



Hello May

2026

May 2026 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 73, Issue 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1
PARISH NURSE NEWS SUZUKI SPRING RECITAL MUNCH & MINGLE "UNDIE SUNDAY"	2
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE - CHURCH GARDEN	3
GRADUATE RECOGNITION UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES	4-5
CHRISTIAN ED ~ YOUTH CHANCEL CHOIR	6-7
BUILDING TASK FORCE PER CAPITA "THE BANQUET"	8
FPC SCHOLARSHIPS BRAG BOX	9
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS	10
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	11
CALENDAR	12

PASTOR LEANNE'S THROWBACK MESSAGE FROM MAY 2018

What will God do?

The Apostle Paul talks at length about variety of gifts and the diversity of callings that make up the church. He emphasizes that people of diverse backgrounds, nationalities, languages and experiences are poured into the same "gospel basket." He praises the fact that, when the church is doing the will of God as planned, all of their individual gifts are employed for God's use and again, their dedicated activities stir that "basket" resulting in surprises and miracles. God's work is accomplished through mere people which sometimes seem randomly tossed together, yet scripture assures us, God has a plan.

When it comes to the working of the church, I am a big believer that the diversity and individual giftedness of God's people is God's greatest delight. I really do think of a church as God's basket, which on occasion God shakes, just to stir things up, and the combination of gifts and experiences form and reform into amazing acts of grace and mercy. It can be uncomfortable for us, the church, to feel things shifting—people scatter to fill in the blank spaces and hold the community together—but this is never bad. It's something like the way that the pieces of a kaleidoscope can never land badly, just differently—but each movement only changes the beauty of the image, but never destroys it.

In less than a month, God is adding me to the First Presbyterian Bismarck "gospel basket." And, as the shuffling of gifts and diversity of experiences happens, the amazing Ashley is making an exit. That's actually a lot for one community to absorb in a short period of time. My experiences of First Presbyterian Bismarck tell me that you are up to the task ahead.

But, let us remember this: God never shakes up the basket without planning a surprise of grace that serves God's mission and advances the gospel. As I contemplate the upcoming years with you I cannot help but wonder: *What will God do?*

I always think that the key is openness to wonder, to surprise and to discovery—the kind of willingness to go along on God's ride that can only come in faith. For this we know—God has a plan and continues to show it to us in every change. Let us watch, wait, work and maintain our openness to wonder as we discover together what God will do.

Leanne



PARISH NURSE NEWS - Happy May Day!

The joy and suspense of May Day still exists in my neighborhood, with kids dropping off treats on the doorsteps of friends and neighbors while running away to hide after ringing the doorbell. This simple act of kindness reminds kids and adults alike that someone is thinking about us as summer is approaching. What great memories this creates!

The last day of Strength and Balance Class will be Thursday, May 21st. I plan to start up classes again after Labor Day in the fall. Please join us for the last couple weeks of class (Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11:00 am) so you can get in shape before the yard work and gardening begins!

There will be no blood pressure clinics throughout the summer, but please feel free to call and I would be glad to assist with a home or office visit to check your blood pressure. Please be reminded I am part-time staff and advanced notice is always appreciated!

Sincerely, Parish Nurse Carmen

"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come,
and the cooing of turtledoves fills..."
(Song of Songs 2:11-12)

Please come to the Suzuki Spring Recital!!

Here at First Presbyterian Church

Monday, May 4th at 6:00pm



Munch & Mingle!

Broadway Grill (100 W Broadway Ave.)

Noon - Broadway Grill & Tavern

Wednesday, May 6, 2026!

“Undie Sunday”

Boxers, briefs, hipster, granny pants, hi-cut, action figures, cotton or nylon - you decide...

The Hospitality Committee will be collecting appropriate NEW underwear of all sizes and shapes (kids and adults) on **Sunday, May 17th**.

During the service there will be an opportunity to toss the underwear into baskets (with help from our youth). Please consider helping with this project. All items will be distributed to the Heart River Correctional Facility and the Abused Adult Resource Center.



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

It's Garden Time Again

The Hospitality Committee is preparing for another year of planting and maintaining the community garden at Third Street and Teton Avenue. Produce from the garden will again be shared with community agencies and our congregation.

A garden needs more than sunshine, rain, and fertilizer however. This is where the congregation can really 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

Labor: Preparing the beds with fresh compost and soil

Planting

Weeding

Watering

Harvesting

Some of the labor is a one-time need, some jobs are occasional, but all help is appreciated. Stop by the garden some time to enjoy the wildflowers and other plantings. Feel free to pull any weeds you see!

If you would like to be involved through labor or donations, please contact either

Gail Christianson at 471-0969 kgmlchri@bis.midco.net

or Alice Nix at 751-7501 dnix15@bis.midco.net

Thanks!



5 FUN FACTS

ABOUT THINGS YOU MAY FIND IN YOUR GARDEN!

-  A sunflower is not just one flower. Both the fuzzy brown centre and the classic yellow petals are actually 1,000 – 2,000 individual flowers, held together on a single stalk.
-  Butterflies might be more attracted to your weeds than your flowers. Colourful blooms aren't the chief reason these insects love your garden – it's more about the fragrance and nectar.
-  Plants really do respond to sound. Talking to plants to help them grow is a well-known old gardener's tale, but studies have shown vibration (like music, or perhaps even the sweet sound of your voice) can affect plant growth.
-  There are more micro-organisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth. That fact might make you uncomfortable, but microbes are important for keeping your soil full of nutrients.
-  Did you know an adult ladybird can eat 5000 aphids in its lifetime?



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026

- PLEASE JOIN US -

HONORING OUR GRADUATES DURING

SUNDAY, MAY 17 WORSHIP SERVICE -

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS IN THE PARLOR!



Sebastian Charbonneau
Son of Barb Charbonneau.

(picture unavailable)



Ezekiel Toman
Son of Andrea &
Neil Toman.
After graduating
from home-school,
Ezekiel is planning
to buy cow-calf
pairs and move to
the farm.

Brag Box:

CONGRATULATIONS - Mark Jensen



Received his degree in Physical Education and Coaching from the University of Mary!

Thank you to all that have supported me over the last few years!



Upcoming Important Dates:

- Sunday, May 3 - Communion Sunday**
- Monday, May 4 - Suzuki Spring Recital @ 6:00pm**
- Sunday, May 10 - Youth Service (Mother's Day)**
- Sunday, May 17 - Undie Sunday & Grad Recognition**
- Sunday, May 24 - Day of Pentecost**
- Monday, May 25 - FPC OFFICES CLOSED (Memorial Day)**
- Sunday, May 31 - Trinity Sunday**

THANK YOU...

*for all the notes, cards, flowers and kind words of support (Admin. Assistant Appreciation Day)
from: your FPC Staff (Carol, Carmen, & Mo)*



CHRISTIAN ED:

In April the kids and teens had an Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you for all the donated Easter eggs and candy we really appreciate it! The kids also sang some songs for Palm Sunday and had a blast! Now we are practicing songs for Mother's Day in our Youth Service. We tried out a new activity called Bible City where it takes the kids through different Bible stories with games and activities in them. The kids and teens will be having their end of the year party soon!

Last night of PAC - May 13th, and last night of Teens - May 27th.

Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen





Please join us for the Youth Service
Sunday, May 10 “Mother’s Day”

I’m proud of our Chancel Choir’s amazing ministry!

We come to the close of a very challenging choir season. But despite health issues for Charlie and Otto, the “sky is falling” debris from the steeple collapse, the resulting three month hiatus to Ramstad Hall and Leanne’s illness, we stayed adaptable, positive and committed. The choir’s faithfulness; professionalism; and musicianship continue to guide our congregation with joyful, meaningful music. I appreciate you all beyond words.

Thank you Allen, Danette, Dominic, Erin, Jim, Jodi, Juanita, Kathy, Lael, Lynne, Nicolas, Nina, Otto, Sandra and Signe.

In addition, kudos to our accomplished accompanists. Thank you Andrea, Arvy and Gail for your dedication, kindness and astounding talent. I cherish you.

And thanks to Pastor Leanne, Mo, Carol and Worship & Music for their guidance, flexibility and excellence. It’s a joy to work, collaborate and laugh with our amazing team.

Sincerely, Debi Rogers
Chancel Choir Director



Updates on Roof Replacement and Tower Repairs

Contracts have been awarded to Twin City Roofing for the reroofing of the sanctuary and to Dakota West Contracting for the repairs to the interior of the tower. Work of the reroofing of the sanctuary by Twin City Roofing will not likely begin until late summer. When it does, there will be more information provided to church members and staff regarding potential conflicts between the use of the church property and the construction work.

The work on the tower is scheduled to begin in early May and will involve the replacement of the roof on the lower section of the tower that is open to the sanctuary. This will involve the placement of scaffolding on the exterior of the roof and should not impact the planned worship services and other activities planned for the sanctuary during the months of May and June.

Interior repairs to the tower that will impact the use of the sanctuary will take place in July and will require worship services be relocated to Ramstad Hall during the time when the repair work is being done within the sanctuary. Further information will be provided when we get closer to that time. We are hopeful that all work will be complete by the time the summer church season ends.

Look for more detailed information as the construction work progresses through the rest of the spring and summer.

Jim Skaret - Co-Chair Property & Equipment Committee

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



SAVE THE DATE

Our commitment for "The Banquet" at the Dream Center

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Thursday, November 26, 2026 sponsoring the Thanksgiving Day meal

Both events will need several volunteers... watch for sign-up sheets.



The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community. Applications are now being accepted from students within our Congregation who are enrolling or are already enrolled in higher education. The **deadline for applications is May 15, 2026.**

To be eligible for consideration, 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.

Generous, education-minded members of our Church who were anxious to help students accomplish their academic and technical goals gifted monies to scholarship endowments within our church since 1985. Since the scholarship program was established our Church has provided \$194,700 in educational assistance to students over the past 40-years!

Applications are available in the church office and for download from the front page of the church website at www.fcpbismarck.com. The deadline to apply is **4:30pm on Friday, May 15, 2026.**



Brag Box:

Minneapolis/Sartell, MN - Handbell Groupies

L to R: Jackie Maas (sister of Juanita Hocking), Sharon Berry (friend,) Matt Huggins, Erin Hocking, Brighe Huggins, Elise and Canaan Hocking, Tosh Hager Hocking



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

April 28, 2026

Clerk's Report

The death of Vern Spitzer on April 18 was recorded. Membership is 281.

Financial Report

Total Income YTD Actual	\$174,954	Budget	\$132,250
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$163,296	Budget	\$180,634
NET Income	\$11,659	Budget	-\$48,384

Committee Reports

Administrative and Personnel—Recently retired Pastor Mary Holtey (Fargo FPC) will fill the pulpit for Sundays in May and possibly longer. Pastor Leanne will be applying for temporary disability.

Hospitality—Juneteenth celebration will be discussed. Church scholarship deadline is May 15.

Proclamation-**Christian Education**—Six teens will be traveling to Moorhead for the Youth retreat. A second youth intern, Annabelle Wohl, will be sharing the work with Connor Svihovec.

Proclamation-**Worship and Music**—The Handbell dedicated account helped pay for travel and lodging for the March BellFest trip.

Property and Equipment—The scaffolding to repair the interior of the steeple will be erected in July. The interior work will be done by Dakota West Contracting and Twin City Roofing will replace the roof.

Resource Management—Patrick Liedtke has joined the committee.

Funding for the replacement of the roof and interior repairs will be covered by existing funds by closing the 3 Child Care Center funds and transferring the money to the Capital Improvement Fund at the appropriate time. The Building Endowment will also be used if needed.

Estimated cost of the roof replacement and repairs will be close to \$600,000. By the end of June, the HVAC loan (\$276,159.25) will be paid.

Board of Deacons—Kimball Banks and Jim Rambo volunteered to be part of the Nominating Committee. Cards were ordered and will be given to members in care facilities.

Nominating—Allen Hoberg and Shari Orser will serve as Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee.

Thanks to Stephan Schroeder (Mandan FPC) for serving as Moderator for the Session meeting.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 2026 - BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Alisha Wohl
May 2	Gary Thompson
May 2	Mallory Henriksen
May 3	Chris Henriksen
May 3	Kris Ronningen
May 6	Mark Jensen
May 9	Henley Ronningen
May 10	Jenni Boeckel
May 10	Tait Ronningen
May 13	Paige Pengilly
May 13	Luke Pengilly
May 14	Barb Satran
May 17	Carol Peterson
May 18	Denise Gratz
May 19	Delores James
May 19	Saige Klipfel
May 20	Grayson Hedland
May 22	Kathy Wachter
May 25	Laurel Stowell
May 26	Becky Taylor
May 26	Kaydee Gilchrist
May 27	Muriel Peterson
May 28	Runick Fru
May 30	Sebastian Charbonneau

MAY 2026 - ANNIVERSARIES

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



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

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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**
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	2 Youth Retreat in Moorhead, MN 5/1-5/3
3 10am Worship 5th Sunday of Easter Communion	4 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm Suzuki Spring Recital ! 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Chris. Ed	5 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA (#201) 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment	6 Noon - Munch & Mingle at Broadway Grill & Tavern 100 W Broadway Ave. 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir 6:30pm Lay Pastors	7 11am Strength & Bal. Class	8	9
10 10am Worship 6th Sunday of Easter Youth Service	11 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts	12 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA (#201)	13 5:45pm PAC (last night until fall) 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir (last night until fall)	14 11am Strength & Bal. Class 6:30pm Hospitality	15 4:30pm Scholarship Deadline	16
17 10am Worship 7th Sunday of Easter "Undie Sunday" Grad Recognition	18 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	19 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA (#201)	20 11:15am Resource Management 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:00-8:00pm Bells "Polish & Potluck"	21 11am Strength & Bal. Class (last class until fall) 6:30pm Deacons	22	23
24 10am Worship Pentecost Sunday	25 OFFICES CLOSED Memorial Day 6:30pm Scouts	26 2:00pm Yoga 2:00pm Presby Friends 5:30pm AA (#201) 6:00pm Session	27 5:45pm Teens (last night until fall)	28	29	30
31 10am Worship Trinity Sunday						