



**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.*

October 15, 2023

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Sally Harmon, organist

arrs. Broughton/Kendall

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God, your love is something we desperately need in our lives. So much of this world tells us that we are insufficient and unlovable. We give thanks that there is a place like First Presbyterian Church where we can come to hear the good news of your gospel message to us. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, all who hunger for good news,
all who thirst for words of hope and healing.

Come, from rural road and city street,
all who gather at the King's invitation.

Come, join the celebration.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN 12**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

***CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Extravagant God, you invite us to your table in the kingdom of heaven. But we do not take our place at the feast. We say, "We have more important things to do," and turn back to labors that threaten to consume us. Beckon us again, we pray, that we may respond with gratitude. In your mercy, gather us in that we might experience the joy of your kingdom and taste the abundance of your grace.

***RESPONSE 48**

Rain Down

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your peo - ple.

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life. _____

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

Prayer of Peace

Cherwien

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Neisen, director; Sally Harmon, organ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kayla Bones

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:12-17, pp. 1074

Bruce Maylath, reader

Matthew 22:1-14, pp. 900

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

SERMON

School Uniforms

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***HYMN 767**

Together We Serve

Together we serve, united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
extending God's love to the last and the least.

We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

OFFERTORY

Our Hymn of Grateful Praise
 Genesis Ringers; Sally Harmon, director

arr. Helman

RESPONSE 712As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

As those of old their first - fruits brought of vine - yard flock and field to God, the giv - er
 of — all good, the source of — boun - teous yield, so we to - day our first - fruits bring, the
 wealth of this good land: of farm and mar - ket, shop and home of mind and heart and hand.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION*Bearing the Word into the World*****HYMN 683***Lord of All Hopefulness*

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
 whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
 be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
 your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 be there at our labors and give us, we pray,
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
 your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
 be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
 whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
 be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

BENEDICTION*POSTLUDE**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
 Sally Harmon, organ

arr. Behnke

*Any children who would like to come up and watch Sally play the postlude
 on the organ are welcome to do so.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO



Sunday Worship

October 15, 2023

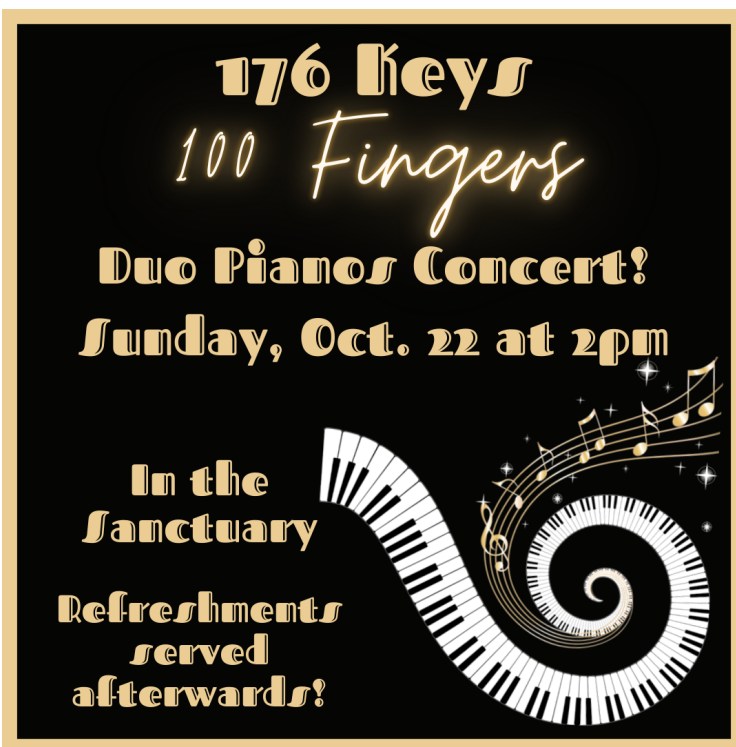
Collecting Winter Gear: We join other churches in the Presbytery with our donations of new and gently used winter clothing, along with gear like warm coats, hats, gloves, boots and snowpants. All sizes needed for children and youth! We dedicated items in worship on World Communion Sunday, October 1, and we continue to collect all winter gear and coats through October 29th. Drop them off in the green buckets in the west foyer, or you may choose to make a financial contribution; members of the Mission Committee will do the shopping for you. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!



St. Andrew's Society Dinner & Program: The St. Andrew's Society of the FM area will have its 38th annual dinner/program that celebrates Scottish culture and heritage on Saturday, November 4 at The Courtyard by Marriott, 1080 28th Ave. S., Moorhead, MN. The social hour will begin at 5:00pm and the dinner/program will begin at 5:30pm. The meal will include a beef dinner, haggis, scones, bashed neeps, shortbread, and cranachan. The program will include performances by the Heather and Thistle Pipes and Drums Band; dancing by members of the Minnesota Celtic Dance Association; and a singer who will perform famous Scottish songs. Anyone interested in Scottish culture and heritage is welcome to attend. Tickets are available through Nov. 1 by calling 402-981-2333.

Covenant Of Prayer: The people of Bdecan Presbyterian Church and the Spirit Lake Nation; Tom Kley; Dale Rage – continues to battle blood clots, and pancreatic cancer with chemo treatments; Jennifer; and the people of Afghanistan, Israel, Libya, Morocco, Maui and Ukraine.

PW Circles: Circles will meet Oct. 17 in the Jennie Roberts Room; Naomi/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30am and the Rachel Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Jan Kenien at (701) 280-2391.



Kirkin' O' the Tartans Services: We will have two services on Sunday, November 5: 9am and 11am. All of the traditional elements will be included, from pipers to Celtic dancers! The first service will be livestreamed for convenience for anyone who prefers to watch from home. Don't forget to bring your piece of Tartan Plaid with you to the service so that you can participate in the traditional "Calling of the Clans".

Presentation by Prakash Mathew: The Presentation Prayer Center will hold a breakfast fundraiser on Nov. 7 from 9-11 AM at the Sanctuary Events Center. Prakash Mathew will offer the keynote address, "When Called to Lead, We Are Called to Serve: How Do We Respond?" Tickets are \$40 apiece and we are organizing a group table for church members. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Pastor Mary if you wish to attend.

Attention Snow Birds! Please notify the office of your winter address along with the dates you'll be away. Some items are mailed at special non-profit rates and will not forward even if you have a forwarding order at the post office. Please help us stay in touch!

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 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: 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*

The Rev. Cathie Bishop-*Parish Associate*

Sally Harmon-*Organist*

Pam Burns-*Music Ministry Coordinator*

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



Trunk or Treat
Join us
Sunday October 29th
following worship
Brought to you by EduCon

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

Sunday, October 15

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation Lesson 5

Monday, October 16

6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, October 17

9:30 PW Circles

12:00 M&F Committee Meeting (Z)

1:00 PW Circle

7:00 Moms Demand Action

Wednesday, October 18

No Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, October 19

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, October 20

No Church Events

Saturday, October 21

10:00 PW Circle (H)

Sunday, October 22

9:15 Estate Planning Seminar

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

2:00 Duo Pianos Concert

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

October 8 Attendance: 227

195 in person

32 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$26,616.50



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org