

WELCOME TO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BISMARCK, ND



March 15, 2026

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

“IRISH SODA BREAD AND TEA SUNDAY”

We invite you to gather in the Parlor following the
worship service **TODAY** to enjoy
conversation, Irish Soda Bread with
jams, coffee, and Irish tea!



PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR **“LENTEN PRAYER CARDS”**

AND LEAVE THEM IN THE BASKET,
THESE PRAYERS WILL BE LIFTED UP TO THE LORD AT THE
GREAT PRAYER VIGIL - SAT., APRIL 4TH. THANK YOU!



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

“4th Sunday in Lent” 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 “O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God/To God
on High Alone Be Glory” Randall DeBruyn/Vincent Lubeck

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “When Jesus Wept” William Billings

***Call to Worship** (responsively) Transfiguration Signe

Leader: On the mountaintop, Jesus was revealed in glory.

People: We come seeking a glimpse of that glory today.

Leader: The light of Christ shines brighter than any earthly sun.

People: May that light illumine our hearts and guide our steps.

Leader: Moses and Elijah appeared, testifying to God’s saving work.

People: We join their witness, praising the God who speaks and acts.

Leader: A voice from the cloud declared, “This is my Son, the Beloved.”

People: We listen for that voice now, ready to follow where Christ leads.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

People: We lift our eyes to the Holy One, revealed in glory and present with us now.

Gathering in God’s Name

***Opening Hymn** “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” see attached

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)

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your ways and trusted our own understanding. We have spoken carelessly, loved selectively, and ignored the quiet nudges of your Spirit. Forgive what is broken within us and restore what reflects your grace. Turn our hearts again to your truth, that we may walk in humility, compassion, and faithful obedience. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Suzy

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

(Due to the large number of influenza cases, we think it would be wise to pass the peace without handshakes)

Young Disciples Message

Mark Jensen

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

Suzy

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of giving. You bless us with resources, compassion, and the joy of sharing in your work. Receive our offerings as signs of gratitude and trust. Shape our hearts to give freely, generously, and with hope, that your love may flourish through us and bless those in need. Amen.

***Doxology and Dedication of Gifts**

Suzy

Gracious God, we dedicate these gifts to your service. Use them to bring hope where there is need, compassion where there is hurt, and light where there is darkness. Shape our giving into acts of love that reflect Christ's grace. Bless both gift and giver, that your kingdom may grow in us and through us. Amen.

Proclamation of the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

Signe

Holy God, as Christ shone upon the mountain, let your light shine upon us now. By your Spirit, open our eyes to behold your glory and open our ears to hear your Beloved Son. Dispel our fear, quiet our striving, and draw us into your transforming presence. May the Word we hear shape us to follow Jesus with courage, clarity, and joy. Amen.

First Scripture Reading *2Kings 2:1-12 (NIV)*

Signe

Elijah Taken Up to Heaven -



When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

2 Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

3 The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.”

4 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.”

And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

5 The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.”

6 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.”

And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.

7 Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

10 “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the —————→

two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

12 Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

Anthem

“Pavonne”

Issac Watts,
arr. Andrea Klouse

Second Scripture Reading *Luke 9:28-36 (NIV)*

Suzy

Transfiguration

28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus.

31 They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. 32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. 33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” 36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Sermon

“When the Mountain Meets the Valley”

Suzy

***Confession of Our Faith (unison)**

We believe in God, who created all things in love and sustains the world with mercy. We trust in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, who lived among us, healed the broken, forgave sinners, and conquered death with resurrecting power. We rely on the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts, forms us as Christ’s people, and sends us to serve with compassion, courage, and hope. In gratitude, we offer our lives to God, seeking to walk in faith until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Responding to God's Word

*Closing Hymn "O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair" PH #75

Sending Forth in God's Name

Benediction and Blessing

Benediction Response "Shine Jesus, Shine" Graham Kendrick

Postlude "Abide With Me" William Henry Monk

Worship Participants:

Suzy Pfliiger, Lay Pastor

Debi Rogers, Chancel Choir dir.

Arvy Smith, Keyboards

Mark Jensen, Youth Ministry dir.

Signe Snortland, Lay Reader

Josh Stokka, Audio/Visual Specialist

Anita Fru, Wendy Skager, Cindy & Don Cross,

Karmen Svihovec, and Mary Magnusson ~ Ushers

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
As of today she has made over 100 mats!



Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home. *Fine*

1 I looked o-ver Jor-dan, and what did I see com - ing for to car - ry me home?
2 If you get there be - fore I do, com - ing for to car - ry me home,
3 The bright - est day that ev - er I saw, com - ing for to car - ry me home,
4 I'm some - times up and some - times down, com - ing for to car - ry me home,

to Refrain
A band of an - gels com - ing af - ter me, com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
tell all my friends I'm com - ing too, com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
when Je - sus washed my sins a - way, com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
but still my soul feels heav - en - ly bound, com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,

While ostensibly based on Elijah's ascent into heaven (2 Kings 2:11), this African American spiritual also communicates the enslaved people's hope that they might find deliverance across a river (i.e. in the free states beyond the Ohio). Call-and-response singing enhances this piece.

TEXT: African American spiritual

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Robert Nathaniel Dett, 1936

Music Arr. © 1936, ren. Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

CCL #2845157

SWING LOW
Irregular

Calendar

- Mon., Mar. 16 - **Noon** Resource Management
1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
4:30pm Admin. & Personnel
6:30pm Scouts
- Tue., Mar. 17 - **11:00am** Strength & Balance Class
2:00pm Yoga for Life
5:30pm AA (room #201)
- Wed., Mar. 18 - **5:45pm** PAC/Teens
6:30pm Bells
7:30pm Choir
- Thu., Mar. 19 - **11:00am** Strength & Balance Class
6:30pm Deacons
- Fri., Mar. 20 - *No Activities Scheduled*
- Sat., Mar. 21 - *10am Presbytery Meeting in Jamestown*
- Sun., Mar. 22 - **10:00am** - 5th Sunday in Lent

LAY READERS NEEDED:



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

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!





Lenten Schedule

**Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday at 10:00am
followed by Easter Egg Hunt for the kids!**

***NO MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE IN BISMARCK*
Thur., April 2 - Maundy Thursday at FPC Mandan - 7:00pm
(choirs will rehearse at 6:00pm)**

**Friday, April 3 - Good Friday at Glencoe Sloan
5:00pm - followed by a meal**

Saturday, April 4 - Prayer Vigil in Chapel - 11am-Noon

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday at 10:00am (communion)

Christian Ed Committee:

Christian Ed is asking for donations of Easter (individually wrapped) candy and plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday! Please drop off in the church office by **Monday, March 23**. Thank you!



**Scout Troop #6 is having a "Fill the Canoe" event:
March 28 & March 29 at
South Cash Wise (Bismarck Expressway)
Starting at 10:00am each day!**

They will be collecting food items for donation to -
The Dream Center in the name of Troop #6 & FPC

Scouting  America

Flowers this week are in memory of:

Frank & Mildred Collins



A gift from: **Karmen & Darin Svihovec and family**

Walk the Palm Sunday Path– Sunday, March 29 (3:00pm)

In Matthew 25, Jesus laid out these values for Christians: feed the hungry, heal the sick and welcome the stranger. First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck is a Matthew 25 church. We have an opportunity to individually demonstrate that we believe in these values by joining The Palm Sunday Path. The first step in this movement is participating in the Palm Sunday procession from Trinity Lutheran Church to the steps of the state capitol grounds where a communal worship and prayer service will be held reflecting the Matthew 25 values. More information about this opportunity is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please consider participating in the procession and worship service on **March 29th**.

CALLING ALL PINOCHLE PLAYERS



The Hospitality Committee is sponsoring a pinochle card party on **Sat., April 11, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the church parlor. This party is for all those who know how to play pinochle and those who wish to learn to play or to play better. Lunch and refreshments will be served. Come and bring friends and family! Have a good time socializing and playing pinochle! A sign-up sheet for attending and bringing something to share for lunch is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. For more particulars about the party see the March newsletter!



Easter Memorials

Each Easter we offer the opportunity to give donations in memory of loved ones. Monies from these memorials are directed to the Deacon's *Gift of Giving* program which supports the work of the Deacons and provides assistance to people in need. If you would like to make such a donation, please provide the following information **by Monday, March 30** to the church office: 223-6091 or email at firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

In Memory of

Given by

Amt _____

Donations can be made in cash or a check payable to 'First Presbyterian Church' with *Gift of Giving* indicated in the memo line. All memorials will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin (without amounts).



214 East Thayer Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 223-6091
firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com
www.fpcbismarck.com
OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-4:30