



Greetings,

As winter winds down, make sure to take precautions when walking outside, as the melting ice and snow can make for hazardous conditions. Speaking of the spring warm-up, daylight saving time begins in March, so don't forget to "spring ahead" one hour on Sunday, March 8.

On behalf of all of us at First Bank & Trust, I thank you for your continued business. I hope the first few months of 2026 treat you well!

Merrisue



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Ingredients

- 8 cups lower-sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups chopped sweet onion
- 1 ½ cups carrots, peeled and coarsely chopped
- 2 celery ribs, coarsely chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 4 thyme sprigs
- 2 fresh bay leaves
- 2 ounces Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese rind, plus grated cheese for garnish
- 4 ounces uncooked pastina pasta
- 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- Fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves, for garnish

Source: allrecipes.com

Italian Chicken Pastina Soup

Directions

1. Bring broth, onion, carrots, celery, garlic, and salt to a boil in a large saucepan or small Dutch oven over high. Reduce heat to medium low, and simmer until vegetables are softened, about 10 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer vegetables and 1 cup of broth to a blender.
2. Secure lid on blender and remove center piece to allow steam to escape. Place a clean towel over opening. Process until smooth, about 30 seconds. Stir blended carrot mixture back into soup.
3. Add thyme sprigs, bay leaves, and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese rind. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Add pasta, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer, stirring occasionally, until pasta is tender, 18 to 20 mins, adding shredded chicken in the last 3 minutes of cooking.
4. Remove from heat. Remove then discard thyme sprigs, bay leaves, and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese rind.
5. Serve with grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese and enjoy!

Upcoming Events CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

2 **Groundhog Day**

11 **First Class Club Day** – Join us for coffee and treats from 9 to 11 AM. Bring your documents to shred until 4:30 PM.

14 **Valentine's Day**

16 **Presidents' Day**

- Bank location closed.

MARCH

8 **Daylight Saving Time begins**

17 **St. Patrick's Day**

20 **First Day of Spring**

FUN SPRING ACTIVITIES:

- Go for a hike or walk.
- Go birdwatching.
- Take a scenic drive.
- Start an indoor herb garden.
- Host a spring-inspired DIY project workshop (soap making, paper flowers, etc.).
- Host a spring-themed party (Spring Break or Spring Equinox).

