



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.

November 16, 2025

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Sing with All the Saints in Glory William B. Roberts
Jerusalem, My Happy Home Early American Folk Tune
Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling Joseph Barnby
Elliot Sander, organ

INTROIT

The Flouers o' the Forest Trad. Scottish

Translated to "Flowers of the Forest," this song is a lament long played by solo pipers in remembrance of the departed. Heard at funerals and memorials across Scotland—including those honoring Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II—its haunting melody calls us to remember with gratitude those who have gone before us in faith.

Rikki Given, solo piper

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God, you meet us in every place and time, and your faithfulness stretches beyond all generations. You are the breath that gives us life and the light that guides our way. As we gather to remember and give thanks, make this space holy with your peace, and center our hearts in your steadfast love. Through Christ, who unites us all, we pray. Amen.

✧ **OPENING WORDS**

All Is on Loan

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Ancient Aztec Indian Prayer

Source unknown

Joyce Rupp, *“Praying Our Goodbyes”*

Oh, only for so short a while you
Have loaned us to each other,
Because we take form in your act
of drawing us,
And we take life in your painting us,
and we breathe in your singing us.
But only for so short a while
Have you loaned us to each other.

✧ **HYMN 792**

There Is a Balm in Gilead

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.

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. **(Refrain)**

Don’t ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowledge, he’ll not refuse to lend. **(Refrain)**

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, “He died for all.” **(Refrain)**

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Holy God, you are present in every place and moment, yet we confess that too often we fail to recognize you among us. We hurry past the holy, mistaking your dwelling for ordinary ground. We cling to our own understanding, forgetting that you are the source of wisdom and the giver of life.

Forgive us, O God. Open our eyes to see your presence in our midst, in the faces of our neighbors, and in the memory of those who have gone before us in faith. Renew our spirits, that we may walk in trust and gratitude, reflecting your light in all we do. Amen.

✧ **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**

GIFT OF MUSIC *For All the Saints* arr. Robert Shaw

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director; Elliot Sander, piano
*We dedicate this beloved song 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.*

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS Claudia Hansen, handbell

*Richard Emerson, John Hastings, Linda Hoag, Vicki Laraway,
Marilyn Olson, Janice Reynen, Patricia Reynolds,
Rodney Rothlisberger, Robert Thompson, Thomas VanOsdel*

MUSIC *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place* arr. S. DeCesare
Second Avenue Strings; Jessica Poyzer, piano

Responding to the Word

SCRIPTURE *Genesis 28:10-17, pp. 24* Lisa McEvers, reader
John 1:43-51, pp. 967
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

✧ **HYMN 326** *For All the Saints (vs. 1, 3,5)*

*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.*

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia! Alleluia!

✧ **PROFESSION OF FAITH** *The Heidelberg Catechism (adapted from question 1)*
My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own, but belong-body and soul, in life and in death-to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Background: Soon after Luther posted his ninety-five theses, Lutherans and Reformed Christians established The Heidelberg Catechism to help settle their divisions. Their work was completed in 1562. Each question of the catechism is personal, addressed to "you." Its theology is both catholic, universal in appeal, and evangelical, setting forth the gospel of Jesus Christ and providing a basis for peaceful coexistence between Lutheran and Reformed Christians. The influence of the Heidelberg Catechism in the church's preaching and teaching continues to be felt in Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, parts of Eastern Europe, Scotland, Canada, and the United States.

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION—*Thanksgiving with Heart-n-Soul*

Ryan Johnston



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

OFFERTORY *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

arr. J. Rhodes

Matthew Pechtl, violin; Erin Torpey, viola; Jessica Poyzer, piano

✧ **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. This hymn 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 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

(Organ introduction arr. Frederick Swann)

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Come Ye Saints

arr. Sander

Elliot Sander, organ

Thank you to Carter Argall and Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard, Lisa McEvers for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Jeff Wilkens, Candy Shultz, Ryan Johnston, Dianne Connelly, and the Troy & Rachel Schmidt family for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Elliot Sander, the Sanctuary Choir directed by Bryan Poyzer, and the Second Avenue Strings: Emily Erpelding, violin I; Matthew Pechtl, violin II; Erin Torpey, viola; and Jayci Lawrence, cello; with Jessica Poyzer, piano.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO

Sunday Worship

November 16, 2025

Play it Forward! Do you have a band or orchestra instrument in your house not being used? Please consider bringing them to the church! We will make sure they're given to our local schools. We want all children to be able to participate in a music ensemble! Bring your donations to the church office for safekeeping. The deacons will take it from there.



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

- Nov. 23 - Mary's final Sunday to preach
- Nov. 30 - Celebrating Mary's pastoral care
- Dec. 7 - Celebrating Mary's mission
 - Luncheon to follow worship at 11:45 a.m.
- Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m. - Celebrating Mary's teaching

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
NOV. 27, 2025

Covenant of Prayer: Sara Schenck and family at the loss of Brad Schenck, funeral at Hope Lutheran South on Nov. 22, 1:00pm; Jan Harrison, recovering from surgery; David Hoffman, back surgery; Penny Andrist, immunotherapy; Beatrice Janaka's husband, James

Notice:

Congregational Meeting

Nov. 23 following worship

The purpose of this meeting
is to elect Church Officers
and approve the Pastor's
Terms of Call.

Quad Piano Concert, Nov. 16! Please join us in the sanctuary this afternoon 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.

ALL WOMEN ARE
INVITED TO THE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S Christmas Tea

DECEMBER 2 @ 1PM

Program presented in the Sanctuary
by the *Noteables*, director Jill Post

Coffee and cookies to follow
in the Jennie Roberts Room

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

November 9, 2025 Attendance: 204

155 in person

49 households livestreamed

Contribution information will be available 11/23



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 16

11:30 Fellowship

4:00 Quad Pianos Concert (L)

5:30 Confirmation Session II

Monday, November 17

6:30 Session Meeting (H)

Tuesday, November 18

9:30 PW Circles

1:00 PW Circle

Wednesday, November 19

5:00 Wednesday Activities Meal

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 20

4:30 Heart-n-Soul Meal @ FPC

5:30 Nurturing Families Courses

6:00 Pilgrimage Class 2/2

Friday, November 21

12:00 ***Messenger Article Deadline! - moved for Thanksgiving Holiday Closure***

Saturday, November 22

No Church Events

Sunday, November 23

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship & Congregational Meeting

11:45 **Decorating the Sanctuary & Festival Trees**

5:30 Confirmation Session III



Attention Snow Birds!

Please notify the office of your winter address along with the dates you'll be away. Year-end giving statements 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!