



**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.

November 19, 2023

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Michael Helman

Percussive Praise

Genesis Ringers; Sally Harmon, director

Kevin McChesney

INTROIT

Follow Jesus

Monica Scott

Friendship Choir (K-2); Erin Torpey, director;
Jayci Lawrence, cello; Sally Harmon, piano

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of righteousness, you overcome those who abuse their power and lift up those who suffer. Even now, when evil seems to hold sway, we know that you will have the last word. Keep us faithful as we wait and watch for your coming realm, when you will welcome all your children into your kingdom of justice, peace, and love. Amen.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Sarah M Bigwood

Clothe yourselves with faith and love;

be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus.

The Lord is with us!

Let us worship God.

✦ HYMN 367

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, you have shown us the ways of justice and nurtured us with love. Even so, we have not lived according to your will. When we are oppressed or unjustly accused, we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance. When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others, we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are weak and prone to disobedience. Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness, that we might turn to you again, walk in the light, and live in equity and peace. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

✧ **RESPONSE 48**

Rain Down



Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your peo - ple.
Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life. _____

✧ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

Grateful Hymn of Praise

Jim Culver

3-6 Choir; Pam Burns, director; Virginia Stern, piano; Cecelia Thorp, soloist;
Penny Andrist, guitar; Bryan Poyzer, bass; Jack Lawrence, drums.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Confirmation Discipleship Group

Ally Trumbo, Hazel Schmidt, Thomas Hudson

Susan Peterson, Tom Bigwood

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 90:1-8, pp. 536

Brian McClure, reader

Matthew 25:14-30, pp. 904

Whirl Story Bible, pg. 266

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

SERMON

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

✦ HYMN 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.

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

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!"

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!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.

✦ 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.

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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Dan Forrest

7-12 Choir; Shawn Neisen, director; Sally Harmon, piano

❖ **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 643**

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

❖ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God
Sally Harmon, organ

arr. Michael Helman



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO

Sunday Worship

November 19, 2023

Calling all single women of the church who are 50 years of age and older! Let's gather for a couple of minutes after church today in the Jennie Roberts Room to discuss the idea of meeting up a few times a year for just socializing. It could be coffee, lunch, a movie, a play, an art gallery visit... We hope to see you after worship. -Elaine Rudd and Marcia Foss

Delivering Thanksgiving Meals: Again this year, we are partnering with Heart n' Soul to deliver Thanksgiving meals. A signup for this year's dinner delivery is on the Volunteer Opportunity Board in the west foyer. We'll need about 30 cars to deliver the 500 meals this Wednesday. We'll add more drivers if we need to. The meals will be picked up from the church this year! Thank you for your continued support of this church tradition!

Swedish Meatball Dinner & Bingo, Dec. 3! Join us after the Hanging of the Greens Sunday worship for a Swedish Meatball dinner hosted by one of our youth confirmation groups. Come to the Social Hall on Dec. 3rd from 11:30-3:00. The youth will prepare and serve the meal, as well as give Lefse demonstrations. There will be a free will offering that will go toward a youth group skiing trip. For entertainment, another group will join us and host Bingo after the meal. All are welcome!

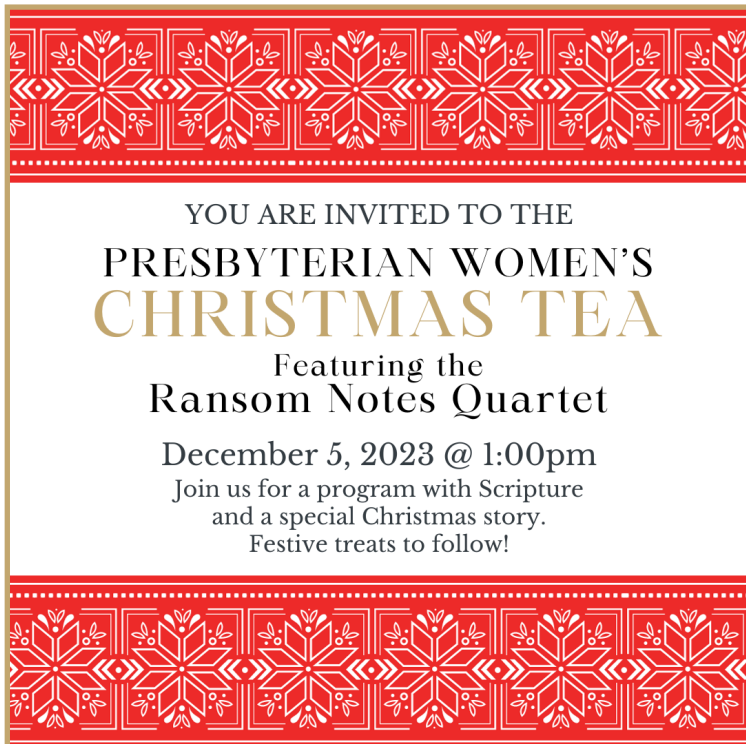


Covenant Of Prayer: Kayla Bones; Tom Kley; Dale Rage; Jennifer; peace in the Middle East; and the people of Afghanistan, Libya, Morocco, Maui and Ukraine.

Photo & Information Updates: Take a new photo for this year's holiday cards? If so, please email a copy to the church office at admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org, or bring a hard copy into the office to be scanned. This is also an opportunity to make sure all your information is up to date! The office is hoping to put out a Hard Copy Directory in early 2024.

Circles: Circles will meet Nov. 21 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 contact Paula Christensen at 701-219-5795.

Concordia's 97th annual Christmas concert: Experience the region's grandest musical tradition performed by more than 300 student musicians. "Rejoice and Sing!" will feature three choirs and a 75-piece orchestra and will be performed in front of a magnificent 140'-wide mural. Concert dates are Dec. 1, 2, and 3. For tickets, call 888-477-0277 or visit ConcordiaChristmas.com.



Congregational Meeting, Nov. 26: A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, November 26 following worship in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Church Officers and approve the Pastors' Terms of Call.



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 Dottey, 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*

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**



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

Sunday, November 19

11:30 Fellowship

11:30 Women's Meeting

11:45 Thanksgiving Meal Prep in Social Hall

Monday, November 20

6:30 Session Meeting (H)

Tuesday, November 21

9:30 PW Circles

10:30 Staff Meeting

12:00 M&F Committee Meeting (H)

1:00 PW Circle

1:00 Thanksgiving Prep @ Square One Kitchens

7:00 Moms Demand Action

Wednesday, November 22

10:30 Begin Delivering Thanksgiving Meals

NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

Thursday, November 23

Office Closed—Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 24

No Church Events

Saturday, November 25

No Church Events

Sunday, November 26

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Congregational Meeting

11:30 Fellowship

11:45 Decorating the Sanctuary

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

November 12 Attendance: 222

184 in person

38 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$4,913.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org





Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

We encourage you to purchase poinsettias for the Christmas season! A printed list of the names of the donors and the names of the persons being honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

Please **PRINT** your name; indicate how many poinsettias you would like, and if you would like to offer this flower in memory of, or in honor of someone special. Orders are due to the office **no later than noon on December 14. Payment is due with your order.** *Please write a separate check for your poinsettia; do not include in your offering.* Thank you!

You can pick up your poinsettia at the church **after Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, Dec. 24**, or during office hours any day after that. Office hours are 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, M-TH.

Your Name (**PRINT**): _____

Size Options

Please PRINT. If more space is needed, please use back of order form.

6" Poinsettia (\$15.00)

To the glory of God

In memory of _____

In honor of _____