

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

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

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Please Note:

Session did not meet in July. The next scheduled meeting is August 19th.

What You Believe...

June 22: The Word of God [Romans 15:4]
June 29: One God in Trinity [2 Cor. 13:14]
July 6: Light From Light [2 Cor. 4:6]
July 20: The Lord, Giver of Life [Ezek. 37]
July 27: For Us [Colossians 1:13-14]
August 3: Life Together [Coloss. 2:1-7]
August 10: Even So... [Rev. 22:20]
August 24: Our Way of Life [Ephes. 2:10]

...Shapes Your Life



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Tattoos on the Heart
THE POWER OF
BOUNDLESS COMPASSION
Gregory Boyle
Founder of Homeboy Veterans


**FIRST PRES
BOOK CLUB**

Sundays | 9am
starting 22nd June

downstairs in the Studio
Childcare available

Questions?
david@fairbanksfirstpres.com

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Fairbanks, AK 99701
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COMMUNITY HYMN NIGHT
JOIN US

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN FAIRBANKS

**SUNDAY
AUGUST, 24TH, 2025
AT
6:00 P.M.**

FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS ACCEPTED TO SUPPORT
NEXTGEN MISSIONS

547 7th Avenue | Fairbanks, Alaska | 99701

20 OF YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS SET
IN TWO ACTS! INVITE A FRIEND AND
SING WITH US!

email: nicole@fairbanksfirstpres.com

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 ~~

As August begins it is easy for me to think about all that I have managed to do this summer, but it is even easier to think about all that I have not yet accomplished. If you've lived in Fairbanks for more than a year then you understand: Alaskan summers have a uniquely manic nature to them. We are fueled by sunshine and flip flops; we are trying to squeeze in as many hikes, float trips, backyard barbecues, berry picking trips, fishing sessions, outdoor chores, and evenings in the hammock as life will possibly allow.

Inevitably, as the tiny blooms ascend the length of the fireweed and the "Fair Season" rains fall, we begin to acknowledge that the hottest days of summer are behind us, that school will be starting soon, and that we should probably take another look at our list of "Summer To-Dos" and start doing some serious triage of priorities.

It's not uncommon to miss folks at church for some, or even all, of summer. We are all in and out of town, and many people have special plans like fish camp, family reunions, or jobs with weeks-long commitments to field work. As a pastor, I do not hold this against anyone. Fairbanks Summers have a certain sabbatical nature that ought to be regarded and channeled, not resisted and bemoaned. Adults are relaxing and using long-saved vacation plans, kids are catching their first grayling or salmon or learning to ride a bike for the first time, and all of us are enjoying and glorifying God by playing in His creation.

Whether you've been in church every Sunday or missed nearly every Sunday this summer, may you be blessed with the Peace of Christ as you try to organize your priorities and balance the end-of-summer activity lists with impending back-to-school and hunting seasons. May you be blessed with enough warm sunny days in the coming months to finish your outdoor projects, to take the hike or bike ride you've wanted to take all summer, and to visit Denali or your favorite fishing hole one more time this season. May you be blessed with opportunities to share your love for God's creation with neighbors and friends around the campfire and may the Holy Spirit stir within you to share the Gospel of the Creator who loves us and redeems us through Christ Jesus. May you be blessed as you come through the doors of First Presbyterian Church this month, stepping back into the rhythms of life that drum us through the next nine months. Be blessed and know that you are beloved of God the Father, that you have a place in this community of believers, and that God has a powerful, beautiful purpose for your life, and that Alaska summers, thanks be to God, are part of that plan.



~~Pastor David

Covenant

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

July came and went in a fury. Summer in Alaska is sacred – we see a new wilding in our region that is bright yet still reflects the power, majest of our Creator. I hope you've taken time to behold God in this special season.

We took a group of 10 to Nome in the third week of July. In a few days I'll announce the 'share day' where we share our stories and highlights of Nome. As we await that date PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE mark on your calendar and make special plans to attend our fall fundraiser: **Hymn Night – The Concert**. It will be 20 of your favorite hymns performed by the NextGen worship team. We know this will bless you. Please bring a friend and worship in the ways of old with us.

On Tuesday, August 5th – we're doing a joint dinner for FPC NextGen and Adventures in Missions. Join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall followed by worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

God loves you so much. As we grow in COVENANT take time to memorize our verse for the next two years:

Exodus 19:5

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

For the good and God,
-Nicole

August Calendar

- August 3rd, NextGen Serve Day – Worship, Usher, Greeter
- August 4th – Adventures in Missions Dinner and Worship @ 6:00
- August 3rd, 10th, 31st – High School @ 4:00, College @ 6:00
- **August 24th – NextGen Fundraiser, Community Hymn Night**



CHILDREN'S ministry



*Ansel Armstrong, Lucy Green, Lucy Menaker and Holly Smith
baptised July 20. 2025*

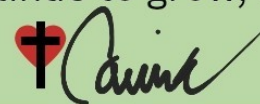
Dear First Pres Folks,

There is a lot to be thankful for so far this summer, but I'm especially thankful for you. As we gathered at the riverside for (4!) baptisms this month, I snapped a few pictures of the crowd watching and I thought of this verse:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 1:1-2

Thank you for being witnesses with me of what God is doing at First Pres. Thank you for your kindness and support. Thank you for taking care of each other, and praying for each other. May the cloud continue to grow, and may we persevere.



Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Jim Aldrich | 24 | Amber Sunderland |
| 1 | Ava Denton | 25 | Wendy Cogley |
| 1 | Andree' Thies | 26 | Dan Brady |
| 1 | Chris Demers | 26 | Toby Rozell |
| 3 | Angela Adams | 27 | Isaac Mackey |
| 3 | Nathan Vander Lugt | 27 | Janice Celworth |
| 5 | Blake Bunch | 28 | Savanna Schaefer |
| 7 | Greg Young | 28 | Karson Riggs |
| 9 | Kelsey Nore | 30 | Marita Bunch |
| 9 | Bryon Cogley | 31 | Barbara Nore |
| 10 | Linda Armstrong | 31 | Liesl Wietgreffe |
| 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 | | |

Anniversaries

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Russ & Rebekah VanderLugt |
| 5 | Ian & Heidi VanHarper |
| 11 | Jerry & Janice Cleworth |
| 12 | Dave & Barbara Moody |
| 16 | Merle & Lillian Fortune |
| 16 | Lonny & Michele Marney |
| 22 | Mark & Shirley Albert |

1st Pres Staff
David McConnell
-Booher
Nicole Matthews
Carina Menaker
Noreen Harwood
Peggy Nicholas
Paul Bonnell

Deacons
Maria Beaudreault
Aaron Evans
Bethany Evans
Debby Foster
Daniel Griggs
Emily Kohl
Kathy Libby
Shannon Riggs
Christy Repasky
Sarah Rozell
Joanna Weber

Elders
Sarah Albert
Charles Beaudreault
David Dreydoppel
David Henry
David McConnell
-Booher
Keith Nore
Paul Reichardt
Brian Rozell
Emma Snell
Brian Sunderland

August 2025

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|----|-----------------------------|----|--|----|-----------------------|----|--|----|---|----|---------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 3 | FPC | 4 | Korey, Beverly & Indigo Neuhs | 5 | Peggy Nicholas | 6 | Keith, Barbara, Kari & Kelsey Nore | 7 | Barbara Page | 8 | Josephine Papp | Linda Mullen | Meredith Nava |
| 10 | Music Ministry | 11 | Thelma Pierce | 12 | Vickie Plowman | 13 | Melissa & Autumn Prince | 14 | Kathy & Richard Rahmander-Halfhill | 15 | Paul & Terry Reichardt | 16 | Michael, Christina, Henry & George Repasky |
| 17 | Children & Youth Ministries | 18 | Ted, Jr., Shannon, Harrison & Karson Riggs | 19 | Ted, Sr. & Joan Riggs | 20 | Jonathan, Jessica, Adlai, Grace & Anna Romaneski | 21 | Brian, Stephanie, Jacob, Toby, Sarah & Micah Rozell | 22 | Ben, Katie, Anna & Noah Sanders | 23 | Bill & Brenda Satterberg |
| 24 | Indonesian Mission | 25 | August, Savanna & Alaska Schaefer | 26 | George Shoogukurwk | 27 | Jack Schmurr | 28 | Joel, Lorena & Alan Sims | 29 | Evelyn Sites | 30 | Travis, Megan, Holly & Allison Smith |
| 31 | Our Pastor | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Healing Prayers for
Pat Fink Joy-el Culligan Sarah Curtis
George Shoogukurwk Joan Riggs
Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris