



First Presbyterian Church, Fargo & Baker Downer

The Messenger

APRIL 2026

FPC FAMILIES

I know it is Spring, when, at the very first hint of sunshine, my garden bulbs start peeking through the snow! Even though I think it is too early for them to appear after a long winter, every year they bloom into beautiful balls of lavender flowers! Much like the way God has a plan for us, spring reminds us to trust in His timing.

Most of you know me as a long-time member of FPC. Many of you also know about my current role as Children's Ministry Coordinator. I want to share with you some of the amazing things the families of FPC have been doing this year!

Fall began our traditional Sunday School programming where kids explore hands-on curriculum led by volunteer teachers. In these engaging lessons, kids learn how God's love can shine through them in their everyday lives.

In December we brought back our "flannel-filled" Alaskan VBS theme for a True North family Christmas pageant, complete with a sing-along of Christmas carols and our favorite VBS songs! All while reinforcing the VBS mantra that we "Trust Jesus!"

In February, we sent several families to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children, a yearly event hosted in Fargo to support global child undernutrition. A big thank you to these families for representing FPC in the community!



Palm Sunday is a meaningful celebration for our young kids. This year we previewed our 2026 VBS them on sharing God's love, which we practiced through a mission project for the Fargo VA clinic. We prepared activity bags for children who accompany their VA caregivers to medical appointments. Since I am writing this letter before Palm Sunday, I don't know yet how the kids will respond to this mission, but I have no doubt if you ask them what they did to share love this Easter season, they'll tell you all about it!

This summer we'll swing into a new VBS adventure showcasing God's amazing creations! Keep an eye out for all the ways to get involved in sharing this tropical experience for our FPC families. It is a fan favorite full of games, science, faith, friends and laughs.



Children's Ministry is a fun and meaningful part of our First Presbyterian Church programming. I could not do this important work without a sensational group of volunteers. A huge thank you to all my Sunday morning teachers, youth assistants and substitute support over the year. Thank you for responding to this call and making a difference in the lives of our FPC kids.

If you feel the call to support children's programming in any way, please reach out; I would love to find a place for you! No special experience required, and your heart will be full when you see the difference you make in the life of a child.

As you watch the flowers grow and bloom this spring, know that you can also "Trust Jesus!"

Carrie Lawrence



Presbyterian Women

The morning PW Circles will meet April 21 in the Jennie Roberts Room at 9:30am, and the afternoon Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Judy Rippentrop, (701) 730-1836.

Shine-On Campaign Update

The Shine On building improvements are progressing on schedule!

Interior projects—including masonry stabilization and tuckpointing, plaster repair and painting, and replacement of interior light fixtures for improved energy efficiency—are nearing completion.

Exterior projects are scheduled to begin in late April as weather permits. Planned improvements include masonry tuckpointing throughout the stone exterior, replacement of sealant at the stained-glass windows, and re painting the metal sash windows throughout the education and administration building. At the 2nd Avenue sanctuary entrance, a small roof will be replaced, along with the exterior steps, which have deteriorated over time due to freeze/thaw cycles. Additionally, exterior architectural lighting is being installed to highlight the north entrance façade and provide enhanced illumination in the courtyard.

Watch the Messenger for a future announcement regarding the temporary closure of the 2nd Avenue entrance while the step replacement is underway.

FAITH FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

EduCon has a new name! Originally formed years ago by combining the Education and Connectivity Committees, EduCon recently created an updated committee description. In the process, the committee selected a new name that better explains its purpose and function: Faith Formation and Fellowship. The committee will continue to provide support for church-sponsored educational offerings, as well as planning, organizing, and implementing social events that provide the opportunity for fellowship and/or learning.

Faith Formation and Fellowship meets on the first Tuesday of the month. If you'd like to learn more, or if you would consider serving on the committee, please reach out to moderator, Pam Andrist-Burns at pcapuch@msn.com. In addition, you are encouraged to share your suggestions for educational opportunities or social events by contacting Pam or other committee members: Sarah Anderson, Penny Andrist, Kathryn Byrd, Vicki Dawson, Gracia Fulwiler, David Hoffman, Carrie Lawrence, Becky Trumbo, and Maria Weller.

Men's Bible Study - April 14th

The men's Bible study continues its exploration of the Book of Ecclesiastes with Lesson 6 on April 14th 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. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study guide for Ecclesiastes can be obtained at pcusa.org/sites/default/files/087011.pdf, or you can request a copy from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. Participants may join at any time. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

Financials

**First Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary - General Fund Only
February 2026**

	Year to Date <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	Increase (Decrease)	Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$153,038	\$147,200	\$5,837	\$842,800
Expense	166,217	174,053	-7,836	875,737
Net/Shortfall	<u>-13,179</u>	<u>-26,852</u>	<u>\$13,673</u>	<u>-\$32,937</u>

Craft Supply Swap

Sunday, April 26th

in the JRR after church until 12:30pm



*Drop off your craft supplies to the collection totes in the Foyer beginning April 12th.

Bring your unused craft supplies to share and swap on Sunday, April 26th!

Sunday, April 26th in the JRR after church until 12:30pm

Examples of crafts to bring: yarn, fabric, stamps, paints/coloring supplies, etc.

Drop items off in the box in the lobby (starting April 12th) OR prior to church on the 26th. Any leftover items will be donated to Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center.

Musicians Schedule

Apr. 12	Second Avenue Band
Apr. 19	Sanctuary Choir Matthew Pechtl, organ
Apr. 26	All-Church Orchestra with Bagpipes
May 3	Sanctuary Choir St. Andrew's Brass
May 10	Friendship (K-2) Choir Kids of the Kingdom (3-6) Choir Genesis Ringers
May 17	Sanctuary Choir Westminster Ringers

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, many people still lack reliable food, clean water, sanitation, education, and basic opportunity. Natural disasters and long-standing poverty continue to disrupt lives and communities. Each Eastertide, First Presbyterian Church joins congregations across the country in supporting this offering.

Through OGHS, the Presbyterian Church (USA) supports three connected ministries. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responds to crises and helps communities rebuild. The Presbyterian Hunger Program addresses the root causes of hunger and works for sustainable solutions. Self Development of People partners with communities to create long-term change. Together, these ministries provide relief, stability, and hope.

Please consider a gift in addition to your regular pledge. Indicate One Great Hour in the memo line or on your offering envelope.

Emergency Food Pantry



OUR WEEK TO SERVE IS APRIL 20-24
PLEASE CONTACT NANCY LIUM AT
FOODPANTRY@FIRSTPRESFARGO.ORG TO HELP



Our church is providing volunteers for the Emergency Food Pantry April 20 through April 24. We will work filling baskets for people coming to the EFP for a 2 to 2 1/2 hour shift. Nancy Lium will have her notebook ready for you to sign up for a shift after church at coffee hour the next few Sundays. If you need to call Nancy, her phone number is 701 658/0326. Please check your calendar to see if you could take a shift.

March was MN Food Share and our church donated to this cause. Each March all donations to the EFP are matched by MN Food Share.

April will be "Shower" month for donations. Please consider picking up something for our donation box in the coat room. A "shower" gift could be anything one would need such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, razors, shave cream, body wash, baby items, and feminine care items. With summer coming these items are often requested.

Your past contributions are greatly appreciated.



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First Presbyterian Fargo

Easter Services

April 5, 2026

9:00AM & 11:00AM

CHRIST IS

Risen!



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