

WELCOME TO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BISMARCK, ND



December 7, 2025

10:00a.m. Service

Our Mission

We are a community called to love God through worship and prayer, receiving and serving our neighbors with the compassion of Christ, open to new beginnings and the spiritual growth of children, youth and adults.

WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS THIS MORNING AND
INVITE YOU TO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US FOR
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR “PINK PRAYER REQUEST CARDS”
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE USHERS WILL COLLECT THEM
DURING THE OPENING HYMN. THANK YOU!

ATTENDANCE BOOKS

You will find an Attendance Pad at the end of each pew.
Please fill it out and leave it in pew for the church office to collect.
(please include any updated address information) Thank you to
everyone for helping us with collecting attendance and statistics
we submit to the Presbytery.

“2nd Sunday of Advent” 10:00am
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(*Asterisks indicate that all who are able are requested to stand,
***bold** texts are to be read in unison*)

Prelude “In the Bleak Midwinter” arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission Ron Carlisle

Introit “Prepare the Way” Then Swenska Psalmboken,
Frans Mikael Franzen

Lighting the Second Candle of the Advent Wreath

Donna & John Richter

One: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
(two candle are lit)

Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days...

**Many: When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up
sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

One: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down
with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little
child shall lead them.

Many: Come, Lord Jesus!

Gathering in God’s Name

***Opening Hymn** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” PH #10

Choral Call to Confession “Come and Fill Our Hearts”

lyrics:

Jacques Berthier

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**O God, too often we pray one-way prayers which allow
little time for listening and hearing you. We seek privileges
for ourselves, our families, our friends, our nation, —→**

with little thought for others. We even try to use you, bargain with you, or avoid you. And we pray for holiness in our church and homes at Christmas, rather than opening a year-long room at the inn for the stranger, the lonely one, the child. Restore us, O God. Let us see ourselves in your shining face...

(quiet prayer) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the Good News: God *does* rescue us. God *does* restore us. God's face *does* shine upon us - and we are forgiven.

Many: We come to the Table celebrating God's wondrous love, and accepting this forgiveness - and rejoicing. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

***Gloria Patri and Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Young Disciples Message

***Prayer of Gratitude for the Grace of Giving**

***Doxology and Dedication of Gifts**

Proclamation of the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Anthem

"Prepare Ye the Way"

Allen Pote

Second Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8

Sermon

"A Liberating Hope"

Communion Hymn

"One Bread, One Body"

see attached

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Saying what we believe with the Apostles Creed

Hymnal #14

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Sharing the Feast Together

Prayer after Communion



Responding to God's Word

***Closing Hymn**

"Live Into Hope"

PH #332

Sending Forth in God's Name

Benediction and Blessing

Benediction Response

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

William Walter, Ruth Duck

Postlude

"From Heaven Above"

arr. Gordon Young

First Scripture Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said...

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Second Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8

¹ The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations...
⁸ For I, the Lord, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.



**You can view our church's worship services
on public access television, Sundays at noon!
Midco channel #12 or #612 (Community Access TV)**

November Session Meeting date changed!

Next Session Meeting - **December 9, 2025**

6:00pm in the Church Parlor

NO Session Meeting in late December

Worship Participants:

Rev. David Reiter, Pastor

Debi Rogers, Chancel Choir dir.

Gail Snustad, Keyboards

Mark Jensen, Youth Ministry dir.

Donna Richter, Lay Reader

Josh Stokka, Audio/Visual Specialist

Clyde Johnson, Don Bigwood, Kimball Banks, Alice Nix,

Vic Sonneman, and Becky Rosenkranz ~ Ushers

This year's Tree of Love is 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 are on a small Christmas tree in the Narthex!



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!

Communion Hymn:

One bread, one body

Refrain G C/G GM⁷ C/G G D Em B

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all;

Em D G Em A D D⁷

one cup of bless - ing which we bless, and

G C/G GM⁷ C/G G D Em B

we, though man-y through-out the earth,

Em D G Em A D G C/G G

we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Em D Em D

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

Em F Am D *Refrain*

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text and music: John Foley
Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley and New Dawn Music

CCL #2845157



Devotionals are now available on the book shelf in the Narthex!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE PORT PILLOWS

Keep them coming!! The Sanford Cancer Center is in need of chemo port pillows for their patients. If you are interested in helping, there is a simple sewing pattern available in the church office. For more information, please reach out to Cathy Kinnischtzke. 527-3393.



Calendar

- Mon., Dec. 8 - **5:30pm** Worship & Music
6:30pm Scouts
- Tue., Dec. 9 - **11am** Strength & Balance Class
5:30pm AA meeting (room #201)
6:00pm Session
- Wed., Dec. 10 - **5:45pm** PAC/Teens
(Christmas Program practice)
6:30pm Westminster Chimes
7:30pm Chancel Choir
- Thu., Dec. 11 - **11am** Strength & Balance Class
2:00pm Yoga
6:00pm Hospitality
- Fri., Dec. 12 - *No Activities Scheduled*
- Sat., Dec. 13 - *No Activities Scheduled*
- Sun., Dec. 14 - **10:00am** “3rd Sunday of Advent”
“Joyous Music Sunday”



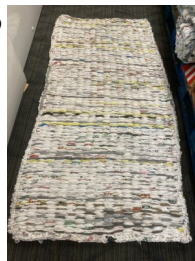
PER CAPITA

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Per Capita Special Offering is a special offering of our church that extends the entire year. We start to talk about it in January of each year and provide added information throughout the year in the form of periodic minutes for mission, special articles in the newsletter and church bulletins. Per Capita is the amount that the church must pay to the larger church for each member of the church. This year that amount is \$50 per member. We 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. Thank you.

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! THANK YOU



If you are looking to send a card to Pastor Leanne - her address in Mayo is:

**Leanne Simmons c/o
Gift of Life Transplant House
705 2nd Street SW room #31
Rochester, MN 55902**

Please remember flowers are not permitted!

LAY READERS NEEDED:



Please sign up to be a **Lay Reader** on the bulletin board.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Dec. 14	Joyous Music Sunday
Dec. 16	Noon – Blue Christmas Service
Dec. 21	Children’s Christmas Program “Red & Green Potluck” sign-up sheet is on the volunteer bulletin board
Dec. 24	4:30pm Christmas Eve (early service) 9:00pm Christmas Eve (late service) Communion
Dec. 24 & 25	FPC OFFICES CLOSED Merry Christmas!
Dec. 31	OFFICES CLOSING AT NOON
January 1, 2026	OFFICES CLOSED

STAFF

Rev. David Reiter, Fill-in Pastor

Maureen Chrest, Administrative Assistant

Carol Thompson, Financial Assistant

Carmen Bryhn, Parish Nurse

Erik Hein Sr., Maintenance

Arvy Smith, Pianist/Organist

Gail Snustad, Pianist/Organist

Debi Rogers, Chancel Choir Director

Lael Hoerauf, Westminster Chimes Director

Josh Stokka, Audio/Visual Specialist

Judy Lentz, Membership Services Coordinator

Mary Jones, and Laci Rauser, Nursery

Mark Jensen, Youth Ministry Director

Erik Hein Jr., Sunday Security

Connor Svihovec, C.E. Intern



We are so grateful for all the blessings God has given us!

We no longer pass the offering plates, our offering baskets are next to the exits of the Sanctuary. If you would like to give a donation to the ministry of this church you can also go to our website: fpcbismarck.com and click on the DONATE button. Thank you!

