



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*preach, teach, heal, & serve*

*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 26, 2023**

**We Gather in Christ**

**PRELUDE**

*Trio on "Let All Things Now Living"*  
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Michael Helman

**WELCOME**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*God of majesty, you love us with an everlasting love and show us the way to justice and peace. In Jesus Christ you have reconciled the whole world to you and claimed us as your own, that we may live as his body on earth and, with all the saints, enter into your glory on the last day. Amen.*

**✧ CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord God is our shepherd.

**We are the people of God's pasture,**  
the sheep of God's hand.

**God will seek the lost,**  
feed the hungry,  
**and strengthen the weak.**

But the proud and power-hungry  
**will be fed with justice.**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

**✧ HYMN 268**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs 1-3)*

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

### ❖ CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You guide us towards right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead. You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne. Amen.**

### ❖ RESPONSE 48

*Rain Down*



Musical notation for the hymn "Rain Down". It consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your peo - ple." and "Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.\_\_\_\_\_".

### ❖ PASSING OF THE PEACE

## The Word

#### SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 25:31-46, pp. 904*  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Bruce Maylath, reader  
*Whirl Story Bible pg. 270*

#### SERMON

*Seeing is Believing*

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

#### \*HYMN 700

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

## Sealing of the Word

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks.

### 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

#### HYMN OF APPROACH 510

*We Gather Here in Jesus' Name*

We gather here in Jesus' name; his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;

for through the loving Son the Father makes us one:

come, take the bread; come drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here; everyone belongs.

Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here: he breaks the bread; the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;

the one we love the most is now our gracious host:

come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

We are now a family, of which the Lord is head.

Though unseen, he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing; we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;

now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:

come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

### COMMUNION MUSIC

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

arr. Wilbur Held

Sally Harmon, organ

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## Responding to the Word



### OFFERING

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

### OFFERTORY

*The King of Love*

arr. Shawn Niesen

Sanctuary Choir, Shawn Niesen, director; Sally Harmon, piano

**RESPONSE 712***As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

As those of old their first - fruits brought of vine - yard flock and field to God, the giv - er  
of \_ all good, the source of \_ boun - teous yield, so we to - day our first - fruits bring, the  
wealth of this good land: of farm and mar - ket, shop and home of mind and heart and hand.

❖ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION****Bearing the Word into the World**❖ **HYMN 852** *When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.

When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice.

When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice, will rejoice, will rejoice.

When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice, will rejoice, will rejoice.

We will rejoice, will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice, will rejoice with gladness.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice, will rejoice, will rejoice!

When the Lord returns in victory, we will rejoice, will rejoice, will rejoice.

When we live in glorious liberty, we will rejoice, will rejoice, will rejoice.

We will rejoice, will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice, will rejoice with gladness.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice, will rejoice, will rejoice!

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## 2026 Officers – Elders

Mindy Argall Colleen Ford-Dunker Kurt Kooyer



Jeff Wilkens



Steve Wonderlich



## 2026 Officers – Deacons

David Hoffman



Wayne Sander



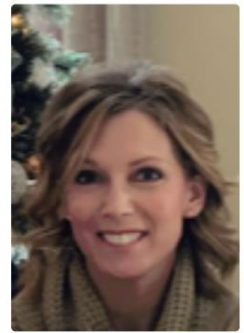
Kathleen Thomas



Debbie Tight



Amy Wilkens



## Nominating Committee At-Large

Mark Danielson



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### ✦ BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune on "Let All Things Now Living"* arr. Michael Helman  
Sally Harmon, organ

# New Terms of Call for Pastor Sarah 2024

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Salary	30,000.00	32,370.00
Housing & Utilities	45,000.00	45,000.00
Board of Pensions	30,810.00	31,734.30
SECA Reimbursement	5,737.50	5,918.81
Contractual Expenses (403(b), professional, travel, et cetera)	8,100.00	8,100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>119,647.50</b>	<b>123,123.11</b>

## Other Agreements 2024:

Vacation:	30 days, including 5 Sundays.
Study Leave:	16 days, including 2 Sundays. Cumulative.
Continuing Education:	Expenses are cumulative up to three years provided pastor declares them for future use by the end of year so session can set aside funds.

# New Terms of Call for Pastor Mary 2024

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Salary	52,508.76	57,000.00
Housing & Utilities	18,000.00	18,000.00
Board of Pensions	29,711.46	31,463.04
SECA Reimbursement	5,393.92	5,737.50
Contractual Expenses (medical, professional, travel, et cetera)	5,900.00	3,200.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>111,514.14</b>	<b>115,400.54</b>

## Other Agreements 2024:

Vacation:	30 days, including 4 Sundays.
Study Leave:	21 days, including 3 Sundays. Cumulative.
Continuing Education:	Expenses are cumulative up to three years provided pastor declares them for future use by the end of year so session can set aside funds.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF FARGO



# Sunday Worship

November 26, 2023

**Congregational Meeting, Nov. 26:** A Congregational Meeting has been called for today following worship in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Church Officers and approve the Pastors' Terms of Call.



**Covenant Of Prayer:** Kayla Bones; Tom Kley; Dale Rage; Jennifer; peace in the Middle East; and the people of Afghanistan, Libya, Morocco, Maui and Ukraine.

**Photo & Information Updates:** Take a new photo for this year's holiday cards? If so, please email a copy to the church office at [admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org), or bring a hard copy into the office to be scanned. This is also an opportunity to make sure all your information is up to date! The office is hoping to put out a Hard Copy Directory in early 2024.

## Swedish Meatball Feast

December 3rd after the Hanging of the Greens service

11:30 Lunch will be served in the Social Hall with bingo starting at 1:00 until 3:00



Free will donations will go towards a youth ski trip

Come watch a demonstration on Lefse

Meal is provided by youth confirmation group

**Concordia's 97th annual Christmas concert:** Experience the region's grandest musical tradition performed by more than 300 student musicians. "Rejoice and Sing!" will feature three choirs and a 75-piece orchestra and will be performed in front of a magnificent 140'-wide mural. Concert dates are Dec. 1, 2, and 3. For tickets, call 888-477-0277 or visit [ConcordiaChristmas.com](http://ConcordiaChristmas.com).

OUR CONFIRMATION TEAMS PRESENT

# BINGO!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Be sure to stick around after worship to play Bingo as part of a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network.

- In the Social Hall -

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S  
CHRISTMAS TEA

Featuring the  
Ransom Notes Quartet

December 5, 2023 @ 1:00pm

Join us for a program with Scripture  
and a special Christmas story.  
Festive treats to follow!

**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*

The Rev. Cathie Bishop-*Parish Associate*

Sally Harmon-*Organist*

Pam Burns-*Music Ministry Coordinator*

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**



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

### **Sunday, November 26**

*11:30* Congregational Meeting

*11:30* Fellowship

*11:45* Decorating the Sanctuary

### **Monday, November 27**

5:00 Stewardship Committee Meeting

### **Tuesday, November 28**

No Church Events

### **Wednesday, November 29**

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

### **Thursday, November 30**

5:30 Nurturing Families

### **Friday, December 1**

No Church Events

### **Saturday, December 2**

No Church Events

### **Sunday, December 3**

*10:30* Hanging of the Greens Service (L)

*11:30* Meatball Dinner & Fellowship!

1:00 Bingo

7:00 FMAYS Concert

**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 19 Attendance: 213

173 in person

40 households livestreamed



### Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

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

**Puzzle Exchange:** Clean out the closets and cupboards and bring your jigsaw puzzles to church to exchange for one you've never done. You can start bringing puzzles in to the office anytime. On December 10, look for the big table full of puzzles in the Jennie Roberts Room.





# Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

We encourage you to purchase poinsettias for the Christmas season! A printed list of the names of the donors and the names of the persons being honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

Please **PRINT** your name; indicate how many poinsettias you would like, and if you would like to offer this flower in memory of, or in honor of someone special. Orders are due to the office **no later than noon on December 14. Payment is due with your order.** *Please write a separate check for your poinsettia; do not include in your offering.* Thank you!

You can pick up your poinsettia at the church **after Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, Dec. 24**, or during office hours any day after that. Office hours are 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, M-TH.

Your Name (**PRINT**): \_\_\_\_\_

## Size Options

*Please PRINT. If more space is needed, please use back of order form.*

6" Poinsettia (\$15.00)

To the glory of God

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_