



*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 12, 2025**

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRELUDE**

*Lob Gott, Ihr Christen  
Machs Mit Mir Gott; Bartholomaus Gesius  
Elliot Sander, organ*

Nikolaus Herman

### **WELCOME**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*Gracious God, you are faithful even when we falter. Your word cannot be chained. In Christ, you brought mercy and healing. Help us walk in the wholeness of grace, giving thanks like the one who returned to praise you. Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.*

### **❖ CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Come, all who seek healing and hope.

**Christ meets us on the road and makes us whole.**

Come, all who long to give thanks.

**Let us lift our voices in praise to the one who restores.**

Come, all who believe and all who doubt.

**Here we find mercy, and here we are sent in peace.**



### **❖ HYMN 401**

*Gather Us In*

*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.*

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.  
 We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.  
 Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
 give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.  
 Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.  
 Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;  
 nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.  
 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:  
 here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
 Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;  
 gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

### ✠CONFESSIOIN AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**Merciful God, we confess that we keep walking, passing by miracles as if they are ordinary, forgetting to look back, forgetting to say thank you. We are healed more often than we know, held more often than we acknowledge, and loved far beyond what we deserve. Still, we let fear write our stories, and we let shame close our mouths. Forgive us for forgetting. Forgive us for staying silent. Teach us to be like the one who turned around and knelt in awe. 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** *Meditation from Thaïs* Jules Massenet  
 Kathleen Thomas, violin; Elliot Sander, piano

## The Word

**SCRIPTURE** *2 Timothy 2:8-15, pp. 1084* Bruce Maylath, reader  
*Luke 17:11-19, pp. 955* *Whirl Story Bible, pg. 330*  
 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Unchained Mercy* The Rev. Sarah M Bigwood

## ❖HYMN 22

### *God of the Sparrow*

*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.*

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise  
God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save  
God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks  
God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life  
God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace  
God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Ray Allord, Uyara and Raphael Brito, Matthew Pechtl, Maxin and Rosemary Peters, and Nick Winistorfer*

### OPENING SCRIPTURE

### PRONOUNCEMENT

### DECLARATION

### 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 of 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.**

### PROMISE

### PRAYER



## BLESSING

### ✠PASSING 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



GIVE

### OFFERING MESSAGE

Bruce Maylath & Sherri Sanderson

*Baker Downer Fish Fry Invite*

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

### OFFERTORY

*The Gift of Love*

Richard E. Brown

St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

### ✠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 12

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

✧ **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*March on "LEONI"*  
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. Sander

*Thank you to Jaden Argall and Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard, Bruce Maylath for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Kurt Kooyer, Kevin Thomas, Sherri Sanderson, David Hoffman, Josh & Becky Trumbo, and David & Virginia Stern for taking such good care of us this morning.*

*A special thank you to our musicians: Elliot Sander, Kathleen Thomas, and the St. Andrew's Brass, directed by Jill Post.*



**Monthly Bible Study for Men Begins** The men's Bible study kicks off its monthly study for the program year on October 14th at 6:45 am, 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. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines the Book of Ecclesiastes. A copy of the study guide can be obtained online, or you can request a copy from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

**PW Bible Study Leaders:** On October 15 Pastor Mary Holtey will lead a discussion on Lesson 2 of this year's Bible Study.

**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.

**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

Sponsored by Edu/Con  
Carrie Lawrence or Vicki Dawson with questions.

**Covenant of Prayer:** 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.

**Betty Howe** celebrated her 100th birthday on October 7th. An open house for Betty will be **TODAY**, from 4:00-6:00pm at Bethany on 42nd. All are invited!

EDUCON PRESENTS  
**DINNERS FOR 8-ISH**

For more information or to sign up, please visit [www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)  
Registration is open now!

Sign-Up Here

**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.



**Rick Fiebiger**  
*Facilities Manager*

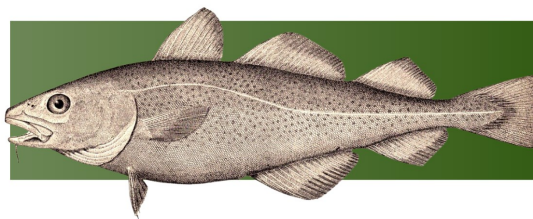
Rick has faithfully cared for First Presbyterian's building & grounds for more than 20 years. He works closely with the Building and Grounds committee and has a special appreciation for the church's historic character. Away from church, Rick enjoys gardening and spending time at his homestead.

 Baker-Downer Presbyterian & St. James UCC 

## ALL NEW FISH FRY

Join us at Baker Downer Presbyterian Church

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



### Menu

**Fried Fish, Baked Potatoes, Coleslaw, Corn, Garlic Toast, Rolls, Dessert, and Beverages**



**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 12**

*11:30 Fellowship*

### **Monday, October 13**

*Office Closed*

*1:00 FM Music Club Program*

### **Tuesday, October 14**

*6:45 Men's Bible Study*

*10:00 PW Board Meeting*

*5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting (H)*

*7:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Z)*

### **Wednesday, October 15**

*10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders*

*5:30 St. Andrew's Brass Rehearsal*

*6:15 Second Avenue Band Rehearsal*

*6:30 Westminster Bells Rehearsal*

*7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal*

### **Thursday, October 16**

*12:15 Centering Prayer*

*5:30 Nurturing Families Class*

### **Friday, October 17**

*No Church Events*

### **Saturday, October 18**

*10:00 PW Circle (H)*

*7:00 St. Olaf College Orchestra Concert*

### **Sunday, October 19**

*9:15 Sunday School*

*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**

October 5, 2025 Attendance: 209

165 in person

44 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$15,290.00



### **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