



The Blessings of the Resurrection!

Easter Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, April 4, 2021

9:30am and 11:30am, In-Person and Online

Victory Through Jesus Christ

Imagine that you are invited to a forum of people representing world religions. You are there representing Christianity. It sounds like a daunting task, doesn't it? But as you begin to discuss your beliefs, you are surprised to find many interesting similarities. You find that you can pray together for world peace. You agree on many issues of morality. But when you break out the bread and wine, you and your companions find that this is something for which they have no point of comparison. You discover that it is the sacrifice that Jesus made, a sacrifice which made possible a new covenant, a new relationship between God and people that separates you from the other delegates.

Can you recall the TV show, "Touched By An Angel"? It was a drama series that premiered on CBS on September 21, 1994 and ran for 211 episodes and nine seasons until its conclusion on April 27, 2003. The series stars Roma Downey, as an angel named Monica, and Della Reese, as her supervisor Tess. Throughout the series, Monica is tasked with bringing guidance and messages from God to various people who are at crossroads in their lives. There was one particular episode in which a stranger moves into a town and suddenly bad and evil things were inflicted on the town and its residents. Eventually you discovered that this stranger was a male human anthropomorphic of the devil. If you remembered the episode, you may have been as surprised as I was to see that the devil was defeated as a group of people gathered together and broke bread! I believe this was a direct (if not slightly veiled) reference to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross where He crushed Satan and the power of death. This is not the typical network fare. Yet it was exciting to me to see this show which has focused on a very non-specific, "safe" image of God suddenly take a very bold step and focus that image to the God who revealed himself in Jesus Christ.

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:55-57

Christ's sacrifice on our behalf is what defines us as Christians, and it is the reason we truly have cause to celebrate at this wonderful Easter season. Happy Resurrection Day!

Pastor Peter Dembroski

**** Office Closure ****

The front office will be
closed Monday, April 5



What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the March 16, 2021 Stated Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record. The Session of First Presbyterian Church met, virtually via Zoom at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 16th.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski, with prayer.

Moderator Dembroski led a devotion based on Ephesians 6:10-20. The devotion was closed in prayer by Ruling Elder Terry Reichardt.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the agenda, after moving the single item on the Consent Calendar to New Business, a motion to remove all restrictions related to COVID and with the addition of another item under New Business, Session meeting in person.

A brief report on the Pastor Search process was provided by PSC Vice-Chair, Goeff Beyersdorf. After a discussion on the path forward for the Pastoral Search Process, discussion and motions were tabled until the April Session Meeting.

Vital Statistics from February 17, 2021 to March 16, 2021, as well as Minutes from the February 16, 2021 Stated Session Meeting, were received. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve them as presented.

Session received the written resignation of RE Mikki Holt from service on Session. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to accept her resignation with regret.

There were no Consent Calendar items.

A written financial report from Church Treasurer Christy Repasky was received.

Session reviewed the COVID Mitigation Plan. An updated, written COVID Mitigation Plan was received. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to accept and adopt the updated plan. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to place FPC in the Medium Risk Category, as outlined in the Mitigation Plan.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to table review and action on the updated Ministry Team Responsibilities. The responsibilities will be reviewed at the April Meeting.

After a discussion on when Session should begin meeting in person again, it was **moved, seconded** and **passed** that Session would begin meeting in person at the April 20, 2021 Stated Session Meeting.

Session Ministry Teams presented written and verbal reports.

RE Terry Reichardt, on behalf of the Personnel Committee **moved** that “per IRS regulations, if a pastor wishes, the church will purchase a mobile phone with which the pastor can make and receive calls. Such phones must not be used for any other purposes than for church business. Alternatively, if a pastor wishes to be reimbursed for calls or texts made or received on his/her personal cell phone, the pastor must submit a bill from the cell phone company that shows the calls or texts made or received for the church. That amount will be reimbursed. If three consecutive monthly bills are submitted, an average of the three may be used as the amount the church will reimburse the pastor in future months”. The **motion** was **seconded** and **passed**.

RE Terry Reichardt, on behalf of the Personnel Committee **moved** that “David McConnell-Booher be awarded \$333 as a bonus along with much thanks for the extra work he did in January when we did not have a pastor”. The **motion** was **seconded** and **passed**.

RE Jenna Dreydoppel, on behalf of the Worship Committee, **moved** that “there be two worship services on April 4, 2021, Easter Sunday, at 9:30 am and 11:30 am”. The **motion** was **seconded** and **passed**.

The updated 2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the April Session Meeting.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian, and the meeting was adjourned, in prayer by Moderator Dembroski.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on April 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm, in person, in the Church Conference Room.

Dear FPC Parents,

The Children's Ministry Team wanted to provide a formal update of what is currently happening and what our plans are for the future.

First off, we are excited to be starting In-Person Sunday School again beginning on April 11. There will be two classes that meet at that time.

- PK-3rd Grade will be continuing to use Simply Loved - a curriculum that uses Bible Storytelling to support what we have already been doing. Each “season” contains two Old Testament units and one New Testament unit. All lessons end with the central theme that God loves us deeply, sent Jesus to save us, and gave the Holy Spirit to live in us.
- 4th - 6th Grade will begin a new study called Be Bold. This curriculum is specifically designed for tweens and their big questions. I love the description in this blog post: <https://www.group.com/childrens-ministry/blog/be-bold/lessons-from-be-bold-asking-the-right-questions/>. As a parent of teenagers now, I can attest to the fact that kids are asking questions sooner than they used to and that technology is taking away their innocence faster than you may realize. I love that this curriculum presents a safe place for them to explore faith and how it intersects with the world.

Second, we have decided that at this time, we will not be having Children’s Church during the service. We do not currently have the volunteer base to have both Sunday School and Children’s Church. We are choosing to place a higher priority on Sunday School where we can split children into appropriate age groups. We will have bags at the back of the church with materials to help keep your child engaged during the church service.

Finally, we have updated the job description for the part-time Director of Children’s Ministry and will be advertising very soon upon Session approval. This is a great job for someone passionate about kids and desiring something that is not full-time. If you know of someone who would be a good fit for us, please let me know. We’re hoping to hire locally.

If you have questions or concerns, I’m happy to meet with you. You can email or send me a text. We appreciate your participation and support - in fact, if you’d like to join the Children’s Ministry Team, we’d love to have you!!

With God’s Love,
Stephanie Rozell
FPC Elder for Children’s Ministry
stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com
907-687-3730

BEGINNING APRIL 11

SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Adult classes:

SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 IN
FIRESIDE ROOM - TOPICAL STUDY
LED BY BRIAN ROZELL

SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 11:15 ON
ZOOM - ROTATING LEADERSHIP
STUDYING THE BOOK OF SAMUEL

Children's classes:

SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30
CLASSES FOR FOR CHILDREN IN
PRESCHOOL THROUGH 6TH GRADE.
NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN
AGES 0-3.

*Contact Stephanie for more information or for
the zoom link:*

stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com

907-687-3730

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT FPC

Children Sunday School

begins each Sunday at 8:45am via ZOOM. For additional information, please contact Stephanie Rozell (Elder Children Ministry) at 687-3730. NOTE: SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN MEETING IN-PERSON ON SUNDAY, APRIL 11 AT 8:30, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO FOLLOW AT A LATER TIME.

Adult Sunday School

begins each Sunday at 11:15am via ZOOM. Please contact Stephanie Rozell at 687-3730, and a ZOOM link will be sent to you. NOTE: NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS STARTING ON APRIL 11 AT 8:30 IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM DOWNSTAIRS. COME ON THE FIRST WEEK FOR A DEVOTIONAL AND TO DISCUSS SOME OPTIONS FOR FUTURE WEEKS.

Men-In-Action

We have a group meeting for lunch on Monday's at 11:00am at First Presbyterian Church. We fellowship, discuss the previous Sunday's sermon, and discuss upcoming events that we are proposing to sponsor, including: a float trip on the Chena River, building beds for those in need, and providing oil change/minor car maintenance for single women and new drivers. Bring your lunch and come join us. We are also looking to start additional groups on other days and times. For more information contact Jim Aldrich at 907-378-2582 or jwaldrich@gmail.com.

Al-Anon Meetings

Al-Anon meets in the FPC Library on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:30-2 PM.

The WELL

offers take-out dinners each Wednesday from 6-7pm to the community. Offering a good meal once a week is our way of saying to our neighbors that we care about you and that God cares about you.

Prayer Time

Takes place each 3rd Sunday from 4-5pm in the sanctuary. If you are interested in attending, please contact Wanda Bowder at wjkbowder@gmail.com.

Paul and Terry Reichardt's Lifegroup Bible Study

is studying the Sermon on the Mount, especially as it applies to our personal lives. All are welcome, and this study takes place each Thursday evening at 7pm. Terry can be reached at reich@alaska.net and a ZOOM link will be sent to you.

Brenna/David McConnell-Booher Lifegroup Bible Study

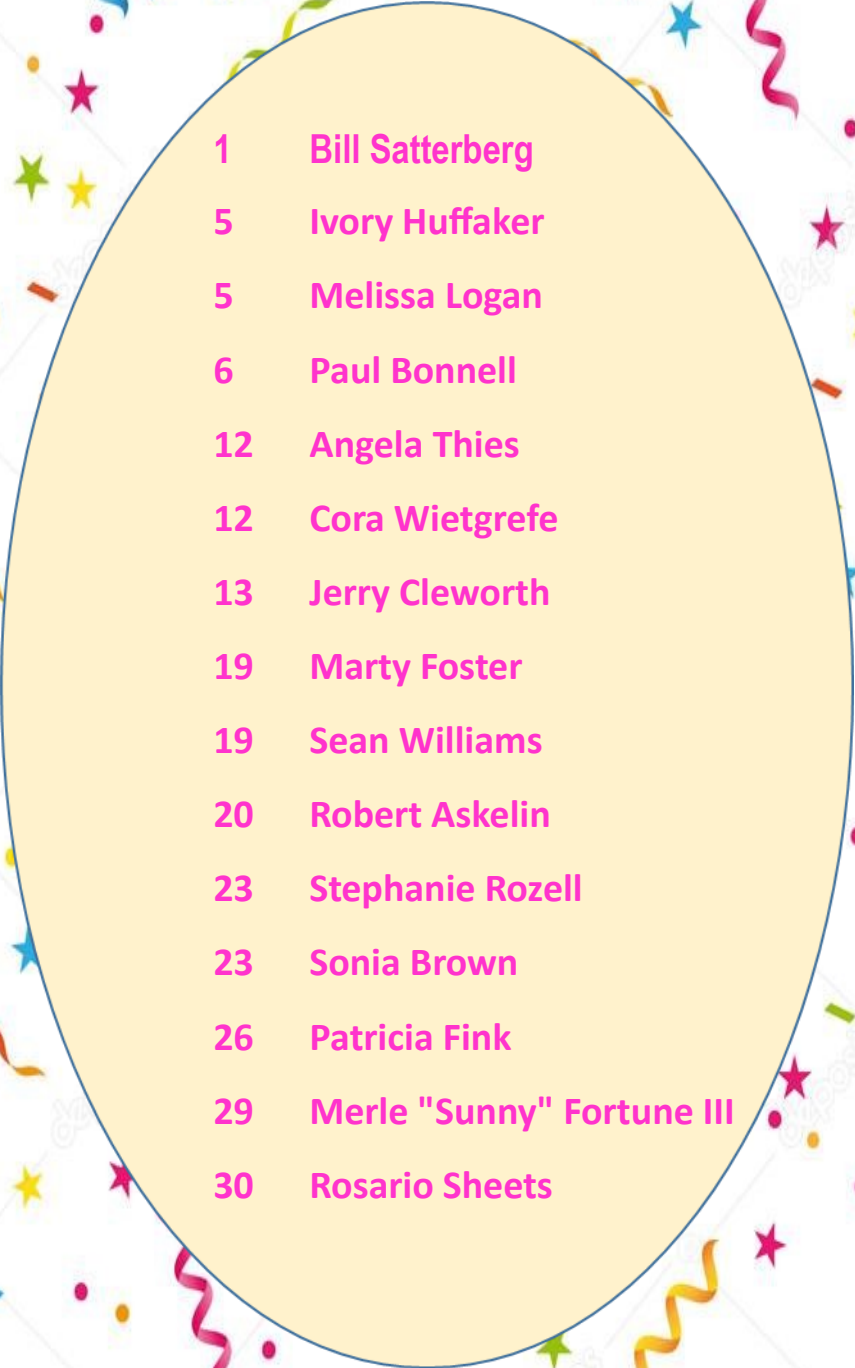
The group meets each Thursday (in person) at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room at FPC to further discuss and parse through the previous Sunday's sermon. Bring your own meal if you like, and plan for the discussion to begin at 7pm. Masks and social distancing are required. For further assistance, please contact Brenna. The group looks forward to seeing people and being able to share time with each other!

Youth News!

We are still discerning what will be available this summer as far as service, mission, and outdoor adventure trips, but we do know that we want to bless people in Jesus' name and have memory-making adventures around Fairbanks and in Alaska's natural grandeur. That means that the youth will be looking to raise funds to support these trips and activities. If you have a job that we might be able to help with, from shoveling snow to helping plant a garden to hauling away junk to washing your car, please let David know! We want to serve our church family and are happy to work for whatever you feel lead to contribute toward our goals. Thank you for all your support and prayers!

The youth continue to meet every Sunday after worship until 4pm. We also meet after school from 3-7pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

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| 1 | Bill Satterberg |
| 5 | Ivory Huffaker |
| 5 | Melissa Logan |
| 6 | Paul Bonnell |
| 12 | Angela Thies |
| 12 | Cora Wietgreffe |
| 13 | Jerry Cleworth |
| 19 | Marty Foster |
| 19 | Sean Williams |
| 20 | Robert Askelin |
| 23 | Stephanie Rozell |
| 23 | Sonia Brown |
| 26 | Patricia Fink |
| 29 | Merle "Sunny" Fortune III |
| 30 | Rosario Sheets |