

Kirkin' O' The Tartans



November 2, 2025 9:00 & 11:00 am

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.

We recycle! If you are not taking your bulletin, please drop it in the blue bin at the door as you leave.

We Gather in Christ

❖ *Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE

Scottish Melodies

*Clar'sair Bienn**

Spirit, Open My Heart (Wild Mountain Thyme)

arr. Jill Post

Kirkin' Orchestra; Jill Post, director

PROCESSIONAL

The High Road to Gairloch

Trad. Scottish

Heather & Thistle Pipe Band; Celtic Dancers

WELCOME

Nov. 6 @ 7:00pm – Rod Rothlisberger Tribute Concert (RRVAGO & MSM)

Nov. 10 @ 7:00pm – A Parade of American Music (FMAMC)

Nov. 16 @ 4:00pm – Quad Piano Concert (4 Steinway Pianos, 10 pianists)

Dec. 8 @ 7:00pm – Ring and Sing-along (FMAMC)

Dec. 14 @ 6:30pm – Carols by Candlelight

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.

They are like trees planted beside water.

Their leaves stay green in times of drought.

Let us worship God who is our source of life.

✧HYMN

Spirit of God

arr. Jill Post

Kirkin' Orchestra; Heather & Thistle Pipe Band;
Ian Durkin and Katie Shaw, solo pipers

Refrain

Spi-rit of God, un - seen as the wind, gen - tle as heav'n - ly dove. **Fine**

9 Teach us the truth and help us be - lieve, show us the way to love. **Fine**

Verses

1.You spoke to us long, long a - go, gave us the writ - ten word;
2.With - out your help we fail oh Lord, we can - not live His way;
3.Bathe us in light, breathe on us, Lord, fill us with life a - new, **D.C. al Fine**

25 We read it still, need - ing its truth, through it God's voice is heard.
We need your power, we need your strength, fol - low - ing Christ each day.
That we may love all that you love and do what you would do.

✧CONFESSION

Holy God, we want to be rooted in you, but some days our hearts feel like dry soil. We confess that we trust our own wisdom more than we trust your guiding Spirit. We settle for surface level faith rather than digging deep to draw from your living water. We withhold compassion when we fear we do not have enough to share. Plant something new in us, God. Loosen the grip of our fears. Water the places within us that are cracked and tired. Grow in us a faith that sustains, a hope that stretches, and love that bears fruit for others. In your mercy, remake us. Amen.

Leader: ... In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made whole.

People: Thanks be to God!

✧RESPONSE 587

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

✧PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

O Praise Him, Alleluia!

arr. Mary McDonald

Proclamation & Sanctuary Choirs; Kirkin' Orchestra; Bryan Poyzer, director

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 17:7-8; James 1:2-8

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

SERMON

Storm Strong

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Root me in you, God, so that I may flourish in every season. When the heat of life rises and the drought stretches long, steady my spirit in your peace. Grow in me a quiet strength that I might offer shade, mercy, and compassion to others. Amen.

✧PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Scots Confession: Chapter 1

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

Background: The Scots Confession was written at a turning point in the history of the Scottish nation. The Protestant nobility of Scotland was able to secure English recognition of Scottish sovereignty in the Treaty of Edinburgh after the Queen Regent Mary of Guise died in her sleep in 1560. To the Scots, this favorable conclusion to the civil war with Mary's French-supported forces represented a providential deliverance.

✧HYMN 340

This Is My Song

arr. Jill Post

Kirkin' Orchestra; Heather & Thistle Pipe Band;

Curt Brickman, solo piper

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

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

Responding to the Word

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.

THE KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

CALLING OF THE CLANS AND PRESENTATION OF THE TRAYS

Clan Caller: Mark Gealy

Tray Bearers: Cynthia Sillers and Sam Wai

Those bringing tartans may come forward by way of the center aisle and return to their pew by the side aisles. Please pick up tartans by the West sanctuary doors following the service.

MUSIC

Scottish Melodies

*Clar'sair Bienn**

BLESSING OF THE TARTANS



OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brother James' Air
Kirkin' Orchestra;
Jill Post, director

James Bain,
arr. D. Wagner

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

✧ **DEDICATION 655** *What Shall I Render to the Lord (vs. 1-2)*

What shall I render to the Lord; what shall my offering be,
for all the gracious benefits God hath bestowed on me?

Salvation's cup my soul shall take while to the Lord I pray,
and with God's people I will meet, my thankful vows to pay.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Highland Cathedral* Rover/Korb arr. Wm. Hunter
Kirkin' Orchestra; Heather & Thistle Pipe Band;
Dan Aird, solo piper; Celtic Dancers; Jill Post, director

Bearing the Word into the World

✧ **HYMN 649** *Amazing Grace* arr. Gary Thrasher

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

(High Voices)

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

(Low Voices)

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home. *[Interlude]*

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. *[Interlude]*

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *A Celtic Blessing* Ruth W. Henderson
arr. Gary Thrasher

RECESSIONAL

Scotland the Brave
Heather & Thistle Pipe Band; Celtic Dancers

Trad. Scottish

POSTLUDE

Grand Chœur in Bb
Elliot Sander, organ

Theodore Dubois

Thank you to Fred Hudson, Tetteh Dotte, and Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard and our Welcome Team: Kathryn Byrd, Sharon Secor, Toby Christensen, Jean Pladson, Amy Wilkens, Paula Christensen, and all of our ushers for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: the Clar'sair Bienn quartet; Curt Brickman; the Heather and Thistle Pipe Band; the Kirkin' Orchestra directed by Jill Post; the Proclamation Choir directed by Rusty Bender, the Sanctuary Choir directed by Bryan Poyzer; Sally Harmon and Elliot Sander.

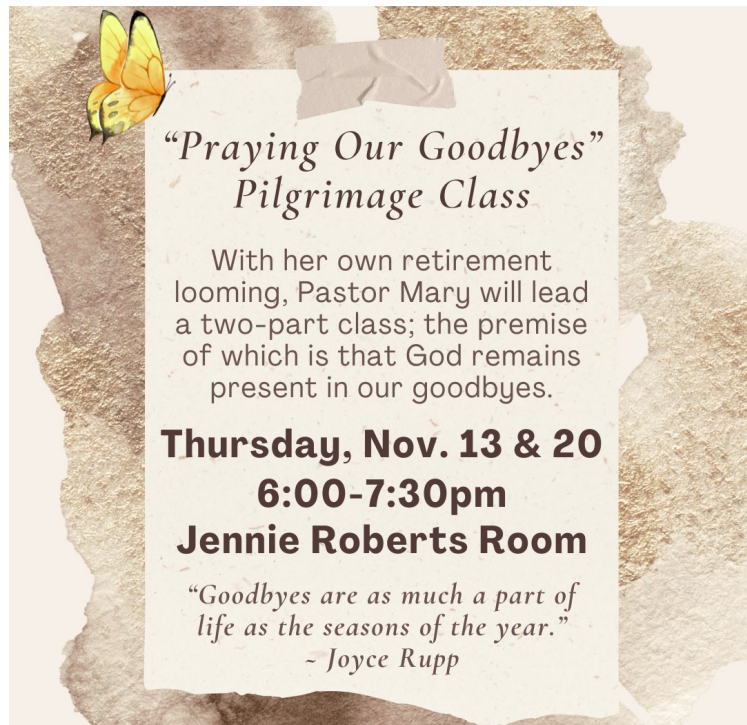
**Members of Clar'sair Bienn: Krista Clusiau, flute; Lisa Horton, piano; Susan Horton, harp; Alyssa Miller, cello.*

Kirkin' Orchestra Members: Krista Clusiau, Virginia Stern, flute; Savannah Joldersma, oboe; Catherine Tesch, Abby Weir, clarinet; Josh Argall, Greg Post, Mike Wavra, trumpet; Gene Okerlund, mellophone; Steve Blazek, Dave Stern, Ken Wagenman, trombone; Shane Erstad, euphonium; Conor Hedblom, tuba; Jack Lawrence, Will Peterson, Kevin Thomas, percussion; Lauren Bontje, Emily Erpelding, Mya Follingstad, Matthew Pechtl, Kathleen Thomas, violin 1; Leah Erpelding, Carrie Lawrence, Emily Ojanen, Susan Peterson, Eleanor Torpey, violin 2; Carsten Lawrence, Erin Torpey, Diane Wolter, viola; David Aguilera, Don Carlson Jr., Alyssa Miller, cello; Joey Pettit, Elise Tobosa, bass; Sue Horton, harp; Sally Harmon, Elliot Sander, organ and piano.

Cross, Bible, and candle bearers: Nathan Bolluyt, Liv Brito, Maggie Sundberg, Eleanor Torpey.



Serving at Micah's Mission: Our next date for Micah's Mission is Thursday, November 13. We need four preparers and two people to help serve from 5:00-7:00pm. The menu consists of Stouffer's lasagna, garlic bread, salad, vegetable, and dessert. Come and help with this vital project! Please sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the West Foyer if you're able to help. Thank you for your continued support of Micah's Mission and Churches United for the Homeless!



Retirement Party for Pastor Mary: First Presbyterian Church of Fargo invites you to join us for a luncheon celebrating Pastor Mary as she retires after 33 years of faithful service. The luncheon will take place on Sunday, December 7th, following worship in the Social Hall. No RSVP needed! Questions? Contact Casey in the church at clemier@firstpresfargo.org. The festivities run from November 23 to December 28, 2025. Even if you cannot attend the lunch, come any Sunday to congratulate Mary.

Upcoming Opportunities to Celebrate

- November 23 - Mary's final Sunday to preach
- November 30 - *Behold the Promise*, celebrating Mary's pastoral care
- December 7 - *Behold the Branch*, celebrating Mary's mission
- Luncheon to follow worship at 11:45 a.m.

Covenant of Prayer: David Hoffman, back surgery; Penny Andrist, immunotherapy; Colleen and Russell Ford-Dunker, Camino Frances pilgrimage; Beatrice Janaka's husband, James; Brad Schenck, brain cancer.

Nursery Attendant Job Opening: First Presbyterian Church seeks 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.



2nd Annual Peace Summit : Together we create peace by making room for every neighbor—addressing hunger, homelessness, and the call to belong. Building on last year's call to create community in a chaotic world, this year's Peace in Pandemonium summit invites us to take the next step—Making Room at the Table. We'll explore what it means to live peace through radical hospitality, shared sustenance, and compassionate action. Join us on **Saturday, November 15** for a day of reflection, story, and solidarity as we confront hunger and homelessness with courage and care. Be part of a community where everyone is seen, valued, and welcomed. **Tickets are free!** Find more information about the event on Facebook & Eventbrite.

Empowering Women to Become Servant Leaders:

Inspire. Empower. Serve

Women of all faith backgrounds, you are invited to understand servant leadership as modeled by Christ, learn to foster self-care practices that align with spiritual servanthood, and equip yourself to serve others without losing your sense of self; to lead with humility, courage, and faith. This retreat will take place November 22nd at Baker Downer and will be lead by Carrie Lauber and Kelly Meyer. Visit the BD Facebook page to get tickets!

Hearing devices are available, please ask an usher for assistance.

Nursery: Staff will be present **beginning at 8:00** 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

October 26, 2025 Attendance: 223

171 in person

52 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$50,635.00



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, November 2

1:00 Confirmation Mission Project in Baker

Monday, November 3

No Church Events

Tuesday, November 4

5:30 Mission Committee Meeting (H)

5:30 EduCon Committee Meeting

5:30 Worship Committee Meeting (H)

5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting (H)

6:30 Stewardship Committee Meeting (H)

Wednesday, November 5

5:00 Wednesday Activities Meal

5:30 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Bells

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 6

12:15 Centering Prayer

5:30 Nurturing Families Class

5:30 Taizé Evening Prayer Service

7:00 Rod Rothlisberger Tribute Concert

Friday, November 7

No Church Events

Saturday, November 8

No Church Events

Sunday, November 9

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship Service & Communion (L)

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation Session I

Monday, November 10

7:00 FM Music Club Concert (L)

Quad Piano Concert, Nov. 16! Please join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 16, at 4:00 pm for an exciting concert featuring Four Steinway Pianos played simultaneously, as well as two- piano duos and piano duets. Ten pianists will be participating in works by Brahms, Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, Gershwin, and others. There will be a reception following the recital. A free-will offering will be taken to support the maintenance and tuning of the church's pianos.