



First Presbyterian Church, Fargo & Baker Downer

The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2026

Connection and Belonging

There is something exciting happening at Baker Downer, and much of it is happening beyond Sunday morning.

Over the past year, we have been finding new ways to become part of the life of the community around us. We have delivered **May Day baskets** to our neighbors, played **Bingo at the Mainline Bar & Grill**, helped restore the **Baker ballfields**, gathered for a summer **bluegrass concert**, and continued supporting organizations doing important work throughout our wider community. The Baker Bluegrass Band has become a regular part of worship, bringing its own energy and joy once a month.

None of these things is enormous by itself. But together they tell a story: Baker Downer is becoming increasingly connected to the people and places around us.

This fall we will keep building on that. The **Fish Fry** will once again open our doors to hundreds of friends and neighbors. **Lefsa Lessons** will give us another reason to gather, learn, and invite someone along. And every Sunday remains an opportunity to welcome whoever walks through the door.

Our stewardship theme this fall is **Come On In**, and at Baker that feels especially fitting. Hospitality begins at the door, but it does not end there. Sometimes it means going out first, showing up in the neighborhood, supporting local businesses, serving our community, and building relationships long before someone ever joins us for worship.

Growth takes time. It grows through familiarity, trust, friendship, and many small moments of connection.

There is good life growing at Baker Downer. This fall, I hope we will keep noticing it, nurturing it, and making room for whatever God grows next.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Sarah

Rally Day!

We are meeting at the Downtown Fargo location for Rally Day Sunday on September 13. Our Baker Bluegrass Band is leading us in worship. September 20, regular worship resumes at our Baker location. We hope to see you there!



WORSHIP

SUNDAYS
9:00 AM

OUR MISSION

We are an inviting, caring
community that loves God and
embodies God's love for people.

bakerdownerchurch.org

Emergency Food Pantry 2026

The Mission Committee has approved our participation to serve as "Bucket fillers" the week of Oct. 19 - 23 at the Emergency Food Pantry located at 1104 4th Ave N. Fargo. Please check your calendar and sign up for a 2-3 hour shift. The sign up sheet will be available Sept. 13. Your help is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Lium at (701) 658-0326 or liumn1949@icloud.com



Finance Update!

September 1st at 11:00 am at Baker-Downer Church: first planning meeting for the Fish Fry which will be on 10/23/26. Anyone interested in assisting as we plan, or at the event will be welcomed. Contact Glen Deeton at 701-730-6175 for more information.

September 13th is Rally Sunday at First Presbyterian in Fargo: it will be a great fall start-up for B-D Church as well with the Baker Blue Grass leading in music worship and with lunch following. If you are interested in sharing a ride, call by September 11 to Carolyn Peloubet at 701-361-2589 or our other church officers.

September 20th is our fall start-up service at Baker-Downer. Sandra Yestness is lining up persons for coffee service and communion service. If you can help please call her at 218-979-9044.

More Fall and Winter activities are in the works, starting with a Lord's Day Meeting, date and time to follow. Any ideas or assistance would be greatly appreciated by Carolyn and Rusty.

2026 Men's Bible Study Retreat

The retreat is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow men at First Presbyterian and learn about God's message for men.

Starts Friday October 9, at 7:00pm
&
Ends October 10, at 3:00pm

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.

Produce Exchange!

~Available Every Sunday~
Until Rally Sunday!

Please bring any extras from your garden to share or swap each Sunday through September 13th. Any leftover items will be donated to Heart & Soul.

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

Baker Downer Church Annual Fish Fry

A Baker Downer tradition

October 23, 2026 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Baker, MN

bakerdownerpres@gmail.com

Saugage Fest of 2026!



Financial Update

We made it! Kudos to our congregational members for their contributions to our Per Capita. We are now at one-hundred percent of the budgeted \$15,000! This is the first time in history that we have made our Per Capita budget. You all are amazing and truly appreciated. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church Financial Summary - General Fund Only June 2026

	Year to Date <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	Increase (Decrease)	Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$445,526	\$426,231	\$19,294	\$842,800
Expense	<u>452,707</u>	<u>445,598</u>	<u>7,110</u>	<u>875,737</u>
Net/Shortfall	<u>-\$7,182</u>	<u>-\$19,367</u>	<u>\$12,185</u>	<u>-\$32,937</u>

Date	Worship Assistant	Deacon	Coffee
Sept. 1	Kathy Scheffler	Sandy Ystenes	TBD
Sept. 27	Glen Deeton	Sandy Ystenes	TBD
Oct. 4	Carolyn Peloubet	Sandy Ystenes	TBD
Oct. 11	Kathy Scheffler	Sandy Ystenes	TBD
Oct. 18	Glen Deeton	Sandy Ystenes	TBD

**THE BAKER
BLUEGRASS
BAND**

Sept. 27
Oct. 25
Nov. 29

*** WORSHIP ***

Baker Downer Presbyterian Church
11927 123rd Ave S | Baker MN

The background of the poster shows a person in a blue shirt playing a bluegrass instrument, likely a mandolin, against a brick wall.



First Presbyterian Church
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www.bakerdownerchurch.org