

First Presbyterian Church, Fargo & Baker Downer

The Messenger

JUNE & JULY 2025

Summer Update from Pastor Sarah

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

The last several months of our Shine On campaign have moved at a quick pace—full of energy, vision, and bold invitation. But now that the unveiling is behind us, we return to the steady rhythm of ministry. As of this writing, we have received 74 commitments totaling \$1,582,249 toward our campaign goal. Every gift is a seed planted, and we trust that in God’s time, these gifts will bear fruit.

In case you missed the announcement, our new Heritage Room has opened and is located just off the Social Hall. It is a quiet space filled with photos, artifacts, and stories that connect us to the generations who shaped this community before us. We invite you to stop in and learn more about our rich history. This special exhibit was curated and paid for by member Don Larew, and we are deeply appreciative of his efforts.

This spring marked another meaningful season at Baker Downer Presbyterian Church, where we introduced an adult education hour following worship, offering an opportunity for engaging discussion and shared treats that deepened our time together. While services at Baker Downer will pause in July and August, we hope you’ll mark your calendars for our annual worship service at Rollag on August 24th. Finally, plans are underway to resurrect the annual Fish Dinner! More details will emerge over the summer. We remain grateful for the faithful witness of the Baker Downer worshipping community.

As we move into summer, we enter a season that invites us to rest, to breathe, and to trust in the quiet work of the Spirit. As Ecclesiastes reminds us, there is a time for everything: *"a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted."* And as Paul writes in Galatians, *"we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."* Let this summer be a time to pause, to restore your spirit, and to remember that even slow steps of faith are part of God’s unfolding grace.

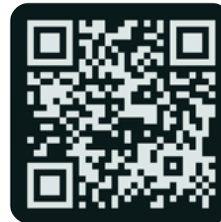
With gratitude,

Pastor Sarah
Pastor Sarah

Vacation Bible School 6/9-12!

Parents and Friends: It’s time for kids to hit the trail...**for adventure!** Yes, it’s time for Vacation Bible School! This year, kids will discover that they can trust Jesus in a wild world! *True North* VBS is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch: Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable songs, and immersive Bible stories are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Yes, you can still sign up! And yes, you can come for as many days as your schedule allows, starting June 9th and continuing through the 12th.

The fun starts at 5:30 with dinner in the social hall for the family and we end each evening with a group closing at 7:45 in the social hall where you are welcome to join us and pick up your child.



True North VBS is appropriate for preschool children through grade 5, however, we highly encourage middle school and youth to participate as volunteer leaders. They have just as much fun as the younger kids!

If you have a 3 or 4 year old, please sign up to volunteer and bring them along with you!

There are many meaningful volunteer opportunities to consider in order for us to make this event especially engaging for the kids. Please contact Penny Andrist or Carrie Lawrence in the church office for more information.



Heart-n-Soul returns in July!

Heart-n-Soul's Community Café will return to FPC on July 2nd, but there are many other opportunities to participate with this wonderful organization in the meantime! You won't want to miss out on these great meals! Check out Heart-n-Soul's Facebook page for dates, times, and locations where you can visit the H-n-S food truck in the FM area. Don't forget to mark your calendars for July 2nd--young and old, rain or shine, come and be a part of the fun.

Bolster Up!
Adult Vacation Bible School

You are invited for Faith, Fun, and Fellowship!

Save the Date!
Come to one or all four nights!
A new speaker each night!

Join us for Bible Lessons and hymn singing, with refreshments to follow

July 28-31 | 7PM
Jennie Roberts Room

Adult Vacation Bible School

Join us July 28-31 at 7 PM, in the Jennie Roberts Room for Adult Vacation Bible School! Each session will focus on a different topic, with a Bible lesson, hymn singing, and treats. Come to one or all nights – no registration required. More information regarding the speakers coming soon!

Presbyterian Youth Triennium – July 2025

Thirteen youth and two adult leaders from FPC Fargo will join the 40-member delegation from the Presbytery of the Northern Plains to attend the Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Louisville, KY this July! Traveling through Clearwater Forest Camp, the group will make a service stop in Chicago before a week of worship, learning, and connection. The total cost for our group is \$9,500, and we are still gratefully accepting donations. Please keep our travelers—Carter, Jaden, Nathan, Leah, Chelsea, Mari, Carsten, Peter, Sinda, Hazel, Gwen, Eleanor, Jonah, Rusty, and Sam—in your prayers!

Serving at Micah's Mission

We continue to serve at Micah's Mission throughout the summer on the second Thursday of every month. Signup sheets are at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the West foyer for July and August. Sign up to help prepare the meal or serve the meal. Thank you for your continued support of and generosity to this mission.

Emergency Food Pantry

Items placed in the large tote box in the Fargo coat room go directly to the FM Food Pantry each week. They are currently in need of peanut butter; they are also short of canned frostings for birthday bags, which people request for their children who are celebrating a birthday in the next 2 months. There is a great need for personal care items, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, laundry soap, dish soap, deodorant, cleaning supplies, feminine products, shavers, and shaving cream. As food is purchased with the funds they receive, these items must be donated voluntarily. If you can help out this summer, be assured it will go to those in need. Starting in August, school supply bags will be made for children.

FPC Financial Summary				
April 2025 — General Fund Only				
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Increase/Decrease	Annual Budget
Income	\$272,636	\$284,361	-\$11,726	\$841,370
Expense	332,026	360,654	-28,628	976,243
Net/Shortfall	-\$59,390	-\$76,293	\$16,902	-\$134,873
Insurance P & R				
Proceeds	11,141.76			
Repairs	-38,672.58			
Net P&R	-27,530.82			
Grand Total (Income-Expenses)	-\$86,921.18			

FPC Scholarship Awarded to Benji Trumbo



Congratulations to Benji Trumbo, the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from FPC Fargo! Benji will attend Concordia College this fall to pursue studies in theatre and education, with dreams of becoming a stage director who spreads positivity through the arts. Rooted in faith and community, Benji shared how the church—and youth leader Kayla Bones—helped shape his values of kindness, forgiveness, and compassion. We are proud to support Benji as he follows his passion and makes a difference through creativity, connection, and care for others.

Milestones

We list FPC's births, baptisms, weddings, and deaths, hoping to stay better connected with one another.

Baptisms: **Braxton Connelly**, child of Joycelin & Matthew Connelly, April 27

Maxwell Peters, child of Rosemary & Maxin Peters, April 27

Deaths: **Vicki Laraway**, March 27

Marilyn Olson, April 11

Linda Hoag, May 22; Memorial service June 2 in the Sanctuary at 1:30pm.

New Members: Carter Argall, Ava Gadberry, Chelsea Erstad, McKenna Scheen, Sinda Sambo, Gwen Stevens, and Rose Tuya, April 27

NYK Returns August 10!

New York Kammermusiker returns to FPC in August! Founded in 1969 by North Dakota native, Ilonna Pederson, 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 10th! In addition, they will present a free public concert in our Sanctuary that evening at 7:00pm. Sally Harmon will be joining them for their Fargo area concerts!

Summer Musicians

There are still some opportunities for instrumentalists and vocalists to play and sing during summer worship services! Please contact Pam if you are interested or if you know of someone who might enjoy participating in this way. If you have questions or comments regarding the music ministry, please contact coordinator, Pam Andrist-Burns.

The Wesley Bell Ringers

Please help us welcome the Wesley Bell Ringers for a concert in the sanctuary on Wednesday, June 18th at 7:30pm! We will be the 11th stop on the choir's 59th annual summer tour which will feature 19 teenage ringers playing more than 150 handbells and handchimes!

The Wesley Bell Ringers, a music ministry of Christ United Methodist Church in Salt Lake City, UT, was founded in 1963. From the very beginning, membership in the choir has been open to any youth dedicated to learning the art of handbell ringing and caring for their fellow ringers.

The choir developed a reputation for musical excellence that continues to open doors to exciting opportunities. The previous 57 summer tours have taken the choir to all 50 states and all but one of the Canadian provinces. They have performed at the US Capitol, Cathedral of the Pines National Monument, Mt. Rushmore, George Washington Masonic Memorial, Disneyland, Disneyworld, and more.

Highlights for the 2025 summer concert include: George Bizet's *Farandole*, Alex Guebert's *Tongues of Flame*, Chopin's *Nocturne in Eb Major*, & Cathy Moklebust's arrangement of *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.

Looking for Overnight Hosts!

First Presbyterian is providing dinner for the Wesley Bell Ringers when they arrive on June 18. We are looking for overnight hosts for both singers and the chaperones / directors traveling with the ensemble. Host families will simply attend the concert and then take guest(s) home with them, providing a light breakfast before returning them to the church on the morning of June 19th to meet their bus. Please contact Pam Andrist-Burns at pburns@firstpresfargo.org for more information, to ask any questions, or volunteer!

Summer Musicians Schedule

June 1	Gospel Group Jayci Lawrence, cello Elliot Sander, organ
June 8	Jeff Olson, soloist Elliot Sander, organ
June 15	Lauren Bontje, violin & Wanda Wavra, piano Elliot Sander, organ
June 22	Caleb Gadberry, piano Elliot Sander, organ
June 29	Kathleen Thomas, violin Kevin Thomas, soloist Virginia Stern, piano Elliot Sander, organ
July 6	Special Handbell Music Elliot Sander, organ
July 13	Krista Clusiau Elliot Sander, organ
July 20	Nancy Norris, piano Elliot Sander, organ
July 27	Vocal Ensemble Elliot Sander, organ

Attention!

Office hours are changing
for the summer!

Starting after Memorial Day, the
church office will be open:

Monday - Thursday;
9:00am - 3:00pm

Thank you!!

Summer Lawn Care

The sign-up sheet for lawn mowing volunteers is up on the Volunteer Opportunity board! We are looking for folks to sign up weekly through September. Typically, courtyard mowing is done toward the end of the week. In dry periods, mowing may not be necessary every week. Questions? Call Rick Fiebiger at (701) 412-6061.



First Presbyterian Church
650 2nd Ave. N.
Fargo, ND 58102
 Phone: (701) 293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org

Church Event Parking

If you are frequently at the church during workday hours, please stop by the office for a “church event” parking permit rear view mirror hang tag, or you can call the church office and we’ll leave one for you to pick up on Sunday. Occasionally, there is a walk-through done of the parking lot to identify those who should not be parking here. If you do receive a yellow warning ticket, don’t panic, call the church office to let us know.

Dates to Remember

June 1 — Communion
 June 9-12 — Vacation Bible School
 June 30-July 4 — Office Closed
 July 6 — Communion
 July 9 — Heart-n-Soul Community Café
 July 26-August 1 — Triennium in Louisville, KY
 July 28-31 — Adult Vacation Bible School

Date	Elder on Duty	Deacon on Duty	Usher Team	Reader
June 1	Tom Dawson	Sydney Goddard	Marcia Foss	<i>No reader needed</i>
June 8	Jody Hudson	Toby Christensen	D&V Stern, C&G Munro	Bruce Maylath
June 15	Curt Brickman	Dianne Connelly	Marcia Foss	<i>No reader needed</i>
June 22	Brian McClure	Kathleen Thomas	Dianne Connelly	Erin Torpey (Worship Asst.)
June 29	Sharon Secor	Amy Wilkens	Shane Erstad	<i>No reader needed</i>
July 6	Jim McEvers	Wayne Sander	Toby Christensen	<i>No reader needed</i>
July 13	Dick Laraway	Steve Dawson	Rick Herberg	<i>No reader needed</i>
July 20	Kathryn Byrd	Kevin Thomas	Youth	<i>No reader needed</i>
July 27	Kurt Kooyer	David Hoffman	Steve Wonderlich	<i>No reader needed</i>

June 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
<p>1</p> <p><u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service, Communion (L) 11:30am - Fellowship</p> <p><u>Baker Site:</u> 9:30am - Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:30pm - Linda Hoag Memorial Service (L)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:15pm - S&E Committee Meeting (H) 5:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting 5:30pm - Worship Committee Meeting (H) 5:30pm - Personnel Committee Meeting 6:30pm - Stewardship Committee Meeting (H)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30pm - Taizé Evening Prayer</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>		
<p>8</p> <p><u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship</p> <p><u>Baker Site:</u> 9:30am - Worship Service 11:00am - Lord's Day Committee Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Vacation Bible School, starting with dinner at 5:30pm; Programming starts at approximately 6:00pm</p>			<p>10</p> <p>5:30pm - Board of Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00pm - M&F Committee Meeting (H)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3:00pm - Preparing for Micah's Mission Picnic 5:00pm - Serving at Micah's Mission Picnic</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p><u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship</p> <p><u>Baker Site:</u> 9:30am - Worship Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting (H)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30pm - Wesley Bell Ringers Concert</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am - Presbytery Leadership POD</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>		
<p>22</p> <p><u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship</p> <p><u>Baker Site:</u> 9:30am - Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00pm - EduCon Committee Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>		
<p>29</p> <p><u>Fargo Site:</u> 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service (L) 11:30am - Fellowship</p> <p><u>Baker Site:</u> 9:30am - Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed</p>			<p>Activity Key: (L) - Livestreamed (H) - Hybrid (Z) - Zoom Only</p>				

July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Activity Key: (L) - Livestreamed (H) - Hybrid (Z) - Zoom Only		1 Office Closed	2	3	4	5
		5:30pm - Building & Grounds Committee Meeting 5:30pm - Worship Committee Meeting (H) 5:30pm - Personnel Committee Meeting 6:30pm - Stewardship Committee Meeting	4:30pm - Heart-n-Soul Community Café	6:30pm - Taizé Evening Prayer		
6 <u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service, Communion (L) 11:30am - Fellowship	7	8 5:30pm - Board of Deacons Meeting (H)	9	10 3:00pm - Preparing @ Micah's Mission 5:00pm - Serving @ Micah's Mission	11	12
13 <u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service 11:30am - Fellowship	14	15	16	17 9:00am - Presbytery Leadership Pod	18	19
20 <u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service 11:30am - Fellowship	21	22	23 Messenger Article Deadline	24	25	26
27 <u>Fargo Site:</u> 10:30am - Worship Service 11:30am - Fellowship	28 7:00pm - Adult Vacation Bible School	29 7:00pm - Adult Vacation Bible School	30 7:00pm - Adult Vacation Bible School	31 7:00pm - Adult Vacation Bible School		