



Here and Now January Newsletter!

January 2024

Volume 71, Issue 1

PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

A New Start with Familiar Things

Many years ago, some family members helped me move to a new house. It was sheer chaos, but also a little fun as the Simmons sense of irony, sarcasm, and humor was at its height while we worked. I am one of those people who has trouble throwing things out – especially items that I might find useful eight years from now. My sisters teased the daylights-out of me, and I threw the jokes right back. We dropped things, stumbled, and laughed at ourselves. But finally, we got everything on the truck.

That's when my brother-in-law confronted me. "You're not taking that broom." I was baffled. "Why not?" I asked. It's a perfectly good broom, and not very old. I'll need a broom."

"You're not taking it. Its bad luck." He looked deadly serious. I looked at my sister. She smiled. "It's a family thing his grandmother told them. Never take a broom from your old house to the new, or the bad luck you have had will follow you."

I scoffed. "Don't be ridiculous. I see no reason to buy a new broom when I have a perfectly good one. I don't believe in superstitions like that."

The conversation turned ugly, and finally my red-faced brother-in-law refused to drive the truck anywhere unless I left the broom behind. I gave in. It was just a broom and I wanted to get going. But it still didn't make him happy and he remained angry at me the rest of the day. "Don't you go back and get that broom!" he demanded.

I think about that day and roll my eyes. But as this new year rolls in, I find that I have not changed. I don't believe in bad luck following me or this church anywhere. I don't see the need to purge traditions or weed out practices, hopes, and ideas in order to restart hope. In fact, I don't think its possible to leave the past behind, because it lives in us. We must always learn to use it for our benefit. I see no reason to leave anything or anyone behind, everything we already have developed needs to come with us as we charge into 2024. Yes, we will try new things – staff come and go, and although we miss them, we find new staff and end up loving them as well.

Plans for 2024 are in the works on many committees and I am looking forward to new adventures in faith. But, as the saying goes, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," and so many things are working well among us, I will be carrying them on in respect for our past, and joy for our future. Change presents itself – we have an eye for good priorities as a church. God is leading, we are following. And when the time is right, God will show us what is next for us. There's nothing to fear and only hope ahead. I am excited to see what will happen in this year.

So Happy New Year in Christ, All! Let's make the move into a new year with anticipation, and – go ahead, take your broom. Our future is in God's hands!

Leanne

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**CCC Needs List for January:
baby wipes & hand soap**



Breakfast with Santa - a huge success!



CHRISTIAN ED:

Here is what the kids and teens have been up to for the month of December. First, the teens helped Pastor Leanne put on a puppet show for Breakfast with Santa! They had lots of fun putting on the show for the children. Second, the kids and teens have been working really hard on their Christmas Pageant, presented on December 17th. They all did an amazing job! Third, the teens helped out with the “Open Your Heart” event! At this event, they packed boxes with food for people in need around the Bismarck, Mandan, and Lincoln areas. They took pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus! On the last night of Pac/ Teens they made gingerbread houses, had some hot chocolate, and candy to end 2023! We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas holiday with your family and friends! Happy New Year!

PAC/Teens resumes on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Mark Jensen,
Youth Ministry Director



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

On behalf of First Presbyterian Church’s Hospitality Committee, Runick Fru purchased goodies for the Burleigh-Morton Detention Center Staff, for the great work that they do to keep inmates safe.



MEET OUR NEW PARISH NURSE - CARMEN BRYHN

Happy New Year!

For my first newsletter submission Wanona said it would be best to introduce myself so here goes! I was born and raised in Bismarck with many of my childhood weekends spent in the small town of Makoti, ND (Both of my parents are from this area). I attended Northridge Elementary, Hughes Junior High and Century High School and am proud to say some of the finest (and my favorite) teachers I ever had are in this congregation. I went on to college at BSC, then University of Mary for both my Bachelor's in Nursing and Master's in Nursing Administration degrees. I have been a nurse for 20 plus years working in the areas of medical-surgical nursing (lots of orthopedic and post op care), pediatrics, and as a nurse educator in local colleges. I am married with 4 children – 3 boys and 1 girl. Two of my boys have graduated from college and I have one in high school and my youngest daughter is in middle school. I spend much of my time off driving kids to their activities which includes lots of dance, band, and theatre. We also have 2 small Maltese/Yorkshire Terrier dogs who thrive on our attention and treats.



Our summer vacation this year consisted of a road trip from Bismarck through South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois until we made it to Chicago! Some think we are crazy for road tripping, but driving with our kids has been some of the best times we have had as a family! Disconnecting from devices (with the occasional map needed to see if we were still on the right road!) and taking long drives have produced some of the best conversations and given us the most laughs as a family. Although the Chicago driving produced some marital tensions, the teamwork we felt after getting through the big city was wonderful. It was a great cultural experience for our children and helps those little minds to see how big and diverse God's world really is. Of course, our trip was not complete

without a visit to Wrigley Field as I am married to a Cubs fan. Our kids made a sign, and even made it on TV and the jumbo screen! It was a great experience and the Cubbies won! From there we ventured to Shedd Aquarium, Skydeck and 360 Chicago (Skyscrapers), Navy Pier and a river tour. Let me know if you have any suggestions for our next road trip!

I want you all to know that I can understand the loss you feel with Wanona retiring. Working with her the past couple of weeks has been wonderful and I am absorbing everything I can from her knowledge and commitment to this congregation. I hope to continue the same care and compassion that she has provided in her time here. Please know that I have an open door and an open mind for any needs or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely, Carmen



Brag Box:



WELCOME
Kylie Ann Naccarato
Born December 7, 2023
Daughter of Taya & Matt Naccarato
Great-Granddaughter of Priscilla & Jerry Wilson!

CONGRATULATIONS
Cole Svihovec - graduated from
Northwestern Health Sciences University
With a Doctor of Chiropractic degree!



Merry Christmas
Ella & Aodhan Murphy
ready to cut down their tree
grandkids of Dave & Alice Nix!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Hello January

JANUARY 2024 - BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1	Debbi Gross
Jan. 3	Susan Johnsen
Jan. 4	Wendy Skager
Jan. 6	Bill Jensen
Jan. 8	Marlys Schuler
Jan. 10	Mary Magnusson
Jan. 12	Robert McCallum
Jan. 14	Jade Fox
Jan. 15	Bev Patch-Larson
Jan. 15	Robin Volk
Jan. 16	Joe Bachmeier
Jan. 16	Pastor Leanne
Jan. 16	Ann Gallup
Jan. 18	Marete Farver
Jan. 20	Julie Poffenberger
Jan. 24	Linda Strandemo
Jan. 26	Fedrick Wohl
Jan. 26	Riley Ball
Jan. 29	Jody Bachmeier
Jan. 30	Kathy Henriksen
Jan. 30	Sue Sprynczynatyk
Jan. 30	Jerry Lindblom
Jan. 31	Karen O'Brien

JANUARY 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES

JAN. 7 RUNICK & ANITA FRU



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 ~

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

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

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICES CLOSED	2 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	3 Noon “Munch & Mingle” 5:45pm PAC/Teens NO Bells 7:30pm Choir	4 11am Bal. & Strength Class NO Yoga	5	6
7 10am Worship “Epiphany” Communion Undecorate the church after worship	8 5:30pm Worship & Music 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	9 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board	10 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	11 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	12	13
14 10am Worship	15 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	16 11am Bal. & Strength Class 7:00pm Christian Ed	17 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	18 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	19	20
21 10am Worship Baptism: Iris & Koa Falcon 9-10 AM Blood Pressure Clinic ANNUAL MEETING	22 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	23 11am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session	24 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	25 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	26	27
28 10am Worship	29 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	30 11am Bal. & Strength Class	31 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir			



“TREE OF LOVE”

Thanks for filling the Tree of Love!

The First Presbyterian congregation showed lots of love to our childcare center families this Christmas. Church members surrounded the Tree of Love in the Narthex with presents for families who could use a little help making the season even brighter for their children. The Hospitality Committee thanks you for your generosity to help make Christmas sparkle for these families.