



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 lunch and fellowship in the Social Hall after worship.

We recycle! If you are not taking your bulletin, please drop it in the blue bins inside.

✧ Feel free to remain seated for today's worship service.

September 14, 2025

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Here I Am to Worship
Second Avenue Band

Tim Hughes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who long for a better way.

We seek the life that is truly life.

Come, all who hunger for justice.

We trust the One who lifts up the lowly.

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Come, all who hope in God's promises.

We gather to grow in faith.

We gather to live richly in generosity and grace.

We gather to worship God!

HYMN

Here I Am to Worship

Tim Hughes

The band will lead the verses. Please join in on the chorus as you are comfortable.

Chorus: And here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God of abundant grace, you scatter your word like seed, you hide it like yeast in dough, you send it moving, growing, spreading until the world is remade. But we confess, we prefer tidy rows. We cut back your promises to something manageable. We want life and growth but only where and when we expect it. Forgive us, wild God. We forget that your word is meant to take root in every crack, to rise and fill every space. Teach us to release our need for control, to notice the life that springs up where we thought nothing could grow. Open our eyes to the beauty you bring forth in the places we declare as barren. Help us to embrace the unexpected love around us, trusting in your unstoppable mercy.

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

PEACE POLE LITANY

People of God, today we bless this peace pole, a symbol of hope, a witness to faith, and a sign of our calling as peacemakers in Christ. Though it is not yet planted in the earth, it is already rooted in our life together.

May peace be planted deep in us and may it grow in all the earth.

This peace pole came to us through the vision of confirmation students and mentors, Jaden Argall, Mari Follingstad, Claudia Hansen, and Jeff Olson, during our first Peace Summit.

We give thanks for the hearts that imagined it, the hands that brought it here, and the Spirit who leads us in the way of peace.

It bears the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in eight languages: English, French, Gaelic, Korean, Lakota, Spanish, Swahili, and an artful rendering of Sign Language, a prayer that transcends borders, speaks across cultures, and points us toward God's dream for creation.

Let every nation, every neighbor, every heart hear and know peace.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." May this pole be a sign of that blessing and a reminder of our call.

Let this be a sign of our commitment to peace, in our homes, our church, our community, and our world.

Holy God, bless this peace pole. Let it be a beacon of hope, a prayer in many languages, a signpost for peace. Until it is planted in the earth, may it be rooted in our hearts. Let this peace pole stand as a promise and a prayer:

May Peace Prevail on Earth. Amen.

GIFT OF MUSIC

He Will Hold Me Fast
Second Avenue Band

Getty Music

The Word

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 6:6-19, pp. 1083
Luke 13:18-21, pp. 951

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

SERMON

Weeds

HYMN

You Are Holy

Michael W. Smith

Sing with Rusty | Or, if you know the other part and feel brave, join Erin & Shelley

You are holy; you are mighty; you are worthy, worthy of praise.

I will follow; I will listen; I will love you all of my days.

You are Lord of lords; you are King of kings;
you are mighty God, Lord of everything.

You're Emmanuel; you're the great I am;
you're the Prince of Peace, who is the Lamb.

You're the living God; you're my saving grace;
you will reign forever; you are Ancient of Days.

You are Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End.

You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend.

You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for you.

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

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

OFFERTORY

Goodness of God
Second Avenue Band

Bethel Music

RESPONSE 647

Give Thanks

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

What an Awesome God

Phil Wickham

The band will lead the verses. Please join in on the chorus as you are comfortable.

Chorus: Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love; our God is an awesome God! **(repeat)**

BENEDICTION

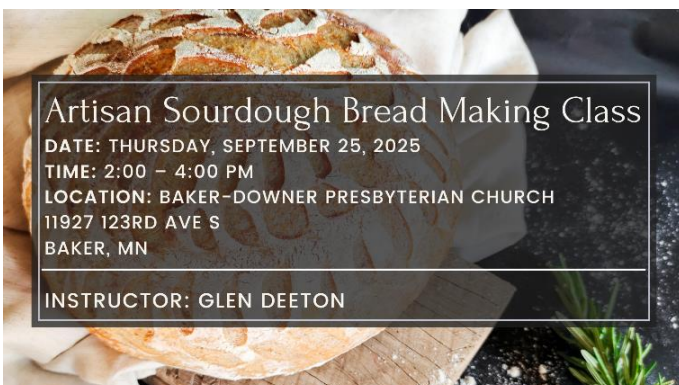
POSTLUDE

What an Awesome God
Second Avenue Band

Phil Wickham

Thank you to Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard, and our Welcome Team: Jim McEvers, Wayne Sander, Candy Shultz, Rick & Shirley Herberg, and Chuck & Geri Munro for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians in the Second Avenue Band: Rusty Bender, Erin Torpey, and Shelley Zietz, vocals; Elliot Sander, keyboard; Brian Peterson, guitar; Bryan Poyzer, bass; Penny Andrist, ukulele; Jack Lawrence and Kevin Thomas, percussion; with a guest appearance by Matthew Pechtl on violin.



Covenant of Prayer

Audrey Kloubec, recovering from a broken hip; Beatrice Janaka's husband, James; Brad Schenck, son of Richard Schenck (BD) fighting brain cancer.

PW Circles

The Circles will meet Sept. 16 in the Jennie Roberts Room: the Naomi/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30am and the Rachel Circle will meet at 1pm. The Leah circle meets in the Office Conference Room and by ZOOM at 10am on Saturday, September 20. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Barbi Kessel at (701) 261-6215.

Emergency Food Pantry

Our time to man the carts at the Emergency Food Pantry will be October 20 through 24. Check your availability to fill in a shift either 9:30-11:30am or 1:00-3:30 and sign up to help. Nancy Lium will have a clipboard during fellowship following worship each Sunday in September. Volunteers must get registered to take a shift beforehand. We hope you can help this important mission.

Children & Youth Registration



Please be sure to register your child for Sunday School and the music ensembles, as the first fall rehearsal is right around the corner, and Sunday school starts Sept. 21! The registration form is available via the QR code on the left, on our website, and in-person sign up available following worship today. Information regarding children & youth education is available on our website under Children, Youth, and Music Ministries.

2025 Men's Bible Study Retreat

FPC's Annual Men's Bible Study Retreat is scheduled for Friday evening, Sept. 26, and Saturday, Sept. 27. The retreat will be held at the Country Inn & Suites in Detroit Lakes and is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow men at FPC Fargo and learn about God's message for men.

You can make your hotel reservation by calling Country Inn & Suites at 218-847-2000. If you'd like to split the cost of a room, please contact Dick Blaine or Bruce Maylath and we will coordinate with others seeking a roommate. The retreat will again be led by Dr. Stephen Reed, former chair of the Religion & Philosophy Department at the University of Jamestown.

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 in 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.

Holy Buckets

We will be collecting new or slightly used winter clothing for kids and teens at Bdecan Presbyterian Church. Winter coats, snow-pants, boots and all other gear in all sizes are needed. Put items in the green buckets in the West foyer. Not all winter items are on the shelves yet. If you wish, you may make a financial contribution. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and clearly mark your check "Bdecan winterwear," or use the online giving portal under "Other." Items will be delivered in mid-October. Let's make sure children are warm as they wait for the school bus.

Church Information



Address:

650 2nd Ave. N. Fargo, ND 58102

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-4:00pm

(701) 293-6311 | www.firstpresfargo.org

L: Livestream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom
Times shown in italics indicates AM

Sunday, September 14

11:30 Fellowship & Rally Day Lunch!

11:30 Produce Exchange



Monday, September 15

6:30 Session Meeting (H)

Tuesday, September 16

9:30 PW Circles

1:00 PW Circle

Wednesday, September 17



4:00 **Church & Community Picnic**

5:30 Genesis Ringers Rehearsal

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass Rehearsal



6:15 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsals

6:30 Westminster Bells Rehearsal

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 18



9:00 Presbytery Leadership POD Meeting (H)



12:15 Centering Prayer

Friday, September 19

No Church Events

Saturday, September 20

No Church Events

Sunday, September 21



9:15 First Day of Sunday School

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

