

2026

February

February 2026 - Here and Now Newsletter! Volume 73, Issue 2

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(Fill-in) Pastor David's Message:

Thank you, First Presbyterian Church congregation, for the opportunity to serve together once again for these past three months (during Pastor Leanne's medical leave).

You are a resilient, strong and faithful body of God's people. Additionally, you are a warm, gracious and welcoming congregation in every way!

Thank you for this invitation to serve, along with your willingness and readiness to be so very helpful in the various tasks of ministry that we undertook together. Yours is a culture and a climate of faithfulness to Christ—and a love for each other and your neighbors. Keep up the outstanding work!

To the church membership, leadership, staff, and Pastor Leanne - prayers for you will continue always from this twice-temporary pastor in Minnesota!

Many blessings,
Rev. David Reiter

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” *(Philippians 1:9-11)*



On the road again!

On March 6th, Westminster Chimes will be hitting the road again to attend BellFest! They will be joining 30+ other ringing ensembles at the North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills, MN to learn new techniques and perfect their skills. Handbell music arranger/composer Matthew Compton will be the clinician. The festival will culminate in a massed ensemble concert open to the public at 3:00pm on March 7th!



More February Sweets!

Westminster Chimes is extending Valentine's Day to **Sunday, February 15th!** Yes, Caramel Rolls will be for sale in the parlor that day!

If anyone would like to place orders for 6 or more to guarantee availability, a sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the narthex. Proceeds from the sale will help with their festival travel fund.



Munch & Mingle!

Broadway Grill (100 W Broadway Ave.)

**Noon - Broadway Grill & Tavern
Wednesday, February 4, 2026!**

PARISH NURSE NEWS -

As many of you know, cold and flu season is well underway. As a safeguard for all, here are a few CDC guidelines regarding respiratory viruses:

- ◇ **Stay home** and away from others if you have symptoms of fever, chills, fatigue, cough, or runny nose.
- ◇ You can return to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours your symptoms are better overall AND you have not had a fever (and are not using fever reducing medication such as Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen).
- ◇ Cover your coughs and sneezes; particles from sneezes can travel 26 feet if not covered!
- ◇ When you do go back to normal activities take added precautions such as **physical distancing, not touching your face and washing hands frequently** as well as consider wearing a well fitted mask.
- ◇ Keep in mind that you can still spread the virus that made you sick, EVEN IF you are feeling better.
- ◇ If you are feeling under the weather, consider attending church online via our Facebook page. For those who may need a COVID/flu home testing kit, I do have a few available. Masks and hand sanitizer will be replenished as needed and available during all church functions.

Upcoming blood pressure clinics will be held on **Sunday, February 8th and Sunday, March 1st from 9-10 and 11-noon in the conference room.** I will have medication disposal bags available at the blood pressure clinics as well.

Stay well and stay warm!

Sincerely, Nurse Carmen

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13



Blood Pressure Clinic - Sunday, February 8th

9AM-10AM & 11AM-12PM - IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM



Souper Bowl Sunday, February 8th

Our congregation’s annual tradition of collecting donations in SOUP pots on Super Bowl Sunday is Feb. 8th. Youthful members of the church will be waiting with soup pots in hand to collect free-will offering for the Heavens’ Helpers’ Soup Café & the Dream Center!

All donations are greatly appreciated.

**So, get in the game! Help make “Souper” Bowl Sunday
a real SUPER Bowl Sunday!**



DREAMCENTER
BISMARCK

CHRISTIAN ED:

This month the kids have come back from their Christmas break, the teens are painting the teen room to decorate it how they see fit. It isn't complete yet but is getting there. The PAC kids are enjoying some games, lessons, and food. January 30th - February 1st the teens will be at the Grand Forks Youth Retreat. So far there are 9 of them attending, I'll have some pictures from the event in the next newsletter. Thanks for checking in...

Youth Ministry Director, Mark Jensen



Brag Box: Ann Gallup
Celebrated her 95th birthday - January 16, 2026!



Brag Box:
**Vern and Vi
Spitzer**
**Celebrating their
75th wedding
anniversary**
February 11, 2026!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January 27, 2026

CLERK'S REPORT

The death of Dot Glaser on January 2, 2026 was reported bringing membership to 283. The Statistical Report was approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT (END OF YEAR 2025)

Total Income YTD Actual	\$560,067	Budget \$533,500
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$553,145	Budget \$618,615
NET Income	\$6,923	Budget -\$85,115

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Rev. Reiter praised the church for its adaptability and for "doing church well".

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Session approved the agreement with Mandan FPC for the One Call contract. Session approved the use of the church for the wedding of Breynn Sturlaugson and Michael Sullivan on June 20.

Hospitality—The annual meeting meal went well.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Several youth will attend a winter retreat in Grand Forks. There will not be an Ash Wednesday soup meal.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Lay Pastor Nancy Legerski will conduct communion on February 15. There are now battery-operated candles on the altar.

Property and Equipment—There are some vacancies in our parking lot that can be rented for \$55 a month. The pews used by the choir will be reupholstered soon. The contract with Twin City Roofing has been signed, estimated cost \$291,640.

Resource Management—Pledges for 2026 totaled \$317,440. \$2,630 was received for the Christmas Joy offering which goes to the Presbytery and \$753 was collected on Christmas Eve which goes to the Parish Nurse Fund.

Board of Deacons—Co-Moderators will be Vic Sonneman and Ella Gutzke; Secretary is Jody Bachmeier.

NEW BUSINESS

There will be a Presbytery meeting March 21 at the University of Jamestown.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





February

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY 2026 - BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 1	Abby Bjornson
Feb. 1	Annabelle Wohl
Feb. 5	Lorraine Dopson
Feb. 6	Judith Libby
Feb. 8	Billy Woodworth
Feb. 9	Paul Jensen
Feb. 9	Pat Liedtke
Feb. 12	Lyle Johnsen
Feb. 17	Josh Stokka
Feb. 21	Verlyn Larson
Feb. 22	Samantha Ronningen
Feb. 23	Cathy Kinnischtzke
Feb. 26	Tamara Gallup Lelm
Feb. 27	Priscilla Wilson



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 ~

FEBRUARY 2026 - ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 11	Vi & Vern Spitzer
Feb. 23	Jenni Boeckel & Corey Hedland
Feb. 23	Bryan & Wendy Skager



First Presbyterian Church

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons

Fill-in 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
1 8 10am Worship NO Communion 4th Sunday after Epiphany	2 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Scouts 5:30pm W & M *6:00pm JOINT CE & WM meet 6:30pm Chris. Ed	3 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 5:45pm Prop.& Equipment	4 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	5 11am Strength & Bal. Class	6	7
8 10am Worship 5th Sunday after Epiphany Souper Bowl Sunday Blood Pressure Clinic 9-10am & 11am-12pm Scouts Sunday-thank you to FPC	9 6:30pm Scouts	10 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA meeting (#201)	11 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	12 11am Strength & Bal. Class 6:30pm Hospitality	13	14
15 10am Worship Communion 6th Sunday after Epiphany Bells Caramel Roll Sale! 	16 Noon -Resource Management 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 4:30pm Admin. & Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	17 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 5:30pm AA meeting (#201)	18 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	19 11am Strength & Bal. Class 6:30pm Deacons	20	21
22 10am Worship 1st Sunday in Lent	23 6:30pm Scouts	24 11am Strength & Bal. Class 2:00pm Yoga 2:00pm Presby Friends 5:30pm AA meeting (#201) 6:00pm Session	25 5:45pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	26 11am Strength & Bal. Class	27	28