July 2020

First Presbyterian Church

Volume 67, Issue 7

HERE AND NOW!





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PER CAPITA...

We understand the principle of tithing; we understand the reason for additional selfofferings in service to the Kingdom of God; still, the Presbyterian practice of paying per capita remains illusive to some. So here are the facts:

Per capita payments, a per-member contribution, are made to the Presbytery, which then distributes the payments among the three recipients: the Presbytery itself, the Synod and the General Assembly.

This method of giving enables the larger connected church to fairly share the costs of mission and management at every level of our denomination. Per Capita giving makes it possible for:

Presbyterians to discern and live out God's call in their lives Churches to connect with individuals seeking a call to ministry

OGA Office of the (General Assembly) to staff and support General Assembly committees and commissions

OGA to manage and coordinate General Assembly gatherings

Presbytery and synod leaders to gather for training and discernment

OGA to provide counsel and support for churches in crisis (misconduct, legal matters)

Presbyteries to address matters of inclusion, participation and representation at all levels of church leadership and decision making

The denomination to build connections with ecumenical partners around the world

Presbyteries and pastors to receive support on immigration issues Presbyterian history to be saved and utilized by future generations



The assessed per capita cost for our congregation is \$47.00 per person, and our church pays this amount to Presbytery whether or not each individual pays it. Every year, the Stewardship Committee asks our members to pay this amount, so that we may forward it to Presbytery. This is not a "bill" for membership – (we understand that for some this amount is difficult) - but is an accepted obligation that comes with membership in support of our church, Presbytery and Denomination's goals.

So, at this time of year, we remind you that your per capita payment is needed. If our stricken economy has affected you, or your circumstances make this contribution burdensome, there is no shame - we understand. And, if you are blessed with security, you may want to add an extra amount, knowing that you are doing a kindness on behalf of another.

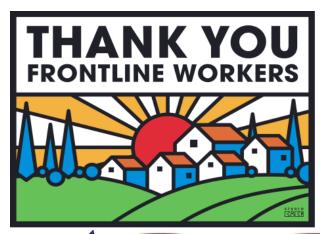
God bless you for your faithfulness!

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THANK YOU...

We would like to extend a Thank You to Wanona Goetz for informing us of the FREE public testing that was held on Wednesday, June 17th. We couldn't have been able to be a part of this event without the Men and women of the National Guard. We would like to thank them especially for making the COVID-19 testing possible.





THANK YOU!

I have greatly enjoyed my role as the Administrative Assistant for the past 4 1/2 years and as the Youth Christian Education Director of First Presbyterian Church for the past year. During this time, I have communicated with most of you through the course of my job duties. For some of you, a closer relationship grew during our regular interaction through your role as committee member, volunteer, elder, or deacon. Each of you have had a wonderful impact in my life and I am honored to know you and call you my friend. My last day at FPC will be July 8th. Leaving is not easy for me and I don't do well with goodbyes. Just know that I will remember you all fondly, will think of you often, and will always pray for good things here at FPC... and for each one of you. Thank you for the privilege of working here and all the support along the way. I will truly miss you all!

Sincerely,

Charee Linton



PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE...

Of God and the HVAC System

It's been the mantra of every church's response to COVID-19—"the church is NOT the building—it is the people." Just about every believer, myself included,



has posted a meme on Facebook with similar sentiments: "the Church is not closed—it has been deployed!" or "you can close a church's doors—but you can't close the church!" I admit, the emphasis on the people as the church has warmed my heart—it is easy to over-identify with a building and forget that the building is the base for a mission which expands far beyond any four walls.

And yet...

Buildings themselves are far more than just brick and mortar—one reason that they are often elevated to theological status is because a building is also a symbol of our history and identity. For almost 150 years, the corner of 2nd and Thayer has boasted the presence of First Presbyterian Church—offered to this community in three separate buildings. Generations of Presbyterians have met God there through a rich and rocky history—our parishioners have given their all to God through the coming of the railroad, two World Wars, the Great Depression, and the fall of the Twin Towers, and now, one very stubborn Pandemic. Babies have been baptized, marriages performed, funerals honored, graduations celebrated, all within the streaming light from our stained-glass windows. Of course, our building is beautiful—but for the most part, I don't think we get attached to buildings for reason of style and taste—we attach to a building because of what has happened therein: our souls have been fed and our needs met, our friends have shared our suffering and pain there, and our babies have run the aisles and met their true loves at its activities, and the ashes or our parents have received their final blessings on the way to eternity within the arms of this place. This is what we know—we love our building because in it we have met love and given love, and offered love to the world around us—the brick, mortar and glass of First Presbyterian is the conduit through which the grace of God flows.

I am musing on this topic partly because we have not gathered there in far too long. I have sat alone in the Sanctuary and pictured where each person sits and whom they sit with—I have lingered in the empty Parlor and imagined Vern Johnson dropping a peppermint in my open hand. I can easily picture McKinley Stokka in the balcony, happily directing along with Lael as the bell choir plays; or little Jack Luciano dashing out in the aisle to give me his Jack-power fist! I can picture the light shining through our stained glass of "Jesus the Good Shepherd" as the choir sings the "Alleluia Chorus" on Easter morning, and I can see Charee, with pink hair, charming our kids with a lesson in story. Some people identify sacred spaces by the beauty—and if that is the case, our Sanctuary has beauty in abundance—but for me, our church is a sacred space because our people have sanctified it with their faithfulness, joy, humor and fierce dedication. I cannot wait till we are worshipping together again under gaze of Christ from heaven and from the glass of our balcony window.

But I am also reflecting on the meaning of our building because it needs some attention. Many of you have commented on the unpredictable quality of our heat and cold—we have even taken to supplying shawls for those unplanned moments of chill and lamented that there is no easy remedy for moments of unpleasant heat. So here is the news you have all probably discerned as true already: our HVAC system needs replacing. It is old—having served us almost 25 years longer than its intended lifespan! (Boy, did we get our money's worth!) These days it requires constant (and thus expensive) upkeep and repair, and its performance is unpredictable. We have known this day would come for a long time. Now it is here. We need to replace it.

Obviously, this is no small undertaking, and the members of your Property and Equipment Committee have put enormous effort and thought into a plan for this undertaking. God has blessed us with members who have incredible gifts with engineering, HVAC knowledge, practical wisdom and financing wisdom. In consultation with the Business and Finance Committee, and as summed up by Jim Skaret, a 3-phased approach has been developed by the P & E Committee which will take 3-5 years to complete.

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE (continued)...

Phase 1 consists of the areas considered most urgently needed and those items that most directly impact upon the comfort level of the areas of the church receiving the most usage. The following items have been deemed highest priority needs based on the engineer's report and are identified as Phase 1 Improvements:

- <u>Upgrading of the centralized controls to Direct Digital Controls</u>—Currently, our system uses pneumatically operated valves and dampers. This type of control system is obsolete and many pneumatic valves and dampers have failed or become inoperative in recent years. Replacement of existing pneumatically operated valves and dampers will improve the overall operation and efficiency of the existing heating and cooling systems and improve the comfort level throughout the building including the Child Care Center.
- <u>Upgrade Terminal Unit Controls to Low Voltage</u>—Existing pneumatically operated thermostats will be upgraded/replaced to operate with low voltage electronics.
- Replacement of the Air-Cooled Chiller—This is a large unit located on the exterior of the north side of the mechanical room in the NW corner of the building that serves the majority of the church building. Replacement parts for this unit are no longer available.
- <u>Modify ductwork and install reheat coils for offices and conference room</u>—This improvement will enable the re-zoning of offices and the conference room, and along with the upgrading of the control system, will enable more effective management of the environment in these spaces.
- <u>Asbestos Abatement</u>—It is anticipated that there will be asbestos abatement needed as the project advances. This is also likely to be required in Phase 2 and 3 and costs have been included in the Phase 2 and 3 cost estimates.

The total estimated cost of Phase 1 is \$335,600. This includes all of the above described work, engineering services and a contingency to cover minor unforeseen items that could arise during construction.

Phase 2 is comprised of the repair/replacement of roof-mounted air handlers and the repair of underground ductwork that supplies fresh air to the mechanical room. The estimated cost of this work is \$343,800.

Phase 3 consists of the replacement of the existing boilers that supply hot water for the heating system. The estimated cost of this phase is \$238,160.

The total estimated cost of all 3 phases of the project based on 2020 costs noted herein is \$917,560. Bidding for phase 1 is expected to begin in September.

Those are the details that exist today.

So, why this letter? In part, this letter is a "heads-up", and act of transparency to prepare our congregation for what is coming. Take a breath now, because we are going to be fine—I have had such great cause to rejoice in the integrity and care of the Property and Equipment Committee, the subcommittee which gathered the information, and the Business and Finance Committee which is researching our options. God has blessed us with folks who can analyze engineering reports, ask knowledgeable questions or possible bidders, crunch numbers, and do so with an eye on the well-being of the people who make our church special. We are in such good hands for decision-making, in terms of expertise, creativity, resourcefulness. This letter is written in complete confidence that God is in our midst providing all that we need, and although the task is big, our God is bigger and with God, we are up to the challenge.



PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE (continued)...

Ultimately, any competed proposal will be offered to the congregation in a congregational meeting for a vote; work is now being done to present you with the best possible proposal, here is what I ask: pray. Pray for the committees who are overlooking specs and considering bids. Pray. Pray for the individuals who will fill out financial forms and craft financing proposal for us to consider. Pray. Pray and ask God what role he is preparing you to play. But mostly pray. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much." ~ (James 5:16b)

So, there you have it, church of Christ. We can all now be on the same page and move forward together doing the most important thing a church can do, pray. Pray and see how God will surprise us.

Pastor Leanne



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NURSE'S NOTES...



Our world is a little hectic lately. We are all experiencing some kind of personal pain in these last few months. We have lost loved ones, had health issues or just face some world turmoil. First Presbyterian Church has this faith family who are so united as a family. You all have come together to pray for each other and be there for those who need that personal response. I am so blessed to be your Parish Nurse at this time and thank you for your support and kindness. God bless all of you!

Below is an article about Food safety and COVID-19 from the NDSU Extension Office. You hear rumors of what to do with safe handling and preparation of foods.

Food Safety and COVID-19: Tips for Keeping You Safe

By Rachel Landmark, Dietetic Intern, NDSU Extension

You may have heard with the recent coronavirus (COVIS-19) pandemic that you should be washing your food with products such as detergent, dish soap or even bleach to prevent you from getting the virus. STOP! Here are all the facts you need to know about food safety and the coronavirus.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stated that COVID-19 is not transmitted through food or food packaging. Although some diseases are spread through food, such as norovirus, COVID-19 is spread through human-to-human contact. This is why practicing social distancing is important. Keeping away from other people will lessen your chance of catching and transmitting the virus to others.

Even though COVID-19 is not transmitted through food, incorporating food safety practices into your everyday life is important. The FDA's four key steps of food safety are clean, separate, cook and chill.

Clean:

- Always wash your hands before cleaning and preparing food. Wet your hands with warm water, use soap to scrub all over your hands and wrists for at least 20 seconds, rinse with warm water and dry with a clean cloth or paper towel.
- Do not wash meat. This can cause harmful bacteria to spray over other food and kitchen counters.
- Clean utensils, cutting boards and countertops with hot, soapy water.
- Rinse produce under cool running water. Gently rub to get rid of dirt and bacteria before cutting, peeling or preparing.
- Use a clean vegetable brush to scrub firm produce, such as melons and cucumbers.
- Dry produce with a clean cloth or paper towels to further reduce bacteria.

Separate:

- Do not cross-contaminate. Keep raw meat, poultry and seafood away from ready-to-eat foods such as cheese, deli meats, fruits and vegetables from the time of purchase to the time of consumption. Keep raw meats on the lowest shelves in the refrigerator and separate from all other foods. Be sure to use plates or containers to catch their juices.
- Use different cutting boards for different foods: one cutting board for meat, one for poultry, one for produce, one for seafood. Tip: Use different colored cutting boards for different foods (red meat, yellow for chicken, blue for seafood, green for produce, white for fish).
- Always clean your cutting boards, plates and utensils before reusing them for a different task.

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NURSE'S NOTES (continued)...

Cook:

• Be sure to cook foods to the right temperature: 165 F for all poultry and for reheating foods (casseroles, full cooked ham); 160 F for ground meats (beef, pork) and egg dishes; 145 F for whole cuts of meat such as pork and ham (raw pork), beef, lamb, veal and fish; 140 F for hot-holding dishes.

• When using a microwave, be sure to cover food, stir and rotate for even heating.

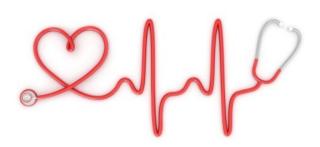
Chill:

- Do not let food sit for more than two hours in the "temperature danger zone" (40 to 140 F).
- Keep the refrigerator below 40 F and the freezer below 0 F.
- Refrigerate perishable foods within two hours after preparation.
- Safely defrost food. Do not defrost at room temperature. Defrost an item in the refrigerator, in the microwave or under cool running water.

Remember: COVID-19 cannot be transmitted through food or food packaging. You **do not need** to use soaps, vinegar, detergents or bleach to clean your produce. Use the FDA's four-step guide to food safety: clean, separate, cook and chill. If you have any further questions, visit the links below to learn more about food safety and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joke of the month:

The Forth of July weekend was coming up, and the nursery school teacher took the opportunity to tell her class about patriotism. "We live in a great country," she said. "One of the things we should be happy about is that, in this country, we are all free." One little boy came walking up to her from the back of the room. He stood with his hands on his hips and said: "I'm not free. I'm four!"



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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS...



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 23, 2020

CLERK'S REPORT

The deaths of Lawrence Engelman, May 20th, and Terry Nelson, May 31st were reported. Total membership is 353.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$261,974	Budget	\$202,200
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$236,137	Budget	\$246,384
NET Income	\$ 25,837	Budget	- \$ 44,184
Unrestricted General Fund	\$175,554.94	_	

Bob Tonolli, Chair of Business and Finance, explained that the SBA grant/loan has been extended to 24 weeks for payroll and that the church will not have to repay any amount. Per Capita giving is far behind last year; a reminder will appear in the newsletter and on Facebook.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Session approved having the Reopening Committee and Pastor Leanne forward a recommendation of reopening to Session with an email vote of current Elders for approval. The committee continues to meet and work with the changing data.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Congratulations to Charee Linton for obtaining her certification as Church Youth Director. Her hard work and dedication are appreciated. Session approved having Parish Nurse, Wanona Goetz, become full-time employee at 35 hours a week beginning with the July payroll. The dedicated Parish Nurse account will be depleted sometime in 2022.

Session approved having July 3rd as a holiday for staff. It was suggested that a yearly calendar with holidays be provided in the future.

Business and Finance—Applications for loans for the HVAC repairs have been submitted to Cornerstone Bank and the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.

Membership—The outdoor service/picnic for July is cancelled.

Mission and Outreach—Towels for homeless youth (Bismarck Public Schools) can be donated at the church—someone will come to the door to receive them. In August there will be donation of socks.

The Scholarship Sub-Committee will meet to decide on awards.

Property and Equipment—Cost to repair the parking lot will be around \$2,400. Jim Skaret and Pastor Leanne composed the letter regarding the HVAC repairs—it will be in the newsletter. The plan is for bids to be accepted in August/September with contracts awarded in October. A congregational meeting will be needed for approval as well as approval of Presbytery. A capital campaign will begin in Spring 2021. Completion of Phase I would be summer 2021.

Stewardship—The campaign will begin in August.

Worship & Music—Sunday service will continue online even when church is reopened. Thanks to Josh Stokka for all his work.

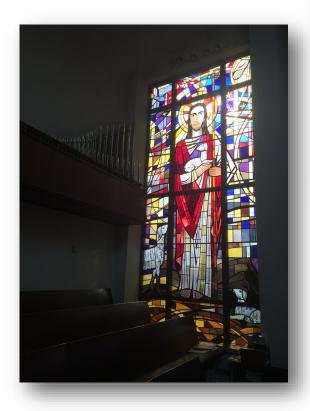
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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS...

Child Care Center Board—Currently 29 children are at the center with 3 more returning in July. Session approved accepting the grant monies from Dept. of Health and Human Services through August 14th. About \$5,200 will be received every 2 weeks. Families will pay \$50.00 for 2 weeks to hold a place for their child, then will pay half rate fees for 4 weeks (July 20-Aug 14) in order to give the parents time to make a decision about returning to the CCC.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session









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CHILD CARE CENTER...



I am sitting here in my office listing the areas that I planned to include in this article and can't believe where the time has gone and how isolated most people are with this COVID-19. Then I start to think how great it was that our Child Care Center remained available for frontline and essential workers and how we could continue to mee the First Presbyterian Mission to provide and reach out to those who need our services.

The Child Care Center had its 25th year or services to the Bismarck/Mandan area this month and we have been so fortunate to have a Director, Shawn Stettner, celebrate the 25 years as a dedicated, compassionate and motivated director. We helped enjoy Shawn's celebration of 25 years of service wishing her Congratulations and recognizing how important she is to the Child Care Center. Shawn started when the Child Care Center began. We hope she stays many more years directing the Child Care Center with Vanessa Hein as her Assistant who has been with the Child Care Center for 23 years. GOOD JOB! THANK YOU from all of us on the Board and Elders.

The Child Care Center continues to remain open with 29 children attending our services and we will be receiving three more children in July. The Center is almost at the capacity of children prior to the Pandemic of COVID-19. The Center also wants to acknowledge how grateful we are for the CEOG grant the Child Care Center received from the beginning of the shut-downs and will continue to receive funds until the middle of August. With the grant we were able to only charge a \$50.00 holding fee a month for those children that wanted to remain in the center instead of the rate of service. (Didn't attend the Center during this time.) As stated the Child Care will continue to receive the CEOG grant until mid August and then we will be returning to the routine charges and admissions at the New Normal.

The Child Care Center also received monies from a PPP (Payroll Prospective Program) Grant/Loan to assist with the expenses from payroll, utilities, retirement, health insurance and other cost so that the Center could continue to operate during this pandemic.

Last but not least the Child Care Center Board has continued to meet on a monthly basis by Zoom and have been able to complete necessary issues. We board members are looking forward to meeting at the church so we can enjoy the laughter, and wonderful noise level children have. You know what they say, children are Gods/angels and we all agree.

Please stay safe, and protect yourselves and stay well.

Ella Gutzke Chairman of Child Care Center



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<u>JULY FUN FACTS...</u>

Welcome to July! The hottest month of the year, thunderstorms are nearly as abundant as ants at a picnic. Plus, it's the month of independence days for both the U.S. and Canada. Here are some fun facts about July for you to enjoy:

- Birthstone: Ruby Flower: Water Lily or Larkspur
- ◆ Astrological Signs: Cancer (June 21-July 20) Leo (July 21-August 20)
- July was renamed for Julius Caesar, and is the seventh month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar, and is 31 days long.
- July and April start on the same day in each year.
- July 1st, 1963: ZIP codes were introduced for US mail
- July 3rd, 1884: Dow Jones and Company published its first stock average. The company was founded by three reporters: Charles Dow, Edward Jones, and Charles Bergstresser
- July 3rd brings the start of the hot and sultry Dog Days of Summer
- ◆ July 4th is Independence Day (U.S.). On the fourth of July, we celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776
 - There were 12 Presbyterian men that signed the Declaration of Independence:

Benjamin RushJames SmithGeorge TaylorJames WilsonAbraham ClarkRichard StoocktonJohn HartJohn WitherspoonPhilip LivingstonWilliam FloydMatthew ThorntonThomas McKean

- ◆ July 6th, 1933: The first Major League Baseball All-Star Game was played in Chicago's Cominskey Park. The American League defeated the National League 4-2.
- ♦ July 8th, 1776: The Liberty Bell rang at Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, inviting citizens to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence.
- ◆ July 11th, 1921: Former President of the United States William Howard Taft is sworn in as 10th Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court—the only person ever to hold both offices.
- July 17th, 1955: Disneyland was dedicated and opened by Walt Disney in Anaheim, CA.
- ◆ July 20th, 1969: A live transmission from the Moon was viewed by 720 million people around the world, with the landing of Apollo 11 at 10:56 p.m. EDT, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped onto the surface of the Moon, live on international television.
- July 25th, 1788: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart completed his Symphony No. 40 in G minor.
- July 27th, 1940: The animated short *A Wild Hare* was released introducing the character of Bugs Bunny "What's up, Doc?" was the first line the sill-unnamed rabbit said to Elmer Fudd.
- ◆ July 29th, 1981: A worldwide TV audience of over 700 million people watched the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.
- July 30th, 1956: A joint resolution of the US Congress was signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, authorizing In God we trust as the US National Motto.
- ◆ July 31st; 1790: The first US patent (X000001) as issued, to inventor Samuel Hopkins for a potash process.

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JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Wassim 2nd Nanc Skaret 6th 7th Allen Hoberg Leo Goll 9th Katherine Satrom 9th Randy Jensen 10th Stacy Poffenberger 12th T.J. Davis 14th Shelli Peterson 14th Paul Ronningen 14th John R. Sakariassen 14th David Ingstad 15th Letha Lewis 16th Donna Arneson 18th Leila Bender 22nd 22nd Mary Sherman Andrew Davis 23rd **Donald Cross** 27th Lori Orser 28th Corey Hedland 29th Lee Doolittle 30th

<u>ANNIVERSARIES</u>

Tait & Samantha Ronningen	9th
John & Donna Richter	10th
David & Mary Ingstad	15th
Brant & Jane Boeckel	20th
Ronald & Kathleen Gappert	20th
Arley & Ann Gallup	23rd
Kim & Juanita Hocking	24th
Jay & Sandra Cofell	31st

All birthdays and anniversaries are taken from information collected on the updated information forms. If we made a mistake, or missed you or a loved one, we apologize and ask that you please let us know so we can update our system. If you do not want your birthday listed in a bulletin or newsletter, please let us know that as well. Thank you!



ADMINISTRATIVE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE...

The Administrative and Personnel Committee recognized and congratulated Charee Linton at our June meeting. Charee has completed her certification as a Christian Education Youth Director. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of Ms. Linton by earning this certification.



First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck Invites you to:

FREE Vacation Bible School Ages 4 and Up!

Monday-Wednesday, August 3rd—5th

Start time at 6:30 p.m. (not 6:00 as originally published)



Save the Date for this Great Event!

Careful thought and prayer has gone into this decision. We will have VBS August 3rd—5th, however it will look very different.

This year we will be offering an outdoor, family VBS!

We are asking families to bring blankets, lawn chairs, etc. to set up your "area".

Parent(s)/Granparent(s) will be required to be with child/children to help monitor social distancing regulations. Families will stay together the entire time.

The event will start at 6:30 p.m. each night.

Preregistered Families ONLY! Space is limited!!

To register your family, please visit our website at www.fpcbismarck.com/vbs

More details will be coming closer to the event time.

Contact Charee at 701-223-6091 or christianed@fpcbismarck.com if you have any questions.

JULY CANCELLATIONS...

In light of the current pandemic, and the current postponement of indoor worship, the Membership Committee, in consultation with Pastor Leanne, has decided it is appropriate that the July 12th Outdoor Worship and Picnic be cancelled. The Committee will investigate whether the event can be rescheduled at a later date the year (e.g. August or September), but it may be that it will have to await the 2021 season.

The Christian Education Committee, with the advisement of Pastor Leanne and the Re-Opening Subcommittee, feel that it best to keep our church members safe and don not want to put anyone in harms way. The McDowell Dam Family Fun Day has been cancelled at this time. We will look into this further down the road to see if a later date would work best. Thank you for your understanding.





First Presbyterian Church 214 East Thayer Ave. Bismarck, ND 58501



Phone: 701-223-6091

E-mail: firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

www.fpcbismarck.com

Sunday Worship Schedule:
Worship: 10:00 a.m.
No Sunday School until September

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

Staff Pastor

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons

Youth Christian Education Director/Administrative Assistant Charee Linton

Finance Assistant *Vickie Haas*

Organist
Arvy Smith/Gail Snustad

Choir Director

Debi Rogers

Handbell Ensemble Director Lael Hoerauf

Maintenance
Nathan Peterson

Membership Services Judy Lentz Shelli Peterson

Christian Education Interns *Mark Jensen and Emily Ehrens*

Child Care Center Director Shawn Stettner

Child Care Assistant Director Vanessa Hein

Nursery *Mary Jones*