



*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**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of Peace, your call at times, appears to divide us from one another. Help us to overcome our fears and respond in courage. Give us faith to trust the unity that is beyond our sight. Give us your eyes to recognize the signs before us. We ask this in the confidence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **PRELUDE**

*Ronde Française*  
Sally Harmon, organist

Boëllmann

### **WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**Mindful of the gifts we receive and confident of the sustenance the Lord provides, let us worship God.**

### **\*HYMN 54**

*Make a Joyful Noise to God*

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!  
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.  
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:  
walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.  
Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies, and rejoice!

Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!  
By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.  
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heavenly home.

### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Trusting in God's hopes for us, let us come before God with contrite hearts, asking for reconciliation and seeking peace.

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of hope, we confess our disregard of your care, our doubt of your providence, and our blindness to signs of your love. We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life; we separate ourselves from you and from others and foster divisions between those you love. Help us to amend our lives and make us your faithful people who bear the good fruit of your Word in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God hears our confession, rejoicing as we desire to amend our lives. God lifts us from our despondency to rejoice in the company of the saints. God acknowledges the forces that separate us and brings us peace. Friends, rejoice in the knowledge of our reconciliation. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

### **\*RESPONSE**

*Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.**

**World without end. Amen, Amen.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

#### **GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Brother James' Air*

arr. Dean

Savannah Joldersma, soprano; Sally Harmon, piano

## **The Word**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Sue VanOsdel, Reader

God of Wisdom, we eagerly seek your presence in our lives and in the world. By your Spirit, speak your word to us, and give us your grace to recognize the abundant signs of your care for us, so that we might be freed to act in the world with courage and abandon. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

*Hebrews 11:29-12:2*

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of

whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

## **SECOND READING**

*Luke 12:49-56*

‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son and son against father,  
mother against daughter and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?’

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

## **SERMON**

*Single-Minded Determination*

### **\*HYMN 821**

*My Life Flows On*

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

I catch the sweet, 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 Love is lord of heav’n 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]

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of mercy, hear our 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

*His Eye is on the Sparrow*

arr. Zaninelli

Savannah Joldersma, soprano; Sally Harmon, piano

### \*RESPONSE 717

*For the Life that You Have Given*

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,  
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:  
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;  
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Bearing the Word into the World

### \*HYMN 542

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
may the Shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings, protecting, hide you,  
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
smite death's threat'ning wave before you; God be with you till we meet again.

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Chorale and Menuet from Suite Gothique*

Boëllmann

*The National Spiritual Anthem of Ukraine*

Lord, oh the Great and Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Bless her with freedom and light  
Of your holy rays.

With learning and knowledge enlighten  
Us, your children small,  
In love pure and everlasting  
Let us, oh Lord, grow.

We pray, oh Lord Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Grant our people and country  
All your kindness and grace.

Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom,  
Guide into kind world,  
Bless us, oh Lord, with good fortune  
Forever and evermore.



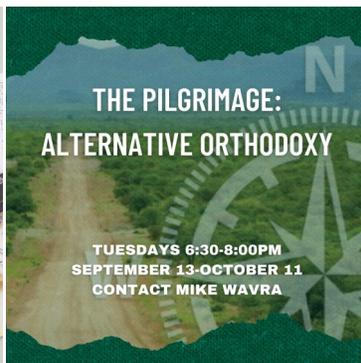
**Covenant Of Prayer:** Bruce, (Charlotte Sailor's son in law); Jennifer; Hannah; The families of Doug Froelich and Mary Bohnenblust; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; and the people of Ukraine.

**Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer:** Lt. Col. Dan Sundberg has been deployed to Iraq for 9 months. If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance July Flooding:** Across our nation this summer, there have been numerous instances of destructive flooding. PDA is working in Missouri, Virginia, and Kentucky to offer resources, process grants, and deploy National Response Team. If you would like to help with this recovery effort, you can give by cash, check, through our website, or PDA's website. Please make sure to note PDA July Flooding.

**Nametag Blitz:** 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. 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade and above are welcome to order a nametag.

**Pillows! Pillows!** We continue to shower the YWCA shelter with new pillows that each person staying at the shelter gets to keep when they leave. May these women and children always have a safe and soft place to lay their heads at night. You may bring new pillows to the West Coat Room.

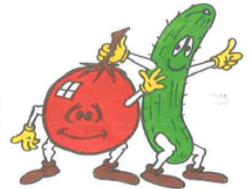


**The Banner for Ordinary Time** includes symbols from our Lord's parable of the sower demonstrating the theme of Christian growth. A withered bush testifies to the seed which fell on thorny soil and did not grow. The seed which fell on good soil matured and produced fruit as seen in the mature wheat at the bottom of the banner. The banner is crafted in shades of green to symbolize the growth of Christians as they walked their road of discipleship, faces pointed always toward the triumph of the cross.

**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](http://fargotownhall.org) for more information.

## Garden Overflowing??

Can't Eat Another Tomato or Zucchini?  
Donate Your Excess Fruit and Vegetables To...



You drop it here,  
We donate it there.

	Donate in Fargo	Donate in West Fargo
Each Monday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Even Labor Day!	The Bowler 2630 University Dr. S.	Holy Cross Catholic Church 2711 7 <sup>th</sup> St. E.
July 25 until the Monday following the 1 <sup>st</sup> frost	Longfellow Recycle Parking Lot 2939 Elm St. N.	Community Presbyterian Church 702 Sheyenne St.
Sponsors:		
	<b>Donate in Horace</b>	
	In front of the water tower on Main Street Fargo, WF, Horace donations go to Emergency Food Pantry	
	<b>Donate in Moorhead</b>	
	Trinity Lutheran Church: Corner of 8 <sup>th</sup> St. and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Parking lot of "The Village": 815 37 <sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Moorhead donations go to Dorothy Day House	
Each Monday 9:00 a.m-6:00 p.m. (closed Labor Day)	<b>Donate in Harwood</b>	
	Sheyenne Gardens Harwood donations go to Emergency Food Pantry	

Questions? Please contact NDSU Cass County Extension Service, 701-241-5700

**The Emergency Food Pantry** is in desperate need of volunteers for the summer and into the fall. Volunteers can pick the hours, days and times that work best for them. Several different tasks are available. Please contact the Pantry directly at 701-237-9337 or contact Jan Harrison at 701-371-1855 if you have questions. There will be a sign up sheet for a week we will be committing to late August or September, but in the meantime they need several volunteers for many slots.

**Feeling Chilly?** The sanctuary is kept at 72 degrees year-round. For a person wearing a sports coat or suit jacket that is comfortable, but those wearing sleeveless dresses might get cold. Remember to dress for the air conditioning when you come to church.

**Hearing devices and large print copies of today's hymns** are available, please ask an usher for assistance.

**The Nursery** is not staffed during the summer months. Parents are welcome to use the nursery while supervising their young children. There's a TV monitor in the room so that you are able to watch the service.

**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, Bruce Furness, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Scott Swanholm, Paula Thomas, Kevin Tobosa, Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens.

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

### 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*

Jan Lundgren-*Business Manager*

Penny Andrist-*Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Kayla Bones-*Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Rick Fiebiger-*Facilities Manager*

Drew Brovold-*Custodian*

**Most staff emails are:**  
(first initial and last name of person)  
[@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:@firstpresfargo.org)

**P.O. Box is closed:** Please note that the P.O. Box #327 has been closed. When mailing your contributions or correspondence, please remember to use the church's physical address: 650 2nd Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102. New offering envelope packets have been ordered (for those who use them) with the updated mailing address.

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

**Sunday, August 14**

*11:30* Coffee & Fellowship

**Monday, Aug. 15**

No Church Events

**Tuesday, Aug. 16**

*9:00* Bulletin Insert Articles Due

*1:00* Staff Meeting

*2:00* PW Circle Meetings (Z)

*6:00* Compass Group 4

**Wednesday, Aug. 17**

No Church Events

**Thursday, Aug. 18**

*6:00* Wedding Rehearsal

**Friday, Aug. 19**

*4:00* Barta-Turner Wedding

**Saturday, Aug. 20**

No Church Events

**Sunday, Aug. 21**

*10:30* Worship (L)

*11:30* Fellowship

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

### For Your Information

August 7 Attendance:

118 in person;

36 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$3,887.65



### Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)