



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*preach, teach, heal, & serve*

*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.*

**March 8, 2026**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRELUDE**

Matthew Pechtl, organ

### **WELCOME MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*Living Christ, you meet me in the ordinary routines of my life. You know my history and my questions. Help me stay in conversation with you and let go of what no longer helps me grow. Give me a desire to join the work you are already doing. Teach me to trust what you offer and to believe it is enough. Amen.*

### **OPENING WORDS**

Lisa McEvers

#### ✦ **HYMN 475**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

#### ✦ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**Holy God, we come to you carrying buckets full of things that do not satisfy. We come rehearsing old stories about who we are and who we can never become. We confess that we have settled for shallow water when you offer a wellspring. We confess that we have polished our outward lives while neglecting the hidden corners within. Like a patient teacher at midday, you meet us anyway. You name the truth without shame. You invite us into deeper worship and into lives that are whole. Strengthen what is brittle. Soften what is rigid. Open what is closed. We are ready, or at least we want to be. Amen.**

*...Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel,  
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.*

#### ✦ **RESPONSE 701**

*Sanctuary*

#### ✦ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## GIFT OF MUSIC

*Fill Us with Your Love*  
Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director;  
Drea Greenawalt, piano

arr. Carlton R. Young

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### The Word

## SCRIPTURE

*Psalm 24:4-10, pp. 491*

*John 4:5-42, pp. 969*

*Whirl Story Bible, pg. 358*

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

## SERMON

Rev. Sarah M Bigwood

## ✧ HYMN 802

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

## ✧ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Confession of 1967

**In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them he took upon himself the judgment under which all men stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all men.**

## 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



### OFFERING MESSAGE

*Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!*

### OFFERTORY

*Nearer, Still Nearer*  
Virginia Stern, piano

arr. Lorie Line

## ✧ RESPONSE 702

*Christ Be Beside Me (vs. 2)*

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

## ✧ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

# Bearing the Word into the World

✦ HYMN 462

*I Love to Tell the Story*

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

*Thank you to Eleanor Torpey and Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard, Lisa McEvers and for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Sharon Secor, Sydney Goddard, Ginger Deitz, Virginia Stern, and Marcia Foss & crew for taking such good care of us this morning. A special thank you to our musicians: Matthew Pechtl, the Sanctuary Choir directed by Bryan Poyzer, and Virginia Stern.*



## SPRING CLEANING

Volunteers are needed to help clean the sanctuary in preparation for the upcoming season. Join us on **Thursday, March 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** or **Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Sign-up sheets will be available after worship, and a list of tasks will be provided for those who would like to help but need to come at a different time. Thank you for helping care for the space where we gather for worship.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF FARGO

# Sunday Worship

March 08, 2026

## HOLY BUCKETS FOR THE NEW LIFE CENTER

- \* MEN'S T-SHIRTS (MEDIUM & LARGE),
- \* MEN'S BOXERS (M, L, 1XL, & 2XL),
- \* WHITE BATH TOWELS, \* DISPOSABLE RAZORS,
- \* SHAVING CREAM (TRAVEL-SIZE), \* Q-TIPS,
- \* LOTION (TRAVEL-SIZE), \* DEODORANT (TRAVEL-SIZE),
- \* SINGLE-DOSE PACKS OF DAYQUIL / NYQUIL CAPSULES  
(ALCOHOL FREE),
- \* SINGLE-USE PACKS OF ORAL PAIN RELIEF GEL,
- \* SINGLE-USE PACKS OF NEOSPORIN



Sponsored by the Mission Committee

## Easter Flowers

Easter Lilies \* Tulips\*  
Hydrangea\*



Orders and payments  
received no later than noon  
Tuesday, March 17th.

**Easter Flowers:** To help us celebrate Easter, the Sanctuary will be adorned with spring flowers. You are invited to contribute to this enhancement of our worship space by purchasing a flower to be used for Easter Sunday. Order forms can be found at the Info Kiosk and online on our website. **Orders and payments should be delivered to the office no later than noon on Tuesday, March 17th.** Thank You!



**PW Circles :**  
The Presbyterian Leaders Board Meeting will be on March 11th, at 10am in the office meeting room. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Rippen-trop at (701) 730-1836.

**Covenant of Prayer:** Concerns: Lori Love, torn retina (Jan H); Jan Harrison, radiation; Sharon Dvorak, died 2-25; Sue Andrews, death of husband, Mark; David Hoffman, infection; Sherri Stern, back surgery; AnnMarie Blamoh, eye surgery; Jan Kenien, blood pressure; Monna Rae Morse died 02-14 (Linda Haak); Mike Nelson, hospice (Casselton); Bill Kooyer, aortic valve replacement (Kurt Kooyer); Don Laird, emerging health issues (Dorothy McClure); Richard Schenk, hip/heart;

## Holden Evening Prayer Services



Every Wednesday in Lent, starting February 25, join us from 7:05pm to 7:30pm in the Jennie Roberts Room for Holden Evening Prayer.

## MN Food Share:

Don't forget all monetary and supplies donated to the Emergency Food Pantry in March are doubled by The MN Food Share Program. The supply box is in the coat room and is delivered to the EFP each Monday.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

## Maundy Thursday Service April 2, 2026 | 7:30PM

*Experience a service of shadows in  
our beautiful Gothic sanctuary.*

This unique service combines the celebration of the Last Supper with the dramatic darkening of the sanctuary as the story of Christ's death unfolds.

650 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N | Fargo, ND  
admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org  
www.firstpresfargo.org



**Hearing devices** are available, please ask an usher for assistance.

**Nursery:** Staff will be present **beginning at 9:15** for infants-3 years, in the nursery complex on the 1st floor.

**Activity Bags for Children:** Fun-filled tote bags are located at both doors.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms are located in the Gathering Space and on the lower level.

**Prayer Request Cards:** 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:** The candle burning on the chancel symbolizes peace. We ask guests to take a candle back to your church as a gift from us. Peace candles can be found at the Welcome Center, near the west doors.

**Wi-Fi:** Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. (password: community650)

### FPC Officers

**Session:** Curt Brickman, 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.

### 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*

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 and last name of person)@firstpresfargo.org**

**Phishing/SPAM Alert!** The staff of FPC will never send email or text-message solicitations for money or gift cards. The most common signs of a phishing attempt are: an unfamiliar tone or greeting, grammar and spelling errors, inconsistencies in email addresses, links, and domain names, suspicious attachments, and threats or a sense of urgency.

**L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom**  
**Times shown in italics indicate am.**

### **Sun, Mar 8**

*9:15 AM* Sunday School

*10:30 AM* Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)

*11:30 AM* Fellowship

### **Mon, Mar 9**

*12:30 PM* Nancy & Virginia Piano Practice

*5:30 PM* CPMT Meeting (H)

*6:30 PM* Session Meeting with Confirmands

### **Tue, Mar 10**

*6:45 AM* Men's Bible Study

*5:00 PM* Heart-N-Soul Board Meeting

*5:30 PM* Board of Deacons Meeting

### **Wed, Mar 11**

*9:00 AM* Organ Rehearsal (Susan Clambey)

*10:00 AM* PW Bible Study Leaders

*10:00 AM* Noteables Rehearsal (Jill Post)

*5:00 PM* Wednesday Meals

*5:30 PM* St. Andrew's Brass

*5:30 PM* Genesis Ringers

*6:15 PM* Children's Choirs

*6:15 PM* Youth Choir

*6:30 PM* Westminster Bells

*7:00 PM* Youth Group

*7:30 PM* Sanctuary Choir

### **Thu, Mar 12**

*12:15 PM* Centering Prayer

*1:00 PM* Cleaning in the Sanctuary

*3:00 PM* Preparing at Micah's Mission

*5:00 PM* Serving at Micah's Mission

*5:30 PM* APRTF

*5:30 PM* Nurturing Families

### **Fri, Mar 13 & Sat, Mar 14**

*no activities scheduled*

### **Sun, Mar 15**

*9:15 AM* Sunday School

*10:30 AM* Worship Service - Fargo Site (L)

*11:30 AM* Fellowship



### Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

650 2nd Ave. N.

Fargo, ND 58102

### For Your Information

March 1, 2026

Attendance: 150 in person &

101 households livestreamed

Contributions received: 23512.99