

*WELCOME TO*  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*OF BISMARCK, ND*



**March 22, 2026**

**10:00a.m. Service**

**Our Mission**

We are a community called to love God through worship and prayer, receiving and serving our neighbors with the compassion of Christ, open to new beginnings and the spiritual growth of children, youth and adults.

WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS THIS MORNING AND  
INVITE YOU TO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US FOR  
**COFFEE HOUR** FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

**Worship Participants:**

Ray Wertz, Lay Pastor  
Debi Rogers, Chancel Choir dir.  
Arvy Smith, Keyboards  
Mark Jensen, Youth Ministry dir.  
Alice Nix, Lay Reader  
Josh Stokka, Audio/Visual Specialist  
Audrey Simmons, Audre Goll, Mary & Keith Magnusson,  
Vic Sonneman, and Ella Gutzke ~ Ushers

PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR **“LENTEN PRAYER CARDS”**  
AND LEAVE THEM IN THE BASKET,  
THESE PRAYERS WILL BE LIFTED UP TO THE LORD AT THE  
GREAT PRAYER VIGIL - SAT., APRIL 4TH. THANK YOU!



PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR **“PINK PRAYER REQUEST CARDS”**  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE USHERS WILL COLLECT THEM  
DURING THE OPENING HYMN. THANK YOU!

**“5th Sunday in Lent” 10:00am**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*(\*Asterisks indicate that all who are able are requested to stand,  
bold texts are to be read in unison)*

**Prelude** “Cross of Sorrow” Susanna Keeney

**Welcome and Announcements** Ray Wertz

**Introit** “When Jesus Wept” William Billings

**\*Call to Worship** (responsively) (*Psalm 130*) Alice

Leader: Out of the depths we call to you, O Lord.

**All: Let your ears hear our supplication.**

Leader: We wait for you, O God. In your word is our hope.

**All: We wait for you, O Lord, for with you there is mercy.**

Leader: Come. Let us worship God.

**Gathering in God’s Name**

**\*Opening Hymn** “Lift High the Cross” PH #371

**Choral Call to Confession** “Come and Fill Our Hearts”  
lyrics: Jacques Berthier

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

**You alone, O Lord, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!**

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**All: God, we are a busy people. We become pre-occupied with the demands of work, our relationships, and our communities. We tend to focus on our own needs and fail to see the needs of those around us. We do that which we should not and fail to do that which we should. We ask for your forgiveness and for your guidance in following the path you have set before us. Hear us now as we humbly come before you silently and privately to confess our sin.**

**Assurance of Pardon** Ray

“If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance? As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that’s why you’re worshiped.” Friends, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**\*Gloria Patri and Passing of the Peace of Christ**

**Young Disciples Message**

Mark Jensen

**\*Prayer of Gratitude for the Grace of Giving**

Ray

**Gracious God, thank You for the gift of generosity. Teach my heart to give freely, with joy and compassion. May every act of giving reflect Your love and grace. Let my hands serve others, my resources bless those in need, and my life become a humble offering of gratitude for all You provide. Amen.**

**\*Doxology and Dedication of Gifts**

Ray

**Proclamation of the Word of God**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Alice

Gracious God, we come before you now to worship you and listen to your Word. Open our ears to hear. May we understand your Word more fully and follow the path you have set before us. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading *Jeremiah 31:31-34***

Alice

A New Covenant

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Anthem**

“Cross Cry”

Gilbert Martin

soloist: Allen Hoberg

**Second Scripture Reading *John 8:1-11***

Ray

1 while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, 4 they said to him, —————→

‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5 Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ 6 They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ 8 And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus straightened up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ 11 She said, ‘No one, sir.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.’

**Sermon** “Outside Agitator, Seditious, Savior” Ray  
**\*Confession of Our Faith (unison)** “Apostles Creed” Hymnal #14

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost. Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body’ the life everlasting. Amen**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Responding to God’s Word**

**\*Closing Hymn** “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” PH #370

**Sending Forth in God’s Name**

**Benediction and Blessing** Ray

**Benediction Response** “God, How Can We Forgive?” Ruth Duck

**Postlude** “I Am His, and He Is Mine” Rachel Sawyer

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## **\*Lenten Schedule\***

**Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday at 10:00am  
followed by Easter Egg Hunt for the kids!**

**\*NO MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE IN BISMARCK\*  
Thur., April 2 - Maundy Thursday at FPC Mandan - 7:00pm  
(choirs will rehearse at 6:00pm)**

**Friday, April 3 - Good Friday at Glencoe Sloan  
5:00pm - followed by a meal**

**Saturday, April 4 - Prayer Vigil in Chapel - 11am-Noon**

**Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday at 10:00am (communion)**

## **Christian Ed Committee:**

Christian Ed is asking for donations of Easter (individually wrapped) candy and plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday! Please drop off in the church office by **Monday, March 23**. Thank you!



**Scout Troop #6 is having a "Fill the Canoe" event:  
March 28 & March 29 at  
South Cash Wise (Bismarck Expressway)  
Starting at 10:00am each day!**

They will be collecting food items for donation to -  
The Dream Center in the name of Troop #6 & FPC

**Scouting  America**

## Calendar

Mon., March 23 - **6:30pm** Scouts

Tue., March 24 - **11:00am** Strength & Balance Class

**2:00pm** Yoga for Life

**2:00pm** Presby Friends

**5:30pm** AA (room #201)

**6:00pm** Session

Wed., March 25 - **5:45pm** PAC/Teens

**6:30pm** Bells

**7:30pm** Choir

Thu., March 26 - **11:00am** Strength & Balance Class

Fri., March 27 - *No Activities Scheduled*

Sat., March 28 - **10AM** *“Fill the Canoe” at Cash Wise*

Sun., March 29 - **10:00am** - *Palm Sunday*

*followed by Easter Egg Hunt for the kids!*

### Walk the Palm Sunday Path– Sunday, March 29

First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck being a Matthew 25 church, has an opportunity to individually demonstrate that we believe in these values by joining The Palm Sunday Path. The first step in this movement is participating in the Palm Sunday procession from Trinity Lutheran Church to the steps of the state capitol grounds. Please consider participating in the procession ( 3:00pm ) and worship service ( 4:00pm ) on Sunday, **March 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### CALLING ALL PINOCHLE PLAYERS



The Hospitality Committee is sponsoring a pinochle card party on **Sat., April 11, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the church parlor. This party is for all

those who know how to play pinochle and those who wish to learn to play or to play better. Lunch and refreshments will be served. Come and bring friends and family! Have a good time socializing and playing pinochle! A sign-up sheet for attending and bringing something to share for lunch is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. For more particulars about the party see the March newsletter!



## Easter Memorials

Each Easter we offer the opportunity to give donations in memory of loved ones. Monies from these memorials are directed to the Deacon's *Gift of Giving* program which supports the work of the Deacons and provides assistance to people in need. If you would like to make such a donation, please provide the following information **by Monday, March 30** to the church office: 223-6091 or email at [firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)

In Memory of

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Given by

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Amt \_\_\_\_\_

Donations can be made in cash or a check payable to 'First Presbyterian Church' with *Gift of Giving* indicated in the memo line. All memorials will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin (without amounts).



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**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-4:30**