

November

Here
and
Now!



November 2023

Volume 70, Issue 11

PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

Ecclesiastes 3

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There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

I'm ready for it. At least I think I am. My plants are mulched, my lawn furniture is covered, my car is winterized. My furnace filter is clean and I have firewood for the fireplace. And, my attitude is good! I never liked the weather in Georgia, the wide-swinging change of seasons in North Dakota fits my emotional calendar much better. I don't even mind the snow TOO much, (although last winter was a bit much.) But I am glad to mark another year in Bismarck, at this church, with the people I love.



My mom used to say that the soul has seasons – seasons of joy, seasons of strife, seasons of productivity, seasons of frustration. She also claimed that the better part of wisdom was to work with one’s seasons since they are natural; to deny them and fight unrealistically against them only made them harder to bear. Whether they are good or bad, it is important to know that the seasons are never permanent, each offers a blessing and from each we can derive wisdom that will serve us as the seasons change.

I am thankful to God that I am currently content with the changes of life, and that I know God will be with me through the transitions yet to come. Through wind and rain, cold and snow, sunshine and shadows, God is with us. However this Thanksgiving finds you, I hope you can rejoice in God’s presence and trust God in the days to come.



Leanne

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. It’s that time of year where we look at ourselves and Thank God for all the blessing’s He has given us. I am so thankful for this faithful community, for their love, kindness and prayers especially in caring for my sister this past month. I intend to be with her during the week of Thanksgiving to help her move from independent living to assisted living. Thank you all.

- Blood Pressure Clinic on Sunday, November 12, 2023 from 9 am to 10 am and 11 am to noon in the conference room. Everyone is welcome to come check their blood pressure.
- The Strengthen and Balance Class has begun with Alice Nix as the instructor. Please come and join them every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00am in the Ramstad Hall.
- Remember Daylight Saving Time Ends on November 5th. Turn your clocks back 1 hour.

HUMOR:

Sean had long heard of the story of his family tradition. It seems that his father, his grandfather and his great grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 18th birthday. On that special birthday they would walk across the lake to their local pub, “Murphy’s Bar”, for their first legal drink. So when Sean’s 18th birthday arrived; he and his friend Mick took a boat and rowed out to the middle of the lake and Sean stepped out of the boat. Sean immediately sank and nearly drowned. He was only saved by Mick who managed to pull him back into the boat. Furious and confused Sean went to see his grandmother and said, ”Gran this is my 18th birthday , so why can’t I walk across the water like me father, me grandfather and me great grandfather?” Grandma looked deep into Sean’s troubled eyes, looked at him with kind benevolent eyes and said, “Because they were all born in January and the lake was frozen over. You were born in August you idiot!”



“A Word with Wanona” - I would like to introduce you to Jan & Gary Gilchrist.

Jan was born in a small house in Linton, before the Linton Hospital opened. I was raised on a small grain farm about 7 miles south of Strasburg. She was the 2nd oldest of one sister and 2 brothers. Jan’s first jobs were babysitting and cleaning houses for nearby neighbors and relatives when she was about 13-15 years old. Her first steady job over the summer months prior to her senior year was at a Head-Start program at Strasburg Public School, working as a teacher's aide. She decided she wanted to be a teacher, while working with the kids, but had always dreamed of becoming a nurse. She took Elementary Ed Classes during her first year while attending Dickinson State College 1970-1971. About halfway through the year, after talking with some friends she had met in their nursing program, she realized where her real passion was! Jan was unable to get into the RN nursing program at the College, so she enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nursing Program at St Joseph's Hospital in Dickinson, and was accepted for the 1971-1972 full year program. She had to live in private home basements’ and had 5 roommates, with 2 each in 3 rooms and one bathroom!!

While attending her first year of college, she couldn't afford a car, so had to walk everywhere, but found jobs near the dormitory for babysitting and ironing. Jan ironed bushels growing up on the farm and through the first year of college, and to this day, ironing is her least favorite task!!

Jan graduated from Strasburg Public School at the age of 17, since she started first grade at the age of 5 and there was no Kindergarten or Head Start program at that time. She graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in 1972 at the age of 19 & quickly found her first job on the Medical Floor of St Alexius Hospital. It was a part-time night position, but Jan picked up extra shifts & immediately became full time, mostly on night shift, with very few day shifts & every other weekend. When she passed her State Boards she received a 5-10 cents pay increase. She also made 5 cents more on the night shift and 10 cents more an hour on the evening shifts at that time!

Jan met her husband Gary about 1973 through friends at a house party. Their friends kept introducing them to each other, thinking they would get along! (HA-HA) They were engaged about 4-5 months later and got married in 1974 at Hull Christian Reformed Church, south of Strasburg.



Jan & Gary

They recently celebrated 49 years of marriage on October 12th! Gary was a member of the Mandan Presbyterian Church & she joined there after they married. They had their two children baptized there. When our children were about 4 & 2 years, we decided to join the FPC Bismarck, since our oldest was attending Sunday School and VBS and Jan was actively teaching both in Mandan. A lot less driving! They've been members of Bismarck FPC just over 40 years!

Jan is very thankful for meeting and marrying Gary and having two wonderful children, Ryan and Michele (Missy), who were active in attending Sunday School, and both helping Jan teach when in their teen years. They were also active in Presbyteens and both were confirmed at FPC. Ryan attended Bible Camp at Clearwater Forest, MN and Missy was fortunate to attend 4 years in a row, Youth Conferences Montreat, NC. Jan was blessed to serve as a chaperone 2 years for the Montreat Youth Trips, having to adjust her nursing work schedule was tricky!



Jan's most memorable time in her life was flying to the University of Minnesota Hospital with their daughter, Missy, then 2 years old. She had become very ill and had many doctors, including an Infectious Disease Specialist in Bismarck checking her in the Adult ICU (there was no Pediatric ICU available in Bismarck) but none could come up with a diagnosis. She had a collapsed lung and was getting weaker and Jan convinced Gary that they needed to find another specialist for a 2nd opinion. They flew out that same day and within 24 hours they diagnosed her with Adeno Virus. Jan wasn't familiar with this diagnosis and did a lot of research while at the University of Minnesota, since of course there were no cell phones, or computers 40 years ago! They felt so blessed that FPC Pastor Hal Staats came to the Hospital, and prayed with them before flying out and Jan found out later, Bismarck FPC church family was also praying for her recovery! After spending a little over 2 weeks of her treatment there, she thankfully recovered with mild-to-moderate asthma, due to her condition. She is now a Special Education teacher at Lincoln Elementary, after graduating with her degree from the University of Mary, and lives in Bismarck with her 2 cats. We are proud of both of our children! Ryan followed his Dad and Grandpa Gilchrist's professions, and graduated from the Plumbing/Pipefitter program. Ryan is married and has 2 daughters (Erin's daughter, from her first marriage) Paige Klein, and their daughter Kaydee. Kaydee, was born a month early, at the University of MN with Ophalocele. They were so grateful that her parents, Erin & Ryan, were so diligent in her before and after care! She required a few surgeries before being able to come home a month later and had to go back for a couple more surgeries. Kaydee is another "miracle" family member, and so far she is a healthy 13 year old! Kaydee has been actively attending Sunday School, PAC, VBS, and some Presbyteen gatherings at FPC. Jan says "We are proud Grandparents to both! Paige just married Nick Kassian, September 23rd at Sunne Lutheran Church near Wilton. They bought a house and live in Wilton. Paige asked Ryan to walk her down the isle, and do the daughter/father dance. We are so excited, to find out we will soon be Great Grand parents! We're too young though... LOL!!!"

Jan's hero is her Mother! She only had an eighth grade education, but she taught us so much and to always persevere and always to be thankful in any situation! Her mother had a very strong faith in God, and passed that onto all of them. Some of Jan's volunteer/membership duties at FPC are teaching Sunday School, VBS, a Presbyteen leader for many years with leading their successful fundraisers at Papa's Pumpkin Patch on many fall weekends, and a PAC leader when Granddaughter Kaydee attended. She served as Lay Reader, Elder, and the Nominating and Scholarship Committees. Gary and Jan have both served as ushers, coffee hosts, Meals on Wheels, served meals & delivered them at some of our Church's Thanksgiving meals, and helped our church members serve meals at the Dream Center and the Soup Cafe. Jan has served on the Christian Ed Committee for so many years, can't remember exactly how long! She also served on the High Tea Committee, and presently she is serving on the Childcare Center Board. She is also involved in the Prayer Shawl Ministry at FPC. She enjoys working with the youth & people of all ages, but even more, since retiring from her nursing jobs at St Alexius Medical Center and Mid Dakota Clinic. Jan was blessed to work about 45 yrs. total in her nursing career!

Gary and Jan feel so thankful to have been able to care for both sets of elderly parents and to have them in our lives for so long!





Gary was born & raised in Mandan, attended and graduated from Wahpeton State School of Science with an Electronic Technology degree. He decided to be a Plumber/Pipefitter going to school in the evenings and weekends for 5 years to get his degrees, all the while working for Cofell's Plumbing and Heating. He has had to work out of state a few times when no jobs were available, but mostly was able to work at Power Plants around North Dakota and for local companies. He has been retired for 11 years and keeps busy with remodeling their home that they have lived in for 47 yrs. He also enjoyed working on his 1935 and 1955 Chevy Street Rods, in their garage. He is an active member of the Classtiques Car Club.

Thank you, Jan and Gary for sharing your story!

The Hospitality Committee thanks everyone who contributed to the Backpack for Kids donation drive in September. Peanut butter donations (108 jars) led the way with jelly close behind (93 jars). All donations were delivered to Community Action Region VII, which is a member of the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People.

Backpacks for Kids was developed in 2006 to address food needs for children identified as being homeless, which are those who are living in overcrowded housing, staying with family or friends, staying in hotels/ shelters, or sleeping in vehicles.

"Kid-friendly" foods such as cereal, granola/yogurt bars, fruit cups, applesauce, pudding, canned dinners, peanut butter, jelly and bread are given to the kids. The food packs are delivered to the schools every other week. (The United Way provides backpacks on the alternate weeks.)

Community Action works together with the schools to determine which children are in need, and the schools distribute the backpacks to those children.



RESOURCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Per Capita Special Offering is a special offering of our church that extends the entire year. We start to talk about it in January of each year and provide added information throughout the year in the form of periodic minutes for mission, special articles in the newsletter and church bulletins. 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 and sending it to the church office with per capita written in the memo blank on the check. You may also place it in the collection baskets in the rear of the sanctuary on Sunday morning. Thank you, Jim Skaret



The church garden has been put to bed for the season. Volunteers made this an amazing year in the garden. Produce was delivered weekly to the Senior Center and to the congregation on Sundays. Produce left over after church was donated to the Child Care Center families and staff.



The garden, located at the corner of Teton Avenue and 3rd Street, attracted a lot of attention from passersby, many of whom were treated to a sampling of the produce. One couple was even treated to a quick gardening lesson from Pat Weinberg, our gardening guru, when they walked by and complained of their own poor gardening results.

A huge “thank you” to all who helped make this year’s harvest possible: those who helped prep the soil with layers of fresh soil, compost and grass clippings from the Halling’s yard; those who laid cardboard, delivered wood chips and spread those woodchips in the pathways around the raised beds to keep down the weeds; and those who planted, watered, weeded, harvested and delivered the produce. As always, we appreciate the amazing generosity of Dee Hanson who allows us, even encourages us, to use her garden for this project.

Brag Box:

Shaw (7 years old)

Placed 3rd overall in the ND Motocross

Parish Nurse Wanona’s grandson

Shaw has a passion for MX Racing, and

We are looking forward to many more exciting races in the future!



Connor Svihovec
Legacy Boys Tennis
Team placed 3rd
West Region tourney
on October 5th
and qualified for the
State Tournament
(son of Karmen &
Darin Svihovec)



Christian Ed:

Hello everyone, thanks for checking in on the kids! To start off, the Presbyterians went on a retreat to Gilby, ND. They had an absolute blast there and are looking forward to going on the next retreat! Next, all of the kids have been working on the Christmas pageant. Alisha Wohl is leading them in the music and they sound amazing! Our last big event was the Halloween carnival party and all had a fun time. Thank you for donating Halloween candy & checking in with the youth of the church!

-Mark Jensen
Youth Ministry Director



The Child Care Center News : "In everything give thanks" 1Thessalonians 5:18

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 107:1

Thanksgiving is a time of quiet reflection...an annual reminder that God has, again, been ever so faithful.

The solid and simple things of life are brought into clear focus. (credit: Charles Swindoll)

As we all reflect on the many blessings, the CCC Board wants to thank each and everyone of the dedicated employees and volunteers of the FPC CCC. We are especially thankful for the parents of each child, that they have entrusted their most "precious" possessions in the care of our CCC. We are thankful for all of our congregation members who have helped to support this important ministry of our church with their generous monetary donations and donating to our monthly needs list, which has helped immensely!! The request for November needs list is Dawn dish detergent and waterproof toddler and Pre-K mittens.

Please keep in mind, anyone who is interested in working with infants and children (full-time or part-time) consider joining the team of FPC Child Care Center. Please call Shawn or Vanessa at 701-258-7490 or inquire at the church office. (Must be able to pass a fingerprint, background check.)

The CCC staff and Board members are bringing back the "Breakfast with Santa" in December! Watch for updates on the date, time, and activities to be offered. The CCC staff and Board members wish each and everyone a **Blessed, Happy Thanksgiving!**

**CCC Needs List for November:
Dawn dish soap & waterproof toddler and pre-K mittens**



**THANK YOU- to all who sent Halloween candy
& came in to hand it out for the CCC Halloween Parade! It was a HUGE Success!**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 24, 2023

CLERK'S REPORT

The passing of Eleanor Herdebu on August 24 was noted.

Session accepted the transfer of membership for Brenda Foster. Membership is 310.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$398,226	Budget	\$386,800
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$410,855	Budget	\$461,624
NET income	-\$12,629	Budget	-\$74,824

Because there is no full-time custodian, expenses are less.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked all those involved in the 150th celebration concert. Mandan FPC choir will join our choir in presenting "Gloria" on December 10. Installation/ordination of new officers will be November 19. There will be no 10:00am worship service on December 24; there will be 2 evening services, 4:30 and 9:00pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—2024 Committee assignments and Chairs have been assigned. Applications for custodian and parish nurse are being reviewed.

Hospitality—Ella Gutzke procured a \$900 grant to be used for needy families (Tree of Love in past years). The committee will be holding a strategic planning session to prioritize their tasks.

Proclamation—Christian Education—Presbyteens/PAC will not meet on November 8, but teens will have a lock-in on November 10. Rusty Bender will lead three adult Bible study classes in November and December. Pastor Leanne's adult class resumes November 5, conclusion of the book of Revelations.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—St. Andrew's celebration will be November 12 with Lisa McEvers playing bagpipe. Communion servers will be assigned for 2024.

Property and Equipment—A plaque by the elevator with a dedication to Tony Bartole is being installed.

Resource Management—The audit by Eide Bailly was completed; cost was \$7,500. Depreciation of two property items needs to be done. Peacemaking offering was \$1,925 with \$418.25 donated to Ministry on the Margins. 89 pledges for 2024 have been received for \$249,650. Budget for 2024 will be presented to Session at the November 28 meeting.

Board of Deacons—Additions were made to the visitation and recording lists.

Child Care Center Board--\$11,000 grant was received. Breakfast with Santa will be December 9.

Nominating—The following officers were nominated by Session for 2024:

Treasurer-Ella Gutzke

Assistant Treasurer-John Bjornson

Trust Officers—Keith Magnusson and Jodi Bjornson

Clerk of Session—Alice Nix





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

Wanona Goetz

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



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS - 1:30 PM

VIA - ZOOM

STARTS: NOVEMBER 5TH

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 ~



THANK YOU

to everyone who brought soup, cookies, bars and helped serve lunch to the Univ. of Jamestown Choir!

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

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

ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

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



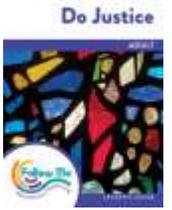
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noon "Munch & Mingle" 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	2 11am Bal. & Strength Class 4:00pm "The Banquet" at the Dream Center 5:30pm Yoga	3	4 10:00am Fall Adult Bible Study in Parlor "Do Justice"
5 10am Worship "All Saints Day"	6 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	7 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop. & Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	8 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	9 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	10 Christian Ed Lock-In !	11 10:00am Fall Adult Bible Study
12 10am Worship "ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY" BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC 	13 5:30pm Worship & Music 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	14 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board	15 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	16 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	17	18 10:00am Fall Adult Bible Study
19 10am Worship ELDER/DEACON INSTALLATION BOY SCOUTS DELIVERING WREATHS!	20 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts WANONA > OUT	21 11am Bal. & Strength Class 7:00pm Christian Ed > OF THE >>	22 NO PAC/ NO Bells NO Choir 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service >> OFFICE >	23 OFFICES CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving ! Thanksgiving Dinner 5:30pm -Dream Center	24 OFFICES CLOSED	25 10:00am Fall Adult Bible Study
26 10am Worship After worship decorate the church for Christmas!	27 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	28 11am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends at Augusta Place 6:00pm Session	29 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	30 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga		

“Do Justice” - Fall Adult Bible Study

First meeting - Saturday, November 4th

Church Parlor at 10:00am

please join Rusty for discussion-coffee-donuts



Most humans are born with an innate, general sense of right and wrong. Young children can give a detailed explanation of justice through the eyes of the victim when they feel they have been wronged. In the *Do Justice* unit, we learn that we are not always correct in our assessments, but the desire for fairness in the world around us is deeply held. Being human means, in part, experiencing the frustration and anger of injustice, and the sense of restoration and wholeness that comes with justice served.

Through this practice, participants will find that Scripture is filled with the themes of liberating justice in ways that are bold and ways that are subtle, always returning to the need to bridge the gap between the world as it is and the world toward which God calls us. So that we may *do justice* in our lives, this practice explores seeing injustice, checking our own prejudice, speaking up, and doing the work that justice requires.

The Banquet is looking for 10 volunteers - serving & clean-up

Thanksgiving Dinner

4:00pm - Thursday, November 23

Dream Center - 1805 Park Ave.

Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board

Boy Scout Troop #6 - delivering the Christmas Wreaths

Sunday morning November 19

(they will have extra 24in. wreaths & swags - \$30 each)



-Upcoming Events-

Sunday, Nov. 5 -

“All Saint’s Day” - communion

Sunday, Nov. 12 -

“St Andrew’s Day”

Blood Pressure Clinic -9am - 12pm

Sunday, Nov. 19 -

Elder/Deacon Installation

Wed. Nov. 22 -

7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 23 & 24 -

Offices Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, Nov. 26 -

after worship, decorate the church for Christmas!

FAMILY NEWS:

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FAMILY OF:

Eleanor Herdebu