

Here and Now

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FROM PASTOR LEANNE - ON BEING NORMAL

I have always wondered why it is that, when human beings go through very difficult things, they often ask, “is this normal?” One has a car accident, and asks, “is it normal to jump at loud noises after that?” One loses a loved one, and asks, “is it normal to want to cry all of the time?” One doesn’t get a job, and then asks, “is it normal to feel angry?” Somehow there is great comfort in knowing that our responses are within the range of “normal.” My guess is that the comfort of being normal is related to our desire for control and predictability. Maybe we think that if something is normal, it is a process through which we will pass, and not a permanent condition – at a minimum, once assured that our emotions are normal, at least we don’t have to add being “abnormal” to our list of worries.

The thing about normalcy, however, is that it always falls within a range of possible definitions. What is a normal grief or recovery process for one will not be the same as it is for another, yet both people are normal. There is no one “bullseye named normal” to aim at – there is a cluster of desirable responses accompanied by reasonable transitional delays and obstacles. Eventually, as a person works through things, the delays and obstacles slowly fade and the day will come when one suddenly realizes that a “new normal” has come, and that it is tolerable or even possibly, better.

None of us has ever gone through a pandemic before. We only know what was normal before the shutdown; we do not know what is a normal path to our new optimal selves. For some of us, the “blues” remain, even though we are freer to move about and even attend church. For others, the disruption of schedule has sapped our energy – we find it hard to re-engage. For others, the angry discourse around masks and protocols has left us annoyed or angry – we are sick of this conversation, we want to leave the Pandemic behind and just move forward. All of these reactions, and more, are normal.

And, since we are human, all of these normal responses will come with us to worship. It is easy to look around and say, “where is everybody? – are people staying at home in jammies and watching worship on Facebook?” “Why does that person still wear a mask?” “Can’t we have communion the regular way yet?” We are SO ready for normal. SO VERY ready. And we are restless, anxious, hopeful and, yes, grieving.

~ continued



The thing I want to say about “normal” is this – we are, as a church, healthily and happily within the normal range of responses to the Pandemic. We lost staff during the Pandemic – and guess what – many churches are reporting the same phenomena! (There’s even a name for the phenomenon – they are calling it the “Great Resignation.”) We are not back to the same attendance which we had before the shut down – neither is any other church I know. (In fact, we have a higher percentage of attendance post-pandemic than most churches.) All of our regular events have not returned – because it’s summer and we are in the summer rotation of our activities. I believe that these are some of those temporary delays and obstacles of which I spoke. We are still in response to a traumatic universal event – we must be patient with ourselves and each other.

And no, patience does not mean acceptance, or a lack of will to strive for better. What recovery means for us is what recovery always means: “push oneself a bit, then rest, try again harder, then take a break, then push a little harder again. We are aiming for “all the family home”, and “all hands on deck.” And I believe it will happen.

There are SO many signs of health. We have hired folks in a market that is really tight with its workforce: a financial assistant, a Christian Education Assistant, AND a maintenance manager. (We are almost back at full staff!) We are back to singing and liturgical readings in worship, back to coffee hour, back to public outreach events (our booth at Pride was a total success!) We emerged from this time with an active and restless youth group. We have some great events returning – outdoor worship with Mandan and Glencoe, VBS, Fun in the Sun, a day at McDowell Dam. And if that isn’t enough, what church do you know that can raise 400,000 for an HVAC system after a time of having the doors closed? – Us!

So here’s my message – “don’t be anxious” just be faithful. Attend when you can (people miss you when you are not here) – call people that you miss – have patience as we get back up to speed.

Philippians 1:6 6 - For I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



The Gospel Guys (Otto Reile, Alan Hoberg, Charlie Barber, and Jim Rambo) are accompanied by Juanita Hocking as they sing at the June 20th service.



Marete Farver, Pastor Leanne & Hannah Luciano join the young disciples for prayer.

ANNUAL OUTDOOR SUMMER WORSHIP

You are invited join us for worship, food and fellowship at our annual **Outdoor Service on July 11th**. Worship with communion will begin at 10:30 am at *New Generations Park* which is provided with the air-conditioned Farwest Rotary Community Room and an attached shelter. This new location for us is at *1021 Mustang Drive*, west of Valley Drive. The **potluck picnic** will take place following the service and chicken, buns and beverages will be provided. Please



bring your own plates and utensils, and a hotdish, salad or dessert to share. You may want to bring your own lawn chairs for sitting outside. The park has a playground and a splash-pad, so don't forget to bring your swimsuit and towel if you want to splash in the water! A **sign-up sheet** will be posted in the narthex so we can get an approximate count for catering. We hope you can join us!

Right click and open this hyperlink [New Generations Park](#) for pictures of the park.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!

CAROL THOMPSON, FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Growing up on a farm 35 miles south of Bismarck, Carol's family farmed, ranched, and operated a butcher shop. After graduating from Hazelton High School, she moved to Bismarck and attended college at Interstate Business College finishing with an Accounting certificate. Carol worked in accounting offices, retail, state government and assisted living and brings a wealth of finance and computer knowledge to her job. Married to Bruce Thompson for 17 years, she enjoys reading, cooking, baking, gardening, and fishing in her spare time. Carol's hours are from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday, so stop in and get to know the lady with the smile!



MARETE SNORTLAND FARVER, CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR

Having grown up in our church, Marete has family history with us and also went through confirmation and youth education here. With a degree in public education, Marete has a position in the Bismarck Public Schools system. In her part-time position with us, she will be working with our youth and children by supplying education and fellowship events and will be jumping right in with the upcoming Vacation Bible School. She's pictured here with her son Sam. So glad to have you with us Marete!



TONY BARTOLE, MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Born and bred in Bismarck, Tony is a Bismarck High grad. His experience with maintenance and supervision in various businesses makes him an ideal candidate to handle the variety of jobs we need from our church custodian.

After his own home yardwork is done, Tony likes to follow the Minnesota Twins (when they're winning, he says) and the Carolina Panthers during football season. Welcome to *our* team Tony!



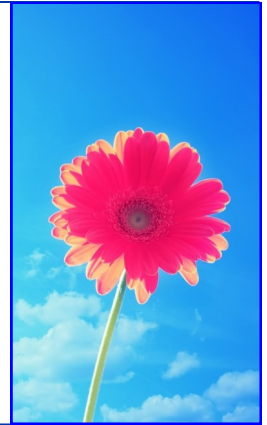
CONGRATS TO SCHOLARS!

The Scholarship subcommittee of the Hospitality Committee voted to send our annual donation to the University of Jamestown from the Samuel and Bertha Merritt Trust fund. They also awarded scholarships to the following applicants:

Corby Svihovec received his award from the Merritt, Scholarship and Sorlie Funds.

Abby Bjornson and Runick Fru received their awards from the Sorlie Fund.

A huge thank you to the Committee members for their service.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 22, 2021

CLERK'S REPORT

Session approved the removal of Jay and Kathy Fuhrer, per their request, from the membership roll.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$242,775	Budget	\$200,363
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$190,612	Budget	\$244,562
NET Income	\$ 52,163	Budget	-\$ 44,199
Unrestricted General Fund	\$302,583.55		

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne expressed gratitude for the cooperation and efficiency of the newest staff members: Carol Thompson, Financial Assistant and Tony Bartole, Maintenance. Marete Snortland-Farver has been hired as CE Director. Pastor Leanne will be on vacation July 12-20.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hospitality—The committee participated in Capital Pride on June 19. Personal care products will be collected for the Abused Adult Resource Center. The scholarship sub-committee has awarded scholarships to Corby Svihovec, Runick Fru and Abby Bjornson. Funds are provided by the Merritt, Sorlie, and Scholarship endowments.

Proclamation/Christian Education—Vacation Bible School will be August 2-4 from 5:30-7:30 for children ages 4 to 5th grade with a meal included. Family fun day at McDowell Dam will be July 24, 2:00-4:00 pm.

Proclamation/Worship and Music—The committee will consider purchasing video equipment and having someone trained to record services when Josh Stokka is unavailable.

Property and Equipment—Phase I of the HVAC project is near completion. The Capital Campaign resulted in close to \$405,000.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session
(from Session minutes written by Elder Ella Gutzke)



HVAC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TAKING A REST

The HVAC Capital Campaign Committee has announced that the initial campaign that was launched earlier this year will be taking a break from normal fundraising activity. We are extremely grateful for the \$404,736 that has been contributed to date through the combination of cash donations and pledges. Of the total \$404,736 donated and/or pledged, over \$224,000 has been received in cash. This amount plus the availability of loan funds from our denomination's Investment Loan Program (ILP) more than covers the \$336,000 cost of the Phase 1 Improvements to the HVAC System which consists primarily of the replacement and upgrading of the HVAC control system. Loan funds received are repayable over the next 3 years at a 2% interest rate. Thus far \$ 144,631 has been received in loan funds. With the favorable 2% interest rate on borrowed money, it is intended to maximize the amount of money that can be borrowed at that low rate.

If you have not yet contributed to the campaign, you are still encouraged to consider making a gift to the HVAC fund, as there is much more work to complete in the near future. The entire HVAC Improvement Program includes the replacement of air handling equipment and boilers. Hopefully, an emergency situation will not develop over the next 2–3 years requiring emergency action to replace any failed major air handling or boiler equipment. Three years is the planned time to pay back loan moneys for Phase 1 improvements using cash on hand and pledged moneys to be received over the next 3 years.



The estimated total cost of the entire HVAC Improvement and Upgrade project is \$917,500 based on 2021 construction costs. It is obvious that much more work remains to be done in the fundraising effort before the project can be completed. Again, to those who have contributed to date, we extend our sincere thanks. To those who have not yet contributed and wish to consider a gift, pledge cards are available in the church office and cash payments can be forwarded at any time. When making a cash payment, please note the payment is for the HVAC Upgrade Program.

CHILD CARE CENTER UPDATE

The Child Care Center continues to operate with a lower census of children in attendance and we continue to struggle finding applicants to work with children. We feel it's important for all children to follow safety rules and be safe during the July 4th celebration of Independence Day. Here are some of the safety reminders:



- When outside in the hot sun remember to wear your sun screen to protect your skin.
- Wear sunglasses and sun hat to protect your eyes and head from burning from the sun.
- When you go swimming make sure you are with an adult or a person your mom and dad feel that you are safe and remember to follow the water rules while in the swimming area and wear sun screen.
- When you are enjoying the delicious food and drinks remember to enjoy and have fun and wait at least an hour before going swimming in a pool/lake.
- Fireworks are always the highlight of the ending of the celebration so if you are going to be around them (if allowed) be sure to be with your parents.

The Child Care Center always is in need of supplies so this month's donation request is for Baby Wipes and Hand Soap. Thank you for your generosity.

Have a great holiday celebration!



SUMMERTIME FUN AT McDOWELL DAM

The Christian Education Committee invites you to McDowell Dam for a Fun 'n' Sun afternoon. Please join us Saturday, July 24, 2021 from 2 - 4 pm. There will be water toys available to rent, a tent for some shade, and lots of fun! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Hope to see you there.

HOSPITALITY HELP FOR JULY

For the month of July the Hospitality Committee would like to make donations to the Abused Adult Resource Center located in Bismarck. Their Mission Statement is as follows:

"The mission of the Abused Adult Resource Center is to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by establishing and maintaining a program which will provide temporary shelter, crisis intervention, prevention, education, support and hope as a vision to eliminate violence.

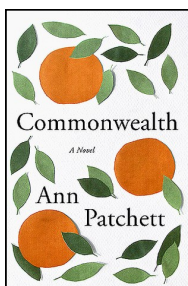
The Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC) headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota, provides emergency support, crisis intervention, temporary shelter, food, counseling, and advocacy to victims of domestic violence and domestic assault. We serve families and individuals in distress throughout south central North Dakota, helping them find a life free from abuse.

We also work with the community to develop an awareness and sensitivity to the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault and to establish programs to break the "cycle of abuse." The mission of the AARC is to "assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by establishing and maintaining a program which will provide temporary shelter, crisis intervention, prevention, education, support and hope as a vision to eliminate violence." AARC programs, staff and volunteers have been widely recognized for their work in building a healthier, safer community." www.abusedadultresourcecenter.com

With the pandemic being so hard on the entire country, domestic abuse has dramatically increased and now that the number of cases have decreased and people have better opportunities to leave their dangerous situation, they are leaving sometimes without anything to their name. The Hospitality Committee is asking for donations for these brave souls who have left their abusive situations so they can get back on their feet. For this month, we thought personal items would be well received. Thank you for your generosity!!!

Night clothes in larger women's sizes
Sweatshirts and sweatpants in larger sizes
Toothpaste
Hair products
Adult and children's cold medicine
Adult and children's Tylenol
Lice kits

Burn spray or gel
Benadryl or antihistamine
Ibuprofen
Ice packs
Diaper "Genie" refills
Diapers – all sizes
Baby wipes



BOOK CLUB FOR JULY

The Book Club will next meet on July 22nd at 1:30 pm. We will be discussing "Commonwealth" by Ann Patchett. This book has been described as a brilliant and tender tale of the far-reaching ties of love and responsibility that bind us together. Three books are still available at the office for check-out and a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

FROM WANONA, OUR PARISH NURSE

Happy July Everyone!

I hope you are all enjoying our nice July weather. I am keeping busy with home visits. Some facilities are starting to open activities to a new normal. We will resume Presby Friends at Touchmark the 4th Tuesday of the month. I hope to see you there. I will not be having a Blood Pressure Sunday in July but will resume in August.

I will be gone the week of July 11th for my 100th Year Celebration of my school in Langdon, North Dakota. I decided to make the motel accommodations this trip. No motorhome, Whew! I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July celebration.

Have a blast! (A little humor there) Be safe and healthy.



This month I have tagged Clinton Dykema, a dynamic & remarkable member of First Presbyterian Church for his story. He was born and raised near Strasburg North Dakota. He attended grade school and high school in Strasburg.

Clint received a golden retriever while in high school. He went to a movie titled, “King Ralph” and he knew his special friend had to be named Ralph. During his childhood, Clint had a love for dogs and through the years he had three Pugs: Skippy, Pugzies and Puggles. They were Clint’s special and true friends.

When Clint graduated from Strasburg Public, he and his classmates lined up outside to receive their congratulations. Just before going to their vehicles, a rain cloud came out of nowhere and poured rain directly on top of Clint and his family members. They tried to get to their vehicle to leave and drive to the Hull Christian Reformed Church in the Fellowship Hall for his personal reception. Since Clint was drenched, they stopped by their house and Clint changed into a different set of clothes! His Aunt Jan had helped with his reception, so she was wondering where Clint and his family were since it was taking them so long to get to the reception. Finally, they arrived, and Clint greeted his guests who were waiting to wish him well! He came in laughing and said, "I'll never forget my graduation, getting caught in a downpour and getting completely drenched from head to toe, it was like getting a full body baptism!!"

Clint lived with his parents on the farm helping in the house and providing care for his mother. Clint has a strong faith in God. He attends the First Presbyterian Church services every Sunday via zoom. In 1997, he moved to Bismarck. While in Bismarck he volunteered at St. Alexis Great Plains Rehabilitation Center. He is very close to his adopted Mother, Aunt Jan Gilchrist. She introduced him to First Presbyterian Church when he moved to Bismarck. He joined the church in 1998 and has been a faithful member ever since.

Thank you, Clint, for sharing your life journey with us.



A LITTLE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE HUMOR FROM WANONA

Once, in the 1820's, a little boy called Sam was playing in the yard behind his house. During his pretend fighting game, he knocked over the outhouse. Now Sam was upset and worried that he would get into trouble; so, he ran into the woods and did not come out until after got dark. When he arrived back home, his pappy was waiting for him.

He asked suspiciously, "Son, did you knock over the outhouse this afternoon?"

"No, pappy," Sam lied.

"Well, let me tell you a story," said the father. "Once, not that long ago, Mr. Washington received a shiny new axe from his father. Excited, he tried it out on a tree, swiftly cutting it down. But as he looked at the tree, with dismay he realized it was his mother's favorite cherry tree," his pappy paused, "and just like you, he ran into the woods. When he returned, his pappy asked, 'George, did you cut down the cherry tree?' George answered with, 'Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did indeed chop down the tree.' Then his father said, 'Well, since you were honest with me, you are spared from punishment. I hope you have learned your lesson, though'."

So Sam's father asked again, "Did you knock down the outhouse?"

"Pappy, I cannot tell a lie anymore," said the little boy. "I did indeed knock down the outhouse." Then his pappy spanked Sam red, white, and blue.

The boy whimpered, "Pappy, I told you the truth! Why did you spank me?"

Pappy answered, "That's because George Washington's father wasn't in the tree when he chopped it down!"



Sydney
Henriksen
is swinging
with friends



June 23rd's
Family Fun Night
at the
Super Slide Park







Gemma looks on
from behind
Grandma Kris
Ronningen



Marete Farver
and sister are
looking cool in
'shades'



Miguel takes a
mouse for a ride

<u>JULY BIRTHDAYS</u>		<u>FAMILY NEWS</u>		First Presbyterian Church
Daniel Wassim	2nd	Our Deepest Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of		214 East Thayer Ave
Nanc Skaret	6th		Bismarck, ND 58501	
Allen Hoberg	7th	<i>Kathleen Ellig</i>	Phone: 701-223-6091	
Leo Goll	9th	Kathy passed away peacefully June 21st at Portland, Oregon. A memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 7th in our sanctuary with burial held at the Fairview Cemetery. Kathy is survived by her husband of 52 years, Bill, one daughter, Cindy (Luke) Kanies, and two granddaughters, Vivian and Lillian Kanies. She is also survived by a dear sister-in-law, Pat Lahr; two nieces, Bonnie Lahr and Heather (Derek) Sondergaard; three great-nephews and a great-niece; an aunt, Bernette Rempfer; numerous cousins and one brother-in-law, David Ellig; and many Ellig nieces and nephews.	firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com	
Katherine Satrom	9th		www.fpcbismarck.com	
Randy Jensen	10th		Sunday Worship: 10:00 am	
Stacy Poffenberger	12th		Office Hrs: M-Th 8:00 am-5:00 pm	
T.J. Davis	14th		Friday 8:00 am- 1:00 pm	
Shelli Peterson	14th			
Paul Ronningen	14th			
John R. Sakariassen	14th		Pastor	
David Ingstad	15th		<i>Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons</i>	
Letha Lewis	16th		Finance Assistant	
Donna Arneson	18th		<i>Carol Thompson</i>	
Leila Bender	22nd		Parish Nurse	
Mary Sherman	22nd		<i>Wanona Goetz</i>	
Andrew Davis	23rd		Christian Ed Director	
Don Cross	27th		<i>Marete Snortland Farver</i>	
Lori Orser	28th		Organists	
Corey Hedland	29th		<i>Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad</i>	
Lee Doolittle	30th		Choir Director	
			<i>Debi Rogers</i>	
		<i>Please let us know if we have made a mistake or omission or if you would prefer not to have your special day included.</i>	Handbell Ensemble Director	
<u>JULY ANNIVERSARIES</u>			<i>Lael Hoerauf</i>	
Tait & Samantha Ronningen	9th		Maintenance Supervisor	
John & Donna Richter	10th		<i>Tony Bartole</i>	
David & Mary Ingstad	15th		Membership Services	
Brant & Jane Boeckel	20th		<i>Judy Lentz</i>	
Ronald & Kathleen Gappert	20th		Child Care Center Director	
Arley & Ann Gallup	23rd		<i>Shawn Stettner</i>	
Kim & Juanita Hocking	24th		Child Care Center Asst Director	
Jay & Sandra Cofell	31st		<i>Vanessa Hein</i>	
			Nursery	
			<i>Mary Jones</i>	
			Christian Ed Interns	
			<i>Emily Ehrens & Mark Jensen</i>	

First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

www.fpcbismarck.com

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hrs: M-Th 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am- 1:00 pm



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons

Finance Assistant

Carol Thompson

Parish Nurse

Wanona Goetz

Christian Ed Director

Marete Snortland Farver

Organists

Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad

Choir Director

Debi Rogers

Handbell Ensemble Director

Lael Hoerauf

Maintenance Supervisor

Tony Bartole

Membership Services

Judy Lentz

Child Care Center Director

Shawn Stettner

Child Care Center Asst Director

Vanessa Hein

Nursery

Mary Jones

Christian Ed Interns

Emily Ehrens & Mark Jensen



JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:00 am Worship Service	5 7:00 pm Christian Education	6 5:45 pm Property & Equipment	7	8 6:00 pm Hospitality Committee	9 < Wanona through	10 on vacation July 16th
11 10:30 am Outdoor Worship & Potluck - New Generation Park	12 No Mtg for Worship and Music < Pastor Leanne through	13 No Mtg for Child Care Ctr Board on vacation July 20th	14 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	15 No Mtg for Deacons	16 >	17
18 10:00 am Worship Service	19 Noon Resource Mgmt 5:00 pm Administration & Personnel	20 >	21 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	22 1:30 pm Book Club	23	24 Fun 'n' Sun McDowell Dam 2:00-4:00
25 10:00 am Worship Service	26	27 6:00 pm Session	28	29	30	31