



*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 3, 2025**

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRELUDE**

*Face to Face*

arr. Sander

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Elliot Sander, organ

### **WELCOME**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*God of justice and compassion, teach us to live generously and seek righteousness. Guide our hearts away from self-centeredness, so that we may share your abundance and love with the world. Amen.*

### **✧CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Come, let us gather in the presence of God

**We come to listen, to learn, and to be transformed.**

The Lord calls us to seek justice, to defend the needy, and to live humbly.

**We will worship with hearts open to God's call.**

Let us seek the wealth that endures

**We will seek treasures of mercy, love, and grace.**

Let us be rich toward God.

**Let us worship God.**

✧ **HYMN 757**      *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**God of justice, we confess that we have been too busy storing up—storing up time for ourselves, storing up wealth and security, storing up opinions and grievances—until our hearts are like full barns with no more room. No room for love. No room for your light to get in. You call us to be rich toward you—to give as freely as we receive, to make room for the neighbor, the traveler, the grieving, the refugee. But we close off, we hold back, we clutch and keep. Forgive us for the barns we build—out of fear, out of pride, out of routine. Help us throw wide the doors and let your light in. Help us to be people who live freely, who share boldly, who believe that love is abundant and hope is contagious. God of grace, empty us of all that keeps us from being generous toward you and one another. 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**

# **The Word**

## **SCRIPTURE**

*Jeremiah 22:1-4, 13-16, pp. 709*

*Luke 12:13-21, pp 949*

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

## **SERMON**

*Raising Barns*

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

## **✧ HYMN 761**

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,  
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus, new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.

Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.

Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

# **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 530 *One Bread, One Body*

**Refrain:** One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. **(Refrain)**

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. **(Refrain)**

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. **(Refrain)**

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Intermezzi*

Johannes Brahms

*Mazurkas*

Frédéric Chopin

Andy Froelich, piano

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### Responding to the Word



#### OFFERING MESSAGE

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

#### OFFERTORY

*Songs Without Words*

Felix Mendelssohn

Andy Froelich, piano

#### ❖RESPONSE 652

*A Grateful Heart (vs. 1)*



A grate ful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my of— fer ing. A



mong the saints I lift— my voice: in you, O God, I will— re joice.

#### ❖PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### Bearing the Word into the World

#### ❖HYMN 716

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

✦ **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on Amazing Grace*  
David Hoffman, organ

Chris Pardini

*Thank you to Robby & Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard, and our Welcome Team: Colleen Ford-Dunker, Toby Christensen, Becky & Josh Trumbo, David & Virginia Stern, Sydney Goddard, Bruce Maylath, Tom Dawson, Murray Moen, and Jeff & Amy Wilkens for taking such good care of us this morning.*

*A special thank you to our musicians: Elliot Sander, Andy Froelich, and David Hoffman.*

# STRIKEPOINT

## Handbell Concert

**Sunday, August 3**  
**7:00 pm**

First Presbyterian Church  
650 2nd Ave. N. • Fargo

Admission free • Suggested donation \$18

20% of the donation benefits First Presbyterian's  
bell program







**Volunteering at Micah's Mission:** Our August meal for Micah's Mission is next week, Thursday, August 14. We need 4 people to help prepare the meal (sloppy joes, salad, side vegetables and dessert) from 3-5pm and 1 more volunteer to help serve from 5-7pm. 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!

**Taizé Evening Prayer Returns:** Taizé evening prayer returns at FPC on Thursday, August 7, in our Sanctuary. We will continue to hold Taizé services on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. This special, meditative service rooted in scripture, singing, and prayerful silence, is sponsored by the Presentation Prayer Center, who hold their own Taizé prayer service at Riverview Place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, also at 6:30pm.

#### **4 F's Group Outings:**

- Thursday, Aug. 7th at 11:30am — Lunch at Nova Eatery on Broadway, 1 block north of Fargo Theatre. RSVP by August 4th.

Any single women 55+ are welcome to join this informal social group. Please let Marcia or Elaine know if you will be attending, so that tables can be reserved

Marcia: 701-840-1986, ndmomfoss@gmail.com

Elaine: 701-793-6614, elainerudd1@hotmail.com

**Elliot Sander Summer Organ Recital:** This music-filled evening starts at 7pm and will serve as a fundraiser benefit for the Red River Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Works from Bach, Beethoven and Haydn will be featured. Guest performers, Alex Swanson and Sally Harmon will be joining Elliot for the performance. The star of the show is our church's exquisite 59 rank Schantz pipe organ. There will be a reception following the recital Friday, August 15th; we hope to see you there!

**"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).

**Covenant of Prayer:** Beatrice Janaka's husband, James; Brad Schenck, son of Richard Schenck (BD) fighting brain cancer.

**Our Heartfelt Appreciation:** A special thank you to Dianne Connelly, Corday Goddard, Jim McEvers, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Lisa McEvers, Scott Holdman & Family, as well as Sue Van Osdell, Debbie Tight, Don Larew, Becky Trumbo, Ginger Deitz, Judy Rippentrop, Susan Bommersbach, Virginia Stern, Matthew Pechtl, Sydney Goddard, Marcia Foss, Pru Olson, Mary Simle, Dorothy McClure, Prakash & Jane Mathew, Cynthia Baumgardner, Colleen Ford-Dunker, David Hoffman, Nancy Lium, Wanda Wavra, Rick Fiebigler, Drew Brovold, Casey LeMier, Janna Warcup, and everyone who pitched in to help to make our *Bolster Up!* Adult Vacation Bible School a success this year! We are so thankful to have such an involved community here at First Presbyterian Church.

A yellow poster for a concert. At the top, "NEW YORK KAMMERMUSIKER" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. Below this, "FREE CONCERT" and "AUGUST 10 @ 7PM" are written in smaller, bold, black capital letters. In the center, "18TH ANNUAL WINDS OF CHANGE CONCERT" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the address "FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FARGO 650 2ND AVE N. FARGO, ND 58102" is listed in bold, black capital letters. On the right side of the poster, there are stylized musical notes and a treble clef in black and red.

**NYK Returns to FPC Fargo Aug. 10!** The New York Kammermusiker is a professional double-reed ensemble (oboes, bassoons, English horns) which has traveled extensively throughout the world. Members of the non-profit ensemble will play during worship on Sunday, August 10th! In addition, they will present a free public concert in our Sanctuary that evening at 7:00pm. Sally Harmon will be joining them for their Fargo concerts!

**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://heartnsoulcafe.com/volunteer/>, or you can contact Leola at [heartnsoulcc@gmail.com](mailto:heartnsoulcc@gmail.com).



**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**

**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.

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

### **Sunday, August 3**

*11:30 Fellowship*

7:00 Strikepoint Handbell Choir Concert

### **Monday, August 4**

No Church Events

### **Tuesday, August 5**

12:15 Support & Endowment Committee Meeting

5:30 Mission Committee Meeting

5:30 Worship Committee Meeting (H)

5:30 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting (H)

6:30 Stewardship Committee Meeting (H)

### **Wednesday, August 6**

4:30 Heart-n-Soul Community Café!

5:30 EduCon Committee Meeting

### **Thursday, August 7**

6:30 Taizé Evening Prayer

### **Friday, August 8**

No Church Events

### **Saturday, August 9**

No Church Events

### **Sunday, August 10**

*10:30 Worship Service, NYK Musical Guests (L)*

*11:30 Fellowship*

7:00 New York Kammermusiker Concert (L)

**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

July 27, 2025 Attendance: 120

80 in person

40 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$3,767.00



### Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

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

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