



First Presbyterian Church, Fargo & Baker Downer

The Messenger

OCTOBER 2026

New Church Partnership

Making Room for a New Worshiping Community

At its September meeting, Session approved a new partnership that will bring another worshiping community into our building.

The 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) created to encourage new forms of Christian community, particularly among people and communities who may not already be connected to an established congregation. These communities are not simply renting space for worship. They are part of the larger PC(USA) family and are developing new expressions of Presbyterian ministry.

That makes this an especially unusual opportunity for us.

The new worshiping community, led by Thomas Soadwa, primarily serves African international and immigrant families in the Fargo area. In our part of the country, it is rare to encounter a growing immigrant Christian community that is explicitly Presbyterian and is looking not only for a place to worship, but for a relationship with an established PC(USA) congregation.

For the first few weeks, our plan is pretty simple: we are going to welcome them, let them settle in, and see how it works.

We do not have every logistical question figured out in advance, and we do not think we need to. After they have been using the building for a few weeks, we will assess what is working well and where we may need to make adjustments.

A few questions have already come up.

What happens when their worship begins just as ours is ending? Their gathering has a rolling start, so people will arrive gradually around 11:30. They will primarily enter through the West Entrance, which should help the two congregations move in and out of the building without much difficulty.

What about Sundays when we use the Social Hall? We have only had two congregational meals so far this year, so this is not likely to be a frequent conflict. When those Sundays do occur, we will make arrangements together and adjust as needed.

What about major Sundays such as Kirkin' o' the Tartans? On Sundays when something larger involves the whole congregation and building, our hope is not simply to work around one another. They will join us. Kirkin' is one example of a Sunday when we can worship and celebrate together.

And, interestingly, this kind of hospitality is not entirely new for First Presbyterian Church.

From 1916 - 1918, our Session gave permission to a Black Congregation to use the basement room in the church for a religious service each Sunday. In November of 1916, they asked the Session to sponsor their application to the Presbytery for establishment of a Presbyterian Church and were organized as The Hope Presbyterian Church that same month. Our pastor, The Rev. Dr. Thomas Graham acted as moderator.

A century later, the circumstances are different, but there is something wonderfully familiar about the opportunity, another Christian community needs a place to gather, and we have room.

For now, that is enough reason to say, **Come on in.**

Over the coming weeks, you will begin seeing new faces in the building on Sunday mornings and Saturdays. Please introduce yourself. Help people find their way. Extend the same welcome we hope anyone entering our building would receive.

We will learn the rest together. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Sarah
Pastor Sarah

Men's Bible Study Retreat

All men of the church are invited to attend First Presbyterian's Annual Men's Bible Study Retreat, scheduled for Friday evening, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10. The retreat is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow men at First Presbyterian and learn about God's message for men.

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. Continuing Saturday morning (breakfast provided) and ending around 3:00 p.m., it will again be led by Dr. Stephen Reed, professor emeritus and former chair of the Religion & Philosophy Department at the University of Jamestown. With a view to our coming monthly study of Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians, Steve plans to prepare us by looking at passages in the Old Testament about imitating God and ones in the New Testament about imitating Jesus.

If haven't made your reservation, you can do so 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@ymail.com) or Bruce Maylath (ring4linguist@yahoo.com or 701-866-2626), and we will coordinate with others seeking a roommate.

Kirkin' o' the Tartans



You Are Invited

- Historic Church
- Bagpipe & Drum Corps
- Celtic Dancers

Our Annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans Service

NOV. 8, 2026
9:00AM & 11:00AM

Contact First Presbyterian Fargo for more details:
☎ (701) 293-6311
✉ admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org

Mark your calendars and prepare your plaid! Our Kirkin' O' The Tartans services will be at 9am and 11am on November 8th. All of the traditional elements will be included, from pipers to Celtic dancers! Don't forget to bring your piece of Tartan Plaid with you (with name taped or pinned to the back) to the service so that you can participate in the traditional "Calling of the Clans."

Monthly Bible Study for Men Begins

On the heels of its annual retreat, the men's Bible study kicks off its monthly study for the program year on October 13th at 6:45 a.m., 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 the 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. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

Micah's Mission, Changes Afoot This Fall

Thanks to many of you we are making great progress in developing TEAMS to serve at Micah's Mission throughout the coming year. What does a team look like? Here is an example of the Secor Team that prepared and served the September 10th meal at Micah's Mission. Seen here are the following: (L to R): Maggie Sundberg (8th grade), Dan Sundberg (Maggie's dad and Greta's uncle), Greta Sundberg (NDSU), Flo (the most amazing Micah's Mission kitchen coordinator), Jonas Nelson (MSUM), Connie Weed (chosen family). Not pictured: Colin May and Sharon Secor.



What does your team look like?

We have 3-4 TEAMS already signed up but could use 2 more. First Pres Fargo always serves the evening meal of lasagna and garlic bread on the second Thursday of each month.

Interested? Please call or text Colleen Ford-Dunker at 701-451-0751. She is currently the Micah's Mission Volunteer Coordinator for our church and would be happy to answer any questions. Instructions and mentoring available!

Baker Downer Fish Fry

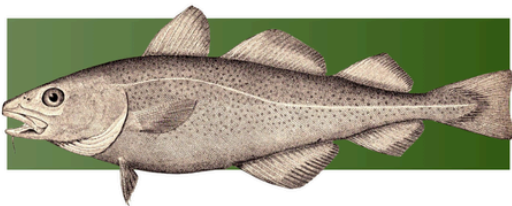
Join us at Baker Downer Presbyterian Church Friday, Oct. 23 from 4pm-7pm for an Annual Fish Fry! Reach out to Sandy, Glen, Kathy and Carolyn on the planning team if you are interested in volunteering!

 Baker-Downer Presbyterian & St. James UCC 

FISH FRY

Join us at Baker Downer Presbyterian Church

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026 | 4:00-7:00PM



Menu

Fried Fish, Baked Potatoes, Coleslaw, Corn, Garlic Toast, Rolls, Dessert, and Beverages

\$20 — 12 years and above

\$10 — ages 6-11

Free — ages 5 and under

Takeout meals can be ordered at the door

Special thanks to Mainline Bar & Grill for supplying the fish and to Barnesville Grocery for providing other food items

 (218) 789-1488  www.bakerdownerchurch.org  11927 123rd Ave S Baker, MN

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.

If you missed our September gathering, don't worry—three more opportunities are coming! Watch for details about our October, November, and December events, and join us as we continue exploring how we can build more peaceful and just communities together.

Holy Buckets!

Holy Buckets continues to collect new or slightly used winter clothing for kids and teens at Bdecan Presbyterian Church. Winter coats, snow-pants, boots and all other gear in all sizes are needed. 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.

Diaper Drive



We're celebrating Baby Joey Brovold, son of Drew and Mady Brovold, the first baby born to a member of our church staff in many years!

Help us celebrate Joey and support other families by donating Pampers diapers, sizes 2-4, through the end of October. Drew and Mady will use what they need for Joey, and all remaining diapers will be donated to local pantries.

Financial Summary August - General Fund

First Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary - General Fund Only
August 2026

	Year to Date <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	Increase <u>(Decrease)</u>	Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$553,205	\$538,493	\$14,711	\$842,800
Expense	<u>578,312</u>	<u>586,975</u>	<u>-8,663</u>	<u>875,737</u>
Net/Shortfall	<u><u>-\$25,107</u></u>	<u><u>-\$48,482</u></u>	<u><u>\$23,374</u></u>	<u><u>-\$32,937</u></u>

Dates to Remember

Oct. 4 — World Communion Sunday

Oct. 7 — Heart-n-Soul Community Café

Oct. 9 & 10 — Men's Bible Study Retreat

Oct. 12 — OFFICE CLOSED

OCT. 14 — NO YOUTH MUSIC/YOUTH GROUP

Oct. 18 — NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Oct. 23 — Baker Downer Fish Dinner

Oct. 23 — Messenger Article Deadline

Nov. 1 — Remembering the Saints Service

Nov. 8 — Kirkin' O' the Tartans Services



First Presbyterian Church

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www.firstpresfargo.org