



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.

August 9, 2026

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

The Winter's Passed
Adagio from 'Arpeggioni Sonata'

Wayne Barlow
Franz Schubert

Richard Kravchek, oboe & English horn; Sally Harmon, piano

WELCOME

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of paths I can see, and paths still hidden from me, help me release my need to know exactly where I am going. When I feel disoriented, remind me that I am still within your care. Give me courage to listen, patience to wait, and trust enough to take the next step when it comes. Amen.

OPENING WORDS

The Road Not Taken
Robert Frost

✧ HYMN 305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

✧ CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Elder Wayne Sander

Faithful God, you have called us to walk together, yet we sometimes leave one another to struggle alone. When the way becomes uncertain, we become impatient with those who move more slowly. We cling to familiar answers and resist the wisdom that comes through listening. We confess the burdens we carry without asking for help. We confess the places where fear has directed our choices and where our need for certainty has kept us from following you. In the silence, we confess our personal challenges and failures.

a moment of silence for personal reflection

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 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

Acts 8:26–40, pp. 1000

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

GIFT OF MUSIC

Berceuse

Richard Duck

William Wielgus, oboe; Sally Harmon, piano

SERMON

Getting Lost

✧ **HYMN 465**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

✧ **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.

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



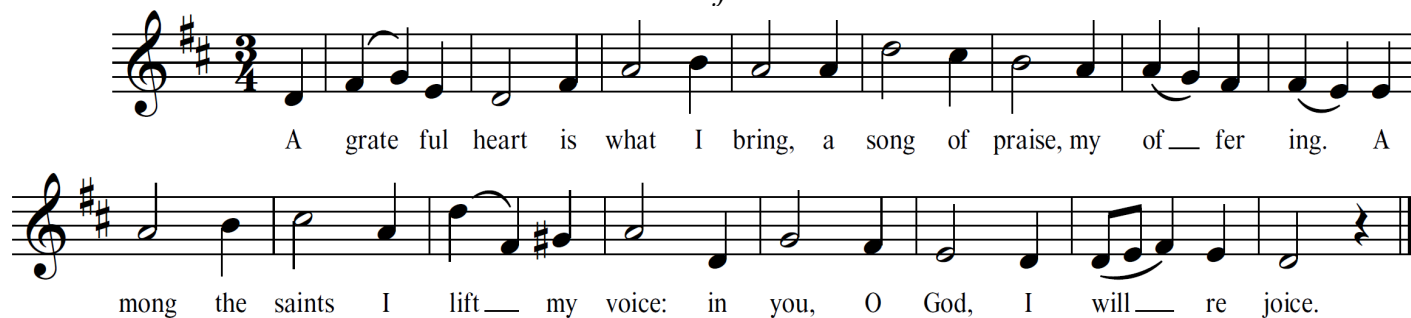
MINUTE FOR MISSION

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

OFFERTORY *Towers from 'Scenes at the Ranch'*

Ian Davidson

Ian Davidson, oboe

✧ **RESPONSE 652***A Grateful Heart*✧ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION****Bearing the Word into the World**✧ **HYMN 667***When Morning Gilds the Skies*✧ **BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE***Three Can Be...*

Fay Ellen Silverman

Ian Davidson, Richard Kravchek, and William Wielgus, double-reed trio

Thank you to Ally Trumbo and Fred Hudson on livestream and soundboard, Wayne Sander for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Val Anderson, Virginia Stern, Jan Carlsen, and Troy & Rachel Schmidt and family for taking such good care of us this morning. A special thank you to our musicians: Sally Harmon, guest organist; and members of New York Kammermusiker: Ian Davidson, Richard Kravchek, and William Wielgus.

First Presbyterian Church

Fargo, ND

Sunday, August 9, 2026

We're in your neighborhood!
heartnsoulcafe.com

Join Heart-n-Soul Community Cafe at our pop-up location for dinner/supper!
Heart-n-Soul Community Cafe serves supper from its food trailer in the First Presbyterian's west parking lot on the first Wednesday of every month through October, 4:30-6:30 pm.



September 2nd
&
October 7th



We foster community through shared meals with a "pay what you can" approach, making sure everyone in Fargo-Moorhead can eat with dignity. As a non-profit, we provide fresh, locally grown food and creative payment options for all.

NEW YORK KAMMERMUSIKER

FREE
AUGUST 9, 2026
7:00 PM



19TH ANNUAL WINDS OF CHANGE CONCERT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
650 2ND AVE N.
FARGO, ND 58102



Livestreamed on our website at
firstpresfargo.org/live-stream



BLUEGRASS ON THE EAST LAWN Baker Downer Church

FEATURING
The Baker Bluegrass Band
LED BY SCOTT HOABY

THURSDAY
AUGUST 27

7:00 PM

FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT
BRING A LAWN CHAIR &
SOMETHING TO DRINK
LEMONADE & WATER
PROVIDED

- * IF IT RAINS, WE'LL MEET INSIDE
- * PARK IN THE LOT OR IN THE BALLFIELD NEXT DOOR
- * THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN. RESTROOMS AVAILABLE.

About
1
Hour

Baker Downer Church
11927 123rd Ave. S.
Sabin, MN 56580
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Produce Exchange

~Available Every Sunday~
July 12th thru Rally Sunday.

Please bring any extras from your garden to share or swap each Sunday starting July 12th through September 13th. Any leftover items will be donated to Heart & Soul.



Welcome Back Nurturing Families (NFP)

The First Presbyterian Church of Fargo is proud to recognize and welcome back the Nurturing Families Program (NFP) of Fargo.

The North Dakota Nurturing Families Program is a free, 16-week family building course sponsored by North Dakota, and offered locally in the Fargo area. Parents and children attend together to build communication skills, establish positive household routines, and foster healthy, supportive relationships.

Amy Tichy will be hosting this year's Nurturing Families curriculum here at the First Presbyterian Church of Fargo in the evenings, starting in September. For more information or enrollment, contact Amy Tichy at (701) 845-8528 or email at amy.j.tichy@ndsu.edu

The Benefits of Fellowship:

Church fellowship strengthens our community. It gives us a safe space to share faith, find emotional support, and grow closer to God. This bond helps us face hard times, share happy moments, and stay strong through the journey of life.

Emotional Support: Friends in church help carry heavy burdens. They offer prayer, comfort, and aid in times of need.

Accountability: A close community keeps people on the right path. Friends encourage each other to live out their values.

Overcoming Isolation: Group gatherings fight loneliness. They remind every person that they belong to a larger family.

Church Information

Upcoming Events

Sun, Aug 9

10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)
11:30 AM Fellowship and Produce Exchange (Fargo)
7:00 PM Kammermusiker Concert

Tue, Aug 11

5:00 PM Heart-n-Soul Board Meeting
5:30 PM Board of Deacons Meeting

Wed, Aug 12

12:00 PM Mgmt & Finance meeting
5:30 PM KOHI

Thu, Aug 13

3:00 PM Preparing at Micah's Mission
5:00 PM Serving at Micah's Mission
5:30 PM APRTF

Sun, Aug 16

10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)
11:30 AM Fellowship and Produce Exchange (Fargo)
1:30 PM Family Get Together (Janna Warcup)

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, August 2, 2026
Attendance: 99
Online Worship: 33
Contributions: \$3,560

Thank you to our treasurer, **Sherri Stern**, who secured a tax exemption for our church parking lots, saving our congregation approximately \$8,500 in 2026 and reducing future costs.

Ongoing Prayers

Concerns: Susie, difficult time (Betty Jo Johnston); Eugene Robinson died on August 1 (Celebration of life August 12th at 3pm, Moorhead Manor); Kathy, chemo (Lisa McEvers, friend); Chuck Munro, Heart Surgery on July 28th; Curtis, pancreatic cancer (Nancy J); Caroll, knee infection (Nancy J); Gene, kidney cancer (Nancy J); Joyce Skinner, cancer (James Bossingham); Jan Harrison, fall & back; Max, brother's death (Tom B); Sherri Sanderson, broken ankle.

Joys: Arthur Andrew, born on June 11th to parents Lexi and Brady Sabolik, grandchild of Jessica and Bryan Poyzer. Joseph Danger, born to Drew and Mady Brovold July 8th, safely home from Children's MN.

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.