



Here and Now
November
Newsletter!

November 2024

Volume 71, Issue 11

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

"The Light"

I woke up on cold and blustery October morning, and as I usually do, I stepped out on the deck with a big cup of coffee and two overly-happy dogs so I could view my garden. It was, of course, fading - all the tomatoes, squash and potatoes had been harvested, nothing was left but some blooming marigolds, cleome, and zinnias. The wind whipped some leaves around in a circle, and the sky above me was gray, following a feeble rainstorm the night before. Off in the distance, however, the sun was rising, and on the horizon, the sky seemed to be clear and a glowing whitish-blue.

There was something magical and mysterious about the light that morning. As dull as the gray and browns of fall foliage was, the water on the last remaining flowers and the soft light reaching from the horizon made the colors of my remaining flowers vivid, even luminous. It was as if they were glowing. I loved that light, loved the effect it had on the yard, wished desperately that I was a good enough painter to capture it, hold on to it. It was a morning that filled my soul with gratitude for the tiny touches of beauty God can add to the dullest of worlds.

It makes me think about all of the Biblical analogies that compare Jesus to light. John said that Jesus was the light which came into the darkness, and the darkness was not able to overcome it and he meant it as reassuring, comforting news: amid the drabness of a sin-sick and winter-wary world, nothing can quell the light. Wherever the light of Christ shines, the ordinary is given a new glow and the wonder of God's hand in us shows the best that God created in us. C.S. Lewis once said something



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

akin to (I'm paraphrasing *a lot* here!) "I believe in the light, not because I can see it, but because by it I see everything else." And that's the thing I love about my faith – it is the light that comes by faith in Christ that opens one's eyes to the wonders of God's hand at work. By his light, we see beauty in drabness, hope in darkness, and the ordinary becomes fabulous.

Here is my prayer for all of us as we head into this season of gratitude. May the God of light open your eyes where ever you are to see the world (and yourself) through the prism of God's beauty. May the light shine into your dark places and give you peace.

Leanne



Sweet Generosity - The bellringers would like to thank the congregation for making our caramel roll sale a big success. We made a record 16 dozen rolls and even with the delay due to fewer working ovens, everyone was so very generous in their purchases. The \$500+ net total will help to defray our hotel and gas costs when we attend our next festival. Thank you!

Another season of the church garden has come to a successful conclusion. Once again, through the kindness of Dee Hanson, owner of the garden, our congregation was able to supply the Senior Center, our members, and the Child Care Center staff and families with fresh produce throughout the summer.

The garden is definitely a team effort. From those who started seedlings in March, those who prepped the raised beds (and repaired the aging beds) to those who regularly kept the garden watered and weeded, to those who delivered the harvest, it took many hands and many hours of dedicated work. The result of the team's effort was a garden that produced not only vegetables, herbs, and flowers, but many good conversations with neighbors and passersby.

Thanks also go to the church families who added their produce to the cart on Sunday mornings. All donations were appreciated.



Munch & Mingle! November 6th

Please come for Munch & Mingle
the 1st Wednesday of the month

12:00pm at Broadway Grill Tavern



Brag Box: Merlin Rudrud

Celebrated 98th birthday on September 26!

Merlin continues to practice his cornet!

If you would like to reach out to Merlin you can send messages to this email address:

rudrud7@yahoo.com



Merlin still keeps Moving - riding 20-30 minutes every other day.



Merlin with sons John, and Paul



Brag Box:

Ann Lynch and family!
July 2024 in Yellowstone

3 kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids!!

Trygve, Remi, Jack,
Owen (in great grandma Ann's lap)
Truett and Briar



PARISH NURSE NEWS -

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

November provides us with the celebration of Thanksgiving and as I approach 1 year as the Parish Nurse at First Presbyterian Church, I would like to thank all of you for a very rewarding year here. I knew coming here that Wanona’s “shoes” would be tough to fill, but the wonderful people of this congregation & fellow staff made me feel welcomed and part of the family very quickly. What a beautiful thing it is to be part of, and I just wanted to express my thankfulness and appreciation for this church and its members.

Reminder that Blood Pressure Clinic will be November 17th from 9-10 and 11-12.

NO Exercise Class on Thursday, November 28th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Also, just a reminder that it is not too late for your flu or Covid vaccines. Bismarck Burleigh Health, local pharmacies and your primary clinics can direct you how to proceed with obtaining the vaccine. Contact me with any questions or if you need assistance with scheduling.

I will have senior nursing students from the University of Mary with me occasionally in the upcoming months to learn what Faith Community Nursing is all about. Please welcome them with me as this is such a valuable nursing experience for them and I am happy to have them learn from me and this congregation.

Sincerely, Carmen



BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

9:00AM - 10:00AM AND 11:00AM - 12:00PM



RESOURCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Per Capita Special Offering is a special offering of our church that extends the entire year. We mention the Per Capita Special Offering starting in January and request that each member consider giving a gift to the church of \$50 to cover their share of the church’s financial obligation to the larger church. If you are a member that pledges income each year to the church, and would like to be able to help support other members who might find it financially unfeasible to pledge or to make the separate per capita donation, your separate gift of \$50 will help cover the cost of membership for that less fortunate member of the church. You can make your per capita gift to the church simply by making out a check with per capita written in the memo blank on the check.

Thank you, Jim Skaret

Resource Management Committee



CCC NEWS:

As we reflect on the many blessings received by the Child Care Center, the board members want to thank each and everyone of the dedicated employees and volunteers of the FPC Child Care Center.

We are especially thankful for Ella Gutzke, Bulletin Board Creator who designs and implements monthly bulletin boards which are eye catching, thematic and colorful. She displays her talents on the bulletin board near the Child Care office. Please stroll down to the Child Care entrance to view her latest creation. We APPRECIATE her artistic skills and the time that she takes to create these colorful boards.

We are thankful for the parents of each child who have entrusted their most precious possessions to the care of the center.

We are thankful for the children of the childcare who daily bring their energy and joy to the center reminding us that life is a journey packed full of experiences. Their art work graces the areas outside of their classrooms allowing us to appreciate their enthusiasm for creation.



We are thankful for the congregation members who have helped to support this important ministry of our church with their generous monetary donations and fulfilling the monthly needs list.

“In everything give thanks”. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

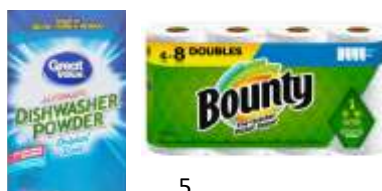
Breakfast with Santa will be celebrated on Saturday, December 7th. Mark your calendars and watch for updates on the time and activities.



The Child Care Center has part-time and full-time positions available along with great employment flexibility for high school and college students. For more information, contact **Shawn or Vanessa at 258-7490**, or learn more about the center using this **QR code!**



CCC Needs List for November: powdered dishwashing detergent and paper towels



More than 60 people attended
First Presbyterian's annual
potluck picnic at
Papa's Pumpkin Patch
October 9, 2024.



Collecting plastic grocery bags for a good cause!

Our Hospitality Committee is collecting used plastic grocery bags for a project to make mats to give to homeless people. The bags must NOT have any holes. The committee is working with a woman who creates the mats, like the one pictured here, by hand-weaving the plastic bags. It takes about 500 bags to make one mat. The committee decided to test whether the congregation would support this effort, hoping this could be a long-term outreach (and environmentally friendly) project for our congregation. The mats will be given to groups who work with the homeless in our area!



Hospitality Committee:

The Hospitality Committee of First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on **Thursday, November 28, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** at the Dream Center, 1805 Park Avenue in southeast Bismarck. Fifteen volunteers are needed to setup, serve and cleanup. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

This meal is open to **ALL** who are unable to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal at home. Please do not spend Thanksgiving alone—come and be with friends and neighbors to enjoy a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings.



CHRISTIAN ED:

In the month of October the kids and teens had a Halloween theme of activities which consisted of the pumpkin patch, frisbee golf course, painting pumpkins, and a Halloween carnival. Thank you all for the Halloween candy! Teens have been learning about their community from friends, family, and the church family. PAC and Sunday school kids are learning about Moses, Noah's Ark, David and Goliath. Thanks for checking in with us.

-Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen





SPOOKTACULAR Halloween FUN



November



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER 2024 - BIRTHDAYS

November 6	Valerie Sturlaugson
November 11	Dan Halvorson
November 11	Parker Ronningen
November 12	Jan Gilchrist
November 13	Corby Svihovec
November 16	Emily Ehrens
November 17	McKinley Stokka
November 17	Lynne Bigwood
November 20	Ann Lynch
November 21	Doug Bradford
November 25	Shari Orser
November 26	Jeff Schafer
November 30	Brady Wohl



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 ~

NOVEMBER 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES

November 2	John & Jodi Bjornson
November 3	Kim & Gail Christianson
November 11	Les & Tammy Lelm
November 18	Darren & Denise Gratz
November 23	Jerry & Priscilla Wilson



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 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. Intern

Ruth Jensen

November

2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10am Worship All Saints' Sunday Communion (time change) Congregational meeting following worship	4 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed	5 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 7:00pm Lay Pastors	6 Noon "Munch & Mingle" 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	7 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga	8	9
10 10am Worship Ministry on the Margins with Julie Dahle!	11 5:30pm W & Music 6:30pm Scouts	12 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board	13 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	14 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	15 Destress for the Holidays! Women's Retreat - at FPC Mandan 6:30pm Nov. 15th Punch - Apps - Wine - Fun	
17 10am Worship Officer Installation 9-10:00am & 11am-12pm Blood Pressure Clinic	18 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	19 11AM Bal. & Strength Class	20 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	21 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	22	23
24 10am Worship  Celebrating with: FPC Mandan & Glencoe Sloan	25 6:30pm Scouts	26 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session	27 NO PAC/Teens NO Bells YES Choir at 6:30pm 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 OFFICES CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving!	29 OFFICES CLOSED 	30 10AM help decorate the church for Christmas

Sunday, Nov. 24
 Christmas Wreaths that were ordered from Brady Wohl -
 Boy Scout Troop 6 will be delivered !

Thursday, Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving Dinner - 5:30pm
 Open to ALL - come and enjoy a turkey dinner at the
 Dream Center - 1805 Park Ave.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
OCTOBER 22, 2024

CLERK'S REPORT

Membership is 308.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$372,139	Budget	\$382,600
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$392,223	Budget	\$441,397
NET Income	-\$20,084	Budget	-\$58,797

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked those involved in the stewardship drive and arranging the event at Papa's Pumpkin Patch. The following events are scheduled:

- November 3—All Saints Day; congregational meeting following worship
- November 17—Installation/ordination of new Elders and Deacons
- November 24—St. Andrews celebration with Glencoe and Mandan churches
- November 30---Decorating the church for Christmas, 10:00am
- December 7—Breakfast with Santa, 9:30-11:30 am
- December 8—Red and green potluck following the youth program
- January 26—Annual congregational meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—A job description is being written for a possible volunteer security person. Evaluations of staff are being conducted.

Hospitality—Papa's Pumpkin Patch event was well-attended. The church will serve the Banquet on November 7. A new project, collecting plastic bags for sleeping mats, is being considered. The committee contributed \$300 to the Boy Scouts to help with costs of Breakfast with Santa.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Will be meeting with Worship and Music October 28.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Poinsettias for the church will be ordered. There will be 3 separate baskets for offerings for the joint worship service on November 24.

Property and Equipment—Solutions are being sought for the very bright new balcony lights.

Resource Management—Session approved a first draft 2025 budget with total income of \$533,500 and expense of \$618,615. This includes a 4% increase for staff. So far, 87 pledges have been received totaling about \$247,000. The goal is to have \$305,000 of pledged income.

Board of Deacons—Session approved the Gift of Giving policy which will be added to the church's operations manual.

Child Care Center Board—Board members are providing "surprise" meals for staff.

150th Anniversary—A donation of \$2,000 was received to help publish the history booklet.

NEW BUSINESS

Session accepted the resignation of Marete Farver from the Board of Deacons. Session approved the nomination of Ella Gutzke to fill a one-year term on the Board of Deacons. There will be a congregational meeting after worship service on November 3 to elect Ella.

A report was given on the Presbytery meeting held October 12.

The per capita will remain at \$50.00.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



Family History Booklet: Last Call

Thank you for all the stories that have been submitted!

The Anniversary Committee is asking for stories of your family history at First Presbyterian Church. These do not need to be elaborate or lengthy.

Please use these questions as a guide for a brief story about “Your History!”

- * Who was the first member of your family to join the church?

- * When did they join? _____

- * When did you join? _____

- * Were you married in the church? _____

- * What ministries do you especially remember? Do you have any special memories - touching or humorous? _____

- * Was there a time when you were especially grateful for the church or the church family?

Thank you in advance from the 150th Anniversary Committee!

Please email to: firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

or bring into the front office!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- Nov. 3 - All Saints Sunday**
- Nov. 24 - St. Andrew’s Day with FPC Mandan & Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian**
- Nov. 27 - 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service**
- Nov. 28 & 29 - FPC & CCC OFFICES CLOSED
Happy Thanksgiving!**
- Dec. 7 - Breakfast with Santa!**