



**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.

September 1, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth arrs. Walter Pelz/Wilbur Held
Sally Harmon, organist

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Unchanging God, you have blessed us forever through the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Born again by your word of truth, let us live out your love, doing your word, caring for the weak and vulnerable in their distress, and ever pursuing your reign of justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rusty Bender

Who may abide in the presence of God?

Who may live on God's holy mountain?

All those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.

All those who speak truth from their heart.

✦ HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)

For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)

❖ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God of light, we confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied with human traditions and norms and avoid your liberating truth. We have confused meekness with weakness, holiness with social conformity, and anger with righteousness. Forgive us, we pray. By the power of your word save us from the prison of our conceit so that we may serve you with sincere hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

❖ **RESPONSE 484**

Holy Spirit, Come to Us

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us; kin - dle in us the fire of your love.

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Word

SCRIPTURE

James 1:17-27, pp. 1100

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

SERMON

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***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.

The Sealing of the Word

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.

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 517 *Here, O Our Lord, We See You (verses 1+2)*

Here, O our Lord, we see you face to face.
Here would we touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all our weariness upon you lean.

Here would we feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with you the royal cup of heaven;
here would we lay aside each earthly load,
and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

COMMUNION MUSIC *The King of Love, My Shepherd Is* arrs. Callahan/Willan
Sally Harmon, organist

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Responding to the Word



OFFERING MESSAGE

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

OFFERTORY

All Thy Gifts of Love

David L. Brunner

Leah and Taaren Haak, duet; 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 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

❖BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Jack Schrader

Sally Harmon, organist

Thank you to Tetteh Dottey and Rusty Bender for assisting us in worship and to our Welcome Team: Brian & Dorothy McClure, Brenda Deckard, Sue & Tom Van Osdel, David & Virginia Stern, Sydney Goddard, Gracia Fulwiler, Bruce Maylath, Cynthia Baumgardner, and Wayne Sander for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Leah and Taaren Haak, and Sally Harmon.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO



Sunday Worship

September 1, 2024

Rally Day Produce Exchange: Calling all gardeners! Did your garden over produce this year, or maybe it didn't do so well at all? Either way, plan to come to the 2nd annual Produce Exchange on Rally Day, next week, September 8th. Bring your extra veggies, fruits and herbs before worship. Go home with something new to try. *Sponsored by EduCon.*

RALLY DAY!

September 8 at 10:30

- ▶ Worship Band
- ▶ Balloon Twisting
- ▶ Produce Exchange
- ▶ Lunch & Fellowship after!

Worship at the new outdoor stage!

Sunday School Volunteers Needed: We are seeking volunteers that love working with children and youth to help make our Sunday School programming vibrant and impactful. Does this sound like you? Contact Rusty Bender at rbender@firspresfargo.org.

Volunteering at the EFP: First Presbyterian Church is once again going to serve the Emergency Food Pantry by volunteering the week of September 16 - 20, 2024. There are many time slots available and many jobs to do. A sign up sheet will be available during coffee time in the Gathering Space. Please check your calendar and stop by to sign up for a shift. You may also call **Nancy Lium** at (701) 235-0228, with any questions or to volunteer.

Hard Copy Directories Available Now: Stop by the office and pick up your hard copy directory! The suggested donation is \$10 to help offset the cost of printing. If you have not yet, please contact Casey in the office, as there are only enough directories printed for those who have requested one. Thank you!

Covenant of Prayer: Brad Schenck, son of Richard Schenck (BDPC) fighting brain cancer; Fraser Harrison, under the care of hospice.

Music Ensembles First Rehearsal

September 4th, 2024

Genesis Ringers: 5:30pm
Children & Youth Choirs: 6:15pm
Westminster Bells: 6:30pm
Sanctuary Choir: 7:30pm

Sunday School & Music Ensemble

Registration: If you have not yet already, be sure to register your child for Sunday School and the music ensembles, as the first fall rehearsal is right around the corner, and Sunday school starts September 15th! The registration form for Sunday School is available via the QR code above, on our website, and in-person sign up available on Rally Sunday, Sept. 8th. Information regarding children & youth education is available on our website under Children, Youth, and Music Ministries. Many thanks to everyone who has already registered!



Bible Study Kick-Off: The kickoff of PW for the upcoming school year will be on September 10th at 10am. Pastor Mary Holtey will lead the introduction and Lesson 1 of our Bible study, *Let Justice Roll Down*. Doughnuts and coffee will be served. There will not be copies available at our meeting on September 10th. If you are in need of a Bible study book, you can order your copy by calling 800-533-4371, or online at www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop. If you have any questions, call Paula Christensen at 701-219-5795.

Fellowship of Frolicking Friendly Females (4 F's):

This group is for single women over 55 who want to get together for social activities. The next upcoming event is Friday, September 6th at 10:30am to see the National Quilt Exhibit at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, with the potential for lunch after. Admission is \$11. Monday, September 30th at 1:00pm will be touring the exhibits at the Plains Art Museum with coffee / tea to follow. Admission is free. If you are interested, please contact Marcia Foss at 701-840-1986.

Hearing devices, as well as large print copies of today's bulletins and 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: Mindy Argall, Abi Carlson, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Jeff Wilkens, and Steve Wonderlich. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, David Hoffman, Jane Mathew (moderator), Donna Rummens, Wayne Sander, 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*

Rusty Bender-*Director of Church Life*

Sally Harmon-*Organist*

Pam Burns-*Music Ministry Coordinator*

Bryan Poyzer-*Adult Choir Director*

Penny Andrist-*Children's 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, September 1

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, September 2

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

10:00 PW Board Meeting

5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 4

5:30 Genesis Ringers Rehearsal

6:15 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsal

6:30 Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 5

9:30 Town Hall Board Meeting

5:30 Nurturing Families Class

Friday, September 6

No Church Events

Saturday, September 7

No Church Events

Sunday, September 8

10:00 Produce Exchange

10:30 Rally Day Worship Service (L)

11:30 Lunch & 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

August 25 Attendance: 128

91 in person

37 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$2,372.00



Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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