



**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.

January 11, 2026

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of life and new life, you are strong and faithful beyond measure. Let your voice rise above the noise that surrounds me, calling me beloved and grounding me in your grace. May I live each day trusting that I am held, claimed, and sent by your love. Amen.

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Toby Christensen

The Spirit of God moves over the waters,
calling creation into life and order.

From ancient seas to flowing rivers, God's grace makes a way,
leading people from fear toward freedom.

God speaks love over all that God has made,
claiming and naming us as beloved.

Here, in this place, the Spirit still stirs,
inviting us to listen, to trust, and to follow.

Come, people of God,
let us worship the One who calls us beloved and makes all things new.

❖ HYMN 482

Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

❖ CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God of boundless grace, you show no partiality and no favoritism, yet we confess that our love is often limited. We draw lines where you draw circles. We cling to fear instead of compassion, and judge instead of listening. Forgive our intolerance and our narrow vision. Open our eyes to see others as you see them—beloved, worthy, and claimed by your love. Wash us clean, renew our hearts, and lead us to live as people shaped by mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

❖ RESPONSE 581

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Acts 10:34-43, pp. 1002

Abi Carlson, reader

Matthew 3:13-17, pp. 879

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

SERMON

The Rev. Devlyn Brooks

HYMN 297

In Christ Called to Baptize

In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace
and gather a people from each land and race.

In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.

In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,
a haven of welcome, a circle of care.

Although we are many, we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.

In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise
in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.

Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,
for you are within us, around us, above.
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders - Ordination: Wayne Sander (2028), Jeana Scheffler (2028), Erin Torpey (2028); Installation: Tom Dawson (2028), Kathy Scheffler (2028), Troy Schmidt (2028)

Deacons - Ordination: Taaren Haak (2028), Aubrey DeCoteau (2028); Installation: Jan Carlsen (2026), Toby Christensen (2028), Gracia Fulwiler (2028), Brian Peterson (2026), Virginia Stern (2028)

INVITATION

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

LAYING ON OF HANDS

DECLARATION – *Community of elders, please stay for a moment.*

❖ PASSING OF THE PEACE

Responding to the Word



OFFERING MESSAGE

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

OFFERTORY You Shall Go Out with Joy

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director & piano

Patti Drennan

❖ RESPONSE 606

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

❖ HYMN 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

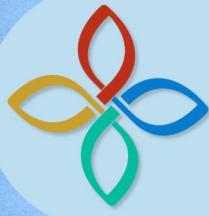
So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thank you to the Trumbo family on livestream and soundboard, Toby Christensen and Abi Carlson for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Curt Brickman, Debbie Tight, Dianne Connelly, and Troy & Rachel Schmidt and family for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Matthew Pechtl and the Sanctuary Choir, directed by Bryan Poyzer.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF FARGO

Sunday Worship

January 11, 2026

Men's Bible Study: The men's Bible study continues its exploration of the Book of Ecclesiastes with Lesson 4 on January 13th at 6:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May. Egg bake, pastries, and coffee will be served again this winter. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study guide for Ecclesiastes can be obtained from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. Participants may join at any time. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

PW Bible Study Leaders: On January 14 the PW Bible Study leaders will meet to discuss on Lesson 5 of this year's Bible Study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*.

PW Circles: The morning PW Circles will meet on January 20 in the Jennie Roberts Room at 9:30am, and the afternoon Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Judy Rippentrop at (701) 730-1836.

CHILI COOK OFF

February 1 after worship



Sign up here!

Sign up on the Volunteer Opportunities Board or by scanning the QR code!

Perfect your chili today!

Join us for

BINGO

at Mainline Grill in Downer

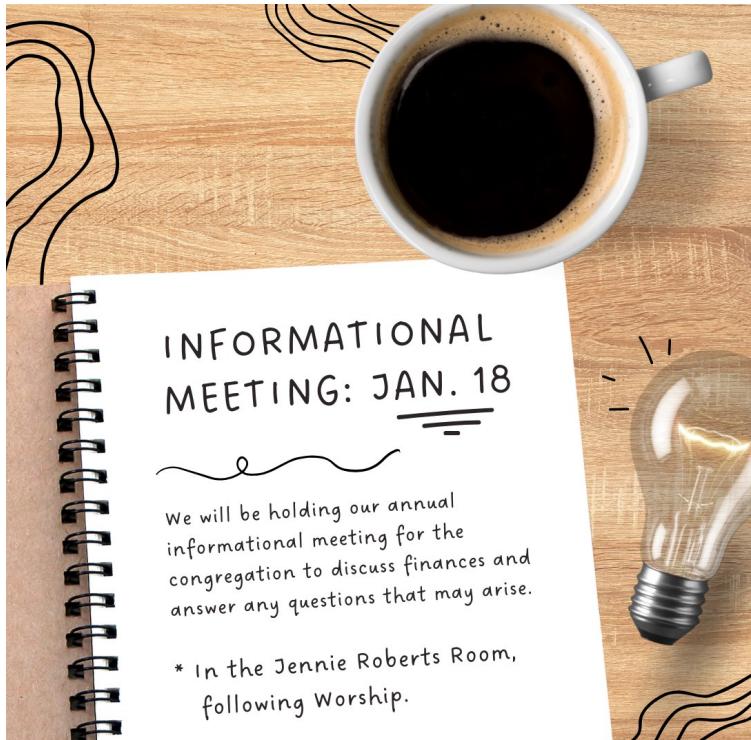
18 JAN. 2026
9571 STATE HWY 9, DOWNER
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Play hard • Win big
• Have fun

* Lunch will not be provided; feel free to purchase your own meal from the venue!

SAVE THE DATE! Our annual Chili Cook-Off is right around the corner, so practice your recipes and come hungry on Sunday, February 1st! Sign-up sheets are posted on the Volunteer Opportunities board, or you can scan the QR code above to sign up online. There is also an additional sheet to sign up to bring things like shredded cheese, sour cream, crackers, and veggies. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Lawrence in the church office!

Covenant of Prayer: Joyce Brummond, died Dec. 27th, services Tuesday, January 27th, Wright Funeral Home, 10 am visitation, 11 am memorial service; Norman Backes, died Dec. 12th, services Saturday, April 18th, Boulger Funeral Home, 1pm visitation, 2pm memorial service; David Hoffman, back surgery; Wayne Sander, angiogram; Penny Andrist, immunotherapy; Marcia Foss, appendix infection; James (Beatrice Janaka)



**INFORMATIONAL
MEETING: JAN. 18**

We will be holding our annual informational meeting for the congregation to discuss finances and answer any questions that may arise.

* In the Jennie Roberts Room, following Worship.

Join us for

BINGO

at Mainline Grill in Downer

18 JAN. 2026
9571 STATE HWY 9, DOWNER
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Play hard • Win big
• Have fun

* Lunch will not be provided; feel free to purchase your own meal from the venue!

You are invited, Sunday, Jan. 18, for lunch and Bingo at Mainline in Downer, MN. The event is scheduled from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM; please note that lunch will be self-pay. Attendees are encouraged to arrange their own meals at the venue during the event. Following the meal we will be playing Bingo for various prizes! We want to extend our gratitude to our friends in Downer, especially Mainline, for supporting the B-D Fish Fry in Oct., 2025.

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, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Jim McEvers, Sharon Secor, Paula Thomas (clerk), Jeff Wilkens, and Steve Wonderlich. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Dianne Connelly, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Sydney Goddard, David Hoffman, Gayla McGoldrick, Wayne Sander, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Kevin Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Church Treasurer: Sherri Stern.

Church Staff

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood: *Head of Staff, Pastor*
The Rev. Daniel Billings: *Parish Associate*
The Rev. Cathie Bishop: *Parish Associate*
Rusty Bender: *Director of Church Life*
Bryan Poyzer: *Adult Choir Director*
Carrie Lawrence: *Sunday School Coordinator*
Jan Lundgren: *Business Manager*
Casey LeMier: *Communications & Admin Assistant*
Rick Fiebiger: *Facilities Manager*
Drew Brovold: *Custodian*

Staff emails are: (first initial and last name of person) @firstpresfargo.org

Reminder: Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website. Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!

For Your Information

January 4, 2026 Attendance: 155

93 in person

62 households livestreamed

Contribution information will be available 1/18



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

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

Sunday, January 11, 2026

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation Small Group Meetings

Monday, January 12

10:00 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 13

6:45 Men's Bible Study

5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting (H)

Wednesday, January 14

10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders

5:00 Wednesday Activities Meal

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass Rehearsal

5:30 Genesis Ringers Rehearsal

6:15 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsals

6:30 Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 15

12:15 Centering Prayer

Friday, January 16

No Church Events

Saturday, January 17

10:00 PW Circle (H)

Sunday, January 18

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 New Members Sunday Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

11:45 Annual Financial Presentation

1:00 Bingo & Fellowship @ Mainline Bar and Grill in Downer, MN

Make Stewardship Easy! You can set up the amount you've pledged as a recurring gift to the church. It couldn't be any easier! We offer both an ACH withdrawal from your bank account (no fees!) or Online Giving through our website. Recurring gifts are like the Crock Pot of church giving - "fix it and forget it!". Easy for you and it helps the church to see a steady stream of income through the year. Give it a try! There's an ACH Authorization form on our website under "Forms". Questions? Please contact Jan Lundgren in the church office at jlundgren@firstpresfargo.com.