



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 06, 2026

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

WELCOME

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of every season, I arrive with my mind already turning toward what needs to be done. I measure the day by what I accomplish and sometimes measure myself the same way. Quiet the voice that tells me I am only as valuable as my work. Help me receive this hour without trying to control it. Teach me to labor faithfully, release what I cannot keep, and trust that my life rests in you. Amen.

OPENING WORDS

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Robert Frost

Robert Frost was a famous American poet born in 1874 who won four Pulitzer Prizes for his work. His poetry often uses simple scenes from nature and rural country life to explore deep and complex ideas about human life.

✠ HYMN 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

✠ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS** Elder Wayne Sander

God of time and eternity, we confess how tightly we grasp what cannot last. We measure ourselves by what we produce and mistake busyness for faithfulness. We build as though our achievements can save us, then resent the limits of our bodies and our days. Forgive us. Teach us to work with humility, to rest without guilt, and to receive our lives as gifts rather than possessions. In silence, we share with you the thing we are grasping at and ask for you to help us let go.

a moment of silence for personal confession

Search us, O God, and know our hearts.

Lead us in the way everlasting.

...Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel,
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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

Ecclesiastes 1:2–11, pp. 603

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

SERMON

Hevel

✠ **HYMN 683**

Lord of All Hopefulness

The Sealing of the Word

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 523

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (verses 3-5)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Tom Trenney

Rusty Bender, voice; Jessica Poyzer, piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Responding to the Word



MINUTE FOR MISSION

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

OFFERTORY

Thanksgiving Canticle

arr. Mark Hayes

Rusty Bender, voice; Jessica Poyzer, 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 846

Fight the Good Fight

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

Thank you to Carter Argall and Nick Winistorfer on livestream and soundboard, Wayne Sander for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Jim McEvers, Gayla McGoldrick, Val Anderson, Toby & Paula Christensen and family, Jeana Scheffler, Bruce Maylath, Murray Moen, Virginia Stern, and Becky Trumbo for taking such good care of us this morning. A special thank you to our musicians: Matthew Pechtl, Rusty Bender, and Jessica Poyzer.

First Presbyterian Church

Fargo, ND

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Sunday School!

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.

~Carrie Lawrence, Sunday School Coordinator~

Emergency Food Pantry:

The Mission Committee has approved our participation in serving as "Basket Fillers" the week of Oct. 19th - Oct. 23rd at the Emergency Food Pantry. The address is 1104 4th Ave N. in Fargo. Beginning Sept. 13th, please check your calendar and sign up during coffee hour after worship for a 2- 3 hour shift.

More than 186,000 people accepted help from the Great Plains Food Bank's network of food pantries in the past year, a new record for the organization.

The Emergency Food Pantry provides a week's supply of nutritional food (including bread, meat, and non-perishables) to individuals and families in crisis once every other month.

This past year's total represented a 16% increase in people utilizing the network compared to the previous fiscal year. The First Presbyterian Church is a proud supporter of our local food pantry.

2026 Men's Bible Study Retreat

It's time to reserve your room for First Presbyterian's Annual Men's Bible Study Retreat, scheduled for Friday evening, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10. The retreat will again be held at the Country Inn & Suites in Detroit Lakes. It begins with dinner at Zorbaz on Detroit Lake around 5:45 p.m. The study session will start around 7:00 p.m. on Friday at the inn. It will continue on Saturday morning (breakfast provided) and end around 3:00 p.m.

All men of the church are invited. The retreat is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow men at First Presbyterian and learn about God's message for men.

A block of hotel rooms is being held for retreat participants until Sept. 9. You can make your hotel reservation by calling Country Inn & Suites at 218-846-8763. When making your reservation, let them know that you are with the First Presbyterian Fargo group. If you'd like to split the cost of a room (\$146/night, same as last year, despite inflation!), please contact Dick Blaine (dickandcarolyn@ymail.com) or Bruce Maylath (ring4linguist@yahoo.com or 701-866-2626), and we will coordinate with others seeking a roommate.

Music Ministry 2026

Welcome back! It is wonderful to get back into the rhythm of another program year together. Our rehearsal rooms are beginning to fill again, our ensembles are returning, and there is much to look forward to in the months ahead. I am grateful for the time, talent, and dedication each of you brings to our Music Ministry, and I look forward to another wonderful year of making music together! ~Rusty Bender, Director of Church Life~



Volunteers Needed!

Serving as Basket Fillers

The Emergency Food Pantry:
We will be needing basket fillers the week of October 19th thru October 23rd

Contact Nancy Lium (701) 658-0326 or liumn1949@icloud.com



Our office will be closed
Monday, September 7th

Happy Labor Day!



RALLY DAY

SEPTEMBER 13

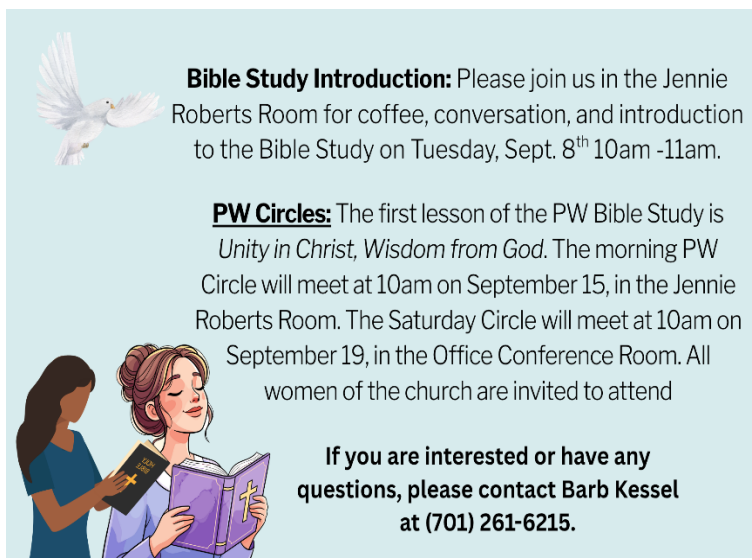
Worship at 10:30

We are celebrating inside this year while our courtyard is undergoing a major landscaping transformation.

featuring:
The Baker Blue Grass Band
Leading us in Worship!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Southern BBQ Luncheon
Sponsored by:
Faith Formation & Fellowship Committee



Bible Study Introduction: Please join us in the Jennie Roberts Room for coffee, conversation, and introduction to the Bible Study on Tuesday, Sept. 8th 10am -11am.

PW Circles: The first lesson of the PW Bible Study is *Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God*. The morning PW Circle will meet at 10am on September 15, in the Jennie Roberts Room. The Saturday Circle will meet at 10am on September 19, in the Office Conference Room. All women of the church are invited to attend

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Barb Kessel at (701) 261-6215.



2026 Men's Bible Study Retreat

The retreat is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow men at First Presbyterian and learn about God's message for men.

Starts Friday Oct. 9, at 7pm
&
Ends Saturday Oct. 10, at 3pm



THE BAKER BLUEGRASS BAND

Sept. 27
Oct. 25
Nov. 29

★ WORSHIP ★

Baker Downer Presbyterian Church
11927 123rd Ave S | Baker MN



SUNDAY SCHOOL @FIRST PRES

We Need Sunday School Helpers!

First Day of Sunday School
Sept 20th 9:15am upstairs.

Contact Carrie Lawrence at (701) 361-6162 or clawrence@firstpresfargo.org



Moorhead Annual Sausage Fest 2026

Saturday, September 27, 2025
2:30 PM - 8:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead
2900 5th Street South Moorhead, MN

Church Information

Upcoming Events

Sun, Sep 6

All Day Communion
10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)
11:30 AM Fellowship and Produce Exchange (Fargo)

Mon, Sep 7

All Day Office Closed

Tue, Sep 8

9:30 AM PW Circle Kick-off Meeting
12:00 PM Staff Lunch
5:00 PM Heart-n-Soul Board Meeting
5:30 PM Board of Deacons Meeting

Wed, Sep 9

12:00 PM M&F Meeting
5:30 PM Jazz Ensemble (Begins)
6:30 PM Adult Bell Practice
7:30 PM Adult Choir Practice (Begins)

Thu, Sep 10

12:00 PM Centering Prayer
3:00 PM Preparing at Micah's Mission
5:00 PM Nurturing Families
5:00 PM Serving at Micah's Mission
5:30 PM APRTF

Sat, Sep 12

10:00 AM Faith Formation & Fellowship (Set up)

Sun, Sep 13

All Day Rally Day Lunch (Southern Barbeque)
All Day Rally Sunday
10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)
11:30 AM Fellowship and Produce Exchange (Fargo)

Church Information

Office Hours:
M-TH, 9:00am - 4:00pm
Phone: 701-293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org
650 2nd Ave. N.
Fargo, ND 58102



Church Officers

Session: Kathryn Byrd, Tom Dawson, Glen Deeton (BD), Colleen Ford-Dunker, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Brian McClure, Jim McEvers, Carolyn Peloubet (BD), Wayne Sander, Jeana Scheffler, Kathy Scheffler (BD), Troy Schmidt, Sharon Secor, Paula Thomas (Clerk), Erin Torpey, Jeff Wilkens, Steve Wonderlich.

Deacons: Jan Carlsen, Toby Christensen, Dianne Connelly, Aubrey DeCoteau, Gracia Fulwiler, Sydney Goddard, Taaren Haak, David Hoffman, Gayla McGoldrick, Brian Peterson, Mary Peterson (BD), Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Kevin Thomas, Debbie Tight, Sandy Ystenes (BD).

Church Treasurer: Sherri Stern.

Ongoing Prayers

Concerns: Ben Schenk, Wildfire response (Richard S); Joyce Skinner, cancer (James Bossingham); Sherri Sanderson, broken ankle; Mimi Moreland, concussion; Susie, difficult time (Betty Jo Johnston); Kathy, chemo (Lisa McEvers, friend).

Worship Notes

Hearing devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Nursery staff will be present beginning at 9:15 for infants through 3 years old in the nursery complex on the 1st floor.

Activity Bags for children are fun-filled tote bags located at both doors.

Restrooms are located in the Gathering Space and on the lower level.

Prayer Request 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 are available at the Welcome Center near the west doors. The candle burning on the chancel symbolizes peace, and we ask guests to take a candle back to your church as a gift from us.

Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. Password: community650

Church Staff

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood: Senior Pastor
Rev. Daniel Billings: Parish Associate
Rev. Cathie Bishop: Parish Associate
Rev. Nancy Emerson: Parish Associate
Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey: Pastor Emeritus
Rusty Bender: Director of Church Life
Bryan Poyzer: Adult Choir Director
Matthew Pecht: Organist
Carrie Lawrence: Sunday School Coordinator
Jan Lundgren: Business Manager
Rick Fiebiger: Facilities Manager
Drew Brovold: Custodian
Val Anderson: Admin & Communications,
admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org

Staff emails are: first initial + last name @ firstpresfargo.org.

For Your Information

Sunday, August 30, 2026
Attendance: 89
Online Worship: 34
Contributions: \$2,485.00