



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.

November 9, 2025

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

*Lobt gott ihr Christen
Duke Street
Elliot Sander, organ*

arr. David N. Johnson
arr. John Ferguson

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Eternal God, great and wondrous are your ways! You call us gently, yet with power, as a Shepherd calls the sheep, leading us to safety and life abundant. You watch over us, guide us, and restore our weary hearts. Open our minds to your truth, our hearts to your love, and our lives to your service, that in all we do, we may bless your name and dwell in your care, this day and always. Amen.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

**Come, all who seek the Lord,
for Christ knows each of us by name.**

**The Good Shepherd leads us to pastures of abundance,
restoring our souls and guiding our steps.**

**Let us worship the One who knows us fully.
With open hearts, let us worship God!**

✦ HYMN 187

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.**

We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Loving and merciful God, we confess that we do not always live as your people. We ignore opportunities to speak truth, to offer help, or to share hope. We doubt your love. We resist your call. Forgive us, O God, and renew us in your mercy. Help us to turn toward you and toward one another. Teach us to walk in your ways. Remind us to love more deeply. Inspire us to serve faithfully in all we do. Amen.

✧ **RESPONSE 452** *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you; **(repeat)**
to see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love as we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”
Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

✧ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Word

SCRIPTURE *Acts 2:42-47, pp. 993* Scott Swanholtm, reader
John 10:1-10, pp. 977

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Shepherd Who Knows Us* Elder Rusty Bender

✧ **HYMN 802** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1,2,5,6)*

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

The Sacrament of Communion

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The words spoken by the pastor bless the bread and cup on the table and all the elements that are an extension of this table.

HYMN OF APPROACH 521 *In Remembrance of Me*

We dedicate this beloved hymn in honor of The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey's retirement at the end of 2025. This hymn has touched her heart throughout her ministry.

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor.

In remembrance of me, open the door and let your neighbors in, let them in.

Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember too,
that this is my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love.

In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart, look for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Fantasy on RESTORATION*

arr. Brian Childers

(see Hymn 415 for lyrics)

Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Responding to the Word



MINUTE FOR MISSION—*Great Plains Food Bank* Bruce Maylath
Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

OFFERTORY

Gentle Shepherd
Elliot Sander, organ

W. Gaither / arr. Sander

✦ **RESPONSE 647**

Give Thanks

We dedicate this beloved hymn in honor of The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey's retirement at the end of 2025. This hymn has touched her heart throughout her ministry.

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. **(repeat)**

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" **(repeat)**
Give thanks. Give thanks.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

✦ **HYMN 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

We dedicate this beloved hymn in honor of The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey's retirement at the end of 2025. This hymn has touched her heart throughout her ministry.

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”
Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

✦ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Lead On, O King Eternal
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. Sander

Thank you to Ally and Josh Trumbo on livestream and soundboard, Scott Swanholtz for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Colleen Ford-Dunker, Kevin Thomas, Bruce Maylath, Kathleen Thomas, Rick & Shirley Herberg, Chuck & Geri Munro, Abi Carlson, Kathryn Byrd, Sharon Secor, and Tom Dawson for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Elliot Sander, and the Westminster Ringers directed by Jill Post.

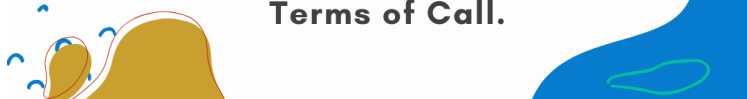


Serving at Micah's Mission: Our next date for Micah's Mission is Thursday, November 13. We just need one person to help serve from 5:00-7:00pm. The menu consists of Stouffer's lasagna, garlic bread, salad, vegetable, and dessert. Come and help with this vital project! Please sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the West Foyer if you're able to help. Thank you for your continued support of Micah's Mission and Churches United for the Homeless!



Nov. 23 following worship

**The purpose of this meeting
is to elect Church Officers
and approve the Pastor's
Terms of Call.**



Retirement Party for Pastor Mary: First Presbyterian Church of Fargo invites you to join us for a luncheon celebrating Pastor Mary as she retires after 33 years of faithful service. The luncheon will take place on Sunday, December 7th, following worship in the Social Hall. No RSVP needed! Questions? Contact Casey in the church at clemier@firstpresfargo.org. The festivities run from November 23 to December 28, 2025. Even if you cannot attend the lunch, come any Sunday to congratulate Mary.

Upcoming Opportunities to Celebrate

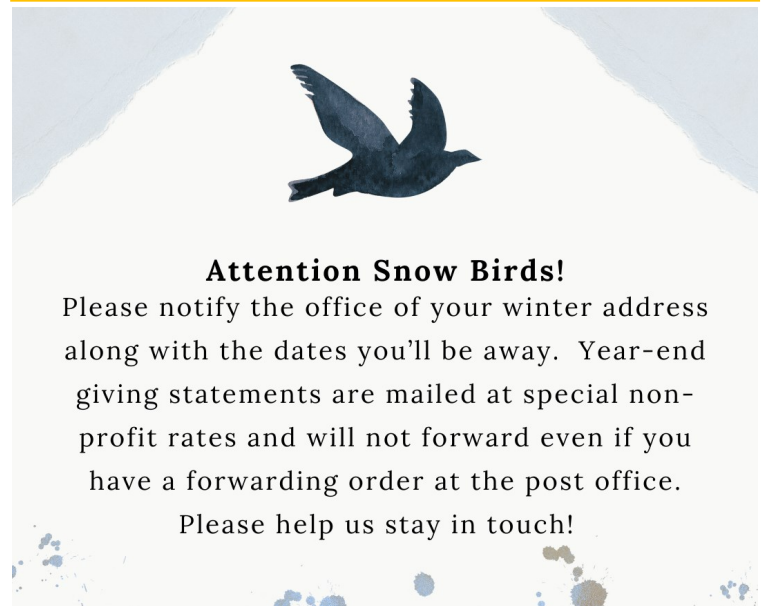
- November 23 - Mary's final Sunday to preach
- November 30 - *Behold the Promise*, celebrating Mary's pastoral care
- December 7 - *Behold the Branch*, celebrating Mary's mission
- Luncheon to follow worship at 11:45 a.m.
- December 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Behold the Healing*, celebrating Mary's teaching

Covenant of Prayer: David Hoffman, back surgery; Penny Andrist, immunotherapy; Beatrice Janaka's husband, James; Brad Schenck, brain cancer.



2nd Annual Peace Summit : Together we create peace by making room for every neighbor—addressing hunger, homelessness, and the call to belong. Building on last year's call to create community in a chaotic world, this year's Peace in Pandemonium summit invites us to take the next step—Making Room at the Table. We'll explore what it means to live peace through radical hospitality, shared sustenance, and compassionate action. Join us on **Saturday, November 15** for a day of reflection, story, and solidarity as we confront hunger and homelessness with courage and care. Be part of a community where everyone is seen, valued, and welcomed. **Tickets are free!** Find more information about the event on Facebook & Eventbrite.

Quad Piano Concert, Nov. 16! Please join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 16, at 4:00 pm for an exciting concert featuring Four Steinway Pianos played simultaneously, as well as two- piano duos and piano duets. Ten pianists will be participating in works by Brahms, Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, Gershwin, and others. There will be a reception following the recital. A free-will offering will be taken to support the maintenance and tuning of the church's pianos.



Hearing devices 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: Curt Brickman, Kathryn Byrd, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Jim McEvers, Sharon Secor, Paula Thomas (clerk), Jeff Wilkens, and Steve Wonderlich. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Dianne Connelly, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Sydney Goddard, David Hoffman, Gayla McGoldrick, Wayne Sander, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Kevin 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*

The Rev. Cathie Bishop: *Parish Associate*

Rusty Bender: *Director of Church Life*

Bryan Poyzer: *Adult Choir Director*

Elliot Sander: *Interim Organist*

Carrie Lawrence: *Sunday School 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**

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

November 2, 2025 Attendance: 223

840 in person

114 households livestreamed

Contributions received: 13,051.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

650 2nd Ave. N.

Fargo, ND 58102

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

Sunday, November 9

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation Session I

Monday, November 10

7:00 FM Music Club Program (L)

Tuesday, November 11

6:45 Men's Bible Study

5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting (H)

Wednesday, November 12

10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders

12:00 Management & Finance Meeting (H)

5:00 Wednesday Activities Meal

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Bells

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 13

12:15 Centering Prayer

3:00 Preparing @ Micah's Mission

5:00 Serving @ Micah's Mission

5:30 Nurturing Families Class

6:00 Pilgrimage Course I

Friday, November 14

No Church Events

Saturday, November 15

10:00 2nd Annual Peace Summit

Sunday, November 16

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Remembering the Saints in Worship (L)

11:30 Fellowship

4:00 Quad Piano Concert (L)

5:30 Confirmation Session II

Lighting candles in worship

**All Saints
Sunday
November 16**

