

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS

LET JESUS BE THE RULER OF YOUR LIFE

**May the
school year
be filled with
a love for
learning,
packed with
creativity,
growth and
friendship.**

**In every
subject, may
God's
excellence be
shown. Do it
all for the
glory of God.
(1 Corinthians 10:31)**

**Be kind, and
be the best
kind of
friend and
student that
can be
found.**

~~ Teachers and Administrators~~

May God fill you with an abundance of wisdom. As parents, we are eternally grateful for the gifts you share with our children. May you see how your dedication impacts generations to come.



You're Invited
50th Anniversary
Celebration for
Jerry and Janice Cleworth

When: Sunday, August 7, 2022

What: Open House, 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Where: The Home of Brian and Sarah
Albert

1222 Stock Road, Fairbanks

We would love to have you
share in our celebration.

No gifts please.

Directions to 1222 Stock Road:

Go down Chena Pump Road and turn left onto
Shanks Mare Road.

At the first stop sign, turn right onto Stock Road.
1222 is the 4th house
on the left.

From the Pastor

At -15 below, the steam rises from the refreshing Chena Hot Springs and coats the trees around the pool with frost. The water is hot and it feels soothing and relaxing. You are reminded of the stimulating outdoor cold as your wet hair is freezing. The scenery around the Hot Springs is



stunning as you view all the surrounding trees laden with snow. As you look to the starry night, you will recognize the fingerprints of our God. Ps 8:3, *“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,”* ESV

This is the experience that I am blessed with when I travel to Chena in the winter. Chena Hot Springs has become my oasis and my Sabbath throughout the year. I tend to visit the hot springs at least once a month. The drive to the Springs is beautiful as I anticipate the dip into the pool.

God has mentioned many times to observe the beauty of the world as well as taking refuge within it. The earth and its beauty have always been a gift to us, God’s sons and daughters. We get so caught up sometimes in our busy world, filled with stress and worry that we overlook the need for Sabbath, which can be found by enjoying God’s natural creation and presence. Sabbath provides us with a renewed perspective and a refreshing charge when we are struggling with stress. Stress has proven itself to be a killer and a thief. Stress can literally kill you as it attacks your spirit, soul and body. Without the release from stress, your mind and your body start to get unhealthy and deteriorate into the process of dying. Stress is a thief that robs us of the peace and joy that God wants for us as we trust him for God’s complete control. Stress can fill us with worry, depression and fear.

We can easily think or believe that we are an exception to God’s command to weekly provide a Sabbath for us. It is a prideful, sinful and arrogant thinking that we know what’s better for ourselves. Overworking gives us a false sense that somehow, we are in control of our life. “It is up to us to get the work done” is a false thinking.

We need to repent of this attitude and enjoy the fruit of following God’s command to take a Sabbath break and rest and enjoy His creation. Pray to God to help find your oasis and a regular time for Sabbath rest. It is His blessing to us.

Heb 4:9-10, 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ESV

You Are Invited!!



Men's Chena Hot Spring Outing August 21, 2022

Leave at 1:00 from Church

Cost is \$15.00 for Adults and \$13.00 for Seniors

Please join us on an outing to Chena Hot Springs for a time of refreshment, food and fellowship. We will take time to enjoy the soothing and relaxing Hot Springs pool and provide a dinner of bratwurst, hotdogs and trimmings.

We will need drivers.

Please inform the office of your plans to attend and if you are willing to drive.

There will be an insert in the bulletin during the month of August that you can fill out and drop in the offering plate.

Church # 907-452-4434



Save the Dates

Friday, August 26

Saturday, August 27

Sunday, August 28

FPC Fairbanks is hosting a Church Revitalization weekend in partnership with the GO Center based on THE GREAT COMMISSION.

For more information visit:

<https://gocenterinfo.wordpress.com/faqs/>

or

<https://epc.org/cpch/churchrevitalization/>

**Session asks all congregants attend
as much of this as possible!**

THE WELL

The Book of Matthew gives us Jesus' thoughts and instructions about helping those in need. One of his comments about our obligations and opportunities is, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." In other words, serving food to those in need is, at the same time, serving Jesus. At 1st Pres we do that in at least two ways: food box distribution and The Well.

For approximately 20 years The Well has provided a free hot dinner each Wednesday from September through May for everyone who shows up. Besides providing a healthy meal to people who are hungry, it provides fellowship to people who are lonely, prayer support to anyone who wants it, winter clothing for those without. If we had enough volunteers we would love to provide some other helps such as clothes mending, foot care, haircuts, and document reading for those who don't read.

Until COVID showed up it was always a sit-down meal; since COVID it has been take-out. Currently we are trying to determine the format when we start up in September. In part, our decision will be influenced by the COVID situation in Fairbanks. However, it will also be influenced by availability of volunteers. In either format, each Wednesday we will need volunteers for helping with meal preparation (mid-afternoon until 5:45), serving meals (5:45-7:00), cleanup (7:00-8:00). The take-out format requires fewer volunteers, but it also offers many fewer opportunities for ministry and personal outreach. So, we are asking for your input as we consider these options.

Please respond to or ask questions of Paul Reichardt by email (paulreichardt@gmail.com), text (907-347-3214), or a written note left in the office or Sunday collection plate.

Are you interested in volunteering by helping with:

| | Sit- Down | Take-Out |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|
| Meal Preparation | | |
| Serving the Meal | | |
| Cleanup | | |
| Other (please specify | | |

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, let us know how to contact you:

Name_____

Email_____

Phone #_____

SPICY MUSTARD YOUTH GROUP

It's been an entire month since we returned from our Mission Trip, but the impacts and echoes of that trip continue to ripple through our youth and our church. Because of the Holy Spirit's work (and your overwhelming support and prayer), our team was able to meet incredible Christian servant leaders of all ages from across the country. They were



able to witness the work of Christ's Church moving through the communities of Harrisburg and Philadelphia. They were able to join and partner in this Kingdom work with their bodies, minds, and spirits. They were able to grow as young leaders as they helped tackle obstacles, plan projects, and solve problems. They made friends with young Christian youth from another state and another denomination with whom they still communicate and pray for one another. Both the youth and adults of the team that FPC sent on this Mission Trip continue to be inspired and encouraged to walk with Jesus and follow His ways while also finding the missions that God calls us to pursue each day in our lives. As the blessings of this trip continue to ripple through us and our communities, I want to say thank you once more for all of your help with fundraising, your prayers, and your encouragement.

David McConnell-Booher/Youth Director



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1-Jim Aldrich

1-Ava Denton

1-Andree' Thies

1-Chris Demers

3-Angela Adams

3-Nathan VanderLugt

5-Blake Bunch

7-Greg Young

9-Kelsey Nore

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-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

31-Abigail Sirevaag

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Greetings from the land of Children's ministry! By God's grace and through his whole body at FPC, we served 80 children from all over Fairbanks through our Vacation Bible School. Many of these children reaffirmed their commitment to Jesus--some asked Him into their heart for the first time. Thank you with my whole heart for helping me through my first pass at directing this large, complicated program. The kids learned a lot--and so did I. School begins on the 17th of August for most kids and so our children's programs will begin on the following Sunday.



Carina

Background image by Sailor Waddell, 8th grade.

YOU HELPED!

It all worked with the help of 9 station leaders,
5 assistants,
11 crew leaders,
7 junior crew leaders,
2 extra-helpful parents,
1 seamstress,
8 decorating volunteers,
3 registration volunteers,
1 wonderful AV tech,
1 young videographer,
our pastor,
our office admin,
myself and many folks who donated materials and prayed faithfully.

Contact Carina for more information at (907)987-7126

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter August 2022
REACHING OUT TO YOU

Happy August First Presbyterian Church! Blessings to all of you from your faithful “Sneakin’ Deacons!” We are reaching out to you, and we NEED your HELP.



The deacons and our FPC Office Manager, Marta Conner, are working on our church directory in the next few months. We hope to call or connect in person with as many of you as possible to update our contact information and our birthday and anniversary card care list to bless you throughout the year.

Sadly, we are missing birthdates, phone numbers, email addresses, home addresses, mailing addresses and even some of our precious newborns and new members that have joined our First Presbyterian Church family since the last directory was published in 2017.

We want to stay connected with you in as many ways as possible that you are comfortable with so we will be asking you the following questions when we call or talk with you in person:

- 1) Are you receiving mail or email updates from the church?
- 2) Do you want to continue receiving these communications? If yes, please confirm your phone number, email address, mailing address, and residence address so we can deliver flowers or angel gifts.
- 3) May we bless you and your family with a birthday card on your birthday? We want to update all birthdates (month and day) for all family members and add anniversary dates for all couples. We would like to confirm ages of children to make sure we send age-appropriate cards, too.
- 4) Since we are trying to update and create a new church directory, may we have your permission to include your name, address, phone number, and email address in the directory?
- 5) With the Covid pandemic – many church members have not been able to attend church, but they have been viewing services on Facebook and/or the FPC You Tube channel. Do you wish to stay on the rolls for First Presbyterian Church? If you are not a member, would you like to join?
- 6) For those wanting to become a new member, our next new members class will be on Sunday, August 7th after the church service and lunch will be provided. Please call the FPC Office and let Marta know that you wish to join the new member’s class.
- 7) How may we pray for you and your family?



Thank you for being a part of the First Presbyterian Church Family! We love you. “Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!” Psalm 66:5

Barbara Nore
Moderator of the First Presbyterian Church Deacons



What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the July 19, 2022 Stated Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Conference Room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, July 19th.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Dembroski.

Moderator Dembroski presented a devotion based on 2 Corinthians 1:3-11, focused on comforting others.

Candidates for the office of Deacon were examined as to their journey to faith, and their agreement with reformed traditions and EPC Polity. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the ordination and installation of Janice Cleworth and Melissa Prince for the Office of Deacon, at the morning worship service on July 24, 2022.

Plans for a new members class were discussed. Pastor Peter will be contacting several individuals who have expressed an interest in membership.

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.

A letter from the Rozell family was received, in which they are seeking support from the Session as they occasionally visit other Fairbanks churches. The intent of these visits is to make connections with the larger church body and to provide encouragement to them. The Session has agreed to approve and support their efforts.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve Consent Calendar items, which included the review and approval of the Deacons May 2022 Meeting, and approval of member Susan Freel's request to be removed from the church membership roll.

A written financial report was received from the church treasurer.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the installation of Kathy Rhamandar Halfhill and Michele Marney, and the ordination and installation of Joe LaMagna, to the office Deacon, at the morning worship service on July 24, 2022, pending their examination that morning.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to elect Ruling Elder Brian Sunderland and Elder Maggie Demers as Commissioners to the upcoming Presbytery Meeting in Gig Harbor, WA on September 30 and October 1, 2022.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to arrange a ZOOM Meeting with Presbytery Officials to clarify issues related to the Pastor Search Process.

Temporary oversight of recently vacated committee chair positions was discussed. Until new Ruling Elders are elected, ordained and installed, the following Ministry Teams will be overseen by the following current Ruling Elders; Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry: Brian Sunderland, Administration and Personnel: Jim Williams, and Worship: Keith Nore

Information on becoming a sponsoring agency for a Ukrainian refugee family was brought to Session. The Session has agreed that this is something they would like to explore. The process would require a "Point Person" to organize the project. More information is being gathered and will be presented to the congregation on August 14th at the morning worship service.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve 6 days of vacation from August 11th to August 20th for Pastor Peter.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve an extension of the contract with Pastor Peter to September 25, 2022.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on August 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.