tried to reform the Jewish church leaders, but was executed as a subversive rebel. We in Christian faith believe Jesus came back from the dead after three days in the tomb, remained on earth for 40 days and left the church in the hands of his selected disciples as he ascended to heaven. Jesus also promised “*He will return.*” We were first called Christian “*followers of Christ Jesus*” at Antioch in Greece. Our main scripture is the New Testament which was first written in Greek. The Old Testament is our connection with Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Savior of the world.

Yes, the world religions have made us who we are today. Sometimes religion has brought out the bad side of humanity with wars and prejudice, instead of making harmony, we are divided. What will the future hold for the world religions is anyone's guess. However, where would we be today if we did not have religion? Even with all its ups and downs religion has our best interest at heart. The scriptures tells us in *the last days there will be a great falling away from religion and people will choose other ways*. Today we are seeing the decline in church attendance, plus, division with denominations, where self and power becoming more important than grace and love. I hope for this: May God and His teaching forever be our first and last thoughts and direction as a church, as a religion, and as a people. If so, we will be a blessed people and church.



## *member in Prayer*

Hunter Ault  
 Claire Berg  
 J.R. Burroughs  
 \*Sharon Cottingham  
 \*Tommy Cottingham  
 James Goff  
 \*Brenda Gonzales  
 \*Jim & Barbara Harsh  
 Mike Hartman  
 Larry Hinson  
 \*Carolyn Hunter  
 Michelle Hunter  
 \*Nick Knickerbocker  
 Keira Lancaster  
 \*Jerry & Debbie Mann  
 \*Bobby McAlpine  
 Harold McAlpine  
 Jamie McAlpine  
 \*Penny Orr  
 Jackie Parker  
 Loyd & Debbie Perry  
 \*Melba Purser  
 \*Sam Reyna  
 Paul & Joann Shuffield  
 Vivian Slaton  
 \*Debbie Stivers  
 \*Shirley Swinney  
 \*Charolette Watson  
 \*Dave Watson  
 Will & Susan Wesson  
 Henley Zelnick  
 Leah Zelnick  
 Jill Nokes Ziegler

\*Denotes member

*Our Church and those effected by Hurricanes, flooding, fires and Our Men & Women in the Armed Forces.*

## **Our Vision Statement**

We believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe Bible-centered teaching and preaching is at the foundation of our spiritual growth.

We believe prayer is vital in keeping our relationship with God prosperous.

We believe love is an abundant gift from God to be shared with all.

We believe that spiritual growth is the fruit born of the seeds of faith, prayer, study, and outreach.

We believe ALL human beings are children of God – and we accept them in this fellowship with Christ our Savior.

*Jesus answered. I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6*

## **Our Mission Statement**

Make Jesus Christ number one in our lives. One with Christ, one with each other, one in ministry to all the world.

## ***Birthdays***

Feb. 1	John Aten
Feb. 7	Jane Knickerbocker
Feb. 8	Genie Ashcraft
Feb. 8	Dave Greisinger
Feb. 13	Frank Stivers
Feb. 19	Trecea Horton
Feb. 20	Gary Burroughs
Feb. 25	Larry Hinson
Feb. 28	Harold McAlpine

