



COVID-19 Update

The Session of FPC, Fargo decided to suspend all public gatherings at church, including Sunday services, until **after May 1 at the earliest**. This includes all gatherings at the church including committee meetings, worship, and other events/groups we typically host. Committee Chairs should expect to hear from the staff who support the committee about how we plan to provide a video conferencing solution (ZOOM) to the need for committees to meet and do work without gathering in the same place. The Session is closely monitoring developments as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves and will meet regularly to revisit our decisions about how we will continue in ministry in these trying times.

ManUp Takes to ZOOM

The ManUP Bible study for men **continues Tuesday, April 14, at 6:45-7:45 am, but virtually via ZOOM**. If you'd like to receive the ZOOM link to connect, please e-mail Mike Burns at mjburns52@icloud.com. 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 apostle Peter's First Letter. A copy of the study guide can be obtained at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/firstpeter.pdf> or you can request a copy from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

Holy Buckets: April & May!

During the next two months we will be collecting items for "Move-out Kits" for the residents of the New Life Center. As they leave the shelter, they are given these necessary items as they begin anew. The kits include personal items, such as toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, and also household items, including broom and dustpan, towels, plunger and garbage bags. Copies of the complete list are available to be picked up from the table in the west entrance (along with the buckets). Or, you may prefer to make a financial donation to the church; we'll do the shopping! Clearly mark your check or online gift "Move-out Kits." Thank you for your continued generosity to our neighbors in the community.

Easter Flowers

There will be flowers! More information regarding pick up of your flowers will be coming in the next few weeks as we learn more about our schedule.

OGHS

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. **We will receive your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing throughout the season of Lent and Easter.** Envelopes can be found on the table just inside the west entrance or you can make an online payment on our website, under Give.

The Pilgrimage

In many ways, our lives have become simpler as we follow recommendations for social distancing. Have you considered how these interruptions in our busy lives might lead to spiritual blessings?

Join Pastor Paul as he focuses on the gift of simplicity and its benefits for our lives. *When True Simplicity is Gained* will be offered on **ZOOM on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 pm on April 7 and 14**. To connect, go to www.thepilgrimage.net and find the course on the events calendar. When you click on the event you will see a link button to connect you to the ZOOM meeting.

This course is provided by The Pilgrimage ministry, which encourages Christian disciples and other seekers to grow more deeply in their relationship with a loving and merciful God. Pilgrimage courses are open to everyone.

Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be simple
'Tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down
Where we ought to be
And when we find ourselves
In the place just right
'Twill be in the valley
Of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend
We shall not be ashamed
To turn, turn
Will be our delight
'Till by turning, turning
We come round right.

Shaker song composed by
Joseph Brackett



Ministry Updates

WORSHIP: Palms are available for pickup in the west entrance should you want them.

We are offering worship in a simplified manner via the church's website and Facebook page. The staff is working together to think creatively and make these meaningful services. It is difficult to make music and share it when we are not gathering in worship together, but we will continue to choose hymns and songs that help illustrate the message each week. Sally is recording the hymns in the sanctuary on our piano. We hope to add vocals to make it easier for you to sing along! You should know that the *Glory to God* hymnal is available online, with the ability to search hymns by title, hymn number, subject, hymn tunes, etc. It is a download for those with iPads. A recording of each hymn can be played. If you have ideas or suggestions, please send them to Sally at: sharmon@firstpresfargo.org.

Kayla will be hosting a daily prayer gathering online starting on Thursday, March 19, at 10:00 am. This will be a short gathering, no more than 15 minutes, to hear God's word and pray together as a community. You can join here online: <https://ZOOM.us/j/407546603> or call +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) and use the Meeting ID: 407 526 603.

Pastor Paul has created and uploaded daily prayers modeled on the monastic patterns of daily prayer. These *Pocket Prayers* are available both through the church app and through the church website. On the website simply go to: <https://www.firstpresfargo.org/pocket-prayers>. There you can find audio files of the prayer services as well as PDF documents which you can use to follow along. If you want a hard copy of the *Pocket Prayers*, simply contact Pastor Paul and he will get them to you.

Pastor Paul will also be posting occasional devotions which will be available through the church website and through the church app as well.

OFFICE: Copies of the daily devotion book, *These Days*, are available on a table just inside the west entrance. You can also find envelopes there for One Great Hour of Sharing and Emergency Food Pantry. You can drop your offering in the drop box outside the office door or you can make an online payment through the church website, under Give.

FINANCE: Even though we are unable to worship as a church family on Sundays, please don't forget about your church home! We are still in need of your weekly offerings to pay expenses. Now is a great time to get enrolled in ACH (automatic withdrawal from your checking account) or try giving online through FPC's website or the mobile app. You can always mail your offering to the church or use the drop box found outside the office door. Please contact Jan at jlundgren@firstpresfargo.org if you'd like an ACH Authorization Form sent to you, or if you need help navigating giving through the website or mobile app.

Feb. FINANCIAL SUMMARY General Fund Only

	YTD Feb. Actual	YTD Feb. Budget
Income	\$131,820	\$160,362
Expenses	147,469	155,101
Net	-\$15,650	\$5,261

YOUTH: In the midst of this wild time, the youth will still be connecting online! We will be using online mediums to communicate with one another. We will use ZOOM and something to create a group text forum for the youth. We will still meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, but just online! You can use this link to join: <https://ZOOM.us/j/818552522>. Kayla will be sending out more detailed information to the youth and confirmation families. Please watch your email for a follow-up.

CHILDREN: Check your email and the Children & Youth Facebook page for updates to programming.

NURTURE AND OUTREACH: Though we may be apart for a time, we are eager to stay connected and committed to one another. Pastor Mary, along with deacons and others from the congregation, will be calling and emailing members who may be particularly vulnerable to this virus. Perhaps you need your medication or food staples picked up, or you have another necessary errand run. We are here to help you! Above all, we want you to know there is a listening heart at the other end of the phone. If you have a concern or a worry, or just a story to share, contact Pastor Mary at 701-293-6311 or mholtey@firstpresfargo.org. Let us know how we can be present with you!

We invite you also to remember "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40). We continue to collect non-perishable food, diapers, and other items for the Emergency Food Pantry until April 28, and pillows for the YWCA. You may drop items/checks off at the church or mail them directly to the appropriate facility. Pantries and shelters are hit particularly hard during times of emergency.

FACILITIES: We will take this time to disinfect the entire church to provide a clean and safe environment for when we can all be together again.