



First Presbyterian Church, Fargo & Baker Downer

The Messenger

OCTOBER 2025

Relentless and Unstoppable

Jesus said, "What is the kingdom of God like? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden." - Luke 13:18-19

For those of you who worshiped on the lawn with us on Rally Day this fall, you heard me preach on how the Kingdom of Heaven is like the mustard seed, which was considered a weed for the first-century farmer. It was small enough to evade detection, invasive once it took hold, and impossible to control.

The same was true for Jesus and his followers. As small and insignificant as they may have seemed, they carried the power to upend entire political and religious systems. That same power is at work in us, which is why this year's stewardship theme is The Power of God, with a dandelion as our logo. The dandelion pops up where it is not wanted and pushes through cracks in sidewalks. It grows in the sun. It grows in the shade. It scatters its seeds with the slightest breeze.

Like the dandelion, God is preparing us to break through the cracks where neighbors fall through, those without homes, without food, without support. We are being sent to grow where no one expects growth, scattering far and wide generosity, justice, and hope.

First Presbyterian Church has faced many changes over the past few years that have prepared us to disrupt the status quo and care for those who fall through the cracks.

- We reduced staff and consolidated with Baker Downer. In 2026, we will have our first balanced budget since 2015, freeing us to dream and plan.
- No longer weighed down by survival, Baker Downer now pours energy into mission and as a result our combined mission budget has grown from 7 percent to 9 percent in 2026.

Folks, the Gospel is alive at First Presbyterian Church. The Kingdom of God is at work here, relentless, surprising, and unstoppable. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Sarah
Pastor Sarah

Peace and Global Witness

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. Throughout October we will collect donations for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. 25% of the Offering remains local; 75% works to support the work for peace and reconciliation regionally, nationally and around the world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. Envelopes have been placed in the pew rack, the Welcome Desk and the Narthex.



Serving at Micah's Mission

Our next date for Micah's Mission is Thursday, October 9. We still need two people to help serve from 5:00-7:00pm. The dinner will be sloppy joes, salad, side vegetables and dessert. 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!

Holy Buckets!

Holy Buckets continues to collect 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. 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.

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.

Monthly Bible Study for Men Begins

The men’s Bible study kicks off its monthly study for the program year on October 14th at 6:45 am, in the Jennie Roberts Room. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May. 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 Ecclesiastes. A copy of the study guide can be obtained online, or you can request a copy from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month’s study.

Presbyterian Women News

PW Bible Study Leaders: On October 15 Pastor Mary Holtey will lead a discussion on Lesson 2 of this year’s Bible Study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*.

PW Circles: The morning PW Circles will meet October 21 in the Jennie Roberts Room at 9:30am, and the afternoon Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Barbi Kessel at (701) 261-6215.

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



FPC Financial Summary August 2025 — General Fund Only

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Increase/ Decrease</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$521,255	\$533,755	-\$12,500	\$841,370
Expense	626,174	669,237	-43,063	976,243
Net/Shortfall	-\$104,920	-\$135,483	\$30,563	-\$134,873
Insurance Proceeds & Repairs				
Proceeds	11,141.76			
Repairs	-38,672.58			
Net P&R	-27,530.82			
Grand Total (Income-Expenses)	-\$132,450.36			

“Praying Our Goodbyes” Pilgrimage Class

“Goodbyes are as much a part of life as the seasons of the year.” ~ Joyce Rupp

With her own retirement looming, Pastor Mary will lead a two-part class on “Praying our Goodbyes.” Over a lifetime there are many ways we say goodbye – when a child starts kindergarten or college or the military; when one leaves a marriage or a job or a community or an addiction; when one retires. Perhaps the most poignant goodbye in our lives is at the time of a loved one’s death.

The word goodbye originally meant “God be with ye” or “Go with God,” pointing to God’s significant part in the going. For those of us who struggle with goodbyes, perhaps it gives us strength knowing that God remains with us in the struggle. Some goodbyes bring joy, others bring dread, still others bring sorrow. The premise of this class is that God remains present in our goodbyes.

The class will be held on Thursdays, November 13 and 20, 6:00-7:30pm. The Pilgrimage Program is sponsoring this course, but ALL are welcome to attend! Recommended, but not required reading is Joyce Rupp’s book, “Praying Our Goodbyes.” The church library has a copy that can be borrowed.

Milestones

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

Baptisms: **Julia Youning Blaufuss**, child of Jeffrey and Hong Blaufuss, August 31
Victoria Charlotte Rosenkranz, child of Megan Ness and Brian Rosenkranz, September 21

Deaths: **Richard Emerson**, July 9

Trunk or Treat!

It's that time of year; leaves falling, pumpkin spice, apple pie...and trunks in the church parking lot!! Come celebrate fall October 26th after worship!

Watch the volunteer board for ways you can help! Donate candy to the office and sign up to hand out treats from your trunk! Enjoy warm cider and popcorn while the kids 'trick or treat' around the parking lot after worship October 26th. Come be part of the fun, no matter your age!



**TRUNK
or
TREAT!**

Food Drive for Emergency Food Pantry
Bring your trunk. Enjoy cider and popcorn while the kids trunk or treat!

26 OCTOBER
Following Worship-in the parking lot

Sponsored by Edu/Con
Carrie Lawrence or Vicki Dawson with questions.



**Kirkin' o'
the Tartans**

NOVEMBER 2ND 2025

Services at 9am & 11am in the Sanctuary
Celtic Dancers at 10am in the Sanctuary



ST. OLAF ORCHESTRA

Saturday, October 18
7 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church Fargo
Fargo, North Dakota

FREE ADMISSION, tickets available online



"I was astonished by the music of the St. Olaf Orchestra. It has to be one of the best college orchestras in the nation."
— RICHARD OSTLING, TIME

The St. Olaf Orchestra is a full symphony orchestra rich in international artistry and tradition, known for its enthusiastic and passionate performances, and has been heralded as one of the finest collegiate orchestras in the country. The orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*, Valerie Coleman's *Seven O'Clock Shout*, feature student soloists, and more! Tickets are free and available for pre-reservation at 800-363-5487.

URGENT: Nursery Attendant Job Opening

We are 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. Please contact the church if you have any questions. Thank you.

Church Life Update

As we settle into the rhythm of fall, there's a vibrant energy flowing through the worship and music life at First Presbyterian Church of Fargo. From joyful Sunday worship to the midweek hum of rehearsals, it's been a wonderful start to the season — and we're so grateful for everyone who has already jumped in.

Whether you've been singing in choir for years or are just considering picking up an instrument again, there's still room to join us! October is a great time to plug in, reconnect, and share your gifts with the church community.

Worship Arts Opportunities:

- Sanctuary Choir
- St. Andrew's Brass
- All-Church Orchestra
- Genesis Ringers – Beginner Handbell Choir
- Westminster Ringers – Advanced Handbell Choir
- Children & Youth Ensembles
 - Friendship Choir (K–2)
 - Kids of the Kingdom (3–6)
 - Proclamation Choir (7–12)

Each of these ensembles offers a space to grow in faith, build community, and contribute meaningfully to worship.

We're excited for what's ahead this season — special services, musical offerings, and continued moments of connection through the arts.

Want to get involved? Contact our Director of Church Life, Rusty Bender, at rbender@firstpresfargo.org

Fall Musicians Schedule

Oct. 5	Genesis Ringers Sanctuary Choir Elliot Sander, organ & piano
Oct. 12	Kathleen Thomas, violin St. Andrew's Brass Elliot Sander, organ & piano
Oct. 19	Sanctuary Choir Second Avenue Band
Oct. 26	Friendship Choir Kids of the Kingdom Choir Genesis Ringers Elliot Sander, organ & piano

Taize Evening Prayer

Taizé evening prayer is a meditative, candlelit service for all Christian faiths, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. The prayer is characterized by simple, repetitive songs, scripture, short readings, and extended periods of prayerful silence.

1st Thursdays @ 6:30PM

First Presbyterian Church Fargo
650 2nd Ave N

3rd Tuesdays @ 6:30PM

Presentation Prayer Center @
Riverview Place
5300 12 St. S

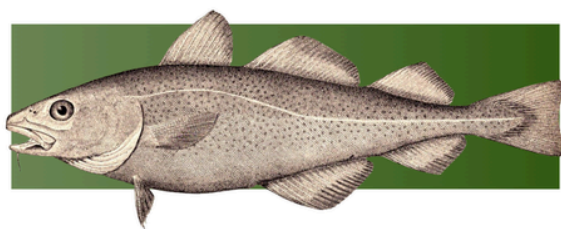


Baker-Downer Presbyterian & St. James UCC

ALL NEW FISH FRY

Join us at Baker Downer Presbyterian Church

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025 | 4:00-7:00PM



Menu

Fried Fish, Baked Potatoes, Coleslaw, Corn,
Garlic Toast, Rolls, Dessert, and Beverages

\$20 — 12 years and above

\$10 — ages 6-11

Free — ages 5 and under

Takeout meals can be ordered at the door

*Special thanks to Mainline Bar & Grill for supplying the fish
and to Barnesville Grocery for providing other food items*

Give Old Instruments New Life!

Do you have a band or orchestra instrument in your house not being used? Please consider bringing them to the church! We will make sure they're given to our local schools. We want all children to be able to participate in a music ensemble! Bring your donations to the church office for safe keeping. The deacons will take it from there. Thank you!

Phishing Alert!

The staff of FPC will never send email or text-message solicitations for money or gift cards.

The most common signs of a phishing or scam attempt are: an unfamiliar tone or greeting, grammar and spelling errors, inconsistencies in email addresses, links, and domain names, suspicious attachments, and threats or a sense of urgency. When in doubt, reach out via a known mode of communication (phone call, verified email, etc.)!



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



Dates to Remember

- Oct. 2** — Taizé Evening Prayer
- Oct. 5** — World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 8** — Heart-n-Soul Community Café
- Oct. 9** — Preparing & Serving
 @ Churches United - Micah's Mission
- Oct. 13** — OFFICE CLOSED
- Oct. 18** — St. Olaf Orchestra Tour
- Oct. 20-24** — FPC @ Emergency Food Pantry
- Oct. 24** — Baker Downer Fish Dinner
- Oct. 26** — Trunk or Treat
- Nov. 2** — Kirkin' O' the Tartans Services



Date	Elder on Duty	Deacon on Duty	Usher Team	Reader
Oct. 5	Jody Hudson	Dianne Connelly	Youth	Wayne Sander
Oct. 12	Sharon Secor	Kevin Thomas	J & B Trumbo and D & V Stern	Bruce Maylath
Oct. 19	Kathryn Byrd	David Hoffman	Steve Wonderlich	TBD
Oct. 26	Dick Laraway	Debbie Tight	Dianne Connelly	TBD

October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>* <u>Wednesday Evening Activities:</u> 5:30pm - St. Andrew's Brass Rehearsal 5:30pm - Genesis Ringers Rehearsal 6:15pm - Children / Youth Choirs Rehearsals 6:30pm - Westminster Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>			<p>1 5:00pm - Wednesday Activities Dinner 5:30pm - Building & Grounds Committee Meeting * Wednesday Evening Activities</p>	<p>2 12:15pm - Centering Prayer 6:30pm - Taizé Evening Prayer</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	
<p>5 <u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service & Communion (L) 11:30am - Fellowship 11:45am - Nominating Committee Meeting <u>Baker Site:</u> 9:00am - Worship Service & Communion</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 5:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting 5:30pm - Worship Committee Meeting (H) 5:30pm - Personnel Committee Meeting (H) 6:30pm - Stewardship Committee Meeting (H)</p>	<p>8 4:30pm - Heart-n-Soul Community Café * Wednesday Evening Activities</p>	<p>9 12:15pm - Centering Prayer 3:00pm - Preparing Meal @ Micah's Mission 5:00pm - Serving Meal @ Micah's Mission</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Presbytery of the Northern Plains Meeting in Langdon, ND</p>	
<p>12 <u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship <u>Baker Site:</u> 9:00am - Worship Service</p>	<p>13 Office Closed 1:00pm - FM Music Club Program</p>	<p>14 6:45am - Men's Bible Study 5:30pm - EduCon Committee Meeting 5:30pm - Board of Deacons Meeting (H) 7:00pm - Nominating Committee Meeting (Z)</p>	<p>15 Fall For All: Clearwater Forest Camp (Session two start)</p>			<p>16 12:15pm - Centering Prayer</p>	<p>17 7:00pm - St. Olaf College Orchestra Concert</p>
<p>19 Autumn Camp <u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship <u>Baker Site:</u> 9:00am - Worship Service</p>	<p>20 6:30pm - Session Meeting (H)</p>	<p>21 9:30am - PW Circles 1:00pm - PW Circle</p>	<p>22 5:00pm - Wednesday Activities Dinner * Wednesday Evening Activities</p>	<p>23 12:00pm - Messenger Article Submission Deadline 12:15pm - Centering Prayer</p>	<p>24 <u>Baker Site:</u> 4:00pm - Fish Fry!</p> 	<p>25</p>	
<p>26 <u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship & Trunk or Treat! 5:30pm - Confirmation Kick-Off Dinner  <u>Baker Site:</u> 9:00am - Worship Service</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:00pm - Nominating Committee Meeting (Z)</p>	<p>29 5:00pm - Wednesday Activities Dinner * Wednesday Evening Activities</p>	<p>30 12:15pm - Centering Prayer 6:00pm - Pilgrimage Celebration</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Activity Key: (L) - Livestreamed (H) - Hybrid (Z) - Zoom Only</p>	