

# HERE AND NOW!

December 2019  
Volume 66, Issue 12



## **TREE OF LOVE**

The Tree of Love is an Outreach Committee project that provides the congregation with an opportunity to support the children and families who attend our Child Care Center. The Child Care staff nominates families to receive these gifts. The nominated families usually have limited financial resources and/or are facing challenging circumstances that limit their ability to provide their children with a joyful Christmas. This year, because Thanksgiving falls during the last week of November, the Outreach Committee will set up the Tree of Love on November 17th in the Narthex. Each ornament on the tree contains a gift request from a family. Feel free to take one or more ornaments from the tree.

**Please wrap the item or items (or use a gift bag) with the ornament or ornaments taped on the wrapped gift or gift bag.**

Should the ornament request ask for a gift card, please place the gift card and the ornament taped to it in the blue box at the base of the tree.

Please return the items to the church by **Thursday, December 12th.** The Outreach Committee thanks you in advance for your generosity.



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*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*Colossians 3:17*

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

*Proverbs 22:6*

*And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.*

*Matthew 18:5*



*Join the Child Care Board in saying "thank you" to all of the childcare staff who give so much of themselves to our littlest members!*

*We will be collecting cash and gift card donations for staff meeting dinners – any amount (or pizza place!) welcome ~our goal is \$200.00!*

*~Donations accepted at the front office – make checks to FPC and specify "staff meeting funds"~*



## **PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE...**

*“But you were always a good man of business, Jacob,” faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.*

*“Business!” cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. “Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!”*

**~ Charles Dickens, “A Christmas Carol”**

In scripture, context is everything. One can completely misunderstand major sections of scripture if one does not know when, where, and why a passage is written. Pull a scripture out of its context, and it will fail to speak God’s truth. Take for example, the story of a woman who was seeking God’s guidance, and decided to open the Bible to a random page, and with her eyes closed, point at a scripture and follow it’s guidance. She did, and her finger found the quote, “Judas went out and hanged himself.” “well, she thought, that can’t be right.” So, she tried it a second time. The Bible flipped open and her finger found it’s mark: “Go thou and do likewise.” Hmm, perhaps that isn’t the way to understand and use scripture. Context is everything.

The birth narratives of Jesus are just that kind of thing: there is a *reason* for every word, for every detail included, for heavenly messengers with divine revelation, for lowly, common shepherds as recipients of God’s word, for Magi (from what was considered a “godless” nation) worshiping before a Jewish King, and for an unmarried woman and a faithful man.

Important, too is the context of poverty, for the description of life under the shadow of military occupation and ethnic oppression, for the development of a group of Christ-followers centered at a time of shifting demographics tossed together diverse people who were uncomfortable being mixed. There is a universal sweep in the whole store to make sure that all of humanity, is the context of God’s gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The details that they are not picturesque—they are theology. In telling us about the coming of God, and the context tells us about the heart of God toward humanity, and about God’s priorities for the kingdom. God in flesh comes to the poor, the outcasts, the alienated, the suffering. God in flesh is violently pursued by the hateful who help power. And God in the flesh is very hard on the wealthy who are not generous, often repelling folks of means. Here is an amazing picture of the concrete love of God for humanity and a description of how God shares Godself. It is also a picture of what God asks of God’s church.

The God who came because humankind was his business has made humankind our business—Dickens’s ghost had it right. The church in flesh is called to fill out and occupy the world in the same way—in intentional motion toward the poor, the lonely, the alienated and the oppressed. This baby in the hay grew up to teach community responsibility, engagement with hunger and shelter issues, and proclamation of the reign of God and peace on earth.

So, let us celebrate the Christ-child’s birth. Rejoice with church, with gifts, food family—best way to honor the birth of Christ is to imitate his action and seek those he sought, love those he loved. Let us go out—Go tell it on the mountain, declare the good news of God’s Messiah Come!

*Leanne*

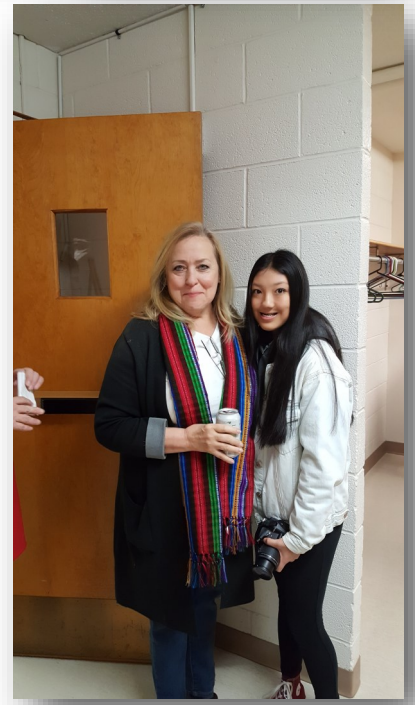


# COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Your Outreach Committee's 2019 work plan included the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Months before November 28th, a Thanksgiving Dinner community team began the work necessary to serve a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including pumpkin pie. A record **386** guests shared the food, the care and the compassion of this wonderful event.

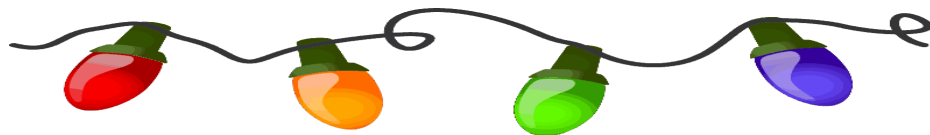
Sharing their love with others were over 100 volunteers by peeling potatoes, making all the food including roasting and carving the turkeys, greeting and seating the guests, and cleaning up for the day! Lots of assistance from community businesses was received.

We wanted to express our special gratitude to the following members of our Presbyterian family who were able to help serve others on this unique day: **Kathy Wachter, Rose Trenbeath, Sue Sorlie, Damita Engel, Lynn Dodge, Jerry & Priscilla Wilson, Matt Skaret, Jim & Nanc Skaret, Dave Nix, Ron & Neva Carlisle, and Charee Linton.** To the gracious and very talented **Duane and Karen Ehrens,** your expertise and skill make this day one to remember for everyone that enjoyed the amazing food, and those of us who get the honor of hearing the praises of stuffed bellies and gratitude for providing such wonderful food. And to **Gladys Cairns,** your passion and tireless efforts to help make this such a fabulous event will be missed throughout the years. Thank you for all you have done!



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...

Great news! The generosity and commitment of the First Presbyterian family is strong. The latest figures for this year's Stewardship campaign show an increase in the total dollar amount over last year. This year, 129 pledgers estimate 2020 giving of \$328,358. That includes 10 new pledgers! That compares with 152 pledges last year giving \$323,450. These numbers also mean we are down 23 pledges. Please turn in your pledge forms as soon as possible, and thank you to all for your faith in God and our church's ability to help us all grow spiritually.



## WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT

With Winter storms just around the corner, we wanted to take a minute to remind you of First Presbyterian Church's Winter Weather Policy. **Any time Bismarck Public Schools close due to weather, First Presbyterian Church and Child Care Center closes as well.** So any scheduled meetings or events will be cancelled automatically if the church closes due to weather. If you have any questions, please call the church office. Thank you for your understanding!



## RED & GREEN POTLUCK...

The Membership Committee invites you to the Annual "Red & Green" Potluck to be held in Ramstad Hall after the Worship Service on **December 8th**. Our service this day will feature the presentation of the Youth Christmas Pageant. Please join us in the opportunity for food and fellowship with our church family. Guests, including family and friends, are especially encouraged to attend. When you come, please bring food to share if you are able. If you are not able to bring food, we would still encourage you to attend and enjoy this time together. To enhance the Christmas Spirit, if you like, bring a red or green main dish, salad, vegetable or a dessert. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Volunteer Board in the Narthex. Help cleaning up after the meal will be appreciated.

## PRAYER CHAIN

A prayer chain provides the power and strength of collective prayer for those in need. If you would like to join the prayer chain, or have a prayer need, please contact:

Nanc Skaret at  
skaret@bis.midco.net  
Or 258-4703

You may also call the church office  
at 223-6091







## HIGHER POWER LUNCH...

December's Downtown Higher Power Lunch will be on Wednesday, December 18th featuring Ryan Taylor. He will present a faith based talk as a fourth generation cattle rancher, conservation public policy director, and Christian, on conservation stewardship, our God given resources, and our Christian responsibility to care for creation. Ryan is an active Lutheran, currently serve on the Lutheran Social Services and LSS Housing boards, former church council chair, Metigoshe Ministries board member, and much, much more.

Join us and bring a friend for an inspirational lunch. Please register for the at [www.fpcbismarck.com/higherpowerlunch](http://www.fpcbismarck.com/higherpowerlunch), or visit our website at [www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com) and click on the Higher Power Lunch tab.



## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING...

### *Christmas Joy Offering December 22nd, 2019*

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. First Presbyterian will collect the offering on Sunday, December 22nd, with half of the dollars going to needs in the community. The portion of the offering going to Presbyterian USA distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The assistance program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Stewardship Committee



## MYHRE VOLUNTEERS...

Myhre Elementary School is looking for volunteer elves on Friday, December 13th. A "Quarter Sale" has been organized in the school gymnasium at which students can shop for gifts for family members, but adults are needed to keep the displays stocked with goodies and to help with wrapping those gifts. Volunteers can sign-up for one-hour shifts. If you are interested in helping with this project, please sign-up at the volunteer bulletin board in the church Narthex, or contact Gail Christianson at 255-4547 for more details.



## GIFT OF GIVING...

The Board of Deacons depends on donations to the Gift of Giving Fund for their "budget". The fund consists of donations from the congregation and friends and us used to assist individual members, for supplies for recording Sunday services, and for Child Care Center needs. The fund currently has a balance of \$718.

Another fund that consists of donations from the congregation and friends is the Crisis Ministry Fund. It may be used by the Pastor for a member or individual in the community in an emergency situation. The current balance is \$412.

The Presbyterian Church Book of Order states that the ministry of the Deacons is one of "compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structure, or anyone in distress."

Contributions to both of these funds may be made at any time. Thank you for your support!



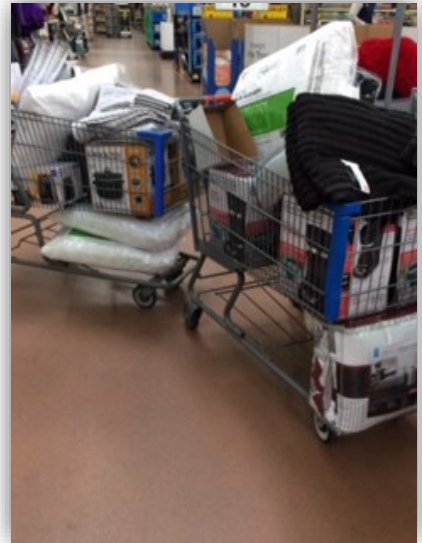


## **GRATEFUL AND BLESSED...**

The Mission and Outreach Committee is grateful for the response to our request for non-perishable food items for the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry. Your generosity each year appreciated and will make a difference to the hungry in our community.

Coffee makers, toasters, crockpots, can openers, sheets, towels, shower curtains (hooks and liners) were a few of the items purchased for the Edwinton Place, the new permanent homeless shelter located on South 11th Street which opened in November.

We are blessed to have a caring congregation.



## **THANK YOU...**

Thanks to all who donated to the Back-to-School clothing drive for Myhre Elementary School. More than 130 items, from socks to sweats, were delivered to the school's social worker for emergency uses. The items were much appreciated, and will come in handy when situations requiring dry clothes arise.

*Thank  
you!*



## **CHILD CARE CENTER...**

*The Child Care Center has several announcements and reminders for you!*

1. To make quarterly staff meetings more fun, Child Care Center employees team up and help prepare meals for their co-workers! The infant teachers, toddler teachers, and preschool teachers each cover one meal, and Shawn and Vanessa prepare the fourth meal of the year. If you would like to help fund these unique staff meals, please consider making a donation marked, “CCC Staff Meals”. The staff have so much fun coming up with meals on a budget and truly appreciate any help in covering the costs! Funds donated in 2019 will help cover the cost of meals for 2020.
2. If you or someone you know are looking for a part-time job, please consider applying to the Child Care Center. We offer competitive wages and no nights or weekends! Please contact Shawn at [childcare@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:childcare@fpcbismarck.com) or Vanessa at [cccast@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:cccast@fpcbismarck.com), or you can call the center at 258-7490.
3. Don't forget Pancakes with Santa! This fun event is from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 14th in Ramstad Hall. Enjoy a visit with Santa, a pancake breakfast served by the Boy Scouts, and a puppet show! This event is free and open to the public, with freewill offering to help cover breakfast costs. Please join us—and invite your friends!
4. The Child Care Center Board is still looking for a second Parent Representative! If you have a child who attends the daycare, this is your chance to make a difference at the Child Care Center and participate in decision-making regarding board policies. If you know someone who is interested, or for more information, please contact Shawn, Vanessa, or Sarah Rixen (current parent rep) for details.





## **GRATEFUL FOR YOU...**

As I anticipate getting on an airplane to leave North Dakota, I am filled with gratitude of each of you! I simply love your giving, loving, Christ centered hearts. It has been so obvious to me that First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck acts out it's mission, inside and out of the wonderful building! Thank you for welcoming me into your church family.

I will miss all of your collective goodness but I'm taking you all with me in my heart. I'm praying I find a Presbyterian Church family like you in Henderson, Nevada. Please know I so believe in you all.

It has been so easy to love the staff of our Church. I have appreciated them all. When the Church called Pastor Leanne, I understood the God had intervened and sent her to us. I love Pastor Leanne and I am so appreciative of her loving ministry! And I extend all my love to Charee! I so appreciate all her skills that she shares with us in her important roles in our Church. What I love her the most is for her kind, giving, loving heart.

As you read this, I will be getting settled in my new home, where I have a 2 bedroom. You are all welcome! Let's keep in touch!

*Gladys Cairns*



## **CHURCH FAMILY FORWARDING INFO...**

A few members of our church family have relocated and have left forwarding information for all to stay in contact with them!

### **Gladys Cairns**

2501 Wigwam Parkway Unit #314  
Henderson, NV 89074  
701-220-6030  
gmcairns71@gmail.com

### **Fred Larson**

Minnesota Masonic Home  
11501 Masonic Home Drive, Apt. #A309  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
952-948-7575

## STAINED GLASS DISPLAY ADDED TO THE PARLOR

If you have attended meetings of other events in the Parlor during the month of October, you should have noticed there is now a stained glass display hanging in the window of the Parlor. There is an interesting story regarding this display.

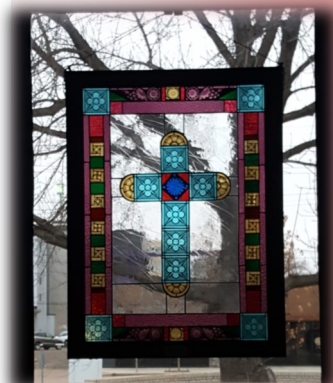
The stained glass in the display are remnants of stained glass windows in the 1892 church building that once was located within the area now occupied by the west parking lot. When this church building was demolished during the mid-1960's, after the portion of our current building that contains the sanctuary was completed, some of the stained glass from windows in the old church were recovered by Ardeth Taylor, a well-known member of the church at that time. Later Ardeth and her family relocated to the Twin Cities area. Before Ardeth passed, she gave the stained glass pieces to her daughters. The daughters eventually decided that these pieces should be returned to our church. Linda Tonolli, a lifelong friend of the Taylor daughters, was contacted and requested by the Taylor daughters to give the stained glass pieces to the church. When that occurred, in 2017, Linda shared this with other members and friends in our church, and several women in our church decided that the stained glass pieces should be on display in some artistic manner. An independent committee was subsequently formed. The committee members were: Ann Lynch, Nanc Skaret, Sue Sorlie, and Linda Tonolli.

The independent committee contacted a local stained glass artist, Barb Thorson. Barb subsequently designed a piece consisting of a cross made from the glass pieces. Under the cross members of the cross in the display, pieces of stained glass have been placed to represent the disciples of Jesus. The committee brought their plan to the Property and Equipment Committee for consideration. The Property and Equipment Committee subsequently requested the Business and Finance Committee to approve the use of \$1,000 in available memorial funds to complete the stained glass display. The request was approved in the Summer, 2018. During the ensuing year, Barb completed the construction of stained glass piece, and Vern Spitzer constructed a wood frame for the display.

Approximately one (1) year later, on August 4th, 2019, the completed, and framed, stained glass display was dedicated during worship. Coincidentally, the Taylor children were visiting on the date and had the opportunity to witness the dedication.

Since the dedication, it was decided to display the stained glass piece in the Parlor window, where light is available to best compliment the display. With the professional assistance provided by Fargo Glass and Paint Company, Vern Spitzer and Jim Skaret assured that the stained glass display was safely mounted within the window glass framing at the east end of the Parlor.

To date the cost of this project is \$850.00, well within the \$1,000 approved for the project. If you have not already, please stop in the Parlor to see this beautiful and meaningful addition to the Parlor.







## **NURSE'S NOTES...**

### ***Foods That May Help With Muscle Cramps***

According to WebMD muscle cramps happen when your muscles tense up and you can't relax them. While painful, usually you can treat them yourself. Exercise, dehydration, and menstruation are common causes. One way to stop cramps is to stretch or massage your muscles and to eat enough of these key nutrients: potassium, sodium, calcium, and magnesium. They're called electrolytes, and you can find them in foods.

Bananas are a good source of potassium, magnesium and calcium. That's three out of four nutrients you need to ease muscle cramps tucked under that yellow peel. They are a quick choice for cramp relief.

Sweet potatoes give you potassium, calcium, and magnesium. They have about six times as much calcium as bananas. Regular potatoes and even pumpkins are good sources of all three nutrients. Plus, potatoes and pumpkins naturally have a lot of water in them, so they can help you hydrate, too.

The avocado is a potassium powerhouse. This berry has about 975 milligrams of potassium, twice as much as a sweet potato or banana. Potassium is important because it helps your muscles work and keeps your heart healthy. They have a lot of fat and calories, so keep that in mind.

Legumes like beans and lentils are packed with magnesium. One cup of cooked lentils has about 71 milligrams of magnesium, and a cup of cooked black beans has almost double that with 120 milligrams. Plus, they're high in fiber, and studies show that high-fiber foods can help ease menstrual cramps as well as help control your blood sugar and lower levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol.

Melons have loads of potassium, a good amount of magnesium and calcium, a little sodium, and a lot of water. Sodium and water are key because as you exercise, your body flushes sodium out with your sweat. If you lose too much water, you'll get dehydrated, and muscle cramps may happen. Eating a cup of cubed cantaloupe after a workout can help.

Watermelon is used for hydration. They're about 90% water, so when you need foods that hydrate, a cup of watermelon will do it. Since it's a melon, it's also high in potassium, but not quite as high as others.

Milk is a natural source of electrolytes like calcium, potassium, and sodium. It's good for hydration. And it's packed with protein, which helps repair muscle tissue after workouts. It also can help protect against muscle cramps.

Some athletes swear by pickle juice as a fast way to stop a muscle cramp. While pickle juice may help relieve muscle cramps quickly, it isn't because you're dehydrated or low on sodium. It is more likely because the pickle juice sets off a reaction in your nervous system that stops the cramp, according to recent research.

Dark leafy greens are rich in calcium and magnesium. So adding kale, spinach, or broccoli to your plate may help prevent muscle cramps. Eating leafy greens also may help with menstruation cramps, as studies show eating foods high in calcium can help relieve pain from periods.

One cup of refreshing OJ has plenty of water for hydration. It has nearly 500 milligrams of potassium per cup. Orange juice has 27 milligrams of calcium and magnesium. Choose a calcium-fortified brand for an extra boost.

Nuts and seeds are a great source of magnesium and calcium. For example, 1 ounce of toasted sunflower seeds has about 37 milligrams of magnesium. And 1 ounce of roasted, salted almonds has double that.

Sometimes muscle cramps are the result of poor blood flow. Eating oily fish like salmon can help improve it. Plus, a 3-ounce portion of cooked salmon has about 326 milligrams of potassium and 52 milligrams of sodium to help with muscle cramps. Not a salmon fan? You also could try trout or sardines.

Tomatoes are high in potassium and water content. So if you gulp down 1 cup of tomato juice, you'll get about 15% of your daily value of potassium. You'll also give your body hydration to prevent muscle cramps from starting. Generally, women need about 11.5 cups of water a day, and men 15.5 cups. The water you get from



## **NURSE'S NOTES...**

other beverages, plus fruits and vegetables, counts, too. You only need sports drinks if you're doing high-intensity exercise for an hour or more. For electrolytes without the sugar, drink coconut water instead.



### **Just for Laughs**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Q: Why does Santa go down the chimney?         | A. Because it soots him!!!! |
| Q. What do you call a bankrupt Santa?          | A. Saint Nickel-less!       |
| R. What did Adam say the day before Christmas? | A. It's Christmas, Eve!     |

### **Announcements**

- ◆ Senior Exercise Class every Monday and Thursday in Ramstad Hall at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ Sunday Blood Pressure Clinic on December 15th, 2019 from 9-10 and 11-12 Noon in the Conference Room
- ◆ Wednesday is Nurse Office Day from 8 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Come visit for concerns/questions/check blood pressures.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Thanksgiving and Christmas have always been my favorite time of the year! There is a little spark of magic in being thankful and giving during the holiday season. The joy family brings getting to spend time together with old and new holiday traditions. Each year here at First Presbyterian has given me more and more blessings, growth and change for the better. I look forward to everything that is to come.

As I look back at this year, there has been so much that we have accomplished here. New events that hopefully turn into yearly happenings...youth trips that have left lasting impacts...planning of new and exciting trips to come...new family events...the list keeps growing!

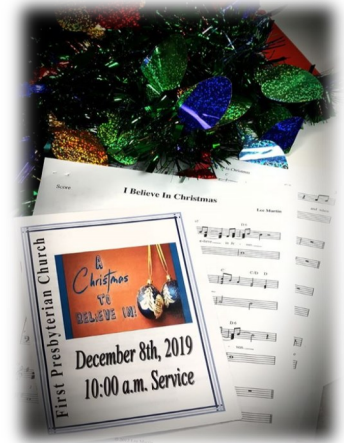
Please keep your eye on the announcements to learn of all the upcoming events and happenings.

Looking forward to more amazing things in 2020! Merry Christmas to all and have a wonderful New Year!

## Events:

### Christmas Pageant! Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

All PAC and PresbyTeens youth taking part in the Christmas Pageant are to be at Church on Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 am, and by 8 am on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Pageant will be during 10 am Worship, with a “Red and Green” Potluck hosted by the Membership Committee will follow in Ramstad Hall.



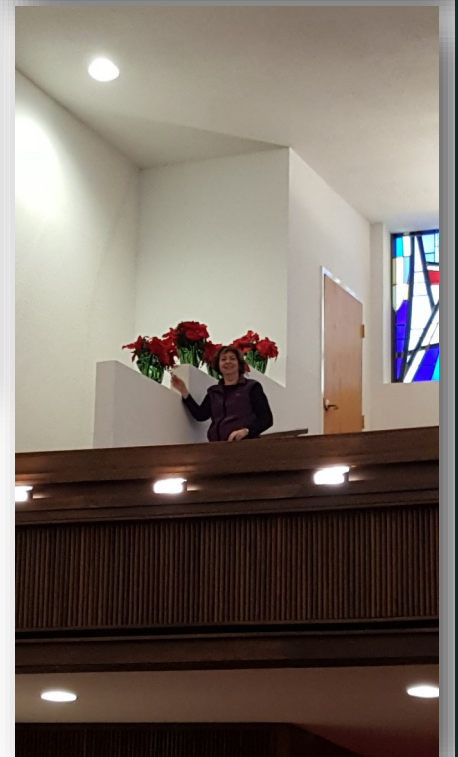
### PAC and PresbyTeens Schedule: Wednesdays at 5:45-7:30 pm

- December 4th: Pageant Rehearsal
- December 11: Christmas Movie Night!
- December 18th: Christmas Fun Night!
- December 25th: No PAC or PresbyTeens ~ Merry Christmas!
- January 1st: No PAC/ or PresbyTeens ~ Happy New Year!





# ADVENT DECORATING



***Thank you to everyone who came out,  
battled the weather and helped make the  
church look so beautiful for our  
Advent Season.***



# **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

## **Session Highlights November 26, 2019**

### **REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY MEETING**

Presbytery of the Northern Plains met October 22 in Devils Lake. Jim Skaret, Ella Gutzke and Shari Orser were commissioners from FPC. The Presbytery is currently served by a full-time Executive Leader, Rev. Marjorie Ackerman and a part-time Communications Director, Jamie Norstog. Changes being explored include a decision to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery (actively engage in congregational vitality, dismantling racism, eradicating poverty). Declining membership may lead to future mergers of Presbyteries. Per capita assessment for 2020 will be increased \$1.00 to \$47.00.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Total Income YTD Actual	\$428,502	Budget	\$404,208
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$416,429	Budget	\$423,240
NET Income	\$12,073	Budget	-\$19,032
Unrestricted General Fund	\$196,118		

For 2020, 130 pledges have been received, totaling about \$328,000. A few additional pledges are expected by the end of 2019.

### **MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Pastor Leanne thanked the committees who have worked on the budget, stewardship, nominating and upcoming Advent programs. Dennis Rosenkranz was thanked for painting the pastor's office. FPC has a dedicated staff who view their jobs as a "calling".

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administrative and Personnel**—New committee chairs and restructured committees are under review. The committee will study ways to communicate a potential Sunday service cancellation in case of severe weather.

**Business and Finance**—Pledged income is above budget and is predicted to be above budget for 2020.

**Christian Education**—So far, \$258 was received from sale of calendars. More volunteers are needed to help teach Sunday School and PAC.

**Membership**—The committee will help advertise Advent programs. July 12, 2020 was chosen for the Outdoor Worship Service.

**Mission and Outreach**—Donations for the Tree of Love and Emergency Food Bank will be made. Ryan Taylor will be the speaker for the December Higher Power Lunch. To date, 60 shawls have been made.

**Property and Equipment**—A contract with Prairie Engineering was approved. They will do a feasibility study on the HVAC system.

**Stewardship**—The committee will consider a suggestion to have "giving cards" available in the pew racks to put in the offering plates for those who support the church by methods other than donations each Sunday.

**Worship and Music**—Approval was given to order new choir robes, using money from Endowments and Memorials to add to the amount in the dedicated account. There will be hymn sing/caroles before worship on December 22 and 29 at 9:45.



# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



**Nominating**—Slate of officers was presented: Elders Class of 2022—Peter Emerson, Cindy Cross, Hannah Luciano, Dick Weber; Class of 2020—Dave Nix. Deacons Class of 2022—Kent Ellis, Bob Kinnitschke, Lynne Bigwood, Jody Bachmeier, Bev Patch-Larson, Kathy Wachter; Class of 2021—Tedd Gutzke and Jim Rambo. Child Care Center Board—Carole Watrel, Tammy Morey, Jan Gilchrist.

**Board of Deacons**—Approximately 30 Christmas trays will be distributed to congregation members. Deacons approved \$350 from the Gift of Giving Fund to be used for special needs as determined by the pastor, parish nurse or Child Care Center director.

**Child Care Center Board**—Breakfast with Santa is December 14. The center continues to recruit additional staff.

## NEW BUSINESS

The following dates have been set:

**January 5**—Following worship, Congregational Meeting to elect Elders, Deacons and CCC Board members

**January 11**—New Elders training 10:00-12:00noon with Special Session meeting at noon to examine Deacons

**January 19**—Installation and Ordination

**January 26**—Annual Congregational Meeting

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session







## December Facts

The 12th month of the year is an outstanding one!

December is the last month in the Gregorian calendar. Its name is based on the Latin term for ten. In the Roman calendar, December was the tenth month until the addition of January and February at the beginning of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere December has the shortest daylight hours and marks the beginning of winter. December provides the longest days in Southern Hemisphere, as it is the beginning of summer. December is a month home to many religious holidays.

Below are some fun facts about December:

1. The birthstone of December is turquoise.
2. Zodiac signs for December are Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) and Capricorn (December 22 - January 19).
3. The birth flower of December is the Narcissus.
4. Dec. 1st, 1955—Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama
5. World's AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1st.
6. Dec. 2nd, 1823—U.S. President, James Monroe, introduced the Monroe Doctrine.
7. Dec. 3rd, 1967—54 year-old Louis Washkansky received the first human heart transplant.
8. Dec. 4th, 1881—The Los Angeles Times began publication.
9. Dec. 7th, 1941—Pearl Harbor attacked by Japan.
10. Dec. 10th, 1901—The First Nobel Prizes were awarded.
11. Dec. 4th, 1911—Norwegian Roald Amundsen became the first explorer to reach the South Pole.
12. Dec. 15th, 1791—The Bill of Rights was added to the United States' Constitution.
13. Dec. 17th, 1843—Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol novella was published by Chapman and Hall.  
Most well know books and stories of all time.
14. Dec. 20th, 1946—It's a Wonder Life, starring Jimmy Stewart, premiered in New York City.
15. December 26th is National Candy Cane Day
16. On December 29, 1862, the bowling bowl was invented.
18. Dec. 22, 1882—the first string of electric lights decorating a Christmas tree was created for his house by Edward H. Johnson.
19. On December 17, 1903, the Wright Brothers made their first flight.
20. On December 14, 1791, the Bill of Rights was passed.



# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES...

## DECEMBER USHERS/GREETERS/RECEPTION HOST

- December 1st:**      **Captain:** Kathryn Brown  
**Ushers:** Letha Lewis, Stan Halling, Alice Halling, Cindy Cross, Don Cross  
**Reception Host:** Ann Lynch
- December 8th:**      **Captain:** Jane Boeckel  
**Ushers:** Carole Watrel, Don Bigwood, Jim Skaret, Ron Carlisle, Neva Carlisle  
**Reception Host:** Donna Richter
- December 15th:**      **Captain:** Audre Goll  
**Ushers:** JoAnn Hodny, Joe Satrom, *Volunteers Needed*  
**Reception Host:** Boy Scout Troop 6
- December 22nd:**      **Captain:** Pam Anderson  
**Ushers:** John Richter, Donna Richter, Ron Carlisle, Neva Carlisle, *Volunteers Needed*  
**Reception Host:** Gloria Blanco
- December 24th, 5:30 pm**      **Captain:** Jody Bachmeier  
**Ushers:** Joe Bachmeier, Don Cross, Cindy Cross
- December 24th, 11:00 pm**      **Captain:** Nanc Skaret  
**Ushers:** *Volunteers Needed*
- December 29th:**      **Captain:** JoAnn Hodny  
**Ushers:** Alice Nix, Dave Nix, *Volunteers Needed*  
**Reception Host:** *Volunteer Needed*

### DECEMBER LAY READERS

Dec. 1st	Lori Orser
Dec. 8th	Christmas Pageant
Dec. 15th	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Dec. 22nd	Carole Watrel
Dec. 24th	5:30 p.m. Volunteer List
Dec. 24th	11:00 p.m. Volunteer List
Dec. 29	Gloria Blanco

### 2018 ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

12/01/2019	10:00 am	Hoerauf Family
12/08/2019	10:00 am	Engel Family
12/15/2019	10:00 am	Svihovec Family
12/22/20219	10:00 am	Liedtke Family
12/24/15	5:30 pm	Gutzke Family
12/24/15	11:00 pm	Wassim Family



## *This Month's Anniversaries & Birthdays*

### BIRTHDAYS

### DECEMBER

Linda Tonolli	1st
Grael Gannon	2nd
Stan Halling	4th
Hailee Bitz	4th
Laken Gratz	8th
Bert Asselin, Jr.	8th
David Shockman	9th
Audre Goll	9th
Linda Stensrud	11th
Danette Pengilly	11th
Arne Arneson	12th
JoAnn Hodny	12th
Richard Belisle	15th
Janice Mayer	16th
Chris Hellman	17th
Laura Adair	18th
David Bachmeier	18th
Arley Gallup	19th
Bob Kinnischtzke	20th
Kade Massey	20th
Jae Reile	21st
Ella Gutzke	22nd
Bob Tonolli	22nd
Patricia Keller	27th
Doug Sturlaugson	28th
Shiny Mahlum	30th
Kaye Halvorson	31st
Caroline Barks	31st
Lori Lee	31st

### ANNIVERSARIES

<i>John &amp; Kim Dixon</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>Paul &amp; Kristi Ronningen</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Jim &amp; Nanc Skaret</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>William &amp; JoAnn Hodny</i>	<i>30th</i>

*All birthdays and anniversaries are taken from information previously collected from an updated membership info form.. If we made a mistake, or missed you or a loved one, we apologize and ask that you please let us know so we can update our system. If you do not want your birthday listed in a bulletin or newsletter, please let us know that as well. Thank you!*





# DON'T-MISS EVENTS THIS DECEMBER

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>	<u><i>Meeting/Event</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>
Sunday, December 1st, 2019	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
		<i>*No Adult Bible Study—No Youth Sunday School</i>	
Monday December 2nd, 2019	1:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Parlor
	5:00 pm	Suzuki Recital	Sanctuary
	7:00 pm	Christian Ed Committee	Conf. Room
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 6	Downstairs
Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019	12:00 pm	Adult Bible Study	Conf. Room
	5:30 pm	Yoga	202
	5:30 pm	Child Care Center Board	Conf. Room
	5:30 pm	Property & Equipment Committee	Ramstad Hall
	6:30 pm	Lay Pastors	Parlor
Wednesday, December 4th, 2019	9:30 am	ECMC—Suzuki Music Classes	202
	12:00 pm	HPL Meeting	Parlor
	12:30 pm	Innovation School Classes	202
	5:45 pm	PAC/PresbyTeens Pageant Rehearsal	Ramstad/Sanctuary
	6:30 pm	Westminster Chimes	Bell Room
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday, December 5th, 2019	10:00 am	Senior Exercise Class	Ramstad Hall
	12:00 pm	Stewardship Committee	Conf. Room
	6:00 pm	Membership Committee	Conf. Room
Friday, December 6th, 2019		<i>No Events Scheduled</i>	
Saturday, December 7th, 2019	10:00 am	Pageant Dress Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 8th, 2019	10:00 am	Worship ~ Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
	11:15 am	Red & Green Potluck	Ramstad Hall
		<i>*No Adult Bible Study—No Youth Sunday School</i>	

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>	<u><i>Meeting/Event</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>
Monday, December 9th, 2019	10:00 am	Senior Exercise Class	Ramstad Hall
	5:30 pm	Worship & Music Committee	Conf. Room
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 6	Downstairs
Tuesday, December 10th, 2019	12:00 pm	Blue Christmas Worship	Chapel
	5:30 pm	Yoga	202
Wednesday, December 11th, 2019	9:30 am	ECMC—Suzuki Music School	Downstairs
	12:00 pm	Munch & Mingle	Ramkota Hotel
	12:30 pm	Innovation School Classes	202
	5:45 pm	PAC/PresbyTeens Movie Night	Downstairs
	6:30 pm	Westminster Chimes	Bell Room
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday, December 12th, 2019	10:00 am	Senior Exercise Class	Ramstad
	6:30 pm	Outreach Committee	Conf. Room
Friday, December 13th, 2019		<i>No Events Scheduled</i>	
Saturday, December 14th, 2019	9:30 am	Breakfast with Santa	Ramstad
Sunday, December 15th, 2019	9:00 am	Blood Pressure Clinic	Conf. Room
	<i>Boy Scout Sunday</i> 10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15 am	Sunday School	Downstairs
Monday, December 16th, 2019	10:00 am	Senior Exercise Class	Ramstad
	12:00 pm	Business & Finance Committee	Conf. Room
	1:30 pm	Book Club	Conf. Room
	1:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Group	Parlor
	5:00 pm	Admin. & Personnel Committee	Conf. Room
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 6	Downstairs
Tuesday, December 17th, 2019	2:00 pm	Presbyterian Friends	Touchmark
	5:30 pm	Yoga	202
	6:00 pm	Session	Parlor
Wednesday, December 18th, 2019		Church Office Open House	Church Office
	9:30 am	ECMC—Suzuki Music School	202
	11:30 am	Higher Power Lunch	Parlor
	12:30 pm	Innovation School Classes	202
	5:45 pm	PAC/PresbyTeens Holiday Party	Ramstad
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>	<u><i>Meeting/Event</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>
Thursday, December 19th, 2019	10:00 am	Senior Strength Class	Ramstad Hall
	7:00 pm	Deacons	Parlor
Friday, December 20th, 2019		<i>No Events Scheduled</i>	
Saturday, December 21st, 2019		<i>No Events Scheduled</i>	
Sunday, December 22nd, 2019	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
		<b><i>*No Adult Bible Study—No Youth Sunday School</i></b>	
Monday, December 23rd, 2019	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 6	Downstairs
Tuesday, December 24th, 2019		<b><i>Office Closed ~ Merry Christmas</i></b>	
	5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship	Sanctuary
	11:00 am	Candle Light Worship with Communion	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 25th, 2019		<b><i>Office Closed ~ Merry Christmas!</i></b>	
Thursday, December 26th, 2019		<i>No Events Scheduled</i>	
Friday, December 27th, 2019		<i>No Events Scheduled</i>	
Saturday, December 28th, 2019		<i>No Events Scheduled</i>	
Sunday, December 29th, 2019	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
		<b><i>*No Adult Bible Study—No Youth Sunday School</i></b>	
Monday, December 30th, 2019	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 6	Downstairs
Tuesday, December 31st, 2019		<b><i>Church closes at 12:00 Noon</i></b>	
Wednesday, January 1st, 2020		<b><i>Church Closed ~ Happy New Year!</i></b>	







### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday—Friday  
8:00 AM—5:00 PM

### **Church Staff**

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons
Administrative Assistant/ Youth Christian Education Director	Charee Linton
Finance	Vickie Haas
Organist	Arvy Smith Gail Snustad
Choir Director	Debi Rogers
Bell Choir Director	Lael Hoerauf
Maintenance Manger	Nathan Peterson
Membership Services	Judy Lentz
Membership Services	Shelli Peterson
C. E. Interns	Mark Jensen, Emily Ehrens
Nursery	Mary Jones
Child Care Director	Shawn Stettner
Asst. Child Care Director	Vanessa Hein

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