

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## FROM PASTOR LEANNE

‘God says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”’ - Psalms 46:10

It’s an old oft-quoted verse, that has been featured as the central promise in many a sermon and song. It can be found in the midst of a wider Psalm that surveys the tragedies of this earth: war, earthquake, and flood. And in contrast to the fear that is evoked by mass scale and unpredictable loss, the Psalmist rehearses the protected state of the people of God – predicting not only that they will survive, but also emphasizing that they will be protected and provided for, come what may. “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall,” the psalmist says. He reassures the assures the people of God that their fate is connected to the presence of God, not the reality of world-pain.

It’s hard to be conscious of the earth’s possible dangers and not worry. Climate changes, war, a frustratingly long running pandemic, famine and water crises - these are only some of events featured on the pages of our newspapers. We pray, we work, we call our senators, we educate ourselves and take whatever individual and corporate action we can; but sometimes our efforts seem overwhelmed by the enormity of the problems, or the failure of others to share our concerns. One can come to a point where one feels outnumbered or boxed in by things that are uncontrollable on an individual level – we feel like it is just us and God against overwhelming odds.

The reality, however, is that we are never alone as much as we think we are. As in Elijah’s day, so is it with us, God has many other people who share our passions and pursuits; they are not as far from us as we think.

But let’s admit it. For every endeavor toward the good, there comes a time of frustration, fear of helplessness – when although we have done all we know to do, what we need is time of being still – of catching a breath, and of contemplating that saving nature of God, which transcends all our efforts for finding the Kingdom Come. “Be still, and know I am God,” the scriptures says, and to paraphrase, “know this: in the end, God wins.” “Be still and know I am God” and just for emphasis – that means you are “not God” and you don’t have to be. -- continued



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE *continued*

There is no vacancy for the position of earth's sovereign, and every now and then, we need to set ourselves down in the midst of our efforts and remind ourselves that our real safety is in God's presence, and our actions for a just and safe world are small (but significant!) in the larger plan of God to redeem the heavens and the earth.

And no, don't misinterpret this as an invitation not to try, not to care, and not to work. This is not me saying, just do nothing and let God handle it – no, not at all. But what I am trying to say is, when you think you are losing your balance, when you believe you are carrying the world's pain alone, then, it is time to recalculate the burden you carry alone, and remember who is God, and who is not.

The Psalmist says, "Yes, the nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; but when God lifts his voice, the earth melts. But the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

God has the whole world in God's hands – including you.



Leanne's daughter Audrey and sister Laurie strike a pose during their family vacation.



Max - beloved pet of Vickie & Jeff Haas

### BLESSING OF THE PETS

Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue, a local pet rescue and adoption organization, will be joining First Presbyterian Church for our Second Annual Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, August 22nd, at 4 pm. Traditionally, this blessing is done in October on St Francis of Assisi Feast day, but we here in North Dakota find that day a little chilly for an outdoor time of worship! Join us here, and bring your pet to be blessed and let us share God's gift of animal companions together!



## CHILDCARE CENTER NEWS

The arrival of August signals the winding down of summer and the return to the Fall Schedule. The Child Care Center Staff and Board sends well wishes to all of the "graduates" of the Center who will be entering Kindergarten and other preschools.

The Center continues to follow the CDC guidelines with regard to concerns of the COVID virus and the Delta variation.

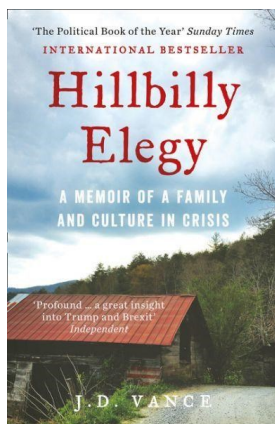
Paper towel donations would be very welcomed by the Child Care Center staff. Cleaning up daily spills makes the paper towel supply disappear quickly.





## FUN NIGHT APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, we wish to say "thank you" to ALL of the children/teens, parents & grandparents who came out and attended the Free Family Fun Night at the Super Slide Amusement Park, the eve of June 23rd. We had nearly 50 in attendance and many also enjoyed a treat from the Concession Stand. A great time was had by ALL! This was sponsored by the C.E. Committee.



## BOOK ALERT

The Book Club's next meeting will be 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 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, please contact Sylvia Shockman at [sylviapshock@gmail.com](mailto:sylviapshock@gmail.com) or (701) 391-5773.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Since 1972, Meals on Wheels has been providing home-delivered meals to people unable to prepare healthy meals for themselves. There is no age, income, or dietary requirements to receive meals. Approximately 65% of all meals delivered are special diets. As a non-profit organization, Meals on Wheels currently arranges delivery of more than 580 meals per month within Bismarck. Churches, individuals, and other organizations provide the volunteers who deliver these meals.



Each year our congregation commits to providing drivers for one month for this much-needed service. We are looking for volunteers again this year for the month of **September**. One volunteer, is needed for each day, Monday through Friday.

Please consider helping bring warm meals and a smile to homebound folks. Sign up on the Volunteer Board in the Narthex or **contact Gail Christianson at 255-4547 or at [kgmlchri@bis.midco.net](mailto:kgmlchri@bis.midco.net)**.



## HOSPITALITY THANK YOU

Thanks to all who contributed to the Edwinton House kitchen goods drive. The staff at Edwinton were greatly appreciative of the trunkful of donations that were delivered.

Thanks, too, to the members who provided items for the Abused Adult Resource Center as part of the July Hospitality donation opportunity.

## FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE

*Hello First Presbyterian Church. Happy August to all of you. It has been such a hot July and looks like August could be hot as well. We need rain and I pray that it will come. Please join me in my 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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

*I plan to return to having monthly Blood Pressure Clinics and will first be available prior to and after the service on August 15th beginning at 9:00 am in the Conference Room off of the Narthex.*

*Strengthening Exercise Class will also start on September 13<sup>th</sup> in the Ramstad Hall at 10:00 am. This class will be offered every Monday and Thursday unless there is a holiday or church activity.*

*I have tagged another church member for our reading pleasure and know you will enjoy getting to know one of our busiest volunteers at the church. Audre Goll is always there with a helping hand whenever there's a need.*

Audre Goll was born and raised in Wilton, North Dakota. She attended and graduated from Wilton schools. Audre was introduced to a young man from Regan by his ex-girlfriend while in her junior year of school. Leo and Audre dated for a couple years and decided to marry. They have been married 62 years and still counting. From this union they have two children Lori and Troy.

Audre's first job was working at the Bank of North Dakota and she retired from there after 36 years of employment. While working there, a co-worker advised her that a family should always take a vacation every year. She and Leo did indeed take a family vacation yearly to many places with their fold-down camper hitched up behind them. They traveled to the Glaciers, South Dakota, Yellowstone Park and Disneyland. Many family memories were created. Audre tells the story of Leo's mother coming along to Yellowstone National Park to enjoy some of that camping adventure. She was told about possibly seeing bears there so during the night she held her grandkids tight for fear a bear would come to take them. There was no way a bear was going to take her grandkids from her! That next morning there was evidence that a bear was indeed in their camp looking for food. I think Leo's mother was shocked!

*-- continued*



Lori, Troy,  
Audre, & Les  
1980

Les & Audre  
--62 years and  
counting!





### WANONA continued

Leo and Audre also enjoyed the adventure of traveling by motorcycles. They would take trips to Colorado. She continues to be very active often bicycling 7-11 miles a day. She said it keeps her old joints moving. You go girl!!!

Audre's family has yearly softball games followed by a family picnic. These competitive tournaments are still going today, so who will take the trophy home this year?



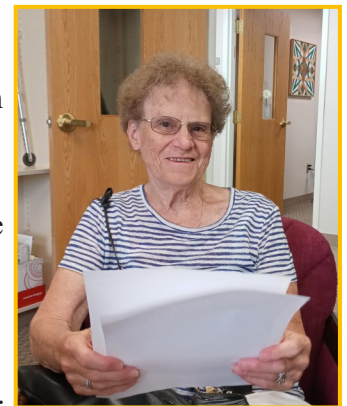
With grandson Gus 2018

Riding with sister Bev 2015



Audre was introduced to the Presbyterian Church in Wilton. A friend invited her to go to the PresbyTeens program at age 11. She decided to join at 12 years old and was baptized for the first time at the Wilton Presbyterian Church.

When Leo and Audre moved to Bismarck in 1966 they joined the Bismarck First Presbyterian church and has been a very active member. She is involved as a Deacon, a visitor to members, worked at the Festival of Arts, volunteers as an usher, kitchen helper, delivers for meals on wheels, and helps with funerals & other church gatherings.



*Thank you Audre for sharing your life journey with us!*

### WANONA SAYS: "LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE!"

Two robins were sitting in a tree.

"I'm really hungry," said the first one. "Me, too" said the second.

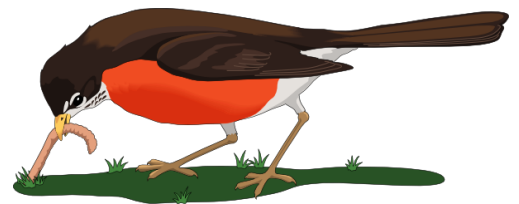
"Let's fly down and find some lunch."

They flew to the ground and found a nice plot of plowed ground full of worms. They ate and ate and ate and ate 'til they could eat no more.

"I'm so full I don't think I can fly back up to the tree" said the first one.

"Me either. Let's just lay here and bask in the warm sun," said the second. "O.K" said the first.

They plopped down, basking in the sun. Soon after they fell asleep and a big fat tom cat snuck up and gobbled them up. As he sat washing his face after his meal, he thought . . . . . "I love baskin' robins!"



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS  
JULY 27, 2021



CLERK'S REPORT

The death of Grace Hoge on July 12 was reported. Session approved the reinstatement of Sylvia Shockman. Membership is 354. Session accepted the resignation of Pete Emerson as Elder and Gloria Blanco as Deacon. They will be moving to Texas. Session approved hosting the Presbytery meeting at our church November 5-6.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$294,953	Budget	\$261,894
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$226,879	Budget	\$289,194
NET Income	\$ 68,074	Budget	-\$ 27,301

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne presented a calendar of events for the remainder of 2021. Committees will begin working on budgets. Blessing of the Pets will be Sunday August 22, 4:00pm. Stewardship drive preview will be August 29.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Session approved moving CE Director, Marete Farver to a salaried rather than an hourly position. Salary would be \$27,040. Summer office hours beginning August 1 will be 8:00-3:00 Monday-Thursday and 8:00-1:00 on Friday. This will be in effect through Labor Day.

Resource Management—Session discussed the lack of sufficient cooling in the Child Care Center. The contractors are investigating. Session approved authorizing the engineer to prepare documents regarding a change order to correct cooling/heating in the CCC.

Hospitality—Donations have been made to Great Plains Food Bank and Bismarck Senior Center.

Proclamation—Christian Education—Session approved Sophie Svihovec as a new CE Youth Intern. She will replace Emily Ehrens.

Property and Equipment—A reimbursement check was received from Basaraba Excavating to cover costs of the water damage to pastor's office, men's bathroom and west wall of Ramstad Hall.

Nominating—The committee is contacting members to serve as Elders and Deacons. One more congregational member is needed for CCC Board.

NEW BUSINESS

The facilities policy will be followed to allow use of the Sanctuary for a funeral for a non-member.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





## BIRTHDAYS

Gaylene Massey	1st
Brant Boeckel	2nd
Kim Wassim	2nd
Kim Christianson	4th
Matthew Skaret	6th
Enid Thompson	7th
Joanne Pearson	8th
Ashlee Fox	8th
Tamra Hellman	10th
Dale Hoerauf	12th
Beckett Håo Hedland	13th
Ruth Jensen	14th
Lael Hoerauf	16th
Kim Dixon	16th
Amy Kinnischtzke	18th
Connor Hellman	21st
Kenley Gratz	22nd
Winston Satran	23rd
Bryon Skager	24th
Sandra Cofell	25th
Jerry Wilson	26th
Tanner Ball (T.J.)	27th
Evelynn Bitz	27th
Jessica Feist	30th
Cole Svihovec	31st

*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*

## ANNIVERSARIES

David & Gaylene Massey	2nd
Winston & Barb Satran	10th
Dennis & Becky Rosenkranz	16th
Joe & Katherine Satrom	16th
Darin & Karmen Svihovec	17th
Larry & Peggy Hoge	19th
Rick and Lori Lee	21st
Nils & Joanne Pearson	26th
Mark & Sandra Ohlhauser	29th



## **First Presbyterian Church**

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**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**

**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*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 12th is Back-to-Church Sunday! Sunday School resumes that day and PAC & PresbyTeens will start again on Wednesday, September 15th. We are looking forward to a great year!

# AUGUST 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship Service	<b>2</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Ed <b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts << <b>Vacation</b>	<b>3</b> <b>5:45 pm</b> Property and Equipment <b>Bible School</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>5:30-7:30 &gt;&gt;</b>	<b>5</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> Music planning mtg	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship Service	<b>9</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> Worship & Music ZOOM <b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> Child Care Ctr Board	<b>11</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> Hospitality	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship Service	<b>16</b> <b>Noon</b> Resource Mgmt <b>5:00 pm</b> Admin/Personnel <b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Deacons	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship Service <b>4:00 pm</b> Blessing of the Pets	<b>23</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> Session	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship Service	<b>30</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts	<b>31</b>	<div> The church office will officially be using  summer hours for the month of August.    Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm  Friday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm </div>			