



October 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 72, Issue 10

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

It's hard to know what to write in advance of the month of October. Normally, this season is my favorite – cooling temps, fall colors, pumpkins and spice-filled air – I start anticipating Halloween and Thanksgiving, my mind is already moving ahead to Advent. I love this season of church life, mostly because it is the time when (for me) church feels most like family. We celebrate, we chat, we worship, we laugh, we sing... there's no where else I would rather be than among the people of God.

But this year, all of that is tentative for me. With the committees and staff, our wonderful musicians, all of these favorite events will happen and my heart will be here, but I will be participating from a recovery house in Rochester. Somewhere in the middle of this month, I will begin chemo and a stem cell transplant. Although I have been told what to expect, there are many questions and blank spaces in my head – I will take it a day at a time. I hate it that I will miss Thanksgiving, Advent and possibly Christmas here at church with the people I love. I don't want to be away from my daughter – or my dogs. I hope that you all will call from time to time – log into Caring Bridge or text me because I am an awesome texter. I hope you will check in on my “baby” and keep Audrey company. You will be in my heart while I am gone.

But, not knowing what is ahead does not mean that I am afraid or doubtful. I have confidence that God goes before us all and knows exactly what we will need before we even ask. There is no unknown to God, and I have found that for every next step that is necessary, God gets there first. We are in good hands, because God is good.

So, for every celebration, every song, every chat, every laugh, I will be turning my eyes forward, to seek what is next. I hope very much to be home by Christmas, but there is no guarantee, it all depends how I respond to treatment. Still, I look forward to returning and starting a new year of life in the family of God, First Presbyterian Church.

Love to you all.

Leanne



REMINDER: One Call Now!!!

One Call Now is a mass calling system for churches which gives us the ability to notify members of urgent announcements and church closings via a phone call.

Please check your information in the church directory, phone numbers listed in the directory will be entered into One Call Now. Please review your information and let us know if you have any changes.

If your phone number is not in the directory and you want to receive urgent updates or church closing information, call the Church Office. Your phone number can be added to One Call Now without being published in the Church Directory.

Thank you, Maureen

call church office 223-6091 or email: firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com



Munch & Mingle!

Red Lobster

(1130 E Century Ave.)

**Noon - Red Lobster Corner of:
Century Blvd. & Gateway Mall**

Wed., October 1, 2025!

Reminder:

The Banquet

Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 4:00pm

The Dream Center - 1805 Park Ave.



PARISH NURSE NEWS -

Wow! I can't believe we are already into October! The month full of leaves, pumpkins, Halloween candy and of course the flu vaccine!

Here are a few flu vaccine clinics and locations for this month:

Essentia Health- Mid Dakota at Gateway Mall

2700 State Street

Saturday, October 11th from 8:30am –1:00pm

Bismarck Burleigh Health - Drive Through Events

407 South 26th St

Also includes COVID 19 for 65 plus or high risk

Call 701-355-1540 to register

Monday, October 6th from 3:00pm - 5:30pm

Wednesday, October 8th from 10:30am - 1:00pm

Friday, October 10th from 10:30am - 1:00pm

Wednesday, October 15th from 3:00pm – 5:30pm

Sanford East Interstate Clinic

Sanford South Clinic

Sanford Southridge Clinic

Sanford State Street Clinic

Thursday, October 2nd from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

*“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”*

Genesis 8:22

Sincerely, Carmen

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

9AM - 10AM ONLY



DUE TO LUNCHEON FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Church & Breakfast Buddies

Missing you Carole & Dot – far away but not forgotten!



Pancake & Sausage Supper Sunday, October 19, 2024 4:00-7:00pm

**Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian Church
(16 miles SE of University of Mary on Hwy. 1804)
Adults: \$10 ~ kids: \$5 (6-12 yrs.) ~ under 6 yrs. FREE**

Potluck at Papa's Pumpkin Patch Wednesday, October 11th (shelter #1) 12:30pm - 2:30pm

**Please join us for fun, food and fellowship.
Bring a dish to share!**

**Papa's Pumpkin Patch is north on River Road... just follow the signs.
FPC will pay your admission at the front gate!**



**Brag Box:
Finn's 3rd Birthday!**

son of Marete & Colby Farver
grandson of Signe & Kimball



#3



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!



CHRISTIAN ED:

PAC and Teens have started back up with lots of fun and excitement for both groups. The kids have had their backpacks blessed and the 3rd graders received their Bibles. Lots of fun is happening and we are excited for what's to come in the future!

Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen



CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

The committee is asking for a variety of candy, individually wrapped for the **PAC Halloween Party on Wednesday, October 29th!** Please drop off in the Church Office by Monday, October, 27th! 6



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Wed., October 1:	Noon - Munch & Mingle at Red Lobster!
Sun., October 5:	World Communion Day Peace & Global Witness Offering Congregational Meeting to elect Class of 2027 Officers
Sun., October 12:	Consecration Sunday - followed by lunch 9:00 - 10:00am ONLY Blood Pressure Clinic
Sun., October 19:	4:00 - 7:00pm Pancake Supper at Glencoe
Sun., October 26:	Reformation Sunday

Peace & Global Witness and World Communion Sunday 2025-

The Peace and Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings of our Presbyterian Church (USA). This year it will take place on World Communion Sunday, **October 5, 2025**. We celebrate that we are all together at the communion table and are offered what we need to continue the work of Christ here at home and around the world. Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and commits to building a more just and peaceful world. We celebrate the truth found in 2nd Thessalonians, "May the God of Peace give you peace at all times in all ways." Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need – those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

25% of this offering will go to the Ministry on the Margins, a local volunteer-based ecumenical ministry that is committed to supporting those who are homeless and fall through the cracks during times of transition. They provide food, safe shelter at night and other services 7 days a week.

Presbyterian USA gives us the opportunity to support many ministries nationwide. 50% of the offering will be used to help and heal through its established programs. 25% will go to our regional Presbytery or Synod that deals with needs in our area including conflicts within the local churches.

Your gift on **October 5, 2025**, will be greatly appreciated for this worthwhile mission. Thank you,

Resource Management Committee



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

During October, the Hospitality Committee's donation opportunity is focused on the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry. The food pantry, a non-profit, volunteer organization, has served this community since 1979. As the food prices continue to rise and the number of people facing food insecurity increases, donations are needed more than ever to support the work of the Pantry.

Please consider donating non-perishable food items during October. Items may be placed in the donation box in the church narthex.



Thank You
**Furry Friends
Rockin' Rescue**
**and all of you who came for
the Blessing of the Pets!**



Thank you for Abused Adult Resource Center donations-

First Presbyterian's Hospitality Committee would like to thank the congregation for last month's donations to the Abused Adult Resource Center. Our church helped pass along a generous supply of personal care items to help individuals and families in crisis. You contributed necessary products such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and feminine care items. These goods will help take care of their everyday needs while they go through a challenging time.



Church Garden Update:

The church garden is winding down for the season, but there's still more produce to come. Keep your eyes open for even more tomatoes and summer squash. The acorn squash and butternut squash are just about ready for picking as well.

Thanks to all of the helpers who made this garden successful, and to all of you in the congregation who also contributed your vegetables.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

MEMBERSHIP

Session approved the request for membership of William “Billy” Woodworth. The death of Merlin Rudrud September 3, 2025 was noted. Membership is 289.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income TYD Actual	\$357,727	Budget	\$326,708
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$362,750	Budget	\$423,164
NET Income	-\$5,023	Budget	-\$96,456



MODERATOR’S REPORT

Pastor Leanne reported on her upcoming medical treatment and absence after October 12.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Staff appreciation is September 28 with cake being served in the parlor. Special recognition will be given to Shawn Stettner who completed 30 years as director of the Child Care Center.

Hospitality—Two main events in October are serving the Banquet on the 9th and Papa’s Pumpkin Patch potluck lunch on the 11th.

Proclamation-Christian Education—October events will include painting pumpkins and Halloween party on Wednesdays, 22nd and 29th.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Repairs were made to the piano.

Property and Equipment—A subcommittee, Building Task Force, has been formed consisting of:

Jim Skaret, Chair, Jay Cofell, Juanita Hocking, Becky Mahlum, Ella Gutzke, Keith Magnusson and Ron Carlisle. Session approved having the Clerk sign agreement with EAPC Architecture/Engineering firm for their review of the work needed for roof repairs-about \$35,000.

Dakota West Contracting has agreed to set up scaffolding in the sanctuary and investigate the problems with the steeple and suggest solutions.

Resource Management—The Peace and Global Witness offering has 25% remaining with our church. Stewardship Consecration Sunday is October 12.

Board of Deacons—Etta Schue has moved from her home to the Baptist Home. Cards have been ordered as Christmas gifts.

Child Care Center Board—The board as officially disbanded.

Nominating—Session approved the following Class of 2027 Elders and Deacons as presented by Becky Rosenkranz and Kris Ronningen, Co-Chairs: Elders—John Bjornson, Kris Ronningen, Shari Orser, Jim Skaret, Allen Hoberg, and Dale Hoerauf. Deacons—Kimball Banks, Vic Sonneman, Neva Carlisle, Ella Gutzke, Audre Goll, Mary Magnusson, Becky Liedtke, and Kathy Wachter (2026) who will fill the remaining one year of Allen Hoberg’s term.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Signe Snortland and Alice Nix will serve as Commissioners to Presbytery meeting October 11, attending by ZOOM.

NEW BUSINESS

Session approved the request for baptism of Tate Douglas Svihovec, son of Cole and Megan Svihovec. This will occur around the end of November.

Pastor Deanna Reikow, Mandan FPC and Presbytery Connectional Care Pastor, explained some of the programs/grants offered by the Presbytery and the Board of Pensions.

The annual meeting has been set for January 25, 2026.

A Congregational meeting will be October 5, 2025 to vote on the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER 2025 - BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 1	Vonda Bailey
Oct. 3	Etta Schue
Oct. 6	Ellie Adair
Oct. 6	Taylor Hutchinson
Oct. 8	Bryson Fru
Oct. 10	Joe Satrom
Oct. 11	Quinn Blair
Oct. 13	Laura Jensen
Oct. 16	Cindy Cross
Oct. 16	Darin Svihovec
Oct. 18	Neva Carlisle
Oct. 19	Jane Boeckel
Oct. 20	Bella Fru
Oct. 24	Linda Jordre
Oct. 28	Soloman Bannerman
Oct. 28	Ron Carlisle



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 ~

OCTOBER 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 6	Jeff & Susan Schafer
Oct. 12	Gary & Jan Gilchrist
Oct. 14	Bob & Cathy Kinnischtzke
Oct. 16	Don & Cindy Cross
Oct. 19	Pat & Becky Liedtke
Oct. 23	Duane & Karen Ehrens



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. Interns

Ruth Jensen & Connor Svihovec

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noon - Munch & Mingle Red Lobster 1130 E Century Ave. 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	2 11am Strength & Bal. Class NO Yoga	3	4
5 10am Worship World Communion Day! 17th Sun. of Pentecost Peace & Global Witness Offering Congregational Meeting to elect officers	6 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm Hospitality 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed	7 11am Strength & Bal. Class 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 5:45pm Prop. & Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	8 5:45pm PAC/Teens NO Bells 7:30pm Choir	9 11am Strength & Bal. Class NO Yoga “The Banquet” at Dream Center	10	11 12:30pm-2:30pm Papa’s Pumpkin Patch Picnic Presbytery meeting in Langdon
12 10am Worship 18th Sun. of Pentecost Consecration Sunday BP Clinic 9-10am ONLY	13 (Pastor Leanne leaves for Mayo) 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts	14 11am Strength & Bal. Class 5:30pm AA meeting (#201)	15 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	16 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	17	18
19 10am Worship 19th Sun. of Pentecost 4-7:00pm Pancake Supper at Glencoe Sloan	20 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	21 11am Strength & Bal. Class 5:30pm AA meeting (#201)	22 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	23 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga	24	25
26 10am Worship 20th Sun. of Pentecost Reformation Sunday	27 6:30pm Scouts	28 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Presby Friends 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 6:00pm Session	29  5:45pm PAC/Teens Halloween Party! 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	30 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga	31	