

First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, ND

The Messenger

APRIL 2024

Message from Pastor Sarah

It's nearly the end of the first quarter and I'm happy to report that membership and attendance are growing and giving has increased, allowing us to continue our great ministry in our community. We have a lot to be thankful for this year. Yet, if you've been paying attention, you know that we've been operating with a budget deficit for a few years. The time has come to adjust to our reality. We need to make significant changes to our staffing structure in the next 18 months.

Since fall, Session and your pastors have been working diligently to analyze our future needs and prayerfully recommend changes that match our resources. While researching our options, we were presented with and pursued a plan to work with other local Presbyterian churches. A consolidation would allow us to:

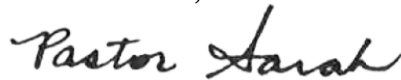
- merge administrative tasks and use the savings to retain employees,
- increase mission and pursue new mission opportunities that may be available only if we combine our strength,
- secure our own future and the future of the Presbyterian witness in the Fargo-Moorhead area,
- help more people come to know the love and healing presence of Christ in their lives, and
- expand our impact on the lives of people in this community and throughout the world.

Before we make our final decision, we want your input. We are hosting several informational meetings so we can share our plans in more detail, answer your questions, and get your feedback. As you listen to and process these plans, there may be the temptation to resist change, fear the unknown, or cling to what has been. (Believe me, we all wish we didn't have to change what is clearly wonderful.) Please remain open to what God might be doing in our midst. We are not the first generation of God's faithful to experience an uncertain future and we will not be the last, but we remember that God is from everlasting to everlasting.

Soon, you will receive a letter from the Session with more details about the proposal and a list of Informational Meeting dates. We hope that you will join us for one of the offerings. A recording will be available in early May for those who cannot attend.

I hope you sense how excited I am about the future of First Presbyterian Church. I love this congregation, our staff and our mission. I believe that God has something great planned for us.

Yours In Christ,



Pastor Sarah

EFP & MN FoodShare Campaign

The Emergency Food Pantry in Fargo is once again participating in the March Campaign! All food and funds raised between February 26 and April 6 will be reported to Minnesota FoodShare. Each participating pantry will receive a proportional match based on all participating food shelves across Minnesota. Even though we are in Fargo, we serve Clay County so we qualify for this amazing opportunity! Thank you for your continued support!

Serving at Micah's Mission

Sign up sheets are at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the West Foyer for April 11, May 9, and June 13. It was a mild winter, and still they have been serving over 100 people for every evening meal! Micah's Mission is the shelter with Churches United for the Homeless, of which we're blessed to be a charter member. Come and be a part of this longstanding mission! If you wish to participate, but are unable to prepare or serve, consider making a donation to cover the cost of lasagna. One lasagna is about \$20; an entire meal is between \$200-\$250, depending on how many guests we expect to serve. Thank you for your generosity of time and resources!

Presbyterian Women News

Bible Study Leaders: On Apr. 10 Pastor Mary Holtey will present the Bible Study on Lesson 8: *Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship* in the office conference room at 10:00am.

Circles: Circles will meet Apr. 16 in the Jennie Roberts Room; Naomi/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30am and the Rachel Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Paula Christensen at 701-219-5795.

PW Spring Meeting in Arvilla

The Fargo PW will be going to the spring meeting in Arvilla on Saturday April 27. The meeting starts at 10 am and we will be leaving at 8 am. The speaker will be Louella Voight, a member of the USA Mission Experience, who will share her perspective on immigration issues. We will be bringing clothing and household items for the Bdecan Church and \$10 gift cards for the Churchwide gathering in St Louis. Nancy Lium will be driving, call her if you want to ride along: 701 235-0228.

PW Gathering in August

The PW is sponsoring 2 scholarships to the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in St. Louis, Missouri from August 8-11. Please contact Judy Rippentrop at jirippentrop@yahoo.com or 701-730-1836 by May 1st if you are interested in more information about attending.

FPC Scholarship Opportunity

Our First Presbyterian Church scholarship is now available. This scholarship is open to those who will be starting their first year of college. The deadline to apply is May 1. Please contact Kayla Bones at kbones@firstpresfargo.org if you have any questions. You can find the application forms at firstpresfargo.org/scholarships.

Men's Bible Study

The men's Bible study convenes again on Tuesday, April 9th at 6:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines the Book of Genesis. A copy of the study guide can be obtained from Bruce Maylath. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

FPC Financial Summary February 2024 — General Fund Only

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Increase/ Decrease	Annual Budget
Income	\$135,228	\$112,081	\$23,146	\$781,800
Expense	181,522	198,016	-\$16,493	976,927
Net/ Shortfall	-\$46,295	-\$85,935	\$39,640	-\$195,127



We are collecting personal hygiene items for the Resource Room at the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center (RACC). During April, we invite you to bring in shampoo, conditioner, soap, feminine hygiene items, toothpaste, diapers, deodorant, etc. If you prefer, scan the QR code above to view their Amazon page with listed items you could buy and have sent directly to RACC. Or, you may wish to consider making a financial donation to the church, clearly marked RACC on the memo line. Items may be placed in the green buckets in the west foyer. Thank you for your generosity and unwavering commitment to helping others in their time of need.

Milestones

We list FPC's births, baptisms, weddings, and deaths, hoping to stay better connected with one another.

Weddings: Mattyson Barta & Brandan Lee, January 13

Deaths: John Q. Paulsen, February 19

Doug Williams, February 27

Don Hilsendager, February 28

New Members: Ruth and Ray Burns, Chris and Kathryn Byrd, Corday and Sydney Goddard, Scott and Erin Holdman, Geoffrey and Angie McNeil, Adam and Courtney Montgomery, Svetlana Robinson, Dan and Laura Sundberg; received on February 11.

Music Notes from Pam

Sunday, April 7th we welcome Sally back to the organ! We are grateful to Russell Romine, Shawn Neisen, Terri Diers, Bryan Poyzer, Susan Clambey, and Alex Swanson for their leadership from the piano and organ in Sally's absence! We also welcome *The Statesmen of NDSU* in worship that Sunday. The Statesmen is a non-auditioned tenor-bass ensemble with participants representing many diverse majors from across campus. This year, the Statesmen are being conducted by Shawn Neisen who is working toward a DMA in Choral Conducting at NDSU.

Sunday, April 7	Sally Harmon, organ <i>The Statesmen of NDSU</i>
April 14	Second Sunday Band Sanctuary Choir
April 21	Westminster Ringers All Children & Youth Choirs
April 28	Andy Froelich, piano Sanctuary Choir

If you have questions or comments regarding the music ministry, please contact coordinator Pam Burns.

Wanted: Choir Members!

If you've ever thought about singing with the Sanctuary Choir, now would be a great time to try it out! The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room in the basement. The choir meets again most Sunday mornings at 9:30 to warm up their voices and review the anthem for that particular Sunday. The choir has several consistent and faithful members, but most of us are not able to commit to every single Sunday. Having a larger ensemble would improve musical balance and blend! It would improve morale; it would be more fun! It reduces the pressure on existing members. Please consider joining us once, sometimes, or always! We'd love to have you be part of the family!

Find a moment of stillness in your day

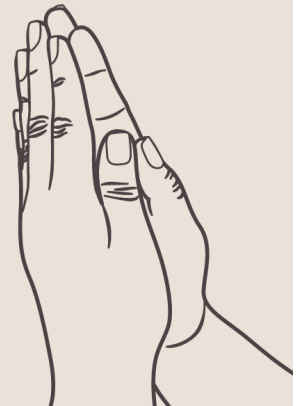
Centering Prayer

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,
12:15-12:45 in the
Jennie Roberts Room

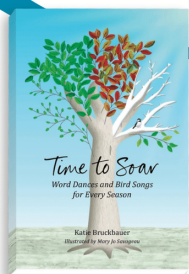
All are welcome.
No experience necessary.

*Sponsored by The Pilgrimage
and Presentation Prayer Center*



Poetry in Motion

Whimsical and profound.
Funny and wise.



Sunday, April 7
2:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Events Center
670 4th Ave N, Fargo

\$12 students
\$20 adults

Dance performance
& poetry book launch

Sponsored by:



More info
& tickets:



About Word Dances
and the book:
worddances.com

May Plant Exchange!

April showers bring May plants and flowers! Are you itching for real spring weather to get into your garden? Did you have an overactive green thumb this winter and have more plants than you have space? Now is the time to divide your overgrown house plants or outdoor plants and exchange them for something new at our Spring Plant Exchange!

May 12th after worship we will be coordinating a plant exchange. Much like the produce exchange last fall, we will have space for houseplants, outdoor landscaping plants, vegetable garden starter plants and herbs. If you can plant it, we will exchange it! This is your chance to save the date and start thinking Spring!

Help with Funeral Receptions

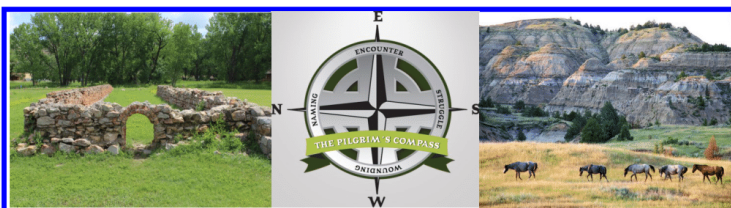
Families have entrusted the church at their most difficult and vulnerable times. We want to respond with our love and support. Are you able to help, from time to time, with setting up, serving and cleaning up funeral receptions? Or, perhaps, you could bring a pan of bars. You, too, guys! Sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the West Foyer. Please note if there are only certain days of the week you'd be able to help. Or, if you prefer, give your name to our coordinator, Nancy Lium, at liumn1949@gmail.com. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

wonder with us

second SUNDAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
prophesy, teach, heal, & serve

Don't forget! April 14
Breakfast starts at
8:45 in the Social Hall



"Contemplative Photography in the Badlands"

Wednesday, Aug. 21 - Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024 (with optional extension to Sunday, Aug. 25)
Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota
\$650 single occupancy; \$595 double occupancy; optional activities available
Cost includes course instruction, hotel, & meals; scholarships available

Contemplative photography encourages us to see from a new perspective, to explore the heart of nature to find God "hidden in plain view." The starkly beautiful vistas of the Badlands and their unique flora and fauna inspire us to awe and wonder. Join us for a 3-night, 4-day excursion to western North Dakota in August. Instructors are Jeff and Janet Sockwell and their son Daniel, a professional nature photographer. This course is for everyone who appreciates the wonders of nature, regardless of their level of photography experience.

The course begins on Wednesday at 5 pm and concludes on Saturday at 11 am. Course instruction will be balanced with opportunities to visit the national park. Attend the popular Medora Musical preceded by a pitchfork fondue dinner on Thursday for an additional \$95. Add a one-day extension for time to explore the Badlands on your own for \$195 (includes hotel stay and Gospel brunch).



Register online at thepilgrimage.net
or by using *The Pilgrimage* app
Registration and 50% deposit due by May 1st
Questions? Email Kit O'Neill (kit.oneill@outlook.com)

First Presbyterian Church

BINGO NIGHT

PIZZA | FUN | PRIZES

Friday, April 12, 2024

See you in the Social Hall at 6 pm!
sponsored by the EduCon Committee

Sign-Up Here

EduCon is bringing back the popular Bingo Night! Join us on Friday, April 12 at 6 p.m. for pizza and several games of Bingo. And, yes, there WILL be prizes! Not to mention happy, relaxed people that you will want to hang out with just for the fun of it! Please register on the Volunteer Opportunities board, or sign up by scanning the QR code.

VBS registration is open now!

Sign up online by scanning the QR code below

Update from Town Hall

The speakers are selected for the 2024-2025 season and the brochure announcing them and their expected lecture dates was mailed in March. They will be selling season tickets before and after worship on April 14th.



First Presbyterian Church, Fargo
650 2nd Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102
 Phone: (701) 293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org

*Got Stuff?
We'll take it!*

We're collecting items for VBS!

We could use...

Pool noodles of all colors, Bead necklaces,
 Paper lanterns, Brightly colored ribbon,
 Large plastic bowls (clear or colored),
 Tulle of all colors, and Loofahs!

Don't Just "Like" Us...

Interacting with (and sharing!) our posts on Facebook and Instagram helps boost our presence in social media algorithms. Next time you see a post from us, don't scroll by, make sure to like or use an appropriate reaction, and comment or share if you 'like' what you see!

Dates to Remember

April 1 — Office Closed (Easter Monday)
 April 5 — Youth Lock-In
 April 7 — Communion & Statesmen in Worship
 April 12 — Pizza & Bingo Night!
 April 14 — Second Sunday

Date	Elder on Duty	Deacon on Duty	Usher Team	Reader
April 7	Tetteh Dottey	Jane Mathew	Carrie Lawrence	Bruce Maylath
April 14	Jody Hudson	Debbie Tight	Rick Herberg	
April 21	Bruce Maylath	Brenda Deckard	Steve Wonderlich	
April 28	Abi Carlson	Candy Shultz	Tracy Barrett	Tom Dawson

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed	2 12:15pm - S&E Committee Meeting (H) 5:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting 5:30pm - Worship Committee Meeting (H) 5:30pm - Building & Grounds Meeting 6:30pm - Personnel Committee Meeting	3 5:00pm - Wednesday Activities Dinner * Wednesday Evening Activities	4 12:15pm - Centering Prayer	5 7:00pm - Youth Lock-In	6
7 10:30am - Worship Service & Communion (L) 11:30am - Fellowship	8 5:30pm - EduCon Committee Meeting	9 6:45am - Men's Bible Study 5:30pm - Board of Deacons Meeting	10 10:00am - PW Bible Study Leaders 5:00pm - Wednesday Activities Dinner * Wednesday Evening Activities	11 12:15pm - Centering Prayer 3:00pm - Preparing @ Micah's Mission 5:00pm - Serving @ Micah's Mission	12 6:00pm - Pizza & Bingo Night	13
14 8:45am - Second Sunday Activities 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship	15 9:30am - Town Hall Board Meeting 6:30pm - Session Meeting	16 9:30am - PW Circles 1:00pm - PW Circle	17 5:00pm - Wednesday Activities Dinner * Wednesday Evening Activities	18 12:15pm - Centering Prayer	19	20 Presbytery Meeting in Jamestown 10:00am - PW Leah Circle (H)
21 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship	22 5:00pm - Stewardship Committee Meeting	23 12:00pm - Messenger Article Deadline	24 5:00pm - Wednesday Activities Dinner * Wednesday Evening Activities	25 12:15pm - Centering Prayer	26	27
28 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship	29	30 10:30am - Rebecca Udem: Town Hall Lecture Series @ Prairie Heights Church, West Fargo		* Wednesday Evening Activities: 5:30pm - St. Andrew's Brass 5:30pm - Genesis Ringers 6:15pm - Children / Youth Choirs 6:30pm - Westminster Ringers 7:00pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir		Activity Key: (L) - Livestreamed (H) - Hybrid (Z) - Zoom Only