

# Here and Now March Newsletter!



March 2024

Volume 71, Issue 3

## PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

I have been thinking back to my family of origin – to the days of being cramped in a one-bathroom house with 11 people, one dog, three parakeets, four (mean) rabbits, and a lot of turtles. At one point, my sister Chris and I shared a bedroom with three little boys, whom we accused of never picking up after themselves (neither did we!). At night, we could hear our two sisters arguing in their bedroom, and our other brothers snoring loudly from theirs. We could never agree on what tv show we should watch, and the dinner table was a mad-house of elbows and vanishing food. I didn't know that everybody didn't live that way, in fact, I am not sure that I knew we were crowded: the volume of laughter, arguments, conversation, music and television seemed normal to me, and to this day, I can block out noisy distractions fairly easily and create privacy in my own head. There were times when having so many siblings made for great fun: the holidays were in-house parties.

The photo here is Easter, probably 1967 or 68 – I think I must have been around 10. Like most families, we went to church on Easter Sunday dressed in our very best – hats, white gloves, and fish-net stockings were popular (my

sister, Laurie has on her best “Jackie O” hat). I am sure I wore my first long stockings on an Easter morning. Dressing up for Easter worship was exciting: I loved being “fancy.” For this photo, my sister Carolyn did my hair up in a bun, and I was wearing a second-hand dress that a girl from our church had out-grown. I remember that I was very proud of it; it was so modern and stylish and for once I wasn't wearing something that each of my three older sisters had worn. I loved Easter at church.

I loved the pageantry, the singing of “Up from the Grave He Arose,” the lilies, all the people in their Easter

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Back row: Christine, Carolyn, Dennis, DuWayne (BIL), Laurie. Front row: Joel, Leanne, Scott, Jeffrey



finest clothing, and the Easter Baskets. After worship we came home for a family dinner, then the younger siblings would hide Easter Eggs for each other while my parents napped. These are good memories!

But my family is shrinking. My parents are long gone. Four people from the photo are no longer with us: my brothers Roger, Joel, and Scott, and my brother-in-law Dewie have died, and all in the last few years. I know that many of you understand the feeling of seeing your family shrink: it is disorienting - one never gets used to it, and one always carries a mental picture of the family as a whole unit, frozen in time, with the circle unbroken. I cannot see us any other way.

But here is the thing that dawns on me as I love on the faces of my childhood: the day we were celebrating is the day of restored wholeness. In scripture, Easter, resurrection, the bursting forth of Christ out of the grave and his victory over death is only the beginning of the promise of a God who gives back those whom we have lost. The Apostle Paul assures us that Christ's resurrection is our resurrection as well, that his resurrection is only the "first-fruit of the harvest" – but we make up the rest of it. He says: (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV) "13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so, shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

"Comfort one another with these words" – absolutely. Take hope and find assurance in the promise of God who declares that the time will come when we are united with all the saints who have gone before us, in a world where sickness, sadness, pain and even death are no more. For under the pictures of fancy dresses and suits, fine hats and white patent leather shoes, there is a serious message of faith which cannot fade: Christ has broken the power of death, and through his resurrection, we will all be redeemed.

Happy Easter, All!

**Leanne**



## **Caramel Rolls are Back!**

**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** is the date to save for the Westminster Chimes caramel rolls sale. It will be held in the Parlor and all proceeds go to the Dedicated Handbell Fund. Anyone who would like to place orders for six or more may put their request on a sign-up in the narthex through the month of March and we will have them ready for pickup after the April 7<sup>th</sup> worship service. Many thanks for your support!



## PARISH NURSE NEWS - CARMEN BRYHN

### WHAT IS A PARISH NURSE?

That is a question I have heard frequently as I transition into this position at First Presbyterian Church. Not every parish is lucky enough to have a nurse employed by their church. This is a position that I am coveting and already feel the need to advocate for in other churches. Parish nurses are also known as faith based nurses. They have a broader scope of practice focusing on the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of people within a congregation/church.

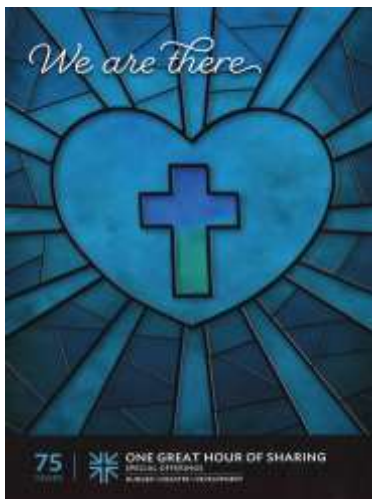
Here is a short list of what we can offer...

- Provide education to individuals or entire congregations.
- Visit the home bound, elderly or ill.
- Provide blood pressure clinics.
- Provide referrals for individuals which can include a variety of sources including food pantries, mental health counseling, physical therapies, home health care, long term care and MORE.
- Advocate for health of congregation members.
- Available for consultations regarding diagnoses, medications, or healthcare questions.
- Assist with transitional care needs such as assisted living or nursing home placement.
- Provide temporary equipment such as shower chairs and walkers.
- Implement educational classes or health fairs.
- Convey a healing presence of Christ through prayer.
- Serve the church's needs of physical, emotional, and mental wellness.



If you have any needs or want more information on any of the above, please feel free to reach out to me at [parishnurse@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:parishnurse@fpcbismarck.com) or contact the church office.

Sincerely, Carmen



### One Great Hour of Sharing

Since 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing has given Presbyterians the opportunity to reach out to our neighbors around the world through gifts of compassion and hope. This year's theme is **We Are There**. For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has partnered with others to take action to share God's love. Through these three life-saving programs, **We Are There** to advance the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability:

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE | Restore Streets to Live In.   |
| PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM      | Share Bread with the Hungry.  |
| SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE       | Loose the Bonds of Injustice. |

Join with Presbyterians worldwide on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Thank you for your consideration! **IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

John Richter

Resource Management Committee

## CHRISTIAN ED:

Hello everyone, early in the month of February the kids and teens celebrated Lunar New Year in the church. They ate Chinese food, did a craft, watched a video about Lunar New Year, and played some games! It was a fun time to celebrate the day! In the middle of February, the kids and teens helped the hospitality committee collect donations which added up to \$760 for a local charity. The teens also helped with the soup dinner on Ash Wednesday and made \$177 which is going to a charity/organization of their choosing. The teens decided that they want the money to go towards Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue. They are also asking for any hard/soft food for the animals, blankets or towels to be donated for Furry Friends. Last, the kids are practicing a song to sing with the choir on Palm Sunday. Thank you for checking out what the kids and teens are up to!

Youth Ministry Director  
-Mark Jensen



### Christian Ed Committee:

Christian Ed is asking for donations of Easter candy and plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 24. Please drop off in the church office by **Sunday, March 17**. Thank you!





FPC  
YOUTH

2024



**CCC Needs List for March: paper towels**

**CCC NEWS:**

**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 will be celebrating CACFP week with a dinosaur theme! The children will enjoy at least one meal each day during the week that fits the dinosaur theme. It's my personal goal to teach the children how to sound like a pterodactyl!

We plan to close out the week with an invitation to parents to join their children for afternoon snack on Friday. It will be fun having parents as part of the lively conversations that we enjoy on a daily basis, with their amazing children.

The preschool and toddler aged groups will enjoy several dinosaur activities during the week of the CACFP celebration. All in all, it should turn out to be a fun week of including dinosaurs in our delicious, healthy meals and snacks!

## Brag Box:

### FUNNY FACE FINN

Finn Farver

Parents: Marete & Colby Farver

Finn is a busy walking, talking toddler!

He started taking steps the end of  
January, and is now  
full on walking everywhere!



Alex Schaaf

Grandparents: Barb &  
Winston Satran

Our oldest grandchild, Alex (our daughter Julie's son) graduated in Dec. from nursing school, MT State in Bozeman MT. He is driving to Tucson AZ where he will have his first job at Banner Medical Center. We are so proud and very pleased for Alex!

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE DONATION OPPORTUNITY

During March, the Hospitality Committee is supporting the Child Care Center with a paper products drive. This is an opportunity for the congregation to help defray Child Care Center costs by donating paper towels and tissues, the two most-used disposable items consumed by the Center. Please bring your donations to the donations box or the donations crib in the Narthex during March. Your gifts are much appreciated by the Child Care Center and by the little noses that benefit from the tissues!



**Saturday, March 9 from 1:30-4:30**

First Presbyterian Church  
will host a movie and discussion for Lent  
centered around the movie "**Chocolat**"

There will be popcorn!

Please be aware this movie has some adult themes.



### Hospitality Committee-

#### **“IRISH SODA BREAD and TEA SUNDAY”**

This annual event is back **Sunday, March 17th**, we invite you to gather in the Parlor following the worship service to enjoy conversation, Irish Soda Bread with jams, coffee, and Irish tea.



### 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.



## **CALLING ALL PINOCHLE PLAYERS**

The Hospitality Committee is sponsoring a progressive pinochle card party on **Sat., April 13** from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the church parlor. This party is for all those who know how to play pinochle and those who wish to learn to play. Beginners will be placed at a table with at least one person who knows how to play and will be provided with cheat sheets with instructions to use as needed. We will break for lunch and socializing at approximately noon and resume playing pinochle at approximately 1:00 p.m. Please bring something to share for lunch. The Hospitality Committee will provide liquid refreshments.



Pinochle decks will be provided, but if you have a deck of pinochle cards, please bring it. Come and bring friends and family. Have a good time socializing and playing pinochle! The sign-up sheet for attending and bringing something to share is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

**The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee** is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community on March 11th. 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 17, 2024**.



## **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. 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.

Thank you, Jim Skaret  
Resource Management Committee

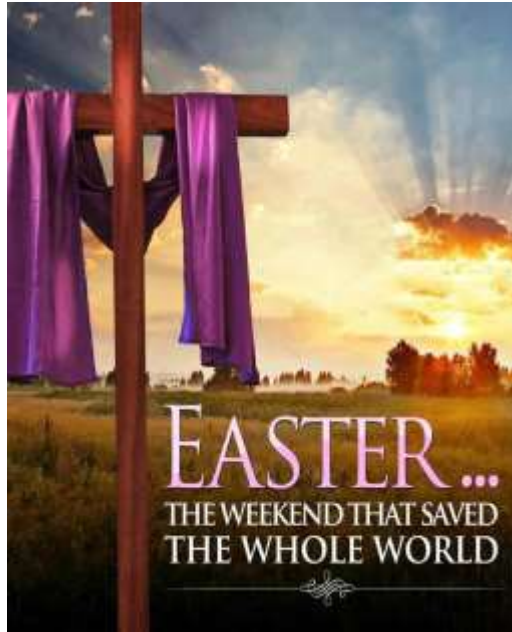




# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## MARCH 2024 - BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 2	Eleanor Sand
Mar. 2	Edith Weber
Mar. 3	Olivia Bachmeier
Mar. 3	Drew Henriksen
Mar. 3	Becky Murphy
Mar. 3	Ethan Lannoye
Mar. 4	Dawn Henriksen
Mar. 5	Johan Mahlum
Mar. 6	Duane Ehrens
Mar. 8	Zach Strombeck
Mar. 10	Mary Hoberg
Mar. 11	Darlene Kelley
Mar. 11	John Bjornson
Mar. 12	Larry Larson
Mar. 12	Otto Reile
Mar. 12	Kathleen Gappert
Mar. 13	Mary Ingstad
Mar. 15	Juanita Hocking
Mar. 15	Jim Rambo
Mar. 16	Don Bigwood
Mar. 16	Judy Lentz
Mar. 17	Connor Svihovec
Mar. 17	Carol Zimmerman
Mar. 19	Alice Halling
Mar. 19	Larry Hoge
Mar. 21	Susan Schafer
Mar. 26	David Poffenberger
Mar. 27	Heather Davis
Mar. 30	Sandy Westerlind
Mar. 30	Alex Volk
Mar. 31	Karmen Svihovec



**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 ~

## MARCH 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES

Mar. 10	Keith & Mary Magnusson
Mar. 20	Steve & Laura Adair
Mar. 22	Dale & Lael Hoerauf

## 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

*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. Interns

*Ruth Jensen & Audrey Simmons*

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

**CLERK’S REPORT**

The death of Marjorie Kahl, January 2, 2024 was noted. Membership is 310. A letter was received from PCUSA Mission Engagement and Support thanking the church youth for their contributions that purchased a family of chickens and 15 piglets.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Income YTD Actual	\$51,677	Budget	\$32,750
Expense YTD Actual	\$51,393	Budget	\$53,867
NET Income	\$284	Budget	-\$21,117

Jim Skaret explained that prepaid pledges account for the higher than expected income. The total pledged income for 2024 is \$306,320.

**MODERATOR’S REPORT**

Pastor Leanne thanked everyone for their support in the past weeks. She noted the events during the Lenten season.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administrative and Personnel—The church will sponsor a new Cub Scout group and pay the charter fee of \$100.

Hospitality—There will be Irish soda bread to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on March 17. The church will serve the Banquet on March 2.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Youth will sing with the choir on Palm Sunday. \$760 was donated on Souper Bowl Sunday for local food pantry or Heaven’s Helpers, and \$177 collected on Ash Wednesday which was donated to Furry Friends. Book study led by Rusty Bender is going well. Adult Sunday School via Zoom will be studying the Presbyterian Confessions.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—The choir robes will be cleaned soon. FPC will provide music for the Glencoe Good Friday worship.

Property and Equipment—Cameras for streaming are installed and a desk will be built in back of sanctuary for the equipment. One stained glass panel in the parlor “altars” is being repaired.

Resource Management—The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected at the end of Lent. Per capita offering is \$50.00 per member.

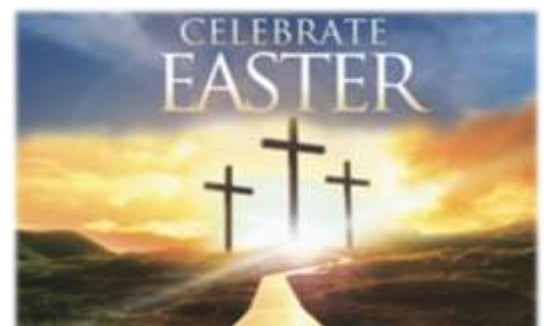
Board of Deacons—Kimball Banks and Alice Nix will serve on the Nominating Committee.

Child Care Center—Donation request for March will be paper towels. Enrollment remains the same.

**NEW BUSINESS**


Juanita Hocking and Becky Rosenkranz will be the co-chairs of the Nominating Committee.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





**2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:00am The Banquet Dream Center 1805 Park Ave
3 10am Worship 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent communion	4 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry  5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	5 11am Bal. & Strength Class Noon - Lenten soup luncheon 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	6 Noon "Munch & Mingle"  5:45pm PAC/ Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	7 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga	8	9 1:30-4:30pm "Chocolat" come for the movie, popcorn, and discussion
10 10am Worship 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent DST- spring ahead 	11 5:30pm W & Music  5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed	12 11am Bal. & Strength Class  5:30pm CCC Board	13  5:45pm PAC/ Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	14 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	15	16
17 10am Worship 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 9-10 & 11-12 Blood Pressure Clinic Irish Soda Bread & Tea Sunday!	18 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 5:30pm Suzuki	19 11am Bal. & Strength Class Noon - Lenten soup luncheon	20  5:45pm PAC/ Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	21 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	22	23
24 10am Worship Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt 9am Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast  31 10am Worship Easter Sunday communion	25  5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	26 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session	27  5:45pm PAC/ Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	28 11am Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service communion	29 5:00pm Good Friday Service At Glencoe -followed by soup & sandwiches	30 10:30-12:00pm the Great Prayer Vigil in Chapel



<b>LENTEN SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Tue., Mar., 5</b>	<b>Noon – Lenten Soup Luncheon led by Lay Pastor - Ray Wentz</b>
<b>Tue., Mar., 19</b>	<b>Noon – Lenten Soup Luncheon led by Lay Pastor - Nancy Legerski</b>
<b>Sun., Mar., 24</b>	<b>9AM “Pancake Breakfast” Boy Scouts 10AM Palm Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt No Adult Sunday School</b>
<b>Thu., Mar., 28</b>	<b>7:30PM Maundy Thursday</b>
<b>Fri., Mar., 29</b>	<b>5:00PM Good Friday Service at Glencoe</b>
<b>Sat., Mar., 30</b>	<b>10:30-Noon Great Prayer Vigil in the Chapel</b>
<b>Sun., Mar., 31</b>	<b>10AM Easter Sunday - communion No Sunday School- adult or kids</b>