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July 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter!

Volume 72, Issue 7

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

(1 Corinthians 10: 3-13) No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

There is an old and oft quoted saying that goes: "God will never give you more than you can handle." In a way, that's true – if by it one means that God will be with us through all of our challenges and disasters. I am a firm believer that God never leaves us, and while I don't think he is bound to make sure trouble does not come our way, God's love is so rich, so deep and so intimate, we can count on his presence and help as we go through painful situations and the temptations they bring. The Apostle Paul who wrote the above scripture has a funny definition of "a way out." His idea of a way out is not an escape, but a way through, with gifts of mercy that make pain endurable.

But I do think there are things that are greater than a person is meant to bear. Examples: no parent should ever lose a child. People are not meant to see their loved ones die from war, poverty, or hatred. Many people in this world bear up under pain and sorrows that are unjust and devastating. These other sorrows are soul-breakers – without the presence of God they would overwhelm and destroy us.

But God has given us gifts that will help us bear up, even find new hope and new dreams. First, of course are the promises of scripture which offer us comfort and reassurance. Many of us have found a friend in the Psalmist and the voice of God in the text as we read God's words. Second, is the church: allies and family whom God has called to pull together: *Hebrews 12:12-15* ¹² "strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ "Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. ¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to →



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

cause trouble and defile many.” Scripture tells us that in tough times, God has given us the Holy Spirit which will help us pray when words fail and bear witness to our spirits that God is near. And finally, God gave us Jesus, who could not accept standing by when people suffered – he healed, he touched, he taught, and when the time was right, gave his life and rose from the dead so that the ultimate thing we cannot bear, death, would not have dominion over us.

I know that many of us bear heavy burdens, often quietly and anxiously, and I urge you to lean into the helps God has given to us. And... use your voice, when your needs are not being met, so that the loving people of this church can come to your side and walk with you through your trials. Never fear that God is not listening, or that God is absent. It is impossible for God to watch you bear up in pain and not care. Jesus said it: “in this world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world.”

Leanne

SHAWN'S RETIREMENT

In June of 1995 Shawn Stettner was hired to create the First Presbyterian Child Care Center. Within her assigned time frame of six weeks to “build It and they will come”, she did exactly that. On August 1 of 1995, The First Presbyterian Child Care Center was officially opened as a part of the church's outreach and mission work!

Shawn has been THEE only director that the center has had. The center has been her creation. She has impacted innumerable children, families, church staff and church members, leaving her mark on their hearts and lives.

Shawn retired from her role as director on Monday, June 23, 2025. It's a “sad day in Mudville”. Deepest thanks go to Shawn for her years (and infinite hours) in creating the center, guiding all of those she has touched.

In the future, Shawn will be found working in her garden, lounging with her “cat children” relaxing and spending time with family.

The Best to you Shawn!!!

– CCC Board, Chair.



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!

With all the bags we have contributed so far, she has made more than 30 mats!



PARISH NURSE NEWS -

Wildfire smoke may be around to stay this spring and summer with hundreds of fires burning in Canada. Here are a few tips to stay safe when the air quality is poor:



- *Prioritize staying indoors with windows and doors closed.
- *Consider wearing a tightly fitted N95 or KN95 respirator mask to reduce exposure to harmful particles.
- *Limit physical activity outdoors and stay hydrated.
- *If you have air conditioning, run it with the fresh air intake closed and use a HEPA air purifier to further clean indoor air.
- *Use the website WWW.AIRNOW.GOV to view current air quality.
- *Pay attention to any worsening health symptoms. If you have lung diseases such as asthma or COPD, heart disease, diabetes, or are pregnant, consult your health care provider.

Have a safe summer! Please note I will be out of the office from July 24th through August 6th, contact the church office during this time. (223-6091)

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.” *Isaiah 43:2*

Sincerely, Carmen

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,
Resource Management Committee



Summer FUN and Summer Safety!

There are hundreds of fun things to do outside at this time of year: biking, hiking, swimming, camping, playing tag, sidewalk chalk, hide and seek, and many more! While you all have fun, please be safe out there with the following reminders:

STAYING SAFE OUTDOORS

- **Make sure your children have the appropriate clothing and gear.** The right gear will help your kids stay safe.
- **Keep watch to prevent drowning.** Actively supervise children at all times when in or around water, and make sure you have the right equipment to keep pools safe.
- **Look for signs of heat exhaustion.** Make sure children take water breaks and wear lightweight clothing when playing outside.
- **Check for car safety.** Make sure your child's car seat is properly fitted before hitting the road for a family vacation. Never leave a child unattended in a car. Establish a routine to check the car before locking the doors.
- **Protect skin from the sun.** Apply sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher whenever your child is going to be outdoors. Reapply every three hours or immediately after your child has been in or splashed by water.
- **Drink enough water.** Kids are more prone to dehydration than adults, and their risk increases as temperatures rise.
- **Ride bikes the smart way.** Wearing a helmet is the first rule to preventing serious bicycle injuries in kids. Make sure bikes and helmets fit kids properly and follow smart rider rules.



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 us at **258-7490**, or learn more about the center using this **QR code!**



**We have some wonderful artists
in our childcare center !!**



CCC Needs List for July: baby wipes, liquid hand soap



Brag Box: Corby Svihovec

Karmen & Darin Svihovec - parents

Corby graduated from NDSU on May 17th.

He earned summa cum laude honors
with a double major in Mechanical
Engineering and Physics.

We couldn't be more proud of him and
his hard work!



CHRISTIAN ED:

This past month the kids went to the Super Slide Amusement Park for Family Fun Night. They enjoyed fun rides and some delicious treats! Some exciting news is that Connor Svihovec is interested in becoming a Christian Ed. Intern! We will be having Vacation Bible School on July 21st - 24th and the teens are taking a trip to the Triennium in Kentucky, at the end of July. Thanks for checking in on the youth and what we are up too!

Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen



Capital PRIDE

First Presbyterian Hospitality Committee helps celebrate PRIDE in Bismarck!

On June 14th, the Hospitality Committee had a booth at Capital PRIDE. The event was very festive and well attended again this year. Our booth gave out brochures and candy and held a door prize drawing for a LEGO ART set inspired by pop artist Keith Haring's iconic dancing figures. (see door prize winner picture below!) We had good conversations with people who visited our booth and numerous people were interested in learning more about our church. Many people commented on how great it is that our church and the other churches at Capital PRIDE are supportive and welcoming of the LGBTQ+ community.

F P C P
Shows up for R
I
D
E



Congratulations Capital PRIDE
door prize winner PJ !

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

North Dakotans 4 Ukraine along with Global Neighbors will be welcoming the Zadorozhnia family to Bismarck in early July. The family members are Vira and her two daughters, Veronika 21 and Eva 12. Edward, the father, is not allowed to leave Ukraine at this time. Vira has a master's degree in geological/topographical science, Veronika is working toward an advanced degree in the medical laboratory field, the father is a lawyer, and Eva will be entering 8th grade.

Four churches are currently involved with ND 4 Ukraine: United Church of Christ, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Unitarian Universalist, and our congregation. An apartment has been secured for the family, and the first month's rent has been paid. Funding is available for future needs.

Furniture and kitchen supplies are being taken care of by the other congregations, but our congregation was asked to stock the kitchen. Gift cards to local grocery stores are still welcome, especially Little Odessa, a small grocery store on Broadway that specializes in foods from Central Europe. If you wish to make a monetary donation, checks can be dropped off at the United Church of Christ (1200 East Highland Acres Road) or Bravera Bank. Checks should be written to North Dakotans 4 Ukraine.

Thank you to all who have already helped "Stock the Pantry" for the Zadorozhnia family. The donations will get them started on their new life in Bismarck and provide a warm welcome to our community.



The Church Community Garden is planted and growing... Early crops such as lettuce, green onions and radishes are producing well, and later-producing plants are looking good, too. Watch for the cart at church with weekly produce. Thank you to those who volunteered much hard labor over the past months. Those who planted, watered, maintained, and weeded have kept the garden growing and thriving. Volunteers are always welcome!!

School Supply Donation Opportunity:

During July, the Hospitality Committee is accepting donations of school supplies for the students at **Myhre Elementary**, a school with which our congregation has partnered in the past. The following list of possible donations is taken from the school supply list that the teachers at Myhre have compiled:

Backpacks	Broad-tipped, classic-colored markers
Crayons (24 count)	Fine Tip Dry Erase Markers
Pencil Box or Bag	Glue Sticks
#2 Wooden Pencils	Fine-tip Black Sharpies
Composition Notebook	Wide-Ruled Notebooks red, blue, yellow, green
Colored Pencils	Facial Tissue
White School Glue	Highlighters, pink, green, black
Blunt-Tip scissors	Plastic, 3-pronged folders, red, blue, yellow, green
Plastic Folders with Pockets, red, blue, yellow, green	

Thank you for your help providing these materials.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

June 24, 2025

CLERK'S REPORT

The death of Bruce Bishop on June 16, 2025 was reported. Membership is 307. (Later Session approved a reduction of 18 members, bringing the total to 289.)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$230,730	Budget	\$196,083
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$238,562	Budget	\$277,244
NET	-\$7,832	Budget	-\$81,161

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked the staff, Parish Nurse, Deacons, CCC Board Chair, Juanita Hocking, all the Committees and Youth Director Mark Jensen for all their efforts the past couple months.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel--Letters were sent to members who have not attended or given money since 2020, requesting a response as to remaining on the church membership roll. Session approved the removal of 18 members.

Hospitality—The PRIDE event went well with several personal contacts. Two other community outreach programs will be Juneteenth and helping a Ukrainian family settle here. There are 3 other churches involved with the Ukrainian family and they partner with organizations such as Global Neighbors Network, ND 4 Ukraine and Catch ND.

*Scholarship recipients for the 2025-2026 school year are Erik Hein Jr and Audrey Simmons from the Merritt Fund and Laci Rauser from the Bachman-Snortland Fund.

Property and Equipment—Sprinklers have been repaired. Re-upholstering pews will happen in the fall/winter. Don Cross has joined the committee.

Proclamation—Christian Education—Three youth will attend Triennium. VBS is July 21-24. There was a large attendance at the Amusement Park.

Proclamation—Worship and Music—Altar candles will be replaced. If you would like to provide special music this summer, please contact Debi Rogers.

Resource Management—They will meet with investment manager from Stifel in July.

Child Care Center Board—Applications are still being accepted for Director.

Nominating—Seven Deacons have been chosen; three more Elders are needed.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





Hello July

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JULY 2025 - BIRTHDAYS

July 2	Daniel Wassim
July 6	Nanc Skaret
July 7	Allen Hoberg
July 9	Leo Goll
July 9	Katherine Satrom
July 10	Randy Jensen
July 12	Stacey Poffenberger
July 14	TJ Davis
July 14	Paul Ronningen
July 14	Shelli Peterson
July 15	David Ingstad
July 16	Letha Lewis
July 18	Donna Arneson
July 22	Mary Sherman
July 23	Tom Trenbeath
July 23	Andrew Davis
July 24	Carole Watrel
July 27	Don Cross
July 28	Lori Orser
July 29	Corey Hedland
July 30	Lee Doolittle

JULY 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

July 9	Tait & Samantha Ronningen
July 10	John & Donna Richter
July 15	David & Mary Ingstad
July 20	Brant & Jane Boeckel
July 20	Ronald & Kathleen Gappert
July 24	Kim & Juanita Hocking
July 31	Jay & Sandra Cofell

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 ~



MUNCH & MINGLE

Munch & Mingle!

Lucky's 13 Pub (915 S 3rd St.)

Noon - Lucky's 13 Pub
3rd & Expressway

Wednesday, JULY 2, 2025!

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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

Erik Hein Sr

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

Nursery

Mary Jones & Laci Rauser

Sunday Security

Erik Hein Jr

Christian Ed. Intern

Ruth Jensen



Hello July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		31 NO Prop.& Equipment NO Lay Pastors	2 Noon - Munch & Mingle! Lucky's 13 Pub 3rd & Expressway	3 NO Yoga	4th of <i>July</i> OFFICES CLOSED	5
6 10am Worship communion 4th Sunday of Pentecost	7 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts Christian Ed- moved to the 14th	8 5:30pm CCC Board	9	10 2:00pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	11	12
13 10am Worship 5th Sunday of Pentecost	14 NO Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed	15	16	17 2:00pm Yoga NO Deacons	18	19
20 6th Sunday of Pentecost	21 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 5:45-7:30 VBS 6:30pm Scouts	22 2:00pm Presby Friends 5:45-7:30 VBS NO Session	23 5:45-7:30 VBS	24 2:00pm Yoga 5:45-7:30 VBS	25	26 Youth Triennium in Kentucky 7/26 - 8/1
27 10am Worship 7th Sunday of Pentecost	28 6:30pm Scouts	29	30	31 2:00pm Yoga	Parish Nurse Carmen on vacation July 24 - August 6	

Name: _____

Date: _____



July



Word Search

Find the words listed. Words may appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonal. Words may overlap and cross each other. When you have found a word, be sure to circle it and cross it off the list.

S K R O W E R I F Z N O I T A C A V
 L E V A R T C M W K T K F A G T W N
 L R B O B P I I T J F B E N A H A R
 T Z M T S L W N N G L U I K C S T S
 H M W A Y P U T D C C K M T I U E U
 Y C C M F F O E R E I M W O R N R N
 R A D O L C C L B H P P C P E D M G
 R M P T C V W R F E K E K Z M R E L
 E P P Y T N A L S P R W N M A E L A
 B I D K C B E T K U I R L D F S O S
 P N D O X M R A H X M L Y M E S N S
 S G R W O O F H D K J M F Y Z N V E
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 J V F W N S U N S C R E E N Y P K N
 G N I M M I W S I C E C R E A M J N

AMERICA

BARBECUE

BEACH

BLUEBERRY

CAMPING

CORN

FIREWORKS

FLIP-FLOPS

HAT

HIKING

ICE CREAM

INDEPENDENCE

JULY

LEMONADE

PEACH

PICNIC

RASPBERRY

SANDCASTLE

SHORTS

STRAWBERRY

SUMMER

SUNDRESS



TOMATO

TRAVEL

VACATION

WATERMELON

SUNGLASSES

SUNSCREEN

SWIMMING

TANK TOP

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