



October 16: Second Sunday of Stewardship

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of our salvation, you are the source of wisdom and joy. Your love and mercies are not limited to one time or to one people. You continue to heal and to save, transcending the artificial boundaries and barriers we set. For such expansive love, it is our right, duty, and joy to offer you all our thanks and praise, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship
Alex Swanson, guest organist

arr. Hustad

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas, the pounding of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;

you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN 612**

We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.

When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Even before we admit our sin, God promises to hear us with mercy. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, there are days when we feel that our lives are just mindless routines, that we are stuck in a rut. We forget that you are a God of wonder and might. We resist learning or exploring because we feel more comfortable in our busy schedules and overworked lifestyles. Help us to let go of "former things, the things of old." Remind us of the sheer joy we feel when we seek you and find you, in that which we long ago deemed mundane or declared trivial. Restore in us a curiosity which heals and renews. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, the one whose love gave us new life. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

The God who knows you through and through, whose own body and blood were given for your freedom, who calls you to renewal every day, by grace has made you clean. Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel, **in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***RESPONSE 155**

Raise a Song of Gladness

Musical notation for the response "Raise a Song of Gladness". The music is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The lyrics are: "Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-ples of the earth. Christ has come, bring-ing peace, joy to ev-ery heart. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev-ery heart! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev-ery heart!"

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

Light of the World

Marrolli

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director;

Jessica Poyzer, piano; Kathleen Thomas, violin

*This anthem was given by our choir members in memory of Mary Bohnenblust,
long-time member of the Sanctuary choir.*

Light of the world, you loose the bonds of night.
Once we walked in darkness; now bursts forth your light.

Christ, in your glory, come to light the way; teach us how to follow.
Light of our paths, you walk with us in strife. Where conflict darkens, bring the light of life.
Christ, in your mercy, come to show us love, Teach us how to follow!
We must be your hands, lent to heal and bless.
We must be your light, rending wide the darkness.
Christ, in your image, we will greet the world; this is how we follow.
Light of our days, we feel your dawning call; send us forth to serve and bring your light to all!
Christ you have claimed us, made us one. We will always follow!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Penny Andrist

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Scott Swanholm, Reader

Almighty God, in you are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 65

Praise is due to you,
O God, in Zion;
and to you shall vows be performed,
O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.
When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.
Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.
By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.
By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.
You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.
You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly,

settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

May God bless the reading and hearing of this portion of the holy Word.

SECOND READING

Luke 5:17-26

One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven you.’ Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, ‘Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, ‘Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven you”, or to say, “Stand up and walk”? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the one who was paralyzed—‘I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.’ Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, ‘We have seen [amazing] things today.’

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

SERMON

Awe and Wonder

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***HYMN 26**

Earth and All Stars!

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!
Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!
Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Heidelberg Catechism (adapted from questions 27 & 28)

I believe in the providence of God which means, the almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty— all things, in fact, come to me not by chance but by his fatherly hand. My knowledge of God's creation and providence helps me, to be patient when things go against me, thankful when things go well, and for the future I can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate me from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

Background: Soon after Luther posted his ninety-five theses, Lutherans and Reformed Christians established The Heidelberg Catechism to help settle their divisions. Their work was completed in 1562. Each question of the catechism is personal, addressed to "you." Its theology is both catholic, universal in appeal, and evangelical, setting forth the gospel of Jesus Christ. Providing a basis for peaceful coexistence between Lutheran and Reformed Christians. The influence of the Heidelberg Catechism in the church's preaching and teaching continues to be felt in Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, parts of Eastern Europe, Scotland, Canada, and the United States.

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



MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

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

OFFERTORY

He Touched Me

Gaither/arr. Curnow

Bryan Poyzer, alto saxophone; Jessica Poyzer, piano

***RESPONSE 611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Bearing the Word into the World

*HYMN 37

Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the oceans proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living united in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on "Duke Street"

arr. Paxton

Thank you to Alex Swanson, our guest organist today. Alex took organ lessons from Tyler Engberg, who was a long-time member of First Presbyterian. Alex is one of the house organists for the Fargo Theater who plays the Mighty Wurlitzer!



Greetings from Chogoria: Our team has made it safely to Chogoria! We have shared your greetings with our partners, and they are happy to hear from you. We thank you so much for your support through your prayers, supplies, and funds. *Asante Sana* (Thank You Very Much in Kiswahili)!

Town Hall: The Town Hall Lecture Series continues this week, on October 18 with actor and historian Joe Wiegand. This new season includes a new day, Tuesdays at 10:30 am, and a new location at Prairie Heights Church, 319 32nd Ave. West Fargo. Please visit fargotownhall.org for more information.

Piano for Sale \$200: Do you know a young musician starting piano lessons this year? The church has an extra piano that could use a new home! This Everett spinet piano, with bench, is in good condition. The buyer will need to have it moved. For further information, contact Sally Harmon, sharmon@firstpresfargo.org.



All Saints Sunday October 30: On Sunday, Oct. 30, during worship we will name and recognize those church members who have died this past year. There will be an opportunity during worship for family members to come forward to the chancel area to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones. All are invited to participate in this meaningful time to remember either recent losses or saints who have gone before us.

Kirkin' o' the Tartans: We will have two services on Sunday, November 6: 9 am and 11 am. This year the Celtic dancers, pipers, full orchestra and Kirkin' Choir will all participate! The service will be livestreamed for convenience of anyone who prefers to watch from home. Don't forget to bring your piece of Tartan Plaid with you to the service so that you can participate in the traditional "Calling of the Clans". Postcards to invite friends and family are available to pick up at the Welcome desk in the foyer.

Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; the people of Ukraine; and our mission team in Kenya.

Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: Lt. Col. Dan Sundberg will return from Iraq in December. If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

ManUp Bible Study for Men: ManUp kicked off its monthly study for the program year on October 11th at 6:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines the Book of Job. A copy of the study guide can be obtained by requesting a copy from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study

All Treats, Some Trunks, No Tricks!

We are looking for people willing to bring candy, as well as hand it out. There will be stations set up inside for people who want to stay warm. Scan the QR code for more information or to sign up to decorate a trunk and hand out candy.



We Have New Neighbors! In the former Dawson Insurance Company building across the church parking lot is a new agency that helps unsheltered veterans. The mission committee thought a fall Holy Buckets drive would be a warm way of welcoming the Veterans Center into the neighborhood. We will be collecting items for the Veterans that are **brand new** and still have the tags on. They are in need of:

winter coats (M-3XL), cold weather hats/caps (no homemade ones at this time), insulated gloves (L or XL), insulated coveralls/bibs (L or XL), sweatpants (S-3XL), Tee-shirts (S-3XL), men's underwear (S-2XL)

XL and XXL are the most needed sizes. Consider asking a First Pres Fargo neighbor to share the cost of a coat (or any other neighbor you might have). Cash donations will also be accepted and the Mission Committee can do the shopping.

St. Andrew's Society 37th Annual Dinner Program:

The St. Andrew's Society of the FM area will have its 37th annual dinner/program that celebrates Scottish culture and heritage, on Saturday, Nov. 5th at The Courtyard By Marriott, 1080 28th Ave. S., Moorhead, MN. Social hour will begin at 5:00pm and the dinner/program will begin at 5:30pm. The program will include performances by the Heather and Thistle Pipes and Drums Band; dancing by members of the Minnesota Celtic Dance Association; and a singer who will perform famous Scottish songs. Tickets are available through Nov. 2 by calling 402-981-2333.

FOR EVERYONE'S PROTECTION, IT IS REQUESTED THAT ALL ATTENDEES BE FULLY VACCINATED AND BOOSTED.

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, Lisa Edison-Smith, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Scott Swanholm, Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens. **Deacons:** Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, 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*
Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*
Bryan Poyzer-*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, October 16

11:30 Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, October 17

1:00 Bulletin Insert Articles Due

6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, October 18

10:30 Staff Meeting

10:30 Town Hall @ Prairie Heights Church

Wednesday, October 19

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, October 20

5:00 Nurturing Parenting Meal & Classes

Friday, October 21

No Church Events

Saturday, October 22

No Church Events

Sunday, October 23

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship (L)

11:30 Fellowship

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Reminder: Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website!

For Your Information

October 9 Attendance: 224
197 in person;
27 households livestreamed
Contributions received: \$18,470.00



Church Information

Office Hours:
M-TH, 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Phone: 701-293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org

Phishing/SPAM Alert! The staff of FPC will never send email or text-message solicitations for money or gift cards. The most common signs of a phishing attempt are: an unfamiliar tone or greeting, grammar and spelling errors, inconsistencies in email addresses, links, and domain names, suspicious attachments, and threats or a sense of urgency.

