



2025

February 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 72, Issue 2

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do,
but encourage one another, especially now that
the day of his return is drawing near"
Hebrews 10:25

The church I grew up in always made a big deal out of Valentines Day. They always had a couples' banquet where they recognized the newly married and the longest married. They played goofy games trying to get couples to tell stories on each other. They decorated the fellowship hall with pink and red crepe paper, strung from the ceilings and put lit candles on the tables. Funny – by the end of the event the crepe paper stretched out from the heat of the candles... it hung down about neck height and we scrambled to put out the candles lest they make contact with the paper.

That's about all I remember about it – except one thing: there were always people who hated it. Although the day is meant to celebrate love and companionship, it always makes some people feel isolated and potentially left out. When the world around one is created for couples, it can be hard to be alone.

In the past, so many churches focused on heterosexual married couples, that they forgot about the rest of us – divorced people like me, single folks, widows, those who first loves don't fit the familiar mold. Sometimes the church has gone so far as to judge or condemn folks whose marriages don't succeed or don't fit in (although it is beyond me why we would turn anyone away in the name of Christ!) Even without calculated hindrances to acceptance, it is often hard to attend a church alone. I know countless people who resist coming to church because they don't know who to sit with. I have been aware of how painful it is to come to church for worship right after the funeral of one's life-long spouse, and sit there without them for the first time. And yet, worshipping among friends is supposed to be a safe activity, a community activity, where the soul is filled with the sense of belonging and attachment.

So, this coming Sunday, take a good look around you at church, at the people you know, and those whom you do not know, a be sensitive to every person's need for attention, assurance, attachment and companionship – from the very young to the very old. If someone seems alone, offer to sit with them – invite them into the parlor for coffee, introduce yourself and then, introduce them to another. ➔



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

Because very often, we are the alternative family for those who are missing familiar support and attachment in their lives. All over America, social organizations are losing membership – there are fewer bowling leagues, card clubs, charity organization than ever before... we live in a nation that is losing contact with one another, substituting internet scrolling for face-to-face conversation. But the church is still standing, and we are called to be present for one another. The least lonely place in the world should be the church. Let us strive to make it that way.

Leanne



PARISH NURSE NEWS -

On February 2nd, along with the blood pressure clinic being held from 9am-10am and 11am-noon, 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 unused medications. A big “Thank you” to Western Plains Public Health for providing the disposal bags for this event.

Please do not bring medications to the church.

Instructions are as follows:

- Determine the size bag you will need: large accommodates 90 pills, medium accommodates 45 pills, and small will hold 15 pills.
- Tear open the pouch and place unused medications inside.
- Fill pouch halfway with warm water and wait 30 seconds for air to release. Some foaming may occur.
- Finally seal the pouch tightly, shake gently and dispose of in your normal trashcan.
- Why dispose of unused medications?
- Disposal of medications is important to prevent accidental ingestion, misuse and environmental contamination by keeping them out of the wrong hands, including children and pets. The disposal bags will provide you with a safe and convenient way to get rid of unused and expired medications.

Happy Valentines Day to all! 

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”

Sincerely, Carmen

Blood Pressure Clinic - Sunday, February 2, 2025!

9:00-10:00am and 11am-12pm



CHILDCARE CENTER NEWS-

The Board and staff of the FPC Childcare Center wish to say “Thank You” for the congregation’s continued support of monetary donations, liquid hand soap and baby wipes for the month of January. We are thankful that our congregations shares their caring hearts all year long contributing to the monthly CCC needs listed in the bulletins and the newsletter. Happy Valentine’s Day to everyone!

CCC Needs List for February: paper towels



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!**



Wednesday, February 5th

Munch & Mingle

our adult fellowship group

12pm - Broadway Grill & Tavern

(100 W Broadway Ave.)

The logo for 'Munch & Mingle' features the words 'MUNCH' and 'MINGLE' in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters, with a large blue ampersand between them. The background is a colorful geometric pattern of yellow, purple, green, and orange triangles.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKS ARE HERE!

We guarantee you will enjoy sharing books with family and friends!

We also guarantee many smiles, memories, and even some tears!

Lots of time and research went into this project, please enjoy our efforts. Pick up your copy in the FPC office today!

FPC Church Staff & 150th Anniversary Committee

CHRISTIAN ED:

Wednesday nights with PAC and teens are going well, we have many events coming up for both groups. The first event will be our Lunar New Year celebration, teaching the kids with different foods, games, and crafts for them to do. The teens will be going bowling and exploring an escape room. The teens are currently going through Psalms in the Bible and have been asking great questions to learn more. Sunday school has been going great with a good attendance. They just learned about Elisha and the feeding of 100 people plus extra food. Thank you for checking in on the youth and what they are up to!

-Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen



WESTMINSTER CHIMES CARAMEL ROLL SALE- **Caramel Rolls are Back!**



Sunday, March 2nd is the date to save for the Westminster Chimes caramel rolls sale. It will be held in the Parlor and all proceeds go to the Dedicated Handbell Fund. Anyone who would like to place orders for *six or more* may put their request on a sign-up sheet in the narthex and we will have them ready for pickup after the March 2nd Sunday service. Many thanks for your support!

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
JANUARY 28, 2025**

CLERK'S REPORT

Session approved the 2024 statistical report with 308 as the current membership. A thank you letter was received from Glencoe Sloan Church.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$512,444	Budget \$517,500
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$534,180	Budget \$578,468
NET Income	-\$21,736	Budget -\$60,968

This is the end of 2024 financial statement.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked all the staff and volunteers who produced the 150th anniversary booklet and the annual report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel

Eric Hein has been hired to be the Sunday morning security person. Without a full-time maintenance person, volunteers will be needed to do jobs such as setting up tables and changing banners. J and M Cleaning Company will increase their work schedule to four times a week instead of two.

Hospitality

The committee will have a planning session on Sunday, February 16.

Proclamation-Christian Education

After sales of the t-shirts, the committee will use \$500 to cover the remaining cost. Youth are planning to attend Triennium this summer. Donations for the children's ornaments allowed the purchase of 12 pigs and 12 chickens.

Proclamation-Worship and Music

The University of Jamestown choir will not be performing at our church this year.

Property and Equipment

Assessments and analysis have been conducted by Prairie Engineering and an architectural firm to review HVAC, roof and church structure. Some of the church pews will be reupholstered. New members would be welcomed on the committee. Session approved the removal of the accordion doors in the parlor kitchen.

Resource Management

Pledges for 2025 totaled \$310,776. Christmas Eve offering which was given to the Child Care Center was \$458. The special Christmas Joy offering is \$2,965.

Board of Deacons

The Moderator for 2025 will be Vic Sonneman with Ella Gutzke as Co-Moderator. Karmen Svihovec will remain the Secretary.

Child Care Center Board


Thanks to all those who helped make Saturday with Santa a big success.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10am Worship Communion Blood Pressure Clinic 9-10am & 11am-12pm Free medication disposal bags...	3 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts NO Christian Ed	4 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 7:00pm Lay Pastors	5 Noon - Munch & Mingle! 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	6 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga	7	8
9 10am Worship 5th Sunday after Epiphany "Souper" Bowl Sunday!!	10 NO Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts	11 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board	12 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	13 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	14 	15
16 10am Worship 6th Sunday after Epiphany 3:00pm Hospitality Comm. Planning Meeting!	17 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	18 11AM Bal. & Strength Class	19 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	20 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	21	22
23 10am Worship 7th Sunday after Epiphany Boy Scout Tr. #6 Worship Service	24 5:30pm CE/W&M joint meeting 6:30pm Scouts	25 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session	26 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	27 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga	28	

Westminster Chimes Caramel Roll Sale -
 Sunday, March 2, 2025



First Presbyterian Church

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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

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

FEBRUARY 2025 - BIRTHDAYS

- February 1 Abby Bjornson
- February 1 Annabelle Wohl
- February 5 Lorraine Dopson
- February 6 Judith Libby
- February 8 Jouvett Forbang
- February 9 Paul Jensen
- February 9 Pat Liedtke
- February 12 Lyle Johnsen
- February 17 Josh Stokka
- February 20 Jackie Lannoye
- February 22 Samantha Ronningen
- February 23 Cathy Kinnischtzke
- February 26 Tammy Lelm
- February 27 Priscilla Wilson

FEBRUARY 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

- February 11 Vi & Vern Spitzer
- February 23 Alex & Maddy Volk
- February 23 Corey Hedland & Jenni Boeckel
- February 23 Bryan & Wendy Skager



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 ~**

“Tree of Love”

First Presbyterian’s Hospitality Committee would like to thank the congregation for your wonderful generosity in donating presents for this year’s Tree of Love. You made Christmas much better for some of our Child Care Center families in need.

We are looking for a small, used replacement tree for the program, so if you are thinking of throwing out your old tree, please consider donating it to the church. If it has lights, we don’t care if they work. Truly, anything will be better than our old tree. Duct tape and prayers could only do so much to keep the tree up until Christmas!



“Souper” Bowl Sunday

On **Sunday, February 9th**, many Americans will be preparing huge pots of chili, ribs, appetizers, snacks and desserts to help celebrate the 59th Super Bowl. But even as many of us enjoy fun foods with friends and family, countless others are going hungry in our own community.

Our congregation is gearing up for the annual tradition of collecting donations in SOUP pots, with the donations going to our local Heaven’s Helpers’ Soup Café. On Super Bowl Sunday, youthful members of the church will be waiting with soup pots in hand to collect donations for the Soup Café.

Anyone can eat at the Soup Café. They do not discriminate by race, religion or income status. No ID or paperwork is required to eat at the Soup Cafe. They have many regular people who can afford to eat at other restaurants but choose to come to the Soup Cafe for the fellowship and homemade food, often leaving free will donations.

The Soup Café provides two types of soup each day. The type of soup depends upon what items have been donated, and that means they get very creative with their recipes. Often times the biggest challenge is coming up with a name for the soups: some are common, others are very unique, from Chicken Noodle to Pigs Outside the Blanket and even Pumpkin Pie Soup.

So, get in the game! Help make Super Bowl Sunday a real “Souper” Bowl Sunday for the Soup Café.



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!

