



*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.*

**August 17, 2025**

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRELUDE**

*Since I Have Been Redeemed  
I Know Who Holds Tomorrow  
O Zion, Haste  
Elliot Sander, organ*

arr. Sander

### **WELCOME**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*God of Peace, your call, at times, appears to divide us from one another. Help us to overcome our fears and respond in courage. Give us faith to trust the unity that is beyond our sight. Give us your eyes to recognize the signs before us. We ask this in the confidence of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **✧ CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

We gather, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses—

**By faith, they lived. By faith, we gather.**

We come to run the race before us, steady and bold.

**Christ is our guide, our fire, our strength.**

We bring stories of struggle, hope, and faithful steps.

**We bring hearts ready to be set ablaze.**

Let us lay aside every burden and come with open hands.

**Let us worship the God who still speaks in fire and promise.**

❖ **HYMN 321**

*The Church's One Foundation*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation by water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

❖ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**God of hope and fire, we confess our disregard of your care, our doubt of your promises, our blindness to the signs of your love all around us. We cling to comfort rather than risk transformation. We separate ourselves—from you, from others, and from the work of peace you call us to. We foster divisions where you sow connection. We turn inward when you call us to step forward in faith. Forgive us, O God. Set our hearts ablaze with your Spirit. Help us to amend our lives, to walk in your ways, and to bear the good fruit of your Word in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.**

❖ **RESPONSE 48**

*Rain Down*

Rain down; rain down;  
rain down your love on your people.  
Rain down; rain down;  
rain down your love, God of life.

## ❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Psalm 23*

arr. Jay Althouse

Eleanor Torpey, voice; Elliot Sander, piano

### **The Word**

### **SCRIPTURE**

*Hebrews 11:29-12:2, pp. 1097*

*Luke 12:49-56, pp. 950*

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

### **SERMON**

*Eyes on Jesus, Hearts Full of Dreams*

Elder Rusty Bender

### ❖ **HYMN 738**

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience, still with thee  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way;  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.

### ❖ **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*A Brief Statement of Faith, excerpt 11.3*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God**

delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

## 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 MESSAGE

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

### OFFERTORY

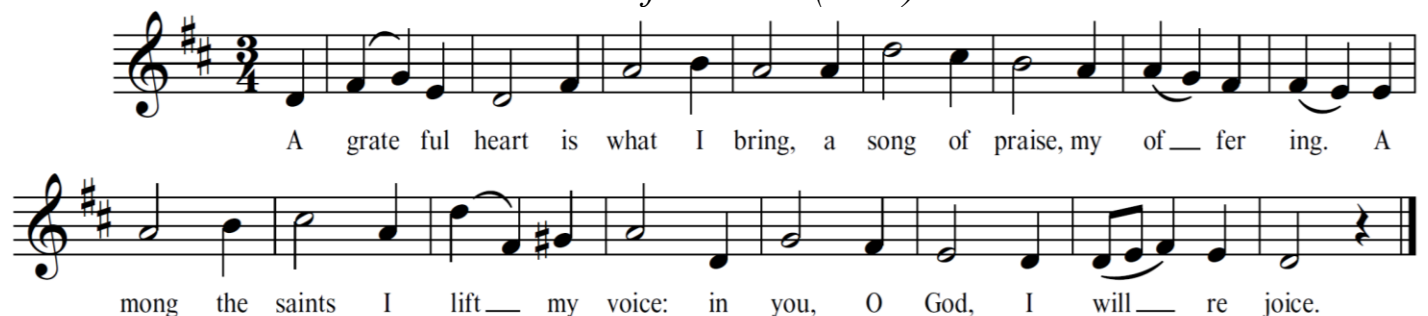
*The Lover's Waltz*

Ungar and Mason

Erin Torpey, viola; Katie Peck, piano

### ❖RESPONSE 652

*A Grateful Heart (vs. 1)*



### ❖PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Bearing the Word into the World

### ❖HYMN 846

*Fight the Good Fight*

Fight the good fight with all thy might.  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.  
God's boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.  
God changeth not, and thou art dear.  
Only believe, and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to thee.

✠ **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*And Can It Be?*  
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. Sander

*Thank you to Jaden Argall and Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard, Rusty Bender for leading us in worship, and our Welcome Team: Steve Wonderlich, Wayne Sander, Steve Dawson, and Dianne Connelly and family for taking such good care of us this morning.*

*A special thank you to our musicians: Elliot Sander, Eleanor Torpey, Erin Torpey, and Katie Peck.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF FARGO



## Sunday Worship

August 17, 2025

**Serving at Micah's Mission:** The signup sheets for September and October are on the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the West Foyer. Come and help with this vital project! If you wish to participate, but are unable to prepare or serve, consider making a donation to cover the cost of the meal. Thank you for your generosity of time and resources!

**THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME**  
— Spirituality of Baseball —

AUGUST 21 2024

STARTS AT 10 AM

Presentation @ First Presbyterian Church **THEN** Redhawks Game @ Newman Outdoor Field

650 2nd Ave. N Fargo, ND 58102 1515 15th Ave N. Fargo, ND 58102

**"Spirit of the Game" on August 21:** After an entertaining program in the Jennie Roberts Room at 10 am, have lunch on your own and head over to Newman Outdoor Field on the NDSU campus for a 12:30 pm game between the F-M RedHawks and Gary SouthShore RailCats. Seats are in a shaded area near the concourse. Although weather always is a factor in outdoor activities, the morning program will be held rain or shine. Class size is limited, so please register early. Contact Kit O'Neill (kit.oneill@outlook.com or 701-367-3925).

**Heart-n-Soul is looking for Volunteers!** HnS is looking for a variety of volunteers throughout the summer to help out with cooking, prepping, serving, and greeting for their Mobile Cafés. If you are interested in helping out, please visit their website at <https://heartsoulcafe.com/volunteer/>, or you can contact Leola at [heartsoulcc@gmail.com](mailto:heartsoulcc@gmail.com).



**Covenant of Prayer:** 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:** 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, by **August 25, 2025**. The church wishes to fill the position in early September.

**2025 Men's Bible Study Retreat:** First Presbyterian's Annual Men's Bible Study Retreat is scheduled for Friday evening, Sept. 26, and Saturday, Sept. 27. The retreat will be held at the Country Inn & Suites in Detroit Lakes and is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow men at First Presbyterian and learn about God's message for men.

A block of hotel rooms is being held for participants until August 26th. You can make your hotel reservation by calling Country Inn & Suites at 218-847-2000. When making your reservation, let them know that you are with the First Presbyterian Fargo group. If you'd like to split the cost of a room (\$146/night), please contact Dick Blaine at [dickandcarolyn@gmail.com](mailto:dickandcarolyn@gmail.com) or Bruce Maylath at [ring4linguist@yahoo.com](mailto:ring4linguist@yahoo.com) or 701-866-2626, and we will coordinate with others seeking a roommate.

**First Music Rehearsals**  
*Save the date!*  
Adult Choir starts 9/3  
Children & Youth Choirs start 9/17



**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:** 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*

Pamela Andrist-Burns: *Music Ministry Coordinator*

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**

## Attention!

**Office hours are changing  
for the fall!**

Starting after Labor Day,  
the church office will be open:

Monday - Thursday;  
**9:00am - 4:00pm**

Thank you!!

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

**Sunday, August 17**

*11:30 Fellowship*

**Monday, August 18**

*6:30 Session Meeting (H)*

**Tuesday, August 19**

No Church Events

**Wednesday, August 20**

*7:00 "S'more to the Story": Fireside Worship @  
Baker Downer Church*

**Thursday, August 21**

*9:00 Presbytery Leadership POD (H)*

*10:00 "Spirit of the Game" - Pilgrimage Program*

**Friday, August 22**

No Church Events

**Saturday, August 23**

*12:00 Messenger Article Deadline*

**Sunday, August 24**

*10:30 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

August 10, 2025 Attendance: 149

113 in person

36 households livestreamed

*Contribution information will be available after 8/24*



### Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)

650 2nd Ave. N.

Fargo, ND 58102

**Church Event Parking:** If you are frequently at the church during workday hours, please stop by the office for a "church event" parking permit rear view mirror hang tag, or you can call the church office and we'll leave one for you to pick up on Sunday. Occasionally, there is a walk-through done in the parking lot to identify those who should not be parking here. If you do receive a yellow warning ticket, don't panic, call the church office to let us know.