



**February 12, 2023**  
**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany**

*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 coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Space 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.*

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRELUDE**

Kathleen Thompson, guest organist

### **WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Happy are those whose footsteps follow the way of the lord –

**the path of justice and mercy that draws us toward wholeness.**

Happy are those whose hearts delight in the law of the Lord –

**teachings that root us in love, sustain us in hope, and nurture generous spirits within us.**

Happy are our souls when we gather to worship the Living Lord –

**the Fountainhead of Grace, the Giver of Life. Let us worship God!**

### **\*HYMN #63**

*The Lord Is God*

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,  
O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.

At night or day, at home, away, together and apart,  
O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

### **\*CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**God of steadfast love, how often do we utter careless words that humiliate or harm? How often do we lash out in anger, when we could reach out with kindness? How often do we hurt those we love and tear away at relationships that give life? Forgive us, we pray. In your abundant mercy, give us the grace to confess our faults, to seek forgiveness, and to work for reconciliation in our**

homes and our communities. Turn our hearts back to you and teach us the ways of love, so that we might hold fast to one another, and draw near to your presence.

**\*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**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Thy Holy Wings*

arr. Diemer

Sanctuary Choir; Shelley Zietz, directing; Wanda Wavra, piano;  
Alyssa Miller, cello; Krista Clusiau, flute

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Penny Andrist

## **The Word**

**SCRIPTURE**

*Psalm 119:1-8, pp. 555*

Jen Johnston, reader

*Matthew 5:21-37, pp. 880*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Upright Hearts*

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

**\*HYMN 175**

*Seek Ye First*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and its righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
seek, and you shall find;  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Allelu, alleluia!

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Scots Confession: CHAPTER VI  
The Incarnation of Christ Jesus (excerpts)

**When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.**

*Background: The Scots Confession was written at a turning point in the history of the Scottish nation. The Protestant nobility of Scotland was able to secure English recognition of Scottish sovereignty in the Treaty of Edinburgh after the Queen Regent Mary of Guise died in her sleep in 1560. To the Scots, this favorable conclusion to the civil war with Mary's French-supported forces represented a providential deliverance.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## 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.

## Responding to the Word



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

### OFFERTORY

*Peace Like a River*

arr. Waldrop

Genesis Ringers; Jeff Olson, directing

### \*RESPONSE

*We All Are One in Mission*



We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call, our var - ied gifts u -  
nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all. A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com -  
pels us from a - bove to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.

Text: Rusty Edwards; music: Finnish folk melody  
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### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Bearing the Word into the World

### \*HYMN 546

*Lord, Dismiss Us*

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

Kathleen Thompson, organ



**PW Bible Study Leaders:** On Feb. 15 Pastor Mary Holtey will present the Bible Study on Lesson 6 in the office conference room at 2:00pm.

**PW Circles:** Circles will meet Feb. 21 in the Jennie Roberts Room; Naomi/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30am and the Rachel Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Jan Kenien at (701) 280-2391.

**Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed:** Valley Senior Services is looking for volunteers to help deliver meals weekdays over the Noon hour. Call (701) 293-1440 for more information or go to [valleyseniors.org](http://valleyseniors.org) to fill out a volunteer application. Delivery takes about 1 hour and routes are available throughout the city of Fargo and West Fargo.



**Pancake Dinner:** The Association of Holy Friends (AOHF) Confirmation Team will be hosting a Pancake Dinner in preparation for the Lenten season. From 5:30-7:00 pm on Feb 21, you are invited for a dinner of pancakes, eggbake and sausage, and to learn about the history of the Fat Tuesday tradition. If you are planning on joining us, please sign up online via the QR code by Friday, Feb 17.

**Covenant Of Prayer:** Beatrice Janaka's family; Don Brummond, son of Joyce Brummond, with serious medical concerns; Jennifer; those in the FM-Area who are homeless; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; and the people of Ukraine.

**Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer:** If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include their name.

**New Pilgrimage Class: The Way of Discernment:** We make decisions constantly--some with careful reflection, some without much thought. What if we understood these decisions, minor as well as major, as matters of faithful Christian living? Join Paul Campbell, Commissioned Ruling Elder, in exploring the role of discernment in our lives.

**Recommended reading:** *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making* by Elizabeth Liebert.

Feb. 16 & 23 at 7:00 pm; hybrid format. For more information contact Mike Wavra at [wavramw@aol.com](mailto:wavramw@aol.com).

**Men's Bible Study:** The Men's Bible study meets again on February 14th at 6:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. Egg bake, pastries, and coffee will be served this winter. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this month takes up the 5th lesson in the study guide to the Book of Job. A copy of the study guide can be obtained from Bruce Maylath by e-mailing him at [ring4linguist@yahoo.com](mailto:ring4linguist@yahoo.com). No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** Sunday morning Adult Bible Study is reading through Genesis. This is your opportunity to explore the details and themes of the first book of the Bible. All levels of background are welcome. The class is lecture based with some audience participation. Each class is designed to be complete on its own, so please feel free to come when you are available. The dates are February 26; March 5, 12 & 26; April 2, 16, & 30; May 7.

**Pilgrimage Retreat Openings:** The Pilgrimage retreat to St. John's Abbey with renowned spiritual guide and teacher David Keller has a few spots available to anyone in the congregation. Scheduled Friday, April 14 to Sunday, April 16, the retreat is designed for people who yearn for a time of quiet reflection to contemplate the compassion and generosity of Jesus. For information on cost and other facets of the retreat contact Mike Wavra [wavramw@aol.com](mailto:wavramw@aol.com). Signup ends Feb. 28.

**We Need Pillows:** The YWCA is running terribly low on pillows. We have "shoppers" if you prefer to make a cash donation for pillows. Help us bring sweet dreams to the women and children of the YWCA. Pillows continue to be placed in the West Foyer coat room.

**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 8:45** 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

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*  
Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*  
Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*  
Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*  
Bryan Poyzer-*Adult Choir Director*  
Penny Andrisc-*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**

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

### **Sunday, February 12**

*11:30 Fellowship*

### **Monday, February 13**

5:30 EduCon Committee Meeting

6:30 Session & Board of Deacons Meeting

### **Tuesday, February 14**

*6:45 Men's Bible Study*

*10:30 Staff Meeting*

### **Wednesday, February 15**

2:00 PW Bible Study Leaders

5:30 Genesis Ringers

5:30 St. Andrews Brass

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

### **Thursday, February 16**

5:30 Nurturing Parenting Classes

7:00 Pilgrimage Discernment Class

### **Friday, February 17**

No Church Events

### **Saturday, February 18**

No Church Events

### **Sunday, February 19**

*9:15 Sunday School*

*10:30 Worship (L)*

*11:30 Fellowship*

**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

February 5 Attendance: 204

167 in person;

37 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$12,132.00



### Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)

Get In Touch

# Presbytery of the Northern Plains

*A vibrant, informed, Presbyterian Community that  
nourishes ministry and joins in Christ's Mission*

 **Phone Number**  
701-772-0783

 **E-mail Address**  
pnpoffice@gmail.com

 **Mailing Address**  
5555 South Washington Street  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201



“ Per capita is like  
everyone contributing  
a dish to the potluck  
meal

“ it's like everyone  
chipping in for gas  
when we're all on a  
trip together in the  
same vehicle

*Do not neglect to do good  
and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices  
are pleasing to God.*

Hebrews 13:16

Understanding your

## Per Capita Giving

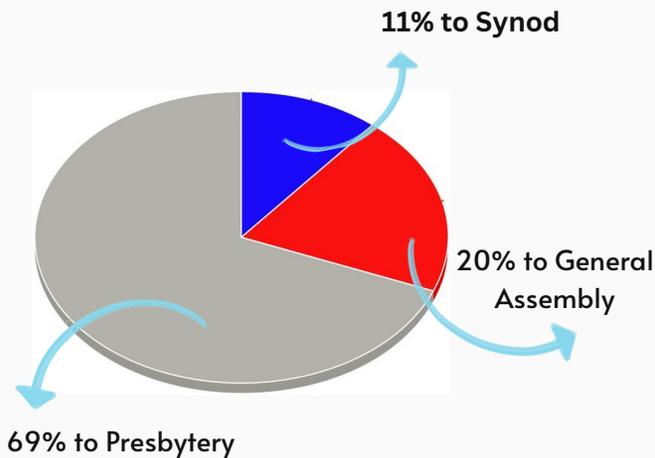
Per capita exists as a way for all  
Presbyterians to share costs that belong  
to the whole church.

Members share equitably the costs required  
to connect and coordinate over 8000+  
churches together into one larger body  
so we can further the mission of  
Jesus Christ around the world.



Where your money goes

# Per Capita Breakdown



## 2023 Per Capita

GA \$9.85

Synod \$5.50

Presbytery \$34.65

### \$50 per member

*Per capita apportionment for a given year is based on church memberships two years prior.*

Every church's Session is encouraged to understand their church's share to help fund the greater work of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



226th General Assembly (2024)

June 29 - July 6, 2024

Salt Lake City, UT

## examples of dollars at work at the General Assembly Level

- ✓ Expenses related to holding the GA meeting
  - The GA Meeting
    - reviews the work of synods
    - resolves controversies in the church
    - is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church
    - protects the church from errors in faith and practice
    - assures the church's expression of theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions
    - serves as a symbol of unity for the church
- ✓ Publish & distribute the Book of Order, The Book of Confessions, and other General Assembly publications
- ✓ Provide a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and gatherings in this country and worldwide - extending our mission efforts and our work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do by ourselves!

*The Presbytery of the Northern Plains pays 100% of each member's Per Capita share to the General Assembly and Synod as required by the Book of Order.*

## examples of dollars at work at the Synod Level

- ✓ Presbytery staff and mission support
- ✓ Synod school & clergy seminars
- ✓ Disaster & emergency assistance for churches



## examples of dollars at work at the Presbytery Level

- ✓ Pods, committees, & task forces
- ✓ Ministry team administrative expenses
- ✓ Education & inspirational events
- ✓ Presbytery meetings
- ✓ Presbytery personnel & administrative expense
- ✓ ...and so much more!

Per Capita is the main source of funding used to make investments back into the local churches