



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.*

September 18: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in Christ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You hear the cries of your people for justice and mercy; you answer our prayers with the gift of your Son, who bears our burdens and sets us free. Speak your truth to us; purge and refine us; that we may love and serve you alone. Amen.

PRELUDE

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Handel/arr. Simm

Krista Clusiau & Sally Harmon, piano duo

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

***HYMN 720**

Jesus Calls Us

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Christian love is less about affectionate feelings and more about being connected, about belonging. How often do we fight about being right instead of fighting to understand? Let us confess our shortcomings.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, we know that we repeatedly break the circle of love through our exclusion of others. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial. Forgive us when we foster hostility and misunderstanding. Forgive us when we are insensitive and close our hearts to others. Grant us the Spirit of unity and understanding so we can see eye to eye, link hand in hand, live heart to heart, and affirm our differences.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad! One: Friends, believe in the Good News of the Gospel. All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE 155

Raise a Song of Gladness

Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-ples of the earth. Christ has come,
bring-ing peace, joy to ev-ery heart. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
joy to ev-ery heart! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev-ery heart!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

River in Judea

arr. Leavitt

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director; Sally Harmon, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jean Pladson, Reader

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and for evermore.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?
He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.
He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the Lord!

May God bless the reading and hearing of this portion of the holy Word.

SECOND READING

Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

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

SERMON

Stepping Up

***HYMN 708**

We Give Thee But Thine Own

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.

The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be;
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Scots Confession: CHAPTER XII Faith in the Holy Ghost (excerpts)

Our faith and its assurance do not proceed from flesh and blood, that is to say, from natural powers within us, but are the inspiration of the Holy Ghost; whom we confess to be God, equal with the Father and with his Son, who sanctifies us, and brings us into all truth by his own working, without whom we should remain forever enemies to God and ignorant of his Son, Christ Jesus...And so, as we confess that God the Father created us when we were not, as his Son our Lord Jesus redeemed us when we were enemies to him, so also do we confess that the Holy Ghost does sanctify and regenerate us, without respect to any merit proceeding from us, be it before or be it after our regeneration. To put this even more plainly; as we willingly disclaim any honor and glory for our own creation and redemption, so do we willingly also for our regeneration and sanctification; for by ourselves we are not capable of thinking one good thought, but he who has begun the work in us alone continues us in it, to the praise and glory of his undeserved grace.

Background: The Scots Confession was written at a turning point in the history of the Scottish nation. The Protestant nobility of Scotland was able to secure English recognition of Scottish sovereignty in the Treaty of Edinburgh after the Queen Regent Mary of Guise died in her sleep in 1560. To the Scots, this favorable conclusion to the civil war with Mary's French-supported forces represented a providential deliverance.

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 *Allegretto from Symphony #3, op. 90* Brahms/arr. Brown
Krista Clusiau & Sally Harmon, piano duo

***RESPONSE 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Bearing the Word into the World

***HYMN 700** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Lord of the Dance* arr. Raney
Krista Clusiau, piano; Sally Harmon, organ



Per Capita: If you have not yet paid Per Capita for 2022, it's not too late! We will be accepting payments through the end of the year. Your contribution will be reflected on your giving record and will be greatly appreciated to help offset the Per Capita Apportionment payment sent to the Presbytery. 2022 rate = \$48.00 per confirmed member.

Serving at Micah's Mission continues: Thank you to those who have been preparing and serving meals at Micah's Mission (part of Churches United for the Homeless). Our commitment continues every second Thursday of the month. A sign up sheet is at the Volunteer Opportunities Board if you wish to help on October 13. We need 4 meal preparers from 3-5pm and 4 servers from 5-7pm. Consider forming a team, or being part of a team. See Pastor Mary if this is for you! Come and be a part of this longstanding partnership.

Town Hall: A new season for Fargo Town Hall is starting on September 20. This new season includes a new day, Tuesdays at 10:30 am, and a new location at Prairie Heights Church, 319 32nd Ave. West Fargo. Please visit the website fargotownhall.org for more information.

Pilgrimage: Richard Rohr "Alternative Orthodoxy" class open to all: How do contemplation, mysticism, compassion, and justice inform Christianity? With Rohr's videos facilitated by spiritual director Maren Ortmeier, this 5-session course provides new insight into age-old theology.

When: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 P.M., it started September 13 and goes through October 11.

Where: Social Hall and Zoom.

Purchase of Rohr's book is highly recommended.

Contact: Mike Wavra, wavramw@aol.com or 701- 566-1483.

Baptism Handkerchiefs: The Worship Committee is looking for people who have the skill or equipment to embroider names and baptism dates onto handkerchiefs. We plan to give these as gifts to each child when they are baptized. If you have the ability to help us with this request, please contact Kim Carter or Pastor Sarah.

Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; and the people of Ukraine.

Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: Lt. Col. Dan Sundberg will return from Iraq in December. If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

The Emergency Food Pantry: We are once again going to commit to serving the Pantry through our volunteering mission. This very worthwhile mission service had a break during the pandemic but now they are ready for us to assist them again. We will be volunteering the mornings of the week Monday, October 3rd through Thursday, October 6th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. There are many different jobs to do. There will be signup sheets at today's, the 25th, and Oct. 3rd services. You may also sign up by calling Jan Harrison at 701-371-1855 or 701-293-6130 or for more information.

Committee members needed: The Management & Finance Committee is looking for a few new members. The Committee oversees the finances of the church and develops the yearly operating budget in conjunction with committees. Typically meets every other month during the lunch hour via Zoom. If you have an interest in finance or accounting, please contact Pastor Sarah at sbigwood@firstpresfargo.org.

Wednesday evenings at First Presbyterian are busy! Children arriving for choirs sometimes need the doors opened for them, as not all members have key fobs for access. We are looking for a volunteer or two to hang out near the West entry on **Wednesdays from 5:15 to 7:15 pm** to help shepherd our young members in and out. It is important to keep children indoors until their parents or other adult arrives for them. It is an easy two hours to sit and visit with other church members, check your email on your phone, perhaps water the plants in the entry, etc. Can you help? Questions? Contact any staff member.

School Supply Collection for Mpangua: From October 3-17, a team from the Presbytery of the Northern Plains is going to Chogoria, Kenya to celebrate our partners' Centennial. While we are there, we will visit Mpangua Primary School, which we worked to build as a partnership. Due to national curriculum changes, Mpangua is in need of different school supplies such as crayons, markers, water colors, and quality balls for football, netball, volleyball, and basketball as well as nets for basketball and netball. You can also give a cash donation as there are items such as wall maps, paints, a printer, scanner, and photo copier which will be purchased in country. Please bring your items to the church or donate by Sunday, October 2. Please denote Mpangua School Supplies on any monetary donation.

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, Lisa Edison-Smith, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Scott Swanholm, Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens.

Deacons: Brenda Deckard, Gracia Fulwiler, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Treasurer: Ed Deckard

Church Staff

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*
Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*
Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*
Bryan Poyzer-*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*

**Most 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, September 18

11:30 Coffee & Fellowship

12:00 Confirmation

Monday, Sept. 19

1:00 Bulletin Insert Articles Due

6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 20

10:30 Staff Meeting

6:30 "Alternate Orthodoxy" Pilgrimage (H)

Wednesday, Sept. 21

5:30 Genesis Ringers

5:30 St. Andrews Brass

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, Sept. 22

5:00 Nurturing Parenting Meal & Classes

Friday, Sept. 23

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Saturday, Sept. 24

No Church Events

Sunday, Sept. 25

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship (L)

11:30 Fellowship

12:00 Confirmation

2:00 Pastor Sarah's Installation Service

Reminder: Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website!

For Your Information

September 11 Attendance: 203

157 in person;

46 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$9409.67



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org