



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.

July 20, 2025

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

In Christ Alone

arr. Sander

*Stand Up and Bless the Lord
Lord, In the Hollow of Thy Hand
Elliot Sander, organ*

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

*Lord, teach me to sit at your feet and listen, to seek your wisdom above all else.
Help me to be attentive to your presence and open to your guidance today. Give me
the courage to insist others have the same privileges. Amen.*

✧CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Come, all who seek wisdom and understanding.

We come to sit at the feet of Christ and learn from him.

Come, all who long for peace and purpose.

We come to quiet our hearts and listen to God's word.

Come, let us worship the One who guides us on the path of life.

We come to seek the One who gives us understanding.

✧HYMN 664

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning;

blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

✧CONFESSIO AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Gracious God, we confess that we often turn debates into battles so we don't actually have to solve anything. We allow cultural norms to dictate who is valued, whose voice matters, and who deserves respect. We fail to challenge systems that make some people work harder than others for far less in return. Forgive us for accepting injustice as normal. Give us the courage to build a world where everyone is valued and free. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

✧RESPONSE 48

Rain Down

Rain down; rain down;
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down; rain down;
rain down your love, God of life.

✧PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

Walk On Water

Todd Holdman

Erin Holdman, soloist; Todd Holdman, guitar

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 4:1-9, pp. 576

Luke 10:38-42, pp. 946

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

SERMON

The Beginning of Wisdom The Rev. Sarah M Bigwood

✧HYMN 174

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

✧ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

Responding to the Word



OFFERING MESSAGE

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

OFFERTORY

Clair de lune

Claude Debussy

Nancy Norris, piano

✧ RESPONSE 652

A Grateful Heart (vs. 1)

A grate ful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my of__ fer ing. A
mong the saints I lift__ my voice: in you, O God, I will__ re joice.

✧ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

❖HYMN 697

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

❖BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. Sander

*Thank you to Eleanor Torpey and Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard,
and our Welcome Team: Kathryn Byrd, Debbie Tight, David Hoffman, and our
Youth for taking such good care of us this morning.*

*A special thank you to our musicians: Erin and Todd Holdman, Nancy Norris, and
Elliot Sander.*



Heart-n-Soul is looking for Volunteers! HnS is looking for a variety of volunteers throughout the summer to help out with cooking, prepping, serving, and greeting for their Mobile Cafés. If you are interested in helping out, please visit their website at <https://heartsoulcafe.com/volunteer/>, or you can contact Leola at heartsoulcc@gmail.com.



4 F's Group Outings:

- Monday, July 28th at 10am— Bonanzaville - Cost is \$10.50 and then lunch at Deaner's Diner in West Fargo. RSVP by July 24th.
- Thursday, Aug. 7th at 11:30am — Lunch at Nova Eatery on Broadway, 1 block north of Fargo Theatre. RSVP by August 4th.

Any single women 55+ are welcome to join this informal social group. Please let Marcia or Elaine know if you will be attending, so that tables can be reserved

Marcia: 701-840-1986, ndmomfoss@gmail.com

Elaine: 701-793-6614, elainerudd1@hotmail.com

Bolster Up!

Adult Vacation Bible School

Come to one or all four nights!

Mon: Bruce Maylath

Translating the Bible: Risks and Pitfalls

Tues: Brian McClure

The Scottish Covenanters - Part of Our Heritage - an Inspiration

Wed: Lisa McEvers

Faith Through Failure

Thurs: Scott Holdman

Holdman Brothers Evening

Join us for Bible Lessons and hymn singing, with refreshments to follow

July 28-31 | 7PM

Covenant of Prayer: Beatrice Janaka's husband, James; Brad Schenck, son of Richard Schenck (BD) fighting brain cancer.

Handbell Ringer Concert—Hosts Needed! STRIKEPOINT will present a handbell concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, August 3rd at 7 PM. Strikepoint is an adult community/professional handbell ensemble based at United Methodist Church in Duluth, MN. **We are looking for hosts to provide overnight housing to the ringers!** Following the concert, the hosts will take the guests home overnight and then provide a simple breakfast before returning the ringers back to the church on Monday morning by 8:30 AM. If you are interested in hosting, or if you have questions, please talk to Pam Andrist-Burns after worship or email pburns@firstpresfargo.org. Thanks for the hospitality!

Emergency Food Pantry: Items placed in the large tote box in the coat room go directly to the FM Food Pantry each week. They are currently in need of peanut butter; they are also short of canned frostings for birthday bags, which people request for their children who are celebrating a birthday in the next 2 months. There is a great need for personal care items, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, laundry soap, dish soap, deodorant, cleaning supplies, feminine products, shavers, and shaving cream. Starting in August, school supply bags will be made for children.

Elliot Sander Summer Organ Recital: This music-filled evening starts at 7pm and will serve as a fundraiser benefit for the Red River Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Works from Bach, Beethoven and Haydn will be featured. Guest performers, Alex Swanson and Sally Harmon will be joining Elliot for the performance. The star of the show is our church's exquisite 59 rank Schantz pipe organ. There will be a reception following the recital Friday, August 15th; we hope to see you there!



Help Us Share Comfort and Care This Summer! These simple items offer protection and dignity to those spending time outdoors without consistent shelter. *Thank you for your compassion!*

Serving meals at Micah's Mission. We will continue to serve at Micah's Mission throughout the summer on the second Thursday of every month. Signup sheets are at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the west foyer for August, September, and October.

Hearing devices, as well as **large print copies of today's bulletins and 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: 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*

Pamela Andrist-Burns: *Music Ministry Coordinator*

Bryan Poyzer: *Adult Choir Director*

Elliot Sander: *Interim Organist*

Carrie Lawrence: *Sunday School Coordinator*

Jan Lundgren: *Business Manager*

Casey LeMier: *Communications & Admin Assistant*

Rick Fiebigler: *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, July 20

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, July 21

No Church Events

Tuesday, July 22

4:00 Church Picnic

Wednesday, July 23

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Thursday, July 24

No Church Events

Friday, July 25

No Church Events

Saturday, July 26

Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Kentucky

Sunday, July 27

10:30 Worship Service

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

July 13, 2025 Attendance: 125

87 in person

38 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$13,937.65



Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

650 2nd Ave. N.

Fargo, ND 58102



Menu includes hot dogs,
hamburgers, watermelon,
and rootbeer floats!

**Bring a friend,
All are welcome!**

*Sponsored by
the Deacons*



Church Event Parking: If you are frequently at the church during workday hours, please stop by the office for a "church event" parking permit rear view mirror hang tag, or you can call the church office and we'll leave one for you to pick up on Sunday. Occasionally, there is a walk-through done of the parking lot to identify those who should not be parking here. If you do receive a yellow warning ticket, don't panic, call the church office to let us know.