

# Hello November

## 2025

November 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 72, Issue 11

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### PASTOR DAVID'S MESSAGE:

Greetings First Presbyterian Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*  
(Ephesians 1:2)

This often used, and beloved greeting from Paul the Apostle he wrote in his letters to congregations and to people to whom he ministered. Letters of encouragement and hope he directed to them in their varieties of needs and challenges, as well as in their victories and celebrations.

I write to you now as a pastor of yours from the past who will be filling in as best as possible during Pastor Leanne's medical absence. You and I will partner together once again—in worship and prayer, in pastoral care for each other, in administering the logistics of the church, and in serving our loving God in whatever ways called upon. And ours will be a ministry-partnership, surrounding in prayer Pastor Leanne, daughter Audrey, and the whole church family.

I truly am glad to be invited to serve—hoping to be helpful during these several months that are before us. I have explained to family and friends that I will be "wintering" in North Dakota this year. After all, how much "retirement" can a person handle: relaxing, travel and vacation, fun and entertainment, home projects, hobbies—all at one's own pace. How much "self-guided living" (being one's "own boss") can a person take!

It's hard for me to believe that it has been over seven years since we have shared ministry together (since 2018). During that time much life has happened—I'm sure for us all. For me:

- Employment: some local pulpit supply, 2020 Census work, "stocking shelves" during Covid, Brenda "catching up" to me, retiring also (now we're together all the time!).
- Travel: including Jamaica, Hawaii, Alaska; Cooperstown, NY (for Joe Mauer's Hall of Fame induction); plus, trips visiting family in Southern California, South Carolina, and Brooklyn, NY.
- Family: a grandson was added to the three granddaughters in NY; and my brother Doug was taken from us by cancer earlier this year.
- Hiking and snowshoeing: continues wherever my boots take me—in Minnesota, sometimes North Dakota, mostly in the Pacific Northwest, as long as my hiking buddy out there and I can walk (so far, so good... mostly).
- Health: mostly good, but showing age-wear and tear (that's another story).



### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:**

- Home projects: continually.
- Time with friends: fortunately.
- And...the brightest highlight of 2025 for Brenda and me has been the celebration with family and friends of our 50th Wedding Anniversary in May!

We truly are grateful for God's abundant blessings!

There are just a few limitations "built-in" to our time together, such as: previously scheduled events (visiting grandchildren in New York over Thanksgiving; and a couple of calendar commitments in Minnesota). Also, a Presbyterian Board of Pensions stipulation is that work be limited to "20 hours/week" (for you and me to mutually and congenially navigate).

Otherwise, our task as we love and serve God, and one another, is to:

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you and me."*

Peace of Christ be with you!

**Pastor David Reiter**

### **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](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)



### **Munch & Mingle!**

Broadway Grill (100 W Broadway Ave.)

**Noon - Broadway Grill & Tavern**

**Wed., November 5, 2025!**

### **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





## **PARISH NURSE NEWS -**

November is here! We have the entire month to celebrate Thankfulness and Gratitude. I am so thankful to be your parish nurse and have a special spot in my heart for all of you. I appreciate those of you who allow me into your homes/lives to visit and connect. I am grateful to so many of you who stop in my office for visits, call or text, and attend the blood pressure clinics and exercise classes. Being in this position is such a special service offered by this church parish and I am so humbled to serve God in this capacity.

- Blood pressure clinic will be held on November 9th from 9 - 10am and 11am - 12pm. I will not be holding a blood pressure clinic in December, but please feel free to call and set up an office or home visit and I will be glad to assist with checking blood pressure or any other needs.

- NO EXERCISE CLASS on November 25th and November 27th due to Thanksgiving.

Sincerely, Carmen

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

*Psalm 95:2*

### **BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025**



**9AM - 10AM & 11AM - 12PM**

**IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**

### **The church garden has been put to bed!**

Another season of the church garden has come to a successful conclusion. Once again, through the kindness of Dee Hanson, owner of the garden, our congregation was able to supply the Senior Center, our members, and other agencies with fresh produce throughout the summer.

The garden is definitely a team effort that takes many hands and many hours of dedicated work. The result of the team's effort was a garden that produced vegetables, herbs, and lots of flowers. Thanks also go to the church families who added their produce to the cart on Sunday mornings. All donations were appreciated.



## **“Sock It To Me Sunday” – November 16th**

Back by popular demand—Sock It To Me Sunday! On **Sunday, November 16**, the youth will be collecting socks tossed to them during the Children’s Sermon. Socks from infant to adult sizes for both male and female are appreciated. The socks will be distributed to various agencies during Homelessness Awareness Week, November 16-22. Let’s make this a super fun event to help our community have warm feet this fall and winter.



**Breakfast  
With  
Santa**

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:30 am - 11:30 am**

**First Presbyterian Church ~ Ramstad Hall**  
**214 E Thayer Ave \* Bismarck, ND**  
**Please use West entrance labeled Child Care Center**

Join Santa and our Boy Scout Troop 6 for a pancake breakfast!  
There will be a puppet show and craft tables for all to enjoy.  
Santa will be attending so be sure to bring the whole family for some holiday fun before you head out to do your Christmas shopping.  
*Free will offerings welcomed to support Scout Troop 6.*



## Brag Box: Mark Jensen (FPC Youth Director)

I just finished my Elementary student teaching this October! I have now started my high school student teaching. Just wanted to show how I looked when started and finished in the Elementary setting. These are my first day and last day of Elementary school student teaching.



### **This year's Tree of Love for students in transition (SIT)**

Bismarck students who are experiencing homelessness will be the recipients of this year's Tree of Love presents. Your Hospitality Committee has asked the Bismarck Students in Transition Program to choose three or four families who could use a little help making this Christmas merry. Paper "ornaments" for items requested by the families will be on a small Christmas tree in the Narthex by November 23rd. Congregation members may choose an ornament or two and buy the requested gifts, so families can be assured of some presents under the tree. Please wrap each gift, attach the ornament and put it under the tree. Attaching a gift receipt would also be appreciated by the families. Gifts should be under the tree by **Sunday, December 14th**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



### **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:

The PAC kids have been learning about Moses, the plague, and Jacob with the colorful coat. The teens have been learning about team work and going through the Psalms. The teens also had a lock-in, and 12 of them showed up! They had a great time playing gaga ball, empire, sardines, and singing/dancing. All of the youth painted pumpkins to help celebrate Halloween coming up. The next big activities are the Halloween carnival, Breakfast with Santa, and the Christmas Pageant!

Thanks for checking in on what the youth are up to!

*Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen*







## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

<b>Sun., November 2:</b>	<b>All Saint's Day</b>
<b>Wed., November 5:</b>	<b>Noon - Munch &amp; Mingle at Broadway Grill</b>
<b>Sun., November 9:</b>	<b>9am-10am &amp; 11am-12pm Blood Pressure Clinic</b>
<b>Sun., November 23:</b>	<b>St. Andrew's Sunday at FPC in Mandan</b>
<b>November 27 &amp; 28:</b>	<b>OFFICES CLOSED— Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
<b>Sun., November 30:</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>
<b>Sat., December 6:</b>	<b>9:30am-11:30am "Breakfast with Santa"</b>
<b>Sun., December 14:</b>	<b>Joyous Music Sunday</b>
<b>Tue., December 16:</b>	<b>12:00pm Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel</b>
<b>Sun., December 21:</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Program followed by the "Red &amp; Green Potluck"</b>
<b>Wed., December 24:</b>	<b>4:30pm Christmas Eve early service 9:00pm Christmas Eve late service</b>
<b>December 24 &amp; 25:</b>	<b>OFFICES CLOSED— Merry Christmas!</b>



## **Hospitality Committee: Supporting Heaven's Helpers Closet (701)**

The Hospitality Committee's November donation opportunity is a request for clean gently used or pre-washed new jeans for Heaven's Helpers Closet (701).

Heaven's Helpers Closet (701) is a non-profit ministry that operates under the umbrella of Heaven's Helpers Soup Café by providing free clothing to individuals and families who are struggling to meet their basic needs. They offer a wide variety of clothing and provide a dignified shopping experience for those in need to select essential items free of charge.

Jeans are always in high demand with men's and boy's jeans being the greatest need. Donations of clean gently used or pre-washed new jeans in any size for adults and children can be placed in the donation box in the church narthex. Every pair truly makes a difference.

## **Papa's Pumpkin Patch Presbyterian Potluck Party**

First Presbyterians had a lot of fun and good food at Papa's Pumpkin Patch annual potluck in October. About 55 people attended the fellowship event, organized by your Hospitality Committee. First Presbyterian covered the cost of entry tickets.

Available activities included the Bale Mazes, Slide Mountain, Touchstone Nature Trail, Log Jam, Great Pumpkin's Chair, Corn Cribs, Billy Bob the Cornstalk Horse, Wee Zips, Swings and More Swings, Tire Climbing Pile, Super Sandbox, slack lines, rope tunnels - and picking out pumpkins, of course! If you didn't make it this year, we hope you can join us in October next year.





## Thank you - “The Banquet”

We did it! Our church members and friends prepared and served 260 meals with 53 “to-go” boxes at “The Banquet” on October 9. A huge thank you for the team effort and generous financial effort to make this possible.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink (v 35)  
...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and  
sister of mine, you did for me.” (v 40) Matthew 25 NIV*



The Hospitality Committee of First Presbyterian Church will again be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27, from 4-7 p.m. at the Dream Center, 1805 Park Avenue in southeast Bismarck. Between 15-20 volunteers are needed to setup, serve and cleanup. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

This meal is open to **ALL** who are unable to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal at home. Please do not spend Thanksgiving alone—come and be with friends and neighbors to enjoy a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings.



## Thank You for Backpack Donations

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Backpack for Kids donation drive in September. Your generous donations enable the Community Action Agency in Bismarck to fill and distribute backpacks to students identified as being homeless. Each bag contains two hot meals and two breakfast items along with some healthy snacks. These backpacks help fill the gap between school meals during the week and weekend meals that parents may have difficulty providing.



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 28, 2025

### 2027 OFFICERS EXAMINATION

Elected Elders and Deacons appeared before Session and were approved: Elders—Allen Hoberg and Jim Skaret; Deacons—Vic Sonneman, Neva Carlisle, Ella Gutzke, Audre Goll, Mary Magnusson and Kathy Wachter (class of 2026). Those unable to attend will meet with Session at a later date.

### CLERK'S REPORT

The deaths of Etta Schue, October 7 and LeRoy Bollinger, October 5 were noted. Membership is 287.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$415,453	Budget \$392,875
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$401,953	Budget \$471,908
NET Income	\$13,500	Budget -\$79,03

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked everyone for their prayers and help. Pastor David Reiter will be arriving the first week of November and preaching November 9. Communion will be served that Sunday.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administrative and Personnel**—Session approved an addition to the church employee manual, the Non-Pastoral Part-Time Employees Vacation/Medical Leave Policy changes beginning January 1, 2026. Session approved a compensation package for Pastor Reiter totaling \$15,824.55. The following committee assignments were approved:

Administrative and Personnel—John Bjornson and Dale Hoerauf

Hospitality—Juanita Hocking and Allen Hoberg

Proclamation-Christian Education—Kris Ronningen

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Signe Snortland and Shari Orser

Property and Equipment—Tedd Gutzke and Jim Skaret

Resource Management—Rick Lee and Tom Trenbeath

**Hospitality**—Donations in November will be jeans for Heaven's Helpers Closet 701. Socks will be collected on November 16.

**Proclamation-Christian Education**—Planning is underway for Breakfast with Santa and for the Children's Christmas program.

**Proclamation-Worship and Music**—Session approved changing communion dates to fit Pastor Reiter's schedule.

**Property and Equipment**—Dakota West Contracting is working on repairs to the inside of the steeple. Rusted metal mesh will be removed and new metal installed. It is hoped that repairs will be completed by December 12.

**Resource Management**—About \$274,000 has been collected for the stewardship drive. Thirty-three members increased their pledges. Session approved moving the Merritt Fund 30% of interest earned that used to go to the Child Care Center, be placed in the Capital Improvement Fund for the 2026 budget. \$960 was received for the Peace and Global Witness special offering. 25% of the amount was given to the Parish Nurse Fund. Per capita will remain at \$50 per church member.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A summary of the business conducted at the Presbytery meeting October 11 was given. Churches at Inkster and Hamilton have closed. Several pastors will be retiring this year. The churches in Chigoria, Kenya are thriving; our Presbytery supports 27 students to attend school. Voorhees Chapel at the University of Jamestown was rededicated with refurbished windows and interior. Glencoe Sloan Church is accepting donations to cover the cost of new windows.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session







## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### NOVEMBER 2025 - BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 6	Valerie Sturlaugson
Nov. 11	Dan Halvorson
Nov. 11	Parker Ronningen
Nov. 12	Jan Gilchrist
Nov. 13	Corby Svihovec
Nov. 16	Emily Ehrens
Nov. 17	McKinley Stokka
Nov. 17	Lynne Bigwood
Nov. 20	Ann Lynch
Nov. 21	Doug Bradford
Nov. 25	Shari Orser
Nov. 26	Jeff Schafer
Nov. 30	Brady Wohl



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 ~

### NOVEMBER 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 2	John & Jodi Bjornson
Nov. 3	Kim & Gail Christianson
Nov. 11	Les & Tammy Lelm
Nov. 18	Darren & Denise Gratz
Nov. 23	Jerry & Priscilla Wilson



## First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

[firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)

[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



### Pastor

*Rev. David Reiter*

### 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*

### Nursery

*Mary Jones & Laci Rauser*

### Sunday Security


*Erik Hein Jr*

*Judy Lentz*

### Christian Ed. Interns

*Ruth Jensen & Connor Svihovec*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 10am</b> Worship 21st Sun. of Pentecost <b>Time Change!</b>  <b>All Saint's Day</b>	<b>3</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl 5:30pm Worship & Music - <b>6:00pm, JOINT C/E &amp; W/M MEETING</b> 6:30pm Christian Ed 6:30pm Scouts	<b>4</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201) <b>5:45pm</b> Prop. & Equipment <b>6:30pm</b> Lay Pastors	<b>5</b> <b>Noon - Munch &amp; Mingle at Broadway Grill &amp; Tavern</b> 100 W Broadway Ave. <b>5:45pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30pm</b> Bells <b>7:30pm</b> Choir	<b>6</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>2:00pm</b> Yoga		<b>8</b> <b>11:00am</b> Funeral for Etta Schue <b>Bismarck Funeral Home</b>
<b>9 10am</b> Worship 22nd Sun. of Pentecost <b>Communion</b>  <b>BP Clinic 9-10am &amp; 11am-12pm</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Scouts	<b>11 Veteran's Day!</b>  <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201)	<b>12</b>  <b>5:45pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30pm</b> Bells <b>7:30pm</b> Choir	<b>13</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>2:00pm</b> Yoga	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 10am</b> Worship 23rd Sun. of Pentecost  <b>Sock-it-to-Me Sunday!</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Noon</b> -Resource Management <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>4:30pm</b> Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	<b>18</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201)	<b>19</b>  <b>5:45pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30pm</b> Bells <b>7:30pm</b> Choir	<b>20</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>2:00pm</b> Yoga <b>7:00pm</b> Deacons	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 24th Sun. of Pentecost <b>10:30am</b> Worship <b>St. Andrew's Day at FPC Mandan!</b> <hr/> <b>30 10am</b> Worship 1st Sunday of Advent	<b>24</b>  6:30pm Scouts	<b>25</b> <b>NO</b> Strength & Bal. Class <b>2:00pm</b> Presby Friends <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201) <b>6:00pm</b> Session	<b>26</b> <b>NO</b> PAC/Teens <b>NO</b> Bells <b>6:30pm</b> Choir <b>NO</b> Thanksgiving Eve Service	<b>27</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	<b>28</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b> 	<b>29</b>