

First Light Newsletter

A Monthly Publication

Why Do We Bless the Backpacks?

Sometime in late October of 1992, my family moved from La Porte, Texas (just outside of Houston) 90 miles east to Beaumont, TX. My dad had taken a new call to a congregation there. So we pulled up stakes and made Beaumont and Bethlehem Lutheran Church our new home for the next 14 years. I was in the fourth grade, and the move was pretty hard on me. I liked our new house and I loved a lot about the new church too, but I was having a hard time in school. New teachers, new buildings, new lesson plans, new routines to learn, an entire slew of new kids; and of course to them, I was the new kid. While the bullying and social tension I experienced probably wasn't any worse than what the average kinda nerdy new kid endured at our school, it felt absolutely brutal to me. As much as I loved subjects like science, history, and reading, I dreaded going to school and seeing the sneering faces of kids who just couldn't seem to like me.

It got better. Over the weeks, months, and years I made friends, I was encouraged by my parents and able to express some of what I was going through to them, I learned to tune out the meanness of some kids, and I adapted to the social realities of a different school in a different town. But even years later, every so often I would get a weird feeling of anxiety on a Sunday evening. It didn't matter if I had finished all my homework or even if I was looking forward to seeing my friends in first period. I still carried some of that anxiety and woundedness from my rough transition back in fourth grade.

We can't always know what is going through the minds of the children in our classroom, in our sanctuary, or even at our dinner table. We don't always know precisely what they're feeling, or why they are feeling that way. But we can give them encouragement. We can talk with them and listen to them. We can give them tools to express and process what they are feeling and how to approach problems in the future. We can pray with them and demonstrate to them all the ways that they do not have to endure the slings and arrows of this world alone, but that they can rely on the presence of God and the love of Jesus Christ that never hesitates to enter into our suffering with us: to show us that we are loved, we are precious to Him, we are not alone in our struggles.

Blessing the backpacks is one small way that we, as a church, can show our kids that they are loved by God, precious to The Lord and to us, and that they do not go anywhere without God's love, support, and presence.

Whether you're a student, teacher, parent, professor, or just someone who prays for our young people, please bring your backpack, briefcase, or lunchbox to church this Sunday. As we bless our backpacks, we begin a covenant season of praying for each other, and encouraging our students; telling them that even in the darkest moments of life they are loved and that they will persevere and succeed!

Grace and Peace
Pastor David

Blessings of the



Backpacks

Sunday, August 11

ELDERS

Sarah Albert
Worship

Dave Dreydoppel
Clerk of Session

Dave Henry
Facilities

David McConnell-Booher
Moderator

Keith Nore
Diaconal Liaison
Nominating

Paul Reichardt
Stewardship & Finance

Ted Riggs Sr.
-Hospitality & Fellowship
-Specialized Ministries

Brian Rozell
Personnel & Administration
Mission, Outreach & Evangelism

Emma Snell
Christian Formation
(Adult, Children & Youth Ministries)

Bill Satterberg
Personnel & Administration
Facilities

Brian Sunderland
Facilities

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DEACONS

Marta Beaudreault

Deb Foster

Daniel Griggs

Diane Henry

Emily Kohl

Joe LaMagna

Melissa Prince

Kathy Rahmandar

Christy Repasky

Karson Riggs

Shannon Riggs

Getting to Know You

Hello FPC Church Family! Part of the role of the Deacons is to help new members get connected, and to encourage all members to get to know each other better. In order to do that, your Deacons have decided to feature different households in our church family by sharing a little bit of information about them, so we can all learn a little more about each other. This month we are featuring the Cuidon and Romaneski families. If you and your family are interested in being featured now, or on a particular month, please let one of our Deacons know. We are looking forward to getting to know you all a little bit better!

The Cuidon Family

Meet Natalie and Sam, and their kids Isla and Silas. They first came to Fairbanks from Oklahoma City in 2022. One thing they love about life in Fairbanks/Alaska is how beautiful it is. Natalie is a stay-at-home mom with the kids. Sam works as an Independent Duty Medical Tech on Eielson AFB. In their free time, they enjoy fishing and exploring the nearby parks. One thing you may not know about them is Natalie is one of 13 siblings and Sam is one of 6. They have been members of First Pres for 1 year. Natalie and Sam serve our FPC family as Greeters. One thing they really value about our FPC family is how kind and welcoming FPC has been while they're transitioning here. Be sure to reach out and say hi when you see them!

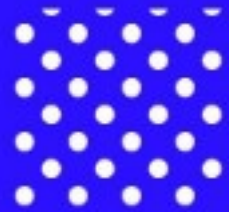


The Romaneski Family

Meet Jessica and Jon, their kids, Adlai (14), Grace (12 in August), and Anna (10), and their pet dog, Edelweiss. They first came to Fairbanks in 2023 by way of AL, TX, CO, OH, NY, KS, and Germany, though they call Virginia home. They love the tight-knit community and awe-inspiring nature of Fairbanks & Alaska. Jessica works as a stay-at-home mom and an educator. Jon works as an Army Aviation Officer. In their free time, the girls dance, Adlai plays baseball and the family hikes, skis, and camps. You may not know that they were close enough to touch lava on an active volcano in Iceland, but decided against actually touching it. They have been members of First Pres since March. Jessica serves as a YA ministry advisor and the whole family enjoys pitching in when specific needs arise. Some things they really value about our FPC family is that it's genuinely a family: showing Christ's love, connecting, having fun (talent show)! Be sure to reach out and say hi when you see them!



CHILDREN'S ministry



AT PARK DAY THIS WEEK, SNEDDON PARK BECAME A CHOKECHERRY LABORATORY. OUR AMATEUR JAM-MAKERS AND PAINT-MAKERS CREATED WONDERFUL THINGS WITH THEIR INCREASINGLY DARK PURPLE HANDS. MAY YOUR SUMMER BE HALF AS MUCH FUN!



AUGUST 11 DURING THE SUNDAY SERVICE

ALL SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER AT THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL,
ROOTS CLIMB
CLUB & CLUB

WILL RESUME AFTER
THE LABOR DAY
HOLIDAY.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
TEAM AS WE DISCERN
GOD'S PLANS FOR THE
UPCOMING SCHOOL
YEAR.

✝ *Carrie*



Mission and Vision



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 .

Men-in-Action

Each Monday's at 11:45, the men meet in the Narthex, for fellowship, to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and upcoming events. Bring a lunch and come join us! All are welcome. Contact Jim Aldrich

907-378-2582/

jwaldrich@gmail.com

HAPPY *Birthday!!*

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

O COME TO THE ALTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

July was thrilling! We had a coffee crawl, a light night of fellowship, the 4th of July, and now Fusion.

Upcoming Freshman will move up to High School Ministry on Sunday, August 5th and meet in the Studio for our first worship night of the school year.

The ministry schedule is listed below:

High School - Sunday nights @ 6:00 p.m.

College - Sunday afternoon 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Career - Every Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. @ my house.

Ministries are broken down into the following ages:

High School - Freshman through Senior

College/Gap - Graduation Senior through College Senior

Career - Master's Students, Anyone out of college

As we move forward in the school year I want to give you some assurance: you do not have to apologize for sharing, being yourself, talking "too much", or just being you. There might be times when we have to redirect but you have permission to be yourself in this ministry. Serving you in one of the delights of my life and I hope as you spend time in Young Adult ministry your belief in yourself and God is stronger.

If you'd like to serve with our Young Adult program we'd love to have you! Give me a call or text (205) 914 -6281, e-mail nicolefirstpresfbx@gmail.com

For the good and God,
-Nicole



AUGUST EVENTS

Sunday, August 4th - Young Adult Serve Day, 4 members to serve as Ushers and Greeters + 1 member to serve Call to Worship

August 4th - WORSHIP NIGHT for all Young Adult Members, we'll meet downstairs in the Studio

August 10th - College & Career, Low Country Boil @ Nicole's House 6:30 - 9:30

Prayers and Concerns for Others



August 2024

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

Ist Pres Staff

David McConnell-Booher

Nicole Matthews

Carina Menaker

Marta Conner

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 Sunderland

Healing Prayers for Pat & Sig Fink Joy-el Culligan Deanna Morris George Shoogukuwrk Joyce Tapper Prayers Recovery from House Fire for Ben and Lynn Hull Family				1 Dennis & Fara Roe	2 Brian, Stephanie, Jacob, Toby, Sarah & Micah Rozell	3 Ben, Katie, Anna & Noah Sanders
4 FPC Elders	5 Bill & Brenda Satterberg	6 August, Savannah & Alaska Schaefer	7 Jack Schnurr	8 George Shoogukuwrk	9 Evelyn Sites	10 Emma Snell
11 FPC Deacons	12 Dave & Linda Stephenson	13 Kathi Stevens	14 Rick & Peggy Stovarsky	15 Brian, Amber, Kyle, Lily, Luke & Caleb	16 Brian, Amber, Kyle, Caleb, Lily, & Luke Sunderland	17 Sarah Susook
18 FPC	19 Suzanne & Charles Swanson	20 Joyce Tapper	21 Sue Taylor	22 Richard, Andree', Sean & Tobias Thies	23 Kevin & Cindy Turnbough	24 Jacob, Christina, Sawyer & Juniper Turman
25 Music Ministry	26 Russ, Rebekah, Benaniah, Nathan & Margaret Vanderlugt	27 Ian, Heidi, Savannah & William VanHarper	28 Bob, Michelle, Brandon & Kyle VanHatten	29 Carol Vondra	30 Paula Ward	31 Denise Wartes

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.”

Philippians 4:6-7



GATHER WITH US FOR A TIME WITH GOD

PRAYER TIME

Each Tuesday, all are invited,
12:15p, in the sanctuary

Opportunities to Serve

Food Box Distributions

Each Wednesday, from 10am-12 noon, one can call the church's front office (907-452-2406) to place a food box order. Each family member within each household can be listed, and each member receives 20 pounds of food. Pickup is from 1:30-4p. After 4pm, food boxes will be distributed to other interested parties. In addition, volunteers are needed to assist with telephone call request, unloading food trucks, assembling food boxes, and assisting loading boxes into each vehicle.



*You are Cordially
Invited to Spend Time
with God Through
Prayer and Meditation*



SAVE THE DATE!!

The Well will resume servicing hot meals on Wednesday, September 18, from 6-7p.

First Pres offers a warm meal, an opportunity for informal conversation, a brief testimony or devotion about God's work in the lives of His people, and an invitation to prayer. For additional information, or if you would like to volunteer at The Well, please contact Paul Reichardt (907-347-3214) or paulreichardt@gmail.com

Greeters/Ushers Needed

Greeters are needed each Sunday
Ushers are needed Every Sunday to help greeters with offering

Sign up at the following link:
<https://signup.com/go/Pydpqos>

Sign up for just a Sunday, a certain Sunday each month, or for a full month or two at time.

For additional information, please contact Sarah Albert (Elder Worship) at bsalbert@hotmail.com

Sunday Worship Service

Join us online or in-person

10a.m.

Worship services are streamed live each Sunday on Facebook:
facebook.com/fpcfairbanks

Children's Ministry

Do you have a desire to volunteer in this ministry? Please contact Carina Menaker (Director) at carinainthesnow@hotmail.com

Young Adult Ministry

Do you have the desire to learn more about the ministry? Please contact Nicole Matthew (Director) at Nicole.maloy1@gmail.com