



January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Kathleen Thompson, guest organist

Bach

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

INTROIT

The Butterfly Song
K-2 Choir, Erin Torpey, director;
Bryan Poyzer, bass; Penny Andrist, ukulele
Soloists: Cora Argall, Cullen Bolluyt, Henley Gastecki,
Marion Harmon, Annabel Joos, and Meredith May

Brian Howard

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who hunger for justice,

for they will be filled.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are we when we gather to hear God's Word,

for we will be nurtured and sustained.

*HYMN #450

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;

thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love.
We do not keep your word, and when we participate in gossip, our words and deeds cause pain.
Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk
in the light of his love. Amen.**

***RESPONSE 581**

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

What Does the Lord Require

Burrows

3-6 Choir; Pam Burns, director; Virginia Stern, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 145:8-13, 21, p. 569

Claudia Hansen, reader

Matthew 5:1-12, p. 880

Whirl Story Bible pp. 218-221

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

SERMON

Blessings

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***HYMN 731**

Give Thanks for Thee

Give thanks for those whose faith is firm
when all around seems bleak:
on God's good promise they rely,
so while they live and when they die
how forcefully they speak:
the strong, who once were weak!

Give thanks for those whose hope is clear,
beyond mere mortal sight:
who seek the city God has planned,
the true, eternal promised land,
and steer on toward that light,
a beacon ever bright.

Give thanks for those whose love is pure,
a sparkling precious stone:
they show by what they say and do
an inward beauty, warm and true,
for God's concerns they own:
God's love through them is known.

Give thanks for saints of ages past
and saints alive today:
though often by this world despised,
their hearts by God are richly prized.
Give thanks that we may say
we share their pilgrim way.

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: To you, O God, we cry;

All: 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.

Responding to the Word



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

OFFERTORY

Promised Land

Natalie Sleeth

7-12 Proclamation Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director; Jessica Poyzer, piano

*RESPONSE

We All Are One in Mission



We all are one in_ mis - sion; we all are one in call, our var - ied gifts u -
nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all. A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com -
pels us from a - bove to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Bearing the Word into the World

***HYMN 619**

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration;
you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

St. Anne
Kathleen Thomas, organ

Samuel Metzger



New Pilgrimage Class: The Way of Discernment: We make decisions constantly--some with careful reflection, some without much thought. What if we understood these decisions, minor as well as major, as matters of faithful Christian living? Join Paul Campbell, Commissioned Ruling Elder, in exploring the role of discernment in our lives.

Recommended reading: *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making* by Elizabeth Liebert

Feb. 16 & 23 at 7:00 pm; hybrid format. For more information contact Mike Wavra at wavamw@aol.com

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Sunday morning Bible study started again this week! You are encouraged to bring your own Bible. Although classes will relate to the same topic, each class is designed to be complete on its own, so feel free to jump in when you can. We are not meeting every Sunday, so please mark your calendars. The Bible study will meet February 5, February 12, February 26, March 5, March 12, March 26, April 2, April 16, April 30, and May 7.

Winter VBS!

We're transforming the Sunday School hour to give kids a sneak peak of our summer VBS programming. These two Sundays will take us through one popular bible story using drama, music, games, cinema and science.

February 5
February 12

Servers needed for February 9th meal at Micah's Mission: We continue to prepare and serve the evening meal every second Thursday of the month. We next serve February 9th. We have all the preparers we need, but still need servers! Check your calendars and sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the West Foyer. The signup for March 9th and April 13th are also up! Thank you for your continued support of this vital mission!

Chili Cook Off: Thank you to all who attended and participated in the Chili Cook Off! We raised \$1,216 in all. Our winner was Fred Hudson, Eleanor Torpey was second, and the Lawrence Family was third. The Children's and Youth Programs are grateful for your generosity!

Covenant Of Prayer: Don Brummond, son of Joyce Brummond, with serious medical concerns; Jennifer; those in the FM-Area who are homeless; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; and the people of Ukraine.

Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include their name.

Looking for University of Jamestown Alumni! If you have a connection to the University of Jamestown, we would love to have you help us welcome the UJ Concert Choir and serve them lunch on Sunday, February 26 after they sing in worship. Needed are funds to pay for the lunch, and servers to set up and clean up in the Social Hall. For more information or to volunteer, contact Casey in the church office at clemier@firstpresfargo.org.

Information & Photo Updates: Take a new photo for this year's holiday cards? Had family photos taken? If so, please email a copy to the church office at admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org, or bring a hard copy into the office to be scanned. If you have any updated information you may also send it with the photo or bring it in to the office.

**Fat Tuesday
Pancake Dinner**

Tuesday February 21st
5:30-7:00pm

In the First Presbyterian Fargo
Social Hall

Free will donation!

Pancake Dinner: The AOHF Confirmation Team will be hosting, as their final project, a Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner in preparation for the Lenten season. From 5:30 - 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 21st, you are invited to join us for a dinner of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage and learn about the history of the Fat Tuesday tradition. There will be a free will offering that will go towards an in-house, local mission. If you are planning on joining us, please sign up at <https://subspla.sh/84kyhdy/>

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, 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

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, January 29

11:30 Fellowship & Chili Cook Off

Monday, January 30

No Church Events

Tuesday, January 31

10:30 Staff Meeting

Wednesday, February 1

5:30 Genesis Ringers

5:30 St. Andrews Brass

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 2

No Church Events

Friday, February 3

No Church Events

Saturday, February 4

No Church Events

Sunday, February 5

9:15 Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship & Communion (L)

11:30 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

January 15 Attendance: 172

130 in person;

42 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$8,560.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org