

Here and Now

September 2021

Volume 68, Issue 9



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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LEANNE: PRAYING FOR THE KINGDOM COME

I am a person who has spent a lot of her life praying in public, so it may surprise you to know that a lot of times, I don't know what to pray. I think that's pretty normal, after all, when one prays, one does so because God is all powerful and all knowing, and God has the answers. We – well, we are little “not-gods” who do not know what should happen – and sometimes our prayers can sound like personal wish lists wherein we tell God what should be done and what we desire even as we know we do not see the big picture as God sees it.

Frankly, I think it is ok to tell God what we want to happen – with the caveat of faith that teaches us that God has a better idea, and we may not like or understand it. The Bible tells us to ask – the Bible tells us to make our needs known – and no one can listen to our hearts better than the one who designed our hearts.

But sometimes we don't know how to pray - we don't know what will help – we don't have words to express the depth of our feelings – and that is normal too. The Apostle Paul addresses this by saying that when we don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit in us prays through us with “words and groan” that can't be put into words. Even sounds without words are understood by God.

It strikes me that the disciples must have been in such a position when they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray – and he responded by directing them to pray for “God's Kingdom Come, God will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” I am always moved by that line for it is the essence of faith – we pray always for the will of God to be done even when we don't know the details about what that means in our situation.

But this is what we do know – whatever it means, it's good. The Kingdom Come is a nigh-on utopic concept, a world in which there are no more tears or mourning or death. When we pray such a thing, we are praying for the ultimate good of the universe – including the little universes we have constructed in our hearts and lives. We are literally praying that the peace of heaven will become the peace of earth, to be part of what the angels sang: “Peace on earth, good will to humankind.” And when we pray this way, there is an implicit acknowledgment that only God can make the

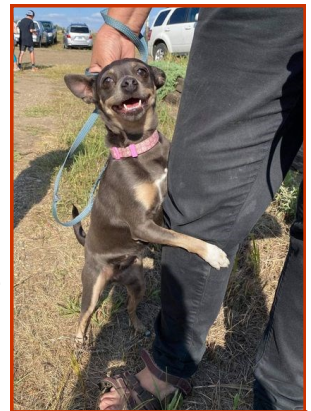
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ultimate good happen and we are not in control – God is. But that is as it should be – that is good news – because what God has planned for us is good.

So don't be discouraged – pray. Remember Jesus told us that we must always pray and not loose heart. No matter how big the issue, no matter how long we have been praying about it no matter whether we have a specific answer in mind or we haven't a clue what should be done to help the situation – pray. The great God of the universe is available to us little “not-gods,” intimate with the needs of our heart and powerful to save. To God belongs “the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.” Amen



Penny is 'blessed'

MESSAGE FOR STEWARDSHIP

It has become the time to introduce the 2022 annual Stewardship Pledge Drive. This year we have chosen the theme, “Be Prepared, Pave the Road”. This coincides with Mathew 25 that tells of ten virgins that were waiting to meet the bridegroom. Five had purchased extra oil for their lamps and were able to join the wedding celebration because of their commitment and preparation. The others were not.

We too need to consider our preparations to meet the Lord. We would like you to take the time and give extra thought to what it means to provide extra support for the work of the church and our church family.



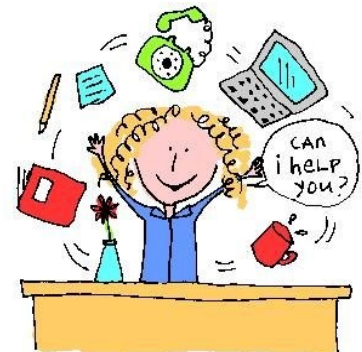
Preview for the Annual Drive,

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Letter to the congregation | 9/12/21 |
| 2. Minute for Mission | 9/19/21 |
| 3. Minute for Mission | 9/26/21 |
| 4. Minute for Mission | 10/03/21 |
| 5. Consecration Sunday | 10/10/21 |

ADMIN/PERSONNEL REPORT

The Administration and Personnel Committee has been working on staff salaries for the 2022 budget. We plan to submit a 2% across-the-board salary increase for all FPC employees.

Although we have been trying to fill the Administrative Assistant position, it still remains open. We have interviewed a number of applicants and made some offers but to no avail. One reason that interested applicants don't commit is that they are looking for more of a benefits package than we are offering. Ironically, one of the reasons some do not even apply is that they are not comfortable working in a church setting. I'm not sure if they feel they need to live a certain lifestyle in order to work in a church or if they think they will be required to become a member of the church but neither is a requirement.



The committee which includes Pr. Leanne Simmons, Linda Tonolli, Winston Satran and myself will continue to search for an appropriate candidate and anyone interested in joining us should contact the church office at 223-6091.

- Dale Hoerauf, chair

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST 24, 2021



CLERK'S REPORT

The death of Pam Lannoye on August 3 was reported. Membership is 353. Session approved the transfer of membership for John and Mary Emily Thomas from Nashville, TN First Presbyterian Church to Bismarck FPC.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$315,113	Budget	\$295,352
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$257,786	Budget	\$335,547
NET Income	\$ 57,327	Budget	\$ -40,195

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked the office staff for their efficiency and especially thanked volunteers Lael Hoerauf and Paul Ronningen for working at the front desk. She stressed the need for safety and security of the building; a new card key system will be installed at the front door in September.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Three-month evaluations of new staff are being completed.

Hospitality—Peanut butter and jelly donations for children's backpacks will be the focus of September donations. The church will be responsible for the meal (in to-go boxes) at the Banquet on September 30.

Proclamation—Christian Education—Fall programming will begin Sept 12 and 15. Adult Sunday School will begin Sept 19.

Worship and Music—Some pew hymnals need repair. Money will be budgeted for planning the 150-year anniversary of the church.

Property and Equipment—\$5,600 was approved for the new key card security system.

Resource Management—John Mayer, Financial Advisor from Stifel reviewed the investment portfolio. 2020 total return was about 14%. HVAC Fund has received \$239,082 payments on pledges of \$405,000.

Board of Deacons—Ushers will be at the locked east and west doors to admit people on Sunday mornings. A meeting at Touchmark was held on August 24. Gift cards totaling \$200 were given to the Child Care Center.

Child Care Center—Staffing remains an issue. Ella Gutzke is surveying other daycares regarding employee wages. Our wage scale is lower than others and pay increases will be part of the 2022 budget. The CCC received \$2,047.80 as reimbursement from NDDPI Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Program Office.

Nominating—Only two more Elders and two more Deacons are needed for 2023 class of officers.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session

FROM WANONA, OUR PARISH NURSE

Hello First Presbyterian Church. Happy September to all of you. It has been such a hot August giving us a record of 15 consecutive days of above 100 degrees this past month. A record I would prefer to not ever have again. Hopefully September will give us that much needed moisture. We need the rain and I pray that it will come. The power of prayer is amazing. Please join me in prayer.

All things look to you, O Lord, to give them their food in due season; Look in mercy on your people, and hear our prayer for those whose lives and possessions are threatened or destroyed by drought, flood and fire. In your mercy restore your creation and heal our land. So guide and bless your people, that we may enjoy the fruits of the earth and give you thanks with grateful hearts. Dear Lord, we pray that the Delta variant of the COVID virus will be eradicated and not spread. In the Old Testament, prophets prayed to end famines and plagues. Let's pray together, that our entire world may be healed. We lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from this new variant of COVID-19 — the young, the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Due to the increasing positive cases of this new Delta variant of covid and visiting with Pastor Leanne and the reopening committee I have decided to cancel the Blood Pressure Sunday clinic for September and will try to have it on October 10th.

The Strengthening Exercise Class will also be cancelled for September as well and resume on October 4th in the Ramstad Hall at 10 am. This class will be offered every Monday and Thursday at 10 am unless there is a holiday or church activity.



I have tagged another church member. I would like you all to get to know Dot Glaser. Dorothy Pedersen was born and raised in Mandan, North Dakota. She was the second youngest of four children. She received her education from the Mandan school district and graduated from Mandan High in 1950.

While attending high school she met the man of her dreams, Gerald Glaser. He and Dot married after dating for a couple of years. From that union they welcomed into their family Cathy, David, Mark and Carole. Her children provided four wonderful grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Carole, Cathy, David, and Mark



Grandkids Ginny and Danny

While attending high school her older brother, who was a dentist, convinced Dot to go into dental hygiene. She attended Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she graduated from their Dental Hygienist School.

After graduating, her husband Gerry was accepted into law school at the university in Grand Forks so she decided to take on her first job as a dental assistant with a dentist in Grand Forks while Gerry finished his education.

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The family gathers for Christmas in the 80's

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They then moved back to Mandan where Gerry eventually became a District Judge for the South Central District of North Dakota in 1955. Their next move was to Bismarck. Dot decided to stay at home while raising her four children but once her youngest, Carole, entered school she started working for Dr. Moun as his dental hygienist. She stayed there for 23 years.

Dot was a lifetime member of the Presbyterian Church. She has been very involved in many aspects of the church. She was an Elder, member and one-time head of the Presbyterian Women and served on various committees.



Dot's most memorable times of her life are spending time with her children and grandchildren and enjoying their various school and social activities. She has always enjoyed needlework crafts like knitting and quilting but especially likes to cross-stitch.

She also is very grateful of her condo association. During the pandemic shut-down her association decided to have get-togethers at 3 pm every day. Through these times she acquired true friendships and enjoyed the camaraderie of this group.

Thank you Dot for sharing your life journey with us!

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE ACCORDING TO WANONA

One day a busy mother had an appointment to keep so Daddy was in charge of their 2½ year old Sally. Sally had just recovered from an accident and a friend had given her a little 'tea set' as a get-well gift. It was one of her favorite toys.

Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when Sally brought Daddy a little cup of "tea" which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, Mommy returned home. Daddy made her wait in the living room to watch Sally bring him a cup of tea, because it was "just the cutest thing!" So Mommy waited, and sure enough, here comes Sally down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy and she watched him drink it up.



Then Mommy says, (as only a mother would know...) "Did it ever occur to you that the only place Sally can reach to get water is the toilet?"

DONATIONS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

The Hospitality Committee is asking our church members to please 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 Backpack for Kids program in our community. This program delivers packs to schools in the Bismarck/Mandan area on Friday afternoons to provide to children who lack food over the weekend. Thanks so much for helping feed hungry kids!



CHILD CARE CENTER NEWS

The staff and child care center board members wish to give our children a warm farewell to those who will begin a new adventure in Kindergarten or Pre-school. We will miss you. We know you will do well enjoying the challenges of learning how to read, do math and meet new friends.



The Child Care Center continues to have difficulty hiring staff due to the changes that have taken place since the COVID-19 pandemic. We are trying every avenue looking for staff and reaching out to all aspects of contacts in our search for help. So, if you know of anybody who loves to be with children, our Child Care Center is The Place to work. If you may be interested or know somebody who might be interested please contact Shawn or Vanessa at 258-7490.

The donation request for the month of September is for Paper Towels. Thank you for your support.
God Bless and have a great Fall!

BACK-TO-FUN!

September 12th is Back-to-Church Sunday! Children's Sunday School will resume that day with a celebration that includes outdoor games and treats. You won't want to miss it!

Activities resume on Wednesday, September 15th for PAC (children in 1st through 5th grades) and Presbyterians (youth in 6th through 12th grades). Their evening begins at 5:45 with a meal and concludes at 7:30.

We will be kicking off things with a movie night so please join us for the 4 P's:

Pizza

Pop

Popcorn

Pals (bring one or two!)

See you there!

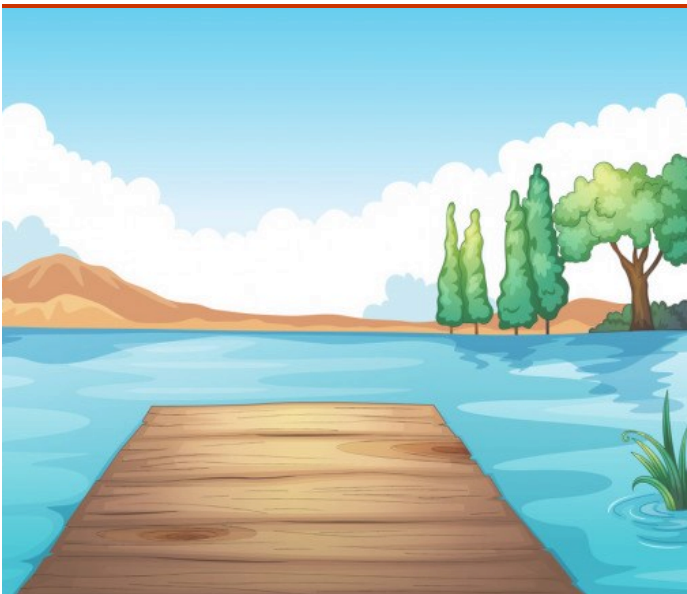


MCDOWELL DAM OUTING

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, we wish to thank those who came out to McDowell Dam on Saturday, July 24th, and participated in our Family Fun afternoon!

Even though it was hot and windy, about 17 people attended and participated in swimming, canoeing, or just sitting in the shade under the tent having pleasant conversation!

Thanks to all who organized the event and for bringing the bottles of water and snacks to enjoy!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

Many THANKS goes out to the volunteers from the Christian Education Committee & FPC for sponsoring the FREE Bible School again this year! We APPRECIATE our ordering food person, cooks, and servers for our suppers and for those who provided the desserts! THANK YOU to the story leaders, the craft leaders, the game leaders and the music leaders for making our Bible School a success once again this year! We had about 12-13 children (ages 4-10 years) and we had more youth/teen and adult helpers this year with about a total of 30-37 present on August 2nd, 3rd & 4th. This included the Mandan FPC as well. A good time was had by ALL!

Again, our THANK YOU for anyone who stepped up to help out in any way to show the children LOVE and teach THE WORD OF GOD!!!

Also "thank you" to those who contributed cash donations totaling \$57.35 for VBS this year to help offset the cost & give us the ability to offer to our program for free once again.



Let Your Light Shine!

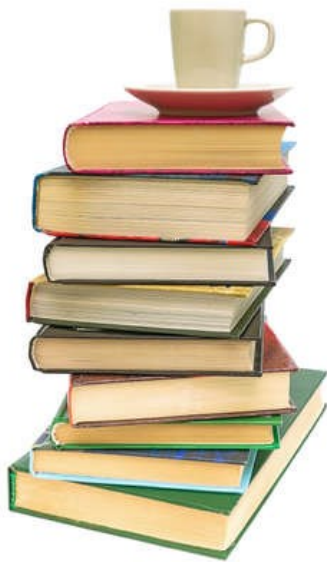


I am a Child of God!



I am God's Masterpiece!





BOOK CLUB

Here's a reminder that the Book Club's next meeting is soon! It will be held in the parlor September 16th at 1:30 with a discussion of "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance.

This book is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis. It tells the lives of real people when the industrial economy goes south, their reactions to bad circumstances, and a culture that encourages social decay instead of counteracting it.

Some copies of the book are available in the church office and other copies may be obtained through the Bismarck Veteran's Memorial Public Library where they have access to large print, CD, and electronic copies, too.

For more information, you may contact Sylvia Shockman at (701) 391-5773 or sylviapshock@gmail.com.

BANQUET OPPORTUNITY

First Presbyterian Church Hospitality Committee will again serve "The Banquet" at Trinity Lutheran Church on Thursday, September 30. Please consider volunteering for this important event by helping to set up, prepare "to go boxes", serve the meal and clean up. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Volunteer Board in the Narthex.

If you would like to donate money to help with the purchase of food and other supplies needed, you may drop off your donation at the church office and note "The Banquet" in the memo line if writing a check.



YOU ARE INVITED!

Why are these three people smiling? Because they have a wonderful group of ringers and singers and they can't wait to get back to ringing and singing together in worship!

Regular rehearsals for the Westminster Chimes Handbell Ensemble begin on Wednesday, September 8th at 6:30 pm. Handbell director, Lael Hoerauf, invites anyone interested in learning how to play to give her a call at 527-1953 to set up a convenient time for a private introduction.



Debi Rogers, director of the Chancel Choir, is excited to share some new music with her altos, sopranos, tenors, and bass. They, too, will begin regular rehearsals on September 8th at 7:30 in the sanctuary. Come and find your favorite singing voice!

Both music ensembles are able to work around absences so that your commitment can be a flexible one, so join us for the fun and camaraderie.

"Music is the art of the prophets and the gift of God."

- Martin Luther

FAMILY NEWS

Our Deepest Sympathy is extended to family and friends on the death of:

Grace Hoge

July 12, 2021

Pam Lannoye

August 3, 2021



Romans 16:2

That you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Karen Ehrens	1st
Maren Stokka	1st
Angie Hoerauf	2nd
Vi Ruff	5th
Clayton Carlson	10th
Lynn Johnson Dodge	13th
Edith Ruff	13th
Becky Rosenkranz	14th
Elizabeth Lucas	15th
Rick Lee	18th
Charee Linton	19th
Jack Luciano	24th
Keith Magnusson	24th
Tom Lannoye	25th
Anita Fru	25th
Dennis Rosenkranz	25th
Kathryn Brown	25th
Kathy Mayer	27th
Tedd Gutzke	27th
Brynn Asselin	27th
Stuart Libby	28th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

David & Julie Van Voorhis 16th

Please let us know if we've made a mistake or 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

Summer Office Hours:

M-Th 8:00 am-3:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am- 1:00 pm



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons

Finance Assistant

Carol Thompson

Parish Nurse

Wanona Goetz

Youth Ministry Assistant

Marete Snortland Farver

Organists

Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad

Choir Director

Debi Rogers

Handbell Ensemble Director

Lael Hoerauf

Maintenance Manager

Tony Bartole

Membership Services

Judy Lentz

Child Care Center Director

Shawn Stettner

Child Care Center Asst Director

Vanessa Hein

Nursery

Mary Jones

Christian Ed Interns

Sophie Svihovec & Mark Jensen

September

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 < Wanona is out of the office >	2	3	4
5 10:00 am Worship & Communion	6 Labor Day -Office Closed-	7 5:45 pm Property/Equip	8 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	9 6:00 pm Hospitality	10	11
12 Back-to-Church Sunday 10:00 am Worship	13 5:00 pm Suzuki Music 5:30 pm zoom Worship/Music ZOOM 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Christian Ed	14 5:30 pm CCC Board	15 5:45 pm PAC & Presbyterians MOVIE NIGHT 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	16 1:30 pm Book Club 7:00 pm Deacons	17	18
19 Staff Appreciation Stewardship campaign begins 10:00 am Worship	20 Noon Resource Mgmt 5:00 pm Suzuki Music 5:00 pm Admin/Personnel 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	21	22 5:45 pm PAC & Presbyterians 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	23	24	25
26 10:00 am Worship	27 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	28 6:00 pm Session	29 5:45 pm PAC & Presbyterians 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	30		