



Here and Now
October
Newsletter!

October 2024

Volume 71, Issue 10

PASTOR LEANNE’S MESSAGE:

Magic and Answered Prayer

When kids are little, they don’t completely distinguish between magic and faith. To them, prayer is almost like wishing on a star, or presenting Santa with a wish list. We tell them that God loves them and answers prayer (because God does!), and they believe us and start dreaming. And in their innocence and non-complicated thinking they will ask God for everything from a new favorite toy to a request for help when Mom and Dad fight. Sometimes, I have found, that they don’t even remember what they pray... requests made to God can be impulse conversations – a prayer that God would supply them with the latest thing they saw online or help their teacher be patient. And in my eyes, it is normal not to understand the mystery of prayer – who of us adults can say we comprehend it all. At least they are learning that they can take everything, (and I do mean everything) to God in prayer.

But not so much for us adults. We have seen enough and experienced enough that we now know prayer is not like rubbing a rabbit’s foot. By now, all of us have prayed intently about things and situations for which we never felt we received an answer. God is no longer like Santa Claus - sometimes, we feel like answers to prayer are more like a spinning wheel from Wheel of Fortune. We ask, then we stand by in anticipation and anxiety and wonder at what point the wheel stops turning, and if, when it stops, we will get something good or something really disappointing. Everyone I know (myself included) has had to struggle with the feeling that prayer has failed and God has let them down. To some degree, I think, that somewhere in our deepest psyche, even adults struggle to separate faith from magic. We ask and don’t receive, then get pretty bent out of shape thinking that God ignored us, or worse, said no. Other times, I think we feel a bit entitled to getting everything on our wish list, after all we prayed in Jesus’s name and we are faithful to the church, so surely, we have an “in” with God that should count for some more goodies. →

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

Other times though (and I have had this experience) the disappointment of unanswered prayer comes from the intensity of the need. We know that we *weren't* praying for something trivial, that our lives and loves are urgently tied up in the requests we make before God, and despite our prayers, nothing changed.

That's why it is important to learn that prayer is faith, not magic, and the faith is not about pressing the right buttons in heaven. Our faith is deeply connected to our daily conversations with God and our acquired trust in God's wisdom and love which opened the throne of grace to our voices. I cannot explain why certain things don't happen or why certain urgent prayers seem unanswered, but years of struggling in the presence of God have taught me this: prayer is essential to faith; prayer awakens trust, and when we cannot comprehend the actions of God, we know that God is good and God's intent toward us is love. One can tell when faith is waning because one ceases to pray. There are answers we cannot perceive and mercies we do not understand because God is good... all the time.

The great theologian Karl Barth used to say that God's answer to us is always yes, and we simply don't understand the "yes" of God. I take that as my credo now and I believe it is true. Deeply imbedded in my disappointments and perceptions of unanswered prayer, God has a "yes" for me, for us. And in God's time, we will know that is true.

Leanne



Brag Box:
Welcome Canaan Fitch Hocking
Son of Elise Hocking & Tosh Hager
grand-son of Juanita & Kim Hocking



Brag Box: congratulations Ann Gallup

This past summer, Charlotte “Ann” Gallup was featured as one of the Living Legends at Touchmark. Staff initiated the project to highlight some of the remarkable residents who live there. Those honored as a living legend had a 24x36” black and white photo and brief biography displayed at the showcase event that was held July 18, 2024.

During the event, Family members had an opportunity to talk about their loved one and what they meant to them. Friends, including those from the Presbyterian Church family, were able to attend the reception, which made it extra special!

During the year, each of the 12 residents will have their picture and biography displayed for one month near the Grand Lobby at Touchmark.

The ND State Archival Department at the ND Heritage Museum has requested permission to archive the photos and biographies, so they are available for generations to come.

Tammy Gallup Lelm



Caramel Rolls are Back!

Westminster Chimes will be selling caramel rolls on **Sunday, October 27th** with all proceeds going to the dedicated handbell fund for future Festival trips.

Anyone who would like to place **early orders** for six or more rolls may put a request on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Their order will be ready for pickup after the October 27th service.

Join us in the Parlor for a “sweet” addition to your coffee!



PARISH NURSE NEWS -

The month of October is filled with a focus on mental health. October is:
National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month AND
Health Literacy Month AND
ADHD Awareness Month AND
Bullying Prevention Month.

The first week of the month is Mental Illness Awareness Week; the second week is OCD Awareness Week and the third week is National Health Education Week.

Can you see what I mean when I say it is filled with a focus on mental health?

Two observed days include National Depression Screening Day on October 8th and World Mental Health Day on October 10th. This day is celebrated world wide to advocate against the stigmas of mental health and to bring awareness and education regarding mental health.

With that being said here are a list of ways to help take care of your mental health:

- * Exercise – 30 minutes a day of walking has proven mental and physical health benefits
- * Nutritious eating and drinking plenty of water
- * Prioritize your sleep
- * Set goals and priorities & Practice gratitude and focus on positivity

Please reach out to your health care providers for assistance with any mental health issues you may be facing and remember you are not alone.

Sincerely, Carmen



BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

9:00AM - 10:00AM AND 11:00AM - 12:00PM



Munch & Mingle!

Please come for Munch & Mingle
the 1st Wednesday of the month

12:00pm at Broadway Grill Tavern

(100 W Broadway Ave.) **October 2nd**

CCC NEWS:

A HUGE thank you to those who generously donated items from the “back to school supply” list for the Child Care Center along with the monetary donations received. All donations help to keep the Childcare Center up and running!

October’s wish list includes bleach and dishwashing detergent in the powder form.

Many of you were able to attend the CCC Staff and Church Staff Appreciation Service on Sunday, September 29th. Please continue the expressions of thanks to ALL of our wonderful staff when you see them throughout the year. They are the glue that holds our church community together.

The Halloween holiday is approaching. The following are a few suggestions to make it a safe and fun experience for children and parents:

-Parents or adults should always accompany young children on their neighborhood trick-or-treating rounds. Examine all treats for any unwrapped or suspicious items.



-If it’s dark when trick-or-treating, it’s a good idea to carry battery working flashlights along with reflective tape on costumes and trick-or-treating bags.

-Visit the houses with welcoming porch lights.



-Use the sidewalks instead of taking shortcuts through yards or alleys.

-When handing out treats, consider non edible treats such as glow sticks, pencils, erasers, stickers, bookmarks, bubbles and bouncy balls. Keep in mind age appropriate items and candy to prevent choking hazards with little ones.

The Child Care Center has part-time and full-time positions available along with great employment flexibility for high school and college students. For more information, contact **Shawn or Vanessa at 258-7490**, or learn more about the center using this **QR code!**



CCC Needs List for October: dishwasher soap (powder only) & bleach



FPC Childcare Center Halloween Parade

Who doesn’t love handing out candy to the little ones!?

If you would like to join us on **Wednesday, October 30th at 10AM**, the kids will make the rounds in the church offices, Narthex, and Parlor.



Here’s a suggested list of treats: suckers/ring pops, fruit snacks, Reese’s peanut butter cups, raisins, fruit roll-ups, juice boxes, tootsie rolls, or holiday pencils!

Let us know if you can come, we will set up a table for you!!

thank
you

Thank You to Furry Friends Rockin' Rescuer and all of you who came for the Blessing of the Pets!



Peace and Global Witness 2024

In our world, it is not hard to see the many divisions in how people angrily disagree with each other, to suit themselves, when there are problems that need to be solved. Whether it's local, national, or worldwide we must help support Peace and Reconciliation.

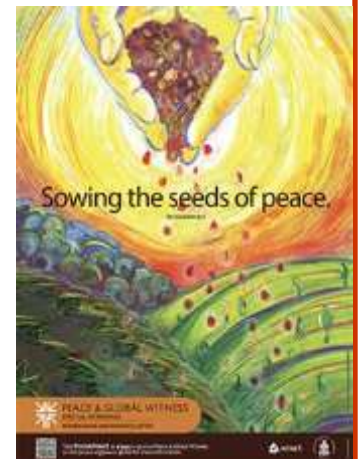
Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved, and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith – a witness to what it means for us to be the Church. Together, Christ gives us the strength and courage to act in love, not hate, in the face of our daily challenges.

As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let us share that peace with those beyond our doors. A minute for mission will be given on October 20th. The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be taken on Sunday, October 27, 2024.

The Resource Management Committee has chosen to give 25% of the total offering to Ministry on the Margin, a volunteer-based ecumenical ministry that is committed to supporting those who fall through the cracks during times of transition. Located at 201 N 24th St., in Bismarck, it's a coffee house that offers a Just walk-in safe place to sleep each night seven days a week, free food pantry Tuesdays and Thursdays, support group information, counselling, & haircuts.

Presbyterian USA gives us 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. Your gift on October 27, 2024, will be most appreciated for this worthwhile mission. Thank you.

John Richter, Resource Committee



CHRISTIAN ED:

In the month of September we resumed PAC, Teens, and Sunday School. The kids have been learning about God creating the world, Adam and Eve, and Noah's Ark. Our 3rd graders received their Bibles and the Teens went to the Pow Wow. October 30th, we are having a Halloween party for the kids. We are asking for a variety of individually wrapped candy donations for the party!

Youth Ministry Director -Mark Jensen



CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

Christian Ed Committee is asking for a variety of candy, individually wrapped for the **PAC Halloween Party on Wednesday, October 30th!** Please drop off in the Church Office by Monday, October, 28th!



October Donation Opportunity:

First Presbyterian Church will once again be collecting canned food items for the **Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry during October.**

The food pantry, a non-profit, volunteer organization has served this community since 1979. In 2023, the Food Pantry served an average of 791 individuals monthly, distributing an average of 15,572 lbs. of food each month.



As the price of food continues to rise, donations are needed more than ever to support the work of the Food Pantry. Please bring your donations of canned fruit and vegetables to the church during October and place them in our donation box.

Potluck at Papa's Pumpkin Patch

Wednesday, October 9th

4:30-6:30pm

Please join us for fun, food and fellowship.

Bring a dish to share!

Papa's Pumpkin Patch is north on River Road... just follow the signs.



Pancake & Sausage Supper

Sunday, October 13, 2024

4:00-7:00pm

Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian Church

(16 miles SE of University of Mary on Hwy. 1804)

Adults: \$8 ~ kids: \$4 (6-12 yrs.) ~ under 6 yrs. FREE



First Presbyterian Church

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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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER 2024 - BIRTHDAYS

- October 1 Vonda Bailey
- October 3 Etta Schue
- October 6 Ellie Adair
- October 8 Bryson Fru
- October 10 Joe Satrom
- October 13 Laura Jensen
- October 16 Cindy Cross
- October 16 Darin Svihovec
- October 18 Neva Carlisle
- October 19 Jane Boeckel
- October 20 Bella-Rae Fru
- October 24 Linda Jordre
- October 25 Thomas Cambell
- October 28 Solomon Bannerman
- October 28 Ron Carlise



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS - 1:30 PM
VIA - ZOOM



OCTOBER 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES

- October 6 Susan & Jeff Schafer
- October 12 Jan & Gary Gilchrist
- October 14 Cathy & Bob Kinnischtzke
- October 15 Jackie & Mike Lannoye
- October 16 Cindy & Don Cross
- October 19 Becky & Pat Liedtke
- October 23 Karen & Duane Ehrens

**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 ~**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, September 24, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Total Income YTD Actual | \$322,180 | Budget | \$321,150 |
| Total Expense YTD Actual | \$348,946 | Budget | \$394,815 |
| NET Income | -\$26,766 | Budget | -\$73,665 |

MODERATOR'S REPORT

The final cottage meeting will be October 6 after worship service. Elder/Deacon training is October 5.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Considering a volunteer security officer and someone to help with social media site. The eleven Elders will serve on the following committees:

Administrative and Personnel—Chris Henriksen and John Bjornson

Hospitality—Amy Kinnischtzke

Proclamation-Christian Ed—Kris Ronningen and Bill Jensen

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Signe Snortland and Becky Rosenkranz

Property and Equipment—Tedd Gutzke

Resource Management—Rick Lee and Tom Trenbeath

Child Care Center Board—Juanita Hocking

Hospitality- Papa's Pumpkin Patch potluck is October 9. The church will serve the Banquet on November 7. \$1,000 was donated to help with the Thanksgiving meal. \$1,000 was donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and \$1,000 was donated to Energy Share Program.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Working on the t-shirt project. Adult class will begin in October on Sunday afternoon.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Working on St. Andrew's Day sashes; Mandan FPC will join us for worship November 24.

Property and Equipment—Working on a solution for the new balcony lights which are very bright. A hole has been repaired in the teen room. Renewed contracts for snow removal.

Resource Management—Budgeting process is on-going. Consecration Sunday is October 13.

Board of Deacons—Created a policy for using Gift of Giving fund.




Child Care Center Board—Staffing remains a challenge. Assistant Director, Vanessa Hein, will be recognized for 25 years of service.

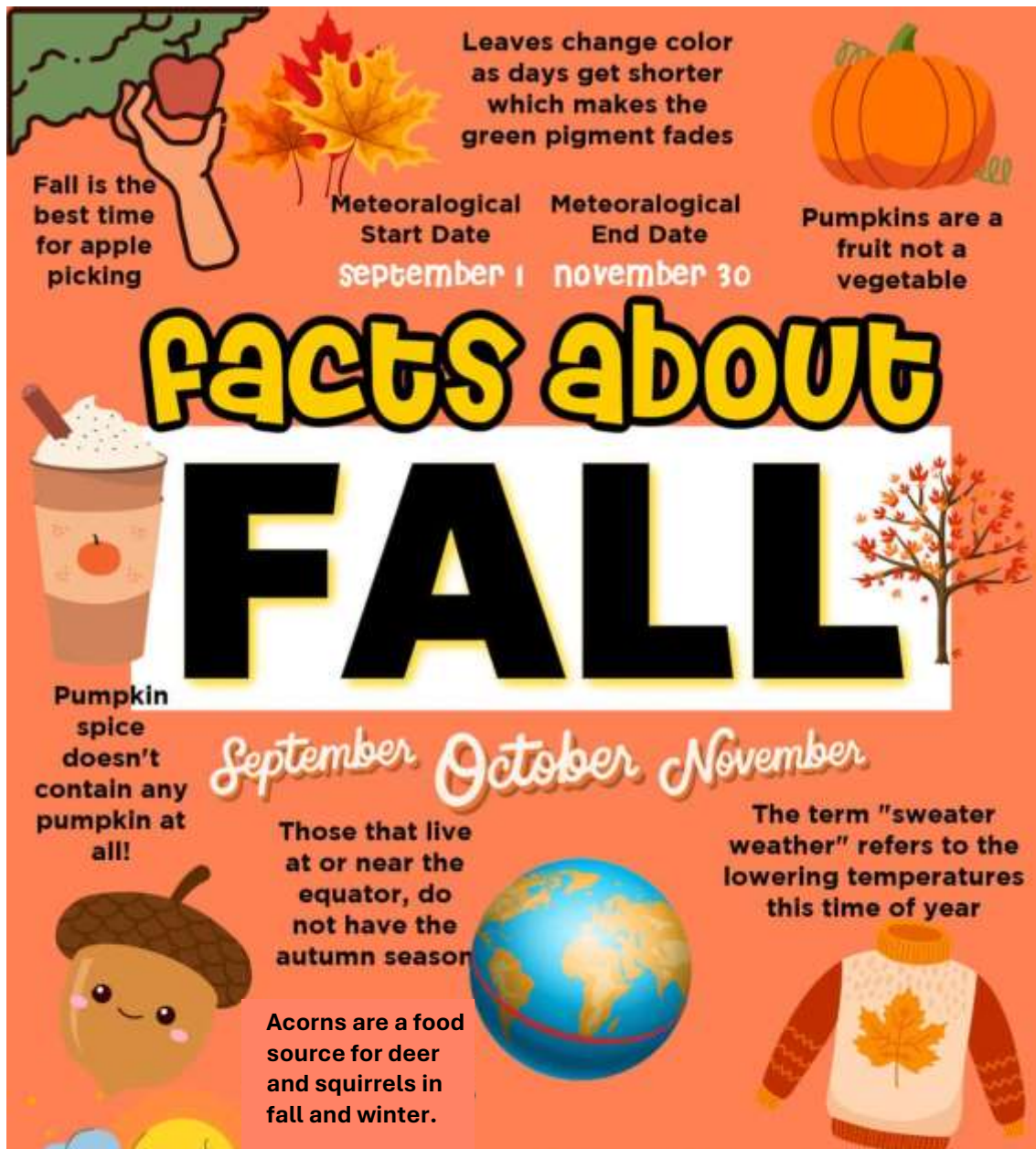
Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





October 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|-----------|---|
| | | 1 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 7:00pm Lay Pastors | 2 Noon "Munch & Mingle" 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 3 10AM 150th Comm. Meeting 11AM Bal. & Strength Class NO Yoga | 4 | 5 9:30am-3:00pm Elder/Deacon Training |
| 6 10am Worship World Communion Day Communion Cottage Meeting following worship in the Chapel | 7 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed | 8 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board |  4:30-6:30pm Potluck at Papa's Pumpkin Patch! 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 10 11AM Bal. & Strength Class NO Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality | 11 | 12 10AM Presbytery Meeting in Grand Forks |
| 13 10am Worship Consecration Sunday Followed by lunch! PANCAKE SUPPER 4-7:00PM AT GLENCOE SLOAN! | 14 5:30pm W & Music 6:30pm Scouts | 15 11AM Bal. & Strength Class | 16 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 17 11AM Bal. & Strength Class NO Yoga 7:00pm Deacons | 18 | 19 |
| 20 10am Worship | 21 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 6:30pm Scouts | 22 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session | 23 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 24 11AM Bal. & Strength Class NO Yoga | 25 | 26 2nd Elder/Deacon Training - time to be determined |
| 27 10am Worship Peace & Global Offering Reformation Sunday Installation of officers 9-10:00am & 11am-12pm Blood |   Westminster Chimes - Caramel Roll Sale! Sunday, October 27th ! 6:30pm Scouts | 29 11AM Bal. & Strength Class | 30 CCC Halloween Parade—10AM 5:45pm PAC/Teens Halloween Party! 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 31 11AM Bal. & Strength Class NO Yoga | | |



“The Banquet” Dinner, Thursday, November 7, 2024

Our church is hosting “The Banquet” at the Dream Center (1805 Park Avenue) on **Thursday, November 7**. Volunteers are needed to prepare, set up and serve more than 200 meals and clean up afterwards. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Volunteer Board in the Narthex. First Presbyterian has been involved in this ministry for many years and it cannot be done without the help of volunteers.

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



SAVE THE DATE:

In addition, our church will host and help prepare the Thanksgiving meal at the Dream Center on **Thanksgiving evening, November 28**. Look for the signup sheet in the Narthex in November.