



# Here and Now!

April 2023

Volume 70, Issue 4

## PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

Today's kids will never know the excitement of being asked to stay after school to help clean the chalk boards. When I was in second grade at Longfellow Elementary, that was a special treat, one that always induced the fantasy that I was teacher's pet. All of the learning we had conquered would be on those chalkboards, and I was commissioned to take an eraser and clear it off to make room for new learning. The immediate result was a blurred, streaky mess of chalk that produced unpleasant dust. The blackboards became pure chaos before I was given a damp cloth to wipe up the mess. The part I liked most came later, when a classmate and I were told to take the black fuzzy erasers outside and beat them against the side of the stone building. Squares of colored chalk appeared against the wall as the erasers gave up their chalk dust. I always left feeling quite accomplished, sure that the teacher thought most highly of me.

It's that streaky, blurry mess that was the chalkboard that has me thinking today - thinking about how that stage of chaotic chalk streak was necessary in between the writing of the knowledge we had attained and the knowledge that was yet to be imparted to us. Certainly it was not pretty, and the dust it produced could cause choking if one accidentally breathed it in. But, even the small mind of a child knew that the only way there would be room for the learning of tomorrow was if yesterday's knowledge became blurry, confusing, disorienting.

Honestly, I think that is like life – at least like the life of a disciple – because every now and then we all come to a time when what we know becomes confusing and refuses to serve a new day. Our souls are like that chalkboard – we must endure a time of chaos, of confusion, of disorientation before there is space within us for something new, something that enhances our much needed growth. It is not a season of the soul that we like, we often fight against the restructuring of our understanding. Transitions are messy and upsetting. They are also necessary if we are to grow.

We need not fear nor fight times of confusion – what we need is to understand that times of unnerving transitions are not permanent, but they are necessary stages in the process of growth. The plan of God moves us through all the stages of life, the ones we enjoy and the ones that are uncomfortable, and God supplies us with answers in mysterious ways, through confusing times; but never fear, we are on our way to greater clarity. →

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Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah to those who fear that the confusion of now is a permanent state: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. The Lord stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? The One who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. So, why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Keep calm and know – better clarity is just ahead.

Leanne

### FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Happy Easter everyone! I sure am looking forward to April and no more snow!!?? I wanted to thank you all for your prayers and support during my health issues. I am so grateful to have such a wonderful caring faith family and co-workers. With all my heart, I thank you for your prayers, love, and support. I feel so blessed to have you all in my life.

We are continuing to have our strengthening and balance classes on Tuesday and Thursday at 11 am. Alice Nix has been replacing me while I continue to work with my physician to remedy my neck issues. Thank you, Alice for stepping in!

The next **Blood Pressure Clinic** will be **April 16<sup>th</sup>** from 9 am to 10 am and 11 am to noon in the conference room. Then we will go on summer break until October 2023.

I plan to have a health fair in September so look for the date and time in the coming months.

### GIGGLES:

What is the Easter Bunny's favorite state capital?

Albunny, New York!

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Where does the Easter Bunny go when he needs a new tail?

To a re-tail store!



## ***“A Word with Wanona” - I would like to introduce you to Fred and Alisha Wohl***

### **Where were you born and raised. How many siblings?**

Alisha was born in Eureka, South Dakota. Her parents are Susan and Wayne Lutz. When she was 3, they moved to the family farm about 16 miles NW of Eureka. Alisha has one younger brother, Nathaniel, that is five years younger. Fredrick was born in Linton, North Dakota. His parents are Lyle and Erma Wohl. They also moved to the family farm just east of Temvik when he was a child. Fredrick has a brother (Ernest) that is three years older and identical twin sisters (Robin and Rhonda) that are one year younger than him.

### **What was your very first job?**

Their first jobs were working on their individual family farms. Alisha’s family had both cattle and grain. Fred’s parents had cattle, horses, and small grains. Alisha was the caretaker for the Greenway cemetery for many years each summer. Fred worked with his dad at R & K Equipment as a mechanic and then in the local grocery store.

### **Current job:**

Alisha – Is completing her 17<sup>th</sup> year as an elementary music teacher with Bismarck Public Schools. She has been at Sunrise Elementary for four years, where she teachers about 490 Kindergarten-Fifth Grade students. Fredrick has worked for Midwest Manufacturing in McKenzie (Menards Distribution Center) since 2016. He currently works as a mechanic in the Fleet department.

### **What are some of your working histories that most people would never guess you did?**

Alisha’s favorite jobs prior to being a music teacher was running the combine each summer on the family farm, as well as working at Naturalizer Shoes (now known as Shoezam) for five years. One can never have enough cute and comfortable shoes! Fred worked in the oil field for 5 years, working as a floor hand, derrickman, relief driller, and finally driller. After Annabelle was born, he realized that being away for two weeks at a time was not going to work anymore.

### **Where did you graduate high school/college?**

Alisha graduate in 1999 from Eureka High School. While attending college, she participated in the concert choir, concert band, wind ensemble, percussion ensemble, and steel drum band. She went on to graduate in 2003 from the University of Mary with bachelor’s degrees in Elementary Education, Secondary Vocal & Instrumental Music, and Elementary Music. The summers of 2016-2018, she took Orff-Schulwerk Levels I-II-III at the University of Mary to develop a better understanding of the process of what and how to teach using the Orff Schulwerk process of learning music. The Orff process is student-centered and has similarities with the constructivist-based model of teaching. It is a process that encourages children to play, explore, and create ideas through music and movement. In 2021, she enrolled in the Masters of Music Education program through Northern State University. She will graduate with her master’s degree in Spring of 2025. Fredrick graduated in 1998 from Linton High School. He attended North Dakota State College of Science and graduated in 2000 with an associate degree in diesel mechanics.



### **How did you meet your spouse?**

Fredrick and Alisha met through his brother and other common friends belonging to the 957 National Guard Unit in 2003. We dated for a couple years before becoming engaged on 05/05/05 and married on 05/05/06.

### **Name three goals you wanted to accomplish in your life?**

1. Alisha – earn her master’s degree (coming in spring 2025)
2. Raise their three children to be the best they can be.
3. Stay as healthy as possible, especially after going through the Covid pandemic.



### **What is the most memorable event in your life?**

Alisha said “Honestly, the most memorable events in our lives has been the birth of our three children – Annabelle 2010, Brady 2012, & Calista 2015. The next most memorable event would be 9/11. Being at college, away from my family was so scary. I still remember that day like it was yesterday.”

### **What are you thankful for in your life journey?**

Alisha states “we are thankful for our supportive families that love and support us. Our children are so

fortunate to have both sets of grandparents, as well as great-grandparents on my side of the family. Thankful we both have been able to find jobs that fulfill us, allow us to be there and support our children as they grow up, and for our wonderful church family!”

**When did you become a member of First Presbyterian Church?** Alisha & Fred joined the First Presbyterian Church in 2007. Alisha grew up in the United Church of Christ in Eureka, and Fred was a member of the Lutheran Church in Linton. Alisha’s grandma Helen Saxlund has been a life-long member of the Presbyterian Church

in Langdon, ND. That connection is what brought Alisha to begin attending church here in Bismarck while attending the University of Mary. On her first visit in the early 2000s, she found a face she recognized from her grandma’s church – Letha Lewis! Letha knew her grandma very well and her children had gone to school with Alisha’s mom in Langdon. Her grandma was very active in the Presbyterian women’s group so she knew Lynne Bigwood as well. That personal connection is what kept her coming back, and eventually joining the church.

**What are some of the volunteer, membership, and duties you have done at FPC?** With three young children, we are active in the church Sunday School, PAC, and Vacation Bible School. **Fun Fact:** Alisha’s mother is a high school classmate to Wanona Goetz and Rosellen (Rosy) Sand.

Thank you Alisha for sharing your life journey with us.



The Child Care Center Staff & Board would like to thank Ella...



Your colorful, creative, and just plain fun monthly bulletin boards are fantastical!!



## Healthy Pink Ink Drink Recipe Ingredients

- 2 cups Strawberries, frozen
  - 8 oz Greek yogurt (we used strawberry)
  - 1 handful Ice
  - 1 cup Coconut water
- Use a blender to mix ingredients together and enjoy.



**Pink Ink Drink**



**Cat in the Hat Pizza**



**Hop on Pop - Popcorn**



**Lorax**



**Green Eggs...**

## **CCC -CACFP Week: Dr. Suess Theme - What is National CACFP Week?**

CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) Week is a national education and information campaign sponsored annually the third week of March by the National CACFP Sponsors Association. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. The CACFP brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in child care centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care.

This year, the First Presbyterian Child Care Center decided to celebrate CACFP week in a big way with a Dr. Suess theme! Every breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack, was based on a Dr. Suess book or character. The week started with our enjoying a Pink Ink Drink with toast and milk for breakfast. The drink is the very same one that the Yink would drink while he winked. If you don't believe us, read the book *One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish!* We've even included the recipe for the Pink Ink Drink, just in case you have a Yink!

We closed out the week with an invitation to parents to join their children for afternoon snack on Friday. Green eggs and ham, along with crackers, was the menu treat that afternoon. It was so much fun letting parents be part of the lively conversations that we enjoy on a daily basis, with their amazing children.

Those who had Dr. Suess themed shirts, wore them, which added to the fun and festivities throughout the week. The preschool and toddler aged groups did several activities during the week leading up to and during the week of the CACFP celebration. All in all, it turned out to be a fun week of including Dr. Suess in our delicious, healthy meals and snacks.



## **CCC Needs List for April: dishwasher detergent (powder ONLY) & bleach**



**Scholarship Committee-**The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community. To be eligible for consideration to receive a scholarship, a student must be an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck or must have been an active participant in the life of the church for at least three years. Students at any level of study beyond high school are eligible to receive a scholarship award. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years: the years do not need to be consecutive. Graduate students may apply for scholarships, providing they are within the four-year maximum. Applications are available in the Narthex and for download from the front page of the church website at [www.fcpbismarck.com](http://www.fcpbismarck.com).  
The **deadline to apply is May 12, 2023.**



## **RESOURCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**



The Per Capita Special Offering is a special offering of our church that extends the entire year. We start to talk about it in January of each year and provide added information throughout the year in the form of periodic minutes for mission, special articles in the newsletter and church bulletins.

Per Capita is the amount that the church must pay to the larger church for each member of the church. This year that amount is \$50 per member. The per capita payment of each church in our denomination is divided between the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly, and provides the most substantial source of funding that supports the larger church and enables it to provide the connectionism that makes the Presbyterian Church unique and enables it to function the way that it does. If you have not served in a leadership position in the church, you may not appreciate all that the larger church does in support of the individual churches and its members. Without the connectional relationships that exist in our denomination between the individual churches and the Presbyteries, Synods, and the General Assembly many churches would find it very difficult to survive without the guidance and leadership offered by the larger church organization and staff personnel. One example of how the larger church benefitted our church in recent years is the Investment Loan Program (ILP) that financed the Phase I of our HVAC system upgrade with a 2% loan. Without this program our church would have found it much more difficult and expensive to obtain the necessary financing.

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 and sending it to the church office with per capita written in the memo blank on the check. You may also place it in the collection baskets in the rear of the sanctuary on Sunday morning.

Please consider making a separate per capita payment to the church this year and feel confident that you are doing your part to help support our Presbyterian Church and its membership in the largest Presbyterian Church organization in the world.

Thank you, Jim Skaret

Resource Management Committee

## **THE HIGH TEA IS POSTPONED**

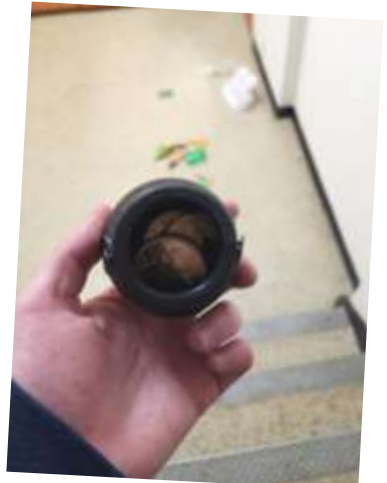
**TO A LATER DATE**

**THE ELEVATOR IS STILL OUT OF ORDER**

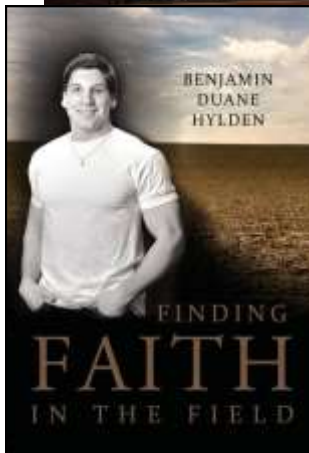
more information to come - watch the bulletins & newsletters...



**CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE - CE AND THE YOUTH HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY THIS MONTH! HERE'S SOME FUN PICTURES FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL, OUR SCAVENGER HUNT, AND OUR SPEAKER BEN HYLDEN WHO WROTE "FINDING FAITH IN THE FIELD"**



Faith  
Love  
Hope!





## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

March 28, 2023

### CLERK'S REPORT

The following deaths were noted: Lu Dunn, March 9; Betty Aide, March 11; Delores Dullum, March 15; John Sakariassen, March 26. Membership is 307.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$104,539	Budget	\$67,006
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$95,913	Budget	\$99,522
NET Income	\$8,626	Budget	-\$32,516
Investment Fund Balance (Feb)	\$1,928,407		

Prepaid pledges of about \$15,000 account for the higher total income.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne and committees will investigate adding a security alarm system for the church as well as security training. An anonymous donor has agreed to give \$15,000 for the streaming service with 3 permanent cameras and a laptop.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Hospitality**-The church volunteers served 152 meals at the Banquet. The committee paid its membership in the Homeless Coalition.

**Proclamation-Christian Education**— Speaker Ben Hylden on March 22 was well-attended. A free-will offering of over \$400 will help defray the cost.

**Proclamation-Worship and Music**— Communion on Easter Sunday will return to passing trays of bread and juice. The packaged elements will be available to those who wish them.

**Resource Management**— Session approved the collection of a special offering for the 150th Anniversary. Ron Carlisle organized donated books from Grae Gannon and took those remaining to the antique shop. Any donations or sales money will be given to the Child Care Center.

**Board of Deacons**— The communion and Sunday hostess/coffee server instructions were revised.

**Child Care Center**— The ND House and Senate bills regarding childcare have not been passed at this time.

**150th Anniversary**— The next meeting is April 12. Please volunteer to help with events.

### NEW BUSINESS

Session elected commissioners to the Presbytery meeting held April 22 in East Grand Forks.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



## BIRTHDAYS

**APRIL**

Sydney Henriksen	4th
Fred Larson	4th
Becky Mahlum	6th
Donna Richter	6th
John Richter	9th
Peggy Hoge	11th
Jodi Bjornson	13th
Seth Peterson	16th
Steve Adair	19th
Violet Spitzer	19th
Ed Murphy	24th
Audrey Simmons	26th
Anna Bitz	28th
Gail Christianson	30th



## 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 ~**

## ANNIVERSARIES

**APRIL**

Bill & Laura Jensen	21st
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## First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

[firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)

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

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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



### Pastor

*Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons*

### Finance Assistant

*Carol Thompson*

### Administrative Assistant

*Maureen Chrest*

### Parish Nurse

*Wanona Goetz*

### Christian Ed. Co-Directors

*Marete Farver & Mark Jensen*

### Organists

*Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad*

### Chancel Choir Director

*Debi Rogers*

### Westminster Chimes Director

*Lael Hoerauf*

### Maintenance Manager

*Tony Bartole*

### 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

*Sophie Svihovec*



**2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 1-5:00pm Pinochle Card Party (Parlor)
2 10:00am Worship "PALM SUNDAY" FOLLOWED BY "EASTER EGG HUNT" NO ADULT SS	3 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christ. Ed	4 11:00am Bal. & Strength 5:45pm Prop. & Equipment 6:00pm Lay Pastors 7:30pm Lenten Bible Study	5 Noon "Munch & Mingle" 5:45pm PAC/Teens NO Bells 6:30pm Choir	6 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Serv.	7 Good Friday 5:00pm Service at Glencoe  OFFICES CLOSED	8 11am- Noon Prayer Vigil in the Chapel
9 10am Worship "EASTER SUNDAY"  RESURRECTION OF THE LORD! COMMUNION NO ADULT OR KIDS SS	10 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts	11 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class  5:30pm CCC Board	12 Noon- 150th Ann. Comm. Meeting (parlor) 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	13 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	14	15
16 10:00am Worship "2nd Sunday of Easter" BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC	17 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. Personnel 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	18 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class	19  5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	20 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	21	22 
23 10:00am Worship  30 10:00am Worship	24 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	25 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends at Augusta Place 6:00pm Session	26 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	27 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	28	29 Coming up: Monday, May 1st- 6:00pm Suzuki Solo Spring Recital

## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF:

LU DUNN  
BETTY AIDE  
WINNIFRED “WINNY” LEVERSON  
DELORIS DULLUM  
DONALD “DON” HARRIS  
YVONNE ELLINGSON  
JOHN SAKARIASSEN

IN LOVING  
memory

**HVAC Update-** In 2020 our church began the upgrade of its 55 – 65 year old HVAC System with the awarding of a contract for Phase 1 of a 3 phase program. Phase 1 consisted of the installation of a state of the art digital control system which also included the removal of the original pneumatic controls and valves that control the flow of heated or cooled water to various locations of our building for heating and cooling purposes. Phase 1 also included the replacement of the original chiller unit that provided for the cooling of water for use with the cooling system in the building. Phase 1 was completed in late 2021 for a total cost of approx. \$ 328,000 including construction and engineering services.

A loan was obtained in 2021 from the Investment Loan Program of our denomination (PCUSA) for \$ 328,000 to be repaid with a 2% interest rate and a 15 year amortization schedule. A Capital Campaign was launched in early 2021 to raise money to cover the cost of at least Phase 1. As of March 10, 2023, a total of \$ 454,230 in pledges has been received from members of our congregation and a portion of grants from various organizations to our Child Care Center. As of March 10, 2023, a total of \$ 419,650 of the \$ 454,230 monies pledged has been received, or 92.39% of the total amount pledged. This included pledges that were to be paid over a 3 year period and are continuing to be paid.

Since we are approximately 2/3 into that 3 year pledge period, it appears that it is reasonable to expect that the total amount pledged will be received by mid-2024, the end of the 3 year pledge period. The total amount raised from pledges in addition to the 2% loan from our denomination is \$747,650. We are making scheduled payments of interest and principle on the loan, and have made total payments to date of \$19,353. A portion of the balance of loan money still available is included in bank balances that have been invested in 9,12 and 18 month CD's at interest rates ranging from 3.25% to 5.35%. In other words, there is money being made on interest earned on a portion of the loaned money that will be used to help with the repayment of loan principal and interest over the next several years. The Property and Equipment Committee is currently having some essential work completed to correct some deficiencies in the way hot and cool air is distributed within the Child Care Center spaces, that was not included in the Phase 1 contract, by contracting with Northern Plains Plumbing Heating & Air Inc. for approximately \$20,000 which is being paid out of the HVAC Fund. When this work is complete, it will be time to begin the planning for the Phases 2 and 3 of the HVAC Upgrade Project. That will include an update of cost estimates, scheduling for the design and construction work, and a look at financing requirements. These are items that should be done and presented to the members of this church later this year or early 2024.

Phase 1 was not completed without its share of headaches and frustrations, but in the final analysis, it is believed to have been a huge success in all respects including the financial outcome of the project and has laid a good foundation for the advancement of Phases 2 and 3. Many thanks to all of those who contributed, and may be continuing to contribute on their pledges, to make the Phase 1 project possible.