

# April 2025

April 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter!

Volume 72, Issue 4

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## PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:



The photo above is a picture of a little spring plaque with which I decorate my home every spring. As you can see it says, “To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow, and this year, as I look out my back window, surveying all the work I must do, this saying is more profound to me than ever. In my mind’s eye, I can already see my yard as it will be in July and August. It is going to be bountiful and serene... a perfect mini farm - well, as long as the rabbits don’t have different plans and my dog doesn’t get excited and dig. I love this time of year – it’s so full of possibility!

Planting a garden is just another one of those everyday acts of faith and hope we undertake, without realizing the optimism and faith that go into it. When I adopted Audrey, a professor friend of mine exclaimed, “what an act of faith!” And I was taken aback, because I never thought of it that way – but he was right. So often we put our action into things unseen, hopes not yet turned into reality – with the assumption that tomorrow will bring the results we are hoping for.



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

One of the things that all of us are investing in is our church – that is, the people of our church. Whether you are conscious of it or not, every time we meet, we plant “seeds” of faith and hope in each other. We speak our faith, offer our prayers, look for common experience and offer advice and love to each other. We offer food and drink to each other, and we laugh. We worship; we offer our money to support the ministries of our church. Perhaps we come to some our actions by rote - perhaps, on occasion we are aware that we are investing in another for hope. But every human touch we offer to one another is to believe in tomorrow – our tomorrow, the tomorrow of another, and the tomorrow of the Kingdom of God.

This church is full of kindness; our people are generous, caring, interested and engaged. And I believe that we do acts of kindness simply because they flow out of our character and love for one another, and often have no idea what a difference we are making. But never doubt, your presence here matters, and your small acts tell the world you believe in tomorrow. Do not ever change, church, keep your hearts open to everyone that enters our doors. Tomorrow starts today, with us.

Leanne



### **One Great Hour of Sharing 2025**

On Easter **Sunday, April 20, 2025** we will join in the opportunity along with hundreds of other Presbyterian Churches to support the “One Great Hour of Sharing”. In fact, the OGHS offering is the single largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world, through three different programs to improve the lives of people in challenging situations.

Each of the three programs receives 32% of the funds collected. They are the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Self-Development of People Program. Thank you for your consideration in giving to this worthy endeavor to help people around the world.

Resource Management Committee



## **PARISH NURSE NEWS -**

-Blood Pressure clinic will be held on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9-10 and 11-noon. There will not be a blood pressure clinic from May-August, but please call the church if you would like a visit to check your blood pressure.

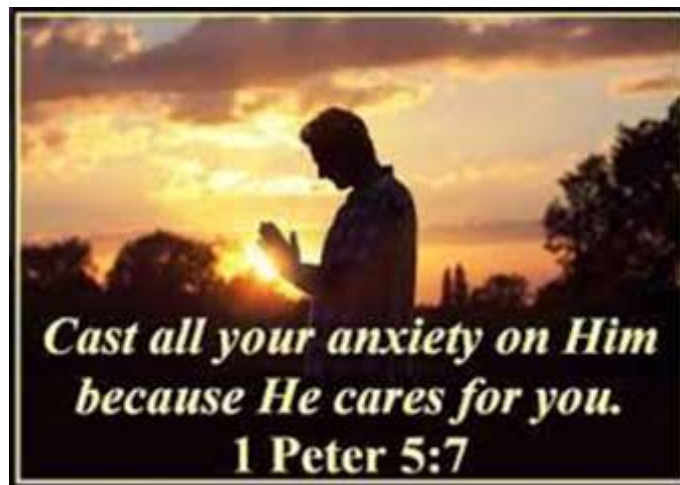
-Our Balance & Strength Exercise Class is looking for music CD's, if you have any 50's, 60's or 70's music CD's that you would like to donate-please drop them off in the church office! Thank You!

-April is Stress Awareness Month. A time to reflect and recognize how stress may be affecting our health and our bodies. Stress is everywhere in our lives, and it does not discriminate on gender, age, or faith. When stress is not managed properly it can affect us physically and mentally, causing a variety of health complications such as headaches, stomach pain, depression & heart disease – just to name a few.

To manage stress properly, we need coping skills. Coping is a learned process. It may not come naturally and **may need practice**.

Here are just a few ways you can **practice managing stress and coping** with the inevitable changes of life:

1. Exercise - this does not need to be high intensity aerobics but instead take a walk or do some stretching
2. Practice prayer or meditation
3. Maintaining emotionally supportive relationships - friends, co-workers or congregation members can be a wonderful support system
4. Engage in problem solving to change the source of your stress
5. Read books or listen to an audio book
6. Spend time outdoors with nature
7. Think positively - a positive attitude and a positive mindset can improve your health
8. Engage in arts or crafts - start a hobby or garden
9. Maintain hope - do not look at setbacks as insurmountable problems
10. Decrease your expectations - allow yourself Grace



It got me reflecting on what stressors happened during the time of Jesus and how did they cope. What can we take away from how Jesus coped with stress?

Sincerely, Carmen

**Blood Pressure Clinic - Sunday, April 6, 2025!**

**9am-10am and 11am-12pm**





## CHILDCARE CENTER NEWS-

Another successful CACFP week. This year we chose to celebrate with a farm theme and set up a photo area for the families to enjoy. We ended the week with inviting the parents to Friday afternoon snack so they could sample pond water and Eileen's cheesy chicks. We've included the cheesy chick recipe in case you wanted to make them for Easter!

### Baby Chick Mini Cheese Balls

#### Ingredients:

8 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce (optional)  
½ teaspoon garlic powder  
½ teaspoon onion powder  
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese  
Carrot chips  
Black peppercorns  
Round crackers



#### Instructions:

- ~In a large bowl, mix cream cheese until smooth and creamy.
- ~Add in garlic powder, onion powder, and 1 cup of shredded cheese. Mix until combined.
- ~Using a 1-inch cookie scoop, scoop and form balls of the cream cheese mixture.
- ~Roll each ball in the remaining cheddar cheese then place on a round cracker.
- ~Cut the carrot into slices, 2 feet for each chick. Then cut slices into triangle chick beaks.
- ~Add 2 black peppercorns for eyes.



**CCC Needs List for April: dishwasher soap (powder ONLY) & bleach**



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!**







Mary giving the kids crackers with butter that they churned! →



*Shake-Shake  
Shake it up Finn!*







GUESS WHO...



Wait...  
What...  
Is it...  
Mr. Rogers?  
→





## CHRISTIAN ED:

The PAC and Teens are focusing on getting ready for the Easter season. They have been learning about Jesus temptations, Jesus getting baptized, the healing Jesus has done, and Him bringing in his disciples. Some of the event for this month were a Mario party and helping with the Ash Wednesday soup supper. Thanks for checking in on the kids!

*Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen*

The Ash Wednesday Soup Supper was a success with 6 Crockpots—perfect amount of everything! Thanks to all who brought crockpots of soup, crackers etc. Thank you to everyone who attended, and contributed to the free-will offering of \$270, that goes toward our Youth Summer Trip!

FPC  
YOUTH



**Youth Retreat at FPC Bismarck**  
on  
May 2-4, 2025



## Pinochle Party in the Parlor!!

The Hospitality Committee is sponsoring another pinochle card party on **Sat., April 12, 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. Beginners or those needing a refresher course will be placed at a table with at least one person who knows how to play and will be provided with cheat sheets with instructions to use as needed.

For those wishing to play progressive pinochle, small prizes will be awarded for the top point totals. Four hands will be played at a table, with winners staying and losers moving to the next table. A drawing will be held for initial partners. Partners switch after 4 hands. Participants must keep track of their own points at each table played and for total points. (honor system).

We will break for lunch and socializing at approximately noon and resume playing pinochle at approximately 1:00 p.m. Playing until approximately 4:00. Please bring something to share for lunch. The Hospitality Committee will provide liquid refreshments.

Some pinochle decks will be provided, but if you have a deck of pinochle cards, please bring it. 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 is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

**APRIL DONATION OPPORTUNITY** - During April, your Hospitality Committee is supporting Heaven's Helpers Soup Café. This is an opportunity for our congregation to help defray the costs to the Soup Café in providing a warm meal to the neediest and most marginalized in our community.

We would like to provide the Soup Café with the materials and ingredients for 'to-go' snack bags (i.e., square [5"x5"] and snack Ziplock bags, peanuts [without shells], M&Ms, raisins, dried cranberries, chocolate chips, Reece's pieces, crackers, Chex mix, sunflower seeds, quick bulk oatmeal [no packets]). For more gift ideas see [www.soupcafe.org](http://www.soupcafe.org) website and go to "Wish List". Your gifts will be much appreciated by the good people at the Soup Café and the needy people they serve. God's Blessings to you.

Heaven's Helpers  
Soup Cafe **SOUP**  
CAFE

### 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!





## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

March 25, 2025

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked all those who helped with services while she was absent.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$96,594	Budget \$65,458
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$89,820	Budget \$129,268
NET Income	\$6,775	Budget -\$63,809
Unrestricted General Fund	\$218,514	

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administrative and Personnel**—Letters have been sent to members who have made no contributions since 2020. The committee approved the pastor's use of accrued sick leave, vacation time, and education hours for medical visits before exercising the 3-month sabbatical leave that is allowed under her contract. Session also approved this action.

**Hospitality**—"Emeritus" status is granted to any person who would like to be on the email list to help with events; they would not need to attend meetings. More information is being sought about the status of the Ukrainian families in ND; there is concern that they could be deported.

**Proclamation**—Christian Education and Worship and Music met jointly to plan the remainder of the spring events. No meetings were held in March.

**Property and Equipment**—Paneled walls at entrances to the sanctuary have been secured. The women's bathroom in the basement has been painted.

**Resource Management**—There will be a minute for mission regarding One Great Hour of Sharing offering. A donation of \$1,000 was received for per capita.

**Board of Deacons**—There will be no April meeting as it is Maundy Thursday service. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with Pastor Leanne's garden/lawn.

**Child Care Center Board**—The recognition of staff will be May 25 and the children/youth program will be May 18.

### NEW BUSINESS



The Presbytery meeting will be in Jamestown on April 5.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 11AM Bal. & Strength Class <b>NO</b> Prop.& Equipment <b>6:30pm</b> Lay Pastors	<b>2</b> <b>Noon - Munch &amp; Mingle!</b>  5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	<b>3</b> 11AM Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10am Worship <b>NO communion</b> 5th Sunday in Lent <b>Blood Pressure Clinic 9-10am &amp; 11am-12pm</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry  6:30pm Scouts <b>7:00pm</b> Christian Ed	<b>8</b>  11AM Bal. & Strength Class  <b>5:30pm</b> CCC Board	<b>9</b>  5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	<b>10</b>  11AM Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga <b>6:00pm</b> Hospitality	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>10am-4pm Pinochle Party in the Parlor!</b>
<b>13</b> 10am Worship 6th Sunday in Lent <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Kids Egg Hunt!</b> 	<b>14</b>  <b>5:30pm</b> Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts	<b>15</b>  11AM Bal. & Strength Class	<b>16</b>  5:45pm PAC/Teens <b>NO</b> Bells 7:30pm Choir	<b>17</b> 11AM Bal. & Strength Class <b>NO</b> Yoga <b>NO</b> Deacons <b>7:30pm</b> Maundy Thursday Serv.	<b>18</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>5:00 Service at Glencoe Sloan</b>	<b>19</b> <b>11AM-12PM</b> Great Vigil in the Chapel 
<b>20</b> 10am Worship 7th Sunday in Lent <b>Communion</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>He Is Risen!</b> (No Sun. School – kids or adults) <b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Noon</b> -Resource Management <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>4:30pm</b> Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	<b>22</b>  11AM Bal. & Strength Class <b>2:00pm</b> Presby Friends <b>6:00pm</b> Session	<b>23</b>  5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	<b>24</b>  11AM Bal. & Strength Class  <b>NO</b> Yoga	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10am Worship 2nd Sunday of Easter <b>Service of Wholeness</b>	<b>28</b>  6:30pm Scouts	<b>29</b> 11AM Bal. & Strength Class	<b>30</b>  5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	<div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Monday, May 5th</b>  <b>6:00pm “Suzuki Spring Recital”</b> </div>		





## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### APRIL 2025 - BIRTHDAYS

April 4	Sydney Henriksen
April 4	Fred Larson
April 6	Becky Mahlum
April 6	Donna Richter
April 9	John Richter
April 11	Peggy Hoge
April 13	Jodi Bjornson
April 16	Seth Peterson
April 19	Steve Adair
April 19	Violet Spitzer
April 24	Ed Murphy
April 26	Audrey Simmons
April 28	Anna Bitz
April 30	Gail Christianson

### APRIL 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

April 21	Bill & Laura Jensen
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**Wednesday, April 2nd**  
**Munch & Mingle**  
**12pm - Broadway Grill & Tavern**  
**(100 W Broadway Ave.)**



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 ~

## 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. 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*

### Child Care Center Director

*Shawn Stettner*

### Child Care Center Asst. Director

*Vanessa Hein*

### Nursery

*Mary Jones & Laci Rauser*

### Sunday Security

*Erik Hein Jr*

### Christian Ed. Intern

*Ruth Jensen*



## **\*Easter Week Schedule\***



**Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday Service at 10:00am followed by  
Easter Egg Hunt for the kids!**

**Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30pm (communion)**

**Friday, April 18 - Good Friday Service at Glencoe Sloan at 5:00pm  
followed by soup & sandwiches**

**Saturday, April 19 - Prayer Vigil in Chapel 11am - 12pm**

**Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday Service at 10:00am (communion)  
(NO Sunday School)**

### **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, April 14th** 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 bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 20th (without amounts).



**We are planning a Father's Day slide show  
to honor our fathers!**

**Please email your picture along with names  
a brief message to: [firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)  
or bring into the office to be scanned  
by Monday, June 9th**

