



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

preach, teach, heal, & serve

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.

April 14, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Astonishing God, you give us a vision of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, your home among mortals on earth. All people and nations will stream to your city where they will find nourishment, healing, and peace. Even now your blessing shines upon all the earth to help us see a larger vision of your loving care for all creation. And so you call us to move beyond our comfortable circles, and into unfamiliar places, as we seek to share your dream of a world made new in Christ. Amen.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Let the peoples praise you, O God.

Let all the peoples praise you.

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

✦ HYMN

Standin' in the Need of Prayer

Refrain: It's me, it's me, oh Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer;

It's me, it's me, oh Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer.

Not my sister, not my brother, but it's me, oh Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer;

Not my mother, not my father, but it's me, oh Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer. (All: Refrain)

*Band Only: Well, it's not my sister and it's not my brother,
But it's me, Lord.
Well, it's not my mother and it's not my father,
But it's me, Lord. (All: Refrain)*

Not my teacher, not the preacher, but it's me, oh Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer;
Not my neighbor needin' favor, but it's me, oh Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer. (Refrain)

*Band Only: Well, it's not my teacher and it's not my preacher,
But it's me, Lord.
Well, it's not my neighbor praying for your favor,
But it's me, Lord. (All: Refrain)*

✧ CONFESSON AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Loving God, we confess that we are an anxious people who deny your blessing and fail to keep your word. Forgive us, we pray, for these and all our sins, that we might live in peace and reflect your love in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

✧ RESPONSE 240

Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to His ___ Name.

✧ PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

Praise His Holy Name

Keith Hampton

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Neisen, director

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 67, pp. 518

Claudia Hansen, reader

John 14:23-29, pp. 982

Whirl Story Bible, pg. 382

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

SERMON

My Peace I Give

The Rev. Sarah M Bigwood

✧ HYMN

He Will Hold Me Fast

✧ PROFESSION OF FAITH

PC(USA) Brief Statement of Faith

We belong to God.

(adapted for use with children)

**We trust in Jesus who suffered like we suffer
and broke the power of sin
so we can live full lives.**

**We trust in God who created us good
and helps us live with one another in healthy community
and stays faithful to us forever.**

**We trust in the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to love
as deeply as Jesus**

so we can help others and live joyful lives.

We join to celebrate God's love through Jesus.

Glory be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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

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

OFFERTORY

Holy Mana

arr. Jayson Gerth

St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

❖RESPONSE 616

Our God Is an Awesome God

(First time Band only | Congregation sing twice)

Our God is an awesome God
who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love;
our God is an awesome God!

❖PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

❖HYMN 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

✠ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

*Second Sunday Band

*Second Sunday Band: Pam Burns, coordinator; Penny Andrist, Sam Johnson, and Erin Torpey, vocalists; Penny Andrist, ukelele; Josh Argall, guitar/sax; Jack Lawrence, drums; Shawn Neisen, piano; Brian Peterson, guitar; Bryan Poyzer, bass

Thank you to Josh Trumbo, Tom Bigwood, and Claudia Hansen for assisting us in worship and to our Welcome Team: Jody Hudson, Debbie Tight, Candy Shultz, Rick & Shirley Herberg, Deb Dawson, and Nancy Norris, for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Sally Harmon; The Second Sunday Band; the Sanctuary Choir directed by Shawn Neisen; and the St. Andrew's Brass, directed by Jill Post.

He Will Hold Me Fast

Words: Verses 1-2, Ada Habershon (1861-1918); Verse 3, Matt Merker

Music: Matt Merker

♩ = 56 A A/C# D D E A

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me fast;
 3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;

A A/C# D D E A

When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
 Pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.
 Just - ice has been sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast.

F#m E A D D C# F#m

I could nev - er keep my hold Through life's fear - ful path;
 He'll not let my soul be lost; His Prom - is - es shall last;
 Raised with Him to end - less life, He will hold me fast

F#m E A D D E A

For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me fast.
 Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
 'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

Bm7 A/C# D E F#m F#m E/G# A

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

A Bm7 A/C# D D E A

For my Sa - vior loves me so, He will hold me fast.



Town Hall Lecture Series: Town Hall resumes on Tuesday, April 30, with inspirational speaker, community advocate, and podcast host Rebecca Udem. As founder and executive director of Growing Small Towns, a regional nonprofit organization, Udem helps communities in southeast ND be places people love to call home through programs that grow their human, social, and cultural capital. The lecture begins at 10:30 am at Prairie Heights Community Church in West Fargo. Tickets are \$40 and are available at the door. Tickets will also be sold before and after worship today.

Informational Meetings: The first few informational meetings to discuss a consolidation proposal were held last week. There will be a meeting following worship today, in the Sanctuary at 11:45am. We have many other meetings planned, including a Zoom option available on April 30th at 1:00pm. You can register for that meeting and see the list of dates at www.firstpresfargo.org/consolidation.



May Plant Exchange: Did you have an overactive green thumb this winter and have more plants than you have space? Now is the time to divide your overgrown house plants or outdoor plants and exchange them for something new at our Spring Plant Exchange! May 12th after worship we will be coordinating a plant exchange. Much like the produce exchange last fall, we will have space for houseplants, outdoor landscaping plants, vegetable garden starter plants and herbs. If you can plant it, we will exchange it!

FPC Scholarship Opportunity: Our First Presbyterian Church scholarship is now available. This scholarship is open to those who will be starting their first year of college. The deadline to apply is May 1. Please contact Kayla Bones at kbones@firstpresfargo.org if you have any questions. You can find the application forms at firstpresfargo.org/scholarships.

PW Circles: Circles will meet Apr. 16 in the Jennie Roberts Room: Naomi/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30am and the Rachel Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Paula Christensen at 701-219-5795.

PW Spring Meeting: The Fargo PW will be going to the spring meeting in Arvilla on Saturday April 27. The meeting starts at 10 am and we will be leaving at 8 am. The speaker will be Louella Voight, a member of the USA Mission Experience, who will share her perspective on immigration issues. We will be bringing clothing and household items for the Bdecan Church and \$10 gift cards for the Churchwide gathering in St Louis. Nancy Lium will be driving, call her if you want to ride along: 701 235-0228.

PW August Gathering: The PW is sponsoring two scholarships to the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in St. Louis, Missouri from August 8-11. Please contact Judy Rippentrop at 701-730-1836 or jrippentrop@yahoo.com by May 1st if you are interested in more information about attending.



Pilgrimage Photography Course: The Pilgrimage will be taking a Contemplative Photography retreat to Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park at the end of August. For more information please visit www.firstpresfargo.org/adult-education, or contact Kit O'Neill at kit.oneill@outlook.com.

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: Mindy Argall, Abi Carlson, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Jeff Wilkens, and Steve Wonderlich. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, David Hoffman, Jane Mathew (moderator), Donna Rummens, Wayne Sander, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen 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*
Sally Harmon-*Organist*
Pam Burns-*Music Ministry Coordinator*
Shawn Neisen-*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

Shampoo Sunday

When you help fill our Resource Room with hygiene items, you ensure survivors have their basic needs met, allowing them to focus on their healing journey.

Amazon Wish List
<https://amzn.to/46bLD0o>

rape and abuse crisis center
advocacy, counseling, education.

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

Sunday, April 14

11:30 Fellowship

11:45 Consolidation Informational Meeting

Monday, April 15

9:30 Town Hall Board Meeting

6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, April 16

9:30 PW Circles

1:00 PW Circle

Wednesday, April 17

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass Rehearsal

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 18

12:15 Centering Prayer

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, April 19

No Church Events

Saturday, April 20

Presbytery Meeting in Jamestown

Sunday, April 21

10:30 Worship Service (L)

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

April 7 Attendance: 205

157 in person

48 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$19,083.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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