



Here and Now
July
Newsletter!

July 2024

Volume 71, Issue 7

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

“Idolatry and Superstition”

We are a Reformed Church, meaning that our theology went under its foundational development during the Reformation. The Reformers, (and particularly our founder, John Calvin) wanted to form a church community that was based on faith in the grace of God. They were concerned that, over the centuries, the church had picked up a lot of baggage that did not serve the gospel of Christ. Instead, they asserted that the added burdens of church life and belief buried the believer's spirit under burdens of guilt and served to make the average church goer “pliable” to the manipulative and controlling impulses of leadership.

Beyond the basic doctrine that we are saved by grace, not works, two things bothered the Reformers intensely: one was idolatry, an age-old biblical complaint – and the other was superstition.

Idolatry has always been understood as the worship of another (fabricated) god other than the one true God. To this end, the Reformers stripped their churches of paintings and icons, fearing that people were becoming fixed with praying to the portraits rather than to God. Calvin expanded the notion of idolatry so that it did not only refer to items shaped like “gods” but to anything that became a prized object of human reverence. He asserted that we make idols of a lot of things and people, valuing material things, leaders, wealth, and reputation - even church edifices - more than we do the worship of the one true God.

Superstition was an even more insidious threat, as it could easily disguise itself in the trappings of faith. It is why Calvin was so adamant that, at communion, the bread and cup do not magically become real flesh and blood. Instead, he taught that the blessing of communion was accomplished through the Spirit. The last thing he wanted to encourage was people becoming superstitious about the table of the Lord by perceiving the elements as “supernatural.” Every time I perform a baptism, I tell our children that the water is not magic water – that I get it from the tap. What matters in our actions is that they are an outward symbol of the spiritual reality that is occurring within us by the Spirit.



I have come to believe that the Reformers were very wise to identify idolatry and superstition as dangers to the church and to our faith. It must be part of our human nature, because even today we find the simplicity and beauty of grace hard to accept, and add foreign elements to our faith. All too easily, we blend our faith rituals with self-actualization: we mistake church status with mission, we recite our good actions as qualifiers to our spiritual value; we become overly attached to the forms and styles of worship and overlook the content.

We attach ourselves to celebrity leaders in media, church, and state - we follow trends, not doctrine – we fail to do the three things the reformers challenged us to do: “read the scripture, pray, and think for yourself.”

“Only God is Lord of the conscience,” this was the reformers mantra - and they left us as Presbyterians with a heritage of examining *everything* to be sure that our faith aligns with the simple truth of the gospel: “We are saved by grace, through faith in Christ alone.” Nothing else comes close.



Leanne

****Ukrainian Family****

As the war in Ukraine continues, more families are feeling the push to find safety, work, and an opportunity to resettle to give their families some normalcy. North Dakotans 4 Ukraine, a group spearheaded by the United Church of Christ, has worked with several families during the past year.

In March the family of Aleksandr arrived. He had come to work in the oil industry through sponsorship of the GROW program, which was recruiting workers, but his family wasn't sponsored. Last fall, Bismarck's Global Neighbors asked the group to sponsor this family which they did and now his wife Olena and 2 boys Illia and Ivan are with him in Dickinson.

The other family who received permission from US immigration services is Oleksandr and Luidmyla Solohub. They were to arrive in April, but an accident put him in the hospital just before they were to leave, and they had to postpone their travel and now we're waiting for approval of the new paperwork. Hopefully, this will happen soon.

In April, North Dakotans 4 Ukraine worked with the Unitarian Universalist church to sponsor a family of three, and within 2 weeks they received approval to travel and will be here on July 21st. Yegor is a mechanical engineer and has been working for a Danish company on offshore drilling rigs off the coast of Angola. Sasha has a degree in finance and banking. They have a son, Daniil who is almost 12 years old plus, their cat who is considered part of the family. This will be the first family who will be living in Bismarck. They hope to find work in the area. They are from the Crimea, an area that has been occupied by Russia for 10 years. They have been living in Lithuania but life there has not been good for them. They are excited to get a fresh start.

There is a list of items we are trying to gather to set up their apartment. The first month's rent and deposit are being handled by the Unitarian church here in Bismarck but cash donations to help them through the next couple of months may be needed depending on how quickly they can find jobs. The list of donation items is posted on the bulletin board. If you are able, sign up and bring your items to the church before July 15th. The Lutheran Church of the Cross, First Presbyterian and the Unitarian Church are all contributing to this effort. Thanks for putting “love your neighbor” into action.



*Ukrainian family *

FPC is one of the churches working to bring Ukrainian family members to ND. We have the opportunity to welcome a family of three to Bismarck in July. There is a list of supplies that would help these new arrivals to set up housekeeping, posted on the volunteer bulletin board. Please add your name if you are donating or purchasing a particular item.

Bring all items into the church. All items are needed by **July 15**.

| <u>Items :</u> | <u>Your Name :</u> | <u>Your Phone number:</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Wall hangings | | |
| Trash bags | | |
| Toilet paper | | |
| Kleenex | | |
| Shampoo | | |
| Feminine products | | |
| Razors & shaving cream | | |
| Swimming pool passes | | |
| Zoo passes | | |
| Science Center passes | | |
| Walmart gift cards | | |
| Grocery store gift cards | | |
| Target gift cards | | |
| Lamp with light bulb | | |
| Television | | |



Munch & Mingle!
 Please come for Munch & Mingle
 the 1st Wednesday of the month
12:00pm at Broadway Grill Tavern
 (100 W Broadway Ave.) **July 3rd**

PARISH NURSE NEWS -

Well, the summer is officially here, and I hope all of you have a safe and happy 4th of July. I thought it would be of interest to let you know of the training I attended the first week of June. I attended the Faith Community Nurse Foundations Course through Concordia College at the First Lutheran Church in Fargo. It was a week filled with spirituality, philosophy and best practices in Faith Community Nursing (also known as Parish Nursing). It was a small group but was so vast in knowledge and comradery that by the end we felt like a family. We have vowed to keep in touch and share the successes of our journeys in the Faith Community. Fargo has an amazing group of parish nurses, and it was so wonderful to expand my knowledge with those who really know all that the job title entails. I came back with a list of certain practices to implement and even more resources to better my education as your parish nurse! I want to thank you all for this wonderful opportunity to increase my education to better serve this congregation.

SINCERELY, CARMEN



CCC NEWS:

Summer is HERE! The Child Care Center is taking advantage of the warm weather to GET MOVING!

Families can find it challenging to keep kids cool, entertained and not break the bank.

Here are **FUN and FREE activities** in the area to explore with the whole family!

Splashpad: cool off for FREE - New Generations Park at the splashpad! 1021 Mustang Drive (Bismarck)

Nature trails: Whether on foot, by bike or by scooter, there are MILES of trails to explore.

<https://www.bisparks.org/parks-trails/park-trail-maps/>

Get out of the heat and explore the new exhibits at the Heritage Museum – no entrance fee!

Kids Summer Stage Performance – Custer Park, WEDNESDAYS at noon!

There are events happening every day – check out the calendar from Parks and Recreation to explore your world. <https://www.bisparks.org/july-celebration-events-all-month/> →

Whatever you choose to do, be safe, stay hydrated.

Make sure to stay cool now that summer is heating up. Hitting one of the pools?

Make sure to grab your sunscreen and safety vests for the little ones!

Anybody needing a summer job? The FPC Childcare Center is a super place to start! Part time or full time, the summer is an awesome time to watch the kiddos discover nature at its best. Please contact Shawn or Vanessa at **701-258-7490** or learn more about the center using this QR code!



CCC Needs List for July: tissues and hand soap



2024 July Celebration

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Celebrating National Park & Recreation Month

See event details on back.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>FREE Park Clue June 21-July 3 Normandy Park</p> <p>FREE Photo Contest - July 1-31 Enter and you could win a prize package from BPRD.</p> | <p>2</p> <p>FREE Junior Golf Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30-11am Riverwood, Pebble Creek, Tom O'Leary Golf Courses</p> | <p>3</p> <p>FREE - FitLot Drop-In Classes - 11:30am-12:15pm Wednesdays Jaycee Centennial Park</p> <p>FREE - Kid's Summer Stage 12-1pm - Wednesdays Custer Park</p> <p>FREE - Golf Advice 6:30-7:30pm - Wednesdays Riverwood Golf Course</p> | <p>4</p> <p></p> | <p>5</p> <p>50% OFF Toptracer Range 5-9pm July 5, 19 Fore Seasons Center</p> | <p>6</p> <p>BisMarket 10am-1pm, Saturdays Kiwanis Park</p> <p>FREE Dakota Zoo Program 2-2:30pm General Sibley Park</p> | |
| <p>7</p> <p>Golfing with Youth Fri-Sun Juniors play FREE with paying adult after 5pm - Riverwood Golf Course - \$30, Tom O'Leary Golf Course - \$28, Pebble Creek Golf Course - \$25</p> | <p>8</p> <p>FREE FitLot Method Circuit Training Series 5:45-6:30am Mondays & Wednesdays Jaycee Centennial Park</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Explore the educational Chief Looking's Village trail today.</p> | <p>10</p> <p>FREE Pickleball Mixer 9am-12pm Elk Ridge Park</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Rock the Deck 4:30-8pm Hillside Aquatic Complex</p> <p>Roller Skating July 11 & 18 6:30-8pm VFW Sports Center</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Bike or hike one of our non-paved trails today.</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Sleepy Hollow Theater 8pm July 11-20, July 25-Aug. 3 Sleepy Hollow Park</p> |
| <p>14</p> <p>Aqua Rock Fitness Class 11-11:45am July 14, 21 & 28, Aug. 4 Hillside Aquatic Complex</p> <p>Indoor Public Ice Skating - July 14, 21 & 28 VFW Sports Center</p> | <p>15</p> <p>FREE Fitness Facility Admission 5:30am-9pm Capital Racquet & Fitness Center</p> | <p>16</p> <p>BPRD Geocache Challenge Find all 12 in Bismarck's park and trail system. Available year-round.</p> | <p>17</p> <p>FREE Family Day Riverwalk 10am-8pm Sertoma Park</p> <p>FREE McDowell Dam Recreation Area Fun Day 1-9pm</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Community Pool Party 4:30-8pm Elks Aquatic Center</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Junior Team Tennis Challenge - 10:30am-12pm July 19, 26 - Sertoma Park Tennis Complex</p> <p>FREE Movie in the Park The Little Mermaid 10pm - McDowell Dam Recreation Area</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Get rolling! Check out the two skate parks today. Skateboards, inline skates and bicycles are allowed.</p> |
| <p>21</p> <p>Play a game of horseshoes at one of 12 parks with horseshoe pits (Cottonwood, General Sibley, Jaycee Centennial, Kiwanis, Lions, McDowell Dam, North Central, Optimist, Pioneer, Sertoma, Sons of Norway, and Wachter).</p> | <p>22</p> <p>FREE Fitness Facility Admission 5:30am-8pm BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Take your pup to the Dog Park at 700 E. Century Ave. for FREE tennis balls (while supplies last).</p> | <p>24</p> <p>Take a BisParks BCycle bike for a spin at BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center, Peace Park, Pioneer Park, or Sertoma Park.</p> | <p>25</p> <p>FREE Swimming 12-1:45pm, 2:15-4pm, 4:30-5:45, 6:15-8pm Outdoor Pools</p> <p>FREE Roller Skate Rink Night with Bombshellz 6:30-8pm VFW Sports Center</p> <p>FREE Summer Songs Concert Series - 7-9pm General Sibley Park</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Tennis in the Parks July 25-26</p> <p>FREE - Larks Movie Night Approx. 6pm Bismarck Municipal Ballpark</p> | <p>27</p> <p>FREE Tent Camping at General Sibley Park and Campground</p> <p>Aqua Dance Class 10-10:45am Hillside Aquatic Complex</p> <p>AquaFIT Class 11-11:45am Hillside Aquatic Complex</p> |
| <p>28</p> <p>FREE Indoor Ice Skating 6-8pm Capital Ice Complex</p> | <p>29</p> <p>Have you tried disc golf? Free, fun and fabulous at courses at Lions Park and General Sibley Park.</p> | <p>30</p> <p>Ever played sand volleyball? Go try it today at one of the many courts.</p> | <p>31</p> <p>Get active at one of our 55 playgrounds.</p> |   <p>BISMARCK PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT Est. 1927</p> <p>www.bisparcs.org</p> | | |

CHRISTIAN ED:

In the month of June, the teens served the ice cream social after the Parking Lot Worship Service! Then towards the end of the month the teens and PAC kids went to super slide amusement park. Lots of “fun in the sun” it’s summer time! Hope everyone else's summer is going great!

Youth Ministry Director -Mark Jensen







First Presbyterian Hospitality Committee helps celebrate Juneteenth

On June 19th the Hospitality Committee set up a table at the second annual Juneteenth event. The event ran from 4 to 9pm at Sibley Park, and was attended by more than 500 people. The event featured food, music and dance. At our table we gave away cake (two full sheet cakes), church brochures and answered questions. We met a number of old and new friends. This event is sure to grow in the coming years!

What is Juneteenth? On June 19, 1865 African American slaves in Galveston, Texas first learned from Union Troops that they were free. This was over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed and more than two months after the end of the Civil War. Sometimes call Emancipation Day, Freedom Day or Jubilee

Day, this event is now celebrated as Juneteenth!



Opening the time capsule

Thanks to the very good memory of Kathy Henriksen, and the shovel skills of Clyde Johnson and John Richter, we finally recovered the time capsule that was buried on our church property by a previous generation. It was buried in the flower bed, near the playground - and we gathered with joy on June 9th, at a worship service held in our parking lot, to open it and see what treasures it held. It fared pretty well for the many years it was buried - however, upon opening it, we learned that it was not the time capsule from our 125th Anniversary (anyone know where that is?) but one from North Dakota's Centennial. It was a delight to see childhood photos of current adult members of the congregation, to find a T-shirt signed by the youth of this church in 1989, and a memorial coca-cola bottle. The contents are currently displayed on a table in the narthex. After opening the time capsule, we celebrated with an ice cream bar, presented by the Christian Education, Worship and Music, and Hospitality committees. Thanks to everyone whose work went into such a fun day! Now, we have to create one for the next generation!





BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JULY 2024 - BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| July 2 | Daniel Wassim |
| July 6 | Nanc Skaret |
| July 7 | Allen Hoberg |
| July 9 | Leo Goll |
| July 9 | Katherine Satrom |
| July 10 | Randy Jensen |
| July 12 | Stacey Poffenberger |
| July 14 | T.J. Davis |
| July 14 | Paul Ronningen |
| July 14 | Shelli Peterson |
| July 15 | David Ingstad |
| July 16 | Letha Lewis |
| July 18 | Donna Arneson |
| July 22 | Mary Sherman |
| July 23 | Andrew Davis |
| July 24 | Carole Watrel |
| July 27 | Don Cross |
| July 28 | Lori Orser |
| July 29 | Corey Hedland |
| July 30 | Lee Doolittle |



**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 ~**

JULY 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| July 9 | Tait & Samantha Ronningen |
| July 10 | John & Donna Richter |
| July 15 | David & Mary Ingstad |
| July 20 | Brant & Jane Boeckel |
| July 20 | Ronald & Kathleen Gappert |
| July 24 | Kim & Juanita Hocking |
| July 31 | Jay & Sandra Cofell |



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, June 25, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Total Income YTD Actual | \$213,154 | Budget | \$194,250 |
| Total Expense YTD Actual | \$229,395 | Budget | \$254,844 |
| NET Income | -\$16,241 | Budget | -\$60,794 |

MODERATOR’S REPORT

Pastor Leanne will be on vacation July 8-14 with Jim Skaret filling the pulpit on the 14th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Brandon will be working 3 days a week.

Hospitality—The committee had favorable responses to their presence at Pride and Juneteenth.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—60 like-new hymnals have been received from the Wilton Church. St. Andrew’s sashes are being made for the choir.

Property and Equipment—Bison Renovations will do mud-jacking along the west wall sidewalk.

Resource Management—Boys/Girls Ranch will receive \$932 from the special Pentecost offering. The Time and Talent survey is available online.

Board of Deacons—From the Gift of Giving fund, \$1,000 was provided to help Runick Fru’s cousin with medical expenses.


Child Care Center Board—29 children are enrolled. July requests are tissues and hand soap.

Nominating—One more elder is needed for the Class of 2026 and two more members are needed for the Board of Deacons.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00pm Hospitality 6:30pm Scouts | 2 NO Prop.& Equipment NO Lay Pastors | 3 Noon "Munch & Mingle" | 4 OFFICES CLOSED 4th of July!  | 5 | 6 |
| 7 10am Worship 7th Sunday after Pentecost | 8 5:30pm W & Music 6:30pm Scouts Pastor Leanne is out of office - 7/8 - 7/14 | 9 NO CCC Board | 10 | 11 2:00pm Yoga | 12 | 13 |
| 14 10am Worship 8th Sunday after Pentecost | 15 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 6:30pm Scouts | 16 | 17 | 18 2:00pm Yoga NO Deacons | 19 | 20 |
| 21 10am Worship 9th Sunday after Pentecost | 22 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed | 23 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session | 24 | 25 2:00pm Yoga | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10am Worship 10th Sunday after Pentecost | 29 6:30pm Scouts | 30 | 31 | | | |



PRIDE DAY 2024



Mark your calendar for VBS

Vacation Bible School

August 5th - 8th, 2024 5:30-7:30pm

Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited.

VBS registration forms are on our website

Or can be picked up in the church office.

Deadline: Monday, July 22nd

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

