

*Let your light so shine before
men, that they may see your
good works, and glorify your
Father who is in heaven.*
Matthew 5:16

FIRST LIGHT

Volume 31, Issue 8 August 2021

THIS ISSUE:

EPC MISSIONARIES
The WELL
WORD FROM PASTOR
SESSION SUMMARY
MEN-IN-ACTION
ANNOUNCEMENTS
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



**Blessing of the
BackPacks
and the
School Year**

August 15!



Welcome!

EPC Missionaries

Mike and Tammy,

*who will be visiting our church this
weekend. Mike and Tammy will offer a
presentation from the pulpit on Sunday,
August 8, sharing their incredible mission
work story in Malaysia.*

A Bar-B-Que Potluck will follow.



Reaching out to hard places

**"World Outreach (WO) is the international missions arm of
the EPC, with the principal calling to glorify God by starting
disciple-making movements among least-reached people
groups."
~~EPC World Outreach~~**

CHANGE YOUR WORDS.....CHANGE YOUR WORLD

The Well 2020-2021

This past year, *The Well* was significantly impacted by COVID and associated restrictions. While those of us involved with its planning realized we could not offer sit-down meals, we did want to continue the outreach and ministry in some form. We settled on take-out meals as a way to continue to show our concern for and serve our neighbors while minimizing the chance of COVID transmission among volunteers and guests. After initial attempts to include a large group of volunteers, we decided that restricting on-site volunteers to a couple “family bubbles” was the most responsible approach to providing the meals and outreach.

From mid-September to the end of May, we provided meals every Wednesday evening, including a Christmas turkey dinner and an end-of-May celebratory outdoor barbeque. The number of weekly guests varied, but we provided 30-50 meals each week. Except during the

coldest weather, some guests ate their meals on church grounds or in Veterans’ Park; but most folks took the meals elsewhere. While we missed out on the fellowship provided by sit-down meals, the take-out approach did result in providing meals for shut-ins and others who were not able to come in person. One man regularly picked up meals for his son, who had less than an hour between the time he got off work and when he had to be on the UAF campus for an evening class. Another man often took meals to a friend who was battling cancer, and several “regulars” took meals home to share with a spouse after both had spent the day working or looking for work. While the logistics of providing take-out meals presented challenges to interacting with guests, we were able to pray with numerous people—about



illnesses, about broken relationships, about lack of employment, about the difficulties brought on by COVID. Overall, it was a successful year in showing our love and concern for our neighbors in difficult circumstances.

Thank you to all those who supported The Well this past year—those who prepared and served meals, those who “shopped” at the Food Bank, those who baked the much-appreciated home-made desserts, and those who prayed for this ministry and our guests.

While The Well is “on vacation” this summer, please pray that we are able to return to our sit-down meals in the Fall and ask yourself, “How can I be involved this year?”

Paul Reichardt

The WORD is
alive and powerful.
We cannot read it
without coming away
changed
and *refreshed.*



Men-In-Action

The group meets for lunch on Monday's at 11:45 in the Narthex at FPC. We meet for fellowship, to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and to discuss upcoming events. Bring a lunch and come join us.

For more information, please contact Jim Aldrich at 907-378-2582 or jwaldrich@gmail.com.



Pastor Peter's

Message For the Month

"What could be a greater, higher honor than to be a chosen instrument for the most important renewal project in the universe — — — redemption?" (New Morning Mercies; Paul David Tripp).

In our staff devotion time today, we just read that quote that reminds us that everything we do every day is a part of God's redemptive plan for the world, that we are his chosen instruments to *"shine His light."* We can easily compartmentalize our time of ministry or *"shine our light"* to certain parts and places of our week. As we live out our life in so many different ways throughout the week, workplace, recreational time, home time, party time, etc., we can easily overlook the amazing realization that in every compartment of our lives, God calls us to *"let your light shine before others so they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16).

What a gracious gift, that God

includes us in every minute of the day to be His light to the world. Which, in turn, provides us with great purpose and joy. I'm filled with great joy that God has provided for me to stay at the First Presbyterian Church for a year. The Session believes God wants me to continue my Transitional Pastor ministry by providing us with the last two stages of the work that He has started with us. I will be working on the second stage, in which I will help FPC to hear and see God's VISION for outreach in Fairbanks. It will be an exciting time of worship, prayer and study as we seek God's voice and direction to help us to further serve in this community. Once God has shown us where He would like us to do outreach, through prayer and study, God will provide us a plan to implement His will. This will be an exciting time in the life of First Presbyterian Church.

In the final stage, I will help resource the Pastor Search Committee to help them through the process of finding a new pastor. Being a part of the First Presbyterian Church family is a treasure for me. God continues to join us together for the next year to *"shine our light."* I am looking forward to encountering the many opportunities that God has provided for us to minister the Good News of Jesus Christ to our community of Fairbanks.

Matthew 5:14 – 16, "you are the light of the world. The town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on the stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven." NIV

Join
Us for
Worship
Sundays at 9:30a

*In Our
Prayers*

*God
is
Faithful.*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the July 20, 2021 Stated Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record. The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church conference room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, July 20th.



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

Moderator Dembroski led a devotion based on John 15:12-17 and Matthew 18:15, characteristics of a brother / sister in Christ.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the agenda as presented.

Sarah Rozell was examined by Session, for baptism and membership. It was **moved, seconded and passed** to arrest the examination. It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve baptism and welcome Sarah Rozell into membership on August 1, 2021 at the morning worship service.

Having been elected, the following officers were examined for ordination and/or installation; Brian Sunderland (Elder), Jenna Dreydoppel (Elder), Jeanne Maddux (Deacon), Barbara Nore ((Deacon), Nancy Dreydoppel (Deacon), and Daniel Griggs (Deacon).

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve Brian Sunderland for ordination and installation as a Ruling Elder.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve Jenna Dreydoppel for installation as a Ruling Elder.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve Jeanne Maddux for installation as a Deacon.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve Barbara Nore for installation as a Deacon.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve Nancy Dreydoppel for installation as a Deacon.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve Daniel Griggs for installation as a Deacon.

Vital Statistics from June 16, 2021 to July 20, 2021, as well as Minutes from the June 15, 2021 Stated Session Meeting and June 20, 2021 Congregational Meeting were received. It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the minutes as presented.

Correspondence was received from the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest outlining new procedures for examination of Teaching Elders entering the Presbytery.

A written financial report from Church Treasurer Christy Repasky has been delayed, due to personnel changes at the Accounting Firm. A basic summary was presented by Ruling Elder Barb Page.

The analysis of the SWOT Interviews conducted by Pastor Peter was presented, along with his recommendations. Session discussed how to relay this information to the Congregation. SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to accept the SWOT Analysis prepared by Pastor Peter.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that Elders will present proposals for implementation of recommendations in the SWOT Analysis at the August Session Meeting.

Conducting the SWOT Analysis was Phase One of the Transitional Pastor process. Session discussed extending Pastor Peter's contract, in order for him to be able to conduct Phases Two and Three of the transitional process. It was **moved, seconded and passed** to extend Pastor Peter's Contract for the next 12 months.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to move forward with Phase Two and Phase Three of the transitional process.

Session discussed plans for the upcoming visit from EPC Missionaries from Malaysia, Mike and Tammy, who will be in Fairbanks in early August.

Session Ministry Teams presented written and verbal reports.

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 August 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

HAPPY *Birthday* TO YOU

- 1 Jim Aldrich
- 1 Ava Denton
- 1 Andree' Thies
- 1 Chris Demers
- 3 Angela Adams
- 3 Nathan Vander Lugt
- 4 Phillip Jones
- 5 Blake Bunch
- 7 Greg Young
- 9 Kelsey Per Nore
- 9 Karen Binkley
- 9 Bryon Cogley
- 10 Linda Armstrong
- 11 Heather Young
- 13 Mark Albert
- 13 Sena Gilbert
- 15 Paul Reichardt
- 16 Maggie Hess
- 18 Peggy Nicholas
- 20 Rick Wagner
- 20 Perry Schneider
- 20 Siegfried Fink
- 20 Savannah VanHarper
- 22 Jim Williams
- 23 Lauren Bouta
- 23 Eli Brovold
- 24 Amber Sunderland
- 24 Kathy Buckley
- 25 Wendy Cogley
- 26 Dan Brady
- 26 Toby Rozell
- 27 Isaac Mackey
- 27 Janice Cleworth
- 28 Karson Riggs
- 30 Marita Bunch
- 31 Barbara Nore
- 31 Liesl Wietgreffe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gardening class Hosted by Terry Reichardt



Have you always wanted to grow your own vegetable?

HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

Classes begin September 27 and ends November 15, each Monday from 6-8pm. The fee is \$20. Questions? Please contact Marta at 452-2406.

FYNDout Free Pregnancy Center

(formerly known as CareNet Pregnancy Center) exists to empower and support expecting parents during their pregnancy journey. The center provides health care and client-centered wellness. The center is a faith-based organization, meaning, it looks to Jesus for guidance.

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church supports the center via monetary benevolences.



HOUSING NEEDED



Housing needed for mom and two kids before school starts. Able and willing to take good care of property.

Contact Sandy Libbey at (907) 259-4387 or (907) 822-3847 or Kathy Libbey at (907) 750-4389.

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