



September 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 72, Issue 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1
ONE CALL SYSTEM MUNCH & MINGLE	2
PARISH NURSE NEWS UPCOMING EVENTS	3
BRAG BOX PER CAPITA GROCERY BAG MATS	4-5
CHRISTIAN ED ~ YOUTH! "YOUTH TRIENNIUM"	6-9
CHANCEL CHOIR WESTMINSTER CHIMES	10
BLESSING OF THE PETS BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS OUT OF DARKNESS WALK	11
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE "THE BANQUET"	12-13
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS	14
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	15
CALENDAR	16

PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:

"Back to School"

I have a niece who is a very dedicated teacher in an elementary school. She is a marvel of creativity to me, and a constant worker – often spending her precious home time preparing for classes.

Our Christian Education Director is also an educator, presently doing his student teaching and coaching, along with his studies. His talents are stretched over a field of responsibilities, and still, he manages to nurture our kids and make the Dean's list.

Our kids have a variety of opinions about school starting up again. Some are excited – others are ambivalent - others claim to be walking back into a den of oppression! But all of them seem excited about new backpacks and school supplies, seeing their friends, and the relaunch of PAC kids on Wednesday night (especially Mark's games and the Mac-n-Cheese!).

Everyone is back at their post: administrators, counselors, school bus drivers, teachers, janitors, food-workers, kids – and parents – and as families wind down their last vacation weekends and we prepare for cooler weather, we need to take a moment of thanks for all of the dedicated professionals who educate, nurture and care for our kids. I know that among our church members, many have and are serving the greater good of our community as educators – I have heard the stories of lives touched, enjoyed the memories of students who have shared the meaning they found in interaction with folks like Alice and Dave Nix, Peggy Hoge, Annie Gallup, Stan Halling, Otto and Jae Reile, Dale Hoerauf, Vic Sonneman, and more. The servants of our public school system create character and provide safety and order to the lives of our children.

That's why, on Sunday, September the 14th, we will be celebrating and praying for all people and children involved in public education. Come and join us as we bless the kids' backpack and pray together for safety, maturity, nurture and growth in the coming year! Leanne



Announcing One Call Now!!!

One Call Now is a mass calling system for churches which gives us the ability to notify members of urgent announcements and church closings via a phone call.

Be on the lookout for an email with the updated Church Directory. The phone numbers listed in the directory will be entered into One Call Now. Please review your information and let us know if you have any changes.

If your phone number is not in the directory and you want to receive urgent updates or church closing information, call the Church Office. Your phone number can be added to One Call Now without being published in the Church Directory.

Thank you, Maureen

call church office 223-6091 or email: firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com



Munch & Mingle!

Red Lobster

(1130 E Century Ave.)

**Noon - Red Lobster Corner of:
Century Blvd. & Gateway Mall**

Wed., September 3, 2025!

PARISH NURSE NEWS -

Many of the children are back at school and the feeling of fall is starting to appear! The summer always goes by so fast, but the appreciation for living our lives in all four seasons is always a blessing from God.

Blood Pressure Clinic resumes on September 7th from 9-10 a.m. and 11-noon; before and after the church service.

Medication disposal bags are still available. Please feel free to request these for drop off, stop by the office to pick up or grab one at the blood pressure clinic on September 7th.

Strength and Balance class will start back up on September 9th at 11am. Classes will continue Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11am. Let's keep moving!

“Yet he did not leave himself without witness,
for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons,
satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

Acts 14:17

Sincerely, Carmen

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025



**9AM-10AM & 11AM-12PM
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Sept. 1: OFFICES CLOSED Labor Day!**
- Sept. 3: Noon - Munch & Mingle at Red Lobster!**
6:30pm Westminster Chimes resumes
7:30pm Chancel Choir resumes
- Sept. 7: 9-10am & 11-12pm Blood Pressure Clinic**
- Sept. 9: 11am Strength & Balance Class resumes**
- Sept. 10: 5:45pm PAC/Teens resumes**
- Sept. 14: Back to School Sunday**
- Sept. 21: 3rd graders receive Bibles**
- Sept. 28: All Staff Appreciation Sunday**

Brag Box:
great-grandbabies of Ann Lynch!

BRECKEN LYNCH



Owen has an important announcement!! 🗣️

Baby SISTER coming in October ❤️



TRYGVE MACDONALD

REMI LYNCH



TRUETT & BRIAR

HOLDING BABY SISTER MYLA LYNCH

GRAND-BABIES ARE SUCH A BLESSING!

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



Brag Box:
Canaan Hocking
son of Elise and Tosh
grandson of Juanita & Kim Hocking

Happy 1st Birthday Canaan
(celebrated in August)



Brighe Huggins
daughter of Erin & Matt
grandson of Juanita & Kim Hocking

Happy 4th Birthday Brighe
(celebrated in August)



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 out-reach (and environmentally friendly) project for our congregation. The mats will be given to groups who work with the homeless in our area!



CHRISTIAN ED:

In July the teens went to Presbyterian Youth Triennium and had a blast! They met a lot of new people and grew closer to God. Here's a look at all the fun they had...

Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen



As if we were Dreaming
July 28 - 31
Louisville, KY
Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025

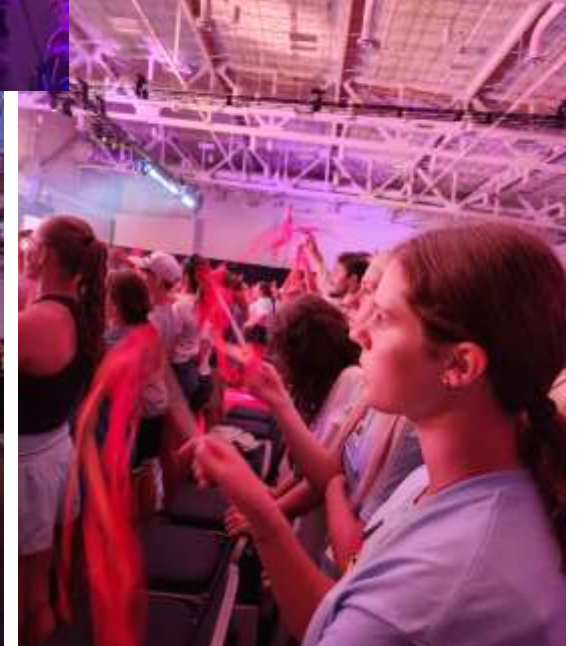
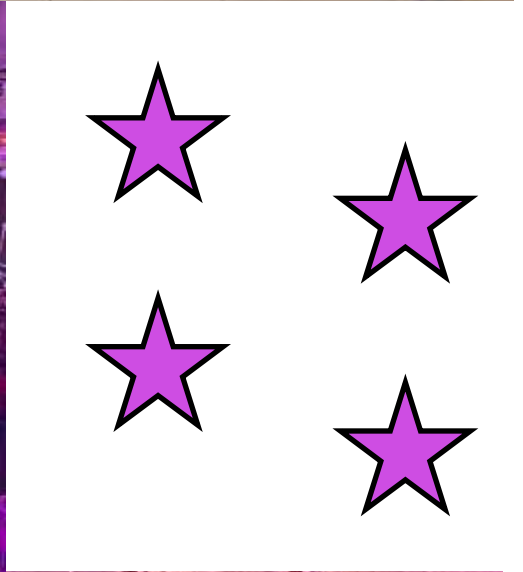




youth







Hi Singers,

Hope your summer is wonderful and life is good. Here's a note announcing it's time to join our voices together in song.

At First Presbyterian we're blessed with marvelous musicians and would love for you to join us (no audition needed) in the sanctuary Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:30p.m. for our first rehearsal.

We rehearse Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:30p. m. and prepare at least 4 weeks ahead, so don't worry if you can't attend every rehearsal. As always, I'm open and eager for your comments about repertoire and ideas you have.

My summer was filled with adventure and music, starting in May when the Bismarck/Mandan Civic Chorus sang in Carnegie Hall! What fun! But more importantly, I'm eager to hear of your summer exploits!

Singing in 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. It's time to share the music living inside of you in joyful praise!

See you soon...

Debi Rogers
Chancel Choir Director
701-226-6890



*"To play a wrong note is insignificant;
to play without passion is inexcusable."
~Ludwig van Beethoven*

Westminster Chimes takes this quote to heart. Not because we consistently play wrong notes as if they do not matter, but because we are passionate about our contributions to worship! Our handbell ensemble will **resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3rd** to continue its music ministry. We rehearse on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 and ring once a month in a 10:00 am Sunday service. Since we are all busy with family, work and other activities, our commitment for ringing spans from month to month enabling a flexible schedule with a varied lineup of ringers.

If you would like to try your hand at bells with the intention of regular or substitute ringing, call Lael to set up a convenient time for a personal introduction to our handbell program.

Lael Hoerauf
Westminster Chimes Director
701-527-1953



Saturday, September 6th - 1:00-3:00pm

“Blessing of the Pets” (service 1:00pm)

(any pets welcome-even teddy bears)

Please join us at the First Presbyterian Church

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 on the donation table in the Narthex. Thanks for your generosity!

We will be accepting donations for Furry Friends Rockin’ Rescue



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY - September 14, 2025

Sunday School resumes

Blessing of the Backpacks - remember to bring your backpacks!



Wednesday, September 10th - PAC/Teens resumes

Sunday, September 21st - 3rd graders receive Bibles

Bismarck Out of the Darkness Community Walk

Sunday, September 14, 2025

2:00pm (registration at 12:00pm)

ND State Capitol grounds

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

School Supply Donations

Thanks to all who donated back-to-school items for Myhre Elementary School. School staff were surprised and appreciative of the all the items the school received from our congregation. The supplies will be stored and distributed throughout the school year!



Church Garden Update:

Thanks to a team of dedicated volunteers, the Church garden continues to produce a variety of vegetables and flowers. Expect to see more beans and carrots as well as squash—zucchini, summer, acorn and butternut. The garden's produce has been shared with the Senior Center, Heaven's Helpers' Soup Café, Bismarck Public Library, Ministry on the Margins, and a few passersby. Also welcome on Sunday mornings are the extra produce contributed by members of the church. Thanks to all who contribute their labor or their produce.



Share the wealth -

Share the love - Share the yum!

September Donation Opportunity

Since 2006, the Backpacks for Kids program has provided kid-friendly packs of food to children identified as homeless. These children may be living in overcrowded housing, staying with family or friends, staying in hotels/shelters, or sleeping in vehicles. While the school district provides breakfast and lunch during the week, the backpacks are an attempt to provide food over the weekends.

During September our congregation has the opportunity to help fill these backpacks. All donations are delivered to the Community Action agency which packs and distributes the bags to over 1300 students in need every other week. (United Way provides backpacks on the alternate weeks.) Please consider donating kid-friendly items such as:

Cereal

Granola and yogurt bars

Fruit cups

Applesauce

Pudding

Canned dinners

Peanut butter

Jelly



SAVE THE DATE

The Banquet

Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 4:00pm

The Dream Center

First Presbyterian Church Hospitality Committee will again serve “The Banquet” at the Dream Center (1805 Park Avenue) on Thursday, October 9, at 4 pm. Fifteen volunteers will be needed for this important event to help set up, serve the meal and clean up. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Volunteer Board in the Narthex.

If you would like to donate money to help with the purchase of food and other supplies needed, you may drop off your donation at the church office and note “The Banquet” in the memo line if writing a check.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
AUGUST 26, 2025

Financial Report:

Total Income YTD Actual	\$313,398	Budget \$290,167
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$317,074	Budget \$374,501
NET Income	-\$3,676	Budget -\$84,334

Moderator's Report:

Pastor Leanne stated that she would be using her sabbatical of three months to undergo stem cell transplant at Mayo. Administrative and Personnel Committee is working on a plan to fill the pulpit during her absence. Presbytery meeting will be held in Langdon on October 11; attending by zoom is an option.

Committee Reports:

Administrative and Personnel—They are working with Mandan FPC to establish a call system that would notify members if there was a cancellation or change in activities. September 28 will be staff appreciation Sunday.

Hospitality—School supplies were collected for Myhre Elementary. The church will be serving the Banquet on October 9. Blessing of Pets will be September 6.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Twenty-two children attended VBS. Three teens, Taylor, Annabelle and Lewis attended Triennium in Louisville and will share their experiences with the congregation in the future. Breakfast with Santa will be December 6.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—A “back-up” for Josh is being considered so streaming of the service would be available every Sunday. The piano in the sanctuary will be tuned.

Property and Equipment—Session approved the request of the committee to obtain bids for replacement of the roof and repairs of the steeple. A list of potential architectural, mechanical and electrical needs has been compiled after consultants reviewed the church building. A subcommittee will be formed to plan future repairs.

Resource Management—The 40% of the Pentecost offering will go to the Parish Nurse fund. It originally had been designated for the Child Care Center which has closed. Stewardship Consecration Sunday will be October 12.

Board of Deacons—The monthly gathering at Augusta Place is a very successful ministry. Options other than poinsettias are being considered for Christmas gifts for members visited by Deacons.

Child Care Center Board—The group needs to officially dissolve at their next meeting.

Nominating—Two more elders are needed to complete the nominees for class of 2027.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 2025 - BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 1	Karen Ehrens
Sept. 1	Marin Stokka
Sept. 2	Angie Hoerauf
Sept. 8	Brenda Foster
Sept. 13	Lynn Dodge
Sept. 13	Edith Ruff
Sept. 14	Becky Rosenkranz
Sept. 15	Elizabeth Lucas
Sept. 18	Rick Lee
Sept. 19	Charee Linton
Sept. 24	Keith Magnusson
Sept. 25	Tom Lannoye
Sept. 25	Anita Fru
Sept. 25	Dennis Rosenkranz
Sept. 25	Kathryn Brown
Sept. 27	Kathy Mayer
Sept. 27	Tedd Gutzke
Sept. 27	Brynn Asselin
Sept. 28	Stuart Libby



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 ~

SEPTEMBER 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 16 David & Julie Van Voorhis

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



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

Nursery

Mary Jones & Laci Rauser

Sunday Security




Erik Hein Jr

Christian Ed. Interns

Ruth Jensen & Connor Svihovec

HELLO September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICES CLOSED Labor Day NO Prayer Shawl 	2 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment	3 Noon - Munch & Mingle Red Lobster 1130 E Century Ave. 6:30pm Chimes- resumes 7:30pm Choir- resumes	4 NO Yoga	5 	6 1-3:00pm Blessing of the Pets! 
7 10am Worship communion 13th Sun. of Pentecost BP Clinic 9-10am & 11am-12pm	8 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed	9 11am Strength & Bal. Resumes 5:30pm CCC Board 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 6:30pm Lay Pastors	10 5:45pm PAC/ Teens - resumes 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	11 11am Strength & Bal. Class NO Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	12 	13
14 10am Worship 14th Sun. of Pentecost Back to School Sunday! Sunday School resumes!	15 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	16 11am Strength & Bal. Class 5:30pm AA meeting (#201)	17 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	18 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	19 	20
21 10am Worship 15th Sun. of Pentecost 3rd Graders receive Bibles 	22 6:30pm Scouts	23 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Presby Friends 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 6:00pm Session	24 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	25 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga	26 	27
28 10am Worship 16th Sun. of Pentecost Staff Appreciation	29 6:30pm Scouts	30 11am Strength & Bal. Class 5:30pm AA meeting (#201)				