



Here and Now
January
Newsletter!

2026

January 2026 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 73, Issue 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
IMPORTANT DATES	1
BRAG BOX PER CAPITA	2
PARISH NURSE NEWS MUNCH & MINGLE	3
CHRISTIAN ED ~ YOUTH! OPEN YOUR HEART BREAKFAST WITH SANTA	4
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE THE BANQUET TREE OF LOVE GROCERY BAG MATS	5
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS	6
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	7
CALENDAR	8



Upcoming Important Dates

January 1, 2026	FPC OFFICES CLOSED
January 5	Committee Annual Reports Due
January 6	11am Strength & Balance Class resumes 2:00pm Yoga for Life is switching to Tuesdays
January 7	Noon - Munch & Mingle at Broadway Grill
January 18	Communion Sunday & Installation of Officers
January 25	Annual Meeting following worship with luncheon in Ramstad Hall (Blood Pressure Clinic 9-10am)

Brag Box:

Brighe Huggins
daughter of Erin & Matt Huggins
granddaughter of Kim & Juanita Hocking
“getting ready for Christmas”



Canaan Hocking
son of Tosh & Elise Hocking
grandson of Kim & Juanita Hocking
“Christmas cookies!”



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



Munch & Mingle!

Broadway Grill (100 W Broadway Ave.)

Noon - Broadway Grill & Tavern

Wednesday, January 7, 2026!

PARISH NURSE NEWS -

Happy New Year to all!

Christmas festivities are winding down, and the cold weather is in full swing! Ice on the ground warrants a little extra caution to prevent slips and falls.

The following are some suggestions to get through this ice-cold month.....

- Walk like a penguin:** Take small, shuffling steps and point your toes slightly outward.
- Use proper footwear.** Use snow grips or shoes with good support.
- Maintain balance:** Bend your knees slightly and keep your center of gravity over your feet.
- Keep hands free:** Keep your hands out of your pockets for balance.
- Use aids:** Use handrails on stairs and sidewalks or use a cane or walking stick with an ice tip for added stability.
- Step out carefully:** When exiting a vehicle swing both legs out and place both feet flat on the ground before standing up.
- Take your time.** Do not rush and pay attention to black ice and avoid slippery areas.

"He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.

He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold?"

Psalm 147:16-17

Sincerely, Nurse Carmen



**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH
9AM-10AM ONLY- IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**

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!



CHRISTIAN ED:

December has been a very busy month for the youth, helping out at the Breakfast with Santa, our teens put on an amazing puppet show for the kids! Then the teens helped out at the Open Your Heart Event, → and last they put on a wonderful Christmas Program... Thanks for checking in on us.

Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Santa made an appearance at First Presbyterian church on December 6th. Many thanks to Cub Scout Pack 92 and Boy Scout Troop 6 members, their families and leaders for the delicious pancake breakfast. The Presbyteens entertained all with their puppet shows and many Christmas arts and crafts projects were completed. Additional thanks to all of the helping hands who made this event happen!



CHRISTIAN ED: “2025 Open Your Heart Event”

FPC volunteers for the Open Your Heart Food Drive. From left: Bob Kinnischtzke, Cathy Kinnischtzke, Karmen Svihovec, Amy Kinnischtzke, Mark Jensen, William Woodworth, & Connor Svihovec.



Hospitality Committee:

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the Thanksgiving Day Dinner at the Dream Center. Close to 500 meals were served!



Tree of Love gifts delivered...



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

December 14, 2025

CLERK'S REPORT

The deaths of Stuart Libby, November 10 and Darlene Kelley, December 10 were reported. Membership is 285.

FINANCIAL REPORT (end of November)

Total Income YTD Actual	\$492,890	Budget \$457,333
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$495,717	Budget \$570,251
Net Income	-2,827	Budget -\$112,918

MODEARTOR'S REPORT

Rev. David Reiter appreciates the welcoming environment and the efficient office staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Session approved Pastor Leanne's compensation package:

Effective salary--\$92,808.24 (includes housing allowance)
Other---\$45,572.10 (includes insurance, pension, continuing ed, SECA)
Total---\$138,380.33

All staff will receive a 4% increase.

Hospitality—The annual meeting will feature a catered meal by "Ole and Otto".

Proclamation-Christian Education—The registration and van rental for attending the winter youth retreat will be paid for by the committee.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Special thanks to Josh Stokka and others who helped transition from Ramstad Hall back to the Sanctuary.

Property and Equipment—Until the roof is replaced/repaired, there may be a few leaks from the steeple. The choir pews will be upholstered in January.

Resource Management—Session approved the 2026 budget:

Total Income--\$546,000
Total Expense--\$638,785
Net Income (loss)--\$92,785

Session approved the transfer of the 30% interest from the Merritt Fund from the CCC to be permanently placed in the Capital Improvement Fund. (until it is no longer needed there)

Nominating—Session approved the following church/corporation officers:

President—Tom Trenbeath; Clerk/Secretary—Alice Nix; Treasurer—Ella Gutzke;
Assistant Treasurer—John Bjornson; Trust Officers—Keith Magnusson and
Jodi Bjornson.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



THANKS TO A GENEROUS DONATION FPC STAFF WAS ABLE TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS STAFF LUNCH!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MOST OF YOUR STAFF...





BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 2026 - BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1	Debbie Gross
Jan. 3	Susan Johnsen
Jan. 4	Wendy Skager
Jan. 6	Bill Jensen
Jan. 8	Marlys Schuler
Jan. 10	Mary Magnusson
Jan. 12	Robert McCallum
Jan. 13	Hayes Shockman
Jan. 14	Jade Fox
Jan. 15	Bev Patch-Larson
Jan. 16	Joe Bachmeier
Jan. 16	Pastor Leanne
Jan. 16	Ann Gallup
Jan. 18	Marete Farver
Jan. 20	Julie Poffenberger
Jan. 21	Rhett Shockman
Jan. 24	Linda Strandemo
Jan. 26	Fred Wohl
Jan. 26	Riley Ball
Jan. 29	Jody Bachmeier
Jan. 30	Kathy Henriksen
Jan. 30	Sue Sprynczynatyk
Jan. 30	Jerry Lindblom
Jan. 31	Karen O'Brien

JANUARY 2026 - ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 7 Runick & Anita Fru

**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

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

Fill-in Pastor

Rev. David Reiter

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

Membership Services

Judy Lentz

Audio/Visual Specialist

Josh Stokka

Nursery

Mary Jones & Laci Rauser


Sunday Security

Erik Hein Jr

Christian Ed. Intern

Connor Svihovec



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 January 1, 2026 OFFICES CLOSED Happy New Year!	2 	3
4 10am Worship NO Communion 2nd Sunday of Christmas	5 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Christian Ed Committee Annual Reports Due	6 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 5:45pm Prop. & Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	7 Noon - Munch & Mingle at Broadway Grill & Tavern 100 W Broadway Ave. 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	8 11am Strength & Bal. Class 6:00pm Hospitality	9	10
11 10am Worship Baptism of the Lord	12 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts	13 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA meeting (#201)	14 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	15 11am Strength & Bal. Class 7:00pm Deacons	16	17 Funeral for Jae Reile 1:00-2:00 visitation - 2:00pm serv.
18 10am Worship Communion Sunday 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Installation of Officers	19 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	20 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA meeting (#201)	21 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	22 11am Strength & Bal. Class	23	24
25 10am Worship 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Blood Pressure Clinic 9-10am only Annual Meeting with luncheon	26 6:30pm Scouts	27 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 2:00pm Presby Friends 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 6:00pm Session	28 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	28 11am Strength & Bal. Class	28	28