



February 26, 2023
First Sunday Lent

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.*

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

The Lord's Prayer

Malotte

Kathleen Thompson, guest organist

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

INTROIT

How Majestic Is Your Name

Schram

K-2 Choir; Erin Torpey, director; Caleb Gadberry, piano

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We do not live by bread alone,
so we gather to feast on God's sustaining Word.

We come at the Spirit's leading
to offer ourselves in service to Christ.

Come, find strength for the journey
Let us worship the one, true God.

***HYMN 11**

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud, Fortress, Fountain, Shelter, Light,
Judge, Defender, Mercy, Might, Life whose life all life endowed:

May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name
but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.

Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine, Shepherd, Savior, Servant, Lamb,
Well and Water, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:

May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name
but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.

Storm and Stillness, Breath and Dove, Thunder, Tempest, Whirlwind, Fire,
Comfort, Counselor, Presence, Love, Energies that never tire:

May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name
but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.

***CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Holy God, you call us to worship and to serve only you. Yet, when other things demand our attention, we stray from the path Jesus tread. We serve powers that privilege the comfort of some over the well-being of many. We serve a culture that values competition over collaboration. We serve our own desires without considering the needs of our neighbors. Forgive us, Lord. Send your Spirit to guide us back to you. Free us from the clutches of sin and death and draw us close, that we might respond to the grace we know in Christ and follow the ways of justice and righteousness.

***RESPONSE**

Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

1. Through out these Len - ten days and nights we turn to walk the in - ward way, where,
 meet - ing Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Eas - ter day.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

I Will Not leave You Comfortless

Titcomb

Sanctuary Choir; Ryan Smit, conducting; Wanda Wavra, piano

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 63:1-8, pp. 516

Steve Dawson, reader

Matthew 4:1-11, pp. 879

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

SERMON

God’s Next Move

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***HYMN 618**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals’ sake.

For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew, for us, the tempter overthrew.

For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.

For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent the Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God, for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Westminster Catechism: The Shorter Catechism (*questions 1-6*)

What is the chief end of man?

Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

What do the Scriptures principally teach?

The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

What is God?

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Are there more Gods than one?

There is but one only, the living and true God.

How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Gift of Finest Wheat

Arr. Honoré

Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***RESPONSE**

Surely It Is God Who Saves Me



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in God and not be a - fraid. For the
Lord is my strong hold and my sure de - fense, and God will be my Sav - ior.

Words: From The Book of Common Prayer, Canticle 9 (Is. 12:2-6)

Music: Jack Noble White

© 1976 Belwin-Mills Pub. Corp. (admin. by Warner Bros. Pub.)

Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-712186

Bearing the Word into the World

***HYMN 821**

My Life Flows On

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

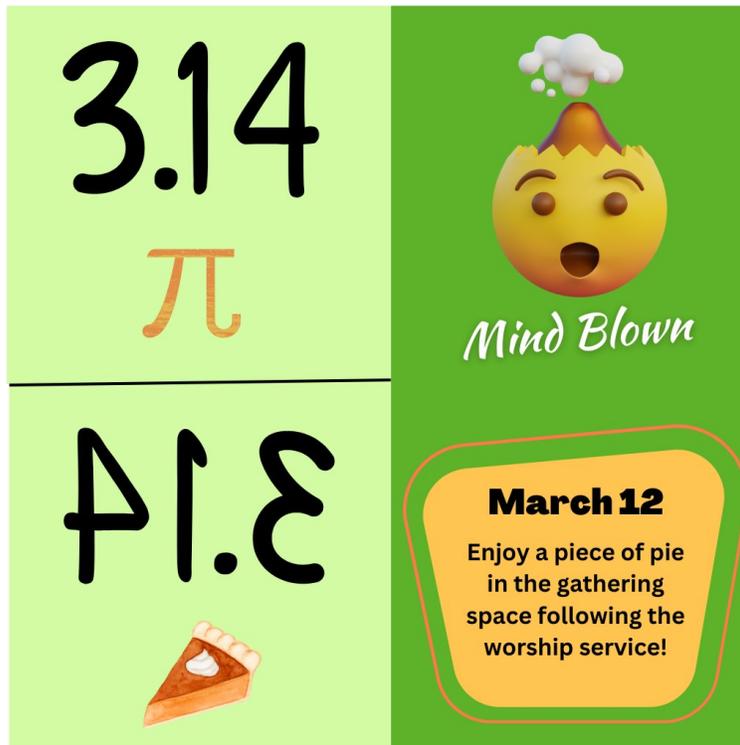
The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Kathleen Thompson, organ

Handel



Pilgrimage Retreat Openings: The Pilgrimage retreat to St. John's Abbey with renowned spiritual guide and teacher David Keller has a few spots available to anyone in the congregation. Scheduled Friday, April 14 to Sunday, April 16, the retreat is designed for people who yearn for a time of quiet reflection to contemplate the compassion and generosity of Jesus. For information on cost and other facets of the retreat contact Mike Wavra wavramw@aol.com. Sign up ends Feb. 28.

Pi day— π day—PIE Day! We won't be together on 3.14, so join us for a slice of pie on 3.12.23 following worship. Pie and toppings will be in the gathering space and Jennie Roberts room. Want to share your baking skills or your favorite pie? Sign up on the volunteer board to donate a pie.



Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed: Valley Senior Services is looking for volunteers to help deliver meals weekdays over the noon hour. Call (701) 293-1440 for more information or go to valleyseniors.org to fill out a volunteer application. Delivery takes about 1 hour and routes are available throughout the city of Fargo and West Fargo.

Covenant Of Prayer: The Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Tokio; Beatrice Janaka's family; Don Brummond, son of Joyce Brummond, with serious medical concerns; Jennifer; and the people of Ukraine, Syria, and Turkey.

Holden Evening Prayer Services: With the Lenten season right around the corner, please consider joining us Wednesday evenings in March for a moment of quiet, contemplative but musically rich worship in the Jennie Roberts Room, 7:00pm to 7:25pm.

Wacky Festival Games: Come one, come all for a night of Wacky Festival Games on Friday, March 24! We'll gather in the Social Hall for pizza at 6 p.m. and then the games will begin. And, these are not your average games. Really, there are no specific skills required to participate but if you'd rather watch, we'd love a cheering section! Expect to see chickens, falling cookies, balls, bubbles, lots of other props and smiling people everywhere you look. And did we mention the pigs?! This FREE event is sponsored by EduCon. Invite your friends – sign up at <https://subspla.sh/3mqz387/>.

Fundraiser for PNP Youth Trip to Kenya
 Order from February 26-March 12
 \$13 per Butter Braid
 Delivery on April 4 at
 First Presbyterian Church, Fargo
 Order in person or online at
<https://bit.ly/pnpbutterbraid>

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Sunday morning Adult Bible Study is reading through Genesis. This is your opportunity to explore the details and themes of the first book of the Bible. All levels of background are welcome. The class is lecture based with some audience participation. Each class is designed to be complete on its own, so please feel free to come when you are available. The dates are March 5, 12 & 26; April 2, 16, & 30; May 7.

Wacky Games Donations: We are looking for clean 5-gallon pails and buckets for some of our Wacky Festival Games. If you would like to donate, items can be dropped off in the coat room. Thank you!

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 8:45** 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

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*
Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*
Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*
Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*
Bryan Poyzer-*Adult Choir Director*
Penny Andrisc-*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, February 26

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, February 27

5:00 Stewardship Committee

Tuesday, February 28

10:30 Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 1

5:30 Genesis Ringers

5:30 St. Andrews Brass

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Lenten Vespers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 2

5:30 Nurturing Parenting Classes

Friday, March 3

7:00 Youth @ Fargo Force Game

9:00 Youth Lock-In

Saturday, March 4

No Church Events

Sunday, March 5

9:15 Sunday School

9:15 Sunday Morning Bible Study

10:30 Worship & Communion (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

February 19 Attendance: 170

123 in person;

47 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$10,982.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

Get In Touch

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

*A vibrant, informed, Presbyterian Community that
nourishes ministry and joins in Christ's Mission*

 **Phone Number**
701-772-0783

 **E-mail Address**
pnpoffice@gmail.com

 **Mailing Address**
5555 South Washington Street
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201



“ Per capita is like
everyone contributing
a dish to the potluck
meal

“ it's like everyone
chipping in for gas
when we're all on a
trip together in the
same vehicle

*Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices
are pleasing to God.*

Hebrews 13:16

Understanding your

Per Capita Giving

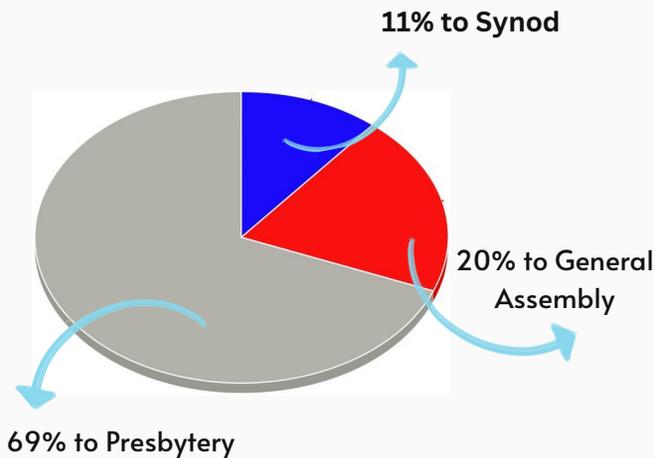
Per capita exists as a way for all
Presbyterians to share costs that belong
to the whole church.

Members share equitably the costs required
to connect and coordinate over 8000+
churches together into one larger body
so we can further the mission of
Jesus Christ around the world.



Where your money goes

Per Capita Breakdown



2023 Per Capita

GA \$9.85

Synod \$5.50

Presbytery \$34.65

\$50 per member

Per capita apportionment for a given year is based on church memberships two years prior.

Every church's Session is encouraged to understand their church's share to help fund the greater work of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



226th General Assembly (2024)

June 29 - July 6, 2024

Salt Lake City, UT

examples of dollars at work at the General Assembly Level

- ✓ Expenses related to holding the GA meeting
 - The GA Meeting
 - reviews the work of synods
 - resolves controversies in the church
 - is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church
 - protects the church from errors in faith and practice
 - assures the church's expression of theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions
 - serves as a symbol of unity for the church
- ✓ Publish & distribute the Book of Order, The Book of Confessions, and other General Assembly publications
- ✓ Provide a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and gatherings in this country and worldwide - extending our mission efforts and our work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do by ourselves!

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains pays 100% of each member's Per Capita share to the General Assembly and Synod as required by the Book of Order.

examples of dollars at work at the Synod Level

- ✓ Presbytery staff and mission support
- ✓ Synod school & clergy seminars
- ✓ Disaster & emergency assistance for churches



examples of dollars at work at the Presbytery Level

- ✓ Pods, committees, & task forces
- ✓ Ministry team administrative expenses
- ✓ Education & inspirational events
- ✓ Presbytery meetings
- ✓ Presbytery personnel & administrative expense
- ✓ ...and so much more!

Per Capita is the main source of funding used to make investments back into the local churches