

Here and Now April Newsletter!



April 2024

Volume 71, Issue 4

PASTOR LEANNE’S MESSAGE:

Well, I know it is spring, because I finally took the Christmas wreaths off my home door! Other than that, there is not a lot of evidence that the season is changing at this present time. I’m looking out the window of my office at the snow – it was 13 degrees this morning. I guess I have become a true North Dakotan, because I am taking it in stride. I know that soon it will be the season of mud and thawing. I will be chasing two dogs around to try and wipe their feet off before they track all over the house. Then tiny greens will begin poking up through the ground. (I already saw my irises!) And, right behind that... gardening!

That’s how it is with the seasons of life. They seem like they will never get here until one day, we look around and realize that for better or worse, the changes we anticipated have come. Everything happens incrementally, until suddenly, all at once, it’s different.

One of my professors (in Pastoral Counseling) used to emphasize this truth when it came to recovery and growth. He would laugh, “everybody is looking for the magic bullet when they come into counseling, and when change comes and health arrives, the people who see them get all excited about miracle cures. But miracle cures never happen. Change evolves and grows until there is a tipping point. It may feel sudden, but it’s not. Behind every sudden, magic bullet event of change, there are hours and hours of evolving struggle and work. It only looks easy – but it rarely is.”

As this spring, we had warmth, then cold, then warmth, then snow, things evolve and change in their own way and time. Real healing, real growth, real change, take faith and patience and diligence. But, with God’s help, it comes.

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So take it a little easy on yourself. Nobody can fix everything all at once and some things take a lot of time! Give yourself time for change to come, and don't give up when it looks like nothing good is happening. Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time, we shall reap a good harvest if we do not grow weary!"

Keep the faith! Better things are ahead.



Leanne

The Banquet at The Dream Center:

Our church members always turn out to help others!

A big thank you to Cathy Kinnischtzke, Runick, Anita, Brayson, and Bella-Rae Fru, Jim Rambo, Winston and Barb Satran, and Kathy Wachter for helping to prepare, serve and clean up "The Banquet" on March 2nd.

A total of 80 people and 21 "to go" meals were served.



PARISH NURSE NEWS -

I would like to invite you to a short presentation from Angel Advocates, LLC on April 14th immediately following worship service at 11 am. Their mission is to “compassionately and effectively assist clients in their time of need”. They will be talking about their services which include:

Application Assistance

SSA Disability
SSA Retirement
Medicare
Medicaid

Insurance

Individual & Family
Medicare Supplements
Prescription Drug Plans
Life

Family Love Letter

Road map for loved ones during loss

Document Preparation

Power of Attorney
Advanced Health Care Directive
Living Will



ANGEL ADVOCATES, LLC
Assistance in a Time of Need

I have personally heard this presentation and found it incredibly helpful and informative. Everyone over age 18 should have a Health Care Directive and will benefit from this information. Please sign up in the narthex or email the church: firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

Sincerely, Carmen

CALLING ALL PINOCHLE PLAYERS

The Hospitality Committee is sponsoring a progressive pinochle card party on **Sat., April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the church parlor. This party is for all those who know how to play pinochle and those who wish to learn to play. Beginners will be placed at a table with at least one person who knows how to play and will be provided with cheat sheets and instructions to use as needed. We will break for lunch and socializing at approximately noon and resume playing pinochle at approximately 1:00 p.m. Please bring something to share for lunch. The Hospitality Committee will provide liquid refreshments.



Pinochle decks will be provided, but if you have a deck of pinochle cards, please bring it. Come and bring friends and family. Have a good time socializing and playing pinochle! The sign-up sheet for attending and bringing something to share is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



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 to receive a scholarship, 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.fpcbismarck.com. The deadline to apply is **May 17, 2024**.

CHRISTIAN ED:

The Month of March has been busy, from Mario party, teen hangout night, and the Easter egg hunt on Easter! Mario party we had a total of fourteen kids/ teens play. It's a life size board game that the kids and teens make their way through, while also playing mini games between each round. Next the teens had a fun hangout/pizza night at the church, by playing games like sardines, high and seek, and more. The kids and teens have been learning about Easter and what all happens during this time, from lent to Jesus's resurrection! Next month I will have the pictures of the Easter egg hunt. Thanks for checking out what the kids/ teens are doing!

Youth Ministry Director
-Mark Jensen



APRIL DONATION OPPORTUNITY - During April, your Hospitality Committee is supporting Heaven's Helpers Soup Café. This is an opportunity for our congregation to help defray the costs to the Soup Café in providing a warm meal to the neediest and most marginalized in our community.

We would like to provide the Soup Café with the materials and ingredients for "to-go" snack bags (i.e., square [5"x5"] and snack Ziplock bags, peanuts [without shells], M&Ms, raisins, dried cranberries, chocolate chips, Reece's pieces, crackers, Chex mix, sunflower seeds, bulk oat meal [no packets]). For more gift ideas see www.soupcafe.org website and go to "Wish List". Your gifts will be much appreciated by the good people at the Soup Café and the needy people they serve. God's Blessings to you.



Let's Get Growing!

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

Donations: Seedlings

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

Tomato cages

5-6 foot metal stakes for supporting plants

Labor:

Preparing the beds with fresh compost and soil

Covering walkways with woodchips for weed control

Carpentry skills for repair work on the raised beds

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!



CCC Needs List for April: dishwasher powder & bleach



CCC NEWS: National Daycare Provider Appreciation Day was started by a group of volunteers in New Jersey, 1996. This group saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of daycare providers, nannies and teachers, who care for children of working parents. Each year momentum and support has grown and proclamation is signed by many of the State Governors. Since 2001, this day has been globally recognized through the internet when an article was published on the National Daycare Provider Appreciation Day. This special day is annually celebrated on the Friday before Mother’s Day. This year the date is Friday, May 10th. The FPC CCC Board wishes to recognize and honor all of our CCC staff caregivers at the 10:00am Sunday Worship Service on April 28, 2024. Please join us immediately following worship in the Church Parlor for a time to “thank” them for all they do every day! Refreshments will be served.

National CACFP Week



This year, the First Presbyterian Child Care Center celebrated CACFP week with a dinosaur theme! The children enjoyed at least one meal each day during the week that fit the dinosaur theme. It’s my personal goal to teach the children how to sound like a pterodactyl!

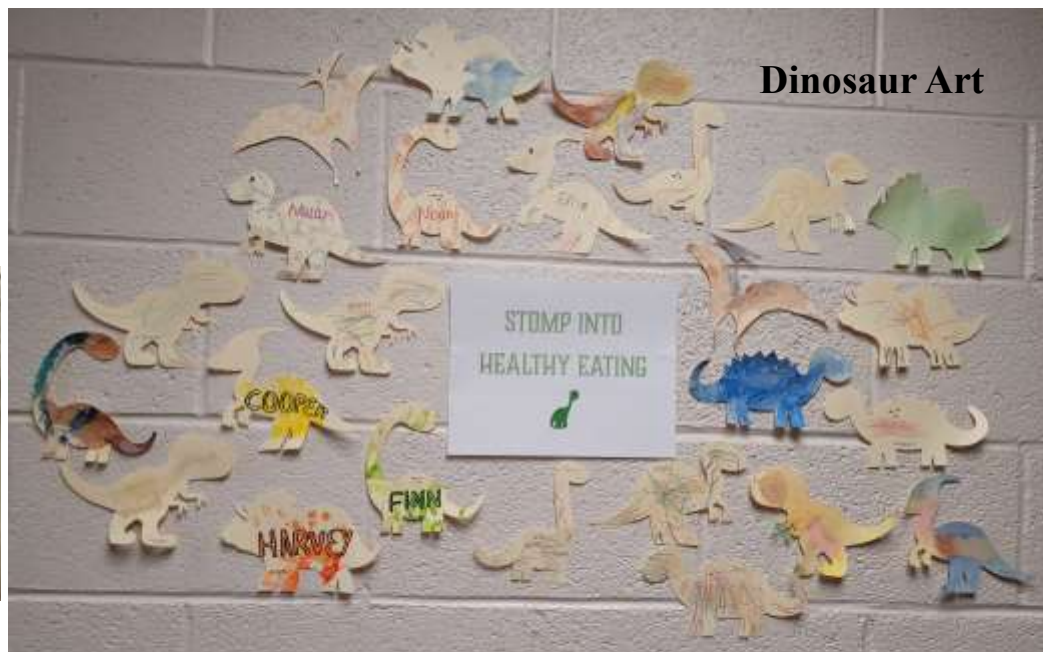
We closed out the week with an invitation to parents to join their children for an afternoon snack on Friday. It was fun having parents as part of the lively conversations that we enjoy on a daily basis, with their amazing children. It was a huge success!

The preschool and toddler aged groups enjoyed several dinosaur activities during the week of the CACFP celebration. All in all, it turned out to be a fun week of including dinosaurs in our delicious, healthy meals and snacks!

Shawn, CCC Director

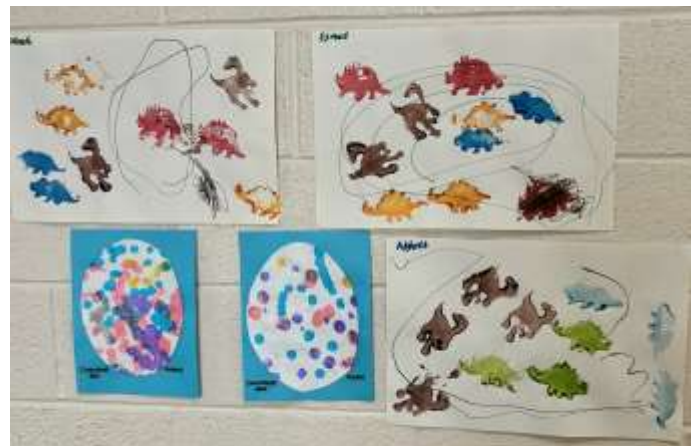
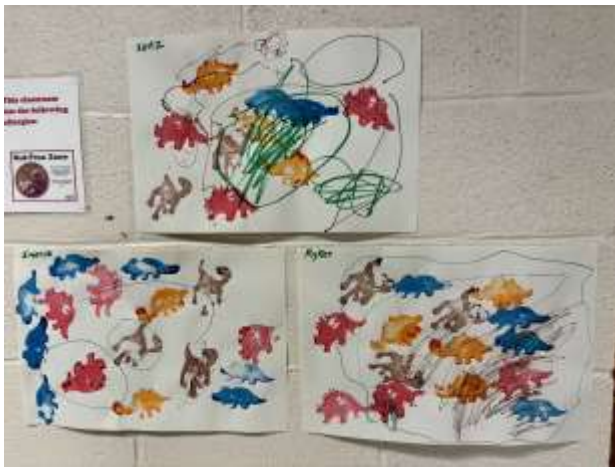


Dino chicken nuggets & fruit footprints



Dinosaur Art





Here's the swamp juice recipe for you to enjoy:



- 1 - 2 liter bottle of lemon-lime soda
 - 1 - 46 ounce bottle of pineapple juice
 - 1 - 1 gallon jug of punch, any color or flavor (We used the Green Berry Rush Hawaiian Punch)
- Combine all ingredients in a large beverage container.
Add ice to chill and enjoy!



Brag Box:

Congratulations!!!

Connor Svihovec (#21)

Parents: Karmen &
Darin Svihovec

Connor's Freshman B
Basketball Team was the
first boys basketball team
from Legacy High School
to win a WDA Region
Tournament!



Happy 3rd Birthday

Greta & Luna Cook

Parents: Anne Tonolli & Chris Cook

Grandma: Linda Tonolli

Grandma was in Minneapolis
to help Greta & Luna celebrate
their 3rd birthday in March !



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



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. Interns

Ruth Jensen & Audrey Simmons

APRIL 2024 - BIRTHDAYS

April 4	Sydney Henriksen
April 4	Fred Larson
April 6	Becky Mahlum
April 6	Donna Richter
April 9	John Richter
April 11	Peggy Hoge
April 13	Jodi Bjornson
April 16	Seth Peterson
April 19	Steve Adair
April 19	Violet Spitzer
April 24	Ed Murphy
April 26	Audrey Simmons
April 28	Anna Bitz
April 30	Gail Christianson



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 ~

APRIL 2024 - ANNIVERSARIES

April 21	Bill & Laura Jensen
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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

NEW MEMBER

Session approved the request for membership of Isabelle Heupel. Isabelle is a graduate of BHS and is planning a wedding for summer 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$96,294	Budget	\$66,950
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$92,621	Budget	\$114,998
NET Income	\$3,674	Budget	-\$48,048
Unrestricted General Fund	\$237,976		

Pre-paid pledges account for the larger than budgeted income.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne will take vacation April 1-2. She thanked all those who contributed to the Lenten activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Committee will be reviewing security policies and procedures and advise ushers how to handle situations. It was suggested that FPC find someone to manage our social media page and someone to substitute for Josh Stokka when he is absent.

Hospitality—The Committee is planning activities for the September 14th street fair and working on a “doors” project which will be placed on the church lawn.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—The Committee is investigating replacement of organist/pianist hymnal.

Proclamation-Christian Education—The Committee will plan a spring event for teens at Cross Ranch.

Property and Equipment and Resource Management- Session approved up to \$53,000 to fund new lighting for the balcony and other parts of the sanctuary. The money will come from the Capital Improvement Fund which currently has \$164,931.

The church insurance coverage will be switched from Church Mutual to Church Asset Management/Guide One because deductibles are more reasonable.

Child Care Center Board—Enrollment remains stable. Staff appreciation will be April 28.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Skaret and Becky Rosenkranz will be commissioners to Presbytery meeting in Jamestown April 20.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed	2 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	3 Noon “Munch & Mingle”	4 11am Bal. & Strength Class NO Yoga	5	6
7 10am Worship 2nd Sunday of Easter Service of Wholeness NO communion <i>W. Chimes caramel roll bake sale</i>	8 5:30pm W & Music 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	9 11am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board	10 5:45pm PAC/ Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	11 11am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	12	13 10AM-4PM Pinochle Party In the Parlor
14 10am Worship “Earth Day” Rescheduled: 9-12 Pancake Breakfast-Scouts #6 9-10 Blood Pressure Clinic 11AM Angel Advocates Presentation	15 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:30pm Admin.& Personnel 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	16 11am Bal. & Strength Class	17 5:45pm PAC/ Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	18 11am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	19	20 10AM Presbytery Meeting in Jamestown
21 10am Worship 4th Sunday of Easter	22 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	23 11am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends 6:00pm Session	24 5:45pm PAC/ Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	25 11am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Yoga	26	27
28 10am Worship 5th Sunday of Easter 9-10 Blood Pressure Clinic CCC staff appreciation	29 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	30 11am Bal. & Strength Class				



A big thank you to Audre Goll, Alice Nix and Kathy Wachter (not in photo) for polishing all of the communion trays, chalices and pitchers in time to be bright and shiny for our Easter service!



APRIL NATIONAL FOOD DAYS

1. Sour Dough Bread
2. Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich
3. Chocolate Mousse
4. Chicken Cordon Bleu
5. Caramel
6. Caramel Popcorn
7. Coffee Cake
8. Empanda
9. Chinese Almond Cookie
10. Cinnamon Crescents
11. Cheese Fondue
12. Grilled Cheese Sandwich
13. Peach Cobbler
14. Pecan
15. Glazed Spiral Ham
16. Eggs Benedict
17. Cheeseball
18. Animal Crackers
19. Garlic
20. Pineapple Upside Down Cake
21. Chocolate Covered Cashews
22. Jelly Beans
23. Cherry Cheesecake
24. Pigs in a Blanket
25. Zucchini Bread
26. Pretzel
27. Prime Rib
28. Blueberry Pie
29. Shrimp Scampi
30. Oatmeal Cookie