

Here
and Now!

JANUARY

January 2023

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE: "150 YEARS FAITHFUL"



"The essential thing "in heaven and earth" is that there should be long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living." Nietzsche as quoted by Eugene Peterson, "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"

In 1873, a Presbyterian minister named I. O. Sloan followed the train tracks westward, and arrived in Bismarck, ND. Bismarck was a wild town at the time, well-known for its brothels and gambling halls, and Sloan was determined to bring the light of the gospel into this city. Indeed, he did. Not only did he establish First Presbyterian Church, here on the corner of 2nd and Thayer, but he continued to found Glencoe Sloan and Mandan First churches, both of which continue to this day. For 150 years, we have been established here, on that same property carrying on the work of Jesus Christ.

That's quite a history. This church was here when Custer led his troops to their disastrous end at Little Bighorn. We were here through two world wars, a deep depression, 9-11, several disastrous droughts and floods, and most recently, a pandemic. One pastor almost single-handedly held the lottery back from this state for years – another led congregation members as they carried a coffin through the streets during the Vietnam War. Three different buildings served us over the years, lots of different pastors, deacons and elders – but now, here we are sliding into 2023, having been an active force for good in Bismarck – 150 years faithful.

And I suppose we could, if we liked, look back to what people call a "hey-day" – you know, a time when we had multiple choirs and bell choirs, two services, big budgets and a public reputation for status. But I, having entered our timeline only recently, don't really look at church life that way. I am not much for nostalgic romanizations of church – any church. I am more interested in knowing that the church in any era gave its utmost to be faithful in the times in which it is placed. What was faithful for the congregation that began in a wood-framed building in 1873 may well not be what is faithful to our congregation now, in our time. I take it for granted that those who went before us did their best to serve God in their circumstances – but now, it is our shift, our turn – to serve God NOW, in our times and circumstances.

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What 2023 will hold for us, I do not know. God knows, many of us have been holding our breath in anxious hope that the current political discourse will become more civil and that the public conversation about our common well being will become less conflictual. It is my conviction that, given the nature of our culture's pain, it is ever-more important that the church remain dedicated to fulfilling her call to be a pointer to the Kingdom of God. In every era, we should be the people who pull back against destructive trends and philosophies, and remain committed to modeling peace on earth, care of the poor and needy, and love for our neighbors as ourselves. We don't have to be the church we were, we have to be the church that God needs us to be NOW, because that is what we will ultimately answer for. So, family of God, Happy New Year and Happy Anniversary! In this new year, given us by God, let us seek to please our savior in our times, proving ourselves faithful for what God has next.

Leanne

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Welcome to 2023 everyone! We can start out this new year with a New Year's Resolution to become healthier and happier. I hope each and every one of you has a richer and healthier year. Happy New Year!



Come join us every Tuesday and Thursday from **11:00am - noon** for the **Balance & Strengthening Class** in Ramstad Hall.

Blood Pressure Clinic in the conference room, on **Sunday, January 15th** from 9:00am - 10:00am and from 11:00am to noon. Everyone is welcome!

GIGGLES:

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local bar and said that it was time to get ready, at the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck midnight - the bartender was almost crushed to death.



Did you hear about the guy who made breakfast at midnight on December 31st.
he wanted to make New Year's toast.



Dracula passed out at midnight on New Year's Eve,
there was a "count down."



“A Word with Wanona” -

I would like to introduce to you Merlin and Beverly Rudrud. Beverly was born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota. Merlin was born and raised in Hillsboro, North Dakota. Beverly had no sibling's, Merlin had one brother and one sister growing up.

Beverly's first job was working at Bismarck High School in the business office during her high school years. Merlin's first job was delivering newspapers in Hillsboro.

Beverly graduated from the Bismarck High School then continued her education at the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

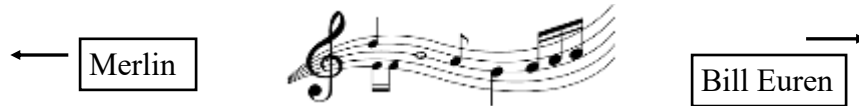
Merlin graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1944 then went to North Dakota State University. He enrolled in the U-12 Navy College Training Program which was designed to supplement the force of commissioned officers in the US Navy and grant bachelors degrees. He also attended Dickinson State College and Iowa State College before graduating from NDSU with the Bachelor's of Science Degree in Architecture. He joined Ritterbush Associates in Bismarck, North Dakota. Both Arlo Beattie and Merlin were architects at Ritterbush Associates.

Merlin and Beverly first met at a dinner party at Arlo and LaVonne Beattie's. It must have been a successful night because they married and have been married for life. When asked what is the most important event in your life? Both answered getting married and having their children!

Beverly is thankful for her health, Merlin, her wonderful parents, and children John and Paul. When asked who her hero is, well to my surprise she said Wanona Goetz. She said I am very friendly and take time to visit them both and other members of the First Presbyterian Church. Thank you Beverly for your kind compliments. I am truly humbled!



Merlin's hero was his music teacher from Hillsboro High School. William "Bill" Euren influenced Merlin to be the best trumpet player in their marching band. He was in awe listening to this man's performances, playing the trumpet like no other.



These pictures are from the 1944 Hillsboro High School Yearbook.

Beverly was born into the First Presbyterian Church with her ancestry being of the Scottish Presbyterians. Merlin joined the First Presbyterian Church in 1960.

Thank you Beverly and Merlin for sharing your life journey.

**In memory of Beverly, who passed away on December 27,
she will be sorely missed!**

Memorial Service at First Presbyterian Church - Wed. January 4 - at 11:00 am.

Breakfast with Santa - A Huge Success!



CCC BOARD AND STAFF

The Board and CCC Staff appreciates the wonderful turnout and the volunteers for the Breakfast with Santa event, held on Dec 3rd. Many thanks go out to Mark Zimmerman and the Boy Scout Troop 6, and their parents for the great breakfast prepared for the event! About 100 or more adults and children attended. In addition to the breakfast, the children enjoyed seeing and visiting with Santa, the puppet show presented by the teens and Pastor Leanne, and all of the hands on crafts which kept many entertained. The proceeds from the free will offering benefitted the Scouts of Troop 6, which our church sponsors.



THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

A huge thank you to all members of the congregation who donated to the Tree of Love. This year's recipients of the Tree of Love donations were three families whose children attend our Child Care Center. Due to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to provide the gifts requested by the families. Your generosity is appreciated.



CCC NEWS

The CCC needs list for January: Baby Wipes and Hand Soap



Birthdays and Anniversaries !



BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

Debbie Gross	1st
Jan Schultz	1st
Bernie Schue	2nd
Susan Johnsen	3rd
Betty Aide	4th
Wendy Skager	4th
Bill Jensen	6th
Marlys Schuler	8th
Mary Magnusson	10th
Robert McCallum	12th
Jade Fox	14th
Bev Patch-Larson	15th
Robin Volk	15th
Joe Bachmeier	16th
Pastor Leanne	16th
Ann Gallup	16th
Julie Poffenberger	20th
Linda Strandemo	24th
Fredrick Wohl	26th
Riley Ball	26th
Jody Bachmeier	29th
Kathy Henriksen	30th
Sue Sprynczynatyk	30th
Jerry Lindblom	30th
Karen O'Brien	31st



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS - 1:30 PM

VIA - ZOOM



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 ~

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

Runick & Anita Fru	7th
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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

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



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship “1st Sunday of Christmas”	2 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY 2023!	3 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class NO Prop. & Equipment NO Lay Pastors	4 11AM Memorial - Beverly Rudrud NO PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	5 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	6	7
8 10:00am Worship “Epiphany”	9 5:30pm Worship & Music 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts 7:00PM Christ. Ed -Zoom (deadline to get annual reports in)	10 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm CCC Board 6:30pm Lay Pastors	11 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	12 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	13	14
15 10am Worship “Baptism of the Lord” BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC	16 Noon -Resource Management 1:30PM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 4:30pm Admin. Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	17 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class	18 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	19 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Deacons	20	21
22 10:00am Worship Followed by Annual Meeting	23 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	24 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends at Augusta Place 6:00pm Session	25 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	26 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	27	28
29 10:00am Worship “4th Sunday after Epiphany”	30 5:30pm Suzuki 6:30pm Scouts	31 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class				



Hospitality Committee Donation Opportunity

During January, the Hospitality Committee will again be collecting donations for Ministry on the Margins. **Ministry on the Margins (MOTM)** is a volunteer-based ecumenical ministry committed to supporting those who fall through the cracks during times of transition. Every week they offer hospitality and coffee, a food pantry, prison-to-society support, an ecumenical Christian worship service, and many other ministries. First Presbyterian has supported MOTM for several years through Thanksgiving Dinners, Tree of Love donations of sleeping bags, and soap collections.

This year MOTM is asking for donations of **hand warmers, warm winter gloves, hats, and scarves** for men and women. The sub-zero temperatures and howling winds of the last few weeks remind us all of the need for appropriate outerwear. Our donations will certainly be welcomed by the clients of the Ministry, many of whom are homeless on the coldest days and nights of the year.

Donations will be gladly accepted at the Church anytime during January.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR YOUR HEALING TOUCH:

GRAEL GANNON

JOANNE & NILS PEARSON

ETTA & BERNIE SCHUE

ALICE & STAN HALLING

HELLO
JANUARY

**THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF:
BEVERLY RUDRUD**