



May 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter!

Volume 72, Issue 5

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

Spring Chicks -

When I was a kid, my father brought home some chicken eggs and an incubator, and put them in our basement. Every day, he took his children down in shifts to see the eggs, and when they started hatching, he sat with us around the incubator, explaining what we were seeing. At some point, he took them all out to a friend's farm, and eventually, they ended up on our table as a Sunday meal. As a kid from an agricultural community, I never flinched at the whole process, it all seemed so natural and yes, quite wonderful.

Watching those chicks hatch was an enriching experience - and I have often wished that all children had access to the wonderful processes of farm life. To help a child develop wonder at the world is to help them respect mystery and marvel; even the smallest thing, like baby chicks evoke a reaction in our little ones to feel awe, joy and respect for the wonders of God's creation.

So imagine my joy when one of our childcare workers brought in an incubator and chick eggs, so that the children of our Child Care can have a similar experience to the one I now cherish. Sunday morning, there was one baby chick, by Monday, about ten. Their tiny "peep-peep peeps" greeted me at the Child Care center door. The look of excited wonder and joy was on the face of our little ones. Well done, Child Care workers!

One of the most valuable skills a church can offer is to teach its children AND adults how to marvel and appreciate mystery. Everywhere we look in our world, God is at work in amazing processes which science and intellect can explain in formulas, but the soul must take in as wonder. As adults, we are often too busy to marvel that a spring flower



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

knows when it's time to peek up through the soil, a chick finds its way out of a nest and birds know when to make a trek back to their nesting grounds. We also forget the wonders that scripture tells us about – the amazing vast love of God, God's revelation in Jesus and the marvelous end-goal of salvation history. Keeping wonder alive, making space in our souls for mystery opens us up to real worship and marvel at what God does each and every day. Wonder produces respect and gratitude.

So... slow down, and rejoice in the birth of baby chicks. Notice acts of kindness and scenes of beauty. Marvel in the change and growth of a child. Enjoy the night sky and new colors popping out on the trees. Feel how soft your dog's fur is. Notice the world around you. God is still at work, and we all too often miss it, because we have forgotten how to marvel.

Leanne



Thank you to all who sent cards and notes for my 90th birthday celebration. You played a big role in meeting (and surpassing) the goal of “90 cards for 90 years” that my daughter Kerry set. At last count I had received 218 cards. The really nice part was that the cards kept coming throughout the entire month of March!

God Bless, Don Bigwood

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 -

Spring is here! Time for planting flowers, vegetable gardens and getting outside for some Vitamin D from the sun. What will you be planting this season? My goal will be to plant flowers, lettuce, celery, and peas. Lots of “greens” this year!

The last day of Strength and Balance class will be **Thursday, May 15th**. I plan to start up classes again after Labor Day in the fall. Please join us for the last couple weeks of class (Tuesdays/Thursdays at 11:00 am) so you can get in shape before the yard work and gardening begins!



There will be no blood pressure clinics throughout the summer, but please feel free to call and I would be glad to assist with a home or office visit to check your blood pressure.

Jeremiah 17:8

“They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”



Happy Spring!

Sincerely, Carmen

Ready, Set, Grow!

The church has once again been gifted the use of 14 raised beds for planting a community garden right in Bismarck. We have been given the opportunity to continue this mission of providing fresh vegetables to a variety of agencies in Bismarck as well as to the congregation and Child Care Center staff and families. A garden needs more than sunshine and rain, however. This is where the congregation can really help. Lack of a green thumb is not a disqualifier! Following are some ways that members of the church can help.

Donations: Seedlings

Grass clippings from lawns that have not yet been treated with pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizer

Labor: Preparing the beds with fresh compost and soil

Planting

Weeding

Watering

Harvesting

Some of the labor is a one-time need, some jobs are occasional, but all help is appreciated.

If you would like to be involved through labor or donations, please contact either

Gail Christianson at 255-4547 or kgmlchri@bis.midco.net or

Alice Nix at 751-7501 or dnix15@bis.midco.net

Thanks!



CHILDCARE CENTER NEWS-

The FPC CCC Staff and Board are grateful to the congregation and the hospitality committee for the tissues, powdered dishwashing soap and bleach which were received. THANK YOU! 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. Paper towels are the request for the month of May.

National Daycare Provider Appreciation Day was started by a group of volunteers in New Jersey in 1996. This day acknowledges the hard work and dedication of childcare providers, teachers and caregivers who play a crucial role in the lives of young children and families. This day is annually celebrated on the Friday before Mother's Day which is Friday, May 9th, 2025.

The FPC CCC Board members recognize and honor all our CCC staff caregivers who provide a positive impact on the children's social, emotional and cognitive development. We are Grateful to the staff members for their dedication and hard work!

**At CCC
April
Showers...**



**Did
Bring
May
Flowers!**



CCC Needs List for May: paper towels



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!





A Note of Thanks-

Westminster Chimes will be wrapping up this year's season at the May 11th worship service. I would like to thank Pastor Leanne, Mo, Carol and the congregation for their generous support and kind words.

Many thanks go to the dedicated ringers who shared their time and talent at the weekly rehearsals and monthly contributions to worship: Kara Richter, Juanita Hocking, Linda Tonolli, Alice Nix, Kris Ronningen, Judy Tschider, Iris Giedd, Tammy Lelm, Rosey Sand, Shelly Heilman, Kathy Wachter, Jim Rambo, and Lisa McCallum.

We were also blessed to have these talented ringers from the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ensemble step in when we needed subs: Gail Zimmerman, Sue Howard, Shawn Deisz, Christy Peterson, and Sarah Carlson.

Ringin in worship has been a joy and an honor and we look forward to continuing our handbell music ministry in September as we begin our 52nd season!

Sincerely, Lael Hoerauf, dir.



Chancel Choir-



I'm 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.

Thank you Allen, Charlie, Danette, Erin, Jim, Jodi, Juanita, Kathy, Lael, Lynne, Otto, Sandra, and Signe!

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.

Sincerely, Debi Rogers, dir.



CHRISTIAN ED:

Hello everyone, I would like to thank the whole congregation for sending in Easter eggs and candy. The kids had a great time finding the eggs! Palm Sunday the kids and teens all paraded down the church hallway and had a fun time showing off the palms to celebrate Jesus! In Sunday School and PAC kids have been learning the stories centered around Jesus and his death/resurrection. The teens had a get together and have been learning about the Psalms. Thanks for checking in on the youth of the church.

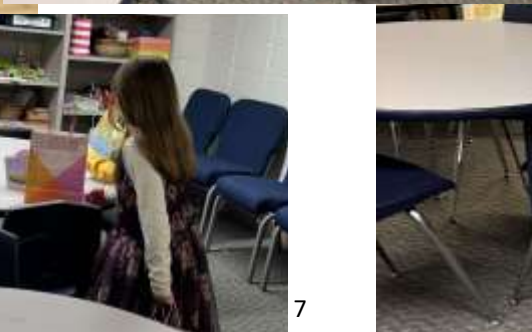
Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen



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



Easter EGG HUNT



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

April 22, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$148,804	Budget \$131,625
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$148,456	Budget \$178,786
NET Income	\$348	Budget \$47,161

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked all those who participated in the Lenten and Easter events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hospitality—The church will once again participate in the community garden, Pride and Juneteenth events. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 16.

Proclamation-Christian Education—May 18 will feature the children's choir. VBS will be July 21-24.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services had wonderful music. Wax candles will be replacing the current alter ones.

Property and Equipment—The accordion doors in the parlor were removed. A new Trans-trash company will save money. A security camera and air handler have been fixed. Plans will be made to grind down some raised parts of the sidewalk.

Resource Management—One Great Hour of Sharing offering is \$4,138 so far. Time/talent cards will be made available. October 12 will be Consecration Sunday.

Child Care Center Board—Staff recognition will be done by the board with special gifts at a meeting, rather than at a church service.

Nominating—Becky Rosenkranz and Kris Ronningen will be the Co-Chairs of the 2025 committee.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



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!





May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga	Spring Youth Retreat 5/2 - 5/4	
4 10am Worship communion 3rd Sunday of Easter	5 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts <div> Monday, May 5th 6:00pm "Suzuki Spring Recital" </div>	6 Nurse Appreciation Day 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop. & Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	7 Noon - Munch & Mingle! 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	8 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	9 National Daycare Provider Appreciation Day	10
11 10am Worship 4th Sunday of Easter	12 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed	13 11AM Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board	14 5:45pm PAC/Teens (last night of PAC) 6:00pm Bells "Polish Potluck!" 7:30pm Choir (both choirs done for summer break!)	15 11AM Last day of Bal. & Strength Class until fall! 2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	16	17
18 10am Worship 5th Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday	19 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	20	21 5:45pm PAC/Teens (last night of Teens)	22 2:00pm Yoga	23	24
25 10am Worship 6th Sunday of Easter Memorial Weekend	26 OFFICES CLOSED Memorial Day 6:30pm Scouts	27 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session	28	29 2:00pm Yoga	30	31



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 2025 - 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	Runick Fru
May 30	Sebastian Charbonneau

MAY 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

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



Wednesday, May 7th
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

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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

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

Special Dates in May:

May 1	May Day
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 6	National Nurses Day
May 9	National Daycare Provider Appreciation Day
May 11	<i>Mother's Day</i>
May 15	National Chocolate Chip Day
May 19	World Plant a Veggie Garden Day
May 26	Memorial Day

The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community. Applications are now being accepted from students within our Congregation who are enrolling or are already enrolled in higher education. The **deadline for applications is May 16, 2025.**

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.

Generous, education-minded members of our Church who were anxious to help students accomplish their academic and technical goals gifted monies to scholarship endowments within our church since 1985. Since the scholarship program was established our Church has provided \$194,700 in educational assistance to students over the past 40-years!

Applications are available in the church office and for download from the front page of the church website at www.fcpbismarck.com. The deadline to apply is **4:30pm on Friday, May 16, 2025.**



**We are planning a Father's Day slide show
to honor our fathers!**
**Please email your picture along with names and
a brief message to: firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com
or bring into the office to be scanned
by Monday, June 9th**





Spring Word Search

Name: _____

SpringTime



Word list:

BLOOM
FLOWER
GRASS
GREEN
GROW
NEST
PARK
RAIN
SEED
WARM

