

WELCOME TO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BISMARCK, ND



March 9, 2025

10:00a.m. Service

Our Mission

We are a community called to love God through worship and prayer, receiving and serving our neighbors with the compassion of Christ, open to new beginnings and the spiritual growth of children, youth and adults.

WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS THIS MORNING AND
INVITE YOU TO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US FOR
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR **“LENTEN PRAYER CARDS”**
AND LEAVE THEM IN THE BASKET,
THESE PRAYERS WILL BE LIFTED UP TO THE LORD AT THE
GREAT PRAYER VIGIL - SAT., APRIL 19. THANK YOU!



ATTENDANCE BOOKS

You will find an Attendance Pad at the end of each pew.
Please fill it out and leave it in pew for the church office to collect.
(please include any updated address information) Thank you to
everyone for helping us with collecting attendance and statistics
we submit to the Presbytery.

“1st Sunday in Lent” 10:00am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*(*Asterisks indicate that all who are able are requested to stand,
bold texts are to be read in unison)*

Dear friends in Christ, as we begin the season of Lent, we are reminded that, in our Christian lives, we seek to realize the death of Jesus so that God may be glorified in our worship and through our witness in the world. Saint Paul writes of ‘carrying around the death of Jesus in our bodies, so that the life of Jesus may be clearly shown in our bodies’ (*2 Corinthians 4:10*).

It is through baptism that we die into Christ’s death so that we may share in his resurrection (*Romans 6:3-4*). At the beginning of our Lenten observance, we are therefore reminded of our baptism, and how Christ’s death on the cross may clearly be shown in our lives. We now come before God in penitence, reflecting on our life in Christ.

We pledge ourselves to observe this season of self-examination, discipline, and self-denial, with sincerity, prayer, and reverent reflection on holy Scripture, seeking God’s purpose for us, and modelling our lives on the example of Christ Jesus.

Prelude “What Wondrous Love” arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Jesus the Light of the World” Mozart

***Call to Worship** (responsively)

Opening Prayer

God, you are our refuge.

**You are the shore in sight,
you are hands that reach out,
you are the ground on which to rest.**

God, you are our strength.

**You are the life we long for,
you are the refusal to give up,
you are the keys of home we carry with us.**



God, you are our help in time of trouble.

We call on you from the ruins and the rubble,

We call on you from the wildness and the deep,

ALL: We call on you to meet us in this place! Amen

Gathering in God's Name

***Opening Hymn** "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" PH#393

Call to Confession "Sanctuary" Thompson/Scruggs

Lord Prepare me to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving I'll be a living

Sanctuary for you.

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving Lord,

we have fallen short time and time again.

You have given us your word, both in scripture and in Son,

you have promised us your presence, both in Spirit and in

**community, and you have graced us with your kingdom, both
in teaching and in service.**

Even so, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us.

We do not love what you love.

We do not embrace what you embrace.

We do not defend what you have called us to defend.

Have mercy on us, O God of all ages past and all hope for

years to come. Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to

do. And with your gifts, promises, and grace, continue working

in our lives that we might receive full life in Jesus Christ, now

and forevermore (Silent, Individual Confession) Amen

Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria Patri and Passing of the Peace of Christ** Hymnal #579

Young Disciples Message

***Prayer of Gratitude for the Grace of Giving**

***Doxology and Dedication of Gifts** Hymnal #592

Proclamation of the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-21

Anthem “When I Survey the Wonderous Cross” Watts/Mason,
arr. Gilbert Martin

Second Scripture Reading

John 3:1-21

Sermon “God’s Top Priority”

***Confession of Our Faith** - from the Heidelberg Confession

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Responding to God’s Word

***Closing Hymn** “Lift High the Cross” PH#371

Sending Forth in God’s Name

Benediction and Blessing

Benediction Response “Nearer My God, To Thee”
Lowell Mason, Sarah Adams

Postlude “Lift High the Cross” arr. Gordon Young

Worship Participants:

Jim Skaret, Guest Speaker

Debi Rogers, Chancel Choir dir.

Josh Stokka, Audio/Visual Specialist

Gail Snustad, Keyboards

Mark Jensen, Youth Ministry dir.

Alice Nix, Lay Reader

Clyde Johnson, Joe & Jody Bachmeier, Audrey Simmons,
Cathy Kinnischtzke, and Kent & Jacquie Ellis ~ Ushers

First Scripture Reading*Psalm 107:1-3, 17-21*

- Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
- ³ those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.
- ¹⁷ Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
- ¹⁸ They loathed all food
and drew near the gates of death.
- ¹⁹ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
- ²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave.
- ²¹ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.
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Second Scripture Reading*John 3:1-21*

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound,

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but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.



Calendar

- Mon., March 10 - **NO** Worship & Music-cancelled
6:30pm Scouts
- Tues., March 11 - **11:00am** Balance & Strength Class
5:30pm CCC Board
6:30pm Lay Pastors (rescheduled)
- Wed., March 12 - **5:45pm** PAC/Teens
6:30pm Bells
7:30pm Choir
- Thu., March 13 - **11:00am** Balance & Strength Class
2:00pm Yoga
6:00pm Hospitality
- Fri., March 14 - *No Activities Scheduled*
- Sat., March 15 - *No Activities Scheduled*
- Sun., March 16 - **10:00am** Worship—2nd Sunday in Lent
“Irish Soda Bread & Tea Sunday”



CCC Needs List for March: kleenex

Hospitality Committee Donation Opportunity:

‘Tis the season of sniffles and bubbly noses, so during March, the Hospitality Committee is supporting the Child Care Center with boxes of facial tissues! Any that land in the Childcare pack and play in the narthex will be greatly appreciated! This is an opportunity for the congregation to help defray Child Care Center costs by donating tissues, the two most-used disposable item consumed by the Center.

Please bring your donations to the Donations Box or the Donations Crib in the Narthex during March. Your gifts are much appreciated by the Child Care Center and by the little noses that benefit from the tissues!



Flowers this week are in memory of:

Fred & Mildred Collins

A gift from: Karmen, Darin Svihovec & family



Hospitality Committee-

“IRISH SODA BREAD AND TEA SUNDAY”

This annual event is back **Sunday, March 16th**, we invite you to gather in the Parlor following the worship service to enjoy conversation, Irish Soda Bread with jams, coffee, and Irish tea.



LAY READERS NEEDED:



Please sign up to be a **Lay Reader** on the bulletin board.

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!



THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKS ARE HERE!

We guarantee you will enjoy sharing books with family and friends!

We also guarantee many smiles, memories, and even some tears!

Lots of time and research went into this project

please enjoy our efforts.

~

FPC Church Staff & 150th Anniversary Committee



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 14** to the church office: 223-6091 or email at firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

In Memory of

Given by

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 Easter Sunday bulletin (without amounts).



Christian Ed Committee:

Christian Ed is asking for donations of Easter (individually wrapped) candy and plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday! Please drop off in the church office by **Sunday, April 6th**. Thank you!



Easter Week Schedule



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

Thursday, April 17– Maundy Thursday at 7:30pm

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

Saturday, April 19– Prayer Vigil in Chapel - 11am-Noon

Sunday, April 20- Easter Sunday at 10:00am

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
or bring into the office to be scanned
by Monday, June 9th



You can view our church's worship services
on public access television, Sundays at noon!
Midco channel #12 or #612 (Community Access TV)

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons, Pastor

Maureen Chrest, Administrative Assistant

Carol Thompson, Financial Assistant

Carmen Bryhn, Parish Nurse

Erik Hein Sr., Maintenance

Arvy Smith, Pianist/Organist

Gail Snustad, Pianist/Organist

Debi Rogers, Chancel Choir Director

Lael Hoerauf, Westminster Chimes Director

Josh Stokka, Audio/Visual Specialist

Judy Lentz, Membership Services Coordinator

Shawn Stettner, Child Care Center Director

Vanessa Hein, Assistant Child Care Director

Mary Jones, and Laci Rauser, Nursery

Mark Jensen, Youth Ministry Director

Erik Hein Jr., Sunday Security

Ruth Jensen, Christian Ed. Intern



We are so grateful for all the blessings God has given us!

We no longer pass the offering plates, our offering baskets are next to the exits of the Sanctuary. If you would like to give a donation to the ministry of this church you can also go to our website: fpcbismarck.com and click on the DONATE button. Thank you!

