



**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.

August 18, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
Sally Harmon, organist

arrs. David Harris/
James Kosnik

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Gracious God, thank you for filling our hearts with trust so that we are of good hope. Help us to turn the eyes of our hearts toward You in an attitude of persistent prayer as did the first disciples of Christ. Look down on Your people and instill in the hearts of all of us, a deep desire to be united in spirit and devoted to prayer, until Jesus comes. In His name we pray, Amen.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Brian McClure, Elder

We come together to worship, to wait, and to be renewed in our faith and mission

preparing ourselves to be empowered and sent out in Jesus' name.

Come, holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

and kindle in us the fire of your love.

✦ HYMN 662

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;

Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;

Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;

joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see;

till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

fill me, radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief;

more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

✧ CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Gracious and Almighty God, like the apostles, we have heard your call to be witnesses, but we confess that we often fall short. We are slow to speak of your love, hesitant to share your grace, and quick to seek our own comfort over the needs of others. We allow fear and doubt to hinder our witness. We have not always waited on your Spirit or trusted in your power. Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of faith and our reluctance to follow your guidance. Renew us with the assurance of your presence and the promise of your Holy Spirit. Empower us to be bold in our testimony, faithful in our service, and joyful in our mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

✧ RESPONSE

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

GIFT OF MUSIC

Hear My Cry, O Lord

César Franck

Savannah Joldersma, soloist; Sally Harmon, piano

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 67, pp. 518

Acts 1:1-14, pp. 991

Whirl Story Bible, pg. 430

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

SERMON

Trust Them

The Rev. Sarah M Bigwood

✧ 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!"

✧ 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 by 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.

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

I Thank You, Lord

Joseph M. Martin

Savannah Joldersma, soloist; 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 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

✦ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Edwin T. Childs

Thank you to Katie Bigwood and Tetteh Dottey on livestream and soundboard, Brian McClure for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Dick Laraway, David Hoffman, Claudia Hansen, Dianne Connelly, Craig & Anita Rise, and Becky & Josh Trumbo for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Sally Harmon and Savannah Joldersma.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO

Sunday Worship

August 18, 2024

Coffee Enhancements: For more information and to see sponsorship levels, please visit our website at www.firstpresfargo.org/coffee. If you have any questions, please reach out to Penny Andrist, Rick Fiebiger, or Tricia Erstad.



The scoop

NEW ESPRESSO BAR

Churches in the upper midwest are making coffee enhancements with espresso bars to satisfy the increasing demand for a step up from the traditional drip coffee. We are proposing such a system for our church. It is highly automatic but requires a barista to serve common coffee house beverages such as a latte, cappuccino, americano, espresso, mocha, and hot chocolate.

This purchase falls outside any church budget, making individual donations necessary. For passionate coffee lovers, sponsorship levels are listed on the reverse side. However, we appreciate any amount you can give to get us brewing!

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.

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. Volunteers are needed for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30am until 12 noon, and Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1:00pm until 4pm. There are many jobs to do. A sign up sheet will be available during coffee time in the Social Hall all Sundays in August. 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.

Covenant of Prayer: Amanda Krasniewski, Ann Lindsay's daughter, and family at the loss of her husband Mike, who died in a car accident mid July; Brad Schenck, son of Richard Schenck (BDPC) fighting brain cancer; Fraser Harrison, under the care of hospice.

Sunday School starts soon!

Don't forget to register at www.firstpresfargo.org/children

Scan the QR code for the registration form!



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.



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? We would love to have you join us!

Contact Rusty Bender, Director of Church Life
RBENDER@FIRSTPRESFARGO.ORG

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, August 18

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, August 19

6:00 Session Meeting (H)

Tuesday, August 20

5:00 Legacy Steering Committee

Wednesday, August 21

No Church Events

Thursday, August 22

No Church Events

Friday, August 23

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Saturday, August 24

No Church Events

Sunday, August 25

10:30 Worship Service (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

August 11 Attendance: 159

113 in person

46 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$9,887.00



Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

650 2nd Ave. N.

Fargo, ND 58102

Ready for Pickup!

HARD COPY DIRECTORIES

AVAILABLE NOW

Stop by the office to pick yours up!
Suggested donation: \$10/directory to help offset printing costs.

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!

PEACE



PANDEMONIUM

CREATING COMMUNITY IN A
CHAOTIC WORLD



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FARGO
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SEPTEMBER 20 - 22, 2024

firstpresfargo.org/peace