

Here and Now

January 2022

Volume 69, Issue 1

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE: CO-AUTHORING CHURCH

For many of us, the "Sound of Music" is a classic favorite. Yet, there is one line in one song that is often negatively targeted. The charming and vulnerable Liesel dances around with her would-be boyfriend, Rolf, and they sing, "your life little girl is an empty page that men will want to write on!" Many women have bristled a little bit at that line, objecting to the idea that they are passive receivers of the narrative of men. We women know that we do not approach any decision or relationship "empty" ready to be filled by another.

And neither do men – no one does. The truth about our life stories is considerably more complicated, as we all bring our own agendas to life decisions, try to discern who would make a safe contributor to our narrative and trying to avoid those who are not safe. In reality, though, we do not have total control over the people and things that ultimately write our life stories. At best, we are co-authors with those who enter and exit our lives.

There are, though, some who believe that our lives in God are just as the song states: bare empty scripts waiting for God to write God's will upon them. Some folks think that the human being is like a typewriter, with God punching every key to write holy words. I am not one of those people. I believe we co-author (for good and for not-so-good) the stories of our lives in God and that every day, we are heavily involved in the task of holy meaning making – meanings in our souls where our desires and God's desires meet for conversation. That's why scripture emphasizes obedience so heavily – for a mere human to work on a meaningful project with an all-knowing God requires attention and trust. Scripturally, that is why the Apostles stressed prayer as a means to access the Holy Spirit which God has given to all who believe. This is how we access God's side of the conversation, so that we can be faithful in our responses. We are important to the plan of God.

As we approach 2022, I believe that it is good to remember that we are co-authoring our individual story and our communal Church life story with God.

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PASTOR'S MSG CONTINUED

The only thing set in stone for us is the assurance that overall, in the big picture, God wins, and that when God wins, we win. But we have a role to play in the creation of our story, and we do it in uncertain times with no guaranteed picture of what steps we will be asked to take along the way. If we have learned anything from the last two years of pandemic, it should have been this: God requires a nimbly responsive people, who are attentive to divine direction through prayer and obedient from the heart with love – no matter what challenges come their way.

I am looking ahead; committee plans are already formed for 2022, and are in the constant process of reforming . . . but as the old proverb goes, “In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.” I believe we will be fruitful this next year only if we keep our eyes on God, seek God’s wisdom through prayer and determine to obey with joy in every circumstance. THAT is our highest way of making meaning and doing the will of God.

Leanne



GENEROSITY APPRECIATION

I would like to sincerely thank the individuals who gave to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Your gifts of \$1,060 have been sent to Presbyterian USA Mission Agency, the Northern Plains Presbytery Council, and the North Dakota Suicide Prevention Coalition. These funds will help to mend the many divisions that we have seen develop in our nation.

Thank you, again.

John Richter, Resource Management Committee

CHILD CARE CENTER NEWS

Happy New Year to all the Staff Members of the Child Care Center, First Presbyterian Staff and Congregation Members!

2021 has come to an end and we are looking forward to another great year working together as a team. We are looking to increase the attendance of children and praying the pandemic will be over and so we will be back to our normal routine.

We are looking forward working with our new Chair Person Paul Ronningen, our two new board members Damita Engel, Gail Christianson and our remaining board members Jan Gilchrist, Juanita Hocking, Tami Morey, Geoff Greenwood, Ella Gutzke, Director Shawn Stettner, Asst Director Vanessa Hein, and Pastor Leanne. Becky Rosenkranz and Carole Watrel are leaving the board and we thank them for their support and dedication to the Child Care Center.

We will be planning our schedule for the year in the Center as well as special events while maintaining the safety and protection for the children. Articles will be written each month to give you information on what has been accomplished throughout the year and other information that we feel is important to share.

Blessed New Year, Child Care Center Board Members



THE NEED FOR WARMTH

The Hospitality Committee is conducting a clothing drive for Myhre Elementary School during the month of January. **The school is in need sweatpants and underwear in sizes 5-16.** The sweat pants should be in neutral colors (black, gray, or navy) and the underwear can be for either girls or boys. These items are stored by the school social worker in order to provide dry clothes in case of accidents in the classroom or on snowy, wet playgrounds. These greatly appreciated items can be dropped off in the donation box in the church narthex.



WANONA'S "MEDICINE"

Three gals walk into a restaurant.

They are having a fun time and give their waitress a huge tip. Super excited about the tip, the waitress decides to tell them a secret. "In the women's bathroom, there is a magical mirror. If you tell it something truthful, you will be greatly rewarded. However, if you lie to the mirror, you will disappear in a poof."



Excited to try this mirror out, the women rush to the restroom. The first gal decides to show off and claim she is the most beautiful girl there. "I think I'm the most beautiful person at this restaurant." A million dollars appears in her hands.

The second gal is feeling a little offended. She decides to show off how smart she is: "I think I'm the smartest person in this restaurant." The keys to a Lamborghini magically show up in her purse.

The third gal, super excited to get something really cool, starts to tell the mirror something: "I think --" POOF. She was never seen again.

AND ANOTHER . . .

What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar on New Year's Eve? He got 12 months!
Now that is funny!



HAPPY 2022 FROM WANONA!

Wishing you all a Blessed New Year! What a struggle I'm having writing this month's newsletter article. I feel like I'm stuck in a rut . . . Covid19, Covid19, Covid19. Oh . . . and then there is Covid19. It's time for some laughter, which I normally have in good supply. The following is from a book, "Laughter for a Woman's Soul", but this works for everyone. It's written by Barbara Johnson: I heard someone say recently that laughter is her drug of choice. Simple as that! Laughter is the language of the young at heart and the antidote to what ails us. No drugstore prescription is required; laughter is available to anyone at any time.

Laughter's benefits show on our face, in our body language, and in the spring in our step. So who needs a face-lift or crazy diets that don't work? Did you know that one laugh burns six calories? Laughing is jogging (or jiggling) your insides. It increases heart rate and improves circulation, stimulates the immune system, and improves muscle tone of the abdomen. Dr. William Fry says, "Laughing heartily a hundred times a day has the same beneficial effects as ten minutes on a rowing machine!" There is nothing like a mouthful of laughter. Get some for yourself! Get your Covid vaccine when you are eligible! The sooner everyone is vaccinated and receive their booster, the sooner we can get back to church and its activities.

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I am still offering strengthening classes in Ramstad on Mondays at 10 am and Thursdays at 11 am. These classes will resume Jan 10th. Come join us. I will be gone the week of Jan 3rd to see the new arrival of my 8th grandchild. My daughter Kelly is scheduled for a c-section that day. I am so excited to hold and spoil this child. I am having a Blood Pressure Clinic on January 16th from 9 am to 10 am and 11 am to noon in the conference room. Everyone is welcome.

This month I have had the pleasure to interview Ann & Arley Gallup. I would like to present their life journey.

Ann was born in Kenmare, North Dakota because that was where a hospital was. Ann was the youngest of four siblings. The family lived in Portal North Dakota until Ann was in the 4th grade and they moved to Bismarck.

Ann attended Will Moore Elementary school, Bismarck Junior High and High School graduating in 1949. She enrolled at Jamestown College and received her two year standard teaching degree. While teaching, she received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. Ann taught kindergarten and elementary school for 41 years. Ann considered this her dream job and will always remember her students and families with whom she worked.



Ann's first job was looking up "kicks" at Will's Seed House. "Kicks" were complaints from the customers who ordered from the store. Ann screened the orders and would report them to her boss. Ann also worked during the summer supervising activities at the 16th Street Playground in Bismarck. There was a wading pool there that required supervision as well.

Arley was born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota. He had four sisters, one of which was his twin. His Dad worked for the city of Bismarck in the Street department. His mother stayed at home to raise the children.

He attended Richolt Elementary School, and also attended Bismarck Junior High and High School graduating in 1946. Arley's first job was pulling weeds out of onions at Will's Seed House. He attended Bismarck Junior College for two years. He worked as an operator and advanced to a shift foreman at the American Oil Refinery. He was employed there for 33 years.



When Arley was a junior he loved to roller skate at the local Bismarck rink. He spent many nights there. Ann also enjoyed roller skating and was especially thrilled to skate to music. She noticed this one tall gentleman who was a great skater and all the girls hoped he would ask them to skate with them. One night he asked her. You see, he also noticed a pretty girl who also loved skating and hoped she would skate with him during the "couples only" time. They soon became friends which grew to a romantic match in heaven. They both knew that they had met their soul mate. They soon married and have shared their life together for almost 70 years. - CONTINUED

When asked what event in their lives that was memorable to them, Arley said it was when he was in the army stationed in Korea. He clearly remembers stepping over the line that was China. Ann had one memorable event in her life and that was their trip of a lifetime. They traveled to Italy, France, Spain and Greece. She has wonderful memories of those far off places.



When asked to name their hero, Arley said his was Marsh Murdock, the shop teacher at Bismarck High School. He helped Arley see the beauty in wood-working and he shared his skills with the class. Ann had many heroes in her life including her dad, mother, Arley, her brother Hank and, of course, her children.

One very humorous thing that happened to Arley before he met Ann's Dad was a watermelon story. Ann's dad worked for a grocery company. Arley and some of his coworkers were walking home from the railroad job past the grocery store when Ann's dad picked out a watermelon for them to eat. Arley did not know at the time that that would later become his father in-law.



When Ann was young, she wanted to impress her friends with her horse-riding skills. She had become acquainted with her grandpa's horse and felt very confident in riding that horse. When her friends came, she got on that fine horse which abruptly started bucking and threw Ann to the ground. Needless to say everyone watching blurted out into laughter.

One goal that Arley had was to be a farmer. He loved planting and watching things grow. He married the love of his life and raised 3 beautiful children.



Ann accomplished three goals in life. She wanted to graduate from college with a teaching degree, get a teaching job in an elementary school in Bismarck, and marry her true love and have a family.

Arley was raised in the First Lutheran Church in Bismarck. He joined Ann's church after their wedding. Ann has always attended a Presbyterian Church, first in Portal, North Dakota and then First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck. Arley was active as a volunteer and a Deacon. Ann taught Sunday school, was a circle chairman, and a lay reader and usher at the early Sunday service.

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Thank you Arley and Ann for sharing your life journey.

TREE PROVIDES LOVE

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 much appreciated.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 28, 2021

ELDERS AND DEACONS-examination

Because the following were unable to attend the Called Session Meeting December 4, 2021, the following nominees appeared before Session. In-coming Elders, Matt Engel and Bill Jensen and in-coming Deacons, Lori Lee and Joe Satrom, all Class of 2023, described their faith journeys and reasons for serving. Session approved these new Elders and Deacons. Ordination and Installation of Class of 2023 Elders and Deacons will be January 9.

CLERK'S REPORT

The deaths of Vivian Kuipers, December 14 and Aaron "Bud" Johnson, December 13, 2021 were reported. Session approved the transfer of Pete Emerson and Gloria Blanco to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Beaumont, Texas. Membership is 347.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income	YTD Actual	\$462,925	Budget	\$462,257
Total Expense	YTD Actual	\$418,670	Budget	\$516,206
NET Income		\$ 44,255	Budget	-\$ 53,949
General Fund Unrestricted		\$294,675		



MODERATOR'S REPORT

Pastor Leanne thanked the office staff, musicians, CE Director, CCC staff, Elders, Deacons, Committees, HVAC project Chairs, Clerk of Session, and others who made the year a success. Special thanks to Lael Hoerauf for her volunteer work in the office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Dale Hoerauf, Chair, announced the hiring of Maureen Chrest as Administrative Assistant beginning January 4, 2022.

Hospitality—New committee members will be Joe Satrom, Runick Fru along with incoming Elders Diann Johnson and Bill Jensen.

Proclamation-Christian Education—the committee is recruiting new members. **Worship and Music**—Jamestown University Choir will be performing at FPC on Tuesday, February 22.

Property and Equipment—The water fountains will be replaced and have a bottle refill function. New faucets have been placed in the bathrooms.

Resource Management—To date \$317,838 has been received as pledges for 2022. The HVAC project will be completed when another training session on the control system is finished. The engineering firm will update the feasibility study for Phase II and III of HVAC project.

Board of Deacons—Kent Ellis will serve as Moderator with other Deacons filling-in as needed when he is absent.

Child Care Center Board—The stabilization grant of about \$5,000 has been received. Some health issues of children and staff resulted in the center being closed for a few days around Christmas.

Nominating—Session approved the following officers: Treasurer—Ella Gutzke; Assistant Treasurer—John Bjornson; Trust Officers—Keith Magnusson and Jodi Bjornson. Session elected Alice Nix as Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS

Session approved the change for the US Bank Safe Deposit Box to show Carol Thompson as Finance Assistant rather than Vickie Haas.

Session approved the Pastor Compensation package with a 3% increase, totaling \$118,869.13. The congregation also votes to approve at the annual meeting January 23.

There will be an organizational meeting of the FPC 150th anniversary committee after worship January 16. The committee seeks volunteers from the congregation. Also, each of the standing committees will appoint someone to serve.

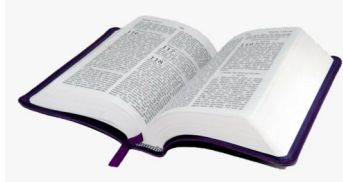
Alice Nix, Clerk of Session

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Debbie Gross	1st
Jan Schultz	1st
Bernard 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 Simmons	16th
Ann Gallup	16th
Dustin Bitz	18th
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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Runick and Anita Fru	7th
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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever read the entire Bible, clear through? The Adult Sunday School class is aiming to do that, and you are invited to join us. A reading schedule is available at the front desk. Then, every Sunday afternoon at 1:30, all who desire will be meeting by zoom to discuss what we read, ask questions and reflect on the reading. If you would like to be on that zoom list, please email Pastor Leanne at lsm609@aol.com, and she will add you to the list!

Please let us know if we've made a mistake or omission or if you would prefer not to have your special day published.

~ Thank you ~



FAMILY NEWS

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Lynn Dodge on the death of her father Bud Johnson on December 13th and the David & Danette Pengilly family on the death of Dennis Pengilly on December 23rd.

Congratulations to Gus Shockman and Alyssa Leintz on the occasion of their marriage December 31st.

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

Parish Nurse

Wanona Goetz

Youth Ministry Assistant

Marete Snortland Farver

Organists

Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad

Choir Director

Debi Rogers

Handbell Ensemble Director

Lael Hoerauf

Maintenance Manager

Tony Bartole

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

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 COMMUNION 10:00 am Worship NO Adult SS	3 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Christian Ed < Wanona gone	4 5:45 pm Property/Equipmt > > >	5 NO PAC 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Choir > > >	6 > > >	7 > > >	8
9 CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY 10:00 am Worship 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult Sun. School	10 < Shawn gone 10:00 am Exercise 5:30 pm Suzuki 5:30 pm ZOOM Worship/Music 6:30 pm Scouts	11 > > 5:30 pm CCC Board	12 > > 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	13 11:00 am Exercise Class 6:00 pm Hospitality ZOOM	14	15
16 am Blood Pressure Clinic - Conf Rm 10:00 am Worship 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult Sun. School	17 10:00 am Exercise Noon Resource Mgmt 5:00 pm Admin/Personnel 6:30 pm Scouts	18	19 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30 pm W. Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	20 11:00 am Exercise Class 7:00 pm Deacons	21	22
23 10:00 am Worship ANNUAL MEETING NO Adult Sunday School	24 10:00 am Exercise 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts	25 6:00 pm Session	26 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30 pm W.C. 7:30 pm Choir	27 11:00 am Exercise Class	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship 1:30 pm ZOOM Adult Sun. School	31 10:00 am Exercise 5:30 pm Suzuki 6:30 pm Scouts					