



September 03, 2023

*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**

*Bread of the World*

arr. Cherwien

*O Day of Peace*

arr. Farlee

Sally Harmon, organist

### **WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*God, our source and our salvation, in love you made us and by love you have redeemed us. Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others, that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion and, in the life to come, receive the everlasting joy of fellowship you share with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

People of God, bless the Lord,

**bless God's holy name.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

**so great is God's steadfast love for us.**

Come, now is the time to worship.

**Let us worship God!**

### **\*HYMN 373**

*O Day of Peace*

O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
 nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
 as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
 a little child shall lead them all.  
 Then enemies shall learn to love,  
 all creatures find their true accord;  
 the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
 for all the earth shall know the Lord.

**\*CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in harmony with our siblings. We have been self-righteous in our attitudes, closed-minded in our beliefs, and judgmental in our opinions. We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand, and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions. Forgive our sins of discord and conceit, and heal our divisiveness and quarreling. Help us to be charitable in our regard for others that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE**

*Hear the Good News of Salvation*

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**

**The Word**

**SCRIPTURE**

*Psalm 103:1, 8-12, pp. 542*

Bruce Maylath, reader

*Matthew 18:21-35, pp. 896*

*Whirl Story Bible pg. 234*

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

**SERMON**

*The Forgiveness Garden*

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

**\*HYMN 753**

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
 Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
 Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
 and where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
 Make me a channel of your peace.  
 Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
 Where there is darkness, only light,  
 and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## Responding to the Word

### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

#### 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.**

#### **HYMN OF APPROACH 517** *Here, O Our Lord, We See You (vs 1-3)*

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.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
this is the heavenly table for us spread.  
Here let us feast and, feasting, still prolong  
the fellowship of living wine and bread.

#### COMMUNION MUSIC

*Deep River*

arr. Hayes

Tori Hughes, soloist; Sally Harmon, piano



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

#### OFFERTORY

*Amazing Grace*

arr. Harmon

Tori Hughes, 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 754**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Bread of the World*

arr. Farlee

Sally Harmon, organ; Tori Hughes, tambourine

*Any children who are interested are welcome  
to come up to the organ to watch the postlude.*



**Bdecan Church Clothing Closet:** School has now started, and 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!



**Youth Group This Week:** Youth Group starts Wednesday, September 6! Register by scanning the QR code. You can also access the form through our website on the Children or Youth ministry pages.

**RALLY DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 10**

Worship outside in the courtyard with special music at 10:30am  
 Bring a chair or blanket, and don't forget the produce exchange!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

After worship, join us for a delicious lunch and learn about the new Sunday School program that starts this fall!

**Rally Day Produce Exchange:** Tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash, oh my! Had enough zucchini cake to last till next fall? Too many tomatoes to count? Corn coming out of your ears!? Come drop off your produce before church on Rally Day at the tables near the front door, then after worship come peruse what others have brought and take home something your garden didn't produce this year. Vegetables, fruits, herbs, etc. are all welcome.

**Office Hour Change:** Program office hours will return to 9:00am—4:00pm starting Tuesday, September 5th.

**Covenant Of Prayer:** Tom Kley; law enforcement & healthcare workers in the community; Dale Rage; Jennifer; and the people of Maui and Ukraine.

**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 wish to help for September and October. We have all the servers we need, but we are still looking for meal 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
 OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS PRESBYTERY

*Fall Gathering*

SEPT. 23 @ 10AM

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?  
 THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Cost is \$15. RSVP by Sept. 18 to  
 Lana Schultz at (701) 238-4538  
 or Lanaj0@casselton.net

FPC will be hosting the Fall PW PNP meeting on Sat. Sept. 23. Contact Nancy Lium for more information.

COLLABORATE WITH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FARGO & HEART-N-SOUL COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Join us every second Wednesday of the month, through October, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, for delicious food and great fellowship!

**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, September 3**

*11:30 Fellowship*

### **Monday, September 4**

Office Closed — Labor Day

### **Tuesday, September 5**

*10:30 Staff Meeting*

5:30 Mission Committee Meeting

5:30 Worship Committee Meeting (H)

5:30 Building & Grounds Meeting

6:30 Personnel Committee Meeting

### **Wednesday, September 6**

5:00 Wednesday Dinner Begins

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

### **Thursday, August 31**

5:30 Nurturing Families

### **Friday, September 8**

No Church Events

### **Saturday, September 9**

No Church Events

### **Sunday, September 10**

*10:30 Rally Day*

*11:30 Sunday School Meet-n-Greet*

*11:30 Lunch in the Courtyard*

5:30 Confirmation Kick-Off

**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 27 Attendance: 150

115 in person

35 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$3,434.00



### Church Information

Summer Office Hours:  
M-TH, 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
Phone: 701-293-6311  
[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)

Presbyterian Women

## INTRO TO BIBLE STUDY

*Sacred Encounters*

IN 1 WEEK

*Led by Rev. Mary Holtey*

Sept. 12 @ 1:00pm  
in the JRR

All women of the  
church are invited!

Mouthwatering  
dessert included

