



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.*

March 10, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

As the Deer

Nystrom/Neisen

Shawn Neisen, piano

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lord, Like Peter, we may sometimes struggle to comprehend the divine plan. Grant us the strength to surrender our own desires and expectations. Fill us with the courage to follow Jesus, even when the path seems difficult or unclear. Help us to overcome doubt and fear, trusting that your purposes are greater than our understanding. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Brian McClure

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,
God is good.
Day and night, Monday through Sunday,
God is good. God is here. God is love.
Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

 **HYMN 658** *God Is So Good*

God is so good; God is so good;
God is so good; God's so good to me.
God cares for me; God cares for me;
God cares for me; God's so good to me.
God loves me so; God loves me so;
God loves me so; God's so good to me.
(repeat first verse)

 **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!" We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.

 **RESPONSE 595** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My
heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly Lord!

 **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

I Can Only Imagine
Sam Johnson and the Second Sunday Band

Bart Millard

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, pp. 548
Matthew 16:21-23, pp. 894
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

I'm Fixed Upon It

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey



HYMNS 743 & 468

O, God, You Are My God and In My Life

O God, you are my God,
and I will ever praise you.
O God, you are my God,
and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you'll lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days.

(Repeat)

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In our song, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In our song, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.



Beseeching | Hannah Garrity
Ink on paper

With every brush stroke in this ink painting, the humanity of Peter's face deepens, his expression clarifies. He cannot let his beloved friend be murdered.



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in a God of second chances,
a God who sees through my stubbornness
and holds my fear with tenderness.**

**I believe that this God of second chances
uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.**

Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

This change is holy and important work, although challenging.

**When fear and scarcity plague me,
or when the impossible feels out of reach,**

I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

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



MOMENT FOR MISSION - Presbyterian Hunger Program Deb Dawson

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

OFFERTORY *There is a Balm in Gilead* arr. William Dawson

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Neisen, director

RESPONSE

What Shall I Render to the Lord

What shall I ren - der to the Lord; what shall my of - fering be, for
all the gra - cious ben - e - fits God hath be - stowed on me?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

WORDS TO WANDER BY *Open Hearts*

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

We are born with the ability
to wrap our fingers around another,
to hold tight to what we know.
Maybe that's where the instinct comes from—
this clinging,
this sinking,
this holding on.
Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!"
when Jesus must leave.
From the very beginning
we've known how to hold tight.
So I pray:
open up my hands.
Uncurl my fingers
one by one.
Loosen the grip
that I hold unyielding.
Remind me that birds must fly
and children must grow
and leaves must fall.
And even though
we are born with the ability
to hold tight,
we can learn how to love
with open hands.



HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!
Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.
Oh, that day, when free from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face,
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen, how I'll sing thy sovereign grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, bring thy promises to pass;
For I know thy pow'r will keep me till I'm home with thee at last!



BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Fount

Dan Kreider

*Second Sunday Band

*Second Sunday Band: Pam Burns, coordinator; Penny Andrist, ukelele; Josh Argall, guitar/sax; Lauren Bontje, violin; Sam Johnson, Erin Torpey, vocals; Jack Lawrence, drums; Shawn Neisen, piano; Bryan Poyzer, bass; Mike Wavra, trumpet.

Thank you to Tetteh Dottey, Elijah Holman, and Brian McClure for assisting us in worship and to our Welcome Team: Jeff Wilkens, Steve Dawson, Virginia Stern, Shane and Tricia Erstad, and Kurt Kooyer and Maria Weller for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Shawn Neisen, Sam Johnson, the Second Sunday Band, and the Sanctuary Choir.

Easter Flower Order Form

To help us celebrate Easter, the Sanctuary will be adorned with spring flowers. You are invited to contribute to this enhancement of our worship space by purchasing a flower to be used for Easter Sunday.

Choose the number of plants you would like, and if you would like to offer this plant in memory/honor of someone special or to the Glory of God. If ordering more than one plant, and need more space to write, please use the back of this form.

Orders and payments should be delivered to the office **no later than noon on Monday, March 11**. Thank You!

Type of flower (6")	Price per plant	# of plants	Total cost
Easter Lilies	\$15.00 each	x	=
Tulips	\$15.00 each	x	=
Hydrangeas	\$35.00 each	x	=

You may take your plant home following the 11:00 am worship on Easter Sunday, or pick it up any time the following week.

Please PRINT:

In loving Memory of:

In honor of:

To the Glory of God

By (your name):



Pi(e) Day is March 17th! The Board of Deacons is hosting Pi(e) Day this year, and have invited our friends from the neighborhood - the residents from The Graver and our homeless vets who visit the Community Resource and Referral Center (the former Dawson Insurance Building). We need lots and lots of pie! If you're able to make or buy a pie or 2 (or 3) for us, please sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board or at the Welcome Desk. Thank you in advance for helping to make Pi(e) Day a success!



Collecting donations for the Emergency Food Pantry: Minnesota FoodShare is doing their annual campaign in March, where they match the collected nonperishable food items and financial support. You may bring items to the church through April 7th and place them in the green buckets in the foyer, or bring them directly to the Pantry by Tuesday, April 9th. If you wish to make a financial contribution, you may give your clearly marked check to the church or directly to the Pantry. Thank you for your generous participation!

Youth Lock-In! The spring Lock-In for our youth will be Friday, April 5th. RSVP to Kayla by March 27th if you would like to participate!

Covenant of Prayer: The flowers that grace our chancel this morning are given in memory of Lucas and Ashley Anderson, and Michael and Ryan Weed. This week is the anniversary of Lucas and Michael's deaths.

Will you volunteer a few hours at the Pantry? March 18th-22nd is our week to volunteer at the Emergency Food Pantry, helping to put together food boxes for families. If you're able to help, please contact Jan Harrison at jharr25@aol.com, or find her on Sunday mornings. Just a few hours make all the difference!



Will you volunteer to help with funeral receptions? Families have entrusted the church at their most difficult and vulnerable times. We want to respond with our love and support. Are you able to help, from time to time, with setting up, serving and cleaning up funeral receptions? Or, perhaps, you could bring a pan of bars. You, too, guys! Please sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board, or you may contact Nancy Lium directly at liumn1949@gmail.com. It's a privilege to serve one another!



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

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

Sunday, March 10

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, March 11

5:30 EduCon Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 12

6:45 Men's Bible Study

5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:05 Holden Evening Prayer

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 14

12:15 Centering Prayer

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, March 15

No Church Events

Saturday, March 16

10:00 PW Leah Circle (H)

Sunday, March 17

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Pie Day 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

February 25 Attendance: 160
134 in person
26 households livestreamed



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

Centering Prayer: The Presentation Prayer Center, alongside our very own Pilgrimage group, is putting on Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer that quiets the mind and focuses attention on the presence and action of the Holy Spirit within. Find a moment of stillness in your day. Thursdays at 12:15pm in the Jennie Roberts Room.