



What We Practice Grows

This past Sunday, I preached on Paul's description of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These qualities are more than private virtues. They shape how we speak, make decisions, handle disagreement, and share life with one another.

Paul asks the Galatians to pay attention to what is growing in their community. Their rivalry, resentment, jealousy, and division reveal one way of living. The fruit of the Spirit reveals another. What develops within us and among us is often connected to what we repeatedly practice.

I learned this during a season when Tom and I were each making different sacrifices for our family. When I began intentionally expressing appreciation for what he was carrying, gratitude gradually became part of the way we related to one another. A small daily practice changed what was growing between us.

August gives our congregation a natural opportunity to consider our practices. After a July break, committees are meeting again. School will soon begin, programs will resume, and we will make plans for the year ahead.

As we reconnect, let us recommit ourselves to practices that make room for the Spirit. We can acknowledge work that often goes unseen. We can become curious before becoming critical. We can speak with people rather than about them. We can approach difficult conversations with honesty, patience, and gentleness.

What we practice will become visible in our meetings, our relationships, and our ministry. May the fruit of the coming year reveal that the Spirit of God is alive and growing among us.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Sarah



Honored Partnership

In May, The Emergency Food Pantry recognized First Presbyterian Church for its long-standing support of neighbors facing hunger. During the Presbyterian Women's Salad Luncheon, Executive Director Stacie Loegering presented Pastor Sarah with a Founding Church Certificate of Gratitude and an award honoring the congregation's 2025 partnership.

Through food and personal care donations, financial gifts, and volunteer service, members of FPC help ensure that families can receive assistance when an unexpected expense leaves little money for groceries. Nancy Lium's regular deliveries on behalf of the church represent the many faithful contributions made throughout the year.

In 2025, the Pantry served nearly 8,000 households and 23,949 individuals, providing each household with approximately one week of food per visit. We are grateful to share in this important ministry and thankful for everyone whose generosity makes it possible.



2026 Men's Bible 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@gmail.com) or Bruce Maylath (ring4linguist@yahoo.com or 701-866-2626), and we will coordinate with others seeking a roommate.

The retreat will again be led by Dr. Stephen Reed, former chair of the Religion & Philosophy Department at the University of Jamestown. Stayed tuned for this year's topic.

Holy Buckets - September

We are collecting new or slightly used winter clothing (winter coats, snow-pants, boots, etc.) for kids and teens at Bedcan Presbyterian Church. Put items in the green buckets in the West foyer. If you wish, you may make a financial contribution. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and clearly mark your check "Bdecan winterwear," or use the online giving portal under "Other." Items will be delivered in mid-October. Let's make sure children are warm as they wait for the school bus.



Financial Summary

First Presbyterian Church				
Financial Summary - General Fund Only				
June 2026				
	Year to Date	Year to Date	Increase	Annual
	Actual	Budget	(Decrease)	Budget
Income	\$445,526	\$426,231	\$19,294	\$842,800
Expense	452,707	445,598	7,110	875,737
Net/Shortfall	-\$7,182	-\$19,367	\$12,185	-\$32,937

Micah's Mission

Volunteers are needed for every second Thursday of each month. Volunteers prepare a hot meal at Micah's Mission. We'd love your help and your company. We have two hour shifts available.

Preparers 3-5pm and Servers 5-7pm

Please join us, sign up on the volunteer board at church or online: <https://www.firstpresfargo.org/micah>.

Recent Celebrations

- Arthur Andrew, born on June 11th to his proud parents Lexi and Brady Sabolik. Grandchild of Jessica and Bryan Poyzer.
- Joseph Danger Brovold born on July 8th. Congratulations to his proud parents, Drew and Mady Brovold!
- July 12th baptism of Jack Jordan Brown (Parents are Austin and Jordan Brown.)
- July 19th baptism of Lucille Dee laraway (Parents are Mark and Megan Laraway.)
- The wedding of Brian and Megan Rosenkranz, July 25th.

Attention!

Office hours are changing
in the fall!

Starting after Labor Day (9/7), the
church office will be open:

Monday - Thursday;
9:00am - 4:00pm

Thank you!

Shine On Update

Shine On Project Nears Completion

The Shine On capital improvements are nearly complete. Work has included stone masonry restoration, window repainting, entrance and lighting improvements, and the removal of several trees, two of which were found to be rotting. The new front railing and a final review of the north entrance lighting remain to be completed.

Valley Landscaping and Greener Plains will begin the lawn restoration very soon. They will remove and dispose of the dead grass, excavate four to six inches of clay, fine-grade the area, add black dirt, and hydro-seed a beautiful new lawn.

The fifth and final application for the remaining grant funds will be submitted by September 1. We are on schedule, on budget, and deeply grateful to everyone whose generosity and careful work made these improvements possible.

NYK Returns to FPC August 9th!

The New York Kammermusiker is a professional double-reed ensemble (oboes, bassoons, English horns) which has traveled extensively throughout the world. Members of the non-profit ensemble will play during worship on Sunday, August 9th! In addition, they will present a free public concert in our Sanctuary that evening at 7:00pm.

This year's program celebrates the musical legacy of Theodore Roosevelt through music inspired by his Dutch heritage, love of Shakespeare, fascination with Icelandic culture, and the White House. Check out their Facebook page for more information on other concerts they will be holding in the area!

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

Ice Cream Social 2026

What do you call a band that plays southern gospel music featuring the uke in a set list that includes jazz standards? Refreshing! Especially while enjoying ice cream with Maria's delicious homemade toppings!

The Faith Formation And Fellowship Committee hosted an Ice Cream Social in the lovely, shady Trollwood Park on Wednesday, July 15th. What a fabulous mid-summer opportunity to reconnect with people of all ages! Live music was provided by our own Penny Andrist, Josh Argall, Jack Lawrence, Bryan Poyzer, Mike Wavra, and special guest Kellie Pifer.

Faith Formation and Fellowship meet once a month. The next FFF venture will be serving lunch following the Rally Day Service on September 13th. If you'd like to learn more, or consider serving on the committee, please reach out to moderator, Pam Adirst-burns at pcapuch@msn.com.

If you have ideas or suggestions for social events or educational opportunities, please let us know by contacting our committee members: Pam Andrist-Burns, Sarah Anderson, Penny Andrist, Kathryn Byrd, Vicki Dawson, Gracia Fulwiler, David Hoffman, Carrie Lawrence, Becky Trumbo, Maria Weller, and Amy Wilkens.

~by Pam Andrist-Burns~



Baker Ballfields

The ballfields beside Baker Downer Presbyterian Church are getting a well-deserved refresh. We have recommitted ourselves to keeping the fields in excellent condition so local teams and leagues can continue to use and enjoy them.

Work this summer included regular mowing and trimming, repainting the concession stand, refreshing the benches in Baker blue, improving signage, and doing more to publicize the fields throughout the community.

These ballfields are located on church property and have become a meaningful extension of our ministry and outreach.

We are grateful for everyone who has helped with the work and excited to see the fields looking their best.





First Presbyterian Church
650 2nd Ave. N.
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Phone: (701) 293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org

Produce *EX*change

~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.

