



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

PRELUDE

I Love You Lord

arr. Seal

Bryan Poyzer, piano

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed. You are love in motion: always breathing us into being, calling us to serve, sustaining us in the wilderness. Come to us as the morning breaks. Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts until we worship with abandon, for we pray in the name of the Son you sent and through the Spirit that gives us life. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O offspring of his servant Abraham, give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,

make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to God;

tell of all God's wonderful works.

Seek the Lord and his strength;

seek the Lord's presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done.

Let us worship God!

***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)

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**

Spirit, intercede when we fall short of your glory, when we do not deserve your promises, when we do not act like those who have been called your family. Spirit, intercede when our words wound, when our silence speaks volumes, when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do. Spirit, intercede and break forth into our lives, forming us into the image of your Son, that we might never feel separate from you again.

***RESPONSE**

Hear the Good News of Salvation

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love. Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove. Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin! How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in."

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

New Songs of Gladness

Dvorák

Kevin Thomas, tenor; Virginia Stern, piano

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 128, pp. 561
Genesis 29:15-28, pp. 25

Bruce Maylath, reader

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

SERMON

Covenant

The Rev. Daniel Billings

*HYMN 30

O God, In a Mysterious Way

O God, in a mysterious way
great wonders you perform.
You plant your footsteps in the sea
and ride upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill,
you treasure up your bright designs
and work your sovereign will.

O fearful saints, fresh courage take.
The clouds you so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head.

Our unbelief is sure to err
and scan your work in vain.
You are your own interpreter,
and you will make it plain.

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism
(adapted from questions 27 & 28)

I believe in the providence of God which means, the almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty— all things, in fact, come to me not by chance but by his fatherly hand. My knowledge of God's creation and providence helps me, to be patient when things go against me, thankful when things go well, and for the future I can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate me from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

Background: Soon after Luther posted his ninety-five theses, Lutherans and Reformed Christians established The Heidelberg Catechism to help settle their divisions. Their work was completed in 1562. Each question of the catechism is personal, addressed to "you." Its theology is both catholic, universal in appeal, and evangelical, setting forth the gospel of Jesus Christ. Providing a basis for peaceful coexistence between Lutheran and Reformed Christians. The influence of the Heidelberg Catechism in the church's preaching and teaching continues to be felt in Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, parts of Eastern Europe, Scotland, Canada, and the United States.

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!

OFFERTORY *Largo and Allegro from "Four Seasons, Winter" Op. 8* Vivaldi
Kathleen Thomas, violin; Virginia Stern, 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 679

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high."
Heaven and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty King."
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, uplift your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice!
Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold;
join with children's songs of praise;
worship God through length of days.
From the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, holy, holy One,
glory be to God alone!"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Exodus of The Twelve Tribes
Bryan Poyzer, piano

Phillips



Emergency Food Pantry: First Presbyterian Church is once again going to commit to serving the Pantry through our volunteering mission. We need volunteers for the week of Monday August 28th through Friday September 1st. We have mornings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 12:00 and afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00 to 4:00. There are many different jobs to do. There will be a signup sheet at church on all Sundays in August. You may also sign up by calling Jan Harrison at (701) 371-1855 or for more information.

Assembling Birthday Bags! In addition to the delicious meal prepared by Heart n' Soul, and the fun art project provided by the Plains Art Museum, on Wednesday, August 9, we're asking families to help assemble our "birthday bags" for the Emergency Food Pantry. The evening is from 4:30-6:30. We'll plan to put together the bags about 5:50. (You'll have time to eat and do the art project before the bags). Our thanks to everyone who has donated cake fixings, birthday cards, and small gifts! The bags will be given to families with a child's birthday when they pick up a food basket.

Bdecan Church Clothing Closet: School is out for summer, BUT in just a few weeks, school will start again. The Clothing Closet needs to be resupplied with clothing for children of all ages. As you are cleaning out your closets and drawers of your young people, please consider donating gently used items no longer in use. Clothing can be left in the Coat Closet. If you have questions you can contact Jan Carlsen at (701) 239-0054 or Jane Mathew at (701) 261-9777. Thank you!

Looking for Nursery Attendants

We are looking for friendly folks who can provide exceptional care for young children

This is a paid position with many opportunities to do important, welcoming work at First Presbyterian!

Times include:

- Sunday mornings
- Wednesday evenings
- Other special events

Contact Penny!

pandrist@firstpresfargo.org

Covenant Of Prayer: Our mission team traveling to Kenya; Dale Rage; Joyce Brummond upon the death of her son, Donald, on July 22; Jennifer; and the people of Ukraine, Syria, and Turkey.

Per Capita: If you have not yet paid Per Capita for 2023, 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. The rate for 2023 is \$50.00 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 on the Volunteer Opportunities Board if you're wishing to help for August 10th. We have all the meal servers and are looking for 2 more preparers from 3-5pm. 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.

NEW YORK KAMMERMUSIKER

FREE CONCERT
AUGUST 6 @ 7PM

16TH ANNUAL
WINDS OF
CHANGE
CONCERT

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FARGO
650 2ND AVE N.
FARGO, ND 58102

The New York Kammermusiker will be holding their 16th annual *Winds of Change* concert at First Presbyterian on August 6 at 7:00pm. A *sneak preview* Sunday morning will be a special treat for those attending worship. Formed in 1969 by ND native, Ilonna Pederson, this non-profit organization seeks to reintroduce the instruments and the music of the double-reed band to modern audiences. The group prepares modern scores from long-neglected musical manuscripts that they discover during their extensive research.

These Days Devotional: We have received the July—September copies of *These Days: Daily Devotional for Living by Faith*. They are available to pick up in the Narthex, outside the Sanctuary's west doors, in the church office, or at the Welcome Desk.

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 10:20** 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*

Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*

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**

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

Sunday, July 30

11:30 Fellowship

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Monday, July 31

No Church Events

Tuesday, August 1

10:30 Staff Meeting

12:15 S&E Committee (H)

5:30 Worship Committee (H)

5:30 Mission Committee

6:30 Personnel Committee

Wednesday, August 2

No Church Events

Thursday, August 3

5:00 Foster Parent Meeting

Friday, August 4

No Church Events

Saturday, August 5

No Church Events

Sunday, August 6

10:30 Worship Service & Communion w/ NYK (L)

11:30 Fellowship

7:00 New York Kammermusiker

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

July 23 Attendance: 131

101 in person

30 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$10,859.00



Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

