



# Here and Now

May 2022

Volume 69, Issue 5

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**PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:** "Lessons Learned"

I thought I came through the worst of the pandemic in fairly good shape. I am an introvert, so for the weeks we were in shut-down, I was pretty comfortable shuffling around the house with a very bored Audrey. Early in the experience, I decided just to follow CDC advice as I would my family doctor's. I wore the hot itchy mask until I got to the point that I would forget I had it on. And with a great worship team like Debi, Arvy, Gail, Lael and Josh, Worship on Facebook became familiar, if not a little lonely. I got used to zoom. We kept the church office open, so I still saw people on a daily basis.

And then... we cancelled Easter Worship because of a snow storm. I have been in the paid ministry in the church since 1979, and I have never cancelled a worship service before. Once in Georgia, I admit, we held Sunday School all sitting on the floor of the men's room as a tornado passed overhead. But we were there, and when it cleared, we entered the sanctuary and worshipped. Yet this Easter of 2022, the entrances to the church lot were impassible and many streets had not been plowed – just getting from the car to the church door was going to be a potentially dangerous challenge, the streets had slick, fresh snow on them and we decided that for the well-being of all, we should cancel.

My reaction? I got really blue. Inordinately sad. Gone was the Leanne of my childhood, when a snow day was a treat or an adventure, a special day of freedom God sneaks into an over regimented schedule. After the prior week of early spring snow keeping me home, I missed worship, and I got sad. It was sort of like being dropped suddenly with a big thud, just when one thought one would soon be soaring from the heights. It felt like a punch that came suddenly, out of nowhere. I was surprised at myself, but I have since learned that some of you felt it too.

And the thing I realized during the Easter cancellation was this: my sadness was not just about Easter. It was about the whole season of pandemic – about false starts and stops, about the constant need to adapt and improvise, about uncertainty. It was harder on me than I thought. Leaving the pandemic behind is more urgent to me than I realized. And yet, nobody can tell us if it is really finishing up, or if there will be a new variant and new protocols needed. How frail our human spirits are! We need predictability, ritual, schedules, and each other, or we are easily thrown off track. →



## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:**

I tell you this for a reason – not just because I want you to know that I missed you all on Easter – because I did! I tell you this because, since the pandemic, many people just haven't gotten their "umpf" back. There is still a low-lying lethargy or dulled motivation for some – suicidal thoughts and depression have been on the rise nationally. What we went through was major – a disruption to our daily lives, our safety zones, our economy and our public discourse. Yet we are all expecting ourselves and others to bounce back quickly. It is entirely possible to be going along well, and then, for no discernable reason, find oneself feeling sad, unmotivated or even mad. The lesson learned, then, is to give yourself and others time to recover from our national trauma, to stay self-aware enough to realize where the sadness comes from and to take whatever measures are necessary to deal responsibly with it.

As for me... I am alright. Just recognizing WHY I was so sad actually helped lift me out of the doldrums. And it was a good reminder about how much I value our common worship and the familiarity of the faces with whom I worship. But... if you find there are days when you are struggling, show yourself a lot of grace, reach out to someone you really like, and stay aware of those who might be needing your company as they are regaining their footing after the last two years of struggle. Let's be church for one another, by being there for one another and showing grace to all!

Leanne

## **Westminster Chimes** relaxes before their appearance at the Bis-Man Civic Chorus Christmas Concert in December 2021



### **A Note of Thanks!**

Westminster Chimes will be wrapping up their ringing season on May 22nd when they join the Chancel Choir in a musical worship service. We would like to thank Pastor Leanne and the congregation for their support and kind words.

Also, many thanks to the dedicated ringers who gave their time and talent all season with weekly rehearsals and monthly contributions to worship: Kara Richter, Juanita Hocking, Linda Tonolli, Alice Nix, Kris Ronningen, Tammy Lelm, Iris Giedd, Stephanie Gray, Rosey Sand, Shelly Heilman, Judy Tschider, Kathy Wachter, and Jim Rambo.

We were also blessed to have ringers from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church step in when we needed subs including: Sue Howard, Shawn Deisz, Gail Zimmerman, and Heidi LaBree.

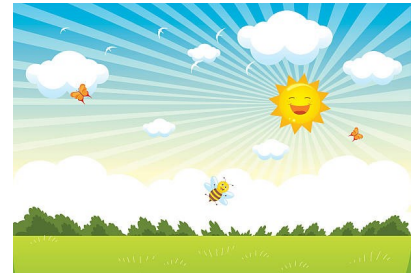
## FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Happy May everyone!!! Well, I do believe our prayers for moisture were answered! I am thinking maybe we can now concentrate on a great planting season. The power of prayer is amazing!

There will be no Sunday Blood Pressure Clinic over the summer from May until October. Those who would like a blood pressure check can call the office and make an appointment with me. I am looking forward to springtime full of sunshine and blossoms.

I am sending out invitations for a Health Fair on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm in Ramstad Hall and the Narthex. If you would like to volunteer your services for the Health Fair, let me know. I will be selling walking tacos and bottled water during the noon hour to raise money for the Parish Nurse Fund. The Bell Choir will be selling rolls.

No exercise classes or blood pressure clinics until next fall.  
Enjoy Summer!



## WANONA'S "MEDICINE"

A DEA officer stopped at a farm and told the farmer,

"I need to inspect your farm for illegal growing drugs."

The Farmer said, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there."

The DEA officer verbally exploded saying,

"Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me!"

Reaching into his pants pocket, the arrogant officer removed his badge and shoved it in the farmer's face.

The officer yelled, "See this badge?! This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish...

On any land !! No questions asked or answers given!! Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?!!"

The farmer nodded politely, apologized, and went about his chores.

A short time later, the farmer heard loud screams, looked up, and saw the DEA officer running for his life, being chased by his big old mean bull.... With every step, the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it seemed likely that the officer would get gored before he reached the fence safely. The officer was clearly terrified.

The farmer threw down his tools, ran to the fence and yelled at the top of his lungs,

**"Your badge, show him your BADGE!!"**

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An older lady from the city and her traveling care giving companion were riding the train through Vermont when she noticed some cows. "What a cute bunch of cows!" she remarked. "Not a bunch, herd", her friend replied. "Heard of what?" "Herd of cows." "Of course I've heard of cows." "No, a cow herd." "What do I care what a cow heard. I have no secrets to keep from a cow!"

**“A Word with Wanona”** This month it is my pleasure to introduce to you Jerry and Priscilla Wilson.

Jerry was born and raised in Plentywood, Montana where he attended grade school and graduated from Plentywood High School. He has one brother. After graduation he enrolled at Minot State College in education and played basketball and baseball.



**Jerry 8 years old**

Priscilla Day was born and raised in Minot, North Dakota. She attended grade school and graduated from Minot High School. She has a brother and a sister. She also enrolled at Minot State College in education. Her parents were both teachers early on. Fate would bring these two together at Minot State College in “Solid Geometry” math class. They married while in college and will be married 60 years this year.



**Priscilla  
1-1/2 years old**

Both graduated with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. After graduation they taught in Minot and then moved to San Diego, California in 1967 where Jerry received a National Science Foundation Grant to complete his master’s degree at San Diego State. It was the most broadening experience of their lives. They moved to Fairview, Montana for 3 years where Jerry taught and coached and Priscilla was a full time mother to their two children. They moved to Bismarck in 1971 and Jerry coached and taught at Bismarck High School and when Century High School opened he taught mathematics and he became their first head basketball coach, a position he held for 26 years. Priscilla also taught several years at Bismarck and Century High Schools.

Priscilla’s first job was ushering at the grandstand at the North Dakota State Fair. During college she worked part time in the Personnel Department at Minot Federal Savings & Loan. Jerry’s first job was delivering pop to several towns in northeastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota for a Pepsi Company out of Plentywood. Other jobs included working in a grocery store, a service station, bricklaying, painting, and spraying trees for inchworms & mosquitoes.

Jerry’s 3 goals in life:

- Play college basketball and baseball
- Coach a state basketball championship team
- Shoot a bull elk

Priscilla’s 3 goals in life:

- Graduate from college
- Be a successful teacher
- Marry and raise a family

They both have accomplished their life-time goals.

The most memorable event in their lives was the birth of their children LeAnne and Brad. They are a true blessing as well as their five beautiful grandchildren.

When asked who is your hero:

Jerry has three heroes: John Havlicek, a Boston Celtic professional basketball player. He was a swingman who could play either the guard or the forward position. A true mentor for Jerry. Other heroes include Ted Williams from the Boston Red Sox and Johnny Unitas, the quarterback from the Indianapolis Colts.



**Brad, LeAnne, Priscilla, Jerry**

Priscilla said her father. He supported and guided his family through the depression, a flu epidemic and harsh economic times. She admired how he handled these challenges with great stride and determination. He taught her how to survive life’s challenges. Priscilla also had another hero in her life. When she was 4 years old she and her 9 year old brother Eddy would go up a steep snowy hill near their home and ride their sled down the hill. One time Priscilla was coming down that hill so fast she could not make the turn and headed straight for the busy street of passing vehicles. Then all of a sudden her brother caught her and prevented her from running right into the path of traffic. He perhaps saved her life. Months later Eddy was riding his bike in town when he was hit by a car and died. From that day on at 4 years old, Priscilla’s perception of life had changed. She never takes life for granted and believes you should live life to the fullest. Eddy will always be her guardian angel.



Priscilla recalls a funny time where Jerry forgot Priscilla at the Dome in Minot after one of his games. As Priscilla was calling him from the Dome, he came roaring up in a mini bus to get her having realized he was missing something when he got to the restaurant with the team. Priscilla has been a lifetime member of the Presbyterian church growing up in the Minot church. Jerry joined the church in Minot at the age of 22.



Wedding 1962

Jerry has been very involved at First Presbyterian Church. He served as an Elder, on the stewardship committee, chairman of the worship and music committee and the membership committee, ushering and working at The Banquet. Priscilla has been very involved with First Presbyterian Church. She was a deacon, is a funeral reception leader, usher, served on pastor nominating committee and church nominating committee, fine arts committee, was high tea chairman and work at The Banquet.



50th wedding anniversary

Thank you, Jerry and Priscilla for sharing your life journey.

### CCC NEWS-

May is a busy month, celebrating National Care Provider Day/Week, which is May 6th this year. It is celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day, which is Sunday, May 8th. Most high school and college graduations are also celebrated in the month of May. Memorial Day, May 30th, is another National Holiday, celebrated in May, when we pause to remember the brave men and women who gave their lives protecting our country.

We at FPC pause to remember our Child Care Center staff, who unselfishly give of themselves daily, to care for precious children, infant through 5 years of age. On Sunday, May 15th, we will show recognition and appreciation to our dedicated CCC staff at our Sunday morning church service, 10am. Please join the CCC Board for refreshments in the Parlor immediately following the service. Take the time to stop and THANK the CCC staff for what they do!

The CCC and the board thanks our congregation for their continued support through their many monetary and other requested donations. Thank you for the donations of the powdered dishwasher detergent and bleach in April, and all who contributed paper towels and tissues to the CCC during March. Both the donation crib and the donation box were overflowing with your donations. Drips of all kinds will be well tended to by the more than 200 items donated!



**The Child Care Center Staff** would like to extend their appreciation to the Hospitality Committee and congregation for the generous amount of paper towels and Kleenex donated in March. Those are the two most used disposable items consumed by the Center, on a daily basis. The donations were greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the **Scouts Troop 6** for generously giving of their time to sanitize the large motor toys. The Child Care Center staff greatly appreciate the Scouts volunteering to wash and sanitize the toys. The children enjoyed the clean toys and the staff really appreciated a break from sanitizing duty.



**\*\*FPCCC needs list in the month of May - books for infant to 5 years of age.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Christian Education -

THANK YOU: YOUTH, TEENS, STAFF & ALL THOSE WHO DONATED CANDY FOR THE PALM SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT!

*Please come to the Suzuki Spring Recital here at First Presbyterian Church*



*Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm*



*“Youth Service” is on  
Sunday, May 8th  
followed by “Muffins With Mom”  
celebrating Mother’s Day!*

*“Child Care Appreciation”  
is on Sunday,  
May 15th*



**MAY 4TH - LAST DAY OF PAC/TEENS  
MAY 15TH - LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL  
KIDS & ADULTS**



### Boy Scout Troop 6

*“Boy Scouts Sunday” is Sunday, May 22nd*

**Do you have a green thumb? Join us to share the work on our community garden! Produce is given to local food banks and charitable organizations. Call the office to volunteer! (223-6091)**

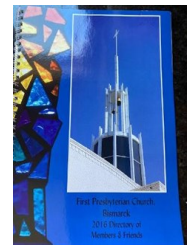


### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We are 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 must 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](http://www.fpcbismarck.com). The deadline to apply is May 13, 2022.

### TEMPORARY TEAM HELP WANTED

Seeking a team to start the initial process of compiling a new church pictorial directory as the last one was prepared in 2016. Please notify the church office ASAP if you are interested in attending an organizational meeting to get the process started. Hopefully, with your help the family photography sessions will take place in late summer or early fall.



## Luke Pengilly



Luke David Pengilly is the son of Danette & David Pengilly, graduating from Century High School. He is planning to attend UND in the fall to pursue a medical career, but first playing junior hockey.



## Paige Pengilly



Paige Renee Pengilly is the daughter of Danette & David Pengilly, graduating from Century High School. She is planning to attend UND in the fall to pursue a health related career.





## *Audrey Simmons*



**(Married) Audrey Simmons is the daughter of Leanne Simmons, graduating from Century High School, she is currently serving as a Deacon and helper to Marete. Audrey is planning to attend Bismarck State College in the fall (undeclared major).**

### **First Presbyterian Church Celebrates Our Graduates**

Our church family celebration for our 2022 Graduates is Sunday, May 29th! There will be a reception following the 10am service.

**Reminder:** Graduates, please bring your cap and gown to this special celebration.





## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 26, 2022

### CLERK'S REPORT

Session approved the transfer request of Kim, John and Kaitlin Dixon to Mandan FPC and the request for reinstatement of Marete Farver. At their request, David and Gaylene Massey were removed from membership. Membership is 340.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$140,330	Budget	\$124,300
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$148,962	Budget	\$157,138
NET Income	-\$8,632	Budget	-\$32,838
Unrestricted General Fund	\$286,766		

To date, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is \$3,736.

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked all those who contributed to the Lenten/Easter services. Midco will improve the streaming capabilities in the sanctuary. The Family Fun Night and Lock-in with youth went well.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administrative and Personnel**—Gratitude was expressed for the office staff, especially because April 27 is Administrative Assistant Day.

**Hospitality**—Faith Night with the Larks is June 6. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Cost of a ticket is \$21 for the game, a hat and food. There will be muffins for fellowship time after service May 8.

**Proclamation-Christian Education**—The youth weekend retreat at Crystal Springs was cancelled due to weather. Instead, a youth lock-in was held. Youth will be leading worship service on May 8.

**Proclamation-Worship and Music**—The committee continues to investigate other streaming services to use when Josh Stokka is not available.

**Property and Equipment**—A new motor has been ordered for the elevator. All LED lights were replaced in the Narthex. New water bottle filling stations will replace the drinking fountains.

**Resource Management**—Committees were asked to update their activities for the Time and Talent card.

**Board of Deacons**—Palm fronds were delivered to members on the visitation list.

**Child Care Center Board**—Recognition of staff will occur on May 15. Lack of staff results in lower number of children served.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Presbytery of Northern Plains met via ZOOM and in person at the Gilby Church on April 2. Deb Demeester, Director of Leadership Development for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies was the keynote speaker. She stated that only 10% of PCUSA churches were over 300members while about 40% have 40 or less members. Her slide show presentation is available on the Presbytery of Northern Plains website. There is a Youth Synod School for youth/families July 24-29, 2022 at Buena Vista, Iowa. A special youth trip to visit the Chogoria, Kenya Presbytery is planned for July 27-August 7, 2023. Cost will be about \$4,000 per person.

Churches at Steele and Inkster are closing. FPC Fargo will be served by a new pastor, Sarah Bigwood.



Alice Nix, Clerk of Session

## First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

[firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)

[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://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

*Wanona Goetz*

### Youth Ministry Assistant

*Marete Farver*

### Organists

*Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad*

### Choir Director

*Debi Rogers*

### Handbell Ensemble Director

*Lael Hoerauf*

### Maintenance Manager

*Tony Bartole*

### 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*

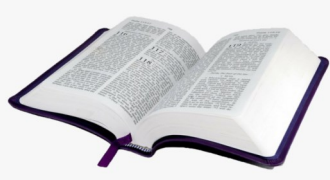
### Christian Ed. Interns

*Sophie Svihovec & Mark Jensen*

### BIRTHDAYS

### MAY

Alisha Wohl	1st
Gary Thompson	2nd
Mallory Henriksen	2nd
Chris Henriksen	3rd
Kris Ronningen	3rd
Magdeline Nji	5th
Mark Jensen	6th
Jenni Boeckel	10th
Tait Ronningen	10th
Paige Pengilly	13th
Luke Pengilly	13th
Barb Satran	14th
Nils Pearson	15th
Tara Fuhrer	15th
Carol Peterson	17th
Denise Gratz	18th
Delores James	19th
Saige Klipfel	19th
Luella Bowman	19th
Grayson Hedland	20th
Kathy Wachter	22nd
Mike Lannoye	23rd
Brooke Lannoye	25th
Laurel Jane Stowell	25th
Vernon Spitzer	25th
Becky Taylor	26th
Kaydee Gilchrist	26th
Muriel Peterson	27th
Runick Fru Alah	28th
Sebastian Charbonneau	30th



### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**SUNDAY, MAY 15TH**

**ZOOM - 1:30 PM**

**IS THE LAST**

**MEETING UNTIL NEXT FALL!**

*Please let us know if we've made a mistake or omission or if you would prefer not to have your special day published.*

*~ Thank you ~*



### ANNIVERSARIES

### MAY

Fred & Alisha Wohl	5th
Ron & Neva Carlisle	18th
Doug & Val Sturlaugson	29th



# May

# 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:00 am Worship 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult SS 	<b>2</b> 1-4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm <i>Suzuki Spring Recital</i> 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Chr. Ed.	<b>3</b> 5:45 pm Prop & Equip 6:30 pm Lay Pastors	<b>4</b> 5:45 pm PAC/Teens <i>LAST NIGHT OF PAC/TEENS</i> 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00 am <i>YOUTH SUNDAY</i> <i>Muffins with Mom</i> 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult SS	<b>9</b> 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts 5:30 pm W & M-Zoom	<b>10</b> 5:30 pm CCC Board	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm Hospitality	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00 am <i>CHILD CARE APPRECIATION</i> 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult SS <i>LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS &amp; ADULTS</i>	<b>16</b> Noon -Resource Management 1-4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm Admin. Personnel 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Deacons	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00 am <i>SCOUTS SUNDAY</i>	<b>23</b> 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm Session	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</i>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00 am <i>GRADUATION RECOGNITION</i>	<b>30</b> <i>MEMORIAL DAY "OFFICE CLOSED"</i> 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts	<b>31</b>				



### FAMILY NEWS

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF AARON "BUD" JOHNSON - MEMORIAL SERVICE  
SATURDAY, MAY 21ST AT 2:00PM

**PER CAPITA** This is a reminder that if you have not yet made your per capita payment, your per capita fee of \$48/member can be paid at any time during the year. The Per Capita fee is the assessment the church pays for each member which goes to the larger Presbyterian Church of PCUSA to provide funds for the operation of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly offices, as well as some of the mission programs of the denomination (PCUSA).

Our church is assessed \$48 per member and pays this fee out of the budgeted funds of the General Fund. It is requested that each member consider making a \$48.00 payment to the church as a special offering to cover this amount. If paying by check make the check out to the church and note on the memo line "Per Capita".