



## December 2025 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 72, Issue 12

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### PASTOR DAVID'S MESSAGE:

"Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (-angel to the shepherds)

*Luke 2:10-11*

What an amazing gift announced to the shepherds —  
Good News, a great Joy, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord!

What do you want for a gift this Christmas? Do you remember sending your gift wish (maybe a whole list!) in a letter to the North Pole - years ago? Or, maybe you announced it to Santa Claus while sitting on his knee. Or, maybe you were simply pleading to your parents for that special gift that you really, really, really had to have. Can you still picture what that gift might have been?

Well, how has your gift-requesting evolved over the years? Has it become more modest and practical? Or, has it gone in the other direction - more expensive and exotic?

Or, maybe—just maybe, your gift aspirations have become more focused elsewhere. Have they turned and reached beyond yourself? Toward other special people in your lives? Or, maybe way beyond—toward people, groups of people, needs, causes, charitable organizations, even relief efforts where the needs are desperate? Even life-or-death crucial?

Gifts can encompass a huge range.

My wife Brenda is one of the all-time best gift-givers. She has an uncanny sense of thinking of the perfect gift, for the exact right person, for the most ideal timing and situation. Any time of year—whether a special occasion, or an ordinary occasion made special by her gift. Whether for our grandkids, our adult "kids," friends, relatives, strangers, or anyone she thinks of. And, of course, church stewardship goes without saying. There are not enough special offerings to suit her!

She naturally recognizes needs—sensing the right person(s), the right timing, the right gift. Just ask the young man from the nearby half-way house, who started worshiping at her church, in the summer heat of August. Very soon he found himself gifted with a new air-conditioning window unit. →



**PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:**

Over all, her meeting-the-need accuracy is at least 95%. While my accuracy at recognizing needs is usually somewhere in the “hindsight category.”

But there is another important factor in the gift-giving formula. It's when someone asks us: “What would you like for a gift? What can I get you? What do you want? Do you know what the most unhelpful response is?

“Oh, nothing. I really don't need anything. You don't have to get me anything.” (my usual response) What a drag of an answer that is! That just may result in the wrong gift. Or no gift!

Thank goodness that our living and loving God is a Gift-giver extraordinaire, far beyond our abilities to understand or conceive. Whether our request of God is for a gift that is so outlandishly exorbitant, extravagant, expensive, exotic—or is so ridiculously modest, practical, understated, and underestimating of God's love for us and nature of generosity—our God handles it just right.

The angel introduces God-the-Gift-giver as one showering us with good news, great joy, and the arrival of one who is Savior, Messiah and Lord. The ultimate Gift is coming our way: the gift of Jesus! The One who will provide exactly the Salvation, the Shalom, the Holiness, the Restoration, the Forgiveness, the Cleansing, the New Birth, and inseparable Love for all eternity. Exactly what we each, and every human everywhere needs!

What a Gift! What Good News! What great Joy!  
Wishing you a Blessed Advent and a Glorious Christmas!  
Rev. David Reiter



**Munch & Mingle!**

Broadway Grill (100 W Broadway Ave.)

**Noon - Broadway Grill & Tavern  
Wed., December 3, 2025!**

As I write this (11am 11/25) Mother Nature is having her way with us ... but ... “The Good News” is that Dakota West Contracting completed the temporary repairs to the steeple! As of 4:45pm last night they removed all the scaffolding, and put the sanctuary back together!

The plan is to decorate after worship this Sunday...(11/30 will still be in the Ramstad Hall – J&M will clean the Sanctuary next week)

**Please stay after worship November 30th—to help decorate for Advent/Christmas!**

**Our target date for worship service back home in the Sanctuary is**

**Sunday, December 7th!!**



## **PARISH NURSE NEWS -**

Merry Christmas to all! I hope this season brings you warmth and comfort with friends, family, and the celebration of Jesus's Birth.

In all the hustle and bustle of the season remember to take time for rest.

- \*Be intentional about your time,**
- \*Allow yourself Grace,**
- \*And cherish the time spent with loved ones.**

There will be no exercise class from December 22- January 5th.

We will resume at 11:00am on January 6th.

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There will not be a blood pressure clinic in December, however, please reach out if you would like your blood pressure taken.

I can meet for a home visit or an office visit.

*And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."*

*Luke 1:35*



### **NO BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC IN DECEMBER**

**IF YOU NEED YOUR PRESSURE CHECKED**

**FEEL FREE TO CALL AND SCHEDULE A TIME WITH CARMEN!**

## **Christmas Joy Special Offering**

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings of the FPC. This special offering is our way to provide support to the clergy both current, past and future who guide us on our way to Christ. Baby Jesus was a perfect gift to us, and we can support those who are vulnerable and in need with our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering.

It supports retired ministers and church workers and their families through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as they face medical and emergency costs. The offering also supports students in Presbyterian related schools and colleges as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the church and world.

Your gifts to this worthwhile program will be most appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Resource Management Committee





## CHRISTIAN ED:

The kids and teens have been very active working on the Christmas pageant and puppet show for Breakfast with Santa! The kids also collected 375 socks that were thrown at them during the "Sock-it-to-Me" Sunday service. Thanks for checking in with us...

*Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen*



Please join us

**FPC**  
**YOUTH**



**Breakfast  
With  
Santa**

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:30 am - 11:30 am**

**First Presbyterian Church ~ Ramstad Hall**  
**214 E Thayer Ave \* Bismarck, ND**  
**Please use West entrance labeled Child Care Center**

Join Santa and our Boy Scout Troop 6 for a pancake breakfast!  
There will be a puppet show and craft tables for all to enjoy.  
Santa will be attending so be sure to bring the whole family for some holiday fun before you head out to do your Christmas shopping.  
*Free will offerings welcomed to support Scout Troop 6.*

## Hospitality Committee: Thanks for the Socks...

Sock it to Me Sunday was a huge success...and a lot of fun! Thanks to all who contributed to the event—those who donated socks, those who tossed socks, the youth who collected and counted the socks, and those who delivered the socks. There were lots of laughs and no one was injured!! More than 380 pairs of socks were collected. They were delivered to volunteers manning the collection station for Freezin' for a Reason, one of the Homelessness Awareness Week activities. The socks and other donated winter gear is distributed through the Dream Center.



## This year's Tree of Love for students in transition (SIT)

Bismarck students who are experiencing homelessness will be the recipients of this year's Tree of Love presents. Your Hospitality Committee has asked the Bismarck Students in Transition Program to choose three or four families who could use a little help making this Christmas merry. Paper "ornaments" for items requested by the families will be on a small Christmas tree in the Narthex very soon. Congregation members may choose an ornament or two and buy the requested gifts, so families can be assured of some presents under the tree. Please wrap each gift, attach the ornament and put it under the tree. Attaching a gift receipt would also be appreciated by the families. Gifts should be under the tree by **Friday, December 19th**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## 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!





## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Sat., December 6:	9:30am-11:30am “Breakfast with Santa”
Sun., December 7:	Communion Sunday
Sun., December 14:	Joyous Music Sunday
Tue., December 16:	12:00pm Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel
Sun., December 21:	Children’s Christmas Program followed by the “Red & Green Potluck”
Wed., December 24:	4:30pm Christmas Eve early service 9:00pm Christmas Eve late service
December 24 & 25:	OFFICES CLOSED– Merry Christmas!
December 31:	OFFICES CLOSING AT NOON
January 1, 2026:	OFFICES CLOSED - Happy New Year!



## December Word Search

S	F	O	I	Z	A	M	R	U	V	S	Z	C	H
E	E	H	R	I	M	H	I	T	C	I	R	H	A
M	S	A	N	V	G	R	M	A	R	O	S	R	Y
A	T	I	M	N	W	Z	A	G	S	I	A	I	L
N	I	H	E	O	S	R	I	K	H	R	S	S	L
A	V	A	N	N	S	V	E	W	N	T	R	T	H
S	E	S	W	Y	U	A	G	A	A	N	S	M	A
R	Z	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	G	I	A	A	N
V	A	T	I	R	N	A	A	Z	J	A	N	S	U
Y	J	E	N	E	S	R	W	A	M	T	T	A	K
K	O	G	A	M	O	R	E	A	L	O	A	A	K
Z	L	T	R	E	J	I	R	V	A	E	Y	E	A
L	L	J	A	M	W	I	N	T	E	R	I	I	H
S	Y	V	N	H	G	O	A	M	S	Y	I	A	W

JOLLY  
KWANZAA  
MERRY  
SANTA  
CAROLING  
HANUKKAH  
CHRISTMAS  
WINTER  
FESTIVE  
SNOW





## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### DECEMBER 2025 - BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1	Linda Tonolli
Dec. 4	Hailee Bitz
Dec. 6	Iris Falcon
Dec. 8	Laken Gratz
Dec. 8	Bert Asselin Jr.
Dec. 9	David Shockman
Dec. 9	Audre Goll
Dec. 11	Danette Pengilly
Dec. 12	JoAnn Hodny
Dec. 15	Richard Belisle
Dec. 16	Janice Mayer
Dec. 17	Chris Hellman
Dec. 18	Laura Adair
Dec. 18	David Bachmeier
Dec. 20	Bob Kinnischtzke
Dec. 20	Kade Massey
Dec. 20	Charlie Barber
Dec. 21	Jae Reile
Dec. 22	Ella Gutzke
Dec. 27	Patricia Keller
Dec. 28	Doug Sturlaugson
Dec. 30	Shiny Mahlum
Dec. 31	Kaye Halvorson
Dec. 31	Carolyn Barks
Dec. 31	Lori Lee

### DECEMBER 2025 - ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 18	Paul & Kristi Ronningen
Dec. 21	Jim & Nanc Skaret
Dec. 28	Tom & Rose Trenbeath
Dec. 30	William & JoAnn Hodny

**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](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. 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
<b>Nov. 30</b> <b>10am</b> Worship—last one in Ramstad Hall <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Please stay after to help decorate for Christmas!</b>	<b>1</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl  6:30pm Scouts <b>7:00pm</b> Christian Ed	<b>2</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201) <b>5:45pm</b> Prop. & Equipment <b>6:30pm</b> Lay Pastors	<b>3</b> <b>Noon - Munch &amp; Mingle at Broadway Grill &amp; Tavern</b> 100 W Broadway Ave. <b>5:45pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30pm</b> Bells <b>7:30pm</b> Choir	<b>4</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>NO</b> Yoga	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>9:30-11:30am</b> <b>Breakfast with Santa!</b>
<b>7 10am</b> Worship Communion <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>  3:30-5:30pm Cub Scouts party	<b>8</b>   <b>5:30pm</b> Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts	<b>9</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201) <b>6:00pm</b> Session	<b>10</b>   <b>5:45pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30pm</b> Bells <b>7:30pm</b> Choir	<b>11</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>2:00pm</b> Yoga  <b>6:00pm</b> Hospitality	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 10am</b> Worship <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Joyous Music Sunday !</b>  3:30-5:30pm Cub Scouts party	<b>15</b> <b>Noon</b> -Resource Management <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>4:30pm</b> Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	<b>16</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class <b>Noon - Blue Christmas Service in Chapel</b> <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201)	<b>17</b>   <b>5:45pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>NO</b> Bells <b>7:30pm</b> Choir	<b>18</b> <b>11am</b> Strength & Bal. Class  <b>2:00pm</b> Yoga <b>NO</b> Deacons	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 10am</b> Worship <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Children's Christmas Program</b> followed by <b>Red &amp; Green</b> Potluck!	<b>22</b>   6:30pm Scouts	<b>23</b> <b>NO</b> Strength & Bal. Class <b>NO</b> Presby Friends <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201) <b>NO</b> Session	<b>24</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b>  <b>Christmas Eve - 4:30pm early serv. 9:00pm late serv. (communion)</b>	<b>25</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b> <b>Merry Christmas!</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>1st Sunday of Christmas</b>	<b>29</b>   6:30pm Scouts	<b>30</b> <b>NO</b> Strength & Bal. Class <b>5:30pm</b> AA meeting (#201)	<b>31</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSING AT NOON</b>	<b>January 1, 2026</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b> Happy New Year!		