

Here and Now

November 2021
Volume 68, Issue 11

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FROM PASTOR LEANNE

I can feel winter coming. The air is really cold today, and moist, and I am primed, ready for the first snow. My lawn furniture is covered, my plants overwintered, and I have plenty of logs for some soothing fires soon to be made in my fireplace. I have apple cider, waiting to be warmed for a cold winter's night and quilts folded over the back of the sofa. Winter is no problem - bring it on. I can't wait to be safely indoors by a roaring fire while the snow blankets the world in white. And, I know, by February, I will be aching to get out into the garden and tired of the winter cold. I will be sick of shoveling snow and of trying to maneuver around drifts. Still, I love the change of seasons in North Dakota -. There's just something satisfying about being part of the cycles of nature.

As we close out the harvest and fasten down for winter, I can't help but slide into a grateful frame of mind. The year has definitely had its challenges; because of the pandemic we have found ourselves constantly adapting to changing circumstances, but God has been faithful all the way through. Our church is strong, our families are safe, our prayers have been answered and our basic needs met. No, it hasn't been perfect, but it has been enough. God is good.

And this one thing I am absolutely sure of: through every season, every change, every circumstance, God's grace is faithful, and will continue to lead us through the next season of life.

As the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV:

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Hospitality Committee would again like to send out Care Cards to our college students to wish them well before finals. This is for college students living at home, locally, or far away. Please call Kim Wassim at 222-2113 and leave a message with the name and mailing address of your college student by November 12, 2021.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 26, 2021

CLERK'S REPORT

The death of Gladys Cairns, October 6, 2021 was reported. Membership is 354. The Clerk was authorized to sign the change order document, decreasing the final contract for HVAC Phase I by \$7,685.09.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$393,460	Budget	\$392,840
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$330,804	Budget	\$425,252
NET Income	\$ 62,656	Budget	- \$ 32,411
General Fund Unrestricted	\$313,077		



MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne gave key cards to committee chairs. The new system is working well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Session approved a 3% raise for staff members (who have been here more than one year) as part of the 2022 budget.

Hospitality—Red and green potluck will be after the Children's Christmas program December 12. The Pumpkin Patch event was attended by 23 people. The community Thanksgiving Day dinner will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church; volunteers are welcome.

Proclamation-Christian Education and Worship and Music met to discuss events in November-December. Decorating the church for Christmas will be November 27, 9:00am—volunteers welcome.

Property and Equipment—Lighting in the sanctuary and some pumps in the boiler room have been fixed.

Resource Management—To date, 105 pledges for \$276,358 have been received. Expectations are that about \$44,000 more could be pledged. Session approved the 2022 draft budget which has total income as \$497,225 and total expense as \$571,587. The deficit budget -\$74,363 would be reduced by a \$34,225 transfer to cover half the salary of the Parish Nurse.

Board of Deacons—Instead of cookie trays, Christmas flowers will be distributed to homebound members and those in care facilities. Deacons will supply cookies for the Presbytery meeting held here Nov 5-6.



Child Care Center Board—Session approved the CCC budget as presented. Pastor Leanne will be the designated signer for licensing and other state documents. Session approved the change to board member terms, that they may serve three two-year terms.

Nominating—The committee will need to fill a one-year term due to the resignation of Elder Hannah Luciano who will be moving to Gainesville, FL.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Skaret and Shari Orser were elected to serve as Commissioners to Presbytery Nov 5-6.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session

UPDATE FROM TONY

Just in time! The new HVAC system has now been switched over to heat. Unlike the old system where it had to be manually switched over each winter and summer, this new system senses the outside temperature and automatically makes the change. After some unforeseen delays and unavailability of parts, the HVAC is now maintaining a fairly constant comfortable temperature.



The annual inspections for both fire and health safety have been carried out with the church passing with flying colors. Also, emergency lights were replaced with more energy-efficient bulbs.

There's a new "doorbell" at the front door! This October an Axis Communication System was installed to enable us to open the door with the use of a tablet at the front desk. The keypad is located at the left of the handicapped access door and by pressing the telephone call button, the front desk can see and speak to you while unlocking the door. Programmed key cards for staff and department chairs have already been issued.



The beautiful music provided by our sanctuary piano and organ will sound even better now that the tuners have been in. We're blessed to have such fine instruments and will continue to keep them in good condition.

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

Hunger Homelessness Awareness Week is November 13-20 this year. Several agencies which are part of the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People (MVCHP) are teaming up to bring these issues into the news.

On Wednesday, November 17th, U of Mary students along with Coalition members will be holding 'Freezin' For a Reason at the corner of 12th Street South and Expressway from 7 am to 7 pm. This is an opportunity to stand in solidarity, collect donations of winter gear, food, and money, as well as to destigmatize homelessness. Items that can be donated at this site include winter coats, snow pants, thermal base layers, gloves, boots, hats, scarves, socks. The Great Plains Food Bank will have their van onsite also to collect non-perishable goods.

The Hospitality Committee here at our church is also sending out a plea for the following items to be collected in the narthex for the Food Pantry:

Oatmeal/Cereals	Canned fruits/vegetables
Canned meats/chili	Canned spaghetti sauce (no jars)
Boxed mac & cheese	Pasta/Rice/Ramen Noodles
Hamburger Helper	Rice-a-Roni/Noodle Roni
Pancake mix & syrup	Hot chocolate
Ketchup/mustard	Jell-O



Watch the local news for further activities and stories about hunger and homelessness within our community.



THE OCTOBER 10TH STEWARDSHIP DINNER

was an enjoyable time to get together and be thankful for all the blessings we are able to share. Jim Skaret as emcee kept us laughing (or groaning) and musical entertainment was provided by Annabelle Wohl.



SPECIAL OFFERING - NOVEMBER 7, 2021

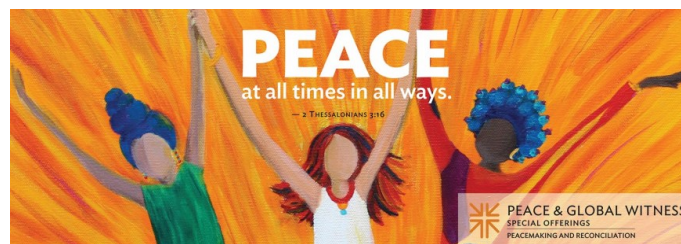
It is the season for Peace and Global Witness. On November 7th, we will share our gifts for the **Peace and Global Witness Offering**.

The Offering supports ministries of reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict – including our own. The Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear and embrace God's boundless peace through resources that promote and teach peace and sharing in the work of our sisters and brothers in Christ who walk through turmoil holding the tools of reconciliation. The peace of Christ quiets the anxiety of every soul and reconciles us to one another and to God. The Peace & Global Witness Offering serves to share this peace at all times and in all ways.

Through Presbyterian USA, we are given the opportunity to support many ministries nationwide. 50% of our offering will be used to help and heal through its established programs. 25% will go to our regional Presbytery or Synod that deals with needs in our area including conflicts within the local churches.

This year, our committee has chosen to give our 25% to the North Dakota Suicide Prevention Coalition, a non-profit organization.

~ Resource Management Committee



A THANKFUL COMMUNITY

The Hospitality Committee received these lovely thank you notes to pass on to the congregation.

Students in Transition Program

First Presbyterian Congregation,

On behalf of the Students in Transition Program at BPS, I am full of gratitude for the donation of gas cards for the Homeless families. What a wonderful extra option to help assist these families in time of need. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Sherrice Roness

Homeless Liaison

Great Plains Food Bank

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

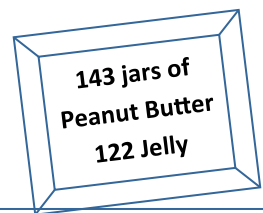
On behalf of all those who turn to the Great Plains Food Bank and our network for food assistance, thank you so much for including our efforts as part of your mission with the wonderful gift recent sent!

Children are heading back to school and parents wanting to give their kids the best start possible are especially grateful for access to nutritious food for health back-to-school meals.

Our Back Pack and School Pantry Programs are getting going, providing for children in need= all of this is thanks to friends like you!

Thank you!

Heather



September 30, 2021

First Presbyterian Church
214 East Thayer Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501-3887

Dear First Presbyterian Church:

Thank you for your recent donation to the Burleigh County Senior Adults Program. Your generosity assists us in enhancing the lives of adults, age 60 and over, through nutrition, health maintenance, outreach services, and life enrichment activities.

Thanks to you, just this past year, we were able to provide 127,639 meals and 1,765 foot care appointments to senior citizens in our community. Although the Covid-19 pandemic curtailed our life enrichment activities, we found ways to provide 'virtual' activities and we are well on our way back to re-establishing our active and vibrant Senior Center.

We will be sending you our monthly newsletter, *The Senior Sentinel*, and hope that you enjoy seeing all we have to offer!

Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

Renee Kipp
Executive Director

appreciate
feeling
Thanks
thanks
gratitude
giving
appreciation
thankful
kindness
attitude
gratefulness
credit
acknowledgement
thankfulness
recognition
empathy

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE, WANONA

Hello all! Can you believe its November already. Happy Thanksgiving! I will be going to Denver the week of Thanksgiving to spend time with my older sister Pat.

Our Strengthening Class on Monday and Thursday the week of Thanksgiving will be cancelled due to the holiday. They will resume on Monday November 29th at 10:00 am and just a reminder that Thursday's class is at 11:00 am.

The Sunday Blood Pressure Clinic will be November 14th in the conference room from 9:00 am to noon before and after the 11:00 am worship service. Hope to see you there.

On November 11th there are two special occasions, Veterans Day and my grandson Oliver's 1st birthday! Happy Veteran's Day to all you great veterans and thank you for your service. Happy birthday Oliver!

The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling. And even more beautiful, is knowing that you are the reason behind it! Happy Thanksgiving to all! I am so blessed and Thankful for being your Parish Nurse.



I have tagged yet another family of your faith community. Let's get to know Stan and Alice Halling.

These two wonderful people were born and raised not too far from each other. Stan grew up on a farm near Bisbee, North Dakota and Alice lived in the little town. Stan went to country school at the Johnson School for 8 years and then transferred to Bisbee High School where Alice was going to school. It wasn't until chemistry class that Stan noticed this beautiful girl across the room. He was star-struck by her beauty while the teacher was trying to get his attention in class. Finally Stan's attention was directed to the teacher who had asked him, "How many degrees is a BTU?" Since Stan had not heard the teacher's explanation, he promptly said, "it is really HOT". The class blurted out into laughter. They both graduated from Bisbee High School.

Stan went to North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo (Now called NDSU) majoring in mechanized agriculture. He knew this was not for him so he quit college to help with the family farm. Alice attended Minot State College to receive her Teacher's Certificate. Her first job was in a country school in Orrin, ND where she taught for one year. Her passion was to go back to college.

Stan and Alice both had a desire to become teachers and ironically both attended Valley City State College in 1957. Fate would bring these two back together and they married in the Spring at Stan's parent's farm in 1958. They are true soul mates and have been married for 63 years. From this union they welcomed two daughters, Melissa and Amy. Stan did graduate from Valley City State College with a bachelor of science degree in Education, while Alice stayed home to raise their children.



Cutting the cake in 1958

~ continued on next page



Together at Melissa's wedding in 1995

continued from previous page ~

Stan had three goals in life: To obtain a bachelor of science degree in education, to be a successful teacher, and to build a new home for his family. All three goals were accomplished.

Alice had three goals in her life and succeeded as well: To go back to college (which she did at Valley City State College), to have a wonderful life with Stan, and to raise her two beautiful daughters to be successful and happy women.

Both Stan and Alice said their most memorable event in their lives was the birth of their daughters. They are so thankful for having such a loving family with two special granddaughters to spoil. When asked who their "hero" was Stan said his parents and Alice said Stan was her hero.

Stan and Alice joined the First Presbyterian church in 1963. Both were very much involved in the church. Their children were also involved. Both were Deacons, member of session, ushers, Sunday School teachers and volunteered for various church activities. Alice also played bells for many years.

Alice shared a very funny story which had happened to her. She was attending a Christian Education meeting at First Presbyterian Church one night. Then during that meeting the group heard a crash. They went out to investigate and Alice suddenly realized that someone had sideswiped her car. They called the police and the officer asked for Alice's registration card. She got her keys out to open the car door but it would not fit. It was at this point she realized the car was not hers. Puzzled, the officer said, "How could you not know this is not your car?" Her car was on the other side of this mangled vehicle. The officer said, "Your car is a different make, style and size." Alice said, "Well they are both gray!" Everyone witnessing this burst into laughter.



Stan & Alice celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary after finishing the dike around their home in 2011.

Thank you Stan and Alice for sharing your life journey! - Wanona



Stewardship
a way of life

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE UPDATE

As of October 22, 2021, a total of 100 pledges for a total of \$ 270,258 from members had been pledged to the 2022 Annual Stewardship Drive. Last year a total of 133 pledges were received for a total of \$330,883. If those members who pledged last year, but have not yet pledged this year, were to pledge the same amount for 2022 as they did for 2021, we would be reasonably close to the same amount as was pledged last year. After a year where focus has been on the Covid 19 pandemic, and with a successful HVAC fundraising effort, we are extremely grateful for the generous response so far, and we encourage all who intend to submit a pledge to the 2022 Stewardship Drive to complete an Estimate of Giving Card and turn it in to the church office as soon as possible. There are blank Estimate of Giving Cards available in the church office if you need one.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE CCC BOARD

The staff and the Child Care Center Board members wish each & everyone of you a Happy, Blessed Thanksgiving. We hope you will enjoy celebrating with family and friends as well as finding time to make a list of the many things to be "thankful for!"

The CCC Board is very thankful for the leadership of Ella Gutzke, Chair, and her working tirelessly on paperwork to benefit the day to day needs of the CCC. The Board is also thankful for the continued support of the members of FPC & the dedication of Director, Shawn and Assist. Director, Vanessa and the staff along with a few volunteers from FPC, who have stepped up to fill in where needed, due to the continued shortage of staff and hiring remaining a challenge.

Thank you for the donations of Paper Towels for September and the powdered dishwashing detergent and Clorox Bleach for October. Donation request for the month of November is "Dawn Dish Detergent" and "Hand Sanitizer." Thank you again for your support. May God bless you all, & may we always be thankful!



BRING IN THE HOLIDAY

We are always happy to see Sue Sorlie sprucing up the church as she contributes her decorating talents. Let's give her a hand for Advent and Christmas.

Saturday, November 27th is the day set for this holiday transition. All are welcome to come at 9:00 am to work off a few pie pounds by bringing in the holiday season with greenery and cheer!



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK AT "THE BANQUET"



We are blessed to have church members who are always willing to give of their time, talents and donations. Thank you to the cooking crew (Jerry Lindblom, Stan Halling, John Richter, Otto Reile, Clyde Johnson, and Don Bigwood), Boy Scout Troop 6, and all of the volunteers who helped to provide 314 meals at "The Banquet" on September 30th. We prepared and served a delicious meal of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, peaches and cookies for a cost of \$845.79 which amounted to \$2.70 per meal. By example, we are the hands and feet of Christ. ~Kathy Wachter

WELCOME CRYSTAL

Stop in the office and meet the new face at the front desk. The Session approved hiring Crystal Robinson as full-time Administrative Assistant for 90 days through Staffing Solutions temp agency. After 3 months, a decision will be made as to permanent employment.

Originally from Montana, Crystal has spent most of her life in Wyoming and worked for federal, state and county agencies there. She recently moved to Bismarck to be with family and when she's not busy with 3 kids and 6 grand-kids, she likes to camp and take walks with her dog, Izzy.



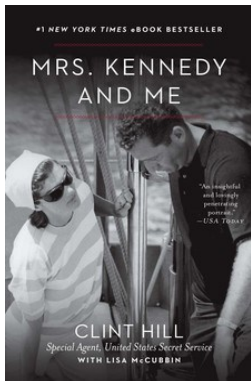
THANKSGIVING "TREAT" FROM WANONA

Question: What do you get if you divide the circumference of a *pumpkin* by it's diameter?



Answer: Pumpkin π

BOOK CLUB CHOICE



Mrs. Kennedy and Me by Clint Hill is the next choice for the book club gathering on December 2nd at 1:30 in the parlor. For four years, from the election of JFK in November 1960 until after the election of Lyndon Johnson in 1964, Clint Hill was the Secret Service agent assigned to guard the glamorous and intensely private Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy. During those years, he went from being a reluctant guardian to a fiercely loyal watchdog and, in many ways, her closet friend. No matter what one's party affiliations may be, the memoir is compelling as a record of this era through the eyes of a young man from Washburn, ND. Paperbacks of this book are available in the church office and the Bismarck Public Library also has hardcover, large-print, eBook, and audiobook editions.

A THANKSGIVING STORY FROM WANONA

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in the hat. A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?" The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way. I wrote, 'Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it'."

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

Moral of the Story: Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. Think differently and positively. When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile. Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and drop the fear.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Betty Sprynczynatyk	2nd
David Massey	3rd
Vern Johnson	4th
Valerie Sturlaugson	6th
Dan Halvorson	11th
Parker Ronningen	11th
Jan Gilchrist	12th
Corby Svihovec	13th
Emily Ehrens	16th
McKinley Stokka	17th
Lynne Bigwood	17th
Geraldine Morrison	20th
Ann Lynch	20th
Doug Bradford	21st
Shari Orser	25th
Jeff Schafer	26th
Jon Thomson	30th
Brady Wohl	30th

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

John & Jodi Bjornson	2nd
Kim & Gail Christianson	3rd
Roberto & Hanna Luciano	8th
Les & Tammy Lem	11th
Darren & Denise Gratz	18th
Jerry & Priscilla Wilson	23rd

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our prayers and sympathies go to family and friends on the deaths of:

Karen Antonovich (Sept. 23)
sister of Bob Tonolli

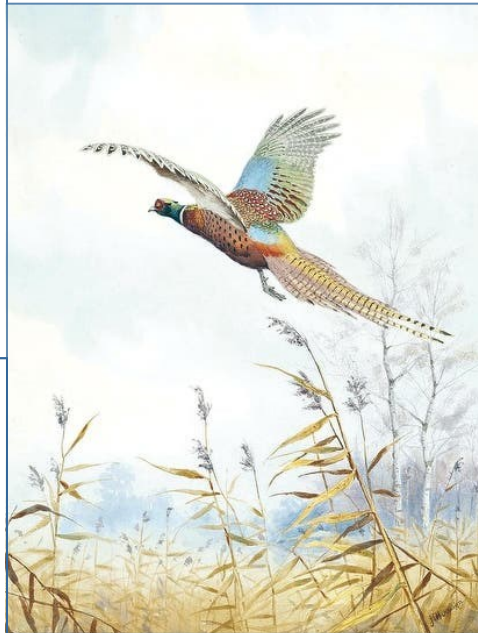
Al Van Voorhis (Oct 4)

Gladys Cairns (Oct. 6)

Phillip Ronningen (Oct. 6)
brother of Paul Ronningen

Bob Reikow (Oct. 7)
husband of Mandan Presbyterian
Pastor Deanna Reikow

Patti Koranda (Oct 27)



THANKSGIVING BANQUET

This year's community Thanksgiving Day dinner will be served from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Trinity Lutheran Church by The Banquet organization.

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

Crystal Robinson

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

November 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 10:00 am Exercise Class 5:00 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Christian Ed	2 5:45 pm Property & Equipment	3 5:45 pm Pac/Teens 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	4 11:00 am Exercise Class	5 <div>Presbytery Meeting</div>	6
7 All Saints Communion 10:00 am Worship Service 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult Sun. School DAYLIGHT SVGS TIME ENDS	8 10:00 am Exercise Class 5:00 pm Suzuki 5:30 pm ZOOM Worship & Music 6:30 pm Scouts	9	10 NO PAC 6:30 pm W. Chimes <div>7:30 pm Teen Lock-in</div> 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	11 11:00 am Exercise 6:00 pm ZOOM Hospitality	12	13
14 9:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic 10:00 am Worship Service 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult Sun. School	15 10:00 am Exercise Class Noon Resource Mgmt 5:00 pm Admin/Personnel 5:00 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts	16 5:30 pm CCC Board	17 5:45 pm Pac/Teens 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	18 11:00 am Exercise Class 7:00 pm Deacons	19	20 <div>10:00 am To 3:00 pm Elder Training</div>
21 9:30 am Scout wreath delivery 10:00 am Worship Service 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult Sun. School	22 5:00 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts	23 6:00 pm Session	24 NO W. Chimes 6:30 pm Chancel Choir <div>7:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service</div>	25 <div>Office</div>	26 <div>Closed</div>	27 9:00 am Decorating for Advent & Christmas
28 Advent I 10:00 am Worship Service	29 10:00 am Exercise Class 5:00 pm Suzuki	30				

