



Here and Now
September
Newsletter!

September 2024

Volume 71, Issue 9

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

I have spent a lot of my life living by the rhythms of education – after high school, there were two colleges, three Masters degrees and a PhD, followed by some time on college and seminary faculties - which meant that for many years, Fall was ‘restart” time. I remember one fall when I was beginning on the faculty of Morningside College: I was walking to my office early in the morning as bells were ringing in the air, students were heading to the commons for breakfast, and the sounds of the football team practicing in the brisk morning air was coming from the field which was in back of the dorms. I have rarely felt so alive and hopeful as I did that morning, like my soul had come into its own. I love Fall – the colors, the song of tree-frogs, the chimes of school starting, the students scurrying to new classes with hopes and dreams wide open.

This joyful Fall anticipation has not left me, even at this age. We kick off our church year with a big back-to-church, back-to-school celebration, blessing our kids backpacks and praying for them and all of the servants of education who will teach and provide for them in the coming year. In many ways, church, too, hits the restart button: committees that have taken summer breaks are back on tasks, choir comes back (God bless our choir and musicians!) Sunday School, PAC and Presbyteens begin again, and the worship year begins its crazy-dash toward All-Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas! Alive and hopeful – that’s what it is – as the Harvest Season turns our gaze toward the coming end of the year. I wouldn’t miss it for the world.

So many things are planned, so watch your calendar: Blessing and Chipping of the Pets, World Communion Sunday, our yearly Pledge Campaign, the kids’ Halloween Bash, Thanksgiving Eve Worship, church service projects, the “Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans,” the bells’ and choir’s presentation, Kids’ Advent Sunday, Bible Studies, Advent, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve Services, and so much more.

I hope you feel the coming of joy, hope, and beauty like I do this year, as in Fall, we begin anew. Come family of God, let us use the upcoming seasons to worship God and be grateful for the many mercies we have received!

Leanne



How Do People Start Attending Church?

a friend invited me - 86%

organized events - 6%

Pastor invite - 6%

advertising - 2%

PEOPLE BRING PEOPLE!



Brag Box:

baptism of Louisa Ruth Jensen

daughter of Sam & Isaac Jensen

grand-daughter of Laura & Bill Jensen



Greetings, First Presbyterian congregation and staff from your former Parish Nurse Wanona!

First of all a HUGE THANK YOU to the Deacons, and the High Tea Committee for your generous donations to help with my medical expenses. What can I say, I was so shocked when Carol informed me of your consideration to help me with my out of pocket costs for my infusions. I really appreciate your kindness, support, positive thoughts and prayers! I have finished my last infusion, to improve kidney function, before I can do surgery to fix my neck/shoulder. The next step is labs every two weeks for the next 2 months. I believe this will work!

I have moved to Eureka, SD to be closer to my younger daughter Kelly. She has three munchkins, Lucy(7), Oliver(3), and Lyndy(2). They are very busy, so Grandma helps out with them while Kelly works on their farm, with 60 head of quarter horses and 80 head of cattle. It's never boring out there. I also head over to my eldest daughter Rachel's to see her three munchkins in St Anthony, ND. Oakley(10), Shaw(8), and Klaira(6) compete in rodeo events, and motorcross. Shaw is very active in motorcross and doing very well!

Karen Macdonald and her grand daughter, Abby recently came down for a visit! They visited the farm and got to see all the beautiful quarter horses. We all enjoyed lunch at the local café, I gave them a tour of my new house, and they brought me some garden produce!

I have been enjoying my retirement even though I have had some "hiccups" in health issues. I truly miss you all and have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to be your Parish Nurse. As I have said before, "the Best Job Ever!" Sincerely, Wanona Goetz



Wanona's new address:
307 11th St.
Eureka, SD 57437



PARISH NURSE NEWS -

*Feelings of fall are in the air... kids are back in school and leaves are beginning to change colors already! If you are ready for changes in your routine join us for the Strength and Balance Class. Starting on **September 10th** we will meet in Ramstad Hall, every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00am. All are welcome and we would love to see some new faces. This is a no cost, come as you are type of class!

*Monthly blood pressure clinics will also resume. I will be in the conference room on **Sunday, September 22nd** starting at **9:00 am** to check blood pressure. Happy fall Y'all!

Sincerely, Carmen

First Presbyterian Church
Balance and Strengthening Class

214 East Thayer Ave. - (Ramstad Hall)

every Tuesday at 11:00 am
every Thursday at 11:00 am

Open to All

class will cancel if church functions are on these days or holidays



BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

RESUMES: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

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



Cottage Meeting

Thursday, September 5th

7:00pm at Nanc & Jim Skaret's
(3403 Nebraska Drive)

RSVP: 258-4703

“Ringing Praise”

While the earth remaineth,
seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter,
and day and night shall not cease. *Genesis 8:22*

I would like to think that our worship and praise through music will also go on forever. To that end, Westminster Chimes will be resuming handbell rehearsals on Wednesday, **September 4th, 6:30 to 7:30 in the bell room.** Commitments are considered on a monthly basis to enable a flexible calendar for all. Newcomers are welcome to call me for an appointment to have a personal hands-on introduction to bells at their convenience. Let us continue to make a joyful noise in a joyful manner! Lael Hoerauf, director 527-1953



CCC NEWS: The CCC Board and staff continue to say a sincere “THANK YOU” for the paper towels, hand soap and the monetary donations which have been so generously given to the center. Our September needs list includes the “Back to School” supplies featured below. The staff and children are very appreciative of all of the school supplies which keeps the creativity going in their classrooms.



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 September: →



FPC Child Care Center is looking for donations of “Back to School Supplies” here’s a list of things we could use:

- ♦ washable markers
- ♦ glue sticks
- ♦ bottles of school glue
- ♦ pipe cleaners and pom poms
- ♦ washable paints
- ♦ water color paints
- ♦ colored pencils
- ♦ construction paper



Items must be non-toxic & AP approved.



Hello Singers, I hope your summer's progressing wonderfully and your life is good. Here's an invitation to join our voices together in song. All adults and youth are welcome to join our Chancel Choir (no audition needed) in the sanctuary **Wednesday, September 4 @ 7:30**. We rehearse Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:30 p. m. and prepare at least 4 weeks ahead, so don't worry if you can't attend every rehearsal.

Singing in choir is a meaningful, exhilarating and spiritual way to serve our congregation. We'd be thrilled to have your voice to join with ours in harmony. It's time to share the music living inside of you in joyful praise!

See you soon...
Debi Rogers
Chancel Choir Director
701-226-6890



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY - September 8, 2024

Sunday School resumes (adult & children)

Blessing of the Backpacks - remember to bring your backpacks



Wednesday, September 11th - PAC/Teens resumes

Sunday, September 15th - 3rd graders receive Bibles

Saturday, September 21st

“Blessing of the Pets” service 1:00pm

(any pets welcome-even teddy bears)

Please join us at the First Presbyterian Church

Furry Friends will offer low cost micro-chipping 1-3:00pm

Their list of needs includes the following:

bleach, pee pads, kitty litter, cat/kitten food, litter boxes, puppy/dog food, dog treats and toys. Please place your items in the donation box in the Narthex.

Thanks for your generosity!

**We will be accepting donations for Furry Friends
Rockin' Rescue**



CHRISTIAN ED: This month we had vacation bible school at the church with Mandan FPC joining in as well. It was a big success with lots of fun and praising God. We had a total of 17 kids participate in VBS. We are looking forward to having all the PAC kids and teens back on Wednesday nights, starting on September 11th at 5:45pm.

Youth Ministry Director -Mark Jensen

VBS 2024



First Presbyterian Hospitality Committee



The Hospitality Committee is asking our church members to donate jelly and/or peanut butter in plastic containers (no glass, please) during the month of September. Our church has been a long-time supporter of the Backpacks for Kids program in our community. This program delivers backpacks to schools in the Bismarck/Mandan area on Friday afternoons to provide nutritious food items to children who lack food over the weekend. Last year, our congregation collected 108 jars of peanut butter and 93 jars of jelly.

Your PBJ donations (plastic containers only, please) can be put in the donation box in the narthex.

Bismarck Out of the Darkness Community Walk

Sunday, September 8, 2024

2:00pm (registration at 12:00pm)

ND State Capitol

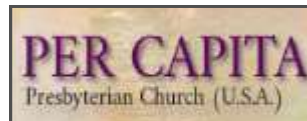
Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you can join us - All are welcome!

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



Munch & Mingle!

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

12:00pm at Broadway Grill Tavern

(100 W Broadway Ave.) **September 4**




BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 2024 - BIRTHDAYS

September 1	Karen Ehrens
September 1	Maren Stokka
September 2	Angie Hoerauf
September 8	Brenda Foster
September 13	Lynn Dodge
September 13	Edith Ruff
September 14	Becky Rosenkranz
September 15	Elizabeth Lucas
September 18	Rick Lee
September 19	Charee Linton
September 24	Keith Magnusson
September 25	Tom Lannoye
September 25	Anita Fru
September 25	Dennis Rosenkranz
September 25	Kathryn Brown
September 27	Kathy Mayer
September 27	Tedd Gutzke
September 27	Brynn Asselin
September 28	Stuart Libby

SEPTEMBER 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES

September 16	David & Julie Van Voorhis
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**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
RESUMES SEPT. 8
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 ~**

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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS Tuesday, August 27, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$290, 036	Budget	\$286,950
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$309,941	Budget	\$348,433
NET Income	-\$19,905	Budget	-\$61483

MODERATOR’S REPORT

Pastor Leanne provided Session with a calendar of events for the remaining months of 2024.

There will **be a congregational meeting on September 22 after worship service to elect the Class of 2026 Elders and Deacons**. Elder and Deacon training will be scheduled when most officers are able to attend as determined by a poll with potential dates. Installation will be October 27.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Preparing budget with a 4% raise for staff.

Hospitality—Will check with Papa’s Pumpkin Patch for a date.

Proclamation—Christian Education—PAC and Presbyterians begin September 11. Third-graders receive Bibles on September 15. There will be a fall treat sponsored by the Fargo FPC. Once there is a design created, t-shirts will be ordered.

Proclamation—Worship and Music—November 24 will be the St. Andrew’s Day celebration with Mandan and Glencoe churches invited to participate.

Property and Equipment—Session approved the use of \$6, 080 from the parking lot fund to repair asphalt in the west lot.

Resource Management—Stewardship drive begins September 22 and concludes with Consecration Sunday October 13 with a catered lunch.

Child Care Center Board—Staffing issues remain. Staff recognition including the CCC will be September 29.

Nominating—Session approved the following slate of Elders and Deacons, Class of 2026:

ELDERS

Juanita Hocking
Signe Snortland
Rick Lee
Tedd Gutzke
Tom Trenbeath

DEACONS

Anita Fru
Clyde Johnson
Alice Nix
Danette Pengilly
Jim Rambo
Jody Bachmeier
Allen Hoberg
Paul Ronningen
Audrey Simmons
Rose Trenbeath



NEW BUSINESS

Becky Rosenkranz and Jim Skaret will be Commissioners going to the Presbytery meeting in Grand Forks on October 12. The meeting will be in-person as well as via ZOOM.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



Hello September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am Worship 15th Sunday after Pentecost communion	2 OFFICES CLOSED Labor Day NO Prayer Shawl Ministry	3 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 7:00pm Lay Pastors	4 Noon "Munch & Mingle" 6:30pm Bells begin 7:30pm Choir begins	5 NO Yoga 7:00pm Cottage Meeting Jim & Nanc Skaret's	6	7 FPC Youth Going to - Pow Wow
8 10am Worship 16th Sunday after Pentecost Back To School Blessing of Backpacks! Sunday School begins!	9 5:30pm W & Music 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed	10 5:30pm CCC Board	11 5:45pm PAC/Teens resumes 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	12 NO Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	13	14
15 10am Worship 17th Sunday after Pentecost 3rd graders receive Bibles! 	16 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	17	18 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	19 NO Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	20	21 1:00pm Blessing of the Pets! 
22 10am Worship Congregational Meeting following worship 9-10:00am & 11am-12pm Blood Pressure Clinic	23 6:30pm Scouts	24 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session	25 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	26 2:00pm Yoga	27	28
29 10am Worship 19th Sunday after Pentecost ALL STAFF APPRECIATION	30 6:30pm Scouts					

On June 9th, our beloved mother and grandmother Genevieve Voegele celebrated a remarkable milestone - her 100th birthday! Family and friends gathered to honor a woman whose life has touched so many. The day was filled with joy and laughter as we commemorated a century of memories, wisdom, and love. Genevieve's life has been a testament to resilience and grace. Born in 1924 in a sod house on the plains of North Dakota, she has witnessed the world change in countless ways, yet her unwavering faith and kindness have remained constant. The stories of perseverance and joy she has shared across the years inspires us. Her deep love for her family and her community is most remarkable; she is quite an example of a life well-lived.

As we gathered to celebrate, it was clear that Genevieve's legacy is one of love and strength. Surrounded by her daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Brant Boeckel, granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Jennifer and Corey Hedland, and great-grandchildren Beckett and Grayson Hedland, smiles were shared as well as stories that highlighted the deep connections she has fostered throughout her life. Friends and neighbors reminisced about her great golf game, legendary cooking skills and her talent for homemaking, which have brought warmth and comfort to many over the years.

Genevieve's involvement in the community has also been a significant part of her life. As a longtime member of our church, she was an active member who participated in the lady's aid group, a deacon, and gave her time to help with various church needs. Genevieve was also active in the community, earning Woman of the Year twice for La Sertoma Club. Her dedication and spirit have been an inspiration to us all. We are grateful for Genevieve's presence in our lives and her contributions to our community. Her 100th birthday was a beautiful reminder of the power of love, and the impact of a life devoted to family and faith. Here's to Genevieve Voegele, whose life continues to be a blessing to all who know her!

Happy 100th Birthday Genevieve!



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

SAVE THE DATE: "The Banquet" Dinner, Thursday, November 7, 2024

(20 volunteers needed; estimated cost of \$1,250 to provide 400+ meals)

Donations to help defray costs may be dropped off at the church office anytime and note "The Banquet" in the memo line of your check.