

Here and Now  
February Newsletter!

# FEBRUARY

February 2024

Volume 71, Issue 2

## PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

### “Standin’ In the Need of Prayer”

February takes us to the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday arrives early in the month (the 14<sup>th</sup>!) with a soup supper provided by our youth at 5:30 p.m. and Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. Then, for the next five weeks, it is traditional to emphasize spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, abstinence and almsgiving. Many people will choose something to “give up” as a sign of their willingness to endure self-denial for the sake of Christ. Lent has followed this pattern for centuries; millions of souls have found meaning and nurture in the Lenten traditions.

For this year’s observance of Lent, I intend to focus on the act of prayer. Prayer is so central to the Christian life, and is one of the topics that Jesus repeatedly taught and emphasized. Without prayer, any other discipline we undertake risks becoming empty action or void ritual. Prayer connects us with the agency of the Spirit which makes us alive to greater possibilities in the life of the Divine.

On Sundays, I will be preaching a series about “Praying the Psalms” and we will walk with the Psalmist through various emotional states and expressions of faith. Sometimes, we will find the Psalmist in exuberance that God is listening to those prayers, other times, we will join the Psalmist in fear or discouragement and share in the meaning of prayers of need. In prayer, our voice will connect with the voice of God; we will be reminded that God is in control and we are not alone in this world.

On Tuesdays at noon, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, Mar 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, we will gather for a soup luncheon, then hear from special speakers (TBA)

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on prayer in their own traditions. Following that, we will, of course, pray.

Then, on the Saturday of the Great Vigil, March 30<sup>th</sup>, those who desire to pray will meet with me in the chapel, as we will pray for the needs of our congregation.

Prayer is especially important in a world where we sense that so many things are out of our control. The scripture teaches us that prayer changes us, yes, but it also asserts that “prayer changes things.” God listens, God answers and God acts. Through a Lenten season of prayer, we will give ourselves to the presence of God and anticipate divine answers. Let us pray.

**Leanne**



## 2024 Committees

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL

Chris Henriksen - Chair, Session

John Bjornson - Co-chair, Session

Winston Satran

Dale Hoerauf            Linda Tonolli

### HOSPITALITY

Becky Mahlum - Co-chair, Session

Amy Kinnischtzke - Co-chair, Session

Diann Johnson

Gail Christianson

Kathy Wachter

Eleanor Sand

Joe Satrom

Don Bigwood            Cathy Kinnischtzke

Runick Fru            Bill Jensen

Kim Wassim            Rusty Bender

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Jim Skaret - Chair, Session

John Bjornson (ex-officio)

Jodi Bjornson (ex-officio)

Keith Magnusson (ex-officio)

Joe Bachmeier            Ella Gutzke

Ron Carlisle            John Richter

### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Rusty Bender - Chair, Session            Jerry Lindblom

Tedd Gutzke - Co-chair            Jim Rambo

Jay Cofell            Otto Reile

Clyde Johnson            Dennis Rosenkranz

Bob Kinnischtzke

### PROCLAMATION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Bill Jensen - Co-chair, Session

Kris Ronningen - Co-chair, Session

Mark Jensen, Youth Ministry Director

Jan Gilchrist            Peggy Hoge

Maren Stokka            Ruth Jensen - Intern

Marete Farver            Audrey Simmons - Intern

Karmen Svihovec            Cindy Cross

Ashlee Asselin

### WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Signe Snortland - Chair, Session

Becky Rosenkranz - Co-chair, Session

Tammy Gallup Lemm

Jay Cofell            Sue Sorlie

Debi Rogers            Lael Hoerauf

Arvy Smith (ex-officio)

### CHILD CARE CENTER BOARD

Juanita Hocking - Chair, Session

Paul Ronningen

Gail Christianson

Damita Engel

Dawn Henriksen

Conna Cook

Peggy Hoge

Mindi McKechnie - Parent Representative

Shawn Stettner, Director

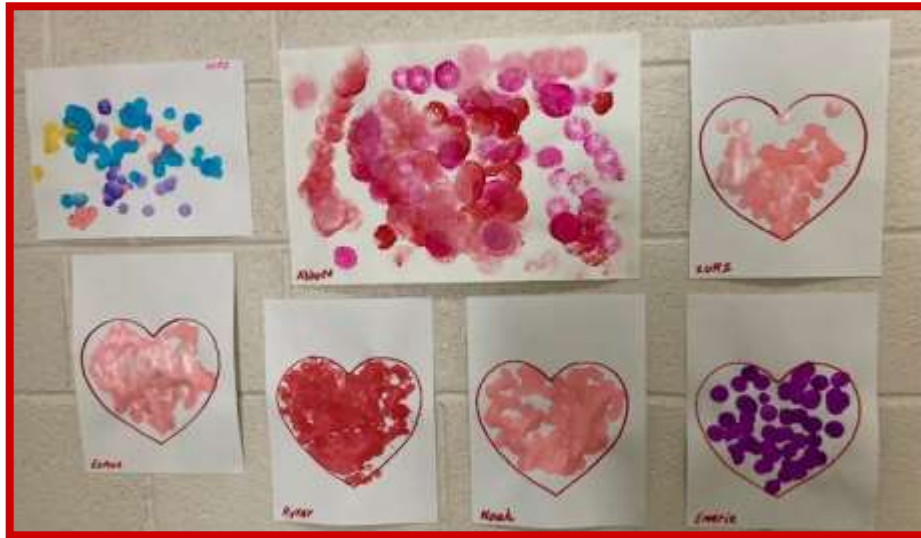
Vanessa Hein, Assistant Director

**CCC Needs List for February: Kleenex tissues**



**CCC NEWS:**

Many thanks from the FPC Childcare Center Board and Staff for the continued support in the form of monetary donations and supplies, baby wipes and hand soap for the month of January. 'Tis the season of sniffles and bubbly noses, so any boxes of facial tissues that land in the Childcare pack and play in the narthex will be greatly appreciated! The Childcare Center has been the "heart" of our First Presbyterian Church mission since August 1, 1995 when the center officially opened its doors. A vast number of children and families have been impacted by the caring and support supplied by the staff and members of our church, creating a web of love that is felt not only in February, the month honoring St. Valentine but throughout the year for 28 years, approaching 29!! As you are passing by the doors of the Childcare Center, take a minute to appreciate the seasonal art work that is displayed by the children. We get to enjoy it until it is proudly transported to the refrigerators in their homes!



**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Let's Fill the Donation Box!**

Our church Hospitality Committee will be accepting donations for the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry during the month of February. Special food items requested include:

- tuna
- Hamburger Helper
- Ramen Noodles
- pasta
- pasta sauce (no glass containers, please)

If you are unable to purchase the above items, the pantry will accept any and all UNEXPIRED food. Thank you for your donation!



I would personally like to invite you to our Stretch and Balance Class! We have a great group of individuals dedicated to attending this class to better themselves and we have room for more! Here is the information you need to start your journey to better health and wellness.

**Stretch and Balance Invitation**

**Who:** You, Open to anyone, bring a friend!

**What:** Stretch and Balance Class

**Where:** Ramstad Hall – Basement – First Presbyterian Church

**When:** Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 am

**Why:** Because it's FUN and FREE and the benefits of stretching can include:

- Improve posture
- Decrease in pain
- Decrease risk of injuries
- Increase/maintain range of motion
- Increase muscle blood flow and circulation
- Enable your muscles to work most effectively
- Improve your ability to do daily activities
- Aids in relieving stress

Questions: Reach out to Carmen at [parishnurse@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:parishnurse@fpcbismarck.com)

Sincerely, Carmen



## CHRISTIAN ED:

The PAC and Teens have started back up on Wednesday nights. There are many events for the PAC and Teens to do. On Friday January 26<sup>th</sup> they had a lock-in at the church. The Mandan Presbyterian Church's youth was invited to spend the night as well and it was a fun time! The PAC kids are looking forward to a sledding day at Centennial park. The teens are having lessons that focus on listening to God and what he might be telling you, to enjoy your time in high school, to take a step back and be in the moment with your friends, family, sporting events, and music, etc. The PAC kids learned about the Ark and the flooding of the Earth. Thank you for checking in on our kids at the church!

- Mark Jensen



## Brag Box:

CONGRATUALTI ONS

I ris & Koa Falcon

Baptized: January 21, 2024

Parents: Jessie Aull & Chad Falcon

God Mother: Lindsey Aull



**First Presbyterian Church**

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

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[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



**Pastor**

*Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons*

**Finance Assistant**

*Carol Thompson*

**Administrative Assistant**

*Maureen Chrest*

**Parish Nurse**

*Carmen Bryhn*

**Maintenance**

*Brandon Schildberger*

**Christian Ed. Youth Director**

*Mark Jensen*

**Organists**

*Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad*

**Chancel Choir Director**

*Debi Rogers*

**Westminster Chimes Director**

*Lael Hoerauf*

**Audio/Visual Specialist**

*Josh Stokka*

**Membership Services**

*Judy Lentz*

**Child Care Center Director**

*Shawn Stettner*

**Child Care Center Asst. Director**

*Vanessa Hein*

**Nursery**

*Mary Jones*

**Christian Ed. Interns**

*Ruth Jensen & Audrey Simmons*



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**SUNDAYS - 1:30 PM**  
**VIA - ZOOM**

**Please let us know if we've made a mistake, omission or if you would prefer not to have your special day published.**

**~ Thank you ~**

**FEBRUARY 2024 - BIRTHDAYS**

Feb. 1	Abby Bjornson
Feb. 1	Annabelle Wohl
Feb. 5	Lorraine Dopson
Feb. 6	Judith Libby
Feb. 8	Jouvet Forbang
Feb. 9	Paul Jensen
Feb. 9	Pat Liedtke
Feb. 12	Lyle Johnsen
Feb. 17	Josh Stokka
Feb. 20	Jackie Lannoye
Feb. 22	Samantha Ronningen
Feb. 23	Cathy Kinnischtzke
Feb. 26	Tamara Gallup Lemm
Feb. 27	Priscilla Wilson

**FEBRUARY 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES**

Feb. 11	Vi & Vern Spitzer
Feb. 23	Alex & Maddy Volk
Feb. 23	Corey Hedland & Jenni Boeckel
Feb. 23	Bryan & Wendy Skager

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024**



**CLERK'S REPORT**

The death of Marjorie Kahl, January 2, 2024 was noted. Membership is 310.

Session approved the Statistical Report for 2023.

A letter from PCUSA Ministry Engagement and Support was shared, thanking FPC for the \$962.40 for the Peace and Global Witness offering.

**FINANCIAL REPORT (end of 2023)**

Total Income YTD Actual	\$540,216	Budget	\$525,651
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$540,668	Budget	\$590,921
NET Income	-\$452	Budget	-\$65,270

Jim Skaret explained that lower expenses than budgeted were due to lower personnel costs with no full-time custodian for much of 2023.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Pastor Leanne thanked the Hospitality Committee for arranging the meal at the Annual Congregational Meeting and the staff for compiling the booklet.

Session approved the baptism request for Remi Lang, niece of Rusty Bender. Date set for March 16.

The baptism of Koa and Iris Falcon occurred on Sunday, January 21, 2024.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administrative and Personnel**—The church will likely need to change the IT provider.

**Hospitality**—The committee will have a planning session on January 27 to discern the best ways to serve the church family.

**Proclamation-Worship and Music**—The committee has prepared a list of Elders and Deacons assigned to serve communion for the whole year. The current Hymnals could be purchased on Amazon.

**Proclamation-Christian Education**—The youth will serve soup before the Ash Wednesday service on February 14. The Christmas project yielded enough money to purchase 15 families of chickens and 15 piglets for mission families.

**Property and Equipment**—A pew has been removed in the back in preparation for the streaming equipment. New lighting in the balcony is being investigated.

**Resource Management**—Christmas Joy special offering was \$2,773 and the Christmas Eve offering for the CCC was \$826.

**Board of Deacons**—Dennis Rosenkranz and Vic Sonneman were chosen as Co-Moderators. Karmen Svihovec is Secretary.

**Child Care Center Board**—The CCC staff members will be treated to a dinner January 25. The Net Income end of year was deficit due to fewer children enrolled.

**Nominating**—Session approved Marete Farver as a Deacon to replace Heather Davis who was unable to serve. There will be a congregational meeting after worship on February 4 to approve this change.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**—The booklet with photos and family histories is being prepared.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

During worship service on February 11, Chris Henriksen, Lori Lee and Marete Farver (if approved by congregation) will be installed.

Rusty Bender was unable to attend the Matthew 25 conference in Atlanta due to cancelled flight.



# FEBRUARY

# 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga	2	3
4 10am Worship	5 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry  5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	6 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	7 Noon "Munch & Mingle"  5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	8 11am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality Giving ♥ Day!	9	10  12-2:00pm PAC/Teens Lunar New Year Party!
11 10am Worship Transfiguration of the Lord!  INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	12 NO W & Music (Feb. 20th) joint W&M with CE 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	13 11am Bal. & Strength Class  5:30pm CCC Board	14 5:30pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	16	17
18 10am Worship 1st Sunday of Lent	19 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	20 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm W&M 6:30pm CE Joint Meeting with W&M 7:00pm CE	21  5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	22 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga	23	24
25 10am Worship  9-10:00am Blood Pressure Clinic	26  5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	27 11am Bal. & Strength Class  Noon - Lenten soup luncheon 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session	28  5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	29 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga		Saturday, March 2nd 10:00am "The Banquet" at Dream Center 1805 Park Ave