



*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 05, 2025**

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRELUDE**

*I'm But a Stranger Here  
Praise, O Praise Our God and King  
This Is My Father's World  
Elliot Sander, organ*

arr. E. Sander

### **WELCOME**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*Faithful God, you have planted in us the seeds of your grace and entrusted us with the treasure of your gospel. Strengthen us when we feel small or uncertain, and kindle within us the fire of your Spirit. May we live as your grateful servants, proclaiming Christ through word and deed, in the name of the one who saves us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **✧ CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

This is holy time to rekindle the gift of God that is within you.

**We are reminded that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough.**

God has given us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline.

**We will guard the good treasure entrusted to us through the Spirit.**

Come, let us worship God with gratitude and joy.

**Let us worship God!**

### **✧ HYMN 838**

*Standing on the Promises*

Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.



**Refrain:** Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
standing on the promises of God. **(Refrain)**

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
standing on the promises of God. **(Refrain)**

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God. **(Refrain)**

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**God of small beginnings, we confess that we often fail to trust in you. We hide the gifts you have given us instead of planting them. We demand immediate results when you call us to patience. We insist on certainty instead of enjoying your mystery. Forgive us for all the ways we limit you and ourselves. Nurture in us the gift you planted long ago so that it may grow strong. Help us flower with courage and love.**

✧ **RESPONSE 452**      *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see you; I want to see you; **(repeat)**  
to see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.  
Pour out your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."  
Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

✧ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**The Word**

**SCRIPTURE**

*2 Timothy 1:1-14, pp. 1084*

Wayne Sander, reader

*Luke 17:1-6, pp. 954*

*Whirl Story Bible pg. 494*

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

**SERMON**

*The Power of God*

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

❖ **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)**

## **The Sealing of the Word**

### **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

#### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

#### **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.**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*The words spoken by the pastor bless the bread and cup on the table and all the elements that are an extension of this table.*

#### **HYMN OF APPROACH 515** *I Come with Joy (vs. 1,2,4)*

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,  
alive among us here.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**                      *Holy, Holy, Holy!*                      arr. F. Callahan  
Genesis Ringers; Elliot Sander, director

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### Responding to the Word



#### MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Mary & Jim Simle

*"A Soft Place to Lay One's Head"*

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

**OFFERTORY**                      *How Can I Keep From Singing?*                      arr. B. Ellingboe

*We dedicate this beloved song in honor of The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey's retirement  
at the end of 2025, a hymn that has touched her heart throughout her ministry.*

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director;  
Elliot Sander, piano; Josh Argall, soprano sax

✧ **RESPONSE 647**                      *Give Thanks*

*We dedicate this beloved hymn in honor of The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey's retirement  
at the end of 2025, a hymn that has touched her heart throughout her ministry.*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. **(repeat)**

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";  
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" **(repeat)**

Give thanks. Give thanks.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### Bearing the Word into the World

✧ **HYMN 315**                      *In the Midst of New Dimensions (vs. 1-4)*

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,  
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

**Refrain:** God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever,  
now and evermore.



Through the flood of starving people, warring factions, and despair,  
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,  
grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams **(Refrain)**

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,  
each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. **(Refrain)**

✧ **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff*  
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. E. Sander

*Thank you to Ally and Josh Trumbo on livestream and soundboard, Wayne Sander for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Jody Hudson, Dianne Connelly, Jim & Mary Simle, Paula Christensen, our Youth, and Candy Shultz, Tom Dawson, Kurt Kooyer, and Sharon Secor for taking such good care of us this morning.*

*A special thank you to our musicians: Elliot Sander, the Genesis Ringers directed by Elliot Sander, and Josh Argall & the Sanctuary Choir directed by Bryan Poyzer.*



A colorful poster for a 'Trunk or Treat!' event. At the top, there are illustrations of a yellow car trunk with a spider, a ghost holding a pumpkin, a bat, and a blue car trunk with a ghost and a basket of candy. The text 'TRUNK or TREAT!' is prominently displayed in large, stylized letters. Below this, it says '\*Food Drive for Emergency Food Pantry\*' and 'Bring your trunk. Enjoy cider and popcorn while the kids trunk or treat!'. The date '26 OCTOBER' is written in large orange letters, followed by 'Following Worship-in the parking lot'. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a car trunk with a pumpkin, a girl in a witch costume, a black cat, and a boy in a pumpkin costume. The text 'Sponsored by Edu/Con' and 'Carrie Lawrence or Vicki Dawson with questions.' is at the bottom.

**TRUNK or TREAT!**

\*Food Drive for Emergency Food Pantry\*  
Bring your trunk. Enjoy cider and popcorn while the kids trunk or treat!

**26 OCTOBER**  
Following Worship-in the parking lot

Sponsored by Edu/Con  
Carrie Lawrence or Vicki Dawson with questions.



A poster for 'Dinner for 8ish' set against a wooden background. A white plate is centered, flanked by a silver fork on the left and a silver knife on the right. The text on the plate reads 'EDUCON PRESENTS' in small letters, followed by 'DINNERS FOR 8-ISH' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'For more information or to sign up, please visit' followed by the website 'www.firstpresfargo.org'. At the bottom of the plate, it says 'Or scan the QR code below!'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the poster.

EDUCON PRESENTS  
**DINNERS FOR 8-ISH**

For more information or to sign up, please visit  
[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)

Or scan the QR code below!

Dinner for 8ish is an opportunity for adults to share a meal with other church members just for fun and fellowship. The mystery is part of the excitement! For more information, or to sign up, visit our website. The tentative deadline to register is October 13th!





**Holy Buckets** will be collecting new or slightly used winter clothing for kids and teens at Bdecan Presbyterian Church. Winter coats, snow-pants, boots and all other gear in all sizes are needed. Put items in the green buckets in the West foyer. Not all winter items are on store shelves yet. If you wish, you may make a financial contribution. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and clearly mark your check "Bdecan winterwear," or use the online giving portal under "Other." Items will be delivered in mid-October.

**Monthly Bible Study for Men Begins** The men's Bible study kicks off its monthly study for the program year on October 14th at 6:45 am, in the Jennie Roberts Room. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines the Book of Ecclesiastes. A copy of the study guide can be obtained online, or you can request a copy from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

**PW Bible Study Leaders:** On October 15 Pastor Mary Holtey will lead a discussion on Lesson 1 of this year's Bible Study.

**PW Circles:** The morning PW Circles will meet October 21 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 Barbi Kessel at (701) 261-6215.

**Peace and Global Witness Offering** On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. Throughout October we will collect donations for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. 25% of the Offering remains local; 75% works to support the work for peace and reconciliation regionally, nationally and around the world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. Envelopes have been placed in the pew rack, the Welcome Desk and the Narthex. **Pursue what makes for Peace! Romans 14:19**

**Covenant of Prayer:** Colleen and Russell Ford-Dunker as they pilgrimage across northern Spain on the Camino Frances; Audrey Kloubec, recovering from a broken hip; Beatrice Janaka's husband, James; Brad Schenck, son of Richard Schenck (BD) fighting brain cancer.

**Nursery Attendant Job Opening:** FPC Fargo is seeking an additional Nursery Attendant on Sunday mornings from 9:15am to 11:45am to provide safe and nurturing care to our precious children ages 0-4. The duties include playing with the children or directing their play, all while exhibiting patience and love. This is a paid position. **Requirements:** At least 18 years of age or older, experienced in caring for children ages 0-4, must have current CPR training/certification for infants and children, and be willing to submit to background and drug screenings. To apply, submit a letter addressed to the Personnel Committee in care of the church office describing your interest, along with a short resume highlighting any experience. The church wishes to fill the position as soon as possible.

**Meet the Staff!** Much of the ministry of our church depends on the faithful work of our support staff, whose efforts often happen behind the scenes. Because their workdays are during the week, the congregation rarely has the opportunity to see them in action. The Personnel Committee would like to introduce you to these wonderful people whose care and dedication keep our church life running every day.



**Jan Lundgren**  
*Business Manager*

Jan has been serving as Business Manager since 2014, handling contributions, financial reporting, and payroll. She enjoys meeting members of the congregation, values the flexibility of her role, and appreciates working alongside a supportive staff. Jan and her husband, Michael, live in North Fargo with their three children. In her free time, she loves to read, walk, and cheer at her children's many activities.



**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, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Jim McEvers, Sharon Secor, Paula Thomas (clerk), Jeff Wilkens, and Steve Wonderlich. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Dianne Connelly, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Sydney Goddard, David Hoffman, Gayla McGoldrick, Wayne Sander, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Kevin 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*

Bryan Poyzer: *Adult Choir Director*

Elliot Sander: *Interim Organist*

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**

**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

September 28, 2025 Attendance: 165

131 in person

34 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$5,118.00



### Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

650 2nd Ave. N.

Fargo, ND 58102

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

### **Sunday, October 5**

*11:30 Fellowship*

*11:45 Nominating Committee Meeting*

### **Monday, October 6**

No Church Events

### **Tuesday, October 7**

5:30 Mission Committee Meeting

5:30 Worship Committee Meeting (H)

5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting (H)

6:30 Stewardship Committee Meeting (H)

### **Wednesday, October 8**

4:30 Heart-n-Soul Food Truck @ FPC!

5:30 Genesis Ringers

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

### **Thursday, October 9**

12:15 Centering Prayer

3:00 Preparing @ Micah's Mission

5:00 Serving @ Micah's Mission

5:30 Nurturing Families Class

### **Friday, October 10**

*Church In Use*

### **Saturday, October 11**

*Church In Use*

### **Sunday, October 12**

*9:15 Sunday School*

*10:30 Worship Service (L)*

*11:30 Fellowship*

*Please note that the office will be closed 10/13*

**Contribution Statements** through September 30th were sent via email this past week. If you can't find it, remember to search your spam/junk email folder. Please look them over carefully. It is much easier (and less stressful) to make any corrections to your offerings now rather than at year end. If you need a hard copy sent to you, or if you just need to know your balance, contact Jan Lundgren in the church office. If you did not receive a statement and have an email on file with the church, please make sure we have your correct email address.