



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.

September 21, 2025

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

I Bow My Forehead to the Dust
God Of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. Sander

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of all truth and mercy, in a world where wealth is often mistaken for worth, help us to be faithful with what you have entrusted to us. Teach us to pray not only for our own lives but also for leaders, strangers, and neighbors. Make us bold in generosity, wise in stewardship, and persistent in prayer, so that your grace may ripple through the decisions we make each day. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

✧ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

We gather to worship God with hope.

We pray for all people, everywhere.

Christ calls us into truth and grace.

We follow him with faith and love.

Let us be faithful in every small thing.

Let us worship God with grateful hearts.

✧ HYMN 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,

silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Holy God, we are not always shrewd, not always faithful. We hoard blessings instead of sharing them. We ignore the systems that enrich us at the cost of others. We silence our prayers when they challenge our politics. We speak of your mercy yet forget you are Lord of both rich and poor. So, turn us, O God, from apathy to prayer, from scarcity to generosity, from safety to sacrifice. Teach us to live not for ourselves, but for the world you so love. 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 *When Morning Gilds the Skies* arr. Mark Hayes
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, a hymn that has touched her heart throughout her ministry.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

The Word

SCRIPTURE *1 Timothy 2:1-7, pp. 1080* Wayne Sander, reader
 Luke 16:1-13, pp. 953 *Whirl Story Bible, pg. 490*
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Crazy Faith & the Power of Stewardship* Elder Rusty Bender

❖ **HYMN 353** *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**

His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. **(Refrain)**



Sacrament of Baptism

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

Victoria Charlotte Rosenkranz, child of Megan Michelle Ness and Brian Michael Rosenkranz; Grandchild of Kent and Dina Ness & Dennis and Becky Rosenkranz; Sponsors are Eli Schneider and Melissa Ness; Tom Bigwood, presiding elder.

❖ **RENUNCIATIONS**

❖ **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

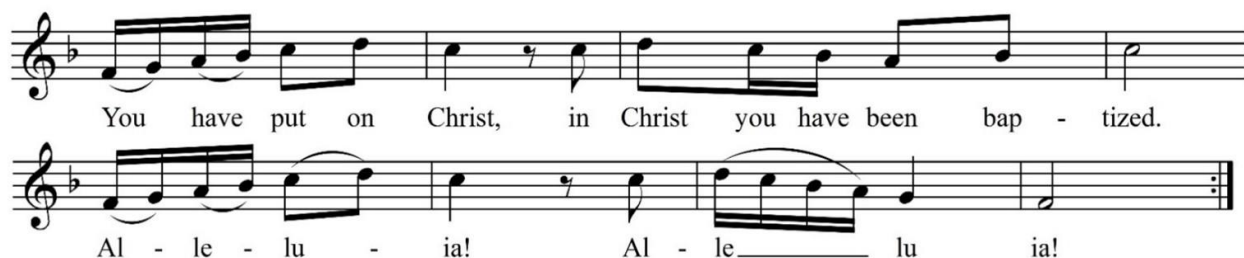
BAPTISM

WELCOME

...Let us welcome the newly baptized.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE 491 *You Have Put On Christ*



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 STEWARDSHIP – *“Jump In and Help”* Troy Schmidt

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

OFFERTORY *Take My Life and Let It Be*

arr. Stan Pethel

St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

❖ **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 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my god and king, the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

✧ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Built on the Rock
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. Sander

*Thank you to Emily Erpelding and Tetteh Dottey on livestream and soundboard,
and our Welcome Team: Bruce Maylath, Sydney Goddard, Tom Bigwood, Wayne
Sander, Troy Schmidt, Virginia Stern, and Marcia Foss and team for taking such
good care of us this morning.*

*A special thank you to our musicians: Elliot Sander, St. Andrew's Brass directed by
Jill Post, and the Sanctuary Choir directed by Bryan Poyzer.*





Emergency Food Pantry: Our time to man the carts at the Emergency Food Pantry will be October 20 through 24. Check your availability to fill in a shift either 9:30-11:30am or 1:00-3:30 and sign up to help. Nancy Lium will have a clipboard during fellowship following worship each Sunday in September. Volunteers must get registered to take a shift beforehand. We hope you can help this important mission.



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. Let's make sure children are warm as they wait for the school bus.

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.

The retreat will again be led by Dr. Stephen Reed, former chair of the Religion & Philosophy Department at the University of Jamestown. After spending last fall at Norway's University of Agder, he has offered to share with us some of the findings from his career-long research into the Dead Sea Scrolls.

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.



Sunday School & Music Ensemble

Registration: Please be sure to register your child for Sunday School and the music ensembles, as the first fall rehearsal is right around the corner, and Sunday school starts Sept. 21! The registration form is available via the QR code above, on our website, and in-person sign up available on Rally Sunday, Sept. 14. Information regarding children & youth education is available on our website under Children, Youth, and Music Ministries.

Find a moment of stillness in your day

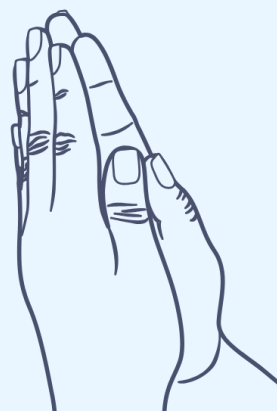
Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer that quiets the mind and focuses attention on the presence and action of the Holy Spirit within.

Thursday afternoons,
12:15-12:50 in the
Jennie Roberts Room

All are welcome.
No experience necessary.

*Sponsored by The Pilgrimage
and Presentation Prayer Center*



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*

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, September 21

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, September 22

No Church Events

Tuesday, September 23

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Wednesday, September 24

5:00 Wednesday Activities Meal

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, September 25

12:15 Centering Prayer

2:00 Sourdough Making Class @ Baker Downer

5:30 Nurturing Families Class

Friday, September 26

Men's Bible Study Retreat in Detroit Lakes

Saturday, September 27

Men's Bible Study Retreat in Detroit Lakes

Sunday, September 28

9:15 Sunday School

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

September 7, 2025 Attendance: 157

123 in person

34 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$9,932.34

September 14, 2025 Attendance: 166

133 in person

33 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$1,856.40



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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