



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

preach, teach, heal, & serve

September 10, 2023

The Session and members of First Presbyterian Church Fargo extend a sincere welcome to you. We are grateful for your presence today! We welcome all persons regardless of race, nationality, disability, gender or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services and to serve as an officer of the church.

Everyone is invited for lunch and fellowship in the courtyard after worship.

We recycle! If you are not taking your bulletin, please drop it in the blue bin at the door as you leave.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE

The Max Johnk Trio

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of new beginnings, thank you for your unwavering provision. We trust that your peace will watch over us as we start a new season of our lives. We will rely on the riches of your love and grace to provide for our physical, emotional and spiritual needs. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

This is the day that the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We give thanks for a God who gives justice to the oppressed.

We give thanks for a God who forgives us and redeems us.

God is worthy of our thanks and praise. **Let us worship God!**

***HYMN 372**

O for a World

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.

Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

***CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves but fail to show mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown us.

***RESPONSE 581**

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist and Kayla Bones

SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:15-18:1

Brian McClure, reader

SERMON

The Language of the City

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***HYMN 327**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong: Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



OFFERING

Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

OFFERTORY

The Max Johnk Trio

***RESPONSE 606**

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN 295**

Go to the World!

Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place. Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray; the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.

***BENEDICTION & TABLE GRACE**

POSTLUDE

The Max Johnk Trio

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO



Rally Sunday

September 10, 2023

Serving at Micah's Mission continues: Thank you to those who have been preparing and serving meals at Micah's Mission (part of Churches United for the Homeless). Our commitment continues every second Thursday of the month. A sign up sheet is on the Volunteer Opportunities Board if you wish to help for September and October. We have all the servers we need, but we are still looking for meal preparers from 3-5pm. Consider forming a team, or being part of a team. See Pastor Mary if this is for you! Come and be a part of this longstanding partnership.

Lectio Divina: Are you interested in exploring Christian writings in a new way? You're invited to join the *Lectio Divina* class at First Presbyterian on Sundays at 9:15 – 9:45 am in Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, beginning on Sept. 17. *Lectio Divina* ("holy reading") is an active but gentle process to help you slow down and listen to your inner thoughts as you read and reflect, then share your insights with others in the group. No experience is needed. Come and enjoy a meditative start to your Sunday morning worship experience.

COLLABORATE
WITH



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO



HEART-N-SOUL
COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Join us every second Wednesday of the month,
through October, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, for
delicious food and great fellowship!

New Member Sunday: If you or someone you know is interested in joining the church as a member at First Presbyterian, please contact Pastor Sarah or Pastor Mary in the church office. We will be welcoming new members into the congregation on September 24th.

Covenant Of Prayer: Tom Kley; Dale Rage; Jennifer; and the people of Maui and Ukraine.

We celebrate with Payton and Aubrey Decoteau upon the birth of a baby girl, Natalie Anne, on September 4.

Bdecan Church Clothing Closet: School has now started, and the Clothing Closet needs to be resupplied with clothing for children of all ages. As you are cleaning out your closets and drawers of your young people, please consider donating gently used items no longer in use. Clothing can be left in the Coat Closet. If you have questions you can contact Jan Carlsen at (701) 239-0054 or Jane Mathew at (701) 261-9777. Thank you!



Youth Group & Music Ensembles:

Wednesday evening activities have started up again for the fall here at FPC! If you have not yet registered your child for youth group or music, you can access the registration form via the QR code. If you would like to fill out the form on a computer, you can find links on the Children, Youth, and Music ministry pages!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS PRESBYTERY

Fall
Gathering

SEPT. 23 @ 10AM

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?
THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Cost is \$15. RSVP by Sept. 18 to
Lana Schultz at (701) 238-4538
or Lanaj0@casselton.net

FPC will be hosting the Fall PW PNP meeting on Sat. Sept. 23. Contact Nancy Lium for more information.

Dinners for 8-ish: Dinner for 8ish is an opportunity for adults (*singles or couples*) to share a meal with other church members just for fun and fellowship. When you sign up, the questions you answer will help us create groups of 7-9 who share similar preferences. The mystery is part of the excitement! For more information, or to sign up, scan the QR code; you can also find a link on our website.



Hearing devices and large print copies of today's hymns are available, please ask an usher for assistance.

Nursery: Staff will be present **beginning at 9:15** for infants-3 years, in the nursery complex on the 1st floor.

Activity Bags for Children: Fun-filled tote bags are located at both doors.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located in the Gathering Space and on the lower level.

Prayer Request Cards: Cards are in pew racks for your use. Prayers will be committed to God along with the other offerings and also lifted up in prayer by the staff.

Peace Candles: The candle burning on the chancel symbolizes peace. We ask guests to take a candle back to your church as a gift from us. Peace candles can be found at the Welcome Center, near the west doors.

Wi-Fi: Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. (password: community650)

FPC Officers

Session: Abi Carlson, Kim Carter, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Church Treasurer: Sherri Stern.

Church Staff

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*

Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*

Shawn Neisen-*Adult Choir Director*

Penny Andrist-*Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Kayla Bones-*Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Jan Lundgren-*Business Manager*

Casey LeMier- *Communications & Admin Assistant*

Rick Fiebiger-*Facilities Manager*

Drew Brovold-*Custodian*

Staff emails are: (first initial and last name of person)

@firstpresfargo.org

Presbyterian Women

INTRO TO BIBLE STUDY

Sacred Encounters

THIS WEEK

Led by Rev. Mary Holtey

Sept. 12 @ 1:00pm
in the JRR

All women of the
church are invited!

Heavenly
dessert included



L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom
Times shown in italics indicate am.

Sunday, September 10

11:30 Sunday School Meet-n-Greet

11:30 Lunch in the Courtyard

5:30 Confirmation Kick-Off

Monday, September 11

5:00 Stewardship Committee Check-in

Tuesday, September 12

1:00 PW Intro to Bible Study

5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, September 13

4:30 Heart-n-Soul Food Truck

5:00 Wednesday Dinner Begins

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:00 Health Fair Committee Meeting (H)

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 14

9:30 Town Hall Board Meeting

5:30 Nurturing Families

5:30 Confirmation Service

Friday, September 15

No Church Events

Saturday, September 16

No Church Events

Sunday, September 17

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation Lesson 1

Reminder: Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website! Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!

For Your Information

September 3 Attendance: 108

88 in person

20 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$3,185.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org