



Joy for the Generations

DECEMBER 11, 2022 | THIRD SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FARGO, ND

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 hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

arrs. Manz

Sally Harmon, organist

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Silent Night

arr. Clancy

Ransom Notes Quartet from Great Plains Harmony:
Ryan Brehmer, Jeff Olson, Paul Sandbek, Ken Frank

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING WORDS

Where I Saw God Last

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed,

A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

Adapted for Fargo

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** Jason, Nicole, Nathan & Cullen Bolluyt and Paula & Toby Christensen (Nicole's mom and dad)

***CAROL 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

In God's house, everyone is welcome— those who seem like they have it all together, and those who feel like their world is falling apart. No matter who we are, there's room for us here. With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer, speaking the truth of our lives.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.

Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.

Help us remember, today and tomorrow,

There's room for every story. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, we who feel scattered are held together. We who have lost our way are forgiven and found. And, we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, "There's room for you here." This is the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

Christmas Medley

arr. Clancy

Ransom Notes Quartet from Great Plains Harmony:
Ryan Brehmer, Jeff Olson, Paul Sandbek, Ken Frank

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Sarah Bigwood

God of the ages, in scripture we hear stories of people like us—ordinary people, people who longed to know you, people who longed to follow you, people who made mistakes, people who tried to grow—old, young, native, immigrant, new to the faith, lifelong believer. In scripture we hear stories of people like us, so just as you walked with them, help us to hear and remember all the ways that you walk with us. We are listening. We are grateful. We are yours. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

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

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:1-17

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

SERMON

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***CAROL 107**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing;
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness.
The thunder of his anthems rolls to shatter all hatred and violence.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder;
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Confession of 1967
The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

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



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

***DID YOU KNOW?** If you are 72 or over you generally must withdraw an amount from your retirement accounts every year (the required minimum distribution). This amount can be paid directly to a charity (like the church). Amounts distributed this way count towards the minimum distribution and are excluded from your taxable income. Contact the church for more details.*

OFFERTORY*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

arr. Sherman

RESPONSE 95Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and
all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION*Bearing the Word into the World*****CAROL 119***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION*POSTLUDE***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

arr. Eggert

Please stay following the postlude for a short congregational meeting to elect officers for 2023 and to approve the terms of call for Pastor Sarah and Pastor Mary.

2025 Officers — Elders

Deb Dawson



Tom Dawson



Tetteh Dottey



Jody Hudson



Bruce Maylath



2025 Officers — Deacons

Toby Christensen



Paula Christensen



Steve Dawson



Brenda Deckard



Virginia Stern



New Terms of Call for Pastor Sarah 2023

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Salary | 39,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| Housing & Utilities | 36,000.00 | 45,000.00 |
| Board of Pensions | 29,230.00 | 30,810.00 |
| SECA Reimbursement | 5,737.50 | 5,737.50 |
| Contractual Expenses (medical, professional, travel, et cetera) | 8,100.00 | 8,100.00 |
| Total: | 118,067.50 | 119,647.50 |

Other Agreements 2023:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Vacation: | 30 days, including 5 Sundays. |
| Study Leave: | 16 days, including 2 Sundays. Reflects increase of 1 day from 2022. Cumulative. |
| Continuing Education: | Expenses are cumulative up to three years provided pastor declares them for future use by the end of year so session can set aside funds. |

New Terms of Call for Pastor Mary 2023

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Salary | 49,057.93 | 52,508.76 |
| Housing & Utilities | 20,068.30 | 18,000.00 |
| Board of Pensions | 27,476.75 | 29,711.46 |
| SECA Reimbursement | 5,288.16 | 5,393.92 |
| Contractual Expenses (medical, professional, travel, et cetera) | 5,900.00 | 5,900.00 |
| Total: | 107,791.13 | 111,514.14 |

Other Agreements 2023:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Vacation: | 30 days, including 4 Sundays. |
| Study Leave: | 21 days, including 3 Sundays. Reflects increase of 1 add'l week, including 1 Sunday. Cumulative. |
| Continuing Education: | Expenses are cumulative up to three years provided pastor declares them for future use by the end of year so session can set aside funds. |

| FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2023 BUDGET SUMMARY | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 | 2023 |
| | ACTUAL | ACTUAL | BUDGET | PROJ ACTUAL | BUDGET |
| <u>INCOME</u> | | | | | |
| <i>Offering Income</i> | | | | | |
| Current pledges | 612,788 | 593,524 | 635,000 | 575,268 | 635,000 |
| Koehler grant & undesignated | 52,277 | 34,064 | 34,000 | 20,000 | 34,000 |
| Plate | 4,430 | 8,153 | 10,000 | 13,383 | 10,000 |
| Per Capita subsidy | 9,070 | 8,210 | 9,000 | 8,687 | 9,000 |
| Previous year pledge | 430 | 408 | 1,000 | 1,950 | 1,000 |
| <i>Total Offering Income</i> | 678,995 | 644,358 | 689,000 | 619,288 | 689,000 |
| <i>Other Income</i> | | | | | |
| Other income | 1,655 | 568 | 5,000 | 9,681 | 5,000 |
| Interest income | 225 | 226 | 300 | 238 | 300 |
| Parking lot | 59,730 | 60,742 | 60,000 | 65,166 | 60,000 |
| Capital Campaign Fund allocation | | | 45,000 | 45,000 | |
| EIDL advance grant | 10,000 | | | | |
| PPP1 Debt Forgiveness | 67,544 | 10,083 | | | |
| PPP2 Debt Forgiveness | | 91,755 | | | |
| Youth trips/fundraising | | | | 365 | |
| <i>Total Other Income</i> | 139,153 | 163,375 | 110,300 | 120,450 | 65,300 |
| <i>S & E Income</i> | 17,967 | 19,104 | 19,500 | 22,012 | 20,500 |
| Total General Fund Income | \$ 836,115 | \$ 826,837 | \$ 818,800 | \$ 761,750 | \$ 774,800 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | | | | |
| <i>Total Personnel</i> | 537,858 | 473,489 | 545,779 | 522,509 | 642,607 |
| <i>TOTAL PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS & PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT</i> | 50,555 | 50,736 | 50,496 | 50,496 | 51,750 |
| <i>Local Missions</i> | 26,975 | 27,000 | 27,000 | 27,000 | 27,270 |
| <i>Total Building & Grounds</i> | 155,168 | 161,761 | 164,300 | 185,717 | 184,400 |
| <i>Total Office</i> | 22,915 | 28,053 | 27,525 | 28,769 | 28,225 |
| <i>Total Worship Committee</i> | 10,155 | 16,548 | 17,750 | 17,015 | 16,600 |
| <i>Total Other Church Committees</i> | 1,684 | 617 | 1,500 | 1,362 | 1,250 |
| <i>Total Edu/Con Committee</i> | 3,311 | 2,672 | 5,000 | 2,909 | 4,050 |
| <i>Total Spiritual Nurture & Education</i> | 7,489 | 8,354 | 18,600 | 12,952 | 18,000 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 816,110 | \$ 769,230 | \$ 857,950 | \$ 848,729 | \$ 974,152 |
| <i>Income - Expenses</i> | \$ 20,004 | \$ 57,607 | \$ (39,150) | \$ (86,979) | \$ (199,352) |



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FARGO

Together in Joy

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Festival of Trees: In the Gathering Space, three trees will be familiar and the Vets Tree is new this year! We continue to collect greeting cards for vets to send to family and friends, and winter clothing (copies of the list are at the Tree). We're adding food bags for our homeless vets. We have bags to fill and lists of needed items. You may choose to shop to fill a complete bag, or buy several of the same items and we'll put together the complete bags. In addition we're collecting non-perishable food items and diapers for the Emergency Food Pantry; hats, mittens, scarves, gloves and warm socks for local shelters; financial contributions for hunger relief in Kenya. Members of the Mission Committee are in the Gathering Space to help you.

PW Circles: Circles will be meeting on Tuesday, December 13 for Lesson 4. Naomi/Ruth will meet at 9:30am; Rachel Circle will meet at 1pm, both in the Jennie Roberts Room. The Leah circle will meet Dec. 17th in the office conference room. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Jan Kenien at 701-280-2391.

Red Kettle Campaign – Bell Ringing: Signup sheets to ring the bell for the Salvation Army's feeding programs will be in the foyer after worship today. All locations are indoors, starting the week of Thanksgiving and through the holiday season. Contact Ginger Deitz with questions, deitzv@gmail.com.



Congregational Meeting: The Session of First Presbyterian Fargo has called a Congregational meeting today, Dec. 11, following worship for the purpose of electing officers and approving the Terms of Call for our pastors.

2022 Year End Giving: Please have all contributions intended for the 2022 giving year turned in to the church office by Tuesday, January 3rd. The church office will be open from 9:00AM through 3:00PM that day. You can also use the drop box by the office door if you arrive after office hours. Any contributions received after that date will be recorded on your 2023 giving record. If you would like to know the balance of your 2022 pledge, email Jan Lundgren at jlundgren@firstpresfargo.org.

Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; David; 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 by December 20th! If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.



December 18, 6:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Fargo

Men's Bible Study: The ManUp Bible study for men continues on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, 6:45 -7:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this month takes up the 3rd lesson in the study guide to the Book of Job. A copy of the study guide can be obtained from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served. New participants may join at any time.



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, 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, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, 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 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, December 11

11:30 Congregational Meeting

11:30 Fellowship

11:30 Lefse Lessons — Day 2

5:30 Confirmation

Monday, December 12

6:00 EduCon Committee Meeting

7:00 Ring & Sing-Along

Tuesday, December 13

6:45 Men's Bible Study

9:30 PW Circles

1:00 PW Circle

5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

5:30 St. Andrews Brass

5:30 Carols by Candlelight Rehearsals

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 15

No Church Events

Friday, December 16

No Church Events

Saturday, December 17

10:00 Carols by Candlelight Rehearsal

12:00 Cookie Dropoff Deadline

Sunday, December 18

9:15 Family Christmas Party

9:15 Cookie Walk

10:30 Worship (L)

11:30 Fellowship

6:30 Carols by Candlelight (L)

For Your Information

November 27 Attendance: 190

154 in person;

36 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$18,242.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org