



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.

October 26, 2025

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

arr. L & M.C. Ball

Thanks Be to Thee

G.F. Handel/arr. Wolford

Elliot Sander, piano; Sally Harmon, organ

INTROIT

Seek Ye First

arr. K. Lafferty

Friendship Choir; Erin Torpey, director; Elliot Sander, piano

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

O God of mercy and abundance, we come in reverence, grateful for life and the grace that sustains us. You welcome all who seek you in truth. Open our hearts to your love, teach us humility, and guide us to live in gratitude and witness to your goodness. In this silence, we lift our hearts to you, trusting in your unfailing compassion and your guiding light. Amen.

✧ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

How lovely is your home, O Lord!

My soul longs to be in your presence.

My body yearns to experience your joy.

Happy are those who live with you,

ever singing your praise, O God.

Happy are those whose strength is in you,

who keep their hearts open to you.

We gather in this house seeking to be near to God.

Let us worship Holy God.

✧ **HYMN 26**

Earth and All Stars!

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.

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!

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you. We have wandered from your pathways, turned toward idols, lived without compassion, and disregarded the well-being of your creation. Do not turn away from us, O Lord, but renew your covenant, for only in you will our lives be healed. Guide us and lead us in your ways, for happy are those who live in your house. 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.

GIFT OF MUSIC

I See You, God (Based on I John 4:12)

Mark Burrows

Kids of the Kingdom Choir; Pam Andrist-Burns, director; Jane Ahlin, piano

✧ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 65, pp. 516

Erin Torpey, reader

Luke 18:9-14, pp. 955

Whirl Story Bible, pg. 338

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

✧ **HYMN 442**

Just as I Am, without One Plea

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many-a conflict, many-a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Sacrament of Baptism

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

*Macklin Grey Sonneson, child of Amanda and Ryan Sonneson;
grandchild of Jeff & Amy Wilkens and Gary & Sherry Sonneson
Jeff Wilkens; presiding elder.*

✧ **RENUNCIATIONS**

✧ **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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

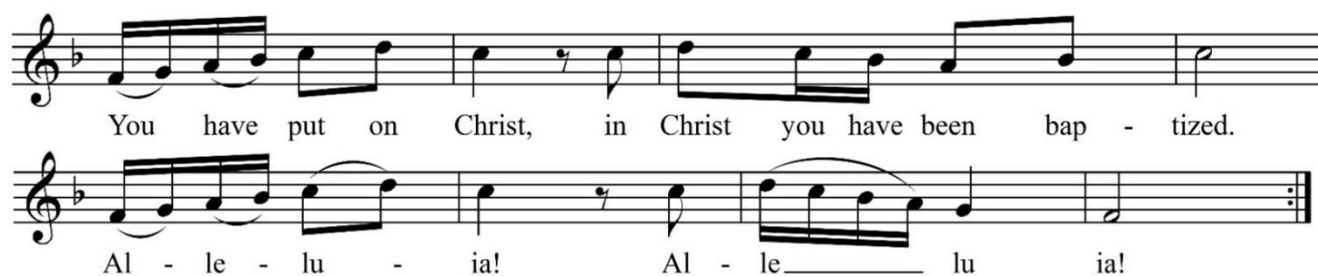
BAPTISM

WELCOME

Elder to Congregation: ...Let us welcome the newly baptized.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE 491 *You Have Put On Christ*



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 — *Town Hall*

Marcia Foss

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

OFFERTORY *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Charles Gounod

Rusty Bender, voice; Elliot Sander, piano

We dedicate this beloved song 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.

✦ **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 641

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

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.

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

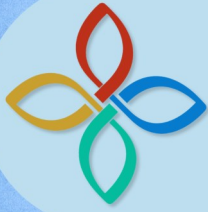
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

arr. Mark Hayes

Elliot Sander, piano; Sally Harmon, organ

Thank you to Thomas and Fred Hudson on livestream and soundboard, Erin Torpey for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Kurt Kooyer, Debbie Tight, Marcia Foss, Gayla McGoldrick, Dianne Connelly and family for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Elliot Sander, Sally Harmon, the Friendship Choir (K-2) directed by Erin Torpey, the Kids of the Kingdom Choir (3-6) with Jane Ahlin directed by Pam Andrist-Burns, and Rusty Bender.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO

Sunday Worship

October 26, 2025

The St. Andrew's Society of the FM area will have its 40th annual dinner/program, that celebrates Scottish culture and heritage, on Saturday, November 1 at The Courtyard by Marriott, 1080 28th Ave. S., Moorhead, MN. The social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the dinner/program will begin at 5:30 p.m. The meal will include a beef dinner, haggis, scones, bashed neeps, shortbread, and *cranachan* (Scottish dessert). 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. Anyone interested in Scottish culture and heritage is welcome to attend. Tickets are available through October 27 by calling (402) 981-2333.

Kirkin' o' the Tartans

NOVEMBER 2ND 2025

Services at 9am & 11am in the Sanctuary
Celtic Dancers at 10am in the Sanctuary

NOVEMBER 2

**RETURN TO
CENTRAL
STANDARD TIME**

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour
Saturday night, so that you arrive for the
Kirkin' service of your choice at the right time!

Covenant of Prayer: David Hoffman, back surgery; Penny Andrist, immunotherapy; Colleen and Russell Ford-Dunker, Camino Frances pilgrimage; Beatrice Janaka's husband, James; Brad Schenck, brain cancer.

Meet the Staff! Much of the ministry of our church depends on the faithful work of our support staff, whose efforts often happen behind the scenes. Because their workdays are during the week, the congregation rarely has the opportunity to see them in action. The Personnel Committee would like to introduce you to these wonderful people whose care and dedication keep our church life running every day.



Casey LeMier

*Communications &
Administrative Assistant*

Casey joined the staff in 2022. They studied computer science and IT at the University of Jamestown and now coordinate communications and office administration. Outside of work, Casey enjoys reading, puzzles, arts and crafts, listening to music, playing video games, and spending time with their cat, Finley.

Holy Buckets! Play it Forward!

Donate your unused musical
instruments to be reconditioned &
used by students in local schools.



"Praying Our Goodbyes" Pilgrimage Class

With her own retirement
looming, Pastor Mary will lead
a two-part class; the premise
of which is that God remains
present in our goodbyes.

**Thursday, Nov. 13 & 20
6:00-7:30pm
Jennie Roberts Room**

"Goodbyes are as much a part of
life as the seasons of the year."
- Joyce Rupp

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

October 19, 2025 Attendance: 177

135 in person

42 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$21,283.40



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, October 26

11:30 Trunk or Treat & Fall Fellowship!

5:30 Confirmation Kick-Off Dinner

Monday, October 27

No Church Events

Tuesday, October 28

7:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Z)

Wednesday, October 29

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, October 30

12:15 Centering Prayer

5:30 Nurturing Families Class

6:00 Pilgrimage Celebration

Friday, October 31

No Church Events

Saturday, November 1

10:00 Kirkin' Orchestra Rehearsal

Sunday, November 2

9:00 Kirkin Service (L)

10:00 Fellowship & Celtic Dancers

11:00 Kirkin Service (L)

12:00 Fellowship

1:00 Confirmation Mission Outing

Nursery Attendant Job Opening: First Presbyterian Church seeks an additional Nursery Attendant on Sunday mornings from 9:15am to 11:45am to provide safe and nurturing care to our precious children ages 0-4. The duties include playing with the children or directing their play, all while exhibiting patience and love. This is a paid position. **Requirements:** At least 18 years of age or older, experienced in caring for children ages 0-4, must have current CPR training/certification for infants and children, and be willing to submit to background and drug screenings. To apply: Submit a letter addressed to the Personnel Committee in care of the church office describing your interest, along with a short resume highlighting any experience. The church wishes to fill the position as soon as possible.