



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.

Please join us outside for fellowship 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.*

We Gather in Christ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of courage, you gave Esther the strength to speak out and the intelligence she needed to save her people. Help us to believe that you are still present and active in this world and that your grace remains as an everlasting force in our lives. In Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

PRELUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Hobby

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

If it had not been for God, who was on our side,
we would have fallen prey to those who want to harm us;
we would have been swept away by sadness and fear.

Blessed be the Lord, our protector!

God has broken the snare that took away our freedom.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God's holy name!

HYMN 667: *When Morning Gilds the Skies

**When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:**

may Jesus Christ be praised!

**Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:**

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?

A solace here I find:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss?

My comfort still is this:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

With sincere and repentant hearts,
let us name our sins against Christ and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, Judge of the nations: We confess that we have not seen your face among our neighbors in need. We have not shared our food with the hungry; we have not offered clothes to the destitute or shelter to the homeless. We have not welcomed the stranger, nor have we visited prisoners. We have not paid attention to these, your sisters and brothers, and in our neglect we have failed to serve you. Lord, forgive us; open our eyes to recognize your beloved family, and give us the blessing of sincere repentance that we may know the joy of eternal life with you and all the saints in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends,
God seeks the lost sheep and feeds them with justice.
Forgiven and freed,
turn, then, and live in Christ, our Lord.

*RESPONSE: *God Welcomes All*

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

All for Thee
Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director

arr. Schrader

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love,
at the impulse of thy love.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for thee;
take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King,
always, only for my King.
Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever only, all for thee; all for thee.

CHILDREN'S TIME: Penny Andrist

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: reader, Mike Lochow

Your Word is our salt;
without it, we lose our being,
our joy, and our ability to endure.
Open our hearts and our minds
to listen, to really listen,
to your Word today. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

May God bless the reading and hearing of this portion of the holy Word.

SECOND LESSON: James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed

fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

SERMON: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***HYMN 488:** *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

**“I was there to hear your borning cry;
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.”**

**“When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.”**

**“In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I’ve begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.”**

**“I was there to hear your borning cry;
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.”**

A SERVICE OF BAPTISM: Taylor Nicole Wilkens, daughter of Allen & Ashley Wilkens; Jeff Wilkens, presiding Elder.

PRESENTATION

Parents: Do you desire that Taylor Nicole be baptized? **I do.**

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child? **I do.**

Sponsors: Do you promise, through prayer and example, to support and encourage Taylor to

be a faithful Christian? **I do.**

Congregation: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Taylor by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church? **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

RENUNCIATIONS *(parents and congregation)*

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

PROFESSION: *Apostles' 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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, Eternal God,...

THE BAPTISM

LAYING ON OF HANDS

WELCOME

Taylor has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE: You Have Put on Christ

You have put on Christ, in Christ you have been bap - tized.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

HYMN 318: *In Christ There is No East or West

**In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies

arr. Young



September 26, 2021

Covenant Of Prayer: Mary Bohnenblust; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; and our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya.

Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

It's Time for Nominations! Do you know someone who might be called to serve as a Deacon or Elder of First Presbyterian? Do you feel the call yourself? If you would like to suggest a name for consideration, please let Pastor Mary know and she will anonymously pass the name along to the nominating committee for consideration.

Sing With the Choir: This is an invitation to sing with the choir as we prepare music for the upcoming season. Perhaps you've thought about singing with the choir but haven't wanted to commit for the full program year. Please know that all singers are welcome, whether for a short or long period of time. **Choir rehearsals are held in the choir room on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.** Please join us!

Holy Buckets: For the months of September and October, Holy Buckets will support our youth's participation in the Homeless and Hungry Project. We will collect the following: laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, new/gently used winter wear, new/gently used shoes/boots, children's books. Some of the winter wear will also be shared with the children of Bdecan Presbyterian Church. You may place your donations in the green buckets in the foyer.

Per Capita: If you have not yet paid Per Capita for 2021, it's not too late! The office will be accepting payments through the end of the year. Your contribution will be reflected on your giving record and will be greatly appreciated to help offset the Per Capita Apportionment payment sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. 2021 rate = \$48.00 per confirmed member.

Separate Checks Please: When making multiple payments/donations, please write separate checks for each. For example, when making your pledge payment and paying your Per Capita, write 2 checks instead of totaling the amounts and writing one check. Thank you.

A Peek @ Next Week: We will be enjoying music by the Sanctuary Choir, 7-12 Choir, and Genesis Ringers. Communion will be served by coming forward for the elements.

Peace & Global Witness: A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. **This offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 3.**

PW News: Our YWCA Shelter representative has asked all who are able to help the PW with the urgent needs of our YWCA shelter. We will be collecting shampoo and/or conditioner from **September 26-October 19.** These items can be placed in the YWCA bin in the West Coat Room. Of course, we are happy to receive anything on their "urgent needs" list.

PW Mission recipient, The New Life Center, will host a Dessert Social at the Delta Hotel on **September 28, at 6:30 pm.** It will feature Mike Williams, a Christian Comedian.

On Friday, **October 1, at 2:00 pm,** Church Women United will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church on 5th St. in South Fargo.

The **PW Board will meet on Tuesday, October 12, at 11:00 am via ZOOM.** There is no general meeting this month.

Circles will meet on Tuesday, October 19, at 2:00 pm via ZOOM, for Lesson 2 of our Bible Study for 2021-22, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me.* Pastor Mary Holtey will lead us through this lesson. **Esther Circle will meet at 9:30 am the same day,** at the home of Jan Carlsen (1012 Park Drive S. 58102).

ManUP: ManUP, a men's Bible study, kicks off its monthly sessions on **October 12 at 6:45 am via ZOOM.** The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October-May. 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 Epistle to the Hebrews. A copy of the study guide can be obtained at [Hebrews: An Open Door to God | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#) or you can request a copy and ask for a Zoom invitation from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

Wish to Join the Prayer Chain? Periodically, during the course of any given year, prayer requests are made and given to the prayer chain for their additional prayer. If you wish to be part of the prayer chain, contact Pastor Mary to add your name to the chain. Confidential prayer requests will be given to you via email. Come and be part of this gentle and vital ministry.

Hearing devices and large print copies of today's hymns 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)

Church Staff

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Head of Staff, Associate Pastor*

Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*

Bryan Poyzer-*Adult Choir Director*

Jan Lundgren-*Business Manager*

Monica Gelinske-*Administrative Assistant*

Penny Andrist-*Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Kayla Bones-*Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Rick Fiebiger-*Facilities Manager*

Drew Brovold-*Custodian*

All staff emails are:

(first initial and last name of person)@firstpresfargo.org

FPC Officers

Session: Kim Carter, Tom Clusiau, Lisa Edison-Smith, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Bruce Furness, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Kurt Kooyer, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Scott Swanholm, Paula Thomas, and Kevin Tobosa, Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens.

Deacons: Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Bob Morton, Karen Rivers, Andrea Smith, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Treasurer: Sherri Stern



Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 8:30am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom

Sunday, September 26

11:30 Outdoor Fellowship / ZOOM Coffee Hour (Z)

12:00 Confirmation

Monday, September 27

5:00 Stewardship Cmt.

Tuesday, September 28

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

Wednesday, September 29

5:30 Genesis Ringers / St. Andrew's Brass

6:15 Youth Choirs

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 30 *No Church Events*

Friday, October 1 *No Church Events*

Saturday, October 2 *No Church Events*

Sunday, October 3 **World Communion Sunday**

9:15 Sunday School for ALL

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Outdoor Fellowship / ZOOM Coffee Hour (Z)

12:00 Confirmation

For Your Information

September 19 Worship Attendance:

117 in person, 38 Livestreamed

Contributions Received: \$13,032.00

FPC Financial Summary

August 2021 - General Fund Only

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$542,493	\$498,407	\$44,086	\$779,600
Expense	490,283	528,542	-\$38,259	798,774
Net/Shortfall	\$52,210	-\$30,135	\$5,827	-\$19,174
Net Ins. Proceeds/Repairs	0			
Grand Total	\$52,210			