



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.

April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
All-Church Orchestra; Jill Post, director

arr. Robert Sterling

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Jesus, you recognize me as your own. Help me listen for your voice as I move through this day. Guide my steps so that I walk where life grows and hope takes root. Keep me close to you and teach me to trust the path you set before me.

OPENING WORDS

Jean Pladson

✧ **HYMN 260**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
All-Church Orchestra with Congregation

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Holy God, we admit that we move through life with hurried steps. We chase certainty. We cling to our own plans. We fill the silence with noise. You speak with patience, yet we struggle to listen. You open doors that lead toward life, yet we hesitate at the threshold. You guide us along good paths, yet we wander toward familiar habits. Forgive us for the times we trust every voice except yours. Forgive us for the ways we resist the wisdom placed before us. Quiet the storms within our hearts. Teach us again how to listen. Lead us back to the places where life grows strong. Amen.

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

❖ **RESPONSE 240**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to His ___ Name.

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 30:18–21, pp. 645

John 10:1–10, pp. 977

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

SERMON

A Word Behind You

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

❖ **HYMN 187**

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

All-Church Orchestra with Congregation

❖ **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Heidelberg Catechism

adapted from question 1

Our only comfort in life and in death is that we are not our own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death, to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all our sins with his precious blood and has set us free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over us in such a way that not a hair can fall from our heads without the will of our Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for our salvation. Because we belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures us of eternal life and makes us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Background: Soon after Luther posted his ninety-five theses, Lutherans and Reformed Christians established The Heidelberg Catechism to help settle their divisions. Their work was completed in 1562. Each question of the catechism is personal, addressed to "you." Its theology is both catholic, universal in appeal, and evangelical, setting forth the gospel of Jesus Christ. Providing a basis for peaceful coexistence between Lutheran and Reformed Christians. The influence of the Heidelberg Catechism in the church's preaching and teaching continues to be felt in Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, parts of Eastern Europe, Scotland, Canada, and the United States.

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 MISSION – *Presbyterian Clearwater Forest*
Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

Lara Parkin

OFFERTORY *Mingulay Boat Song (Song of Homecoming)* arr. Robertson/Post
All-Church Orchestra with Heather & Thistle Pipe Band; Jill Post, director

✦ **RESPONSE 609**

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

✦ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Bearing the Word into the World

✦ **HYMN 353**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

All-Church Orchestra with Congregation

✦ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

Thank you to the Trumbo family on livestream and soundboard, Jean Pladson for leading in worship, and our Welcome Team: Curt Brickman, Brian Peterson, Toby Christensen, Rick & Shirley Herberg and Chuck & Geri Munro for taking such good care of us this morning. A special thank you to our musicians: Matthew Pechtl, the All-Church Orchestra directed by Jill Post, and the Heather & Thistle Pipe Band.

All-Church Orchestra: Krista Clusiau, flute; Cameron Solberg, oboe; Cambria Wood, clarinet; Josh Argall, Greg Post, and Mike Wavra, trumpet; Bella Richman, French horn; Shane Erstad, euphonium; Conor Hedblom, tuba; Kevin Thomas, timpani, Will Peterson, percussion; Chelsea Erstad, Mya Follingstad, Emily Ojanen, Matthew Pechtl, Susan Peterson, and Kathleen Thomas, violin; Carsten Lawrence, viola; Don Carlson, Jr. and John Stern, cello; Elise Tobosa, upright bass; and Sally Harmon, organ/piano.



First Presbyterian Church of Fargo

Upcoming Events

April 26, 2026



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW Circle Board Meeting

PW will meet on April 28th, in the Jennie Roberts Room at 10:00am. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Ripentrop at (701) 730-1836.



JUNE 5 | 10:30AM - 6:30PM
ISLAND PARK, FARGO, ND 58103
www.firstpresfargo.org/kidfest

Midwest KidFest

We are once again joining with other Presbyterian Churches in the area to host a booth at the 2026 Midwest KidFest. You can help teach children how to fold origami bowls and then fill them with the caramel apples as a sweet but nutritious treat. Sign up for a two hour shift by using the QR code or visiting firstpresfargo.org/kidfest.

Graduation Sunday

May 17, 2026

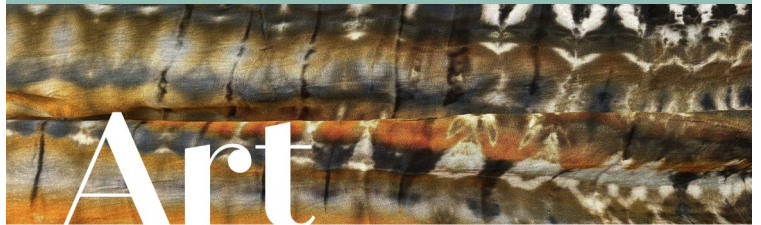


Jonah, Jaden, Peter, Gavin, Mari

Class of 26

Concerns: Chuck Munro, surgery; Bonnie, cancer (Judy T.); Mark Cox (Sandy Y); Angela Lamb, gallbladder; Laura Sundberg, recovery from heart issues; Pam Andrist-Burns, blood clots; Rick Greener, pneumonia; Tim Maesse, cancer (Val A); Della Peterson, severe health issues (Judy T); LaVone, cancer (Judy T); Richard Schenk, hip/heart.

Joys: Bennie Bee was born (M.A. Thompson). Priscilla Darko will graduate from NDSU with her master's degree on May 16 and will begin doctoral studies at Texas A&M. She has invited the church to share in this milestone with her in spirit and, for any who are able, in person.



Art Exhibition

April 12 - May 17

Experience a special student art exhibit inspired by the Ten Commandments.

Now showing in the Gathering Space

mystery - sacrifice - illusion - gratitude
confession - fidelity - dignity - blessing



All Women are Invited to The:

Presbyterian Women's Spring Luncheon!

May 12th at 12:00 PM
Program by Sharon Secor
In The Jennie Roberts Room



The Strong and Beautiful Women of Kenya:
Resilient, Joyful, and Faithful!

Contact Barb Kessel
(701) 261-6215



Hearing devices 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, 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.

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*

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 and last name)
person)@firstpresfargo.org**

For Your Information

April 19, 2026

Attendance: 200

Contributions received: \$12,467.25

Upcoming Events

L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom

Sun, Apr 26

9:00 AM All Church Orchestra Call-Time

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)

11:30 AM Fellowship

11:30 AM Craft Swap (After Worship)

Mon, Apr 27

12:30 PM Nancy & Virginia Piano Practice

Tue, Apr 28

10:00 AM PW Circle Board Meeting.

Wed, Apr 29

9:00 AM Organ Rehearsal (Susan Clambey)

5:00 PM Wednesday Meals

5:30 PM St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 PM Genesis Ringers

6:15 PM Children's Choirs

6:15 PM Youth Choir

6:30 PM Westminster Bells

7:00 PM Youth Group

7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir

Thu, Apr 30

1:00 PM Cleaning in the Sanctuary

Fri, May 1

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Sat, May 2

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Sun, May 3

Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)

11:30 AM Fellowship

The Men's Bible Study concludes its exploration of the Book of Ecclesiastes with Lesson 7 on May 12th at 6:45 a.m. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May, typically in the Jennie Roberts Room. Pastries and coffee will be served.



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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Fargo, ND 58102