

# Here and Now May Newsletter!



May 2024

Volume 71, Issue 5

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## PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

### **Congratulations: 50 Years of Bells!**

I am amazed at things that have many pieces, but work together in harmony; when I was in Germany, I had the pleasure of visiting an antique clock shop, and upon finding out that I was American the excited owner proceeded to open the backs of several clocks and explain the contributions that Americans had made to the inner workings of clocks. He was enchanted and enchanting – clearly keen on giving me a special treat, with enthusiasm he compared the workings of gears and weights and pendulums, quite pleased to find someone who was interested in his information. It was a wonder to me, hypnotic to watch – all the tiny pieces turning and clicking just as they ought – and he even gave me a good deal on a cuckoo clock. A lot of genius went into those clocks and their intricate workings.

I had the same wonder when I was in China, watching traffic flow from my hotel room which was many, many, floors up. I admit, when I was standing on the curb, the traffic in Beijing was terrifying – I was laughingly told that the first things Americans have to learn in China is how to cross the street! Huge buses and bicycles, fancy sedans, and crazy motorized one-person vehicles, zipped in and out of lanes, and I could discern no rules. But from above, looking down on the traffic, it was a marvel: the cars moved along in a kind of coordinated chaos, and looked like one great powerful snake making its way along with a deliberate plan, all its parts cooperating and moving in harmony. As night fell and the car lights came on, the effect was actually quite beautiful and mesmerizing – it took my breath away.

I have the same sense of marvel when I watch and see the Westminster Chimes at work. How do they do it?! It is a wonder to me, how separate people can make up the moving parts of joy and beauty – often with multiple bells in their hands, in coordinated motion, and coming together in harmony to bless the church with their gifts.



Sometimes I will fix my eyes on one-person, other times I will watch Lael as she directs with a generous spirit, other times I will try to take their playing in as a whole, enchanted by the constant motion as much as the flow of any rippling river. I am always in awe and delight. I have pastored a church with a bell choir before, and now so blessed, I would not like to be without it. I wish all the world worked like a bell choir – each individual playing their part for a unified glorious whole – that would be so gratifying!

This month our bells celebrate their 50th anniversary of ministry to this church, and I want to personally thank Lael and the ringers who put so much work into the gift of music they give us. Behind each offering of musical wonder, there is an enormous amount of work and practice. Lael and the Westminster Chimes members lug around heavy tables, clean and maintain precious bells, bake caramel rolls to fund their efforts, and much, much more – and with each gift of music, they ask us not to clap (though the urge is strong!) because what they offer us is worship, not entertainment, and all they do is for the glory of God!

We are so blessed here with amazing musicians – our choir, our organists, and pianists, vocal and directing talent, individual gifted with instruments skill... how thankful I am for the way music focuses the mind and soul on the wonder of God's love. Thank you SO much to you all!

Happy 50th Anniversary Westminster Chimes! We appreciate you!

**Leanne**



Boy Scout Troop 6 wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of First Presbyterian Church in supporting the troop's recent pancake breakfast. For over 100 years First Presbyterian Church has sponsored and supported the troop - a wonderful milestone for the church and the troop! The funds will be used for a backpacking adventure to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and the troop's annual outing in Medora and the North Dakota badlands. Again THANK YOU!



### **One Great Hour of Sharing:**

*Thank You* One Great of Hour of Sharing is the single largest way Presbyterians join in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. It is accomplished with three impactful programs including disaster assistance, Presbyterian hunger program and self-development of people, young and old. Members of this church have contributed \$3,679.00 to the recent One Great Hour of Sharing. The Resource Management Committee commends the congregation, who through your giving, shows its caring love. Thank you again!

## PARISH NURSE NEWS -

It's May! A time for spring planting, sunshine, and hopefully no more winter temperatures for a while.

In May, we can also celebrate 1-4-3 day! What is 1-4-3 day you ask? Most of you have probably never heard of it so let me give you a little background...

The famous Presbyterian minister and children's television host, Mr. Rogers used the numbers "1 - 4 - 3" to signal "I LOVE YOU" because there is one letter in "I", four in "LOVE" and three in "YOU". Therefore, on the 143<sup>rd</sup> day of the year we celebrate Mr. Rogers Day. This year Mr. Rogers Day is on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Rogers preached and educated children on acceptance, being themselves and had a slow- paced television show allowing children's minds to create and imagine!! I recently re-watched the movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood", a biography based on Mr. Roger's relationship with a journalist. I would encourage you to take the time to watch this movie and reflect.

What if we were all a little more accepting of each other's differences? What if we were more helpful and kind to others? What if we took the time to "BE" with others? What would the world be like if we were all just a little more like Mr. Rogers...

Sincerely, Carmen

"IMAGINE WHAT OUR  
REAL NEIGHBORHOODS  
WOULD BE LIKE IF EACH  
OF US OFFERED, AS A  
MATTER OF COURSE, JUST  
ONE KIND WORD TO  
ANOTHER PERSON."

—FRED ROGERS

## 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, Jim Skaret

Resource Management Committee



**The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee** is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community. To be eligible for consideration, a student must be an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck or have been an active participant in the life of the church for at least three years. Students at any level of study beyond high school are eligible to receive a scholarship award. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years: the years do not need to be consecutive. Graduate students may apply for scholarships, providing they are within the four-year maximum. Applications are available in the Narthex and for download from the front page of the church website at [www.fcpbismarck.com](http://www.fcpbismarck.com). The deadline to apply is **May 17, 2024**.



 **Congratulations!**  
CLASS OF 2024

**Laci Rauser**

**(Legacy High School)**

**Daughter of Carlie & Mike Rauser**

**Laci will be getting her generals at Bismarck State College, then her Master's in Social Work at UND.**



 **Graduation**  
class of **2024**



**Erik Hein Jr.**

**(Legacy High School)**

**Son of Vanessa & Erik Hein**

**Erik will be attending Bismarck State College for Criminal Justice, then attending the Police Academy.**



**Congrats**  
**GRAD**



# Congratulations!

CLASS OF 2024



**Arin Spencer**

**Daughter of Wendy & Arik Spencer**

**Anna Bitz**

**Daughter of Tara Jerome & Dustin Bitz**

**Ruth Jensen**

**(Legacy High School)**

**Daughter of Laura & Bill Jensen**

**Ruth will be attending Bismarck State College for communication and graphic design, then Arizona State University for business and marketing management.**



### **Hospitality Committee -**

April donations to Heaven Helpers Soup Café have been delivered. Thank you to our very generous congregation who filled four large boxes. The theme last month was ingredients for snack bags (i.e., nuts, dried fruit, chocolate, crackers, oatmeal, snack bags).

They were very excited to get the supplies, but they also made a plea for summer helpers. Apparently they run short of helpers to cook and serve during the summer months. Last year they had to close early on days

without enough volunteers. Anyone interested can sign up on their website: [www.soupcafe.org](http://www.soupcafe.org)  
**May Donation Opportunity-** The Hospitality Committee's May donation opportunity is for Youthworks. Youthworks is a non-profit organization that helps homeless, runaway, and struggling youth in our community. They need new socks and underwear for teens, and new or gently used clothing for teens. Thank you for your support, please place your donated items in the donation box in the narthex.



I'm incredibly honored and proud of our Chancel Choir's amazing ministry. Their faithfulness, professionalism, and musicianship in guiding our congregation with joyful, meaningful music is much appreciated. We're all very grateful this year for their selfless eagerness to successfully embrace the challenge of the 150 anniversary concert. As our Lord said, "Well done, good and faithful servant". Thank you Allen, Charlie, Danette, Jim, Jodi, Juanita, Kathy, Lael, Lynne, Otto, Rusty, Sandra, Signe and Tami.

In addition, kudos to our accomplished accompanists. Thank you Andrea, Arvy and Gail for your dedication, kindness and astounding talent. I cherish you. And thanks to Leanne, Mo and Carol for their guidance, flexibility and excellence. It's a joy to work, collaborate and laugh with this amazing team.

Debi Rogers - Chancel Choir Director





## CCC NEWS:

The FPC CCC Staff and Board extends a HUGE thank you to the congregation and hospitality committee for the paper products, bleach and dishwashing detergent received. Your generosity has filled our cupboards with the consumable items that are used daily. We can never have enough tissues for the little runny noses that accompany teething and colds.

Please check out the bulletin board near the Childcare Center entrance. Our volunteer extraordinaire, Ella Gutzke, has outdone herself in March and April. She celebrated St. Patrick's Day, Easter and has transitioned into April showers and May flowers with her decorating skills. She is an amazing and dedicated church member. Deepest thanks to her!

Our staff and children are looking forward to being outdoors in the sun and warmth in the upcoming months. We respectfully request sidewalk chalk (AP approved brands), plastic buckets with shovels and bubble solution for the month of May.



**CCC Needs List for May: sidewalk chalk, plastic buckets/shovels, and bubble solution.**



### THANK YOU FOR CCC DONATIONS!

Thanks to all who contributed paper towels and tissues to the Child Care Center during March. Both the donation crib and the donation box were overflowing with your donations. Drips of all kinds will be well tended to by 63 rolls of paper towels and the 38 boxes of tissue that were collected.



## An opportunity to bless...

On April 11<sup>th</sup> there was a devastating fire in Mandan that completely destroyed two apartment buildings, leaving many families homeless. One resident of those apartments has indirect ties to the First Presbyterian Church and their Child Care Center. Her name is **Mellissa Preciado; she is an aunt to the Travis and Ashley Pederson family and great aunt to Ruby and Rylee Pederson, who attend worship with us and participate in our PAC program.** Mellissa is currently residing with the Pederson family until her new apartment is ready on May 1st.

This fire sadly cost Mellissa everything, including the loss of her beloved cat, Crybaby. While Mellissa did have renter's insurance, it has not covered the full replacement cost of many of the items needed to restore her home. If you are moved to bless Mellissa as she moves forward after this devastating loss, there is a **list of needed items available on the bulletin board.** The items are mostly basic food and household items and are small in size, so they can be dropped off at the Church office. Gently used household items are welcome, and gift cards to Walmart or grocery stores would also be appreciated. Ashley will deliver the items to her Aunt Mellissa. All questions regarding donations can be directed to Ashley Pederson at 701-214-7710.



**CHRISTIAN ED:**

**Thank you for your generous contributions to Super Bowl Sunday— we collected \$760 for the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry!**

At the start of the month the kids and teens had an Easter egg hunt. Thank you so much for everyone that brought in candy and Easter eggs for the event! The PAC kids worked with the choir to sing a song in church on Easter, which turned out great! Now the teens are working on their Mothers Day service for the church. The PAC kids are working on two songs to sing in that service with Alisha Wohl. Thanks for checking in on the kids/teens!

Youth Ministry Director  
-Mark Jensen



**Happy 90th Birthday**

**Delores!!**

**Sunday, May 19**

**Please join us  
in the Parlor  
following worship  
for refreshments.**

**Warm wishes and  
cards are welcome!**



**Delores James**

## **FPC Youth Highlighted on the “Giving Catalog” Facebook Page!**

**Thursday, May 23**

**go to the link below:**

<https://www.facebook.com/GivingCatalog>

**It’s their Thankful Thursday social media shout-out**

**Showing how our kids raised a significant amount of money and donated it to the Gift of Giving Catalog.**

### **Pinochle Party—April 13, 2024**



The Hospitality Committee held a pinochle playing event in the church parlor on April 13th, from 10:00am-4:00pm. Twenty people attended. Four people at five different tables. All but three were veteran players. Of the three, two had never played before, one had some knowledge of the game taught to him recently. A veteran player played with the three new-comers, playing several dummy hands with explanations and allowing them to refer to their cheat sheets (pinochle rules) later, the one most familiar moved to play with the veterans and another vet joined the beginner table. At which point more realistic hands were played. At all the other tables, four hands were played and the team with fewer points moved to a different table. Thus, everyone had a chance to play with different players because partners were changed upon moving. We broke for lunch at noon and there was lots of food, snacks, desserts, sodas, coffee, and water.

### **Pentecost Offering, May 19, 2024**

The Day of Pentecost is considered the birth of the Church. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons learned during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person’s life. The Pentecost Offering helps to nurture the faith of those who are the church to come, children, youth, and young adults.

The Resource Management Committee has chosen the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch to receive 40% of our offering. Their mission is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the Name of Christ. The remaining 60% will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. They will divide it between young adult volunteers at 13 mission sites and a program established for youth ministries.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Richter







**First Presbyterian Church**

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[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**

*Brandon Schildberger*

**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*

**MAY 2024 - BIRTHDAYS**

- May 1 Alisha Wohl
- May 2 Gary Thompson
- May 2 Mallory Henriksen
- May 3 Chris Henriksen
- May 3 Kristi Ronningen
- May 6 Mark Jensen
- May 10 Jenni Boeckel
- May 10 Tait Ronningen
- May 13 Paige Pengilly
- May 13 Luke Pengilly
- May 14 Barb Satran
- May 15 Tara Jerome
- May 17 Carol Peterson
- May 18 Denise Gratz
- May 19 Delores James
- May 19 Saige Klipfel
- May 20 Grayson Hedland
- May 22 Kathy Wachter
- May 23 Mike Lannoye
- May 25 Brooke Lannoye
- May 25 Laurel Stowell
- May 25 Vernon Spitzer
- May 26 Becky Taylor
- May 26 Kaydee Gilchrist
- May 27 Muriel Peterson
- May 28 Runnick Fru Alah
- May 30 Sebastian Charbonneau

**MAY 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES**

- May 5 Fred & Alisha Wohl
- May 18 Ron & Neva Carlisle
- May 29 Doug & Val Sturlaugson



**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 ~**

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS TUESDAY, April 23, 2024

### CLERK'S REPORT

The death of Geraldine Morrison on March 22, 2024 was reported. With the addition of Isabelle Heupel, membership remains at 310.

A thank you from PCUSA Mission Engagement and Support noted gratitude for the Christmas Joy offering received from our congregation.

### MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

Session approved the membership request of Grayson Lawyer. He previously attended Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. He and Isabelle Heupel plan to be married in 2025.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$162,490	Budget	\$128,400
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$132,541	Budget	\$162,080
NET Income	\$29,949	Budget	-\$33,680

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne will be on vacation May 20-23.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hospitality—A joint picnic with Mandan FPC and Glencoe will be held at Mandan Legion Park on June 23. Bismarck FPC will not have a separate picnic this summer.

Session approved the "God's doors are open to all" project. The committee will investigate the most secure location of the doors on the church lawn.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Youth are preparing to lead worship on May 12. Graduates will be recognized on May 5.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Westminster Chimes will be celebrating 50 years of music ministry. The choir will sing once each month this summer. Plaid sashes are being made for the St. Andrew's service in November.

Property and Equipment—Skeels Electric will be ordering the necessary equipment for new sanctuary lighting. Chair Rusty Bender will be moving to Fargo and a new committee chair will be nominated and installed this summer.

Resource Management—A special Pentecost offering will be received May 19; 40 % will be donated to Dakota Girls/Boys Ranch. A time and talent survey will be sent to congregation members.

Board of Deacons—A donation in memory of Nils Pearson will be added to the Parish Nurse Fund.

Child Care Center Board—Recognition of the CCC staff will be April 28.

### NEW BUSINESS

Jim Skaret reported on the Presbytery meeting held April 20 in Jamestown. Adam Montgomery of West Fargo Presbyterian Church was elected as Stated Clerk. A gracious separation for Wilton Presbyterian Church was granted and they will be joining Evangelical Covenant Order (ECO) of Presbyterian Churches.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





**2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> <b>Noon</b> "Munch & Mingle" 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	<b>2</b> <b>11am</b> Bal. & Strength Class  <b>NO</b> Yoga	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
						
<b>5</b> <b>10am</b> Worship <b>Last day of Sunday School</b>  <b>Graduation Recognition</b>	<b>6</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry  <b>6:00pm "Suzuki Spring Recital"</b> <b>6:00pm Hospitality</b> 6:30pm Scouts <b>7:00pm</b> Christian Ed	<b>7</b> <b>11am</b> Bal. & Strength Class  <b>5:45pm</b> Prop.& Equipment <b>7:00pm</b> Lay Pastors	<b>8</b>  <b>5:45pm last night of PAC</b> 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	<b>9</b> <b>11am</b> Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>10am</b> Worship "Youth Sunday"  <b>Mothers Day</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>5:30pm</b> W & Music 6:30pm Scouts	<b>14</b> <b>11am</b> Bal. & Strength Class  <b>5:30pm</b> CCC Board	<b>15</b>  <b>5:45pm last night of Teens</b> 6:30pm Bells  <b>7:30pm Choir last night of choir</b>	<b>16</b> <b>11am</b> Bal. & Strength Class  2:00pm Yoga <b>7:00pm</b> Deacons	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>10am</b> Worship Pentecost Sunday  <b>Delores James 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party in Parlor</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Noon</b> -Resource Management <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>4:30pm</b> Admin.& Personnel 6:30pm Scouts  <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"><b>Pastor Leanne&gt;&gt;</b></div>	<b>21</b> <b>11am</b> Bal. & Strength Class	<b>22</b>  <b>6-7:30pm Bells Polish Potluck last night of bells</b>  <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"><b>5/20 - 5/23</b></div>	<b>23</b> <b>11am last day of Bal. &amp; Strength</b>  <b>NO</b> Yoga  <b>Thankful Thurs: our youth on the "Giving Catalog" Facebook Page!</b>  <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"><a href="https://www.facebook.com/GivingCatalog">https://www.facebook.com/GivingCatalog</a></div>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>10am</b> Worship Trinity Sunday	<b>27</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>  6:30pm Scouts	<b>28</b>  <b>2:00pm</b> Presby Friends <b>6:00pm</b> Session	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>NO</b> Yoga	<b>31</b>	



# Celebrating our Handbell Music Ministry

**“We dedicate these handbells as instruments of praise; may joy and gladness and solemn praise sound from them.”**

These words were part of the Litany used when our brand new handbells were dedicated at the May 14<sup>th</sup> worship service in 1974. After 50 years, our instruments of praise are still ringing regularly, in worship and elsewhere, as we spread our handbell music ministry.

So many changes have taken place since we first obtained handbells. These include our growth from 3-octaves of bells to 5-octaves, the addition of 3-octaves of hand chimes, and their placement of tables and other equipment. But the biggest change,



obvious to the ringers, was the introduction of new techniques and the corresponding music notations that were added to handbell music over the years.

This May we are taking time to reminisce and celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a few displays in the Narthex. Of course, there would be no handbell ministry without the hundreds of volunteer ringers and the support of the congregation and pastors. We would like to especially invite any previous ringers to the May 19<sup>th</sup> worship service when we re-dedicate our service to the church with bells and chimes.



“To paraphrase a lovely hymn, “How can we keep from Ringing?!”

