

14 SEPT.

Rally Day & Registration

21 SEPT.

First day of
Sunday School



PARENT GUIDEBOOK

*Learn about programming
opportunities for youth
and children.*

- ✓ Sunday School
- ✓ Curriculum for all levels
- ✓ Youth activities
- ✓ Musical ensembles

2025–26

Sunday Mornings

9:15 – 10:15

Wednesday Evenings

5:00 Dinner

5:30 Bells

6:15 Choirs

7:00 Youth Group



Call Us
701-293-6311



First Presbyterian Church
650 2nd Ave N, Fargo

Sunday School Coordinator



We're grateful to have Carrie Lawrence serving as our Sunday School Coordinator. A longtime member of First Pres, Carrie has been deeply involved in children's ministry through Sunday School, VBS, Kaleidoscope, and more. She brings a background in education, having taught in Moorhead Public Schools and worked in various childcare programs. Carrie and her husband, Jack, were married at First Pres and have raised their two children, Jayci and Carsten, in this church family. She brings warmth, creativity, and a love for kids to everything she does!.

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Director of Church Life

Rusty Bender is the Director of Church Life at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. Originally from Cooperstown, ND, Rusty has been serving in this role for over a year, overseeing both Christian Education and Worship Arts, including the coordination of all music ministries. He holds a degree from NDSU and is pursuing a Master of Divinity at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Rusty enjoys being part of this vibrant faith community as we continue to preach, teach, heal, and serve the world around us.

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High School Sunday Mornings

This year, we're taking a **new approach** to Sunday mornings for our high school youth. While we will no longer offer a formal Sunday school class, we're still making space for connection and community.

Our coffee and cocoa bar will remain open and available to high school students each Sunday morning starting at 9:15 AM in the Gathering Space. We encourage students to come early, enjoy a warm drink, and spend time together before worship begins.

High school youth are also encouraged to engage more fully in the life of the church by:

- Volunteering to assist in the nursery or with children's Sunday school
- Participating in adult education offerings
- Connecting with one another and the wider church community

We hope this shift creates space for both rest and responsibility—and helps our high schoolers feel truly at home at First Pres.



Youth Group

Meeting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings, FPC Fargo offers a welcoming, inclusive space for youth in grades 6 through 12 to come together for fun, connection, and meaningful conversation. In partnership with FPC Moorhead, we share a combined youth group experience that encourages friendships across congregations and builds a broader sense of community.

Youth Group is a time to relax, connect with peers, and engage with caring adults who support and listen. Together, we explore how our faith lives and grows—not just at church, but at home, in the world, and within ourselves. We also engage in hands-on, service-based activities throughout the year, as well as events beyond the church building that help us live out our call to love and serve others. All are welcome to join in the journey!

SAVE!
THE DATE

Clearwater Camp Opportunities

15–19 OCT.

Fall For All: Open to All Ages

9–11 JAN.

Snow Camp: 3–12 grade

clearwaterforest.org

CONFIRMATION

Parents Meeting – Sunday, September 21, 2025 – following worship at 11:45am.

Confirmation is a meaningful opportunity for youth who are interested in learning more about God, the church, and our Presbyterian tradition.

New this year, Confirmation will be open to students in **8th grade and older** and will be offered **every other year**. This change allows us to bring together a larger group of students and create a more dynamic, shared experience.

The Confirmation journey is a time to explore faith, deepen our relationship with God through discipleship, and discover the meaning of “church.” Together, we’ll build community, engage in meaningful conversations, and grow in our understanding of what it means to live out our faith as active members of the church.

Ultimately, Confirmation invites students to personally reaffirm their baptismal vows and claim the grace offered to us through Christ.

We look forward to connecting with our youth and growing together in faith this fall.

Sunday School

Sundays at 9:15a.m.



CHILDREN'S

Children from Pre-K (age 3) through 5th grade are invited to take part in Sunday morning programming designed just for them! We offer a traditional Sunday School experience with age-based classrooms, caring volunteer teachers, and a Presbyterian curriculum that's developmentally appropriate and engaging.

Each Sunday begins at 9:15 AM with a large group welcome, followed by classroom activities and discussions. Our goal is to help children learn about Jesus and the Bible while building a personal relationship with God and a foundation in the Christian faith. Sunday School ends at 10:15 AM, just in time for families to attend 10:30 worship together.

NURSERY

We are pleased to provide a safe, caring space for children birth to 3 for parents who are participating in church life. A qualified attendant is present at all times.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our 6th to 8th graders have their own space on the bottom floor of the church to connect, wonder, learn and grow together. The room is located to the left of the stairwell.

Curriculum

Follow Me is a twenty-seven-unit curriculum based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. It is written for people of all ages, allowing us to teach all levels around the same theme and provide continuity across all classrooms. This curriculum examines where Jesus' practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now.

Welcome All



9/21 – Welcome All – As God Welcomes Us!

9/28 – Welcome All – See Christ in Every Person

10/5 – Welcome All – Know Your Gifts

10/12 – Welcome All – Challenge Othering

10/19 – ***NO Sunday School*** – MN/NDEA

Follow Jesus



10/26 – Follow Jesus – Come and See!

11/2 – ***NO Sunday School*** – *Kirkin' o' the Tartans*

11/9 – Follow Jesus – Together Through Love

11/16 – Follow Jesus – By Telling Others About Jesus

11/23 – ***NO Sunday School*** – *Happy Thanksgiving!*

Go Tell



11/30 – Go Tell – Special Announcement: Good News!

12/7 – Go Tell – (Good) News Flash!

12/14 – Go Tell – Joy to the World!

12/21 – Holiday Parties in Classrooms!

12/28 & 1/4 – ***NO Sunday School*** – *Happy Holidays!*

MUSIC



Our music ensembles are part of the church's vibrant music ministry, where all are invited to share their time and talents in worship and community life. Participation fosters a sense of belonging and purpose, as we grow together in faith through music. In addition to choirs, handbells, and seasonal orchestra, we're expanding opportunities for soloists, small groups, and intergenerational collaborations—making it easier for people of all ages and skill levels to participate, whether weekly or seasonally, vocally or instrumentally. We strive to create an atmosphere of artistry, fun, and friendship, where consistent attendance is valued but newcomers are always welcome to try it out! If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the directors.

FRIENDSHIP CHOIR (K-2)

Director Erin Torpey
emtorpey@gmail.com
701-212-2017

Rehearsal Rehearsals Resume -
September 17, 2025
Wednesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m.
No rehearsal on 10/15,
11/26, 12/24, and 12/31

Sing Introit for 10:30 worship
● 10/26
● 11/23
● 12/14 - 6:30p.m.
● 12/21

**Carols by
Candlelight** Rehearsal 12/13 10:00 a.m.
Sing 12/14 at 6:30 p.m.

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM CHOIR (3-6)

Director Pam Andrist-Burns
pcapuch@msn.com
701-361-6984

Rehearsal Rehearsals Resume -
September 17, 2025
Wednesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m.
No rehearsal on 10/15,
11/26, 12/24, and 12/31

Sing Anthem for 10:30 worship
● 10/26
● 11/23
● 12/14 - 6:30p.m.
● 12/21
● 12/24 - 5:00p.m.

**Carols by
Candlelight** Rehearsal 12/13 10:00 a.m.
Sing 12/14 at 6:30 p.m.

PROCLAMATION CHOIR (7-12)

Director Rusty Bender
rbender@firstpresfargo.org
701-293-6311 ext. 106

Rehearsal Rehearsals Resume -
September 17, 2025
Wednesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m.
No rehearsal on 10/15,
11/26, 12/24, and 12/31

Sing Anthem for 10:30 worship
● TBD
● TBD
● 12/14 - 6:30p.m.
● 12/24 - 5:00p.m.

**Carols by
Candlelight** Rehearsal 12/13 10:00 a.m.
Sing 12/14 at 6:30 p.m.



GENESIS RINGERS (handbells for music readers)

Director Elliot Sander
elliotsander2002@gmail.com
509-899-7193

Rehearsal Rehearsals Resume -
September 17, 2025
Wednesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m.
No rehearsal on 10/15,
11/26, 12/24, and 12/31

Play In worship
● 10/5
● 10/26
● 11/23
● 12/14 (morning only)



**Register by
scanning
the QR code!**

