

HERE AND NOW!



June 2020

Volume 67, Issue 6

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY...

A Dad is a person
who is loving and kind,
and often he knows
what you have on your mind.
He's someone who listens,
suggests, and defends.

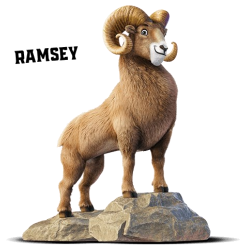
A dad can be one
of your very best friends!
He's proud of your triumphs,
but when things go wrong,
a dad can be patient
and helpful and strong.

In all that you do,
a dad's love plays a part.
There's always a place for him
deep in your heart.

And each year that passes,
you're even more glad,
more grateful and proud
just to call him your dad!



**First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck
Invites you to:**



**FREE Vacation Bible School
Ages 4 and Up!**

**Monday-Wednesday, August 3rd—5th
6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**



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 time will be from 6:00—7:00 p.m. each night.

Preregistered Families ONLY!

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.

PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE...

My Two Year Mark

Last week, I bought a house. Audrey and I sat in a car outside the title office and, as designated by the protocols for COVID19, signed the final papers. And then she looked at me and said, “Mom, this is a really good day for us. Two years ago we arrived here in Bismarck from Georgia!”

My jaw dropped. Our two-year anniversary! Could it really be?!? I came here ready to put down roots, ready to throw my lot in with First Presbyterian Church for keeps, come what may. Bismarck is my home. And this year, I celebrated that decision in a situation SO strange, I could never have imagined it. A Pandemic. A period of closed doors. Preaching on Facebook. Wearing a mask.

Certainly, this is not where I thought we would be at this time! My hopes were that the first year of our time together would be spent developing relationships, and the second year, making plans to expand our ministry together according to God's leading. But this time together (in our separate spaces) - is something different, something new – it has called upon us all to rethink our connections to one another, and step back from church, an institution orbiting the building, and seek the meaning of being church, as Spirit-connected people, with networks of prayer and support and a rock solid core of faith the OUR GOD REIGNS in every circumstance and every change. For me, this has been a time of getting to know who we are together without the ease of a gathering space under the steeple and its bells.

We have had to be intentional, because passing the peace is no longer a convenient gesture in the midst of worship; it is an out-of-the-way action taken by a loving heart to call and member of our church family. We have had to be adaptable – because sometimes zoom works well, and other times we can't match the lips to the words. We have had to be committed, because the temptation to consider this a “vacation” from church exists; we have had to be grateful, because in less than perfect circumstances, committees meet, staff works, mission stays focused...

So, if I came here intending to find out who we are together, this is what I have found out. We are family, doing what families do when times call for adaptation, care and dedication. We are so capable of getting through this, of emerging stronger and more focused on the real reason for our calling.

Congratulations, Church family. Two years, and we have only just begun!



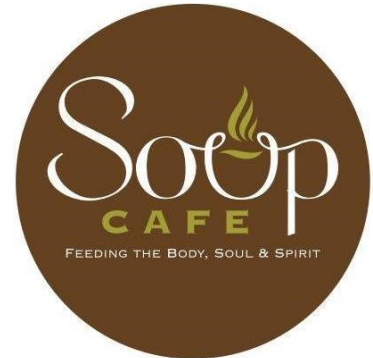
Leanne

HEAVEN'S HELPERS SOUP CAFÉ...

Just a friendly reminder that the Mission and Outreach Committee has offered to supply **three** volunteers to Heaven's Helpers Soup Café (220 N 23rd St.) the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon. Summer dates are June 4th, July 1st, August 5th.

Please go to their website at www.soupcafe.org to sign up on the volunteer tab. Bring your own mask, no open toe shoes or sandals. Gloves will be provided. There is no direct contact with clients.

Thank you!



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

*...The King will reply,
'Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one
of the least of these
brothers and sisters of
mine, you did for me.'"*

~ Matthew 25:35-40

2020 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION...

The Scholarship Committee of First Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community. To be eligible for a scholarship, the candidate must be an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck, or must be an active participant in the life of an under resourced PC(USA) church for at least three years. These scholarships can be used for any level of study beyond high school. Maximum eligibility for scholarships is four years; those years do not have to be consecutive. Graduate students are eligible for these scholarships provided that the four-year maximum has not been reached. Applications are available in the Narthex or for download from the front page of the church website at www.fpcbismarck.com. The application deadline is June 15th, 2020.





CHILD CARE CENTER...

May was Child Care Provider recognition month. In recognition of all the Child Care Center staff, Director and Assistant Director, we, as Board Members of the FPCCC thank each and every one of you for putting your health on the line during this pandemic. We appreciate your dedication, compassion and caring affection towards the children. We just want to say THANK YOU for being you and ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS FOR OUR CHILDREN: GOD BLESS-CHILD CARE BOARD MEMBERS.

This Memorial weekend we want to give a huge thank you to all the health, safety, frontline and essential workers during this pandemic, with a special prayer to those who have lost a friend, family member or coworker, during this time.

Since mid-March, the Child Care Center has been operating according to the *Modified Operating Practices* set forth by the North Dakota Department of Health. A few of these practices are as follows: daily health screening for all staff and children. This involves each person answering a series of health-related questions and having their temperature check every morning, along with monitoring temperatures throughout the day. After the temperature checks and questions, everyone is required to go directly to the restroom to carefully wash their hands; this does include infants! Stagger use of areas such as the playground and break room. Group sizes no more than 10 individuals, which does include both staff, as well as children in the room.

Also, during this time, the FPCCC has been participating in the Child Care Emergency Operating Grant (CEOG). This grant was developed to assist child care programs to remain open and provide care for children of healthy, safety, frontline and essential workers, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CEOG payments are based on our licensed capacity, rather than on the current number of children on-site during the week.

As one can likely imagine, throughout these past couple of months, enrollment at the Center has been much lower than normal because many families have been instructed to work from home. Again, this grant helps to make that job-change less of a financial burden for families by allowing them to pay a modest monthly holding fee to keep their child's spot secure. Initially, well over one-half of our enrolled families took advantage of the monthly holding fee. Now, however, as more parents are returning to work, we are slowly increasing in numbers. Currently, we are operating at approximately 48 percent of our normal enrollment. This will likely remain consistent for a couple more months.

While things at the FPCCC have been quieter due to fewer children, we are busy trying to maintain a sense of normalcy for our young children. Staff members are working hard at providing quality care and creating a safe and secure environment for the children. Spirits remain high and laughter fills the classrooms. However, we would encourage you to keep us in your prayers; these are unusual times and we would appreciate being covered by your prayers. God Bless!





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

Summer is usually an exciting time in the church. This Summer has presented it challenges already and we do not know as of yet how everything is going to unfold. The Youth Connection team had HUGE and exciting plans for Crystal Springs Youth Retreat and a Mission Trip to Minneapolis. These have all been cancelled at this time. I have been trying to look into other options for our youth this summer and a lot of the camps are not opening this summer. I will keep my eyes open and see what we can plan for our youth to have fun and fellowship together. Stay tuned!!

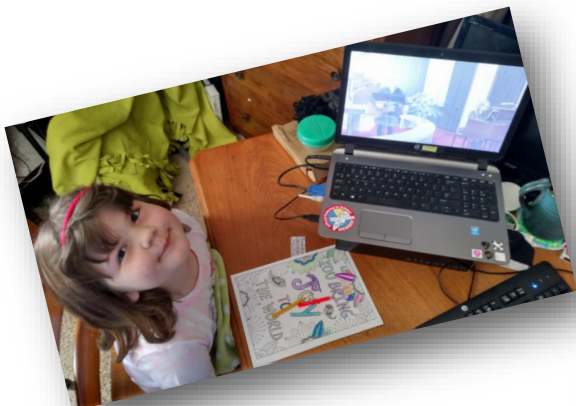
The Christian Education Committee has also put some of the planned events on hold until we can meet again. These events include Confirmation, PAC Graduations and PAC/PresbyTeens end of year celebration, Prayer Partner Reveals, Super Slide Family Fun Night....These events will take place, I assure you. It will just be at a later date. I thank ALL of you for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times.

The one thing I am certain of is I WILL be planning Vacation Bible School for August 3rd—5th. It will be a little different, and will be an outdoor event. All children MUST BE registered, and a parent/grandparent must be present to help with social distancing guidelines. No drop-offs or non-registered families will be able to attend. We will have awesome VBS music, singing and dancing, great Bible stories, and the youth will be sent home with the Imagination Station Gizmos and videos sent to each with the lesson and instructions for each one. We feel VBS needs to be done in learning and growing in Christ together! I look forward to seeing you all there. Please go to our website to register your family: www.fpcbismarck.com.

As the decisions are made for re-opening and gathering together, we will keep you posted on dates and times for all the fun events we need to catch up on, including new guidelines that will put in effect for these things to happen. Stay tuned to Facebook, or website, newsletters etc. for updates and info.

Thank you so much for your patience and your kindness during this time. It is not easy for us to be away from you all and I personally can't wait to see everyone again!

Charee



FACE MASK DONATION...

Thank you to all who have donated face masks to the Church. The masks have been requested by several groups including the Church's Child Care Center staff and families. More than 50 masks were donated when the call came from the Bismarck Cancer Center. Another recent request came from the Adopt-A-Block Food Program when it's volunteers noticed that many families receiving food had no masks and no access to masks.

So, donations are still needed and most welcome. Masks can be dropped at the church door—just give the church office a call to let them know of the drop off, or you can call the church and it will be arranged for someone to pick up the masks from your home.

Thank you!





NURSE'S NOTES...

Happy June Everyone. I hope you are all safe and healthy. This has been a very challenging couple of months. All of our lives have been affected by this COVID-19. We must be patient and follow the CDC guidelines to protect ourselves and others. We will get through this together. Unfortunately, even the most dishonest individuals are preying on those who have been affected by COVID-19. Below is a copy of North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Scam of the month. Reports are coming in on how people are trying to scam our public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ND SMP SCAM OF THE MONTH—MAY 2020 Frauds Related to COVID-19

The economy may be shut down, but business is booming in the fraud arena. The country is finding themselves at war with fraudsters. Following are just a few of the current frauds related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- ♦ **COVID-19 Prevention Pill and Cure:** This scam solicits investments in a company that pushes pills and cures, claiming they can cure patients within two to three days. A scammer posted a video on an Instagram account showing himself taking the pill and then walking into an area with COVID-infected individuals stating that he would not get the virus.
- ♦ **Coronavirus Medical Kit:** Operators of a fraud scheme, as published on their website, offered consumers access to World Health Organization (WHO) vaccine kits in exchange for a shipping charge of \$4.95, which consumers paid by entering credit card information on the website. Understandably, Americans are desperate to find solutions to keep their families safe and healthy. Fraudsters are seeking to profit from fear and uncertainty by defrauding consumers and committing identity theft.
- ♦ **Virus Pesticide:** A company claimed that it could reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections in public spaces with the new generation of fungicide which reduces transmissions by 90%. Upon investigation, it was found that the fungicide was being imported from Japan and was illegal to distribute in the U.S.
- ♦ **COVID-19/Genetic Testing:** A company marketing medically unnecessary genetic testing schemes saw the pandemic as an opportunity to expand on the existing scam, capitalizing on people's fears and using the national emergency for financial gain. The tests were bundled with expensive respiratory pathogen panels with the company receiving kickbacks on a per-test basis. The company marketed the hard to obtain COVID-19 tests, conspiring to bilk citizens of a valuable resource that was in high demand by the medical community.
- ♦ **Reporting Medicare Fraud:** If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3580. for non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided I intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Department of Justice News. *Justice News*. March 22, 2020 and April 9, 2020 publications; U.S. Attorneys. District of New Jersey. *News*. March 30, 2020.

NURSE'S NOTES...

Joke of the month:

There was a Scottish painter names Smokey Macgregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid and, because his price was so low, he got the job. So, he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the pain and yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine. Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint. Smokey was no fool. He knew this was judgment from the Almighty. So he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh, God, Oh, God, forgive me; what should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke: "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"



Session Highlights

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
MAY 19, 2020

CLERK'S REPORT

There were no membership changes; total membership is 355.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$238,780	Budget	\$165,073
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$200,606	Budget	\$202,297
NET Income	\$ 38,175	Budget	-\$ 37,224
Unrestricted General Fund	\$187,792		

Total income reflects the addition of the SBA Payroll Protection loan/grant of \$56,782 which has been placed in a restricted fund to be used for payroll.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked the staff for their diligence and flexibility during the past months. A sub-committee on protocols for reopening is being formed. Online worship will still continue when services are held in the Sanctuary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (from Committee minutes)

Administrative and Personnel—Committee recommended additional security cameras to oversee west parking lot and discussed protocols for restarting church services.

Business and Finance—Eide Bailly will conduct an audit the week of July 13. Committee reviewed the HVAC report and recommended the financial plan be approved by Session.

Christian Education—Adult Bible studies continue via Zoom. Graduating seniors will be honored. Committee discussed possible methods for VBS.

Membership—The committee has called church members.

Mission/Outreach—Masks are being made and given to Bismarck Cancer Center. Due date for church scholarships was extended to June 15.

Property and Equipment—HVAC subcommittee reported on the engineering recommendations. A three-phase approach will be recommended to Session.

Worship and Music—Session approved purchasing a two-months supply of individual communion packets. Committee will propose a contract with Josh Stokka for his technical services.

Child Care Center Board—About 20 children are enrolled at this time. Families who had enrolled children pay \$50.00 per month to hold their place if they are not sending a child at this time. Grants from the ND Dept. of Human Services are being received along with the SBA loan/grant of \$96,118.50.



Session Highlights

NEW BUSINESS

Session approved the proposed financial plan and recommendations of the HVAC subcommittee and Business and Finance Committee. Phase I represents the most urgent needs and would provide the greatest benefits. Included in Phase I: upgrade centralized system controls to a direct digital control; upgrade terminal unit controls to low voltage; replace air cooled chiller including concrete pad; modify ductwork and install reheat coils for offices and conference room; engineering design and contingency. Cost estimate for Phase I is \$335,600. Phase II and III include replacement/repair of air handlers, replacing boilers and other heating work. Total estimate for the three phases is \$917,560. There is no timetable for Phase II and III. Bids for Phase I work would be accepted this summer.

Session approved obtaining quotes from banks on interest rates for loan. Church loans also need the approval of the Presbytery. A capital campaign would begin in 2021.

Session approved the payment of \$27,000 to Prairie Engineering for engineering services, to be paid with existing church funds.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



JUNE'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS**JUNE**

Will Davis	1st
Hannah Luciano	2nd
Jim Skaret	2nd
Drew Pengilly	5th
Marjorie Kahl	5th
Ronald Gappert	5th
David Pengilly	7th
Pam Lannoye	7th
Bryce Volk	9th
Genevieve Voegele	9th
Elaine Mahlum	13th

BIRTHDAYS**JUNE**

Sedalia Mahlum	15th
LeRoy Bollinger	16th
Bonnie Riedlinger	19th
Justina Nji	20th
Debi Rogers	23rd
Gary Gilchrist	24th
Calista Wohl	24th
Bill Sprynczynatyk	27th
Jill Bollinger	27th
Mary Bradford	30th
Sarah Massey	30th

ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Otto & Jae Reile</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Bill & Betty Sprynczynatyk</i>	<i>20th</i>
<i>Lyle & Sue Johnsen</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Leo & Audre Goll</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Stan & Alice Halling</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Ryan & Heather Davis</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Joe & Jody Bachmeier</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>David & Danette Pengilly</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Allen & Mary Hoberg</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>Bob & Linda Tonolli</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Tedd & Ella Gutzke</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Don & Lynne Bigwood</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Jon & Jane Thomson</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Josh & Maren Stokka</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Chris & Dawn Henriksen</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Ken & Debi Rogers</i>	<i>30th</i>
<i>Ed & Becky Murphy</i>	<i>18th</i>		



All birthdays and anniversaries are taken from the church's membership database. 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!

First Presbyterian Church

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E-mail:

firstpresbyteri-
an@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

Finance Assistant

Vickie Haas

Administrative Assistant/Youth

Christian Education Director

Charee Linton

Christian Ed. Interns

Emily Ehrens, Mark Jensen

Organist

Arvy Smith

Choir Director

Debi Rogers

Handbell Ensemble Director

Lael Hoerauf

Maintenance Manager

Nathan Peterson

Membership Services

Judy Lentz

Shelli Peterson

Child Care Center Director

Shawn Stettner

Child Care Assistant Director

Vanessa Hein

Nursery

Mary Jones

FAMILY NEWS

Death:

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of those who have passed away:

Lawrence Engelman

Lila Addington

“And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.” ~ John 16:22

