
GACKLE FIRST UCC



History of Ministry:

The German Congregational Church in Gackle, North Dakota was dedicated on Sunday, December 2, 1906. This church merged with the United Church of Christ in 1963. On October 15, 2006 the First Congregational UCC Church of Gackle celebrated 100 years of ministry and service to the community. We enjoyed the time of fellowship and reminiscing with the over 200 guests, our Conference minister, and the 6 former pastors of our congregation 'who were able to attend the service and meal. This truly portrays the commitment this church has to God's calling to ministry.

Our history includes various mission related projects. We still hold our Mission Fest, which is a day closely linked to our German-Russian heritage. This day features a special speaker, and the time honored pot-luck meal so many congregations cherish. This meal was followed by an



afternoon worship service done in German and attended by many from neighboring communities.

Another important local mission activity is the broadcast of our worship services to the Gackle Care Center, a retirement home in our town. Many of the residents of the Care Center are members of area churches and have difficulty attending Sunday services. We provide Communion for them every time we have a Communion service at our church.

Our past involvement with Habitat for Humanity has enriched the lives of the workers giving of their time and talents, and also the future home owner. Workers have traveled to Omaha, Wichita, Rapid City, and Mandan. This mission came to our own town in the form of our Mission House Project. We bought a home for a family which moved to town and needed help. That family moved away, the house was sold, the money was then used to build a house for a member who needed a better home but due to health problems couldn't do it alone. That house was also sold, the money held for a time and we presently are assisting another family who has fallen on hard times and needs some help. This project has touched many lives in and around our community.

Members of the church and of Gackle traveled to Mississippi to provide help to farmers affected by hurricane Katrina. We contributed to the Work Truck project related to Katrina. Other mission activities are contributions to Church World Service, Chicago, United, and Eden Seminars, Kedish House, Charles Hall Youth Services, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, Christmas Fund, Stutsman County Social Services, and Gackle Ambulance Service.

We are active in our town in other ways also. The Guiding Light, our women's group, presents several special programs and provides treats for special occasions at the Care Center. We used to have an annual German Supper which featured homemade German recipes and drew people from a wide area. We served as



many as 950 people at this great food event! Our great cooks have aged some so we now have an annual spring Bazaar. We spend 2 fun days turning 190 pounds of flour

and 66 dozen eggs into homemade noodles for sale on Bazaar day. We have a day of craft sales, have a soup and sandwich noon luncheon, and sell those noodles. Last year the noodles all sold in 25 minutes! The entire community looks forward to this event!

First UCC in Gackle truly has a rich history in mission and service to God and even though we are low in numbers, we are still striving to do God's work.