

JANUARY 2025

January 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 72, Issue 1

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

Every year, the same images are employed to describe the passing of time from one year to the next. Father time, old and decrepit, welcomes his replacement, a small innocent baby, and the world, welcoming a clean slate and a new chance, recognizes that the potential of the preceding year is spent, and allows the past to go peacefully to sleep. Welcome, infant year! Welcome, new beginnings! We are ready for a new start.

But the image of Father Time and Baby New Year has its limitations. While it is true that the preceding year has now spent all potential for change, that consequences of that year do not simply pass away and leave us alone. We carry with us, for good and for ill, the baggage of all that has been – the accumulated consequences of good and bad choices, events beyond our control, votes of ourselves and our neighbors, changes in the economy, shifts in our health, glitches in our relationships. You know this – I'm sure I didn't have to remind you (but I did, didn't I?) – I am just trying to be realistic. Still, it is true that the new year is not written and it is bursting with potential for new things and change the we have yet to perceive. I cannot change the circumstances of my entry in this year, but I can re-think my expectations and adapt my behaviors and attitudes in hopes of a better outcome and a happier future for myself and my family. So, it is – the slate is not clean – and yet, still, we are not powerless in the hope of charting our path in a new direction. In Isaiah 43, the Prophet speaks the word of God, saying, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" I am always stuck on that final question: "do you not perceive it?" because that is where I think the problem lies. Presbyterians have longed declared that it is our job to perceive what God is already doing in the world and get on board with that! The witness of scripture is that God is always at work, doing new things, and asking us to perceive the divine will at work. I called it a problem, and it is, if we do not seek God and remain open to new and challenging next steps. But... if we are attentive, if we pray, if we discern scripture and see the world through God's lens of grace and justice – we cannot miss the new thing God is doing, nor can we miss the part we are meant to play in God's plans.

As we go into the new year, I leave you with these words of Jesus, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32) God is at work and will not be thwarted. Open your heart to God's new possibilities, and rejoice! Leanne



PARISH NURSE NEWS -

As I write this newsletter the winter weather is upon us! I hope all of you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends through the holiday season. January is a great time to reflect on all that God has given us and as I reflect, I look forward to continuing the Parish Nurse position here at First Presbyterian Church. As always please let me know of any needs or ideas that I can assist with for the greater good of the congregation this year.

We are starting the year off with a Blood Pressure clinic before and after church service on **January 5th from 9-10am and 11-noon.**

Also, this month we start back with **Stretch and Balance classes on January 7th.** Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday at 11am. Please join us if you are able!

I am also excited to announce that on **February 2nd**, along with the blood pressure clinic, I will be offering free disposal bags for your unused or expired medications. These bags can be taken home and have simple instructions to dispose of your medications. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Sincerely, Carmen

Bible verse of the month:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!” *2 Corinthians 5:17*

**Next Blood Pressure Clinic - Sunday, January 5, 2025!
9:00-10:00am and 11am-12pm**

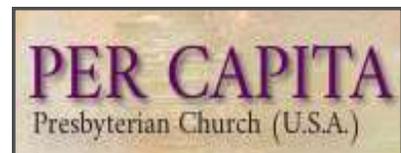


RESOURCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Per Capita Special Offering is a special offering of our church that extends the entire year. We mention the Per Capita Special Offering starting in January and request that each member consider giving a gift to the church of \$50 to cover their share of the church's financial obligation to the larger church. If you are a member that pledges income each year to the church, and would like to be able to help support other members who might find it financially unfeasible to pledge or to make the separate per capita donation, your separate gift of \$50 will help cover the cost of membership for that less fortunate member of the church. You can make your per capita gift to the church simply by making out a check with per capita written in the memo blank on the check.

Thank you, Jim Skaret

Resource Management Committee



Collecting plastic grocery bags for a good cause!

Our Hospitality Committee is collecting used plastic grocery bags for a project to make mats to give to homeless people. The bags must NOT have any holes. The committee is working with a woman who creates the mats, like the one pictured here, by hand-weaving the plastic bags. It takes about 500 bags to make one mat. The committee decided to test whether the congregation would support this effort, hoping this could be a long-term outreach (and environmentally friendly) project for our congregation.

The mats will be given to groups who work with the homeless in our area!



CHILDCARE CENTER NEWS-

The Board and CCC staff appreciated the wonderful turnout and the volunteers for the 4th annual Breakfast with Santa event, held on December 7. Many thanks go out to Mark Zimmerman, Boy Scout Troop 6, and their parents for the great breakfast prepared for the event! About 100 or more adults and children attended. In addition to the breakfast, the children enjoyed seeing and visiting with Santa, the puppet show presented by the teens and Paster Leanne, and all of the hands on crafts which kept many entertained. The proceeds from the free will offering benefitted the Scouts of Troop 6, which our church sponsors.



CCC Needs List for January: baby wipes and hand soap

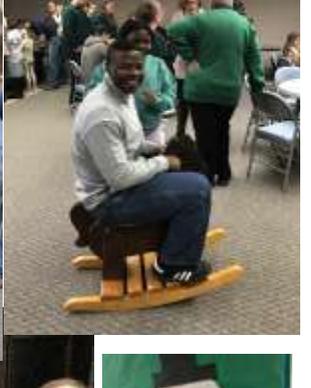


Thank you for the generous Christmas Eve offerings that were given to FPC Childcare Center



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!**







2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|-----|---|
| | 2 | 3 | 1 NO Munch & Mingle! OFFICES CLOSED Happy New Year! | 2 NO Bal. & Strength Class NO Yoga | 3 | 4 2:00pm Mabel Jespersen's Memorial Service |
| 5 10am Worship Communion Service of Shalom Blood Pressure Clinic 9-10am & 11am-12pm | 6 Epiphany 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed <i>Annual Reports Due!</i> | 7 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 7:00pm Lay Pastors | 8 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 9 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality | 10 | 11 |
| 12 10am Worship Baptism of the Lord | 13 5:30pm W & Music 6:30pm Scouts | 14 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board | 15 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 16 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10am Worship 2nd Sunday after Epiphany | 20 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts | 21 11AM Bal. & Strength Class | 22 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 23 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10am Worship 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Annual Meeting followed by lunch | 27 6:30pm Scouts | 28 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session | 29 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir | 30 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga | 31 | |

Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 26, 2025



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. Intern

Ruth Jensen

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 2025 - BIRTHDAYS

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



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

JANUARY 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

- January 7 Runick & Anita Fru



NO Munch & Mingle in
January - Happy New Year!

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 ~

“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.



Thank you to our choir, bells, and musicians that brought us such beautiful music this Christmas season and all year round!

