



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 19, 2025

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus arr. Westlake/Fishburn
Second Avenue Band

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of justice and mercy, when the world feels slow to change and the answers seem far away, anchor us in the promise that you hear the cries of your people. Strengthen our faith, renew our resolve, and teach us to live each day as a witness to your steadfast love. In the name of Christ, our faithful advocate, we pray. Amen.

✧ CALL TO WORSHIP

Jean Pladson

We lift our eyes to the hills.

From where will our help come?

Our help comes from the Lord,

Maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord watches over us.

The Lord keeps our going out and our coming in.

From this time on and forevermore.

Let us worship God!

✧ HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House (vs. 1, 4, 5)

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.

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: **(Refrain)**

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **(Refrain)**

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Merciful God, we confess that the weight of the world wears us down. We see violence, injustice, greed, and cruelty, and grow weary. We abandon hope. We languish in our own fatigue. We are worn thin by sorrow. We are overwhelmed by the weight of what is broken. We admit that we cannot fix it on our own. We confess that we have trusted too much in our strength and too little in yours. We need you to step in. We need you to keep your promises. We need you to make all things new. So we lift our eyes to you, our help and our hope, trusting that you will not let us go. 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 Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* arr. Mark Hayes
Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director; 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.*

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 121, pp. 560

Jean Pladson, reader

Luke 18:1-8, pp. 955

Whirl Story Bible, pg. 334

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

SERMON

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

❖ **HYMN**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus arr. Westlake/Fishburn

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer:
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Chorus: Precious Jesus, Lord and friend, I give everything to You.
Shelter, Shepherd, Savior, King, I give everything to You.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.
Thou wilt find a solace there. **(Chorus x2)**

Sacrament of Baptism

PRESENTATION

Lavinia Duarte Vieira Goulart Brito & Alice Vieira Brito, children of Uyara Duarte Vieira Brito & Raphael Goulart Irineu Brito; Maternal Grandparents Anita Lopes Duarte & Pedro Max Vieira; Paternal Grandparents Rita De Cassia Irineu & Leonardo Goulart; Jean Pladson, 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

BLESSING

✦ **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

Ginger Deitz

Peace and Global Witness Offering

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

OFFERTORY *If the Lord Builds the House*

arr. Darst, Hulse,
Smith, Holt

Second Avenue Band

✦ **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**

Shout to the Lord

arr. Anderson/Huggins

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the king!
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You!

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the king!
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise I have,
Nothing compares to the promise I have,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You!

❖ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Shout to the Lord
Second Avenue Band

arr. Anderson/Huggins

Thank you to Emily Erpelding and Tetteh Dottey on livestream and soundboard, Jean Pladson for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Kathryn Byrd, David Hoffman, Ginger Dietz, Dianne Connelly, Steve Wonderlich, Dave Baumgardner, and Chuck & Geri Munro for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: the Sanctuary Choir directed by Bryan Poyzer, and the Second Avenue Band—Elliot Sander, keyboard; Brian Peterson, guitar; Bryan Poyzer, bass; Kevin Thomas, drums; Rusty Bender, Sam Johnson, Erin Torpey, and Shelley Zietz, vocals.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO

Sunday Worship

October 19, 2025

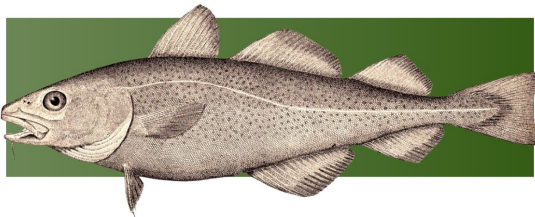
Serving @ The EFP: This is our week to serve at the Emergency Food Pantry, 1101 4th St. N. Thank you for your willing spirit to volunteer for this important mission. If you have any questions about the schedule, please contact Nancy Lium.

PW Circles: The morning PW Circles will meet October 21 in the Jennie Roberts Room at 9:30am, and the afternoon Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Barbi Kessel at (701) 261-6215.

ALL NEW FISH FRY

Join us at Baker Downer Presbyterian Church

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025 | 4:00-7:00PM



BDPC Fish Fry: Join us at Baker Downer Presbyterian Church Friday, Oct. 24 from 4pm-7pm for an All New Fish Fry! Menu includes fried fish, baked potatoes, coleslaw, corn, garlic toast, rolls, dessert, and beverages. \$20 for those 12 and older, \$10 for 6-11, and 5 and younger eat free! Takeout meals can be ordered at the door. There will also be a homemade bread and jam sale! Special thanks to Mainline Bar & Grill for supplying the fish and to Barnesville Grocery for providing other food items. *Sponsored by St. James UCC and Baker Downer Presbyterian Church.*

Holy Buckets! Play it Forward!

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



Covenant of Prayer: David Hoffman, who will be receiving back surgery late October; Colleen and Russell Ford-Dunker as they pilgrimage across northern Spain on the Camino Frances; Audrey Kloubec, recovering from a broken hip; Beatrice Janaka's husband, James; Brad Schenck, son of Richard Schenck (BD) fighting 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.



Drew Brovold

Custodian

Drew, a Fargo native and West Fargo High graduate, has worked at First Presbyterian since 2019. He takes pride in maintaining the church building and is always eager to learn more about its upkeep. In his free time, he enjoys going to concerts, frisbee golf, and listening to his favorite bands.



TRUNK or TREAT!

Food Drive for Emergency Food Pantry
Bring your trunk. Enjoy cider and popcorn while the kids trunk or treat!

26 OCTOBER

Following Worship-in the parking lot



Pilgrimage Course: Pastor Mary will lead a two-part class on "Praying our Goodbyes" as she approaches retirement. This class will explore the significance of goodbyes throughout life, emphasizing God's presence during these transitions. Classes will be held on Thursdays, November 13 and 20, from 6:00-7:30 PM. Sponsored by the Pilgrimage Program, all are welcome.

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**

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.

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

Sunday, October 19

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, October 20

6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, October 21

9:30 PW Circles

1:00 PW Circle

Wednesday, October 22

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 23

12:00 *Messenger Article Deadline*

12:15 Centering Prayer

Friday, October 24

4:00 Fish Fry Dinner @ Baker Downer!

Saturday, October 25

No Church Events

Sunday, October 26

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Trunk or Treat & Fall Fellowship!

5:30 Confirmation Kick-Off Dinner

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 12, 2025 Attendance: 177

135 in person

42 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$6,350.50



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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