



**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.

January 07, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Sonatina in G, Op. 20, No. 2: II. Adagio e Sostenuto

Friedrich Kuhlau

Sonatina in F, Op. 20, No. 3: II. Larghetto

Russell Romine, guest organist

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Heavenly Father, in the spirit of the Magi who sought and worshiped the newborn King, we seek you with open hearts and minds. May the light of the star that guided the Magi continue to lead us in the way of righteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Today, we gather as seekers and finders,
drawn by the light that guides us to the presence of our King.

We come with hearts open, seeking the One who is worthy of our worship.

Let us worship God!

✦ HYMN 147

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

❖ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who freely cared for God with cuddles and sweet kisses that he might know love and safety. And yet, we must admit that our actions or inactions reveal that our need for control compels us more than the needs of others for health and safety. Forgive us, when we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed, when we allow harm to come to befall the innocent and vulnerable for the sake of profit. We pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost.

❖ **RESPONSE 137**

He Came Down

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light; he
came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60: 1-6, pp. 676
Matthew 2: 1-12, pp. 877

Bruce Maylath, reader

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

SERMON

The Visit of the Wise Men

The Rev. Dan Billings

❖ **HYMN 151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are (vs. 1-2, 5)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

The Sealing of the Word

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

To you, O God, we cry; **be gracious to us.**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The words spoken by the pastor bless the bread and cup on the table and all the elements that are an extension of this table.

HYMN OF APPROACH 523 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (vs. 1-3)*

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice,
so when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice. (Refrain)

With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heavenly food. (Refrain)

Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord? (Refrain)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Largo

Francesco Maria Veracini

Kathleen Thomas, violin; Virginia Stern, piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Responding to the Word



MOMENT FOR MISSION

Jody Hudson

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

OFFERTORY

Shall We Gather at the River

arr. John Carter

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Niesen, director; Russell Romine, piano

❖ RESPONSE 606

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

❖ HYMN 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary in D
Russell Romine, organist

Jeremiah Clarke

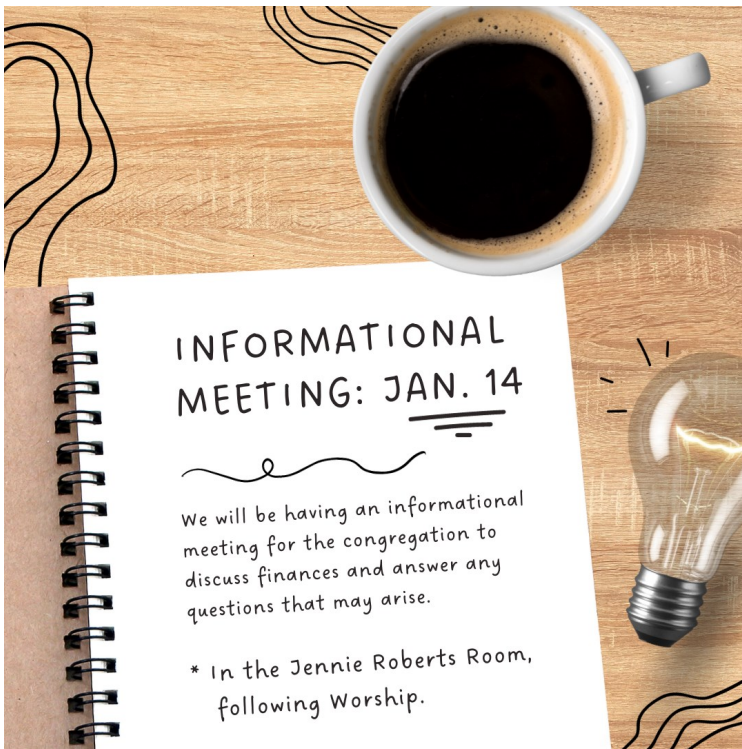
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO



Sunday Worship

January 7, 2024

Pillows for the YWCA Our thanks to Presbyterian Women (PW) and all those in the congregation who donated pillows for the women and children at the YWCA this past year. With your help we donated 463 pillows! Residents take their pillows with them when they leave the shelter. You may participate by purchasing new pillows and putting them in the west foyer coat room, or make a financial contribution, clearly marked on a check, or through the giving portal on the church website. Wishing “sweet dreams” to all who receive these pillows.



FOBs: Friends, please make sure to attach your FOB to your keychain. This ensures that you have it with you when you need to get into the building. This will also help with lost FOBs and the need to replace them. If you have any questions, please contact Rick in the office.

Member Nametags: Do you have a church nametag? If you have never had one, you may receive one free. If you need to replace a lost nametag, we ask for a donation of \$10 to cover the cost. Order forms can be found both at the Welcome Desk and on our website. The standard nametag will have a magnetic back. If for any reason you would like a nametag with a pin back, please indicate that after your name. Students in 5th grade and above are welcome to order a nametag.

A **memorial service for Doug Harnisch** is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 20, 11am. If you can provide a pan of bars for lunch following the service, sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board or contact Nancy Lium.

We have received word that church member Margaret Schulze died on January 3. Her memorial service will be Feb. 3, 11am in the sanctuary. Blessed be her memory.

Photo & Information Updates: The holidays are a great time for family pictures! If you would like to update your family's entry in the church directory, email Casey in the church office, or bring a hard copy in 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.

Men's Bible Study: We The men's Bible study meets again on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:45 a.m. in the Jennie Roberts Room. Egg bake, pastries, and coffee will be served again this winter. 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 Genesis. A copy of the study guide can be obtained from Bruce Maylath. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

PW Board Meeting: On January 9th a board meeting will be held in the Jennie Roberts Room at 10:00am.

PW Bible Study Leaders: On Jan. 10 Pastor Mary Holtey will present the Bible Study on Lesson 5: *A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus* in the office conference room at 10:00am.

PW Circles: Circles will meet Jan. 16 in the Jennie Roberts Room; Naomi/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30am and the Rachel Circle will meet at 1:00pm. The Leah Circle will meet at 10:00am on Jan. 20th via Zoom. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Paula Christensen at 701-219-5795.

CHILI COOK OFF

January 21 after worship



Sign up on the Volunteer Opportunities Board or by scanning the QR code!

Perfect your chili today!



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**

MISSING COAT: On Christmas Eve, a long black men's coat mistakenly went home with someone else. If you or a family member wear such a coat, please check the lining. Your London Fog coat is in the coat room. The Strauss coat belongs to someone who is very interested in having it back. Thank you!

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

Sunday, January 7

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, January 8

5:30 EduCon Committee Meeting (H)

Tuesday, January 9

6:45 Men's Bible Study

10:00 PW Board Meeting

5:00 Sacred Places Grant Meeting

5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:00 Health Fair Committee Meeting (H)

6:15 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsals

6:30 Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 11

No Church Events

Friday, January 12

6:00 Barta / Lee Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, January 13

1:30 Barta / Lee Wedding

Sunday, January 14

8:45 Second Sunday Activities

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

11:45 Informational Meeting

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

December 31 Attendance: 154

108 in person

46 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$0.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org