



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.

January 18, 2026

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

WELCOME

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Holy God, you sent your Son to be the light of the world, that all may know the brightness of your love. Fill my heart with your grace, that I may bear witness to his light and serve your coming reign. In Jesus' name. Amen.

✧ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder Erin Torpey

Sing a new song to the Lord, a song of gratitude and praise.

We lift our voices for God has done wondrous deeds.

God calls us by name and sets our lives within a larger purpose.

We come to listen for the voice that still speaks and sends.

In Christ, the light of God meets us where we are and invites us to follow.

We come to see, to trust, and to bear witness to what we have found.

Let us worship the God who calls, gathers, and sends us.

Come, let us worship the Lord our God!

✧ **HYMN 39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.

As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **(Refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)**

✠ CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Loving God, we have chased after fleeting things and spent our strength on vanity. We have ignored your call, clung to what comforts us, and pursued our own plans over your purposes. Deliver us from arrogance and self-concern. Forgive our failures and open our eyes to the ways we may serve your dream of justice, peace, and love. Grant us courage to follow where you lead, and hearts attuned to the needs of others. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

✿ **RESPONSE 581** *Glory Be to the Father*

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.

GIFT OF MUSIC *Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth* Felix Mendelssohn
 (from Elijah)
Kevin Thomas, voice; Wanda Wavra, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Word

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 49:1-7, pp. 665* Maggie Schmidt, reader
 John 1:29-42, pp 966 *Whirl Story Bible, pg. 206*
 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Come and See*

❖ **HYMN 451**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*James Bossingham, Keith Bossingham, Austin Brown, Jordan Brown, Bob Hall,
Nancy Hall, Megan Ness, Brian Rosenkranz, and Tom Stames*

PRONOUNCEMENT

DECLARATION

RENUNCIATIONS

❖ **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.

PROMISE

PRAYER

BLESSING

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Responding to the Word



OFFERING MESSAGE

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

OFFERTORY

Largo

F. M. Veracini

Kathleen Thomas, violin; Virginia Stern, piano

✦ RESPONSE 606

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

✦ HYMN 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Refrain)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Refrain)

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

Thank you to Jaden Argall and Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard, Erin Torpey and Maggie Schmidt for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Kathryn Byrd, Sydney Goddard, Debbie Tight, Josh & Becky Trumbo, and David & Virginia Stern for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Matthew Pechtl, Virginia Stern, Kathleen and Kevin Thomas, and Wanda Wavra.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO

Sunday Worship

January 18, 2026

Quarterly Devotionals: We have been in touch with our distributor of *These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*, and hope to have the January—March 2026 editions in the next week or two. We apologize for the delay! Once they arrive, the devotionals will be available at both the North and West entrances of the Sanctuary, at the Welcome Desk, and in the office.

PW Circles: The morning PW Circles will meet on January 20 in the Jennie Roberts Room at 9:30am, and the afternoon Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Judy Rippentrop at (701) 730-1836.

Make Stewardship Easy! You can set up the amount you've pledged as a recurring gift to the church. It couldn't be any easier! We offer both an ACH withdrawal from your bank account (no fees!) or Online Giving through our website. Recurring gifts are like the Crock Pot of church giving - "fix it and forget it!". Easy for you and it helps the church to see a steady stream of income through the year. Give it a try! There's an ACH Authorization form on our website under "Forms". Questions? Please contact Jan Lundgren in the church office at jlundgren@firstpresfargo.com.

THE UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN
AND DAVIES HIGH SCHOOL
INVITES YOU

February 27th

Directed by Dr. Anne Gassmann

**Concert at 7:00pm
in the Sanctuary**

First Presbyterian Church of Fargo
650 2nd Ave. N.
Fargo, ND 58102

Dr. Anne Gassmann will be leading the University of Jamestown and Davies High School Choirs in song on Friday, February 27th. Mark your calendars and keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon!

Covenant of Prayer: **Concerns:** Isha Kromah, knee surgery; Craig Rise, hip surgery; Bruce Maylath, hip surgery; Marcia Foss, appendix infection; Wayne Sander, angiogram; David Hoffman, back surgery; Eleanor Deeton, wrist; Penny Andrist, immunotherapy; James (Beatrice Janaka); Joyce Brummond, died Dec. 27th, services Tuesday, January 27th, Wright Funeral Home, 10 am visitation, 11 am memorial service; Norman Backes, died Dec. 12th, services Saturday, April 18th, Boulger Funeral Home, 1pm visitation, 2pm memorial service.

Joys: Vincent and Echo Kloubec are proud new parents of twins, Bernadette Diane and Winifred Audrey Kloubec, born 12-19-2025

BINGO
at Mainline Grill in Downer

18 JAN. 2026
9571 STATE HWY 9, DOWNER
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Play hard • Win big
• Have fun •

You are invited this afternoon for lunch and Bingo at Mainline in Downer, MN. The event is scheduled from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM; please note that lunch will be self-pay. Attendees are encouraged to arrange their own meals at the venue during the event. Following the meal we will be playing Bingo for various prizes! We want to extend our gratitude to our friends in Downer, especially Mainline, for supporting the B-D Fish Fry in Oct., 2025.

CHILI COOK OFF

February 1 after worship



Sign up here!

2026 Annual Chili Cook-Off: Sign-up sheets are posted on the Volunteer Opportunities board, or you can scan the QR code above to sign up online. There is also an additional sheet to sign up to bring things like shredded cheese, sour cream, crackers, and veggies. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Lawrence in the church office!

Hearing devices 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: Curt Brickman, Kathryn Byrd, Tom Dawson, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Brian McClure, Jim McEvers, Wayne Sander, Jeana Scheffler, Troy Schmidt, Sharon Secor, Paula Thomas (Clerk), Erin Torpey, Jeff Wilkens, Steve Wonderlich

Deacons: Jan Carlsen, Toby Christensen, Dianne Connelly, Aubrey DeCoteau, Gracia Fulwiler, Sydney Goddard, Taaren Haak, David Hoffman, Gayla McGoldrick, Brian Peterson, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Kevin Thomas, Debbie Tight.

Church Treasurer: Sherri Stern.

Church Staff

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood: *Head of Staff, Pastor*

The Rev. Daniel Billings: *Parish Associate*

The Rev. Cathie Bishop: *Parish Associate*

Rusty Bender: *Director of Church Life*

Bryan Poyzer: *Adult Choir Director*

Carrie Lawrence: *Sunday School 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 18

11:30 Fellowship

11:45 Annual Financial Presentation

1:00 Bingo & Fellowship @ Mainline in Downer!

Monday, January 19

6:30 Session (H)

Tuesday, January 20

9:30 PW Circles

1:00 PW Circle

Wednesday, January 21

5:00 Wednesday Activities Meal

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass Rehearsal

5:30 Genesis Ringers Rehearsal

6:15 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsals

6:30 Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 22

12:15 Centering Prayer

Friday, January 23

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Saturday, January 24

No Church Events

Sunday, January 25

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Sunday 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

January 11, 2026 Attendance: 172

119 in person

53 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$18,836.30



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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Fargo, ND 58102

