



Here
and
Now!

September 2023

Volume 70, Issue 9

PASTOR LEANNE’S MESSAGE:

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is therein.” Psalms 24:1.

Let us honor God’s love of the created order and take care of God’s earth.

When the Bible talks about “a new heaven and a new earth,” it isn’t really speaking of a different earth – it is speaking about this earth, renewed by the justice of God. In the end, everything gets redeemed through the sacrifice of Christ, humankind, animal life, plant life and the eco-system that sustains them. Romans 8 talks about all of creation “groaning” for that day to come, the day when God restores the dream of Eden.

The theological question for believers is this: how is a disciple to practically respond to this teaching in action? Most Fundamentalists and Evangelicals embrace an end-of- the-world schema called, “Millennialism” which anticipates an end-time battle, called “Armageddon,” (as mentioned in the book of Revelation) which will be incredibly destructive to the earth. They believe that it is after that battle that God will restore everything. Because of this, I know many Fundamentalists and Evangelicals who reject the notion of Climate Change, as they do not see it as consonant with scriptural teachings. Others, such as those described in “Skipping Their Way to Armageddon” and “Destroying the World to Save It” believe that there is no point in trying to forestall global changes, as the earth is going to be destroyed anyway. Some think climate change is a sign that the end-times are coming; others believe that the world is ending and Jesus is coming back so soon, that there is no purpose in trying to heal the earth, as that is God’s job. Others simply don’t accept the science, as they believe it contrasts with scripture.

Presbyterians do not share these beliefs. Although we, too, join the Apostle Paul in asserting a final day of the resurrection, when all things are made new again, our reasoning as to how to respond to this teaching as true disciples is different. For us, the visions of a restored earth and heaven found in the book of Revelation show us what the desire of God is for all the earth. God’s end goal for the earth is health, beauty, and life – and in the book of Revelation, the Edenic Tree of life is restored to a renewed and pristine earth where the Kingdom of God is finally completed. So, Presbyterians ask themselves: “is God’s ultimate goal for the earth clean rivers and air?” Then it is our responsibility to join God’s purposes and do what we can to protect the waters and air of the earth.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
PASTOR’S MSG.	1-2
PARISH NURSE NOTES	2-3
HIGH TEA- SERVERS HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE	4
STEWARDSHIP DRIVE PEACE & GLOBAL OFFERING	5
PER CAPITA BLESSING OF THE PETS CE - “BRAG BOX”	6
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	7
CCC NEWS FPC PRAYER SHAWL JOIN CHANCEL CHOIR!	8
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS	9
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	10
CALENDAR	11
WESTMINSTER CHIMES! FAMILY NEWS	12



“Is God’s ultimate goal for the earth rich, fertile soil and safe environments for animals of the land, birds of the air, and creatures in the sea?” Then it is our job to join God’s purposes to maintain these spaces for the purposes of God.” God’s end goal is our end goal. It is just that simple.

The last year has been tumultuous for the earth, and for many who live on it. Waters are disappearing where once there was just enough to serve the land, migrants flee northward because their lands are drying up and their soil becoming unusable, fires rage over large sections of the earth, and a hurricane makes it way to the western shores of the United States. Every stream in the U.S. has chemical run-off, especially the residue of anti-depressants which make their way into our rivers from the sewers and slow down the procreation of fish. Our soil is poisoned by weed-killers, the bees are disappearing, and the ice caps melt. Nuclear war threatens the destruction of it all.

The earth needs God – and God needs us. Our faithfulness in the care of the earth is obedience to God’s fulfilled Kingdom. Our impact on this earth matters, for we have been given stewardship of the earth and all that is in it. As partners with God for the well-being of creation, let us take care of that which has been entrusted to us! There are small ways in which an individual can adapt their lifestyles to care for the earth, and there are communities of advocacy one can join to impact laws, policies and decision making in places of power. God is calling us. **Leanne**

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Happy Labor Day everyone! Can you believe it’s September? Where did the summer go? The 2nd annual FPC Health Fair will be September 28,th 10:00am to 2:00pm. We have approximately 20 vendors. Come see what is out there in the Bismarck area. Bismarck Burleigh Public Health will be offering Flu shots. Auntie Jade’s Catering will be selling a special Filipino sample lunch plate. Enjoy!



First Presbyterian Church Health Fair

Thursday, September 28, 2023

10:00AM - 2:00PM

FREE Admission ~ Door Prizes

GIGGLES:

A man called home to his wife and said, “Honey I have been asked to go on a fishing trip in Canada with my boss and several of his friends. We’ll be gone for a week. This is a good opportunity for me to get that promotion I have been wanting. Could you please pack enough clothes for a week and set out my rod and fishing box? We are leaving from the office and I will swing by the house to pick my things up. Oh! Please pack my new blue silk pajamas”.

The wife thinks this sounds a bit fishy, but being the good wife she is, she did exactly what her husband asked. The following weekend he came home a little tired but otherwise looking good. The wife welcomed him home and asked if he caught many fish?

He said, “Yes! Lots of Salmon, some Bluegill and a few Swordfish. But why didn’t you pack my new blue silk pajamas like I asked you to?”

The wife replied, “I did. They were in your fishing box!”

Five ants rented an apartment with five other ants. Now they are “TENANTS” together!

“A Word with Wanona” - I have the pleasure to introduce you to Gail Christianson

Gail was born in Alabama where her father was stationed during the Korean War. She actually grew up in Moorhead, Minnesota and is the eldest of six.

Gail’s first job was working at the Moorhead Public Library throughout high school and college. Some of her working history most people wouldn’t know about was teaching at the American Community School in England. This was her first teaching job. Gail taught second grade to students whose parents were mainly associated with the North Sea Petroleum Industry. The school’s owners had just purchased an estate south of London, but stated the school began a year before any remodeling was started. Gail’s first classroom was in the former master bedroom!

Gail graduated from Moorhead High School and Moorhead State College, and met her husband Kim when they both worked at the Regional Planning Council in Jamestown. Although she did not stay with the job very long, they did marry in 1979 and well that lasted quite a while! 🙄

The most memorable event in Gail and Kim’s life was the birth of their daughters Merete Elizabeth and Laura Kay. Merete Elizabeth was born in 1986 and Laura Kay was born in 1992. Both were baptized at First Presbyterian Church and have maintained friendships from their time at First Presbyterian Church. They both graduated from Bismarck High School.



Gail is very thankful for the people who had confidence in her and encouraged her. She is thankful for the opportunity to study and teach for over 30 years. She is also thankful that her family has been able to travel quite a bit together. Gail looks up to her parents and grandparents, they have provided love, security, and set good examples of what it means to be a family and how to treat people.

Gail and Kim became members of First Presbyterian Church in the late 1980’s. They had asked Grant Lowe, the pastor who married them in Gail’s home church, First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, Minnesota to baptize Merete. He kindly refused, and encouraged them to become members of a church in Bismarck, ND. Since they were already attending here; it was just the nudge they needed to join First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck.

Some of the volunteering, committees and activities they were involved in: Logos, PAC, chaperoning a trip to Montreat, Deacons, Outreach/Hospitality, church garden and Child Care Center board.



Gail also enjoys being part of the Deacons transportation team that drives members to church. Gail, thanks for sharing your life journey.



Thank you to those who have agreed to serve our High Tea Saturday, September 9th.

Please plan to be at the church by 12:30 on Saturday.

Servers are reminded to wear black pants/skirt and a white top. Aprons will be provided.

High Tea Committee

REMINDER:



Sunday School will begin **September 10th**

“Blessing of the Backpacks”

PAC/Presbyteens will begin **September 13th**

3rd graders receive Bibles **September 17th**

“Sock-It-To-Me Sunday” – September 17th

Some of you will remember the “sock it to me” expression from the television series “Laugh In.” Sunday, September 17, our church will be collecting and throwing socks from the balcony and pews into baskets at a designated time.

The Hospitality Committee is asking for socks from infant to adult sizes; both male and female are appreciated and will be distributed through Project Service Connect. Let’s make this a super fun event to help our community have warm feet this fall and winter. Please drop off in church donation box. Sock-It-To-Me!



THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE -

The Hospitality Committee is asking our church members to please donate jelly and/or peanut butter in plastic containers (no glass, please) during the month of September. Our church has been a long-time supporter of the Backpacks for Kids program in our community. This program delivers backpacks to schools in the Bismarck/Mandan area on Friday afternoons to provide nutritious food items to children who lack food over the weekend. Last year, our congregation collected 71 jars of peanut butter and 64 jars of jelly.



Your PBJ donations (plastic containers only, please) can be put in the donation box in the narthex.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee thanks you for contributing pillows, pillowcases, and blankets for use at Ministry on the Margins. Each item is appreciated by those spending the night at the shelter.



2024 Annual Stewardship Drive

"We are moving close to that time of the year when it is necessary to complete a budget for the year 2024 which also includes the Annual Stewardship Drive for 2024. The past year of 2023 has been a very memorable year and has reminded us of the commitment and dedication of those that went before us to help create the wonderful 150 year history of this church which was celebrated this past year. It is our challenge to provide the means for continued support of our church and to help it grow in its ministry and service within the Bismarck community.

The Resource Management Committee has scheduled **Consecration Sunday for October 8, 2023**. This is the time when we dedicate all pledges of financial support for 2024. As has been done in recent years, it is planned to hold a catered meal following worship on October 8 to celebrate the gifts to our church. Several weeks prior each member of the church will receive a letter and Estimate of Giving Card encouraging that the card be completed and returned to the church on, or before October 8 as well as an invitation to attend the Consecration Sunday Celebration Dinner. Thank you for your attention to this article and your continued support of the activities and programs of this church."

Resource Management Committee
Jim Skaret, Chairperson

Peace and Global Witness 2023

In our world, it is not hard to see the many divisions in how people angrily disagree with each other, to suit themselves, when there are problems that need to be solved. Whether it's local, national, or worldwide we must help support Peace and Reconciliation.

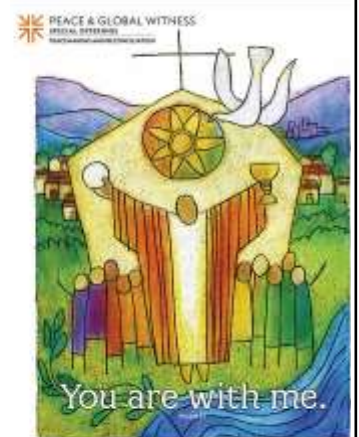
The Apostle Peter tells us "Turn away from evil and do good. Try to live in peace even if you must run after it to catch and hold it! For the Lord is watching his children, listening to their prayers, but the Lord's face is hard against those who do evil. Usually no one will hurt you for wanting to do good. But even if they should, you are to be envied, for God will reward you for it. Quietly, trust yourself to Christ your Lord and if anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way." (First Peter 3:11-15)

As we work to share Christ's peace with one another let us share that peace with those beyond our doors. A minute for mission will be given on September 10th and our Peace & Global Witness Offering will be taken on Sunday, **September 17th, 2023**.

The Resource Management Committee has chosen to give twenty-five percent of the total offering to Ministry on the Margin, a volunteer-based ecumenical ministry that is committed to supporting those who fall through the cracks during times of transition. Located at 201 N 24th St., Bismarck, it's a coffee house that offers a just walk-in safe place to sleep each night seven days a week, free food pantry Tuesdays and Thursdays, support group information, counselling, and haircuts.

Presbyterian USA gives us the opportunity to support many ministries nationwide. Fifty percent of our offering will be used to help and heal through its established programs. Twenty-five percent will go to our regional Presbytery or Synod who deals with needs in our area including conflicts within the local churches. Your gift on **September 17, 2023**, will be most appreciated for this worthwhile mission. Thank you,

John Richter - Resource Management Committee



RESOURCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PER CAPITA
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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
Resource Management Committee

Saturday, September 23rd

“Blessing of the Pets” service 1:00pm

(any pets welcome-even teddy bears)

Please join us on the First Presbyterian Church Front Lawn

Furry Friends will offer micro-chipping 1-3:00pm

(more information to come on the cost of micro-chipping)



Their list of needs includes the following:

bleach, pee pads, kitty litter, cat/kitten food, litter boxes, puppy/dog food, dog treats and toys. Please place your items in the donation box in the Narthex. Thanks for your generosity!

We will be accepting donations for Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue

Brag Box:

July, 2023 - Lynne and Don Bigwood's family

“Thomas, Sarah, Kate Bigwood & Guide”

“Thomas & Robby hiking along the side of Mount Kenya, Africa”





Thank you all for helping us put on a Stellar Vacation Bible School!
Thank you for the wonderful treats, donations, and volunteering your time with us. This was an absolute blast for the kids.

Sincerely, Marete & Mark

On behalf of the Christian Ed Committee, THANK YOU!



The Child Care Center News :

If you are needing or looking for a flexible job, please consider applying to the FPC CCC for a part-time or a full-time position, volunteers are also welcome for certain tasks. For more information or to fill out an application, please go online or call the FPC CCC at 701-258-7490. Talk to Shawn, Vanessa or leave a message.

The CCC Board and staff again say "THANK YOU" for thinking of the Childcare Center for monetary donations as well as the July and August donations of paper towels and hand soap! The needs list for September is Kleenex, along with the list of "Back to School Supplies", to which many of you have already contributed! The CCC will continue to collect the items suggested for the month of September, again a huge "THANK YOU"!

thank you

FPC Child Care Center is looking for donations of "Back to School Supplies" here's a list of things we could use:

crayons (Jumbo)

washable markers

glue sticks

bottles of school glue

pipe cleaners and pom poms

washable paints

water color paints

play-doh



Please make sure the items are non-toxic & AP approved.



**CCC Needs List for September:
Kleenex**



FPC Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl (knitting/crocheting) Ministry Group of ladies meets monthly in the Church Parlor at 1:30pm the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. We would like to remind and welcome anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting to join our fun group (women of ALL ages). It is very relaxing and you can stay as long as you like. We would LOVE to see you!! To the wonderful people who have donated yarn, needles, or even dollars to use for our Ministry, we say "Thank You!" If you are interested, please feel free to call Jan Gilchrist: 527-0565 or Neva Carlisle 426-6690.

It's time again to sing. All adults and youth are welcome to join our Chancel Choir (no audition needed) in the sanctuary Wednesday, September 20th, 7:30pm for our first rehearsal. We're blessed with marvelous musicians and would love for you to sing with us. Choir rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:30pm in the sanctuary and prepares at least 4 weeks ahead, so don't worry if you can't attend every rehearsal.

Our 150th anniversary will culminate with a concert titled "Celebrate, Praise and Sing!". The concert will be held Sunday, October 15, 3:00pm in the sanctuary. The choirs of First Presbyterian Bismarck, First Presbyterian Mandan and St. George's Episcopal will join their voices together in song. Our Westminster Chimes and a string quartet will play as well.

Strings and bells will join us again on December 17th when we present Vivaldi's "Gloria" in its entirety. Exciting! Singing in a choir is a meaningful, exhilarating and spiritual way to serve our congregation. We'd be thrilled to have your voice join with ours in harmony.

See you soon...

Debi Rogers

Chancel Choir Director

701-226-6890



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

August 22, 2023

CLERK'S REPORT

With the deaths of Sigrid Bucklin, August 3 and Fred Anstrom, July 4, membership is 311.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$314,461	Budget	\$290,062
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$327,637	Budget	\$367,343
NET Income	-\$13,176	Budget	-\$77,281

The church received an Employee Reduction Credit which was divided between the Child Care Center and the church General Fund.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

A Safe Practices training session is being planned for those involved with Christian Education as well as new Session members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Ruth Jensen will be filling the position of Christian Education Intern in place of Sophie Svihovec.

Hospitality—Sock it to me Sunday will be September 17. Blessing of Pets and chipping event will be September 23, 1-3pm.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Church School begins September 10 and PAC/Presbyteens begins Sept 13.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—The concert Celebrate, Praise and Sing will be October 15 in the afternoon.

Resource Management—John Mayer of Stifel Investments visited with the committee and reported a 15% loss for 2022. So far in 2023, there has been a 12% recovery.

Nominating

The following slate of officers Class of 2025 was approved by Session:

ELDERS—Kris Ronningen, Amy Kinnischtzke, John Bjornson, Becky Rosenkranz, Chris Henriksen, and Bill Jensen

DEACONS—Vic Sonneman, Cathy Kinnischtzke, Kimball Banks, Heather Davis, Lori Lee, Dennis Rosenkranz, and Karmen Svihovec

CHILD CARE CENTER BOARD—Dawn Henriksen, Conna Cook, and Peggy Hoge

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

www.fpcbismarck.com

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

Karen Ehrens	1st
Maren Stokka	1st
Angie Hoerauf	2nd
Clayton Carlson	10th
Lynn Johnson Dodge	13th
Edith Ruff	13th
Becky Rosenkranz	14th
Elizabeth Lucas	15th
Rick Lee	18th
Charee Linton	19th
Keith Magnusson	24th
Tom Lannoye	25th
Anita Fru	25th
Dennis Rosenkranz	25th
Kathryn Brown	25th
Kathy Mayer	27th
Tedd Gutzke	27th
Brynn Asselin	27th
Stuart Libby	28th

Sunday, September 10th

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 ~

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

David & Julie VanVoorhis	16th
--------------------------	------

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



September

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 World Day of Prayer! 	2
3 10am Worship	4 OFFICES CLOSED (LABOR DAY) NO Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts	5 5:45pm Prop. & Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	6 Noon "Munch & Mingle" 5:30pm Teens at Pastor's cookout 6:30pm Bells	7 5:30pm Yoga	8	9 2:00pm High Tea & Silent Auction
10 10am Worship BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS! 	11 NO Worship & Music 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christ. Ed	12 5:30pm CCC Board	13 5:45pm First Night Back-PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells	14 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	15	16
17 10am Worship SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY! 3RD GRADERS RECEIVE BIBLES	18 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	19	20 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	21 5:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	22	23 BLESSING OF THE PETS! SERVICE 1:00PM FURRY FRIENDS MICRO-CHIPS 1-3:00PM
24 10am Worship STAFF APPRECIATION SUNDAY	25 6:30pm Scouts	26 2:00pm Presby Friends at Augusta Place 6:00pm Session	27 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	28 10AM-2PM HEALTH FAIR Public Health offering flu shots 5:30pm Yoga	29 	30

Hooray for Handbells!

This August, I had the serendipitous opportunity to hear England's Big Ben chiming the noon hour. Installed in 1858, this 13.5-ton bell has been rung every day with few interruptions until 2017 when it was stopped for tower renovation until 2022.

Handbells were created in England to enable practicing ringing large tower bells without having to disrupt the neighborhood during rehearsal. Our own Westminster Chimes handbell ensemble (named after the four other bells in the Tower which ring on the quarter hour) also has a proud history of ringing with little interruption from November of 1973 making this our 50th season.

Rehearsals for our contributions to worship resume at 6:30 on Wednesday, September 6th. Anyone interested in learning to play bells is welcome to call director Lael Hoerauf at 527-1953 for a personal introduction to ringing. Flexibility of commitment enables ringers to work around their busy schedules. Consider joining this fun group as we "make a joyful noise"!



"As long as the earth
endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."

Genesis 8:22 NIV

FAMILY NEWS:

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FAMILIES OF:

Sigrid Bucklin

Pat Dubes

Rosemary Hill

Fred Anstrom