



Here
and
Now!

October 2023

Volume 70, Issue 10

PASTOR LEANNE’S MESSAGE:

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There is a place in Princeton that I truly miss this time of year. I used to walk my dog there on a daily basis. The trail began by crossing a revolutionary battlefield, to a roadway of Fall colors. The massive, ancient trees there turned amazingly glorious colors this time of year, one walked under a canopy of yellow on a path of fallen golden leaves. It was magical; it was breath-taking. The road took one to a wooded area that leads in a circle around lake of the Institute for Advance Studies; my dog would swim there. I loved the serenity of the place. It was quiet and holy.

Along the way, one encountered the old Stony Creek Quaker church and its cemetery. Dating back to 1726 (but still active for Sunday worship today), the stone structure and rough-hewn pews invited one to rest and contemplate. There is a Friend’s school there, where sometimes I could hear the children play. I often walked among the stone slab tombstones of the cemetery there, where saints, governors and signers of the Declaration of Independence were buried. I studied their names and marveled at their memories. I reflected on the ways that they had created the beautiful world in which I was walking a dog in utter bliss, peace, and joy.

Whenever October comes around, I long for that place, and yes, for that old cemetery and for that feeling. All Saint’s Day is coming, and it is an invitation to reflect on the history and people that have made us what we are. This being our 150th year, I have learned so much about the people who have made this church who we are – I have sat in our chapel and contemplated the changes that have happened over the years. It is a rich inheritance. When I came here, that history became my history, that heritage became my heritage.

But nothing has impacted me as much as the funerals I have performed since coming here. Early this year, there were 19 funerals between Christmas and March, the vast majority of them were for individuals who were close to 90, but not all. This was very significant to me. I have been here long enough to have experienced attachment and loss. I have also been here long enough to feel pride and inspiration in each life and to reflect on the ways they shaped my world. I have become attached to names of people I never knew, who passed away years before I got here; they are now part of my sense of meaning and purpose because I know what they meant to many of you.



The last day of October is All Saints Day, and on the first Sunday of November we will ruminate and celebrate the impact of those who have passed. We will call out the names in reverence at the table of the Lord, and it is my hope that in so doing, we can evoke the awe and gratitude that I used to feel in that old Quaker cemetery. It has been hard to see a generation pass into eternity, no matter how much such passings are part of the normal life cycle. But it has not been hard to feel joy about rich lives lived, gratitude for lives of support and service, and inspiration from stories of bravery, purpose, and humor. It makes me feel rich in the kind of wealth that really matters. Those who have passed never really go away. They are part of us now.

And the promise of God is still true – their lives will continue to take on meaning as we grow on the foundation they laid for us. Thanks be to God for the generations of First Presbyterian until we join them at the great table of God’s Kingdom.



Leanne

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Hello everyone: this September sure went fast. First Presbyterian Church has kept us all going with special events such as High Tea & Silent Auction, 2nd Annual Health Fair, starting PAC/Teens/Sunday School, and Staff Appreciation Sunday to name a few.

I wanted to thank everyone who helped with the High Tea; it was a fabulous time and the 150th High Tea Celebration raised a total of \$3,966.00. All proceeds were designated for the Parish Nurse Fund! Thank you so much for keeping the Parish Nurse Program going.

Thanks to those who helped make the 2nd Annual Health Fair such a success: Don & Lynn Bigwood, Cindy Cross, Gary & Jan Gilchrist, Dave & Alice Nix, Jae Reile, Dennis & Becky Rosenkranz, Carol Watrel, Pricilla Wilson, Ann Lynch, and Maureen Chrest for her creativity, signage, and advertising! Thank you to the vendors for sharing your information and awareness with First Presbyterian Church and the Bismarck community, and the following who brought a pot of soup to the Health Fair: Priscilla Wilson, Becky Rosenkranz, Lynne Bigwood, Sue Johnsen, Linda Strandemo, Carole Watrel, Jan Gilchrist, and Pastor Leanne!

The blood pressure clinic will begin on **October 8th** but unfortunately, I will not be there, Jan Gilchrist has offered to take the blood pressure’s that day. Thank you, Jan for offering to help.

The **Strengthening and Balance Class** will meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00am starting on **Tuesday, October 3rd** in Ramstad Hall. Alice Nix will lead the class as I am unable to participate due to health issues. Thank you, Alice for your help.

I will be gone from October 2 to October 15 to help my older sister, who needs to be placed in an Assisted Living Facility in Denver. Thank you all for your support and kindness during this time. Karen Macdonald will help cover home visits in my absence. You can call her at 673-3419 if you need some assistance. Thank you, Karen!

GIGGLES:

Happy Halloween everyone, enjoy!

- How do mummies start their letters?
- Why are graveyards so noisy?
- I would make a skeleton joke, but you wouldn't find it very
- What's a vampire's favorite fruit?

- “tomb it may concern.”
- “because of all the coffin”
- “humerus.”
- “neck-tarines.”

“A Word with Wanona” - I have the pleasure to introduce you to Mary & Keith Magnusson.

Mary was born and raised, along with three older brothers on a small farm in Holton, Kansas, a small town of about 3,000 people and graduated from Holton High School. Her first job, when she was a high school sophomore, was a clerk in the local drug store, which at one time had an old soda fountain. Sadly, the fountain had been taken out by the time she was old enough to work, so it was no longer the boy/girl hangout it had once been, and she found working there as just a boring job to satisfy her parents. Mary’s favorite job was a bank teller. During her second year of college at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas she was working at a bank in the drive-up branch. It was there when a cute guy drove up to her window to make a bank deposit for the law firm where he clerked. He mentioned he was attending Washburn Law School and suggested they meet at the student union for a coke. That led to several movie dates and about a year and half later, the special date at the United Methodist Church in Holton where Keith and Mary were married March 10, 1973.

For the last 50 years Mary has been thankful for marrying a small town (Presbyterian) boy from ND, raising a beautiful daughter with him, and going on a wonderful life journey together. During this journey, she fulfilled the goals of getting her undergraduate degree in accounting from Jacksonville State University when Keith and Mary lived in Alabama, and later when they lived in Bismarck, getting an MBA from UND through the interactive video program. Mary has worked in business administration as director of the ND Coalition for Homeless People, Resource Development Director for the Baptist Home, and Director of the Bismarck Senior Center and Burleigh County Senior Adults Program



from which she retired following breast cancer treatment. Mary is thankful for all the support from their church family during treatment! As a member of First Presbyterian, Mary, also is thankful for the experiences of teaching Sunday School, serving in Presbyterian Women, and being an Elder and Deacon, all of which have been a vital part of her faith journey.

Keith was born in Rolla, ND and raised in Rolette, ND along with his younger brother. A fun fact: Judy Lentz’s older sister was one of Keith’s first babysitters! At the age of five he started working in his father’s grocery store in Rolette, a town of about 450 people. Keith graduated from Rolette High School, then he attended the University of North Dakota, and graduated in 1968 in accounting. Having been in ROTC for four years, he was then commissioned in the US Army Signal Corps (communications). He was on active duty for the next two years; the last year was in Vietnam. In 1976, Keith left active duty, but stayed in the Army Reserve, and returned to ND until he started law school at Washburn University in Topeka, KS.



As Mary stated, they met through the motor bank window. This was the most memorable event in his life! Keith is thankful that they are still going strong after 50 years. After they were married in 1973, and Keith graduated from law school, he went back on active duty as an Army lawyer (JAG) for two years, during which time they were stationed at Fort Gordon, GA and Fort McClellan, AL. In 1976, he again left active duty but stayed in the Reserves. They moved to North Dakota and lived in East Grand Forks for a short time, then moved to Lakota for a couple of years before settling in Bismarck. While in the Reserves, Keith was mobilized for Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and served several Reserve assignments, including commanding a Law Center in Salt Lake City. Keith retired as a Colonel. On the civilian side, he worked as a lawyer in several capacities, including private practice, government relations (both inside and outside of government), association law, and prosecution. The third part of his career was in teaching part time at four colleges and universities. Now that they are both retired, Mary and Keith are making the most of their time split between winters in Florida and summers in ND.



**family trip with daughter & son-in-law,
Monica & Kent Gainsforth**



Sock-it-to-me Sunday was a huge success. Thank you to all the young people who caught the flying socks, those who tossed the socks, and those who donated the socks. We collected nearly 400 pairs of socks: 269 pairs of adult socks and 111 pairs of children's socks.

The socks were distributed at Project Service Connect, an annual one-stop shop event sponsored by the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People. This one-day event provides individuals, elderly and families who need services, are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness with information on vital community resources and support. Local agencies and organizations will also provide free products such as socks, hygiene products, immunizations on site, free haircuts, and more. Thank you to all who participated!

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE - Supporting the AARC

During October, the Hospitality Committee will be collecting personal hygiene products for the Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC). Donations such as soap and shampoo, razors, toothbrushes, tooth paste or feminine hygiene products are welcome. All items can be dropped off at the donation box in the church narthex.

The Abused Adult Resource Center has been helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault for more than 40 years. Serving south central North Dakota, they provide emergency support, crisis intervention, temporary shelter, food, counseling, and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Funding to support the Abused Adult Resource Center is a patchwork of many sources: foundation grants, the United Way, state and federal programs, profits from Seeds of Hope gift store as well as corporate and individual gifts.

The AARC provides all of its services to victims free of charge.

CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE IS ASKING FOR A VARIETY OF CANDY, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED FOR THE PAC HALLOWEEN PARTY ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH!

PLEASE DROP OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.



3rd graders received their bibles - Congratulations!



Autumn Leaves are Falling

Please remember when bagging your leaves this fall drop them off at the church so our church gardeners can use them for winter mulch!

Brag Box:

Finn Farver is
standing up to and walking
around furniture,
and saying "momma"!
(son of Marete & Colby Farver)



Welcome
to the
world:
Cora Jo
Chrest

9/26/23 3:45am
7lbs. 7oz.
exact same weight as her
big sister Cambree!
Parents: Madi & Brandon
Grandma: "Nana Mo" Chrest ₆



Christian Ed: The start of Sunday school, PAC, and Presbyterians has begun! We are super excited to have the kids and teens back. Sunday school we started with outdoor games and activities which were chalk art, tossing a football, bubbles, and some tag. The 3rd graders received their Bibles. The kids also got soaked at sock-it-to-me Sunday! For PAC and Presbyterians we were outside with a parachute and played some games. The teens helped out at Papa's Pumpkin Patch, where we worked the mini games which include: mini golf, sling shots, and peddle carts. It's already been a fantastic start to this years youth groups and we can't wait for all there is to come!

-Mark Jensen
Youth Ministry Director



The Child Care Center News :

The FPC Childcare Center staff and the CCC Board members want to pass along a few safety reminders for a safe and fun Halloween!

- If there are Halloween activities offered earlier in the day or week, and if it's possible with your schedule, consider attending these with your child/children. Parents or adults should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds. Pay close attention and examine ALL treats for any unwrapped or suspicious items! If it's dark when trick or treating, it's always a good idea to carry battery working flashlights, and if possible, put reflective tape on costumes and trick or treating bags. Only go to homes with a porch light on. Always use the sidewalks, instead of cutting across yards or alleys.

- It's always a good idea to have your child eat a good meal prior to going to parties, or trick or treating, to help discourage over eating and filling up on Halloween treats! When handing out treats, consider non edible treats, such as glow sticks, pencils, erasers, finger puppets, bookmarks, stickers, stencils, bubbles, bouncy balls. Keep in mind age appropriate items and candy to prevent choking hazards with babies and toddlers!

A big "thank you" to those who donated to the "Back to School Supplies" list, for the boxes of Kleenex donated in the month of September, and the monetary donations. All helping to keep the Childcare Center up and running!

For the month of October, the needs list is: dishwashing detergent (powder only) and bleach.

We hope many of you were able to attend the CCC Staff and Church Staff Appreciation Day at the service on Sunday, September 24th. Please thank all of our wonderful staff when you see them, for ALL they do!

If you are considering part time or full time employment or looking to volunteer some hours, please call the CCC at 258-7490 and ask for Shawn or Vanessa, or leave a message. You can also inquire at the church office, 223-6091 with questions.

Have a fun & safe Halloween!!!



CCC Needs List for October:
bleach and dishwashing detergent (powder only)



FPC Childcare Center Halloween Parade

Who doesn't love handing out candy to the little ones!??

If you would like to join us on Wednesday, October 25th at 10AM, the kids will make the rounds in the church offices/Narthex.

Here's a suggested list of treats: suckers/ring pops, fruit snacks, Reeses peanut butter cups, raisins, fruit roll-ups, juice boxes, tootsie rolls, or holiday pencils!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

September 26, 2023

CLERK'S REPORT

Membership is 310. Clerks from the area Presbyterian Churches met to review the rolls and Session minutes. Records from Bismarck FPC were approved with no exceptions.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$344,149	Budget	\$324,708
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$367,577	Budget	\$414,458
NET Income	-\$23,428	Budget	-\$89,750
Unrestricted General Fund	\$211,097		

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne noted several upcoming events: Jamestown Choir on October 29, Kirkin of the Tartans November 12, Elder and Deacon training October 28, Installation/ordination November 5. The annual congregational meeting is set for January 21, 2024. All committee chairs should have their reports in the office by the end of December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration and Personnel—Wanona Goetz, Parish Nurse, will be retiring at the end of this year.

Hospitality—Rusty Bender will be attending a Matthew 25 summit in Atlanta in January. October donations will be personal care products for the Adult Resource Center.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Youth will be attending a Presbytery retreat in Gilby Oct 6-8. Volunteers are needed for Wednesday nights.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Concert October 15 at 3:00 will feature choirs, bell choir and string quartet.

Property and Equipment—Notification was received from the city that beginning 2026, our church will be assessed several thousands of dollars for improvements.

Resource Management—Stewardship dinner will follow worship service October 8, Consecration Sunday.

Board of Deacons—Devotional for Advent will be purchased for homebound members.

Child Care Center Board—Requested donations for October are powdered laundry detergent and bleach.

NEW BUSINESS

Session approved the appointment of Rusty Bender and Jim Skaret as Commissioners to the Presbytery meeting October 13 in Casselton.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



October

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

Vonda Bailey	1st
Etta Schue	3rd
Ellie Adair	6th
Bryson Fru	8th
Joe Satrom	10th
Laura Jensen	13th
Cindy Cross	16th
Darin Svihovec	16th
Neva Carlisle	18th
Jane Boeckel	19th
Bella-Rae Fru	20th
Linda Jordre	24th
Thomas Cambell	25th
Solomon Bannerman	28th
Ronald Carlisle	28th

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

Jeff & Susan Schafer	6th
Gary & Jan Gilchrist	12th
Bob & Cathy Kinnischtzke	14th
Mike & Jackie Lannoye	15th
Don & Cindy Cross	16th
Pat & Becky Liedtke	19th
Duane & Karen Ehrens	23rd



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS - 1:30 PM

VIA - ZOOM

STARTS: NOVEMBER 5TH



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 ~

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

Wanona Goetz

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



OCTOBER

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am Worship “World Communion Day” Boy Scouts selling Christmas wreaths!	2 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	3 11am Bal. & Strengthening Class begins 5:45pm Prop. & Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	4 Noon “Munch & Mingle” 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	5 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	6  Fall Youth Gilby, ND	7 Retreat in 10/6-10/8
8 10am Worship CONSECRATION SUNDAY (FOLLOWED BY LUNCH) BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC! 4-7:00PM PANCAKE SUPPER AT GLENCOE	9 5:30pm Worship & Music 5:30pm Suzuki?? 6:30pm Scouts	10 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board	11 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	12 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	13 Presbytery Meeting in Casselton	14
Wanona out of office 10/02 - 10/13						
15 10am Worship 3:00PM 150TH ANN. CHOIR CONCERT “CELEBRATE, PRAISE, & SING” 	16 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	17 11am Bal. & Strength Class 7:00pm Christian Ed	18 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	19 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	20	21
22 10am Worship	23 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	24 11am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends at Augusta Place 6:00pm Session	25 10:00am CCC Halloween Parade 5:45pm PAC/Teens -Halloween party! 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	26 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	27	28 9:30am - 3:00pm Elder Training in Parlor
29 10am Worship REFORMATION SUNDAY UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN CHOIR!	30 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	31 11am Bal. & Strength Class				

Boy Scout Troop #6
Selling Christmas Wreaths
Sunday morning October 1st



BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

OCTOBER 8TH

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

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SUPPER

GLENCOE SLOAN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 8, 2023 - 4:00PM TO 7:00PM

ADULTS - \$8.00 CHILDREN (6 TO 12 YRS.) - \$4.00

UNDER 6 YRS. FREE

16 MILES SE OF UNIV. OF MARY ON HWY 1804



-Upcoming Events-

- Sunday, Oct. 1 - **Boy Scout Troop #6 selling Christmas wreaths**
- Sunday, Oct. 8 - **“Consecration Sunday”- followed by lunch**
 Blood Pressure Clinic -9am - 12pm
4-7:00pm Pancake & Sausage Supper at Glencoe Sloan
- Sunday, Oct. 15 - **3:00pm “Celebrate, Praise, and Sing!”**
Our 150th Anniversary Concert including:
 First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck Chancel Choir,
 First Presbyterian Church of Mandan Choir,
 St. George’s Episcopal Choir,
 Westminster Chimes, and a String Quartet
- Wed. Oct. 25 - **10am CCC Halloween Parade**
5:45pm PAC/Teens Halloween Party
- Sunday, Oct. 29 - **“Reformation Sunday”**
 University of Jamestown Choir Concert- during worship