



**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.

June 16, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

God of the Fertile Fields arrs. John Behnke/Healey Willan
Sally Harmon, organist

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God, you are the gardener of all creation. You planted this world with the seeds of your love and grow them with your faithfulness. We are your harvest; we find our meaning and sustenance in you. May our minds listen to you calling, may our hearts be attuned to your will, may our feet follow you in the world, through Jesus, the Word become flesh. Amen.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed,
which is the smallest of seeds on earth;
it grows up and becomes the greatest of shrubs,
and the birds of the air make nests in its shade.
Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming.
Thanks be to God!

✦ HYMN 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

✧ CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Holy God, the parable of the mustard seed teaches us that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom. Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness, for we walk by sight and not by faith. Forgive us, Lord; we do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not advocate for the powerless or the voiceless. We do not sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors. Renew us with the love of Christ so that we live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who became the seed of your righteousness in us. Amen.

✧ RESPONSE 284

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

Romantic Piece No. 1, Opus 75
Lauren Bontje, violin; Wanda Wavra, piano

Antonín Dvořák

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15, pp. 537
Mark 4:26-34, pp. 914
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Elder Carrie Lauber

✧ HYMN 771

What Is the World Like?

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

✧ 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

This Is My Father's World

arr. Cathy DeRousse

Lauren Bontje, violin; Wanda Wavra, 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 714**

God of the Fertile Fields

God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields
our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land
be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you
all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people everywhere,
that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need,
so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused
your love bestows.

God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died
to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew
in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do.
Your will be done.

✧ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

God of the Fertile Fields
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Stan Pethel

Thank you to Katie Bigwood, Tetteh Dottey, and Carrie Lauber for assisting us in worship and to our Welcome Team: Jeff Wilkens, Debbie Tight, Steve Dawson, Shane & Tricia Erstad, Kurt Kooyer, and Maria Weller for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Sally Harmon, Lauren Bontje, and Wanda Wavra.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO



Sunday Worship

June 16, 2024

Our year round mission collections need your help:

- **The Emergency Food Pantry** is in need of personal hygiene items, paper products, diapers (larger sizes) and nonperishable food, in particular peanut butter, canned tuna and chicken. Place items in the bin in the west foyer coatroom.
- **Hope Blooms Update:** Due to the stoppage of glass pickup for recycling, Hope Blooms is only accepting jars of 12 oz and less. Place items in the green buckets in the west foyer.

Thank you and have a blessed summer!!

Before you head to the lake this summer...

Now is a great time to start
an automatic payment, or
consider paying your summer
month's pledges in advance.



Help us avoid the summer slump! Here are a couple of options: Make your contributions easy with automatic monthly withdrawals from your checking (or savings) account; it's just a simple form to complete to get this started! Or, consider giving online through our website— you can make either a one-time payment or set up a recurring donation (use your credit card and accumulate points!). Contact Jan Lundgren in the church office if you have any questions.

Summer Lawn Care: The sign-up sheet for lawn mowing volunteers is up on the Volunteer Opportunity board! We are looking for folks to sign up weekly through September. Typically, courtyard mowing is done toward the end of the week. In dry periods, mowing may not be necessary every week. Questions? Call Rick Fiebiger at (701) 412-6061.

Mission Collection for the Summer: For the next few months, we are collecting sunscreen and mosquito spray to be given to local agencies to handout to those without shelter, particularly for families with children and for those living by the river. Items may be placed in the green buckets in the west foyer.

The Banner for Ordinary Time includes symbols from our Lord's parable of the sower demonstrating the theme of Christian growth. A withered bush testifies to the seed which fell on thorny soil and did not grow. The seed which fell on good soil matured and produced fruit as seen in the mature wheat at the bottom of the banner. The banner is crafted in shades of green to symbolize the growth of Christians as they walked their road of discipleship, faces pointed always toward the triumph of the cross.

Covenant of Prayer: A mission team of dentists and other volunteers leaves for Chogoria, Kenya on June 20th for 2 ½ weeks. Members from our church include Bill Hunter, Sharon and Gary Secor, Jessica Gastecki and Amy Wilkens. Our prayers are abounding.

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 a Bus Trip to Jasper Theatre in Park Rapids, MN, through the Sons of Norway, for a performance of **Music of the 50's, 60's, and 70's** on Wednesday, July 10th. Tickets are \$95 for members of the Sons of Norway, \$110 for nonmembers. The price includes the bus, bus driver tip, guide, ticket for the performance, and dinner. Lunch is on your own in Park Rapids. We will leave Fargo at 11:00am and should return by 8:00pm. If you are interested you can sign up at the Sons of Norway, or contact Marcia Foss at 701-840-1986. The deadline to register is June 25th.



Notice of Office Closure: Please note the church office will be closed to visitors and inquiries from July 1st to the 4th. Church staff members may still be at work but will not have the interruption of the phones and doorbell, and there will be no need to find volunteers to cover the front desk over the lunch hour. Employees that choose to take this time off will use PTO.

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, June 16

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, June 17

6:30 Session Meeting (H)

Tuesday, June 18

5:00 Legacy Steering Committee

Wednesday, June 19

No Church Events

Thursday, June 20

No Church Events

Friday, June 21

No Church Events

Saturday, June 22

No Church Events

Sunday, June 23

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

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

June 9 Attendance: 173

146 in person

27 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$12,930.00



Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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