

# FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, April 2025

All are Invited to the 2025 Easter Morning  
Breakfast Fellowship/Hot Cross Buns

When: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Time: 9:00 - 9:50 am

Where: Fellowship Hall



*He Has Risen!*



Get together with other women for  
coffee and conversation!  
Saturday, April 5th, at 10 am @  
The Great Harvest Bread Company  
on Airport Road.

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**Young  
Adult  
Ministry**

**Nome Mission Trip**

Nome Mission Trip  
FPC Young Adult Ministry  
will serve Nome, Alaska July  
20th - 25th.

If you are a rising freshman, high  
schooler, college, or career  
member of Young Adult Ministry  
you are invited to attend.

Deadline to participate is April  
6th.

*Pink  
Friday*

**11-1**

Women of FPC are invited to  
meet at the Big Dipper to walk  
the 2nd floor track from 11:00 -  
1:00 every Friday.

Please sign in @ the desk when  
you arrive then head upstairs to  
walk.

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Lenten Sermon Series 2025  
**Jesus, Teach Us to Pray**

Ash Wednesday, March 5th, 7 pm  
Pray Like Jesus - Luke 11:1-4

Sunday, March 9th  
Pray with Jesus - Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, March 16th  
Fast with Jesus - Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, March 23rd  
Pray in Secret - Mark 1:35-39

Sunday, March 30th  
Pray in Joy - Matthew 11:25-30

Sunday, April 6th  
Pray in Grief - John 11:1-44

Sunday, April 13th  
Pray in Defiance - Matthew 21:1-17

Maundy Thursday, April 17th, 7 pm  
Jesus, Remember Me - Luke 23:39-43

Easter Sunday - April 20th  
Pray Under God's Victory - John 20:1-18

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.

~~ From the Pastor ~~

## The Path to Resurrection Goes Through Death

One of the things I love about Lent is how countercultural it is. In our world, we want things right now. Same Day Delivery may not be a reality in Fairbanks, Alaska just yet, but it's coming: it has been the standard in large cities in the Lower 48 for many years now. Our world starts celebrating Christmas months early in October but ironically finishes celebrating on December 26th, leaving the last ten actual days of Christmas behind as unwanted leftovers.

The world tries to do the same thing with Easter: Reese's Eggs ads have been filling my feed and we already hear fluff pieces in the news about Peeps and Egg Dying/Hunting and the effect of egg prices on said celebrations.

Lent insists we pump the brakes. There is no Easter without Good Friday. There is no Resurrection without Death.

The art included here is the work of Max Beckmann: "Descent from the Cross." Painted in 1917 in Germany during the apex of the first World War, Beckmann captures the gruesome reality of a torturous death in expressive detail as Jesus' body is stiff with rigor mortis and covered in wounds and bruises. The men are straining to carefully lower an unwieldy corpse, and the women at the feet of the cross are inconsolably distraught.



We don't want to look Death in the face, and we'd rather talk about grace instead of sin. We would prefer to focus on the Empty Tomb instead of the Cross.

But we cannot have one without the other. We cannot join Christ in His Victory without confessing our sin and meeting him at the Cross. Coming to the cross and meeting Jesus there, we are confronted with our own sin. There is the obvious sin of the Romans, who routinely found ways to crucify anyone who defied their rule in the most painful and publicly humiliating possible ways. There is the obvious sin of the Pharisees and Sadducees who failed to see Jesus for who He was and sought ways to silence and kill him. But if we take Jesus at His own Word, it is not simply for the sin of ancient Romans nor the sin of ancient Judeans that He faced the Cross. Jesus takes our sin upon himself on the Cross; willingly and lovingly, but also gruesomely and fatally.

"God made him to be sin who knew no sin, that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21)."

"He descended into hell." Jesus' death appears to be the great victory of Satan, sin, and death. Hell is where devils and death triumph over a broken and sinful humanity. Jesus goes there defeated, but leaves there Victorious!

In the Resurrection, Christ Jesus has conquered sin, death, and Satan! All of us who put our trust in Jesus share in this victory!

"Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death is your victory?

Where, O death is your sting?"

(1 Corinthians 15:54b-55)

Take heart. Look upon the image of the crucified Christ. Stare death in the face. Confess your sins. Proclaim your faith in the Risen Lord Jesus, who has conquered your sin and overcome your Enemy. Meet Jesus at the Cross, here and now. This is where eternal life begins.

# O COME TO THE ALTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

## NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

"I love LENT," says nobody 100% ever. Until now.

We entered the year in pursuit of holiness and man - those worship nights inspired us to change for the better. After experiencing Worship Nights we went into Lent with open arms ready to challenge our faith by means of fasting things that are either distractions or something we needed to get rid of in order to hear God more clearly.

And man, oh man - has it yielded fruit. From having better work days because the music changed to having more confidence because the negative self-talk was eliminated Lent 2025 has proved to be a special time for our Young Adults.

It's moments like these that make me proud. Seeing Young Adults take authority over their faith practice, implement self control, and in turn - their relationship with God (and themselves) is stronger. I can't think of a better result from fasting. Even though this is the beginning for a few of them this is setting a foundation in place so we can look back and remember Genesis 35:3

**"Then let us arise and go up to Bethel,  
so that I may make there an altar  
to the God who answers me  
in the day of my distress and  
has been with me wherever I have gone."  
Genesis 35:3**

A few more weeks remain in Lent, and I am expecting powerful things to come from the foundation set in this season.

For the good and God,  
-Nicole

P.S.

If you are a parent of a High Schooler or Rising Freshman the info packet for the rest of 2025 is in the Narthex. Many of you I've already sent it to via text. If I don't have your number and you are a parent or Young Adult Member of FPC please come see me.



## APRIL EVENTS

**Young Adult Serve Day:** Sunday, April 6th We need 2 members to serve as Greeters & Usher

**College and Career Bible Study:** Sundays @ 4:00 p.m. in the Studio

**Worship Nights + Fellowship Dinner:** High School, College, and Career Sunday April 6th & 27th  
Dinner at 5:30, Worship at 6:00





# CHILDREN'S ministry

Dear First Pres Folks,  
Eggstravaganza is an open door to our friends  
who don't know if they belong in our church.

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 12,  
FROM 10-12**

We decorate, we buy candy, we put up 10-15  
stations full of games and messy crafts and  
photo ops and we welcome kids and families into  
God's house. We show that there is room for  
laughter and creativity, and conversations with  
friends. We show that we want them there and by  
proxy, we show that God does too. Please  
consider inviting your friend or neighbor to bring  
their child(or grandchild, or niece or nephew) and  
hang out with you and your family at First  
Presbyterian. Our event is about Jesus, and  
about making everyone feel welcome. If your  
friends find this time comfortable and full of  
friends and a good fit for their kids, perhaps they  
will come back for a service, or Vacation Bible  
School. Perhaps they will find some rest for their  
souls in a world that can make us weary.

**DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS  
WEARY?**

 *Quinn*

**SAVE  
THE  
DATES!**

**APRIL**

**12**

**EGG-  
STRAVAGANZA  
10-12**

**13**

**PALM SUNDAY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SKIT  
DURING CHURCH**

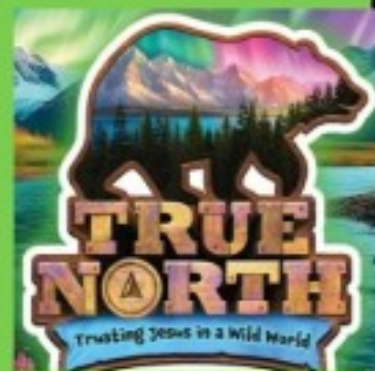
**20**

**EASTER/  
NO SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**

**28**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
GIRLS EVENT  
CREAMERS FIELD  
10 AM**

**VBS  
JUNE 9-13**



April

**Happy  
Anniversary!**

6	<i>Charles &amp; Marta Beaudreault</i>
11	<i>Stanley &amp; Amy Logan</i>
27	<i>Paul &amp; Terry Reichardt</i>
30	<i>Norman &amp; Scotty Klann</i>
30	<i>Ben &amp; Lynn Hull</i>

**Happy Birthday!**

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



# ***Session Report***

***What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the February 18, 2025 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.***

- The Meeting was opened with a Devotion and Prayer.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The minutes from the January 21st Stated Session meeting, and the vital statistics from the previous month, were approved.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to ratify the results of email votes conducted over the past month.
- There was no official correspondence to Session.
- Church membership is 155 as of February 18, 2025. The average church attendance for 2024 was 136. Attendance for 2025 Year-to-date is 133.
- The Item on the Consent Calendar was reviewed and approved. This motion was to move Ray Karns from the Inactive Member Roll to the Active Member Roll.
- Because Pastor David is scheduled to be on vacation during the week of the March Stated Session Meeting, the meeting will need to be rescheduled. It was moved, seconded, and passed to “Move the March Stated Session Meeting to Tuesday March 25, 2025”.
- The following Ruling Elders (RE) volunteered to provide snack for the following meetings; March – TE David McConnell-Booher, April – RE Brian Sunderland, and May – Clerk David Dreydoppel.
- Ruling Elders (RE) Brian Sunderland and Emma Snell volunteered to assist with Communion on March 2, 2025.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to “Approve the request by Helping Alaska to extend hours allowed for providing meals for their spaghetti feeds, during the hours of 11:00 am to 3:00 pm”.
- RE Ted Riggs provided a written update of the guidelines to be used by those assisting with the Narthex Ministry. The guidelines were reviewed.

- Due to a recent downward trend in temperatures and closure of other available areas, an influx of those looking to get warm has caused congestion in the entryway of the church. This congestion has caused intermittent blockage of interior secured doors. Session directed Pastor David, Office Manager Noreen Harwood and other staff to notify visitor that they must remain in the area of the North Wall of the entryway and maintain a clear pathway and ability to operate doors.
- RE Brian Sunderland will be calling a meeting of the Safety Sub-Committee.
- The subject of the possibly realigning Session Committee assignments and number of RE's on Session was initially discussed. Book of Order and Congregational Bylaws requirements were presented and discussed.
- A request from Youth Director Nicole Matthews was received by the Personnel Ministry Team. The request was to attend an EPC NEXT GEN Conference, March 25th through 27th. It was moved, seconded and passed to "provide funding from 2025 Budget line item 5203 – Pastor Study Leave".
- Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer, by Pastor David at 9:16 pm.
- A summary of the March Stated Session Meeting will be presented in the next newsletter.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on April 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

# **1st Pres Staff**

David  
McConnell-  
Booher

Nicole Matthews  
Carina Menaker  
Noreen Harwood

Peggy Nicholas  
Paul Bonnell

**Deacons**  
Marta,  
Beaudrault  
Debby Foster  
Daniel Griggs  
Kathy Halfhill  
Diane Henry  
Emily Kohl  
Melissa Prince  
Karson Riggs  
Shannon Riggs  
Christy Repasky

**Elders**  
Sarah Albert  
David,  
Dreydoppel  
David Henry  
David  
McConnell-  
Booher  
Keith Nore  
Paul Reichardt  
Ted Riggs, Sr.  
Brian Rozell  
Bill Satterberg  
Emma Snell  
Brian Sunder-  
land

# April 2025

**Healing Prayers for**  
Pat & Sig Fink Joy-el Culligan  
George Shooigukurk  
Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris  
Joanne Klaver

1	2	3	4	5
Adam, Julie, Ainsley & Allison Benson	Geoffrey Beyersdorf	Paul Bonnell	Robert & Ellucia Boswell	Rhonda Boswell
8	9	10	11	12
Nicole Matthews	George & Wanda Bowder	Daniel & Debbie Brady	Billy, Stephanie, Liam & Oliver Brewer	Bill & Donna Brewer
15	16	17	18	19
Glenn & Beth Brummond	Kathy Buckley	Matt, Marita, Owen, Blake & Trevor Bunch	Jerry & Janice Cleworth	Johanna Coester
22	23	24	25	26
Collin, Wendy, Marcus, Sara & Christopher Cogley	Aurora & Hunter Colasacco	McKinley & Jaden Colasacco	Carolyn Crisant	Sam, Natalie, Isla & Silas Cuidon
29	30			
Sarah Curtis	Lori Davis			
7				
Katherine, Steve, Timothy, Lauren & Hannah Bouta				
14				
Shane Brice				
21				
Bryon, Debby, & Cora Cogley				
28				
Joy-el Culligan				
6				
Music Ministry				
13				
Indonesian Mission				
20				
HE IS RISEN!				
27				
Sunday Schools				