



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 16, 2026

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

WELCOME

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Gracious God, remind me that I am your beloved child. Let that truth shape the way I speak, the way I handle anger, and the way I treat the people around me. Help me release what has hardened within me. Give me words that strengthen others and a heart ready to forgive. Amen.

✧ CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Bruce Maylath

We come before God as beloved children.

We come to learn the way of love.

God gathers us into a community where truth may be spoken with grace.

God gives us words that encourage and strengthen.

Christ has loved us and given himself for us.

Let us worship God and walk together in love.

✧ HYMN 293

Loving Spirit

✧ CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Merciful God, you have called us to be a community that speaks truth and builds one another up. Yet our words have sometimes wounded instead of healed. We have allowed frustration to become resentment. We have held tightly to old injuries and treated forgiveness as though it must be earned. We have forgotten that every person before us is someone you love. In the quiet, we confess the anger we have carried beyond its proper time. We remember the words we wish we could take back and the kindness we withheld when it was needed.

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 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

Ephesians 4:25–5:2, pp. 1066

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

GIFT OF MUSIC

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Joel Raney

Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, piano duo

SERMON

Forgiveness

✧ **HYMN 693**

Though I May Speak

✧ **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

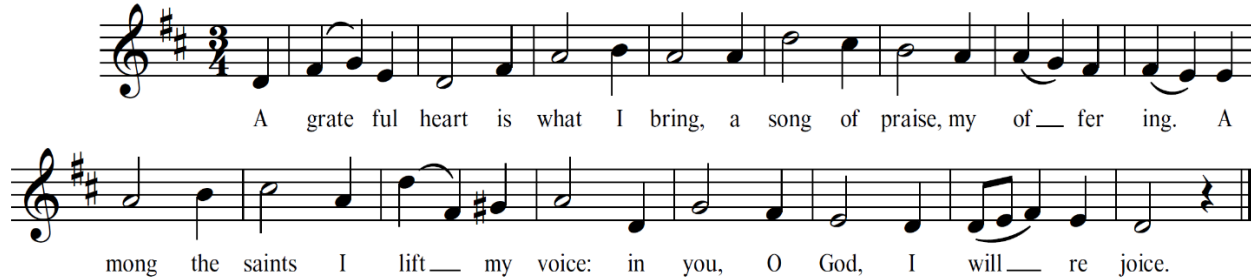
What a Wonderful World

Kevin Olson

Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, piano duo

✦RESPONSE 652

A Grateful Heart



✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

✦HYMN 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

✦BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

Thank you to Thomas and Fred Hudson on livestream and soundboard, Bruce Maylath for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Kathryn Byrd, Gracia Fulwiler, Sydney Goddard, Becky & Josh Trumbo, and David & Virginia Stern for taking such good care of us this morning. A special thank you to our musicians: Matthew Pechtl, Nancy Norris, and Virginia Stern.

First Presbyterian Church

Fargo, ND

Sunday, August 16, 2026

A Special Heart Felt Thank you!

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 our future costs.

Kudos to our congregational members for their contributions to our Per Capita. We are now within \$300.00 of having one-hundred percent fulfillment for 2026. This is the closest we've come to having a one-hundred percent fulfillment in many years!

In addition, we are so grateful and thankful to our volunteers and church members who tirelessly dedicate their time, skills, and resources to our missions, goals, and day-to-day operations. We could not be as strong or as successful in our church endeavors without their commitment.

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 on Thursday evenings, beginning in September. For more information or enrollment, contact Amy Tichy at (701) 845-8528 or email her at amy.j.tichy@ndsu.edu

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!



Southern BBQ Luncheon
Sponsored by:
Faith Formation & Fellowship
Committee

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

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.



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.

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

"In Baker, MN, 7 miles south
of Sabin on Hwy 52"

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Church Information

Upcoming Events

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)

Mon, Aug 17

1:00 PM FM Area Music Club Board Meeting
6:30 PM Session

Thu, Aug 20

9:00 AM Presbytery Leadership POD
1:00 PM Compass #2

Sun, Aug 23

10:30 AM Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)
11:30 AM Fellowship and Produce Exchange (Fargo)
12:00 PM Messenger Deadline

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 9, 2026
Attendance: 94
Online Worship: 35
Contributions: \$9,453.84

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); Eugene Robinson died on August 1 (funeral August 12 at 3pm Moorhead Manor); Kathy, chemo (Lisa McEvers, friend); Curtis, pancreatic cancer (Nancy J); Caroll, knee infection (Nancy J); Gene, kidney cancer (Nancy J).

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.