



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.

July 12, 2026

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Matthew Pechtl

WELCOME

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of heaven and earth, you meet us on familiar roads, in ordinary rooms, and in moments we might otherwise overlook. In these summer days, slow us enough to notice your goodness, to receive the life before us as gift, and to trust that no place is beyond your care. Gather us in your love and make us ready for worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPENING WORDS

✠ HYMN 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

✠ CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God of mercy, we confess the ways we have failed one another as your people. We have protected what is familiar rather than making room for what is faithful. We have spoken of welcome without always practicing it. We have seen the needs of our neighbors and assumed someone else would respond. We have chosen comfort when courage was needed, and busyness when love required our attention. Forgive us also for the ways we have turned from you in our personal lives. We confess the attention we have withheld, the kindness we have delayed, and the resentments we have rehearsed. In silence, we offer you the truth of our own lives.

a moment of silence for personal confession

Leader: Search us, O God, and know our hearts.

People: **Lead us in the way everlasting.**

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

✧ **RESPONSE 288**

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Sacrament of Baptism

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

Jack Jordan Brown, child of Austin Brown and Jordan Brown Iverson

Grandchild of Russell & Jeanine Brown, Dwight & Mary Iverson

Sponsors are Joe Iverson, Stephanie Jacobs, and Caitlin & Justin Killoran

Jeanine Brown, presiding elder

✧ **RENUNCIATIONS**

✧ **PROFESSION OF FAITH** *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

BAPTISM

WELCOME

✧ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

I Love to Tell the Story

arr. Pechtl

Matthew Pechtl, organ

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28:10-19, pp. 24

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

SERMON

Surprise Encounters

✧ **HYMN 451**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

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

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

OFFERTORY

Rondeau

from Suite de symphonies, No. 1
Matthew Pechtl, organ

arr. Mark L. Williams

✦RESPONSE 612

We Praise You, O God (vs.1)

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

✦HYMN 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

✦BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

Thank you to Thomas and Fred Hudson on livestream and soundboard, Josh Trumbo for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Wayne Sander, Sydney Goddard, Gracia Fulwiler, and Dianne Connelly and family for taking such good care of us this morning.

First Presbyterian Church

Fargo, ND

Sunday, July 12, 2026

The Annual Produce Exchange

Available Every Sunday - Beginning July 12th through Rally Day Sunday, there will be a "Sharing is Caring Table of home-grown goodness!" Bring your extra home grown produce to either share or swap! Any leftover items will be donated to Heart-N-Soul that serves our local communities with food insecurities in the Fargo/Moorhead Area. What a great way to show off your green thumb skills while supporting a great cause!

HOLY BUCKETS

DOWNTOWN ENGAGEMENT CENTER

July

- ☀️ sunscreen
- ☀️ insect repellent

*Holy Buckets is the name of our monthly mission drive.

Baker Downer

Add these dates to your calendar for some fun in the sun!

- June & July - Field Days will continue on Wednesdays.
- July 21st - Ice Cream Social at the Ball Park, 6:30pm
- August 26th - Outdoor Bluegrass Concert.
- August 30th - Church Service will be held at the Downer Church in Rollag.

All are welcome!

If you have any questions: Please contact Carolyn at 701.361.2589.

2026 Men's Bible Study Retreat

It's not too early 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 Zorba's 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.

YUM!

All Church Ice Cream Social

15 July - 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Trollwood Park Main Shelter
3664 Elm Street North Fargo

- Live music
- time to chat
- playground for kiddos

Brought to you by the Faith Formation & Fellowship committee

Church Information

Upcoming Events

Sun, Jul 12

10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L) - Brown Baptism
11:30 AM Fellowship (Fargo)

Mon, Jul 13

12:30 PM Nancy & Virginia Piano Practice
5:30 PM CPMT Meeting (H)

Tue, Jul 14

1:00 PM Piano Practice
5:00 PM Heart-n-Soul Board Meeting
5:30 PM Board of Deacons Meeting
6:30 PM Faith Formation & Fellowship

Wed, Jul 15

9:00 AM Organ Rehearsal (Susan Clambey)

Thu, Jul 16

1:00 PM Cleaning in the Sanctuary
1:00 PM Compass #2

Sun, Jul 19

10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L) - Laraway Baptism
11:30 AM Fellowship (Fargo)

Church Information

Office Hours:
M-TH, 9:00am - 3:00pm
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.

For Your Information

Sunday, July 5, 2026
Attendance: 65
Online Worship: 34
Contributions: \$7,966.34

Ongoing Prayers

Concerns: Joyce Skinner, cancer (Mother to James and Keith Bossingham); Jan Harrison, recovering from a fall and back procedures; Miles, plane (Rusty B); Berta Mohagen, rehabilitation and recovery; Richard Schenck, leg; Connor Felchle, deployed to Iran (Kim W.)

Joys: Joseph Danger, born to Drew and Mattie Brovold July 8th at 7:38am. Baby is healthy at 7lbs 14oz and 20 inches long. Momma is doing great.

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 Pechtl: 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.