First Presbyterian Church, Fargo & Baker Downer

The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2026

Love Gets the Last Word

Dear Friends,

As we move into November, I find myself thinking about the words we leave with one another. Words that offer hope, invite someone closer, or remind them they belong. Words matter. And so do the ways we live them out.

When we say that all are welcome, we have opportunities to show it. When we speak of loving our neighbors, we can put that love into practice. And when we wonder what God might be doing among us, we can look around and see signs of new possibilities.

I'm excited about the opportunities opening before us through 1001 New Worshiping Communities and what we might learn as we explore new ways of being a church together.

Our Hospitality and Belonging Committee is also working to make Sunday mornings better for visitors and members alike. From the moment someone walks through the door, we want them to experience the warmth and welcome of this community.

Our new sandwich ministry is just getting started, and we are learning quickly as we go. Churches United has expressed deep appreciation for the extra meals they can hand out to our neighbors. If you'd like to sponsor a week, it costs approximately $500 for 150 meals, but gifts of any amount are welcome and will help support this growing ministry.

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day, we'll once again partner with Heart-n-Soul to help deliver meals to people in need of them. Heart-n-Soul prepares the meals, and we help get them where they are needed most.

Each of these opportunities invites us to take part in what God is doing, in big ways and small. We can offer a welcome, make a gift, deliver a meal, or help imagine what comes next.

Thank you for the many ways you share God's love. I'm grateful to be a part of this congregation with you.

Pastor Sarah



Thanks from FM Food Pantry

Thanks to following for taking a shift at the FM Food Pantry the week of October 19-24: Shirley & Rick Herberg, Marion Anderson, Carrie Lawrence, Ginger Deitz, Jane & Tom Ahlin, Scott & Jennie Swanholm, Joe Stanley, Tom Bigwood, Sheila Hastings, Andrea Smith, Nancy Froelich, Barb Kessel, Candy Shultz, Danae Moran, Dave & Virginia Stern, Don Larew, Val Anderson, Gayla McGoldrick, Bruce & Anne Maylath. I greatly appreciate your willingness to share your time.

The needs are great at the food pantry. Ask any one of the volunteers listed above. The box in the coat room is emptied each Sunday and delivered to the food pantry on Monday. If you can help items that are especially needed are toiletries, cereal, and peanut butter. Thank you, Nancy Lium.



Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study continues its exploration of 1st Thessalonians, Lesson 2 on November 10th at 6:45am in the Jennie Roberts Room. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

A copy of the study guide can be obtained at pcusa.org/sites/default/files/1thessalonians.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.



Peace in Pandemonium



In partnership with the Presentation Social Justice Collaborative, our annual peace summit is now a four-part fall series exploring peace and justice. Join us for the next part in the series on November 14th.

An Endowment That Serves

First Presbyterian Church's endowment carries the generosity of earlier generations into ministry today. In 2026, it made nearly $87,000 available to support the church's work. Behind those dollars are people receiving help, encouragement, and care.

Help at a Critical Moment
Endowment funds help people facing expenses they cannot manage on their own. The endowment provided ~$3,800 to the Deacons this year for emergency assistance.

Emergency assistance provided rent after someone lost a longtime job. Another request provided help for moving and storage during housing difficulties while someone was unable to work following surgery. These funds allow the church to respond with practical care when help is needed.

Encouragement for Young Adults
The endowment provided scholarships for five graduating seniors continuing their education, providing financial assistance while showing that we care about their lives.

Support for Service
Support & Endowment authorized funds to help sustain the new Churches United sandwich ministry. Volunteers prepare 150 sandwiches on the first and third weekends of each month. Private gifts cover October and November, while the endowment commitment helps support the ministry as it continues.

Endowment funds replaced carpet outside of Meeting Room 1. Funds were also used to purchase choral music and grant payments to worship arts scholars. Other funds supported the church's general budget and Kenya Oral Health Initiative (KOHI).

Generosity That Reaches Forward
Endowment support also helped the planned giving team work with a consulting firm to prepare an invitation to legacy giving this November.

The ministry happening today gives that invitation meaning. Gifts from earlier generations help people through hardship, encourage young adults, and make new service possible. Remembering the church in a will can carry that care forward for generations to come.

Presbyterian Women

Join the PW AM Circle, November 17th at 10am, in the Jennie Roberts Room. Leah Circle will meet on November 21st at 10am in the office conference room. We will be studying Lesson 3; Freedom in Christ. For questions contact Barb Kessel at 701-261-6215. All women are welcome!

Planned Giving Cohort

You may have noticed the question, on the most recent pledge form, asking "Have you included First Presbyterian Church in your will?"

The new First Presbyterian Church Planned Giving Cohort is working to update our records. If you have included First Presbyterian Church in your estate plan we would like for you to let us know so that we can express our gratitude for your planned gift. The church also believes it is important to keep a record on file so that future leadership will know of your plans and intentions.

The Planned Giving Cohort is receiving training and learning about ways in which we can give to the Church from our estates and perhaps receive tax benefits from these gifts. You will be receiving information soon on opportunities to join a session with knowledgeable leaders in the field. If you would like to learn of options to give, please let us know.

Please email or have a conversation with any of the Planned Giving Cohort members so that our records may be updated.

John or Sherri Stern: email - john.sherri.stern@gmail.com, phone 701-866-6401 or 701-429-3522
Glen Deeton: email - gdeeton@midco.com, phone 701-730-6175
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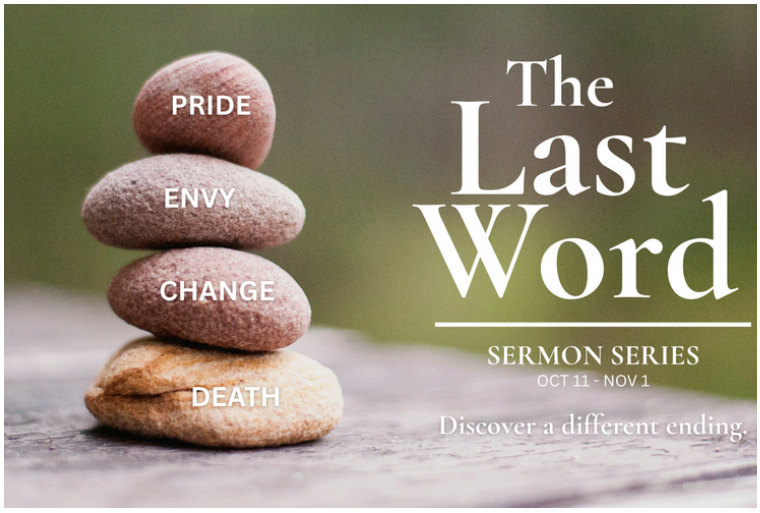
Dates to Remember

Nov. 1 — Remembering the Saints Service
Nov. 8 — Kirkin' O' the Tartans Services 9am & 11am
Nov. 10 — Men's Bible Study
Nov. 14 — Peace in Pandemonium
Nov. 17 — PW AM Circle
Nov. 21 — PW Leah Circle
Nov. 21 — Lefse Making (Baker Downer)
Nov. 26 — Office Closed

Lefse Making

Join the Faith Formation and Fellowship committee in Baker Downer on Saturday, November 21st from 10am-2pm to make lefse. **Beginners are welcome!!** Lunch will be provided. Please bring an apron to wear.





Financial Summary September - General Fund

First Presbyterian Church

Financial Summary - General Fund Only

Sep 2026

	Year to Date	Year to Date	Increase	Annual
	Actual	Budget	(Decrease)	Budget
Income	$607,768	$600,966	$6,802	$842,800
Expense	628,985	662,564	-33,578	875,737
Net/ Shortfall	-$21,217	-$61,598	$40,380	-$32,937



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