



**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.*

October 8, 2023

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Variations on the Doxology

arr. Lovelace

Sally Harmon, organ

I Wonder Why

The Second Sunday Band

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God, we are so grateful for your presence in our lives. Help us to see, hear and feel you as we worship with one another today. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Let us worship and sing praises to God,

for the Lord is gracious and worthy of praise!

God gathers the outcasts and heals the brokenhearted.

God gives the stars their names and makes grass grow on the hills.

Let us hope in God's steadfast love.

Let us worship God together!

***HYMN 621**

I Will Call upon the Lord

I will call upon the Lord

I will call upon the Lord

who is worthy to be praised.

who is worthy to be praised.

So shall I be saved from my enemies.

So shall I be saved from my enemies.

I will call upon the Lord.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock,
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock,
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

***CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

O God you bring healing to our lives and comfort to our hearts. Forgive us, O Lord, when we do things that break your heart. You ask us to share our gifts to help others, but we keep our resources close and our minds closed. You ask us to live together in unity, but we isolate ourselves and treat our neighbors with mistrust. You ask us to see everyone as family, but we separate ourselves from those who challenge our comfort. Forgive us, O God, and free us to be agents of your healing. Amen.

***RESPONSE 48**

Rain Down

Rain down; rain down;
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down; rain down;
rain down your love, God of life.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

Offertory

John Ness Beck

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Neisen, director; Sally Harmon, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Knock Knock

Penny Andrist

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:7-12, pp. 883

Brian McClure, reader

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

SERMON

God's Good Gifts

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***HYMN 175**

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*PC(USA) Brief Statement of Faith
(adapted for use with children)*

We belong to God.

**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 together 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

GIFT OF MUSIC

Waves in the Moonlight
Caleb Gadberry, piano

Mary Leaf



OFFERING MESSAGE

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

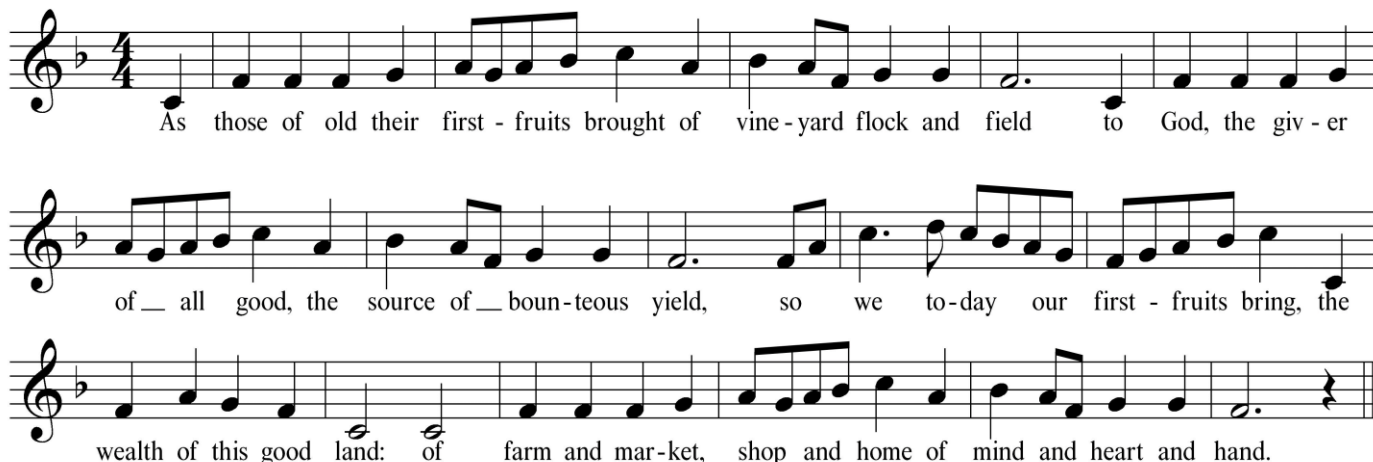
OFFERTORY

Bicinium on The Doxology
Sally Harmon, organ

arr.Held

*RESPONSE 712

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought



As those of old their first - fruits brought of vine - yard flock and field to God, the giv - er
of _ all good, the source of _ boun - teous yield, so we to - day our first - fruits bring, the
wealth of this good land: of farm and mar - ket, shop and home of mind and heart and hand.

*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

Postlude on The Doxology
Sally Harmon, organ

arr. Burkhardt

*Any children who would like to come up and watch Sally play the postlude
on the organ are welcome to do so.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO



Sunday Worship

October 8, 2023

Collecting Winter Gear: We join other churches in the Presbytery with our donations of new and gently used winter clothing, along with gear like warm coats, hats, gloves, boots and snowpants. All sizes needed for children and youth! We dedicated items in worship on World Communion Sunday, October 1, and we continue to collect all winter gear and coats through October 29th. Drop them off in the green buckets in the west foyer, or you may choose to make a financial contribution; members of the Mission Committee will do the shopping for you. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

PW Circles: Circles will meet Oct. 17 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 Jan Kenien at (701) 280-2391.

Trunk or Treat
is back!

Join us
Sunday October 29th
following worship

We have Some more Trunks
A Lot of Treats and
No Tricks
with a little something for everyone!

Brought to you by EduCon

Heart-n-Soul Food Truck: This Wednesday, October 11, from 4:30-6:30pm, Heart-n-Soul will be at FPC for the last time this season. The menu includes a salami & grilled cheese sandwich served with tomato soup, chips, and a side salad. The other choice is a fall harvest bowl with beef from Sandhill Farms, beans from Doubting Thomas Farms, roasted fall vegetables, mixed greens salad and a tahina dressing. Dessert is a lemon mixed berry thumbprint cookie. There will be seating in the gathering space and in the foyer. Come and join us for good food and great fellowship!

Covenant Of Prayer: The people of Bdecan Presbyterian Church and the Spirit Lake Nation; Tom Kley; Dale Rage – continues to battle blood clots, and pancreatic cancer with chemo treatments; Jennifer; and the people of Libya, Morocco, Maui and Ukraine.

Monthly Men's Bible Study: The Men's Bible study kicks off for the program year this Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 6:45am 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. The study this year examines the Book of Genesis. A copy of the study guide can be obtained from Bruce Maylath. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

176 Keys
100 Fingers

Duo Pianos Concert!
Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2pm

In the
Sanctuary

Refreshments
served
afterwards!

SERVED BY PW
Ice Cream
upstairs during
Wednesday
Activities
Dinner

You're
Invited

UKE JAM SESSION WITH
SONS OF NORWAY'S
VALLEY UKULELES
IN THE GATHERING
SPACE

Oct. 25 @ 6pm

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, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dotte, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, 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*

Sally Harmon-*Organist*

Pam Burns-*Music 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



Kenya Trip Reflection

October 15 | 9:15 AM | Jennie Roberts Room

Hear all about the youth trip to Kenya!

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

Sunday, October 8

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation Lesson 4

Monday, October 9

No Church Events

Tuesday, October 10

6:45 Men's Bible Study

5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, October 11

4:30 Heart-n-Soul Food Truck

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:00 Health Fair Committee Meeting (H)

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, October 12

9:30 Town Hall Board Meeting

3:00 Preparing meals at Micah's Mission

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, October 13

No Church Events

Saturday, October 14

No Church Events

Sunday, October 15

9:00 Kenya Presentation

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation Lesson 5

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 1 Attendance: 225

193 in person

32 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$10,401.05



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org