

13 SEPT.

Rally Day & Registration

20 SEPT.

First day of
Sunday School



PARENT GUIDEBOOK

*Learn about programming
opportunities for youth
and children.*

- ✓ Sunday School
- ✓ Curriculum for all levels
- ✓ Youth activities
- ✓ Musical ensembles

2026-27

Sunday Mornings

9:15 - 10:15

Wednesday Evenings

5:00 Dinner

5:30 Bells

6:15 Choirs

7:00 Youth Group



Call Us
701-293-6311



First Presbyterian Church
650 2nd Ave N, Fargo

Sunday School Coordinator



We're grateful to have Carrie Lawrence serving as our Sunday School Coordinator. A longtime member of First Pres, Carrie has been deeply involved in children's ministry through Sunday School, VBS, Kaleidoscope, and more. She brings a background in education, having taught in Moorhead Public Schools and worked in various childcare programs. Carrie and her husband, Jack, were married at First Pres and have raised their two children, Jayci and Carsten, in this church family. She brings warmth, creativity, and a love for kids to everything she does!.



Director of Church Life

Rusty Bender is the Director of Church Life at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. Originally from Cooperstown, ND, Rusty has served in this role for over two years, overseeing both Christian Education and Worship Arts, including the coordination of all music ministries. He holds a degree from NDSU and is pursuing a Master of Divinity at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Rusty enjoys being part of this vibrant faith community as we continue to preach, teach, heal, and serve the world around us.



Youth (6-12) Sunday School

New this year, youth in grades 6-12 are invited to gather for a combined Sunday School experience. Using the Café Conversations that accompany our Follow Me curriculum, youth will explore the same faith practices and themes being introduced in our children's Sunday School—through conversation and activities designed specifically for youth.

Our coffee and cocoa bar will also be open each Sunday morning, giving youth a chance to grab a warm drink while they gather, connect, and settle into the morning together.

This gives our young people an opportunity to ask questions, share their perspectives, and explore how faith connects with their everyday lives, while helping create shared conversations about faith across generations at FPC Fargo.



Youth Group

SAVE!
THE DATE

Meeting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings, FPC Fargo Youth Group offers a welcoming, inclusive space for youth in grades 6 through 12 to come together for fun, connection, and meaningful conversation.

Each week, we begin our time together as a combined group before youth typically divide into Middle School (grades 6–8) and High School (grades 9–12) groups, giving everyone space to connect with peers and explore topics and activities appropriate to their age and experiences. Throughout the year, we also come together as a combined group for special activities, creative projects, service opportunities, and plenty of fun.

Youth Group is a time to relax, build friendships, and connect with caring adults who support and listen. Together, we explore how our faith lives and grows—not just at church, but at home, in the world, and within ourselves. Through conversation, hands-on projects, service, and experiences beyond the church building, we discover ways to live out our call to love God and serve others.

Whether you've grown up at FPC Fargo or are joining us for the first time, there is a place for you here. All are welcome to join the journey!

Presbytery Fall
Youth Retreat

2–4 OCT.

Jamestown

FREE FREE FREE

Clearwater Camp
Opportunities

SNOW CAMP

3–12 grade

8–10 JAN.

clearwaterforest.org

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a meaningful opportunity for youth to explore their faith, learn more about God and the church, and deepen their understanding of our Presbyterian tradition.

FPC Fargo offers Confirmation every other year for students in 8th grade and older. There will not be a Confirmation class during the 2026–2027 program year. Our next class will be offered in 2027–2028 and will be open to current 8th and 9th graders, along with any older high school students who have not yet been confirmed.

Together, students explore discipleship, build community, and consider what it means to claim their faith and become active members of the church.

Sunday School

Sundays at 9:15a.m.



CHILDREN'S

Children from Pre-K (age 3) through 5th grade are invited to join us for Sunday School! Caring volunteer teachers lead age-based classrooms using our engaging Presbyterian Follow Me curriculum.

Each Sunday begins at 9:15 AM with a large-group welcome, followed by classroom stories, activities, and conversation. Together, children explore the Bible, learn about Jesus, and discover ways to live out their faith.

Sunday School concludes at 10:15 AM, just in time for 10:30 worship.

NURSERY

We are pleased to provide a safe, caring space for children birth to age 3 while parents and caregivers participate in worship and church life. A qualified attendant is present at all times.

Our older nursery children begin in the Sanctuary with our worship childcare attendant, participating in worship together through the Children's Message. They then transition to a classroom for stories, a snack, creative projects, games, and play in a welcoming environment designed just for them.

Curriculum

Follow Me is a twenty-seven-unit curriculum based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. It is written for people of all ages, allowing us to teach all levels around the same theme and provide continuity across all classrooms. This curriculum examines where Jesus' practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now. We are on year 3 of a 4 year rotation.

Worship God



9/20 – Worship God – We Gather & Participate

9/27 – Worship God – We Are Changed & We Bless God

10/4 – Lament – Lament Out Loud

10/11 – Lament – Cry Out to God

10/18 – ***NO Sunday School*** – MN/NDEA

Lament



10/25 – Lament – Remember Jesus

11/1 – Lament – Have Hope!

11/8 – ***NO Sunday School*** – Kirkin' o' the Tartans

11/15 – Hope – Hear Hope

11/22 – Hope – See Hope

Hope



11/29 – ***NO Sunday School*** – Happy Thanksgiving!

12/6 – Hope – Share Hope

12/13 – Hope – Proclaim Hope

12/20 – Holiday Parties in Classrooms!

12/27 & 1/3 – ***NO Sunday School*** – Happy Holidays!

MUSIC



Music is a vital part of worship and community life at First Presbyterian, bringing people together to share their gifts, deepen their faith, and enrich our worship. Our vision is a music ministry that is vibrant, welcoming, creative, and open to the many gifts within our congregation.

Alongside our choirs, handbell ensembles, and seasonal orchestra, we offer opportunities for soloists, small ensembles, instrumentalists, and intergenerational collaborations. Whether participating weekly, seasonally, or for a special project, there are many ways to make music at First Presbyterian.

We strive to create a community of artistry, joy, friendship, and faithful service where musicians of all ages and experience levels can find a place to belong, grow, and share their gifts.

FRIENDSHIP CHOIR (K-2)

Director **Erin Torpey**

emtorpey@gmail.com
701-212-2017

Rehearsal Rehearsals Resume -
September 16, 2026
Wednesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m.
No rehearsal on 10/14,
11/25, 12/23, and 12/30

Sing Introit for 10:30 worship
● 10/25
● 11/22
● 12/13 - 6:30p.m.
● 12/20

**Carols by
Candlelight** Rehearsal 12/12 10:00 a.m.
Sing 12/13 at 6:30 p.m.

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM CHOIR (3-6)

Director **Pam Andrist-Burns**

pcapuch@msn.com
701-361-6984

Rehearsal Rehearsals Resume -
September 16, 2026
Wednesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m.
No rehearsal on 10/14,
11/25, 12/23, and 12/30

Sing Anthem for 10:30 worship
● 10/25
● 11/22
● 12/13 - 6:30p.m.
● 12/20
● 12/24 - 5:00p.m.

**Carols by
Candlelight** Rehearsal 12/12 10:00 a.m.
Sing 12/13 at 6:30 p.m.

PROCLAMATION CHOIR (7-12)

Director **Rusty Bender**

rbender@firstpresfargo.org
701-293-6311 ext. 106

Rehearsal Rehearsals Resume -
September 16, 2026
Wednesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m.
No rehearsal on 10/14,
11/25, 12/23, and 12/30

Sing Anthem for 10:30 worship
● TBD
● 11/8
● 12/13 - 6:30p.m.
● 12/24 - 5:00p.m.

**Carols by
Candlelight** Rehearsal 12/12 10:00 a.m.
Sing 12/13 at 6:30 p.m.



GENESIS RINGERS (handbells for music readers)

Director **Rusty Bender**

rbender@firstpresfargo.org
701-293-6311 ext. 106

Rehearsal Rehearsals Resume -
September 16, 2026
Wednesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m.
No rehearsal on 10/14,
11/25, 12/23, and 12/30

Play Offertory for 10:30 worship
● 10/25
● 11/22
● 12/20



**Register by
scanning
the QR code!**





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Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: (701) 293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org