

Holy Week

April 2023

Palm Sunday Service

The Beginning of Holy Week
Sunday, April 2, 2023

"Remembering How Christ Gave His Life in Love for the



Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Soup/Supper, 6pm

Worship/Communion, 7pm

"I Give You A Commandment, that You Love One Another"

"This is my Body,
this is my
blood...given for
you."

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, April 9 2023

Breakfast, 9am

Worship Service, 10am

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

547 7th Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-452-2406



In Loving Memories

A Celebration of Life is scheduled to
take place for

Dwight Eduard Morris

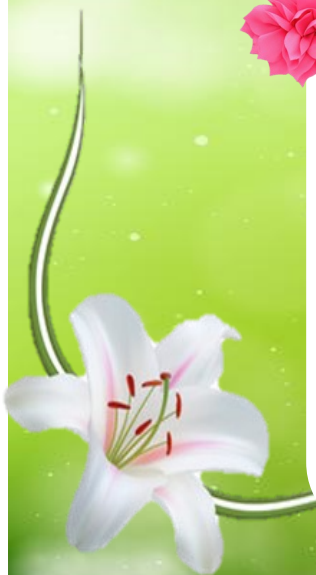
Saturday, April 8, 2023, 3pm
Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue
Fairbanks AK 99701
907-452-2406

Reception following the service

Our *Vision* is to
see the world
transformed to
love, worship and
serve Christ.

We do this
through our
Mission, which is
to welcome all
people, equip
them for a deep
and living faith in
Jesus Christ, and
send them into
the world to
share God's love.

*Happy Easter to you
and your family as we celebrate
our Father's greatest sacrifice
through His Son,
Jesus Christ.*



A WORD FROM PASTOR PETER DEMBROSKI

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 remember a great called 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

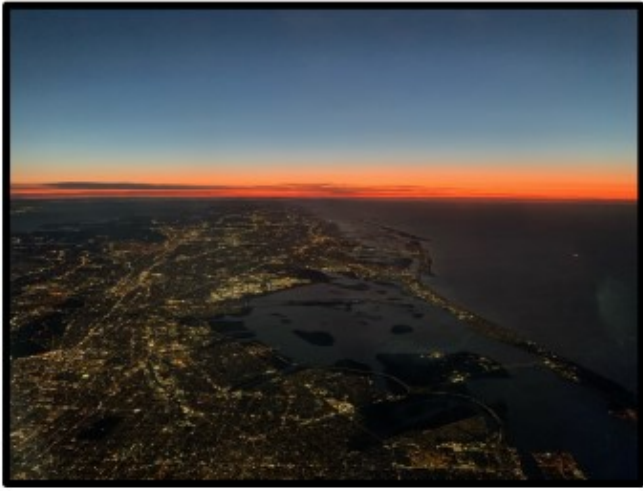
tasked with bringing guidance and messages from God to various people who are at a crossroads in their lives.

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!*



GOD is With Us ALWAYS!

God is with us ALWAYS. *"For He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones."* Proverbs 2:8

In everything we do, wherever we may go, whomever we may meet, whatever path we choose, know that God is with you. *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9

When my family traveled to New York City for an exciting week in the month of March, we experienced His love and protection every day. The beauty of the city as the sun rose on the horizon or as it made its way above the skyscrapers early in the morning brought a feeling of peace and calmness.

Experiencing the history and beauty of a classical music concert held in the Broadway Presbyterian Church, that featured an important music educator in our lives, created a new memory for all of us.

On the first day of spring, we observed green leaf buds on the trees, playful Canadian geese, and lots of birds serenading us as we walked the many paths in Central Park. We celebrated the love of family in Times Square and cherished the gifts of time and new adventures.

As the snow melts and spring emerges here in Alaska, with God's love and guidance, we welcome new beginnings and challenges. God is with us ALWAYS!

**In His service, Barbara Nore
Moderator of the FPC Deacons**



Dear FPC Family,

I am incredibly excited for what God is doing in our church, for what God is doing with our church, and for what God is doing through our church! For Brenna and myself, these last few months have been a whirlwind: completing my Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Seminary (thanks to

your donations, prayers, and encouragement), interviewing for the Pastor position here at FPC, completing requirements for Ordination in the EPC (our church's denomination), and praying constantly that God would guide us and the church throughout the entire process. In the last two weeks I took my written ordination exams, the church voted to extend a call to me to be your new pastor, and, just today, I LEARNED THAT I PASSED ALL FOUR OF MY WRITTEN ORDINATION EXAMS!

These last few weeks have been very exciting and I know that God will continue to bless and guide us as we follow Jesus Christ into the next chapter of our church's story. In the coming weeks, we will continue to witness with joy as Christ calls us deeper into discipleship and mission. We will remember and celebrate the life of Dwight Morris as he has passed through death to eternal life in Christ. Dwight was an incredibly diligent servant leader for FPC and the wider Fairbanks community as a musician, educator, father, and husband. We will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus this Easter Sunday, and we will extend all of our gratitude and blessings to Pastor Peter Dembroski as he returns to Pennsylvania after more than two years of faithful service to FPC as our Transitional Pastor on Sunday May 7th.

So much has happened and continues to happen in the life of our church and in the world around us. May we continue to see the ways that God uses the circumstances of our life to provide us with opportunities to give thanks to Him, to serve others in His name, and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ with everything that we say and everything that we do.

**With a Grateful Heart,
David McConnell-Booher**



CHILDREN'S ministry



Making Friends at Eggstravaganza

Dear First Pres. Folks,
This month in children's ministry, we worked on our Silhouette Bible story with Roots kids and they heard the Last Supper again and again while they practiced listening and working as a team. We threw a big Eggstravaganza party and invited everyone we knew. We created t-shirts for our ministry (see frog above) that show our desire to love everyone as Jesus loves us, and we sent that word out on the bodies of our kids, into the schools, into the stores and into the streets of Fairbanks. I am so thankful to my creative, hardworking Children's Ministry team, our awesome parents and our church family for the ways they worked and gave to be faithful in our ministry to kids. Soon we dig in to our summer plans, but for now I say: Praise God for the work he is doing, in and through our kids, to share the love of Christ!

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WEEKLY EVENTS:

Roots Club for Kids 3rd-5th

meets **Sundays 4-9**

Fellowship & Bible training, dinner is served at 5:00

Climb Club for Kids 6th-8th

meets **Wednesdays**

fellowship, discipleship and prayer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- April 2 Palm Sunday, Silhouette Bible Story
- April 9 EASTER BREAKFAST FOR ALL
- April 16 9:00 Sunday school
- April 23 9:00 Sunday school
- April 30 9:00 Sunday school

We teach one Bible story at 9:00 to all ages, then split into three classrooms:

- k-2--hands on Bible experiences
- 3-5--puzzles and team challenges
- Middle School--conversation and creating

MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

This month, the Children's Ministry team

- planned the Egg-stravaganza event and staffed 4 tables
- attended the Vision Workshop and looked at our ministry through the lenses "Outreach, Evangelism and Discipleship"
- Discussed next year and the needs of our different aged groups as they grow.
- Our next Meeting is scheduled for April 16, following the church service.

Finance and Stewardship

I recently read an article titled "What is Reformed Spirituality?" by Highes Oliphant Old, (1933–2016), a Presbyterian pastor, preacher, professor, painter, prolific author, and among the world's leading experts on Reformed worship. His commentary on Stewardship resonated with me, (the Stewardship & Finance Elder). His comments fit beautifully with the work of our Vision Team. I would like to share his writing on stewardship with all of you. *Barbara Page*

Stewardship

"Stewardship is yet another major theme of a Reformed spirituality. Reacting against the asceticism of the Middle Ages, the Reformers took the parables of Jesus concerning the good stewards and their care of the talents entrusted to them as the basis for a new Christian understanding of the use of wealth (Lk 12:42–48 and Matt 25:14–30). In the centuries that followed, Christian merchants, craftsmen, housewives, farmers, and bankers began to discover positive spiritual value in their work. More and more they found in their industry, in their labor, and in their professions a true vocation. Family life, the raising of children, the support of the elderly, and the care of a home were more and more regarded as sacred trusts. This new approach to life was beautifully expressed by the seventeenth century Dutch painters. Vermeer, de Hooch, Hobbema, and Rembrandt eloquently showed us the sacredness of everyday life as they painted the kitchen, the

courtyards, and the country lanes in which Dutchmen lived out their Christian lives. The Puritans in both England and America gave family life a new dignity by making daily family prayer a primary spiritual discipline. Every Christian home is a little Church, as Richard Baxter put it. In such classics as Baxter's Christian Directory we find a great deal on the subject of Reformed spirituality and especially of how it functioned in the life of the family.

Part of the Reformed understanding of stewardship is what some have called the Protestant work ethic. As maligned as it was back in the Sixties, it was an essential part of the spirituality which has time and time again delivered Protestants from poverty. Now that the Sixties are long past it is time to take another look at how a Reformed spirituality contributed to the rise of capitalism. It may well be more positive than the Marxists wanted us to believe. Today one is amazed at how the Protestant understanding of stewardship has blossomed in some of the younger churches.

Recently I visited Korea and saw how much the Christians of Korea had been able to accomplish because of their keen sense of stewardship. A particularly inspiring story which was told to me by the Reverend Dr. Sang Bok Kim concerns Soon Young Lee, who having had a vision for world missions for many years, has organized the Torch Center for World Missions.

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Not only has this institution supported Korean Christian missionary work in Asia, but it has taken a lead in encouraging a Christian culture in Korea. To these ends, Mr. Lee and his wife have devoted a sizable portion of their fortune. As the story of the widow's mite shows (Mk 12:42 and Lk 21:2), the faithful stewardship of even the most humble can be a mighty force in the kingdom of God. Good stewardship implies that we owe all that we have and all that we are to God. It is certainly not just a question of giving alms. How one makes one's money and how one spends one's money is a major question of the devotional life. For today's Christian the working out of the family budget is a religious act. The setting apart of a tithe for the support of the Church and other charitable causes is only the beginning. One needs to consider carefully what causes should be supported. One needs to consider what sort of expenses are appropriate for a Christian. How much can one spend on articles of fashion or luxury? In regard to one's

savings and investments, what sort of corporations are worthy of one's support? This whole matter of the devout use of money might be called the theology of stewardship. It is one of the most creative developments of the contemporary church.

Today more and more the choice of a vocation is a matter of stewardship. For a young Christian particularly it is important to ask how one is going to spend one's life. So many different possibilities for serving God as research scientists, agronomists, engineers, financial managers, teachers of handicapped children, and all kinds of other things are opening up to young people! More and more Christians want to spend their lives in a significant way. This concern about vocation goes back to Luther's teaching on the priesthood of all believers, of course, yet modern technology has given it possibilities Luther never dreamed of. This concern for finding one's vocation has always been at the heart of a true Protestant piety."



Church Potluck

**Sunday, April 16, 2023
(after church service)**

**Everyone is invited to come and
enjoy a time of great food and
fellowship. Please bring a quest
or quests.**

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the March 21, 2023 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

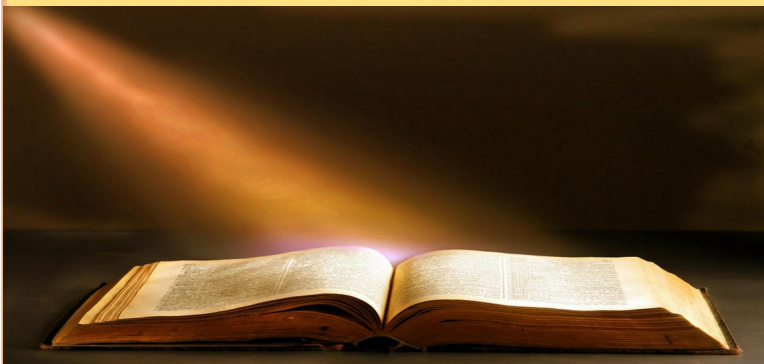
- Moderator Dembroski presented a devotion based on Psalm 19: 1-88 and opened the meeting with prayer.
- Those in attendance recited the Vision and Mission Statements.
- The agenda was approved as amended.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for those needs.
- Minutes from the last Stated Session meeting and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved.
- Correspondence from the Presbytery of Pacific Northwest was received, asking for nominations for Presbytery Officers.
- It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve Consent Calendar items, which included the approval of the Deacons January 10, 2023 Meeting and approval of transfer of membership for Dave & Linda Stephenson to Meridian United Methodist Church, Meridian, ID.
- A written financial report was received from the church treasurer.
- Session discussed and set the agenda for the March 26, 2023 Congregational Meeting.
- Session received information on the next steps needed for the Pastoral Search process.
- It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to have a Potluck Lunch after the service on Sunday April 16, 2023.
- The management and scheduling of the church's ZOOM account was discussed. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** that one ZOOM License will be cancelled, billing and invoices will be sent to the Office Manager, and that the Clerk of Session or Office Manager will be responsible for scheduling and creating requested ZOOM meetings.
- After discussing the timeline for the calling, ordaining, and installing of a new pastor, It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** that Pastor Peter's Last Sunday will be May 7, 2023. A Potluck lunch will be planned and held after worship.
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- Written and verbal Ministry Team Reports were received.
- It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the form for Medical Expense Reimbursement.
- It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to offer David McConnell-Booher some administrative leave in early to mid-May to make the transition from Youth Director to Teaching Elder.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer
- **The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on April 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.**

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What follows is a short summary of the Special Congregational Meeting held on March 26, 2023, called for the purpose of extending a call to David McConnell-Booher to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church and approving the terms of the call. The Congregational Meeting was held in the Sanctuary, after morning worship.

- The meeting was called to order by Moderator Peter Dembroski and opened in prayer.
- The Chair of the Pastor Search Committee, Brian Rozell, reported on the history of the pastoral search and presented the committee's recommendations.
- It was **moved** and **seconded** that members of First Presbyterian Church extend a call to David McConnell-Booher to serve as their Pastor and that the members approve the terms of that call.
- A vote, by paper ballot was held and both motions **passed**, with 65 members voting in the affirmative and one member voting in the negative.
- It was **moved**, **seconded**, and **passed** to approve Jim Williams, Brian Sunderland, and Brian Rozell as representative to speak in support of the call at the next meeting of the Presbytery of Pacific Northwest.
- The meeting was closed with prayer by Moderator Dembroski.

Friday Nights Life Group BIBLE STUDY



6 weeks of potluck, Bible study, and fellowship starts April 14, 6-8pm. Each week is a different passage on a theme. Talk with, call or text Melissa Prince 907-374-3077 or Christina Repasky 907-699-3734 for location and details. In the last 6 week set, introverts in the group survived and even returned.

Come Join Us!



Bill Satterberg (1)
Ivory Huffaker (5)
Melissa Logan (5)
Paul Bonnell (6)
Isaiah Hull (9)
Anglea Thies (12)
Cora Wietgreffe (12)
Jerry Cleworth (13)
Marty Foster (19)
Sean Williams (19)
Robert Askelin (20)
Stephanie Rozell (23)
Patricia Fink (26)
Merle Fortune III (29)
Rosario Sheets (30)